

3 May 2017

Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goals Indicators – 2030 Agenda

In order to concentrate the existing statistical information on a single platform, Statistics Portugal releases a Thematic file on "[Sustainable Development Goals](#)", which allows for an easy access, for all interested users, of the available statistical information on the monitoring indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda was approved in September 2015 by the General-Assembly of the UN and it replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by the more ambitious and comprehensive Sustainable Developments Goals (SDG). The accomplishment of these goals is no longer mainly limited to developing countries, as it now demands significant efforts from all countries towards the eradication of poverty and deprivation, inclusive economic growth, environmental protection and the promotion of peace and good governance.

The 2030 Agenda comprises 17 SDG which include social, economic and environmental dimensions. Its enforcement covers 169 targets, monitored by more than 230 global indicators, which are the referential framework for progress follow-up.

Statistics Portugal, as the "main body that produces and disseminates official statistics"¹, has worked in close articulation with national institutions involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, aiming to contribute to its monitoring process. At national level, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the overall coordination of SDG, in articulation with the Ministry of Planning and Infrastructures. This task is performed in close collaboration with other ministries which are members of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Foreign Policy, responsible for the internal coordination of the 2030 Agenda implementation. Statistics Portugal also partakes in this structure, following-up on aspects related to the SDG, specifically within statistical domains.

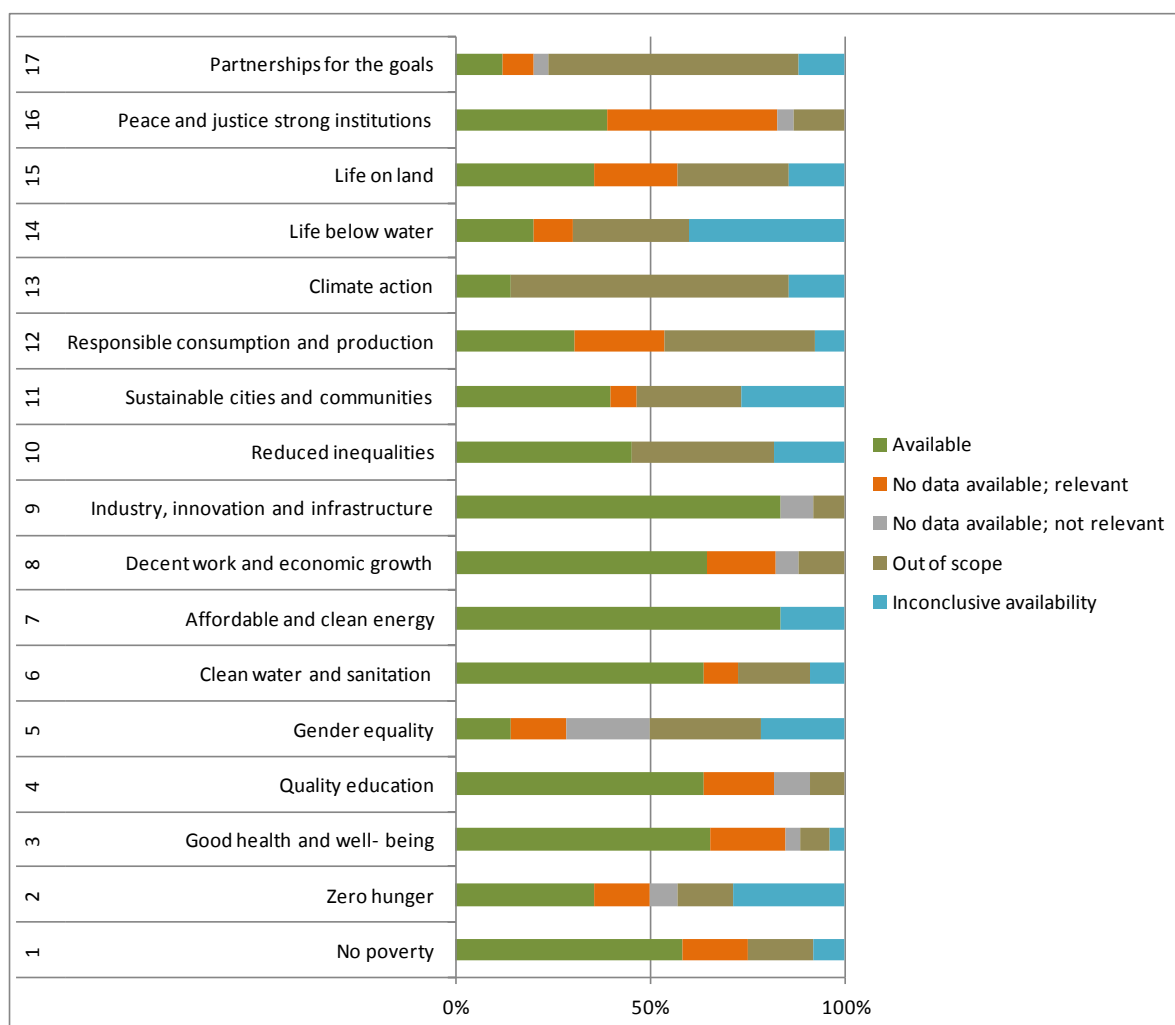
Within this framework, and taking into account the most recent developments in statistical systems within the EU and in broader contexts, such as the OECD and the United Nations, Statistics Portugal performs four major tasks, hereby described: 1) **mapping** available information and identifying its respective sources; 2) **disseminating** available information; 3) closely **articulating** with national bodies engaged in the Agenda implementation and with potential

¹ Decree-Law n. 136/2012, (OJ no 126 1st Series, of 2nd July 2012).

sources of information; 4) **following-up** on European and global initiatives related to the SDG, as well as on relevant developments regarding the stabilisation of global indicators.

Statistics Portugal made an information mapping, in relation to the SDG indicators list initially agreed at the 47th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The analysis of this mapping showed that not all indicators selected for the global list are in the statistical scope and are covered by official statistics. In addition, in relation to its availability, this analysis allowed to conclude that 1) the majority is available (with identical, similar or partial information); 2) a quarter of the indicators are out of scope (namely because these indicators seek to measure specific realities of developing countries or because are undoubtedly outside the statistical scope) and 3) the remaining indicators are not available or are still under study.

Graph 1. Information availability by goal in Portugal (number of indicators)



It is important to note that, given the difficulties of conceptualizing and operationalizing the indicators, at the United Nations level, three categories of indicators (Tiers 1, 2 and 3) were classified. The difficulty degree is higher in Tier 3, intermediate in Tier 2 and lower in Tier 1 indicators. As would be expected, the availability of indicators in Portugal mainly covers Tier 1 indicators.

It should also be noted that monitoring the implementation of the Agenda at the national level is not limited to the global indicators explicitly agreed by the United Nations, for two reasons. On the one hand, not all are applicable to the national realities of each country. On the other hand, progress evaluation at the national level could be complemented by other available indicators that better reflect the particularities and the achievement of national targets in the different thematic areas covered by the SDG. As an example, in Portugal, the [Gender thematic file](#), also available on the Statistics Portugal website, with around 400 published indicators, as well as the [Portugal 2020 Indicator System](#), which portrays several relevant components for the analysis of these themes in the sustainable development process.

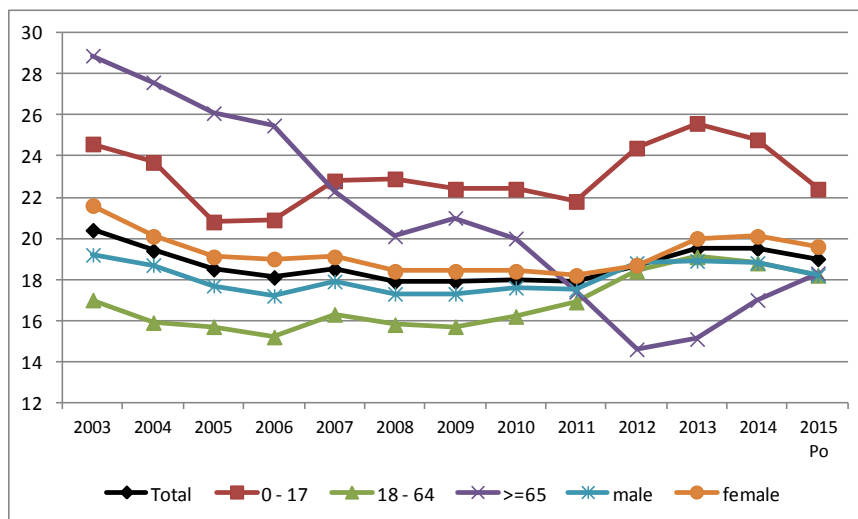
The compiling process of this information will be continuous, envisaging its regular updating and the progressive development of the platform created in Statistics Portugal website². The platform will have a dynamic nature, since it will seek to reflect not only the release of additional indicators that will be available in the meantime, but also to accommodate possible changes in the statistical field in the light of SDG indicators developments at the national and international level.

As an illustration of the information already available, this press release presents three indicators of the United Nations global list, corresponding to the three dimensions (social, economic and environmental) of the Agenda 2030, which are interconnected.

(i) The indicator 1.2.1 **“Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age”**, normally named at-risk-of-poverty rate, is one of the indicators that monitors the goal 1 “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”. This indicator, for the total population, was 19.0% in 2015, less 0.5 percentage points (p.p.) than in the previous year, but 0.3 p.p. more than the series average (2003- 2015). This reduction in 2015 has been observed in all age groups, with the exception of the population aged 65 and over, which poverty rate has been increasing the since 2013.

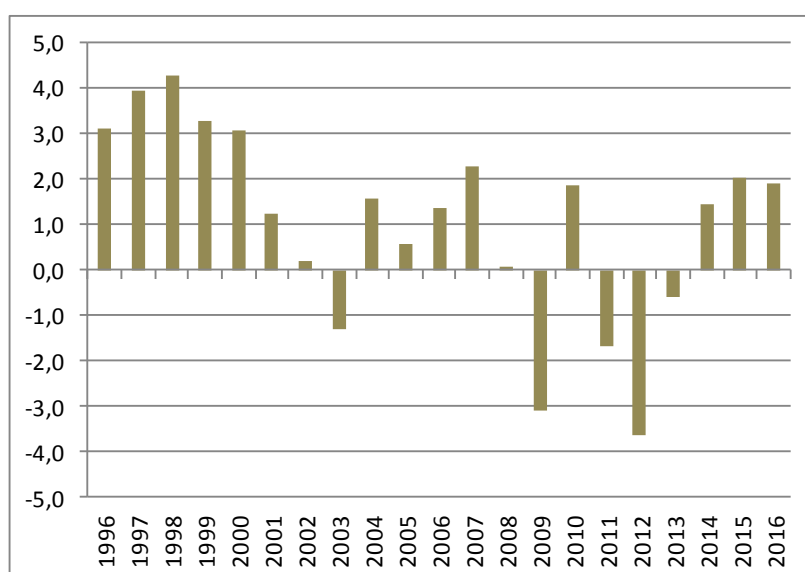
² This Statistics Portugal initiative is also a result of similar disclosures made by other EU national statistical offices, namely following the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) guidelines on the development of national reporting platforms for the SDG indicators. In most cases, the number of indicators available is similar to the number now published by Statistics Portugal.

Graph 2. At-risk-of-poverty rate (after social transfers) by Sex and Age group (%)



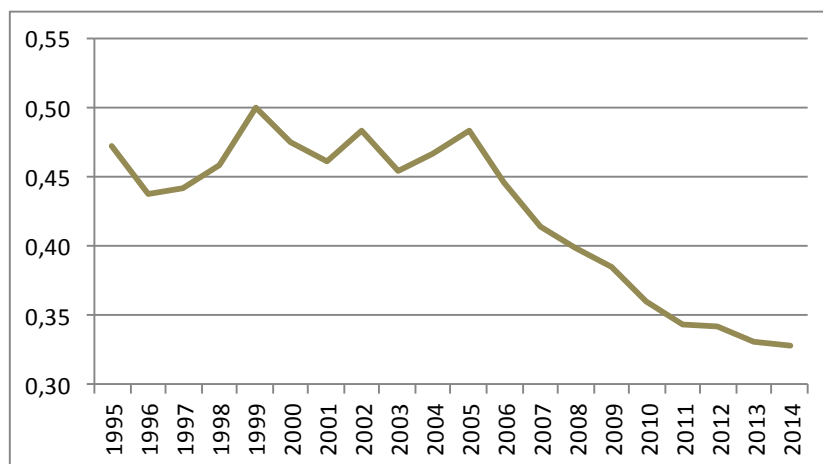
(ii) The indicator 8.1.1 “**Annual growth rate of real GDP *per capita***” is one of the indicators that monitors the goal 8 “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. In 2014, 2015 and 2016 (provisional data for the last two years) this indicator registered positive change rates (1.4%, 2.0% and 1.9%, respectively), in contrast with the recessive period observed between 2011 and 2013, reaching a 3.6% change rate in 2012.

Graph 3. Annual growth rate of real GDP *per capita* (%)



(iii) The indicator 9.4.1 “CO₂ emission *per unit of value added*” is one of the indicators that monitors goal 9 “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”. Since 2006, this indicator has recorded a clear downwards trend.

Graph 4. CO₂ emission *per unit of value added* (1000 tonnes of CO₂ by 10⁶ Euros)



For more information, please consult the Excel file associated with this press release, which presents 75 indicators with information already available for Portugal.