Ongoing initiatives to promote a sustainable and inclusive economy
➢ ASviS was established on 3rd February 2016 with the aim of increasing the awareness of the Italian society about the importance of the 2030 Agenda, and to mobilize them in order to achieve the SDGs.

➢ It is the largest coalition ever established in Italy, with more than 240 members.

➢ A secretariat (20FTE), 20 working groups, 300 experts.

➢ Daily updated website, weekly and monthly newsletter.

➢ A wide range of activities: education, advocacy, research, policy recommendations, etc.

➢ 1,5 million euros revenues in 2019
The Italian Festival of Sustainable Development

METTIAMO MANO AL NOSTRO FUTURO.
The Italian Festival of Sustainable Development

2017

2018

2019
The future we do not want

- Secular stagnation
- Growing inequalities
- Climate change
- Technological shocks
Thinking the unthinkable: is the collapse imminent?
The future we do not want

Figure 3.3: Conflict and Death
Number of conflicts, 1946-2016

Figure 7.1: Undernourishment Rises
Prevalence of global undernourishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of people (millions)</th>
<th>Share of global pop. (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 2030 Agenda

The United Nations’ Global Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):
- 17 Goals
- 169 targets
- 240+ indicators

An integrated vision of development, based on four pillars:
- Economy
- Society
- Environment
- Institutions

Three principles:
- Integration
- Universality
- Participation
A new development paradigm

Sociosystem services

1. Peace, justice, and strong institutions
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation, and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Life on land
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice, and strong institutions

Well being (individual and community)

Consumption (based on changing, adapting preferences)

Investment (decisions about, taxes, community spending, education, science and technology, policy, etc., based on complex property rights regimes)

Production process

Goods and Services

Waste heat

Solar Energy

Natural Capital

Human Capital

Social Capital

Built Capital

Limited sustainability between capital forms

Negative impacts on all forms of capital

Building

Restoration, conservation
Do you think the issues of the 2030 Agenda represent a priority?

- 25% Not so much / Not at all
- 75% A lot / Somewhat
ASviS publishes an annual Report to:

- analyze the situation with respect to the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs;
- put forward policy proposals using nine policy areas: Climate change and energy; Poverty and inequalities; Circular economy, innovation, employment; Human capital, health and education; Natural capital and quality of environment; Cities, infrastructures and social capital; International cooperation.
How is the EU doing?  
2010-2017 trends
How is the EU doing?

2010-2017 trends
Conclusion

• Between 2016 and 2017 the EU shows:
  – Signs of improvement with respect to ten SDGs (poverty, zero hunger, health, education, gender equality, decent work, inequalities, sustainable cities, life below water and governance)
  – Stability with respect to six SDGs (energy, innovation, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life on land and partnerships).

The EU is the most sustainable geopolitical area in the world

The EU is not on a sustainable development path
EU countries
Inequalities between Member States
EU countries

Inequalities between Member States
1. The Union's aim is to **promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples.**

2. The Union shall offer its citizens **an area of freedom, security and justice without internal frontiers...**

3. The Union shall establish an internal market. **It shall work for the sustainable development of Europe** based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, **aiming at full employment and social progress,** and a **high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment.** It shall promote scientific and technological advance. **It shall combat social exclusion and discrimination,** and shall **promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of the rights of the child. It shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, and solidarity among Member States.** It shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced.

4. **...It shall contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development of the Earth,** solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of the child, as well as to the strict observance and the development of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter.
1. The Union's aim is to **promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples**.

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4. ...**It shall contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development of the Earth**, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of the child, as well as to the strict observance and the development of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter.
The European Parliament indicated the 2030 Agenda as a key reference for European policies:

- **Sustainability as a guiding principle for EU policies:** Sustainable Development Goals in all EU policies and initiatives.

- **Multi-annual Financial Framework for sustainable development:** 25% of EU expenditure for climate objectives, adoption of a new Just Energy Transition Fund (4.8 billion), increase in funding to achieve the European Pillar of Social Rights (triple the Erasmus+ budget, double funding for the European Youth Initiative, increase the European Social Fund, integrate the European Child Guarantee), with a budget of at least 5.9 billion.

- **Comprehensive strategy for the SDGs:** aligning the European Semester to the SDGs; team with horizontal responsibility for sustainable development coordinated by the President of the Commission; adoption of ex-ante and ex-post impact assessments based on the SDGs.
The European Economic and Social Committee:

- called for the current EU governance system to be adapted to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda… for example, the European Semester machinery should be monitoring and contributing to the implementation of the SDGs… A sustainability test should be applied to all legislation and policy proposals in order to estimate the impact on SDGs and decide on the appropriateness of the proposal;
- recommended that within the Commission, a Vice-President, with a dedicated team, specific budget and working structure with all Commissioners and Commission departments, should be in charge of mainstreaming the SDGs into EU policies;
- called for an agreement on an EU budget that makes sustainable development the core objective.
The «Multistakeholder Platform on SDGs» recommended to:

• Make sustainability a guiding principle for the Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021-2027;
• Embed a “think sustainability first” principle in EU policies;
• Adjust “ex-ante conditionalities” to sustainability;
• Introduce a link between sustainability and the “rule of law”;
• Transform the “European Semester” to a delivery model for sustainability;
• Exclude “contradictory subsidies” with respect to sustainability;
• Add “social, environmental and climate indicators” to the European structural and investment funds.
The EU Commission (January 30th, 2019) published its *Reflection paper* with three scenarios:

1) An overarching EU SDG strategy to guide all the actions of the EU and its Member States;

2) Continued mainstreaming of the SDGs in all relevant EU policies by the Commission, but not enforcing Member States’ action;

3) Putting enhanced focus on external action while consolidating current sustainability ambition at EU level.
The EU Council (April 9th, 2019) indicated the second scenario “preferable”:

• The Council underlines the urgent need for **accelerating the implementation** of the 2030 Agenda both globally and internally, as an overarching priority of the EU... there is a strong and urgent need to shift to a comprehensive, overarching and ambitious approach at EU level ...This approach **should guide our present and future actions** at EU level;

• **Urges the Commission to elaborate a comprehensive implementation strategy** outlining timelines, objectives and concrete measures to reflect the 2030 Agenda and mainstream the SDGs in all relevant EU internal and external policies ... **within 2019**;

• **emphasises the need to consider the main policy foundations for a sustainable future of Europe as well as the principles of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs in the discussions on the next EU Strategic Agenda 2019-2024.**
The EU Council (April 9th, 2019) indicated the second scenario as “preferable”:

• stresses the strong and urgent need to **enhance Policy Coherence** for Sustainable Development (PCSD) at all levels and between all internal and external actions, by accelerating the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in all relevant EU policies, strategies and tools, and to more efficiently use existing mechanisms and instruments, including where relevant the **European Semester**, the Better Regulation agenda, impact assessment procedures, Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and to assess how the new **Multiannual-Financial Framework** (MFF) can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

• The Council calls for the strengthening of the **Multi-Stakeholder Platform** on the SDGs.
To sum up, the key issues concern:

- The 2019-2024 strategic priorities and the connection with national policies;
- The Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021-2027;
- The structure of the Commission;
- The reform of the European Semester and coherence between internal and external policies;
- The ex-ante evaluation of new legislative initiatives;
- Civil society involvement.
Draft prepared for the Sibiu summit:

- Protecting citizens and freedoms;
- Developing our economic base: the European model for the future;
- Building a greener, fairer and more inclusive future;
- Promoting Europe's interests and values in the world.

A new version will be prepared in the beginning of June to be approved within the same month, along with the election of the President of the EU Commission.
The recommendations of ASviS:

• The 2030 Agenda should be clearly mentioned as a reference for the 2019-2024 strategic priorities, with explicit indications on how the single priorities can contribute to the achievement of the 17 SDGs;

• each priority should include targets to 2024 in line with the targets of the 2030 Agenda;

• On occasion of the «State of the Union» speech, the President of the Commission should submit a report to be discussed with the Heads of State and Government at the end of year summit;

• The Multi-annual Financial Framework should be linked to the 2030 Agenda.
The new Commission

President

Coherence for the SDGs

Economic transition
- SDG 7 - Energy
- SDG 8 - Jobs and growth
- SDG 9 - Innovation
- SDG 11 - Cities
- SDG 12 - Circular economy

Social cohesion
- SDG 1 - Poverty
- SDG 2 - Zero hunger
- SDG 3 - Health
- SDG 4 - Education
- SDG 5 - Gender equality
- SDG 10 - Inequalities

Environment quality
- SDG 6 - Clean water
- SDG 13 - Climate action
- SDG 14 - Life below water
- SDG 15 - Life on land

High representative for foreign affairs and security policy
- SDG 9 - International cooperation
- Security and defence
- Entanglement and neighbourhood policy

Governance, institutional relations, administration
- SDG 16 - Efficient institutions
- Crisis management
- Budget and human resources

Environment quality

Social cohesion

Economic transition

Coherence for the SDGs

President
The new European Semester
The new European Semester

• **New analytical tools:**
  - Annual Sustainable Development and Well-Being Survey and Sustainability Imbalance Procedure.
  - A new system of indicators integrated in the country reporting and general analysis.

• **A new governance structure:**
  - A new Sustainable Development Council.
  - A newly framed Regulatory Scrutiny Board in the European Commission to guarantee sustainability impact assessment and evaluation work.
  - A newly established European Sustainable Well-Being Board, mirroring the existing European Fiscal Board, and mandated to provide annual independent monitoring and evaluation across EU policies and recommendations made in the framework of the Sustainable Development Process as regards their impact on sustainable well-being.
ASviS’ work demonstrated that such an evaluation is possible:

We encourage the Commission to adopt innovative evaluation instruments to highlight the interactions between the positive and negative effects of different policies, including those at national level.
Some suggestions:

- Strengthening of the Multi-stakeholder platform for the ex-ante and ex-post policy evaluation;
- Launch of an information campaign, in collaboration with national media, directed at citizens and national organisations;
- Involvement of schools and universities;
- Involvement of business associations and entrepreneurs, especially women and the young;
- Involvement of trade unions and CSOs;
- Use Erasmus+ and other means to inform and mobilise young generations.
Conclusions

• The European Union is not on a sustainable development path
• European institutions have laid the foundations for a quality leap in European policies using the 2030 Agenda as a reference to fully implement the Treaty
• Civil society has pushed in this direction and is ready to support an acceleration
• Citizens expect a leap forward from politics
Can we make it?

Figure 1.7 Achieving the SDGs within PBs: Only one of the four scenarios achieves the grand challenge of improving the world’s SDG Success Score, without eroding Earth’s Safety Margin.