JULY 6, 2018

THE INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: GENERAL FRAMEWORK

1.1 The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

On 25 September 2015, the UN-Assembly General adopted the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development *(UN Resolution A7RES/70/1, New York)*, in which the Global Goals are declined to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda refer to different areas of social, economic and environmental development, which need to be considered in an integrated approach, as well as the processes that may accompany and foster them in a sustainable way, that safeguards the planet and guarantees the well-being of people and an equitable distribution of development over time.

The 17 goals are articulated in 169 targets and the *United Nations Inter Agency Expert Group on SDGs* (UN-IAEG-SDGs) proposed a first list of more than 230 indicators for their monitoring, which represent the general framework.

1.2 How many and what statistical indicators for the SDGs in Italy

In the first Annual Report, Istat presents an update and an extension of the indicators already disseminated (on three different occasions every six months starting from December 2016), together with an analysis of the trends, providing an information framework for monitoring progress towards the sustainable development model established by the community.
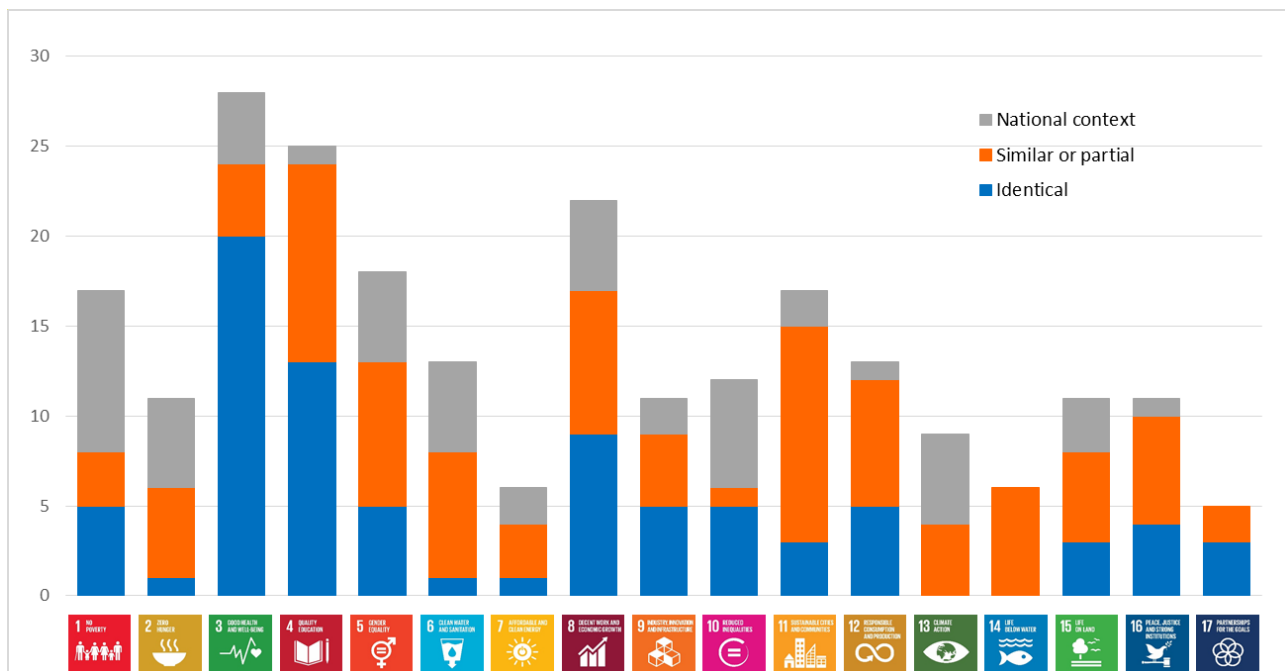
In this fourth release ISTAT produces an updated set of 117 UN-IAEG-SDGs indicators and, for these, 235 national measures, all available on the website **www.istat.it**.

For 83 measures there is a perfect coincidence with international indicators, 96 measures partially reflect the information needs of the international indicator to which they are linked (this happens for several reasons mainly because not all data are available in the required specificity). The remaining 56 measures have been included in order to provide further elements useful for understanding and monitoring the target set in the "national context": the concept of sustainable development (People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnership, Peace) of the Agenda 2030 need to consider specific progress in the living conditions of people in their own country. For 82 measures, already disseminated in December 2017, updates of the time series or an increase in the breakdowns were made. In general, for three quarters of the indicators territorial breakdowns have been provided.

This is a work in continuous evolution, which takes into account the improvements in the production of statistical measures within the National Statistical System (Sistan) and thanks to synergistic action developed in it, working for a progressive extension of the "mapping" of the indicators proposed by UN-IAEG-SDGs.

Figure 1.1 Statistical indicators to monitor the SDGs by type: identical, similar or partial, specific to the national context.

1.3 Summaries by Goal

Below is a summary of the statistical information available for each goal.

In Italy, the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion is 30%, with a tendency to increase. The indicator of poverty or social exclusion is multidimensional and corresponds to the proportion of people who have at least one of the following situations: 1) are at risk of income poverty, 2) are severely physically deprived, 3) live in families with a very low work intensity. Income poverty affects 20,6% of the population; the severe material deprivation is 12,1% and the share of those living in families with a very low labor intensity is 12,8%. The situation appears to worsen and regional disparities are very wide. In 2017, 5 million and 58 thousand individuals are estimated to be in absolute poverty.

In Italy, one child in three (6-10 years) is overweight, but the trend is improving. Productivity and profitability of small farms increase, as well as the agricultural area invested in organic farming. Ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector are reducing, in compliance with the objectives set by the EU Directives.

Italy has long achieved the UN target for neonatal mortality and for under-5 mortality, ranking among the countries with the lowest infant mortality rates. The standardized mortality rate between 30-69 years for malignancies, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular diseases and chronic respiratory diseases has been steadily decreasing since 2004. The standardized rate of death by suicide is lower in Italy than in the rest of Europe. Between 2004 and 2016 the number of fatalities in road accidents almost halved. It brakes the long-term decline, particularly decided since 2009, of the standardized share of smokers among people over 14 years old.

The last ten years have brought widespread progress on the front of inclusive education. The rate of early abandonment fell to 13,8% in 2016, remaining essentially stable in 2017 (14%). 26% of 30-34 year-olds completed tertiary education, with wide territorial and gender differences. Increasing adult participation in education and training activities.

Violence against women decreases, but its severity increases and extreme violence remains stable. The gender gap is large although decreasing in unpaid household and care work. With regard to women in decision-making, in economic and political positions, positive signs emerge but the presence remains low. Regarding the sexual and reproductive health of women and reproductive rights, the rate of voluntary abortion is continuously decreasing.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Italy has the largest withdrawal of drinking water per capita between the countries of the European Union: 156 cubic meters per inhabitant. The indicator on the efficiency of the distribution network is worsening. 10,1% of Italian households complain about irregularities in the water supply service in their homes, increasing in 2017. 17.897 urban wastewater treatment plants are in operation, 44,2% of which are secondary plants o advanced that deal with 59,6% of potential polluting loads generated on the territory.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

The contribution from renewable sources has been growing rapidly, but there is a recent trend inversion. Energy intensity has decreased. Households satisfaction for electricity service is stable. The share of population unable to keep home adequately warm.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The evolution of real GDP per capita shows an improvement in recent years. Employment has been growing over the last four years, but in 2017 the unemployment rate still remains at significantly higher levels than in the pre-crisis period. Non-participation rate is almost double compared to the Eu level. The share of NEET, although slightly down since 2015, is growing over the long term. The incidence rate of fatal occupational injuries or injuries leading to permanent disability is improving over time; regional differentials are however high. Government spending in employment programmes and social protection from unemployment is increasing.

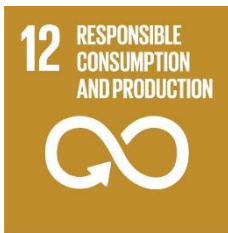**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Despite the trend reversal registered in 2015, the CO2 emission per unit of value added has decreased over the last ten years. The intensity of research is in slow progression. The incidence of companies introducing technological innovations declined in the 2012-2014 three-year period. R&D personnel has increased, but there are strong regional differences and compared to the Eu. The number of knowledge workers per 100 employed is creasing.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Until 2007, the growth in Italy of the income of the lower income population was higher than that of total income. Since 2008, due to the economic crisis, the observed downturns have been broader for relatively lower incomes while the recovery phase has not led to a reduction in economic inequalities. In 2016 Italy, with 19.1% of the income available for the 40% poorest of the population, is below the European average.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

There is a tendency to improve The level of particulate air pollution is decreasing, even if the values in the last year increased. The share of urban waste sent to landfill is also constantly reducing. There are not improvement in the satisfaction with the use of public transport. The illegal building rate increased ten percentage points in the last
ten years; a slight decline is observed the last two year (19.4% in 2017), with strong territorial differences.
Public spending for the protection of biodiversity and landscape assets has decreased in ten years.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

The domestic material consumption has decreased sharply over the last fifteen years, with a trend inversion in the last period. Between 2010 and 2016, the recycling rate of waste increased by 10 percentage points. However, Italy is still below the European target for 2020. The share of separate collection of waste more than doubled compared to 2004, but it still remains below the targets set by national legislation. The impact of tourism on waste shows significant territorial variability.
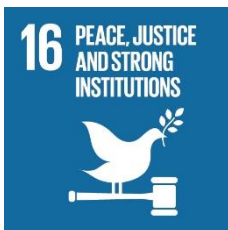
13 CLIMATE ACTION

Greenhouse gas emissions decreased in Italy in the period 1995-2015, by almost 20 percentage points; the reduction occurred from 2004, due also to lower consumption because of the economic crisis. The decoupling between the emissions dynamics of production activities and that of GDP was neither homogeneous nor constant. Italy (7,3) is below the European average of 8,8 per capita greenhouse gas emissions. In 2015, 76,1% of emissions are generated by production activities and the 23,9% by households.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

The surface of marine protected areas, in Italy, is equal to 3,020.5 square kilometers. Three quarters of the protected areas are located in Sardinia, Sicily and Tuscany. The percentage of bathing marine coastal waters on the total of the coastal line is equal to 67,2%. The non-bathing portion of the coast includes areas with health or safety risks, but also military areas, ports, river mouths and areas subject to natural protection. The variations over the years both in the extension of the marine protected areas and in the percentage of the bathing coast are very slight.

15 LIFE ON LAND

31.6% of the national territory is covered by forests, whose extension has increased by more than 20% from 1990 to 2015. The system of protected natural areas has reached the coverage of about 80% of the key areas for biodiversity and 21.8% of the entire national territory. Though land consumption is slowing down, it keeps advancing at a concerning pace. Italy is endowed with an extraordinary wealth of biodiversity, which is subject however to important threats: in our country, over 30% of the terrestrial species of vertebrates are endangered.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The rate of intentional homicides of men is reduced over the years. In the case of women, the rate remains stable. The share of the population victim of consumed assaults or robberies is 1,4%. 4,1% of women and 0,7% of men aged between 18 and 29 were victims of sexual violence before the age of 18. 7,9% of families were involved in at least one case of corruption during their lifetime. Over the years, the share of unsentenced detainees pending on the overall prisons population decreased.
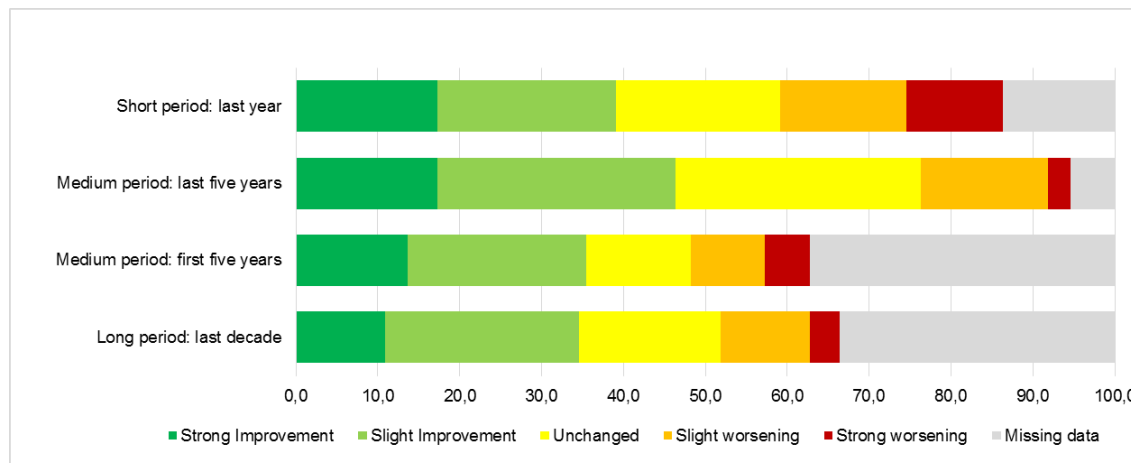
17 PARTNERSHIP PER GLI OBIETTIVI

The share of the gross national income devoted by our country to Official Development Assistance (ODA) is increasing, especially in 2016, while the proportion of ODA to least developed countries is stable. Over the last eight years, the incidence of households connecting to the Internet via broadband connection grew consistently, up to over 70%, but territorial variability is still high. The population using the Internet is increasing.

1.4 Towards sustainable development

The long-term (last 10 years) and medium term (five-year period 2006-2011 and last five-year period 2011-2016) trend analysis of most indicators allow to outline a first statistical summary of progress to the Sustainable Development Goals[1].

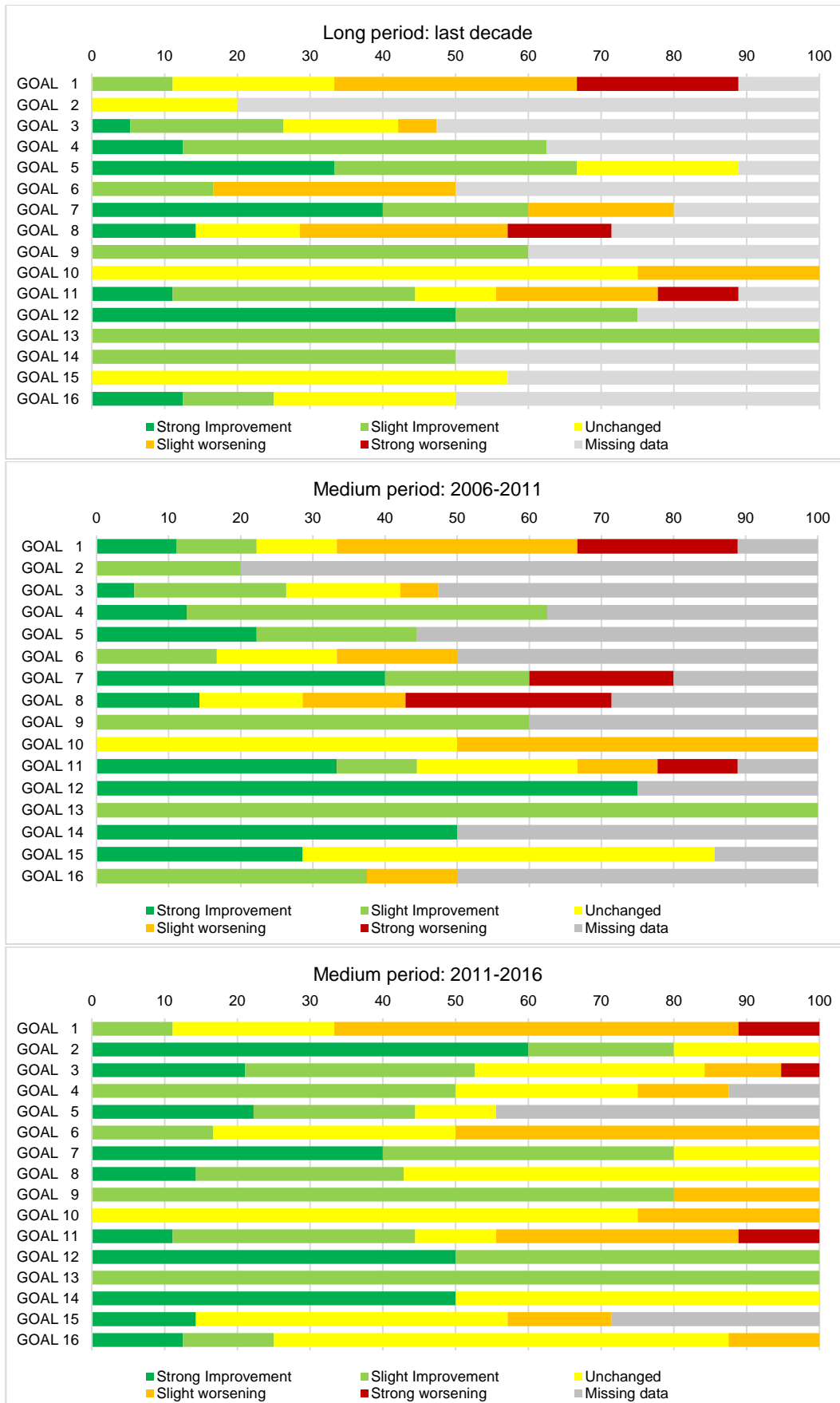Figure 1.2 Overall trend and availability of indicators

110 are the indicators available in historical series for which the considered variation in the time intervals were analyzed. From 2006 to today there is an increased availability of statistical information in Sistan: in fact, the variation compared to the previous ten years can be done for 66,4% of the indicators, while that compared to the last five years is feasible for 94,5% of them.

Of these, Goal 3 (Health) have the largest number of indicators available since the last five years (19). A small number of indicators is available for the Goal 14 (Life under water, 2 indicators), for Goal 2 (Zero Hunger, 5 indicators not available for all years), for Goal 13 (Acting for the climate, 3 indicators).
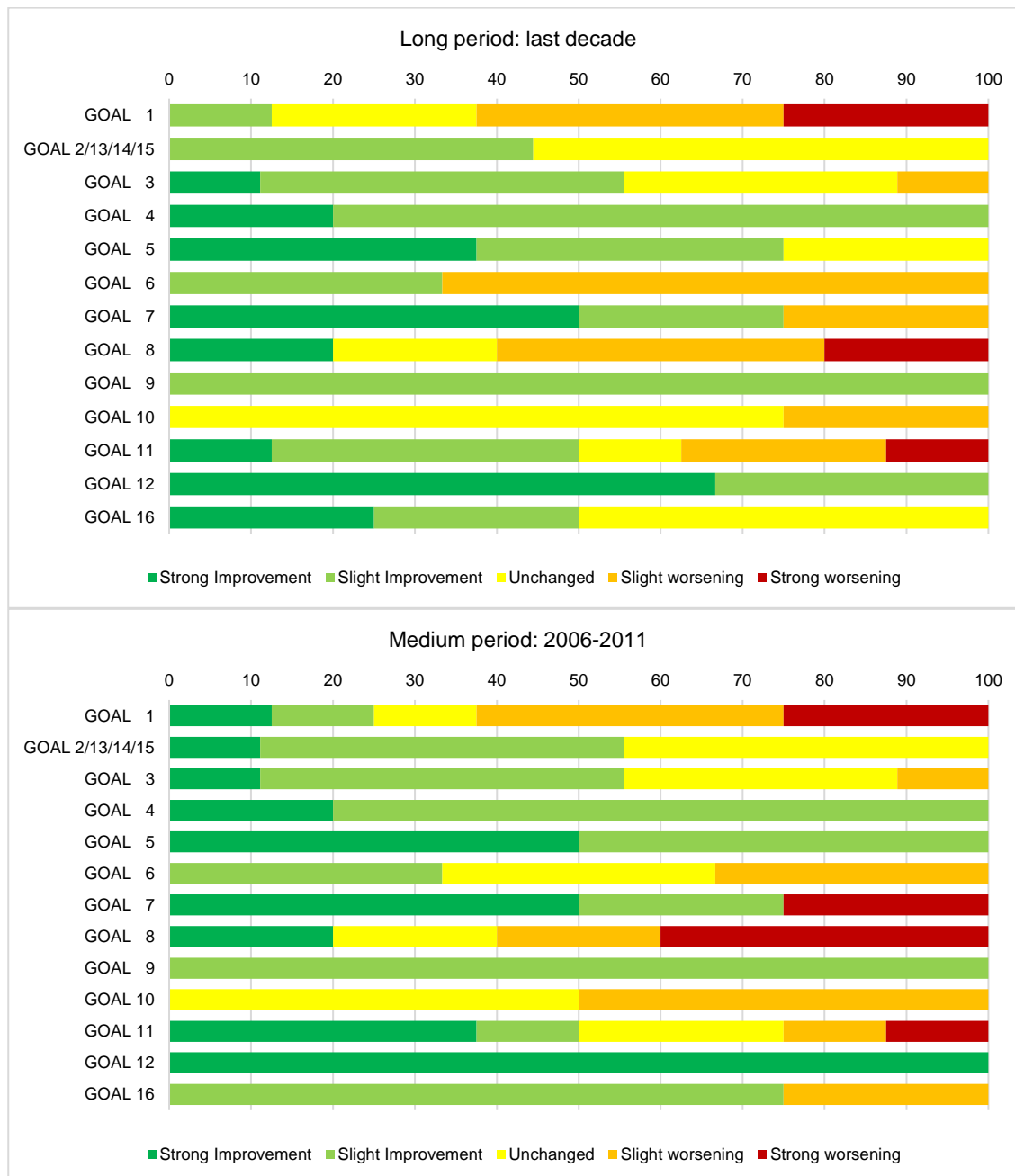
---

[1] The summary representation of the trends measured by the indicators is achieved by calculating their variations in the four reference intervals defined as follows: Short term (last year available on t-1, normally 2016 on 2015); Medium term / last five years (last year available on t-5, normally 2016 on 2011); Medium-term / previous five-year period (t-5 on t-10, normally 2011 on 2006); Long term (last year available on t-10, normally 2016 on 2006. The changes are then classified according to the values of a Compound Annual Growth Rate (TCCA), calculated as TCCA = (y_t / y_{t_0}) ^ $(1 / (t - t\_0))$ - 1, where t0 is the base year, t is the most recent year y the value of the indicator in the two years.

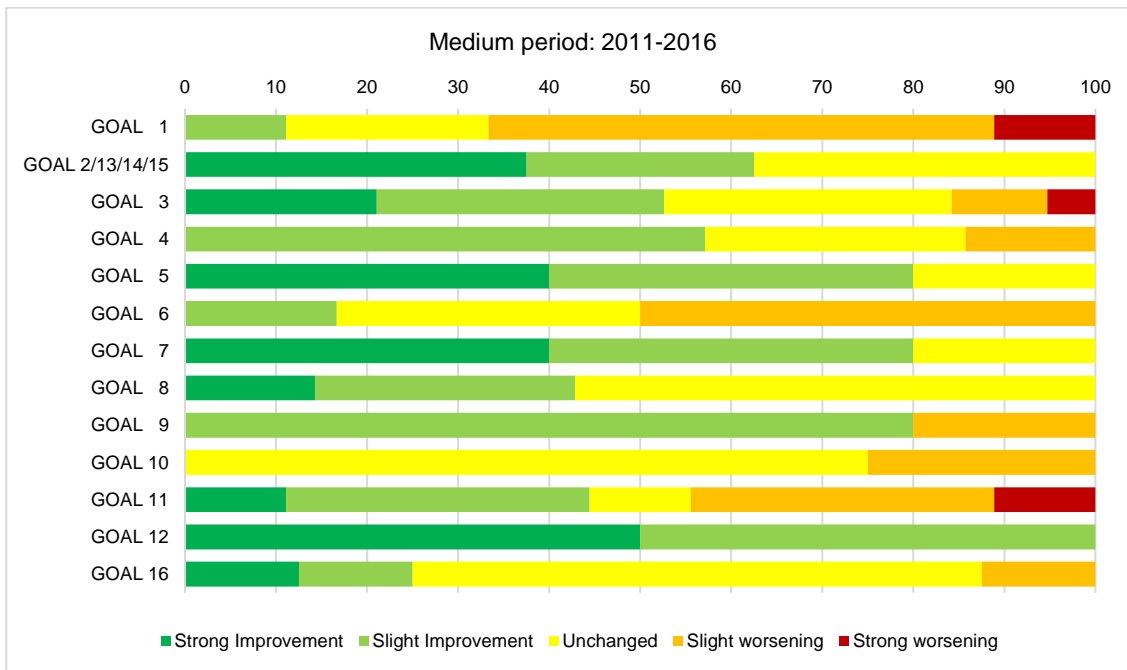Figure 1.3 Trend and availability of indicators by Goal and reference period

Long period: last decade

Medium period: 2006-2011

Medium period: 2011-2016

Legend: Strong Improvement, Slight Improvement, Unchanged, Slight worsening, Strong worsening, Missing data

With reference to a representation that excludes the unavailable indicators[2], the summary of long-term trends indicates positive developments with reference to quality education (goal 4), industry, innovation and infrastructures (goal 9), consumption and production (goal 12).

Figure 1.4 Trends by Goal and reference period.

Long period: last decade

■ Strong Improvement ■ Slight Improvement □ Unchanged ■ Slight worsening ■ Strong worsening

Medium period: 2006-2011

■ Strong Improvement ■ Slight Improvement □ Unchanged ■ Slight worsening ■ Strong worsening

---

[2] To facilitate the representation, in the following graphs the variations of the indicators for the Goals 2, 13, 14 and 15 were added (Zero Hunger, Acting for the climate and Life under water and on the earth).

Medium period: 2011-2016

The effect of the economic crisis is evident from the analysis of the five-year period from 2006 to 2011, with a greater number of indicators that worsen for Goal 1 (poverty), Goal 8 (work) Goal 11 (city) and Goal 7 (Clean and accessible energy). The indicators relating to Goal 4 (education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructures) and Goal 12 (consumption and production) are recording slightly positive trends.

In the nearest five-year period (from 2011 to 2016) moderate progress was observed: the sharp negative variations decreased in Goal 1 (poverty) and Goal 11 (city), in addition to Goal 3 (health); slightly positive changes are in goals 4, 5, 7, 9 and 12; more than 30% of the indicators remain unchanged, in particular for Goal 8 (work), Goal 16 (peace, justice and institutions) and Goal 10 (reduce inequality).