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The Urban Agenda for sustainable development



Objectives and proposals



Executive summary

Preface

The *Urban Agenda for sustainable development. Objectives and proposals* is written by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development's (ASviS) working group on Goal 11 on sustainable cities (<http://asvis.it/goal11/attivita/448-1290/composizione-del-gruppo-di-lavoro-11>) and Urban@it, the National center for urban policy studies, following consultations held between May 29th and September 10th, 2017. The document is edited by **Walter Vitali** in collaboration with **Giovanni Fini** and **Gianluigi Bovini**.

The **introduction** by **Antonio Decaro**, mayor of Bari and President of ANCI (the National Association of Italian Municipalities), stresses Italian municipalities' commitment towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and emphasizes the need for a National urban agenda. The document develops into three chapters. The first, titled "**The Urban Agenda for sustainable development**", advances the report's fundamental proposal, namely that the national urban Agenda should be based on the UN 2030 Agenda's SDGs and on specific quantitative objectives for urban areas.

Setting specific quantitative objectives allows to measure progress towards specific goals, thus helping identify the best actions for their full achievement. With objectives tied to the territorial dimension, citizens can be directly involved in discussions on issues related to their daily lives. Furthermore, mayors and local authorities' government actions, including national policy proposals to Parliament and Government, can gain further legitimation. Said authorities can thus adopt these objectives as orientation for action without the need for legislative support.

The second chapter, titled "**The urban territory**", draws attention on national, European and international challenges and definitions for "cities" and "urbanization". In order to allow for confrontation at international (or at least European) level, the analyses are based on Eurostat indicators, which classify areas by degree of urbanisation: densely populated areas (*cities*); intermediate density areas (*towns and suburbs*); thinly populated areas (*rural areas*). *Urban areas* include both densely populated and intermediate density areas.

The third chapter, titled "**The objectives**", comprises 17 paragraphs corresponding to the UN 2030 Agenda's 17 SDGs: 1. No poverty; 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 (divided into 1. Scientific research and 2. Digitalization); 10. Reduced inequalities (divided into 1. Income inequalities and 2. Inclusion of migrants and refugees); 11. Sustainable cities and communities (divided into 1. Housing policies and urban regeneration; 2. Urban mobility; 3. Sustainable land use and nature-based solutions; 4. Culture; 5. Air quality; 6. Green spaces); 12. Responsible consumption and production (divided into 1. Circular economy and 2. Innovative and sustainable public procurement); 13. Climate action; 14. Life below water; 15. Life on land; 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions (divided into 1. Security and 2. Investments and urban financial autonomy); 17. Partnerships for the Goals. Each of these objectives is connected to the 12 priorities of the Urban Agenda for the EU (Pact of Amsterdam) and to the objectives of the *National sustainable development strategy* approved by the Council of Ministers on October 2nd, 2017 and the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (*Cipe*) on December 22nd, 2017.

The next pages present the tables, featured in chapter 3 at the end of each paragraph, summarizing the *International objectives*, *Italian positioning*, *National objectives* and *Necessary actions* related to each SDG.

BOX 1 - POVERTY**International goals**

Europe 2020 strategy: 20 million less people in poverty conditions compared to 2008. The goal for Italy is 2.2 million less. In 2016, it was 0.8 million more than 2008, when it was equal to 23.57% of the population.

Italian context

In 2016, there were 3 million more people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, two and a half times more than the target, for a total of 18.1 million people equal to 30% of the population (city 30.3%, smaller cities and suburbs 29.1%).

National goals

The target for urban areas is to reduce by 1.7 million people in 2025 compared to 2008. In this way urban areas can contribute, in proportion to their population, to the national target for 2020 of - 2.2 million (- 5.2 million compared to 2016).

Actions to be taken

a) Implementation of the law that introduces the inclusion income (Rei) ensuring homogeneity between the North and the South; b) development of local welfare as a fundamental complementary pillar; c) National Plan for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion as foreseen by the 2016 Stability Law; d) evaluation of the effectiveness of the new intervention system.

BOX 2 - HUNGER**International goals**

Goal 2 SDGs: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. The percentage of undernourished people decreased from 15% in the period 2000-2002 to 11% in the 2013-2015 period (793 million people), but at the current rate the objective can not be achieved.

Italian context

In 2014, 10.5% (EU 15.9%) of people were overweight, with a worse situation in rural areas (11.9%) as in the EU. Economic value of domestic food waste was equal to 8.1 billion in 2014.

National goals

a) Adopt a food policy similar to the one adopted by the municipality of Milan, consistent with the 2015 Milan food policy pact; b) by 2025, halve the number of people suffering from obesity; c) reduce food waste by half by 2025, anticipating the target 12.3 by 5 years.

Actions to be taken

a) The use of public agricultural areas for local agricultural and horticultural production; b) the development of communication campaigns aimed at all citizens in order to promote healthy and sustainable eating habits and conscious purchasing practices; c) the incentive for mechanisms for the recovery and redistribution of surpluses at all levels (condominium, market, distribution, canteens, etc.) and in the different portions of urban areas.

BOX 3 - HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



International goals

a) Reduce premature mortality by 2020; b) increase life expectancy; c) reduce health inequalities; d) improve well-being; e) achieve universal coverage of health services; f) by 2025, reduce chronic non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular NCDs, tumors, respiratory diseases and diabetes) by 25%.

Italian context

Life expectancy at birth is equal to 82.7 years (80.3 years for men and 84.9 for women) and, in the EU, is equal to 80.6 years in 2015, second best result after Spain. Drug consumers amount to 2.3 million in 2011 and alcohol-dependents to 70,000 in 2012. Deaths at work in 2014 are equal to 2.34 per 100,000 employed (1.81 in the EU).

National goals

In urban areas, reduce: a) 25% early mortality due to NCDs by 2025 (WHO); b) 25% of drug users and alcohol dependents by 2025; c) accidents at work by 2020 below the 2016 European average.

Actions to be taken

a) Integrated programs for the main risk factors (smoking, alcohol, diet, sedentary lifestyle) to promote healthy behavior by activating community networks; b) integrated addiction-prevention strategies; c) improvement of prevention and control of risks at work; c) reduction of territorial inequalities of health through the rigorous application of essential levels of assistance (Lea).

BOX 4 - EDUCATION



International goals

Europe 2020 strategy: reduce below 10% for the 18-24 range the share of early school drop-outs (11% in 2015), in Italy currently less than 15-16%; increase up to 40% of 30-34 range with a university education (38.7% in 2015) which is currently 26 - 27% in Italy.

Italian context

In 2015, the share of early school drop-outs was 14.7% (17.5% male, 11.8% female), similar to cities (14.8%), while in European cities it was 9.8%, less than the total EU average of 11%. 25.3% of people in the 30-34 range have a university education, which makes Italy last in the EU (the percentage is 31.7% for cities).

National goals

Achieving in 2025 in the urban areas the goal that Europe had set for 2020, that is the reduction of school dropout to less than 10% in the age group 18-24 years and 40% of graduates in the age group 30 - 34 years.

Actions to be taken

a) Early intervention (tutoring and cooperation with parents) to prevent school dropouts; b) support for care, early childhood education and the inclusion of family contexts at risk; c) investments for new urban university campuses and student services.

BOX 5 - GENDER EQUALITY



International goals

EU goals for 2019: a) 0% Gender employment gap; b) child care for 33% of children under the age of 3 and for 90% between the age of 3 and the that of compulsory education; c) 40% of participation of the underrepresented gender among the non-executive directors of companies listed on the Stock Exchange.

Italian context

The Eige (Autonomous EU agency) gender disparity index is equal to 41.1 on 100 (EU 52.9) in 2012, 20th place in the EU. In 2014, 31.5% of women aged 16 to 70 had suffered some form of violence in their lives, and 16.1 had suffered stalking.

National goals

Bring the Eige gender disparity index to 60 out of 100 in urban areas by 2025 with an increase of 50% compared to today.

Actions to be taken

a) Adapt legislation to include parental leave and flexible working arrangements; b) support municipalities for the development of services for early childhood; c) application of the principle of equality in compensation; d) improvement of gender balance in public and private decision-making bodies; e) increase of actions against all forms of gender-based violence, even by measures to supporting victims.

BOX 6 - WATER



International goals

The 2000 Framework Directive established hydrographic basin management and set 2015 as the deadline for all European waters to be in a good ecological condition.

Italian context

The hydrographic basin of the Eastern Alps presents the best picture with 56% of rivers and 34% of lakes in good or better ecological status in the 2010-2015. The loss of drinking water due to poor pipelines was 38.2% and the purification service reached 88% of the citizens in provincial capitals (EU infringement procedure) in 2015.

National goals

Reduce, in the urban areas, the losses of water distribution networks within the physiological threshold of 10-20% (2/3 less than today) by 2030. Bring all the waters to a good status by 2025 in compliance with EU regulations (infringement procedure) for urban waste water by 2020.

Actions to be taken

a) Create a national plan for the modernization of water distribution networks; b) update the plans for the integrated water service based on the Water safety plan; c) improve the state of water purification.



BOX 7 - ENERGY

International goals

The Communication of the Commission of November 2016 sets the following goals for 2030: a) reduce greenhouse emissions by 40% compared to 1990; b) Improve energetic efficiency by 30%; c) At least 27% percent of all energy produced from renewable sources. The COP 21 requirements are higher.

Italian context

In 2014, EU greenhouse emissions were at 77,05 (base year 1990=100), and 81,36 in Italy (ranks as 14th). In the EU, 16% of produced energy came from renewable sources; the percentage was 17,1% in Italy (ranks as 15th). Primary energy consumption in the EU was 1507,1 Toe (the 2020 target is 1483 Toe) and in Italy 143,8 Toe (the 2020 target is 158 Toe, therefore already reached).

National goals

The target for urban areas is to reach, by 2025, the 2030 EU goals by the means of "Paesc" within Mayors adapt.

Actions to be taken

a) Elaborate a National Climate and Energy Plan by 2018 in order to synchronise the new National Energy Plan (Sen) of 2017 with the European objectives; b) Support cities in the creation and implementation of "Paesc". c) Coordinate the policies of different government subjects and levels to truly put in place a National System for Energetic and Climate Sustainability; d) Implement the National Action Plan for the Promotion of Nearly Zero-Consumption Housing.

BOX 8 - EMPLOYMENT



International goals

2020 EU Strategy: raise the employment rate of those aged 20-64 to 75%, Italy is currently at 67-69%. The rate was 70,1% in 2015, 0,2% less than that of 2008.

Italian context

The employment rate was 60,5% in 2015, well below the EU average (with a large gender gap. 70,6% for men and just 50,6% for women) but without relevant differences among areas with a different level of urbanization (61,3% in cities, 60,5 in smaller cities or suburbs).

National goals

The goal for urban areas is to reach, by 2030, the European target for 2020, namely an employment rate of 75%.

Actions to be taken

a) Introduce fiscal incentives for companies that employ young people on a permanent contract; b) Establish institutes for the employment, education and support for those who lost their job; c) Introduce new financial instrument for startups and facilitate entrepreneurship; d) Create strategies for work-life balance in order to reach a higher employment of women.

BOX 9.1 - RESEARCH**International goals**

Europe 2020 strategy: increase research expenditure to 3% of GDP (1.53% for Italy)

Italian context

The R&S expenditure was equal to 1.33% of GDP in 2015 (the same is 2% in the EU).

National goals

Reaching, by 2030, the goal that the EU had set for itself for 2020: a spending of 3% of GDP.

Actions to be taken

a) Real application of competence and value, rather than seniority and expenditure, as guiding criteria for research centres and universities; b) development of public research demand also through Pre-commercial procurement; c) promoting expert knowledge and its transfer as a strategic resource for territorial innovation.

BOX 9.2 - DIGITAL TRANSITION**International goals**

a) 30 Mbps high-speed broadband for all by 2020; b) 100 Mbps Ultra high-speed broadband for 50% of the EU population by 2020 (EU Digital Agenda).

Italian context

30 Mbps broadband for 35.4% of the population and 100 Mbps broadband for 11% in 2016.

National goals

In urban areas, reach: a) the goals of the European Digital Agenda for 2020, 30 Mbps broadband for all and 100 Mbps for 50% of the population; b) the European average of 2016 for basic digital skills by 2020 (56% of the population, 44% in Italy in 2016); c) the 2016 EU average of Internet usage by 2020 (79% of the population, 67% in Italy as of 2016).

Actions to be taken

a) Development of smart cities for the implementation of the 2014-2020 Digital Growth and Ultra-Broadband Strategy; b) facilitations for operators where there is a market demand to reach buildings with fibre optics, including through land registries; c) public investments in areas where the market demand is not sufficient.



BOX 10.1 - INCOME INEQUALITIES

International goals

Target 10.1 SDGs: By 2030, progressively sustain the bottom 40 percent's income growth at a higher rate than the national average. In the EU, the Gini coefficient (0 being absolute equality, 100 absolute inequality) increased by 0.5% from 2010 to 2015 (index equal to 31). The share of income of the bottom 40% fell by 0.4% in the same period (20.9% in 2015).

Italian context

The Gini coefficient increased above European average (+ 0.7%) from 2010 to 2015, and the index is higher than the EU average as well (equal to 32.4). The share of income of the bottom 40% fell more than the European average (equal to 0.5%) in the same period.

National goals

a) The reduction of the Gini coefficient, which measures income inequalities, to the European average by 2025; b) Income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a higher rate than the national average by 2025.

Actions to be taken

a) The coherent implementation of the Prime Ministry's Decree of 12 January 2017 concerning standard healthcare provision ("Livelli Essenziali di Assistenza", Lea); b) the full implementation of the twenty principles within the European Pillar of Social Rights adopted by the Commission on 26 April 2017; c) pre-redistribution interventions that enhance the effective equality of access to opportunities and the formation of primary incomes, starting from education and healthcare; d) redistributive measures to ensure the actual progressiveness of the tax system.

BOX 10.2 - MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



International goals

Controversial issues at EU level: a) the relocation of refugees and asylum seekers from countries of arrival; b) the review of Dublin Regulation on asylum seekers; c) Italy's proposal for a Migration compact, an agreement to support development of countries from which the greatest flows of refugees and migrants originate.

Italian context

The share of foreign-born people in Italian metropolitan areas was equal to 8.08% in 2011, the EU average was 10%. In 2015, the share of total foreign-born population at risk of poverty and social exclusion was equal to 49.8% of men (EU 28.2%) and 45.8% of women (EU 28.98%).

National goals

To halve, by 2030, the current gap between foreign-born and indigenous population at risk of poverty and social exclusion (22.7 points for men and 16.5 for women in 2015) in urban areas, bringing the percentage of foreign population in these conditions below the current European average of 39%.

Actions to be taken

a) Urban building and social intervention programs that pursue mixed housing and avoid the creation of marginalized areas; b) integration of immigration and social policies, labour and urban development; c) fighting illegal immigration and reducing the time required to obtain asylum; d) implementation of October 2016's Anci Plan for the Distribution of Refugees and Asylum Seekers issued by the Ministry of the Interior.

BOX 11.1 - HOUSING



International goals

reduction of the number of people living in households without access to basic services, as part of the fight against poverty. In 2015, the average proportion of people living in households without access to basic services in Europe was 5,2% (small cities 4%, rural areas 6,2%).

Italian context

In 2015, the share of people living in households without access to basic services in Italy was 11,3% (small cities 8,6%, rural areas 9,2%). Italy is in a countertrend compared to Europe: the problem is concentrated in the cities.

National goals

The 2030 goal for urban areas is to reduce (by 2/3 compared to 2015) the share of people living in households without access to basic services below the threshold of 4%.

Actions to be taken

a) Creating a 6 to 10 year long Strategic Plan for Italian city as an evolution of experience gained from public tenders for the peripheries; b) A National Strategy for the regeneration of suburbs regarding social issues, security and energetic efficiency; c) Increased funding for the "Piano di casa" (regulation n. 80 year 2014); d) Implementation of the agreement between the Government and Anci for the welcoming of refugees.

BOX 11.2 - MOBILITY



International goals

The European goals are: a) Halve the number of fossil fueled cars by 2030 and abrogate them by 2050; b) Halve the number of deadly road accidents by 2020 and get close to the goal of zero deadly accidents by 2050; c) Develop zero-emissions city logistics by 2030.

Italian context

In 2015, the average length of the public transport infrastructure in Italy (compared to the European average index equal to 100) was 47,1 for street cars, 46,5 for the subway, 51,4 for urban railways. In 2012, only in 3 of the 19 Italian metropolitan cities transport by foot, bicycles, and public transport exceeded transport by cars.

National goals

The goal for urban areas is getting equal share in urban transport between cars and other means of transport by 2020.

Actions to be taken

a) Make investments in order to bridge the infrastructural gap in public transportation; b) Finance suburban railways from the over tool of urban motorways; c) Increase the public transport offer starting from Southern cities; d) Incentivize an intelligent, electric, cyclable, and pedestrian mobility.

BOX 11.3 - SOIL



International goals

The European target is to eliminate soil consumption by 2050 (and by 2020, reduce the average consumption to 1,6 mq/inhabitant per year). The UN Agenda sets the ambitious goal of eliminating soil consumption by 2030.

Italian context

In the periods 1990-2000 and 2000-2006, the growth of artificial soil in Italy has exceeded the European average (1990-2000 Italy +6,4%, UE +5,7%; 2000-2006 Italy +3,3%, UE +3%). In 2008-2013, the soil consumption rate in Italy was 3,2 mq/inhabitant. The same indicator decreased in the period 2013-2015 reaching 2 mq/inhabitant.

National goals

In order to reach the national target, the goal is reducing by 20% the net soil consumption in urban areas (from 2 to 1,6 mq/inhabitant) by 2020.

Actions to be taken

a) Speeding up the approval of law AS 2383, distinguishing the building cost between free soil and covered soil; b) Creating a database for the areas available for requalifying process; c) Implementation of a National Action Plan between regions and local administrations in order to reach the goal.

BOX 11.4 - CULTURE



International goals

Maintenance of cultural heritage is one of the duties of the European Union. The program "Europa creativa" 2014-2020 sustains the cultural and creative sector.

Italian context

In 2014, Italian cities allocated 2,9% of total public expenditure (10 EUR per capita) to cultural aims. However, in order to fully understand the situation, we must also consider the huge territorial differences (Florence 162,3 euro; Naples 15,22 euro). The national expenditure for cultural services in 2014 was 0,3% of the GDP (the EU average is equal to 0,5%).

National goals

By 2030, increase the public expenditure in the cultural sector particularly in the most populated areas, in order to bridge the gap with the European average and to reduce the strong imbalance between Northern and Southern Italy.

Actions to be taken

a) Increase the quality and productivity of public cultural expenditure, identifying minimum standards in relation to the performance indicators (number of visitors, etc.) b) Promote culture and tourism as principal drivers of the urban economy; c) Increase the number of cultural users as an inclusion driver for migrants as well.

BOX 11.5 - AIR**International goals**

The European goal is to reduce the PM 2,5 emissions from the level of 25 µg/mc in 2015 to 20 µg/mc by 2020. The World Health Organization's (WHO) threshold is 10 µg/mc. The European threshold for PM 10 is 40 µg/mc.

Italian context

In 2014, 20,1% of urban population in Italy was exposed to excessive concentration of PM 2,5-10, whereas the European average was 15,9% in 2013. In the same year, Italy was the first European country for the number of deaths related to Pm 2,5 nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide.

National goals

The Goal for Italian cities is to respect, by 2025, the PM 2,5 threshold established by the WHO.

Actions to be taken

a) Implementing an integrated national plan that touches on transportation, cooling housing implants, the industrial sector and green infrastructure. b) Inter-institutional cooperation and integration with the Ministry of the Environment's Quality of Air Table; c) Strengthen the local monitoring systems d) Coordinated approach to solve the problem of the quality of air in the "Pianura Padana".

BOX 11.6 - VERDE**International goals**

The EU directive Natura 2000 promotes natural habitat conservation and the issue is part of the Mayors adapt for the adaptation to climate change.

Italian context

Italy has 2310 sites recognized by the Natura 2000 network. In 2014, the urban green land in Italian state capitals was 2,7% of the total land with an average of 31,1 mq per inhabitant, and the average growth of urban gardens was 4,9%.

National goals

By 2030, reach 50 mq of green urban area per resident by average, an increase of 2/3 compared to the 2014.

Actions to be taken

a) Recognise the urban green area as a whole (comprising both public, private, urban, and suburban) getting beyond the urbanistic standard; b) creation of new categories for green areas aimed at confronting climate change; c) incentive for the inclusion of a plant component in renovations and new buildings.

BOX 12.1 - CIRCULAR ECONOMY



International goals

The new European circular economy targets include: **a)** reusing and recycling at least 65% of all waste by 2030; **b)** recycling at least 75% of packaging waste by 2030; **c)** reducing to a maximum of 10% the proportion of waste disposed in landfill sites by 2030; **d)** adopting measures to incentivize ecological ways of production that avoid waste generation.

Italian context

In 2016 the proportion of urban waste recycled was at 52,5%; Italy has therefore missed by 7 years the 2009 date fixed by EU regulations to reach a target of 50%.

National goals

The target set for urban areas is to reach European goals fixed for 2035 (65% recycling rate, maximum of 10% of waste disposed in landfill sites), with the rate of separate waste collection at 70% by 2025 and 80% by 2030, thus extending the good practices already afoot.

Actions to be taken

a) A primary commitment of metropolitan areas where the issue of waste management has not yet been solved; **b)** the creation of a National Action Plan on circular economy in order to catch up with the accumulated delay; **c)** promotion of waste prevention in order to further reinforce measures within the National Plan.

BOX 13 - CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS



International goals

Target 11.5 of the SDGs: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected by disasters, including water-related disasters.

Italian context

The yearly rate of deaths caused by landslides or floods was, on average, 5 for every 10 million inhabitants in the 2011-2015 period, and the average number of people evacuated was 9,5 on 100 thousand inhabitants during the same period. The damage caused by natural disasters from 1944 to 2012 amounts to 3,5 billion euros per year. Less than 500 million euros per year have been invested in 1991-2012 for hydrogeological safety, and around 137 million euros have been invested from 2010 to 2016 to prevent the damage caused by earthquakes.

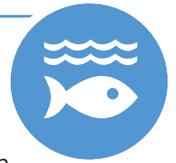
National goals

Increase investments aimed at the prevention of damage and the adaptation to climate change (e.g. Italia sicura, Casa Italia), with an increasing trend in the first years (2 to 3 billion euros per year), and a stable trend from 2030 onwards as to reduce the number of victims and people affected.

Actions to be taken

a) By 2020, create integrated, local plans of adaptation both for climate change (e.g. Mayors adapt) and for the prevention of damage caused by natural disasters. These plans should also function as Resilience Plans (see Unisdr) for densely populated areas. **b)** Coordination between Italia sicura, Casa Italia and international strategies, such as the Ministry of the Environment's adaptation plan and the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction 2015-2030 of the Civil Protection Department. **c)** The integration of seismic and hydrogeological security interventions and National Strategy for Urban Regeneration (see target 11.3).

BOX 14 - LIFE BELOW WATER



International goals

The 2008 EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive establishes that the good condition of seawaters and coastlines is to be reached by 2020. Although the acidity levels of oceans have increased in 2014, 87% of coastline swimming sites had an excellent quality of water in 2015 (a 5,7 percentage point increase compared to 2011).

Italian context

90% of the Eastern-Alps district waterbodies has a good quality. The percentage is 82% in Campania, 79% in Central Apennine Mountains, 64% in Sardinia (with a further 5% of elevated quality). The numbers are lower for other Italian districts.

National goals

Reaching, by 2020, a good environmental state of seawaters and coastlines in urban areas to contribute at the national goal.

Actions to be taken

a) Strict and careful implementation of monitoring systems and actions set forth by legislative decree n. 190 of 2010 for transposition of the EU directive. b) The prompt adoption of a National Action Plan for Natural Capital based on the first Report on the state of Natural Capital in Italy. c) Strengthening the system of protected marine areas, thus valorising its fundamental role in the protection of biodiversity and in ecosystem services.

BOX 15 - LIFE ON LAND



International goals

Target 15.5 of the SDGs: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. Within the EU, the common bird index (base year 1990 = 100) is, after a sharp decline in the '90s, fairly stable in the past few years (87,4 in 2014). The index representing sufficiency of sites protected under EU Habitats directive was 92% in 2014.

Italian context

In 2016, 31% of vertebrates, more than 15% of vascular plants and 22% bryophytes and lichens were at risk of extinction. Loss and degradation of habitats (around 120 species) and pollution (around 80 species) are the main threats to terrestrial vertebrates, excluding birds.

National goals

The objective for urban areas is to contribute to the inversion of the negative tendency in terms of biodiversity (including flora and fauna) by 2020 and to bring about and consolidate a positive trend by 2025.

Actions to be taken

a) Protection and preservation of all the urban ecosystems while integrating the need for the protection of biodiversity and of ecological connectivity; b) Improving the ecological services' knowledge on the state of urban ecosystems; c) Recovery of areas fallen into disuse in order to regain further natural habitats.



BOX 16 - SECURITY

International goals

SDG 16: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Italian context

In 2014, 0,78 homicides were recorded for every 100 thousand inhabitants. Italy has a high per house theft rate and is fourth worst in terms of robbery. In 2015 data decreased in relation to many crimes.

National goals

In every three year period until 2030, Maintain a constant positive trend for all indicators in the urban area.

Actions to be taken

a) Execution and control of act n. 48 of 2017 on the safety of cities; b) Reform of municipal police. c) Establishment of an integrated system of urban safety based on prevention strategies, counteraction of social exclusion, and the improvement of living conditions and civic participation.

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KNOWLEDGE *for* **B**USINESS