

Article

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals in Spain

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Received: 10 February 2020; Accepted: 21 March 2020; Published: 24 March 2020



Abstract: This paper examines the implementation status of sustainable development goals (SDG) in Spain and explores the extent to which the country will be able to meet European standards in sustainability by the year 2030 within the current regulation and praxis. Based on data retrieved from official statistics supplied by Eurostat for a set of indicators useful to monitor the goals our calculations prognosticate whether Spain will reach the European Union average values. The display of each relevant indicator is provided, as well as discussion on their evolution and some recommendations for an effective implementation of SDG on the mid-term, notwithstanding the peculiar political and socio-economic situation in the country. The study proves that Spain needs to adopt urgent regulatory measures and public policies in order to fulfill its commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Otherwise, if the ongoing trend continues, most of the Spanish indicators will not reach the European average values in the overwhelming majority of the goals, including areas as relevant as the struggle for education or environment.

Keywords: sustainable development goals (SDG); agenda 2030; taxation; sustainability; Spain; European Union

1. Introduction

Following the examples of other national studies [1,2], this paper sets as its aim to reflect on the implementation status of SDG in Spain in order to assess the actual situation and the future challenges upon real facts and statistical estimations, beyond formal declarations. The final purpose of the study is to display data and provide arguments to question the effectiveness of current regulations, political action and administrative praxis to examine whether ongoing trends are enough to fulfill international commitments to sustainability.

As it is widely known, in the XXI century the traditional approach to development is no longer fit for the new geopolitical and economic framework. In order to “leave no one behind”, the three dimensions of sustainable development have to be considered: social development, economic growth and environmental protection [3].

Thus, in September 2015, the Heads of State and Government of 193 countries, meeting at the 70th General Assembly of United Nations (UN), agreed upon the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that seeks to eradicate poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources [4].

The 2030 Agenda itself includes a political Declaration and a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 targets. Nevertheless, it is indivisible and it must be implemented as a whole, in an integrated rather than a fragmented manner, as the different goals and targets are closely interlinked [5]. In fact, some studies have explored the causal relationships within SDG [6].

Come as it may, the Agenda does not only contain goals and targets, it also tackles the challenge of implementation and, finally yet importantly, a framework for follow up and review. This is crucial and requires customized studies, as general indexes do not always seem to be the best indicators to measure the real progress of the 2030 Agenda [7]. Actually, national-based studies are needed in order to explore public policies coherence with 2030 Agenda [8].

The UN Resolution states that, despite the support and help of international organizations, the successful completion of the SGD is a national responsibility. As a cohesion actor the European Union (EU) has played an active role to implement the SDG in development cooperation with partner countries and provides relevant statistics and indicators that can be used, as this study does, to assess and predict the measure in which a country may reach SGD and its relative position within an international framework, in this case the EU.

Institutionally speaking, Spain is committed to SGD at the highest level. Political engagement to the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda has been materialized among others in the Cabinet's "Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda", approved in June 2018 [9] and in the creation of the "Sustainable Development Council" in February 2019 [10]. As a matter of fact, Spain was part of the 2018 voluntary national review of the High-level political forum on sustainable development, identifying the 2030 Agenda not only as a compulsory new social contract but also as a great opportunity for the country. Indeed, the report shows how the analysis of the economic crisis, and of its persistent consequences, does teach relevant lessons. There is a need to modify manufacturing patterns; join a profound ecological environmental transformation; ensure that economic growth gains contribute to reduce poverty and improve equality; and protect human rights and social State under the rule of law [11]. On September 25, 2019, Spanish acting President spoke during the SDG Summit celebrated in the UN Headquarters in New York, defining SDG as the roadmap of the Government [12]. In fact, in Spain the policy of sustainable development is carried out relying on strategic documents such as the 2019–2023 National Strategy to Fight Poverty [13]; the Strategic Guide on Energy and Climate, which includes a Draft Bill on Climate Change and Energy Transition, a Just Transition Strategy and an Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for the period 2021–2030 [14] or the new Urban Agenda on 2030 perspective [15].

Despite that strong institutional wager, the degree in which society is really committed to sustainability is still uncertain and so there are the perspectives on real implementation of the SDG in Spain. Actually, in fall 2019, an official campaign named #ODSéate was launched in order to get the SDG fully known by population. Since then, any institutional communication of the government, social networks included, is portrayed with SDG logo, icons and the emblematic color wheel [16]. The campaign is one of the measures envisaged by the Cabinet's Plan mentioned above, and its very need proves that citizenship does not even know properly the existence of 2030 Agenda yet.

Since the approval of the aforementioned Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by Spanish 2018 Cabinet [9], progress has been limited mainly due to the fragmentation and political instability that has resulted in two electoral processes, first in April and then in November 2019. The new coalition government formed in January 2020, which does not have a parliamentary majority, appears to be deeply concerned about the situation. Therefore, a Declaration facing Climate and Environmental Emergency in Spain has been adopted, as well as a committing to implement 30 lines of action to address it.

Among other research purposes, this paper aims also to contribute to raise awareness of the deep changes involved in SDG, to ensure accountability and to reflect upon the effectiveness of current environmental policies and regulation from a multidisciplinary (legal and economic) approach [17].

It does so by assessing the SDG implementation through dynamic analysis methods and by proposing potential ferenda measures for the next future.

2. Sustainable Development Goals and the Role of the European Union

As noted in the previous section, 2030 Agenda sets out 17 SDG and 169 targets, integrated and indivisible, which cover economic, social and environmental dimensions [18]:

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Goal 15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

One vital feature of the Agenda is the conception of social and economic development depending on natural resources and environment, and as a matter of shared liability. Thus, persevered cooperation is needed to tackle major scientific and policy issues [19], and such a collective action requires public–private partnerships [20] and multilevel transformations [21]. In current times, agitated by centripetal forces as Brexit, it is an excellent opportunity for EU to strengthen its position as a global power [22], as sustainable development has long been a main goal within the EU integration pathway [23].

Then, not surprisingly, both the European Parliament [24,25] and the EU Council [26,27] have repeatedly invited the European Commission to build an integrated strategy to enforce the 2030 Agenda and the SDG. Following these suggestions, the European Commission today integrates SDG into several European actions and initiatives, and is questioning itself on the best structures, instruments and policies to be approved by EU institutions in order to fulfill the SDG [28].

According to the most recent reviews, it seems that there is still room for improvement [29]. All in all, the importance of regional actors, as the EU, is clear because achieving SDG demands comprehensive policies adjusted to the different dimensions of the territories, economic, social, cultural, and environmental, and operating under a community-based service display [30]. Additionally, stakeholders have also demanded more vertical and horizontal cooperation and dialogue [31].

According to official reports [32], all policies, initiatives, and processes ranging from design and shaping to execution, surveillance, reporting, and evaluation should be seen as shared responsibility between different levels of government.

Due to rising globalization, life conditions around the world are more closely interlinked than ever before. Therefore, it is vital to act together on the basis of common beliefs, changing our thinking, procedures and behavior. Economy, social issues and the environment influence one another; there are no more isolated self-contained areas. Economic productivity, social responsibility and concern for natural resources have to be combined. Thus, regional actors with managerial powers in those areas, as the EU, need to assume a leading role, not properly to substitute but to accompany national authorities and to establish a general policy framework.

Regarding assessment and supervision, in 2017, the EU produced an indicator framework as a first step to launch global monitoring, as established in Communication COM (2016) 739 final “Next steps for a sustainable European future”. The EU SDG indicator set is aligned in a quite appropriate way with the UN list of global indicators, although there is still an ambition of deeper line-up with the UN SDG indicator list [33]. Some studies [34] have already suggested that the EU should not only harmonize across the EU the efficiency performance and evaluation on the SDG, but also undertake a main task as the prime mover of innovation and knowledge, promoting technical know-how creation.

Academia must also be involved. Indicators are decisive in current governance [35] and thus, research on indicators is crucial for a consistent implementation of the SDG. Indeed the literature review proves that 2030 Agenda is a trending topic, with outstanding papers reflecting on the indicators themselves [7,36,37], providing a sort of achievement ranking based on official public statistics [38] or, more frequently, focusing at specific goals [39–41], fields [42] or geographical regions [1,2,8,43–45]. We are experimenting the effects of the so-called data-revolution [46] and Public Administrations have a prominent role in producing performance information [47].

In Spain, there are objectives and targets for which data have not been published yet by the National Statistical Institute or by other institutions that produce official statistics. Therefore, it is necessary more development in the near future [48]. As some scholars have pointed out, Earth Observation-derived data might be hereby further explored in a near future.

We considered thus useful and relevant for society in general to analyze the forecasts on the degree of Spanish compliance with the SDG, based on the indicators used at EU level and for which Eurostat provides information for the period 2008–2017.

Eurostat is the statistical office of the EU. Its mission is to provide high quality statistics and indicators for Europe. Eurostat is in charge of monitoring the progress to fulfill the 17 SDG and to accomplish this mission it produces a set of 99 indicators (SDGI), 41 of which are multipurpose, that is, they are used to monitor more than one SDG [49]. Assessing Spanish confluence with Europe seems then to be a good quantitative technique to inquire about the achievement of SDG at a national level.

3. Methodology and Results

In order to know the measure in which Spain will be able to achieve SDG in 2030, this paper develops a statistical analysis based on the data provided by Eurostat upon some selected indicators for the period 2008–2017. Such a methodology has been already used by other scholars, such as Firoiu et al. to analyze the extent to which Romania could achieve the SDG, taking as reference the average rate of EU [2]. Specifically, we use in first place the forecasting tools provided by Excel program in Microsoft Office 365 (see columns “2020”, “2025” and “2030” in Tables 1–17), then the dynamic indexes for each indicator (see columns I2020”, “I2025” and “I2030” in Tables 1–17), and finally we analyze whether there might be a confluence point in between the trend designed by the indicators evolution at the level of Spain and that of the matching items at the EU average in year 2030 (see column “CONF” in Tables 1–17).

Table 1. Sustainable development goal (SDG) 01: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 01.10—People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (%)	ES	23.80	24.70	26.10	26.70	27.20	27.30	29.20	28.60	27.90	26.60	27.83	29.88	31.93	0.97	1.04	1.12	NO
	EU	23.70	23.30	23.80	24.30	24.80	24.60	24.40	23.80	23.50	22.40	22.21	21.91	21.60	0.93	0.92	0.91	
SDGI 01.20—People at risk of income poverty after social transfers (%)	ES	19.80	20.40	20.70	20.60	20.80	20.40	22.20	22.10	22.30	21.60	22.79	24.04	25.29	1.03	1.09	1.14	NO
	EU	16.60	16.40	16.50	16.90	16.80	16.70	17.20	17.30	17.30	16.90	17.67	17.81	18.37	1.02	1.03	1.06	
SDGI 01.30—Severely materially deprived people (%)	ES	3.60	4.50	4.90	4.50	5.80	6.20	7.10	6.40	5.80	5.10	5.90	7.05	8.21	0.92	1.10	1.28	NO
	EU	8.50	8.20	8.40	8.80	9.90	9.60	8.90	8.10	7.50	6.60	6.17	5.46	4.75	0.76	0.67	0.59	
SDGI 01.40—People living in households with very low work intensity (%)	ES	6.60	7.60	10.80	13.40	14.30	15.70	17.10	15.40	14.90	12.80	15.39	19.70	24.02	1.00	1.28	1.56	NO
	EU	9.20	9.20	10.30	10.50	10.60	11.00	11.30	10.70	10.50	9.50	9.80	10.30	10.81	0.92	0.96	1.01	
SDGI 01.41—In work at risk of poverty rate (% of employed persons aged 18 or over)	ES	11.30	11.70	10.90	10.90	10.80	10.50	12.50	13.10	13.10	13.10	13.88	15.13	16.39	1.06	1.16	1.25	NO
	EU	8.60	8.40	8.30	8.80	8.90	9.00	9.50	9.50	9.60	9.40	9.92	10.64	11.36	1.04	1.12	1.20	
SDGI 01.60—Population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation or rot in window frames of floor by poverty status (%)	ES	16.80	18.30	21.80	16.10	12.00	16.70	17.10	15.20	15.90	11.50	11.64	8.97	6.30	0.77	0.59	0.41	YES
	EU	—	—	—	15.60	15.10	15.60	15.70	15.20	15.40	13.30	13.46	12.27	11.08	0.89	0.81	0.73	
SDGI 03.60—Self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care by sex (% of population aged 16 and over)	ES	0.40	0.50	0.30	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.60	0.60	0.50	0.10	0.12	0.09	0.05	0.20	0.14	0.08	YES
	EU	3.00	3.00	3.10	3.40	3.50	3.70	3.60	3.20	2.60	1.70	1.46	1.06	0.66	0.46	0.33	0.21	
SDGI 06.10—Population having neither a bath, nor a shower, nor indoor flushing toilet in their household by poverty status (%)	ES	0.10	—	—	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.30	0.10	0.21	0.28	0.35	2.05	2.76	3.46	YES
	EU	—	—	—	—	2.30	2.20	2.10	2.00	1.90	2.00	1.72	1.38	1.05	0.86	0.69	0.52	
SDGI 07.60—Population unable to keep home adequately warm by poverty status (%)	ES	5.90	7.20	7.50	6.50	9.10	8.00	11.10	10.60	10.10	8.00	11.25	13.31	15.37	1.06	1.26	1.45	NO
	EU	—	—	9.50	9.80	10.80	10.70	10.30	9.40	8.70	7.80	6.62	4.57	4.40	0.70	0.49	0.27	
SDGI 11.10—Overcrowding rate by poverty status (%)	ES	5.60	5.20	5.00	6.60	5.60	5.20	5.30	5.50	5.40	5.10	5.24	5.09	4.94	0.95	0.93	0.90	YES
	EU	18.30	17.70	17.70	17.00	16.90	17.00	16.70	16.70	16.60	15.70	15.36	14.24	13.12	0.92	0.85	0.79	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 2. SDG 02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 02.20—Agricultural factor income per annual work unit (Index: 2010 = 100) (Source: Eurostat and Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development)	ES	94.00	94.30	100.00	101.10	102.50	112.70	118.30	125.00	135.60	133.50	150.00	175.15	200.33	1.20	1.40	1.60	YES
	EU	89.50	81.10	100.00	108.80	107.50	111.90	113.60	110.00	112.50	125.20	133.85	152.31	170.80	1.22	1.38	1.55	
SDGI 02.30—Government support to agricultural research and development (Million euro)	ES	717.84	664.08	585.97	548.89	388.17	375.13	366.29	401.80	401.44	397.85	281.33	93.64	−94.26	0.70	0.23	−0.23	NO
	EU	3239.53	3151.85	3215.10	3286.98	2949.27	3048.60	2956.84	3087.21	3141.21	3228.48	3070.02	3016.72	2963.36	0.99	0.98	0.96	
SDGI 02.40—Area under organic farming (% of utilized agricultural area)	ES	5.30	6.60	6.70	7.50	7.49	6.85	7.26	8.24	8.48	8.73	9.66	11.19	12.72	1.17	1.36	1.54	YES
	EU	4.30	4.70	5.10	5.40	5.66	5.70	5.78	6.20	6.68	7.03	7.91	9.38	10.85	1.28	1.51	1.75	
SDGI 02.50—Gross nutrient balance on agricultural land by nutrient (kg per hectare)	ES	27.00	31.00	35.00	29.00	34.00	29.00	39.00	39.00	—	—	42.96	49.61	56.27	1.10	1.27	1.44	NO
	EU	51.00	46.00	49.00	49.00	50.00	49.00	47.00	51.00	—	—	49.85	50.17	50.49	0.98	0.98	0.99	
SDGI 02.60—Ammonia emissions from agriculture (Ton) (Source: European Environment Agency)	ES	418,536	424,347	415,357	406,636	399,078	404,439	424,886	445,425	448,825	—	46,224,173	479,003	49,578,357	1.04	1.08	1.11	NO
	EU	3,622,930	3,588,426	3,529,568	3,531,867	3,503,805	3,498,974	3,542,552	3,596,087	3,611,068	—	3,608,975	3,606,361	360,374,367	1.00	1.00	1.00	
SDGI 06.40—Nitrate in groundwater (mg NO ₃ per liter) (Source: European Environment Agency)	ES	40.20	37.40	37.20	38.10	39.50	39.50	39.50	39.50	—	—	40.34	41.15	41.97	1.02	1.04	1.06	NO
	EU	18.90	18.40	18.80	18.30	18.40	18.60	18.30	18.30	—	—	18.07	18.00	17.33	0.99	0.98	0.95	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 3. SDG 03: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 03.10—Life expectancy at birth by sex (years)	ES	81.50	81.90	82.40	82.60	82.50	83.20	83.30	83.00	83.50	83.40	84.16	85.19	86.23	1.01	1.03	1.04	YES
	EU	79.40	79.60	79.90	80.20	80.30	80.50	80.90	80.60	81.00	80.90	81.56	82.44	83.32	1.01	1.02	1.03	
SDGI 03.20—Share of people with good or very good perceived health by sex (% of population aged 16 or over)	ES	72.50	70.80	72.00	75.50	74.40	71.70	72.90	72.60	72.50	74.20	73.92	74.51	75.10	1.02	1.03	1.03	YES
	EU	67.90	67.80	68.20	67.90	68.30	67.30	67.40	66.90	67.60	69.70	68.31	68.47	68.64	1.02	1.02	1.03	
SDGI 03.40—Death rate due to chronic diseases by sex (number per 100,000 persons aged less than 65)	ES	113.00	109.60	107.00	104.40	103.20	101.00	97.40	96.40	—	—	84.28	72.59	60.89	0.87	0.75	0.63	YES
	EU	143.70	139.90	135.60	132.50	130.00	126.70	123.30	122.10	—	—	106.23	90.56	74.88	0.87	0.74	0.61	
SDGI 03.41—Death rate due to tuberculosis, HIV and hepatitis by sex (number per 100,000 persons)	ES	5.50	5.60	5.20	4.50	4.40	4.00	4.00	3.70	—	—	2.12	0.68	−0.77	0.57	0.18	−0.21	YES
	EU	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.10	3.00	2.90	—	—	2.19	1.43	0.77	0.75	0.49	0.27	
SDGI 03.60—Self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care by sex (% of population aged 16 and over)	ES	0.40	0.50	0.30	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.60	0.60	0.50	0.10	0.12	0.09	0.05	0.20	0.14	0.08	YES
	EU	3.00	3.00	3.10	3.40	3.50	3.70	3.60	3.20	2.60	1.70	1.46	1.06	0.66	0.46	0.33	0.21	
SDGI 08.60—People killed in accidents at work (number per 100,000 employees)	ES	3.33	2.58	2.19	2.50	2.16	1.88	1.93	2.30	1.92	—	1.44	0.80	0.17	0.63	0.35	0.07	YES
	EU	2.39	2.01	2.11	2.05	1.95	1.80	1.82	1.83	1.71	—	1.44	1.10	0.75	0.79	0.60	0.41	
SDGI 11.20—Population living in households considering that they suffer from noise, by poverty status (%)	ES	22.00	22.40	18.40	15.60	15.00	18.30	15.90	15.70	16.20	15.20	13.12	9.67	6.21	0.84	0.62	0.40	YES
	EU	—	—	—	19.70	18.80	18.80	18.40	18.00	17.90	17.50	16.53	14.84	13.25	0.92	0.82	0.74	
SDGI 11.40—People killed in road accidents (rate)	ES	6.70	5.80	5.20	4.40	4.00	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.90	3.90	3.00	1.51	0.02	0.83	0.42	0.00	YES
	EU	7.90	7.00	6.20	6.10	5.60	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.00	—	3.60	1.90	0.19	0.71	0.37	0.04	
SDGI 11.50—Exposure to air pollution by particulate matter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	ES	14.20	15.20	12.40	12.90	13.70	10.70	11.30	13.00	11.30	12.10	10.80	8.73	9.48	0.83	0.67	0.73	NO
	EU	17.50	17.40	18.10	18.40	16.80	15.70	15.20	14.60	13.80	14.10	12.50	9.96	7.42	0.86	0.68	0.51	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 4. SDG 04: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 04.10—Early leavers from education and training by sex (% of population aged 18 to 24)	ES	31.70	30.90	28.20	26.30	24.70	23.60	21.90	20.00	19.00	18.30	12.83	4.97	−2.89	0.64	0.25	−0.14	YES
	EU	14.70	14.20	13.90	13.40	12.70	11.90	11.20	11.00	10.70	10.60	10.24	9.64	9.04	0.93	0.88	0.82	
SDGI 04.20—Tertiary educational attainment by sex (% of population aged 30 to 34)	ES	41.30	40.70	42.00	41.90	41.50	42.30	42.30	40.90	40.10	41.20	40.93	40.68	40.43	1.00	0.99	0.99	NO
	EU	31.10	32.30	33.80	34.80	36.00	37.10	38.00	38.70	39.20	39.90	41.90	45.23	48.56	1.08	1.17	1.25	
SDGI 04.30—Participation in early childhood education by sex (% of the age group between 4-years-old and the starting age of compulsory education)	ES	98.40	98.40	97.90	97.70	97.40	97.10	97.10	97.70	97.30	97.40	96.99	96.39	95.79	0.99	0.99	0.98	NO
	EU	91.60	92.10	92.90	93.20	93.90	94.10	94.20	94.90	95.30	95.40	96.83	98.94	101.06	1.02	1.04	1.06	
SDGI 04.50—Employment rates of recent graduates by sex (% of population aged 20 to 34 with at least upper-secondary education)	ES	82.10	73.00	70.60	67.10	63.60	59.90	65.10	65.20	68.00	71.90	68.93	63.98	59.02	1.06	0.98	0.91	NO
	EU	82.00	78.30	77.40	77.10	75.90	75.40	76.00	76.90	78.40	80.20	79.80	79.14	78.48	1.04	1.03	1.02	
SDGI 04.60—Adult participation in learning by sex (% of population aged 25 to 64)	ES	10.70	10.80	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.40	10.10	9.90	9.40	9.90	9.36	8.55	7.75	0.95	0.86	0.78	NO
	EU	9.50	9.50	9.30	9.10	9.20	10.70	10.80	10.70	10.80	10.90	11.55	12.62	13.69	1.08	1.18	1.28	
SDGI 08.20—Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex (% of population aged 15 to 29)	ES	13.20	15.00	15.30	15.30	15.90	16.00	15.60	15.20	14.50	13.90	13.96	14.06	14.16	0.92	0.92	0.93	NO
	EU	13.10	14.80	15.20	15.40	15.90	15.90	15.30	14.80	14.20	13.40	13.33	13.22	13.10	0.90	0.89	0.89	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 5. SDG 05: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 05.20—Gender pay gap in unadjusted form (% of average gross hourly earnings of men)	ES	16.10	16.70	16.20	17.60	18.70	17.80	14.90	14.20	15.10	15.10	14.36	13.18	11.99	1.01	0.93	0.84	YES
	EU	—	—	17.10	17.10	17.40	16.80	16.60	16.50	16.30	16.00	15.55	14.68	13.81	0.94	0.89	0.84	
SDGI 05.30—Gender employment gap (percentage points)	ES	19.00	14.20	12.90	11.60	10.00	9.60	10.20	11.20	11.50	11.90	10.16	7.25	4.34	0.91	0.65	0.39	YES
	EU	15.10	13.50	13.00	12.80	12.20	11.70	11.50	11.60	11.60	11.50	10.43	8.70	6.97	0.90	0.75	0.60	
SDGI 05.40—Inactive population due to caring responsibilities by sex (% of inactive population aged 20 to 64)	ES	37.20	35.10	33.20	32.70	30.10	28.40	28.00	29.90	29.80	29.70	27.63	24.18	20.72	0.92	0.81	0.69	YES
	EU	20.00	19.90	19.10	19.00	19.40	20.40	20.20	20.70	21.10	21.40	22.00	23.01	24.03	1.06	1.11	1.16	
SDGI 05.50—Seats held by women in national parliaments and governments (Source: European Institute for Gender Equality) (% of seats)	ES	33.30	33.80	34.60	28.70	37.20	37.20	37.70	39.90	38.30	38.80	42.38	46.42	50.46	1.06	1.16	1.26	YES
	EU	23.20	23.40	23.60	23.60	25.30	26.70	27.20	28.00	28.20	29.80	32.03	35.88	39.74	1.14	1.28	1.42	
SDGI 05.60—Positions held by women in senior management positions (Source: European Institute for Gender Equality) (% of positions)	ES	8.00	9.60	9.50	11.10	12.30	14.80	16.90	18.70	20.30	22.00	26.84	34.92	43.00	1.44	1.87	2.30	NO
	EU	10.80	11.00	11.90	13.70	15.80	17.80	20.20	22.70	23.90	25.30	30.47	39.09	47.71	1.34	1.72	2.10	
SDGI 04.10—Early leavers from education and training by sex (% of population aged 18 to 24)	ES	31.70	30.90	28.20	26.30	24.70	23.60	21.90	20.00	19.00	18.30	12.83	4.97	−2.89	0.64	0.25	−0.14	YES
	EU	14.70	14.20	13.90	13.40	12.70	11.90	11.20	11.00	10.70	10.60	10.24	9.64	9.04	0.93	0.88	0.82	
SDGI 04.20—Tertiary educational attainment by sex (% of population aged 30 to 34)	ES	41.30	40.70	42.00	41.90	41.50	42.30	42.30	40.90	40.10	41.20	40.93	40.68	40.43	1.00	0.99	0.99	NO
	EU	31.10	32.30	33.80	34.80	36.00	37.10	38.00	38.70	39.20	39.90	41.90	45.23	48.56	1.08	1.17	1.25	
SDGI 04.50—Employment rates of recent graduates by sex (% of population aged 20 to 34 with at least upper-secondary education)	ES	82.10	73.00	70.60	67.10	63.60	59.90	65.10	65.20	68.00	71.90	68.93	63.98	59.02	1.06	0.98	0.91	NO
	EU	82.00	78.30	77.40	77.10	75.90	75.40	76.00	76.90	78.40	80.20	79.80	79.14	78.48	1.04	1.03	1.02	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 6. SDG 06: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 06.10—Population having neither a bath, nor a shower, nor indoor flushing toilet in their household by poverty status (%)	ES	0.10	—	—	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.30	0.10	0.21	0.28	0.35	2.05	2.76	3.46	YES
	EU	—	—	—	—	2.30	2.20	2.10	2.00	1.90	2.00	1.72	1.38	1.05	0.86	0.69	0.52	
SDGI 06.40—Nitrate in groundwater (Source: European Environment Agency) (mg NO ₃ per liter)	ES	40.20	37.40	37.20	38.10	39.50	39.50	39.50	39.50	—	—	40.34	41.15	41.97	1.02	1.04	1.06	NO
	EU	18.90	18.40	18.80	18.30	18.40	18.60	18.30	18.30	—	—	18.07	18.00	17.33	0.99	0.98	0.95	
SDGI 14.40—Bathing sites with excellent water quality by locality (Source: European Environment Agency) (Coastal water—number)	ES	—	—	—	1927	1926	1931	1942	1948	1949	1960	1975.70	2004.58	2033.49	1.01	1.03	1.04	YES
	EU	—	—	—	15,444	15,406	15,436	14,828	14,791	14,821	14,935	14,370.25	13,774.08	13,177.25	0.97	0.93	0.89	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 7. SDG 07: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 07.10—Primary energy consumption (Million tons of oil equivalent)	ES	134.44	123.37	123.32	122.96	123.39	116.05	114.18	118.58	119.23	125.63	121.85	116.83	111.81	1.03	0.99	0.94	NO
	EU	1696.86	1597.41	1660.21	1600.63	1589.36	1573.69	1511.29	1537.48	1546.94	1561.59	1493.56	1418.58	1343.52	0.97	0.92	0.87	
SDGI 07.11—Final energy consumption (Million tons of oil equivalent)	ES	94.83	87.78	89.09	86.48	82.83	80.73	79.19	80.35	82.46	84.33	80.36	74.32	68.28	1.00	0.92	0.85	YES
	EU	1180.27	1115.76	1163.13	1110.65	1110.62	1110.57	1065.57	1088.27	1110.08	1122.77	1085.27	1052.79	1020.27	1.00	0.97	0.94	
SDGI 07.20—Final energy consumption in households per capita (kg of oil equivalent)	ES	338.00	344.00	364.00	335.00	333.00	320.00	319.00	323.00	327.00	331.00	311.48	298.14	284.78	0.96	0.92	0.88	YES
	EU	605.00	600.00	639.00	568.00	593.00	599.00	525.00	547.00	563.00	563.00	517.06	480.52	443.95	0.95	0.88	0.81	
SDGI 07.30—Energy productivity (Euro per kilogram of oil equivalent)	ES	7.40	7.80	7.80	7.70	7.50	8.00	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.30	8.65	9.14	9.64	1.05	1.11	1.18	NO
	EU	7.10	7.20	7.10	7.40	7.50	7.60	8.00	8.10	8.20	8.30	8.78	9.53	10.27	1.08	1.18	1.27	
SDGI 07.40—Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption by sector (%)	ES	10.74	12.96	13.81	13.22	14.29	15.32	16.13	16.22	17.36	17.51	19.79	23.24	26.69	1.22	1.43	1.65	YES
	EU	11.32	12.58	13.12	13.37	14.68	15.40	16.19	16.72	17.02	17.52	19.67	23.12	26.58	1.18	1.38	1.59	
SDGI 07.50—Energy import dependency by products (% of imports in total energy consumption)	ES	81.66	79.67	77.15	76.17	72.97	70.18	72.75	72.94	71.49	73.94	70.68	65.81	60.94	0.97	0.90	0.84	NO
	EU	54.61	53.65	52.64	54.23	53.69	53.31	53.58	53.88	53.78	55.13	54.67	54.95	55.24	1.01	1.02	1.03	
SDGI 07.60—Population unable to keep home adequately warm by poverty status (%)	ES	5.90	7.20	7.50	6.50	9.10	8.00	11.10	10.60	10.10	8.00	11.25	13.31	15.37	1.06	1.26	1.45	NO
	EU	—	—	9.50	9.80	10.80	10.70	10.30	9.40	8.70	7.80	7.01	5.71	4.40	0.75	0.61	0.47	
SDGI 13.20—Greenhouse gas emissions intensity of energy consumption (Source: European Environment Agency and Eurostat) (Index: 2010 = 100)	ES	95.00	92.10	87.40	88.70	87.80	84.70	86.50	88.50	84.00	—	80.71	75.64	70.56	0.91	0.85	0.80	YES
	EU	94.90	93.70	92.50	92.00	91.80	90.50	89.10	88.70	87.50	—	84.20	79.79	75.37	0.95	0.90	0.85	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 8. SDG 08 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 08.10—Real GDP per capita (Chain linked volumes (2010), euro per capita)	ES	24,400	23,300	23,200	22,900	22,200	21,900	22,300	23,100	23,800	24,500	24,533	24,587	24,642	1.06	1.06	1.07	NO
	EU	26,300	25,000	25,500	25,900	25,700	25,700	26,100	26,700	27,100	27,700	28,273	29,297	30,322	1.06	1.10	1.14	
SDGI 08.11—Investment share of GDP by institutional sectors (% of GDP)	ES	29.21	24.33	23.03	21.48	19.80	18.76	19.30	19.86	19.94	20.49	18.08	14.06	10.04	0.91	0.71	0.51	NO
	EU	22.79	20.85	20.36	20.48	20.06	19.61	19.77	20.15	20.41	20.65	20.13	19.34	18.55	1.00	0.96	0.92	
SDGI 08.20—Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex (% of population aged 15 to 29)	ES	13.20	15.00	15.30	15.30	15.90	16.00	15.60	15.20	14.50	13.90	13.96	14.06	14.16	0.92	0.92	0.93	NO
	EU	13.10	14.80	15.20	15.40	15.90	15.90	15.30	14.80	14.20	13.40	13.33	13.22	13.10	0.90	0.89	0.89	
SDGI 08.30—Employment rate by sex (% of population aged 20 to 64)	ES	68.50	64.00	62.80	62.00	59.60	58.60	59.90	62.00	63.90	65.50	64.79	63.61	62.43	1.05	1.03	1.01	NO
	EU	70.20	68.90	68.50	68.60	68.40	68.40	69.20	70.10	71.10	72.20	72.99	74.29	75.60	1.04	1.06	1.08	
SDGI 08.40—Long-term unemployment rate by sex (% of active population)	ES	2.00	4.30	7.30	8.90	11.00	13.00	12.90	11.40	9.50	7.70	9.92	13.62	17.33	0.87	1.19	1.52	NO
	EU	2.60	3.00	3.80	4.10	4.60	5.10	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.40	3.78	4.41	5.05	0.84	0.98	1.12	
SDGI 08.60—People killed in accidents at work (number per 100,000 employees)	ES	3.33	2.58	2.19	2.50	2.16	1.88	1.93	2.30	1.92	—	1.44	0.80	0.17	0.63	0.35	0.07	YES
	EU	2.39	2.01	2.11	2.05	1.95	1.80	1.82	1.83	1.71	—	1.44	1.10	0.75	0.79	0.60	0.41	
SDGI 01.41—In work at risk of poverty rate (% of employed persons aged 18 or over)	ES	11.30	11.70	10.90	10.90	10.80	10.50	12.50	13.10	13.10	13.10	13.88	15.13	16.39	1.06	1.16	1.25	NO
	EU	8.60	8.40	8.30	8.80	8.90	9.00	9.50	9.50	9.60	9.40	9.92	10.64	11.36	1.04	1.12	1.20	
SDGI 05.40—Inactive population due to caring responsibilities by sex (% of inactive population aged 20 to 64)	ES	37.20	35.10	33.20	32.70	30.10	28.40	28.00	29.90	29.80	29.70	27.63	24.18	20.72	0.92	0.81	0.69	YES
	EU	20.00	19.90	19.10	19.00	19.40	20.40	20.20	20.70	21.10	21.40	22.00	23.01	24.03	1.06	1.11	1.16	
SDGI 12.20—Resource productivity and domestic material consumption (Euro per kilogram, chain linked volumes [2010])	ES	1.38	1.63	1.84	2.06	2.51	2.63	2.64	2.62	2.76	2.81	3.24	3.97	4.70	1.24	1.52	1.79	YES
	EU	1.61	1.75	1.85	1.79	1.93	1.98	1.98	2.03	2.07	2.08	2.22	2.51	2.73	1.10	1.24	1.35	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 9. SDG 09: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 09.10—Gross domestic expenditure on R&D by sector (% of GDP)	ES	1.32	1.35	1.35	1.33	1.29	1.27	1.24	1.22	1.19	1.20	1.14	1.05	0.95	0.93	0.86	0.78	NO
	EU	1.83	1.93	1.92	1.97	2.00	2.02	2.03	2.04	2.04	2.06	2.13	2.24	2.35	1.04	1.10	1.15	
SDGI 09.20—Employment in high- and medium-high technology manufacturing and knowledge-intensive services (% of total employment)	ES	34.90	37.20	38.70	39.40	39.90	39.80	40.10	39.90	39.80	40.00	41.31	43.49	45.68	1.04	1.09	1.14	NO
	EU	42.80	43.70	44.20	44.60	44.90	45.00	45.40	45.60	45.80	45.80	46.15	46.72	47.30	1.01	1.02	1.04	
SDGI 09.30—R&D personnel by sector (% of active population)	ES	0.94	0.96	0.96	0.92	0.90	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.91	0.96	0.94	0.92	0.90	1.07	1.04	1.02	NO
	EU	1.05	1.05	1.08	1.11	1.13	1.15	1.17	1.21	1.24	1.28	1.35	1.48	1.61	1.12	1.22	1.33	
SDGI 09.40—Patent applications to the European Patent Office (Source: European Patent Office) (Number)	ES	1443.53	1532.81	1511.17	1480.28	1517.85	1512.86	1513.42	1628.73	1641.48	1654.56	1687.43	1789.09	1890.85	1.04	1.10	1.16	YES
	EU	57,049.74	56,815.26	56,769.59	57,445.66	56,771.67	56,757.14	56,752.99	57,237.39	55,984.19	54,648.82	54,279.34	53,451.75	52,623.27	0.95	0.93	0.92	
SDGI 09.50—Share of busses and trains in total passenger transport (% of total inland passenger-km)	ES	19.80	18.70	17.70	19.10	19.30	19.30	17.30	18.60	18.40	—	17.87	17.31	16.76	0.96	0.93	0.90	NO
	EU	17.10	16.30	16.50	16.80	17.10	17.60	17.40	17.30	17.10	—	17.50	17.96	18.43	1.01	1.04	1.07	
SDGI 09.60—Share of rail and inland waterways in total freight transport (% of total inland freight ton-km)	ES	4.80	4.00	4.60	5.00	5.30	5.30	5.90	5.80	5.30	5.10	5.51	6.13	6.74	0.95	1.06	1.16	NO
	EU	24.60	23.00	24.30	25.00	25.40	25.20	25.20	24.70	23.80	23.30	23.29	23.17	23.05	0.94	0.94	0.93	
SDGI 12.30—Average CO ₂ emissions per km from new passenger cars (Source: European Environment Agency, European Commission—Directorate-General for Climate Action) (g CO ₂ per km)	ES	148.20	142.20	137.90	133.80	128.70	122.40	118.60	115.30	114.40	115.00	116.28	118.42	120.56	1.01	1.03	1.05	NO
	EU	—	—	—	—	—	—	123.40	119.50	118.10	118.50	113.35	105.66	97.96	0.95	0.88	0.82	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 10. SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 10.10—Purchasing power adjusted GDP per capita (Real expenditure per capita [in purchasing power standard EU28])	ES	26,400	24,600	24,400	24,200	24,200	24,000	24,900	26,300	26,700	27,600	28,270.91	29,388.48	30,507.27	1.07	1.12	1.16	NO
	EU	26,100	24,500	25,500	26,200	26,600	26,800	27,700	29,100	29,300	30,000	31,628.30	34,389.17	37,153.06	1.09	1.18	1.28	
SDGI 10.20—Adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita (Purchasing power standard per inhabitant)	ES	18,527	18,319	17,759	17,797	17,563	17,581	18,254	19,311	19,205	19,336	19,748	20,431	21,115	1.02	1.06	1.09	NO
	EU	19,625	19,255	19,706	20,006	20,414	20,476	20,971	21,872	21,868	22,185	23,201	24,868	26,536	1.06	1.14	1.21	
SDGI 10.30—Relative median at risk of poverty gap (% distance to poverty threshold)	ES	25.60	25.70	26.80	27.40	30.60	30.90	31.60	33.80	31.40	32.40	36.43	40.94	45.46	1.08	1.21	1.34	NO
	EU	21.90	22.20	22.90	23.00	23.40	23.80	24.60	24.80	25.00	24.10	25.96	27.61	29.25	1.05	1.11	1.18	
SDGI 10.41—Income distribution (Quintile share ratio)	ES	5.60	5.90	6.20	6.30	6.50	6.30	6.80	6.90	6.60	6.60	6.99	7.56	8.13	1.01	1.10	1.18	NO
	EU	5.00	4.90	4.90	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.10	5.23	5.38	5.53	1.01	1.03	1.06	
SDGI 10.50—Income share of the bottom 40% of the population (% of income)	ES	19.80	19.50	19.20	18.90	18.70	18.90	18.20	18.20	18.40	18.50	17.93	17.14	16.34	0.99	0.94	0.90	NO
	EU	21.20	21.30	21.20	21.10	21.20	21.10	20.90	20.90	20.90	21.10	20.81	20.63	20.45	1.00	0.99	0.98	
SDGI 10.60—Asylum applications by state of procedure (number per million inhabitants)	ES	—	—	55.00	64.00	50.00	92.00	117.00	314.00	335.00	709.00	950.07	1351.64	1753.64	3.03	4.30	5.58	NO
	EU	305	390	411	523	551	727	1108	2467	2361	1279	2667.44	3712.95	4759.60	1.08	1.51	1.93	
SDGI 17.20—EU financing to developing countries by financing source (Source: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) (million EUR [current prices])	ES	20,456	9186	7800	14,472	1539	6014	10,289	19,866	4258	2301	8148.15	−733.75	−999.80	0.41	−0.04	−0.05	NO
	EU	119,718	102,203	127,336	153,784	147,962	129,811	171,987	178,101	143,007	155,224	189,764.26	196,917.58	225,575.64	1.07	1.11	1.27	
SDGI 17.30—EU imports from developing countries by country income groups (million EUR)	ES	76,616	51,928	66,735	75,388	80,650	77,020	79,482	77,589	74,762	88,378	90,201.68	99,955.87	109,720.75	1.16	1.29	1.41	NO
	EU	762,471	591,995	756,791	841,518	863,783	817,475	838,537	881,805	869,710	957,870	1,013,951.31	1,142,206.86	1,270,603.04	1.15	1.30	1.44	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 11. SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 11.10—Overcrowding rate by poverty status (%)	ES	5.60	5.20	5.00	6.60	5.60	5.20	5.30	5.50	5.40	5.10	5.24	5.09	4.94	0.95	0.93	0.90	YES
	EU	18.30	17.70	17.70	17.00	16.90	17.00	16.70	16.70	16.60	15.70	15.36	14.24	13.12	0.92	0.85	0.79	
SDGI 11.20—Population living in households considering that they suffer from noise, by poverty status (%)	ES	22.00	22.40	18.40	15.60	15.00	18.30	15.90	15.70	16.20	15.20	13.12	9.67	6.21	0.84	0.62	0.40	YES
	EU	—	—	—	19.70	18.80	18.80	18.40	18.00	17.90	17.50	16.53	14.84	13.25	0.92	0.82	0.74	
SDGI 11.40—People killed in road accidents (Source: European Commission—Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport) (rate)	ES	6.70	5.80	5.20	4.40	4.00	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.90	3.90	3.00	1.51	0.02	0.83	0.42	0.00	YES
	EU	7.90	7.00	6.20	6.10	5.60	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.00	—	3.60	1.90	0.19	0.71	0.37	0.04	
SDGI 11.50—Exposure to air pollution by particulate matter (Source: European Environment Agency) ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	ES	14.20	15.20	12.40	12.90	13.70	10.70	11.30	13.00	11.30	12.10	10.80	8.73	9.48	0.83	0.67	0.73	NO
	EU	17.50	17.40	18.10	18.40	16.80	15.70	15.20	14.60	13.80	14.10	12.50	9.96	7.42	0.86	0.68	0.51	
SDGI 11.60—Recycling rate of municipal waste (% of total waste generated)	ES	39.70	33.20	29.20	26.70	29.80	32.50	30.80	30.00	33.90	33.50	32.89	31.89	30.90	1.10	1.06	1.03	NO
	EU	36.50	37.50	38.30	39.20	41.10	41.70	43.40	44.70	46.00	46.40	50.30	56.17	62.04	1.13	1.26	1.39	
SDGI 01.60—Population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation or rot in window frames of floor by poverty status (%)	ES	16.80	18.30	21.80	16.10	12.00	16.70	17.10	15.20	15.90	11.50	11.64	8.97	6.30	0.77	0.59	0.41	YES
	EU	—	—	—	15.60	15.10	15.60	15.70	15.20	15.40	13.30	13.46	12.27	11.08	0.89	0.81	0.73	
SDGI 09.50—Share of busses and trains in total passenger transport (% of total inland passenger-km)	ES	19.80	18.70	17.70	19.10	19.30	19.30	17.30	18.60	18.40	—	17.87	17.31	16.76	0.96	0.93	0.90	NO
	EU	17.10	16.30	16.50	16.80	17.10	17.60	17.40	17.30	17.10	—	17.50	17.96	18.43	1.01	1.04	1.07	
SDGI 16.20—Population reporting occurrence of crime, violence or vandalism in their area by poverty status (%)	ES	14.70	16.40	13.00	10.80	10.10	14.20	11.90	10.00	10.30	8.70	7.13	3.98	0.82	0.71	0.40	0.08	YES
	EU	—	—	14.40	14.10	13.60	14.50	14.00	13.60	13.00	12.00	11.70	10.35	9.00	0.86	0.76	0.66	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 12. SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 12.20—Resource productivity and domestic material consumption (Euro per kilogram, chain linked volumes [2010])	ES	1.38	1.63	1.84	2.06	2.51	2.63	2.64	2.62	2.76	2.81	3.24	3.97	4.70	1.24	1.52	1.79	YES
	EU	1.61	1.75	1.85	1.79	1.93	1.98	1.98	2.03	2.07	2.08	2.22	2.51	2.73	1.10	1.24	1.35	
SDGI 12.30—Average CO ₂ emissions per km from new passenger cars (Source: European Environment Agency, European Commission—Directorate-General for Climate Action) (g CO ₂ per km)	ES	148.20	142.20	137.90	133.80	128.70	122.40	118.60	115.30	114.40	115.00	116.28	118.42	120.56	1.01	1.03	1.05	NO
	EU	—	—	—	—	—	—	123.40	119.50	118.10	118.50	113.35	105.66	97.96	0.95	0.88	0.82	
SDGI 12.41—Circular material use rate (% of material input for domestic use)	ES	—	—	10.40	9.80	9.80	8.90	7.70	7.60	8.20	—	5.72	3.38	1.03	0.75	0.44	0.14	NO
	EU	9.60	10.80	11.00	10.60	11.30	11.50	11.40	11.40	11.70	—	12.49	13.48	14.48	1.10	1.18	1.27	
SDGI 07.10—Primary energy consumption (Million tons of oil equivalent)	ES	134.44	123.37	123.32	122.96	123.39	116.05	114.18	118.58	119.23	125.63	121.85	116.83	111.81	1.03	0.99	0.94	NO
	EU	1696.86	1597.41	1660.21	1600.63	1589.36	1573.69	1511.29	1537.48	1546.94	1561.59	1493.56	1418.58	1343.52	0.97	0.92	0.87	
SDGI 07.11—Final energy consumption (Million tons of oil equivalent)	ES	94.83	87.78	89.09	86.48	82.83	80.73	79.19	80.35	82.46	84.33	80.36	74.32	68.28	1.00	0.92	0.85	YES
	EU	1180.27	1115.76	1163.13	1110.65	1110.62	1110.57	1065.57	1088.27	1110.08	1122.77	1085.27	1052.79	1020.27	1.00	0.97	0.94	
SDGI 07.30—Energy productivity (Euro per kilogram of oil equivalent)	ES	7.40	7.80	7.80	7.70	7.50	8.00	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.30	8.65	9.14	9.64	1.05	1.11	1.18	NO
	EU	7.10	7.20	7.10	7.40	7.50	7.60	8.00	8.10	8.20	8.30	8.78	9.53	10.27	1.08	1.18	1.27	
SDGI 07.40—Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption by sector (%)	ES	10.74	12.96	13.81	13.22	14.29	15.32	16.13	16.22	17.36	17.51	19.79	23.24	26.69	1.22	1.43	1.65	YES
	EU	11.32	12.58	13.12	13.37	14.68	15.40	16.19	16.72	17.02	17.52	19.67	23.12	26.58	1.18	1.38	1.59	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 13. SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 13.10—Greenhouse gas emissions (Source: European Environment Agency) (Greenhouse gas emissions [in CO ₂ equivalent], base year 1990)	ES	144.50	130.80	125.90	126.20	123.80	114.60	115.60	119.70	116.40	—	104.48	89.64	74.78	0.87	0.75	0.62	NO
	EU	90.60	84.00	85.80	83.10	82.00	80.40	77.40	78.00	77.60	—	70.74	63.27	55.78	0.91	0.81	0.72	
SDGI 13.20—Greenhouse gas emissions intensity of energy consumption (source: EEA and Eurostat) —index (2000 = 100)	ES	95.00	92.10	87.40	88.70	87.80	84.70	86.50	88.50	84.00	—	80.71	75.64	70.56	0.91	0.85	0.80	YES
	EU	94.90	93.70	92.50	92.00	91.80	90.50	89.10	88.70	87.50	—	84.20	79.79	75.37	0.95	0.90	0.85	
SDGI 13.50—Contribution to the international 100bn USD commitment on climate related expending (Source: European Environment Information and Observation Network, European Commission—Directorate-General for Climate Action) (million EUR [current prices])	ES	—	—	—	—	—	—	498.75	466.72	595.03	529.06	618.88	718.96	819.14	1.33	1.54	1.76	NO
	EU	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,715.30	13,813.88	15,501.53	14,924.63	18,630.07	24,021.81	29,419.46	1.35	1.74	2.13	
SDGI 07.10—Primary energy consumption (Million tons of oil equivalent)	ES	134.44	123.37	123.32	122.96	123.39	116.05	114.18	118.58	119.23	125.63	121.85	116.83	111.81	1.03	0.99	0.94	NO
	EU	1696.86	1597.41	1660.21	1600.63	1589.36	1573.69	1511.29	1537.48	1546.94	1561.59	1493.56	1418.58	1343.52	0.97	0.92	0.87	
SDGI 07.11—Final energy consumption (Million tons of oil equivalent)	ES	94.83	87.78	89.09	86.48	82.83	80.73	79.19	80.35	82.46	84.33	80.36	74.32	68.28	1.00	0.92	0.85	YES
	EU	1180.27	1115.76	1163.13	1110.65	1110.62	1110.57	1065.57	1088.27	1110.08	1122.77	1085.27	1052.79	1020.27	1.00	0.97	0.94	
SDGI 07.40—Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption by sector (%)	ES	10.74	12.96	13.81	13.22	14.29	15.32	16.13	16.22	17.36	17.51	19.79	23.24	26.69	1.22	1.43	1.65	YES
	EU	11.32	12.58	13.12	13.37	14.68	15.40	16.19	16.72	17.02	17.52	19.67	23.12	26.58	1.18	1.38	1.59	
SDGI 12.30—Average CO ₂ emissions per km from new passenger cars (Source: European Environment Agency, European Commission—Directorate-General for Climate Action) (g CO ₂ per km)	ES	148.20	142.20	137.90	133.80	128.70	122.40	118.60	115.30	114.40	115.00	116.28	118.42	120.56	1.01	1.03	1.05	NO
	EU	—	—	—	—	—	—	123.40	119.50	118.10	118.50	113.35	105.66	97.96	0.95	0.88	0.82	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 14. SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONE.
SDGI 14.10—Surface of marine sites designated under NATURA 2000 (Source: European Environment Agency, European Commission—Directorate-General for Environment) (km ²)	ES	—	—	—	10,193	10,193	10,637	71,677	84,386	84,404	84,404	152,778	231,922	311,153	1.81	2.75	3.69	NO
	EU	—	—	—	—	—	251,566	318,127	360,350	395,528	532,417	709,634	1,036,635	1,363,995	1.97	2.88	3.79	
SDGI 14.40—Bathing sites with excellent water quality by locality (Source: European Environment Agency)	ES	—	—	—	1927	1926	1931	1942	1948	1949	1960	1976	2005	2033	1.01	1.03	1.04	YES
	EU	—	—	—	15,444	15,406	15,436	14,828	14,791	14,821	14,935	14,370	13,774	13,177	0.97	0.93	0.89	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 15. SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONE.
SDGI 15.20—Surface of terrestrial sites designated under NATURA 2000 (Source: European Environment Agency, European Commission—Directorate-General for Environment) (km ²)	ES	—	—	—	137,510	137,664	137,365	137,444	137,757	137,872	137,952	138,142	138,521	138,900	1.00	1.01	1.01	YES
	EU	—	—	—	—	—	787,766	788,488	787,606	789,081	790,213	791,807	794,812	797,820	1.01	1.01	1.01	
SDGI 06.40—Nitrate in groundwater (Source: European Environment Agency) (mg NO ₃ per liter)	ES	40.20	37.40	37.20	38.10	39.50	39.50	39.50	39.50	—	—	40.34	41.15	41.97	1.02	1.04	1.06	NO
	EU	18.90	18.40	18.80	18.30	18.40	18.60	18.30	18.30	—	—	18.07	18.00	17.33	0.99	0.98	0.95	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 16. SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 16.10—Death rate due to homicide by sex (number par 100,000 persons)	ES	0.80	0.70	0.70	0.68	0.62	0.65	0.64	0.58	—	—	0.53	0.40	0.27	0.92	0.70	0.46	NO
	EU	1.00	0.90	0.90	0.85	0.81	0.77	0.70	0.69	—	—	0.48	0.26	0.02	0.69	0.38	0.03	
SDGI 16.20—Population reporting occurrence of crime, violence or vandalism in their area by poverty status (%)	ES	14.70	16.40	13.00	10.80	10.10	14.20	11.90	10.00	10.30	8.70	7.13	3.98	0.82	0.71	0.40	0.08	YES
	EU	—	—	14.40	14.10	13.60	14.50	14.00	13.60	13.00	12.00	11.70	10.35	9.00	0.86	0.76	0.66	
SDGI 16.30—General government total expenditure on law courts (Million euro)	ES	3826	4129	4194	4088	3862	3759	3699	3877	3875	3993	3923.13	3830.12	3737.01	1.01	0.99	0.96	NO
	EU	46,146	46,218	47,315	48,533	48,381	48,487	49,272	50,020	50,147	50,975	52,462.97	55,093.95	57,727.82	1.05	1.10	1.15	
SDGI 16.60—Population with confidence in EU institutions by institution (Source: European Commission—Directorate-General for Communication) (%)	ES	57	53	39	33	25	23	28	27	33	41	34.44	23.50	12.56	1.28	0.87	0.47	NO
	EU	51	50	48	41	44	39	42	38	42	45	42.05	37.15	32.24	1.11	0.98	0.85	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

Table 17. SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	2025	2030	I2020	I2025	I2030	CONF.
SDGI 17.10—Official development assistance as share of gross national income (Source: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) (% of gross national income))	ES	0.45	0.46	0.43	0.29	0.16	0.17	0.13	0.12	0.34	0.19	0.11	−0.05	−0.21	0.91	−0.40	−1.71	NO
	EU	0.40	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.39	0.41	0.41	0.46	0.53	0.50	0.54	0.59	0.64	1.16	1.28	1.40	
SDGI 17.20—EU financing to developing countries by financing source (Source: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) (million EUR [current prices])	ES	20,456	9186	7800	14,472	1539	6014	10,289	19,866	4258	2301	8148.15	−733.75	−999.80	0.41	−0.04	−0.05	NO
	EU	119,718	102,203	127,336	153,784	147,962	129,811	171,987	178,101	143,007	155,224	189,764	196,918	225,576	1.07	1.11	1.27	
SDGI 17.30—EU imports from developing countries by country income groups (million EUR)	ES	76,616	51,928	66,735	75,388	80,650	77,020	79,482	77,589	74,762	88,378	90,201.68	99,955.87	109,720.75	1.16	1.29	1.41	NO
	EU	762,471	591,995	756,791	841,518	863,783	817,475	838,537	881,805	869,710	957,870	1,013,951	1,142,207	1,270,603	1.15	1.30	1.44	
SDGI 17.40—General government gross debt (% of gross domestic product)	ES	39.50	52.80	60.10	69.50	85.70	95.50	100.40	99.30	99.00	98.10	95.58	91.37	87.16	0.96	0.92	0.88	YES
	EU	60.70	73.30	79.00	81.60	84.00	85.80	86.60	84.60	83.40	81.70	87.24	96.46	105.69	1.03	1.14	1.25	
SDGI 17.50—Shares of environmental and labor taxes in total tax revenues (% of total taxes)	ES	5.06	5.39	5.22	5.05	4.88	5.80	5.55	5.73	5.56	5.43	5.75	6.04	6.33	1.00	1.05	1.11	YES
	EU	6.03	6.34	6.37	6.37	6.35	6.33	6.33	6.31	6.30	6.14	6.16	6.17	6.18	0.98	0.98	0.98	

Source: Eurostat [50] and own estimations.

In order to calculate the estimated value for each indicator in years 2020, 2025, and 2030, both in Spain and in the whole EU, we use the FORECAST.ETS function at Microsoft Office 365 Excel software. Using the additive error, additive trend, and additive seasonality version of the Exponential Triple Smoothing algorithm (ETS AAA), this function predicts a future value, based on historical time-based data. It is a progression upon the array of historical known values to the target date, on a continuing time-line [2,51–53]. This technique allows for assessing whether estimated values for each indicator at Spain level will be near and along with the EU average values for the analyzed time-period.

The technique of dynamic indices enables a comparison or establishes a relationship among the data obtained for different periods in a temporal series regarding a single indicator measuring homogeneous facts [2,54,55]. In this paper, we start from the 2015 value for each indicator as the base to check forecasted values in years 2020, 2025, and 2030. Year 2015 as starting point is relevant because it was back then when the 2030 Agenda was agreed and States initiated into the process to achieve SDG.

The main findings found and derived from the analysis presented above in Tables 1–17 for Spain are summarized below.

Out of the data provided in Table 1, containing indicators useful to diagnose confluence in SDG 01, end poverty in all its forms everywhere, we anticipate that Spain will be capable of achieving, in the year 2030, the European average values for indicators concerning dwelling conditions (SDGI 01.60 and SDGI 06.10), self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care (SDGI 03.60) and adaptation of housing size to family units (SDGI 11.10). However, there is a critical gap with EU reference regarding poverty and social exclusion (SDGI 01.10 and SDGI 01.20), situations of material deprivation and difficulties to properly warm homes (SDGI 01.30 and SDGI 07.60) or to get a decent, long-term, accurately paid job (SDGI 01.40 and SDGI 01.41).

As for SDG 02, end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, studied in Table 2, Spain will be able to reach the European average values in 2030 only for indicators related to agricultural working productivity (SDGI 02.20) and area under organic farming (SDGI 02.40). Instead, there will be no junction with EU in government support to agricultural research and development (SDGI 02.30), gross nutrient balance on agricultural land by nutrient (SDGI 02.50), ammonia emissions from agriculture (SDGI 02.60) or nitrate in groundwater (SDGI 06.40).

Nonetheless, a considerable level of confluence between Spain and EU can be appreciated regarding indicators for SDG 03, ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Actually, Spain gets better prognoses than EU regarding life expectancy at birth (SDGI 03.10), perceived health (SDGI 03.20), death rate due to chronic diseases or to tuberculosis, HIV and hepatitis (SDGI 03.40 y SDGI 03.41), self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care (SDGI 03.60), death rate due to at-work or road accidents (SDGI 08.60 and SDGI 11.40) and acoustic pollution (SDGI 11.20). Only air pollution predicted values leave Spain behind the average values for EU (SDGI 11.50).

In SDG 04, ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, evolution foreseen in 5 of 6 indicators is not auspicious for Spain (Table 4). The only indicator in which the forecast is positive is the rate of early leavers from education and training (SDGI 04.10). Subsequently, we may conclude that Spain would not reach the reference average EU rates regarding population with tertiary educational attainment (SDGI 04.20), early childhood education (SDGI 04.30), recent graduates employment rates (SDGI 04.50), adult participation in learning (SDGI 04.60), and proportion of young people unemployed and not engaged in education or in training programs (SDGI 08.20).

In contrast, Spanish situation regarding SDG 05, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, is very promising as 5 out of 8 indicators reach the EU reference values for 2030 (Table 5). Specifically, alignment is obtained in relation to the reduction of unfair gender pay gap (SDGI 05.20 y SDGI 05.30), inactive population due to caring responsibilities (SDGI 05.40), presence of women in national parliaments and governments (SDGI 05.50) and early leavers from education and training (SDGI 04.10). Yet, situation is adverse in aspects such as the presence of women in senior

management positions (SDGI 05.60), tertiary educational attainment (SDGI 04.20) and employment of recent graduates (SDGI 04.50).

Indicators related to the follow up of SDG 06 (Table 6), ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, provide positive outlooks for Spain comparing to EU regarding access to sanitary facilities in households (SDGI 06.10) and bathing sites with excellent water quality (SDGI 14.40). Nevertheless, the situation is unfavorable regarding nitrate in groundwater, as Spanish foresights are quite higher than EU ones for year 2030 (SDGI 06.40).

Considering SDG 07 (Table 7), ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, Spain presents a positive trend regarding European average rates for indicators considering final and per capita energy consumption (SDGI 07.11 and SDGI 07.20), renewable energy consumption (SDGI 07.40) and greenhouse gas emission intensity of energy consumption (SDGI 13.20). Still, within the current framework, confluence would not be possible in the fields of primary energy consumption (SDGI 07.10), energy productivity (SDGI 07.30), energy import dependency (SDGI 07.50) and population unable to keep home adequately warm (SDGI 07.60).

Out of data presented in Table 8, useful to assess confluence in SDG 08, promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, Spain would be able to reach reference EU values in 2030 only regarding the rates of people killed in accidents at work (SDGI 08.60), inactive population due to caring responsibilities (SDGI 05.40) and resource productivity and domestic material consumption (SDGI 12.20). Yet, estimations show that the gap with Europe will persist in aspects as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita (SDGI 08.10), investment share of GDP by institutional sector (SDGI 08.11), proportion of young people unemployed and not engaged in education or in training programs (SDGI 08.20), long-term unemployment rate (SDGI 08.40) and in work at risk of poverty rate (SDGI 01.41).

For SDG 09, build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, indicators calculated in Table 9 indicate that Spain will be in position to improve the rates foreseen for EU only regarding the number of patent applications (SDGI 09.40). Confluence with average European values for 2030 is not achieved in all the remainder issues: gross domestic expenditure on research and development (R&D) (SDGI 09.10), employment in high- and medium-high technology manufacturing and knowledge-intensive services (SDGI 09.20), R&D personnel (SDGI 09.30), use of busses and trains (SDGI 09.50), share of rail and inland waterways in total freight transport (SDGI 09.60), and average carbon dioxide emissions from new passenger cars (SDGI 12.30).

Spain is in a really bad position regarding SDG10, reduce inequality within and among countries, as no indicator achieves the reference average EU values for 2030 (Table 10). There are severe sub-par differences regarding purchasing power (SDGI 10.10), adjusted gross disposable income of households (SDGI 10.20), at risk of poverty gap (SDGI 10.30), income distribution (SDGI 10.41), income share of the poorest population (SDGI 10.50), rate of asylum applications (SDGI 10.60), financing to developing countries (SDGI 17.20) and rate of imports from developing countries (SDGI 17.30). Every item related to public investment probably has suffered the consequences of 2008–2014 recession.

Indicators used to monitor SDG 11 (Table 11), make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, let us observe a positive trend in Spain comparing to EU regarding adaptation of housing size to family units (SDGI 11.10), noise pollution (SDGI 11.20), people killed in road accidents (SDGI 11.40), habitability conditions (SDGI 01.60) and population reporting occurrence of crime, violence or vandalism in their area (SDGI 16.20). Issues needed for improvement and with a detrimental side are exposure to air pollution by particulate matter (SDGI 11.50), recycling rate of municipal waste (SDGI 11.60) and rates of share of busses and trains (SDGI 09.50).

As for SDG 12 (Table 12), ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, Spain achieves European reference values only for indicators involved in resource productivity (SDGI 12.20), evolution in final energy consumption (SDGI 07.11) and renewable energy consumption (SDGI 07.40). However, provided the ongoing trend, alignment with Europe will not be possible in issues regarding average carbon dioxide emissions from new passenger cars (SDGI 12.30), circular material use rate (SDGI

12.41), evolution in primary energy consumption rates (SDGI 07.10) and energy productivity (SDGI 07.30). That might be the reason why the Spanish acting government has recently exhibited a strong commitment to change the production pattern and undertake a profound ecological transition of economy [11].

In SDG 13, take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, values obtained in 4 out of 7 indicators provide a better situation for Spain than for EU in 2030 regarding greenhouse gas emissions intensity of energy consumption (SDGI 13.20), final energy consumption (SDGI 07.11) and renewable energy consumption (SDGI 7.40). On the contrary, forecasts are unfavorable for Spain in comparison to Europe in 2030 regarding greenhouse gas emissions (SDGI 13.10), commitment on climate related expending (SDGI 13.50), primary energy consumption (SDGI 07.10) and average carbon dioxide emissions from new passenger cars (SDGI 12.30).

To study SDG 14 (Table 14), conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and SDG 15 (Table 15), protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, there is information available only for a pair of indicators in each goal. Out of them, Spain presents better prognoses than the EU at the horizon of 2030 for bathing sites with excellent water quality (SDGI 14.40); similar values regarding surface of terrestrial sites designated under NATURA 2000 (SDGI 15.20); slightly sub-par merits concerning surface of marine sites designated under NATURA 2000 (SDGI 14.10) and a major increase on levels of nitrate in groundwater (SDGI 06.40).

In Table 16, we can find items to screen eventual confluence in SDG 16, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The forecast shows that Spain will be able to reach EU average only regarding population reporting occurrence of crime, violence or vandalism in their area (SDGI 16.20). Instead, a relevant gap will persist for death rate due to homicide (SDGI 16.10), general government total expenditure on law courts (SDGI 16.30) and population with confidence in EU institutions (SDGI 16.60).

Finally, for SDG 17 (Table 17), strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, predictions are encouraging for Spain regarding general government gross debt (SDGI 17.40) and shares of environmental and labor taxes in total tax revenues (SDGI 17.50). On the contrary, out of the evolution of indicators tied to official development assistance as share of gross national income (SDGI 17.10), financing to developing countries (SDGI 17.20) and imports from developing countries (SDGI 17.30) Spain will not reach EU average values for year 2030.

In brief, and as it can be seen in Table 18, presenting confluence rate for each SDG, Spain must definitely take measures to revert the current trend and try to achieve better results in each and every area of 2030 Agenda. In particular, indicators reaching the EU average values at the horizon of 2030 are less than 50% in 10 goals (SDG 01, SDG 02, SDG 04, SDG 08, SDG 09, SDG 10, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 16 y SDG 17), equal or over 50% but under 75% in 5 goals (SDG 05, SDG 06, SDG 07, SDG 11, SDG 14 y SDG 15) and over 75% only in one (SDG 03).

Table 18. Spain/EU confluence rate for SDG.

Sustainable Development Goals	Number of Indicators Achieving EU Reference Values for Year 2030	Number of Indicators not Achieving EU Reference Values for Year 2030	Total Number of Analyzed Indicators for Each Goal	Percentage of Confluence
01. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	4	6	10	40.00
02. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.	2	4	6	33.33
03. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	8	1	9	88.89
04. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	1	5	6	16.67
05. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.	5	3	8	62.50
06. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	2	1	3	66.67
07. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	4	4	8	50.00
08. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	3	6	9	33.33
09. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.	1	6	7	14.29
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.	0	8	8	0.00
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	5	3	8	62.50
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.	3	4	7	42.86
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.	3	4	7	42.86
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.	1	1	2	50.00
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.	1	1	2	50.00
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	1	3	4	25.00
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.	2	3	5	40.00
TOTAL	46	63	109	42.20

Source: Own production.

Table 19 presents the different indicators previously used now grouped into three categories, according to the economic, environment or social dimension of the indicators. The aim of this classification is to assess the degree of Spain confluence with the EU for each dimension separately. It allows concluding that projections for the economic and environmental dimensions are quite adverse (28.57% y 35.71% respectively), while the perspective is comparatively better in everything related to social aspects as confluence is there reached in almost half of the indicators (47.06%).

Table 19. Spain/EU confluence rate by categories.

Categories	Number of Indicators Achieving EU Reference Values for Year 2030	Number of Indicators not Achieving EU Reference Values for Year 2030	Total Number of Analyzed Indicators for Category	Percentage of Confluence
Economic	8	20	28	28.57
Environment	5	9	14	35.71
Social	16	18	34	47.06
TOTAL	29	47	76	38.16

Source: Own production.

In order to put the results in context, it is interesting to make a comparison with the data available in other countries for which similar studies have been carried out, such as Romania [2] and Poland [1] (see Table 20). In Romania case [2] there is a national research that use the information provided by Eurostat, and that is based on a methodology similar to the one that was here used for Spain; a homogeneous comparison of the results can be therefore displayed. Nevertheless, research involving Poland [1] has instead used national indicators, provided by their National Statistics Office, and although the methodology is also based upon dynamic indexes, no forecasting tools for 2030 are applied, nor comparisons with EU average rate are developed.

Table 20. Compliance with 2030 Agenda in Poland, Romania, and Spain.

Categories	Poland	Romania	Spain
Economic	75.00	40.00	28.57
Environment	75.00	56.25	35.71
Social	81.82	28.57	47.06
TOTAL	78.08	38.16	38.16

Source: Own production.

Dividing the results of each research among the three aforementioned categories, Poland is the best-placed country to fulfill the 2030 commitments. Poland progresses towards sustainable development by reducing social inequalities, promoting environmental care and ensuring a proper quality of life.

On the other hand, Romania a Spain have a long road ahead and must undertake reforms and implement policies to reduce the gap with the EU. Romania is in a positive condition regarding environmental aspects, but needs to work in economic and, specially, in social issues. Rather, Spain is in a positive situation in social dimension but is clearly at a drawback in the environmental and economic aspects of Agenda 2030.

4. Discussion

The results obtained in this work have serious managerial implications if Spain wants to meet the SDG commitments linked to Agenda 2030. Spain must, immediately, take measures and promote reforms to change the trend with regard to the problems identified. The following are the main areas that we believe require special attention.

For instance, in order to accomplish the goal of ending poverty in all its forms, the Finnish example could be inspiring [56]. Despite the very different national context, a universal basic income combined with programs promoting access to accommodation, popular also in other European countries [57], may be useful in order to advance towards poverty and social exclusion eradication. Parallel to that, Spain could also experiment on tax incentives [58,59] with the objective of stimulating job offers to the most vulnerable groups because, as the European Training Foundation has remarked, the inclusive

growth and job creation agenda entails clear linkages to skills development and social inclusion policies. An agreement exists that making growth more inclusive would also make it more sustainable [60].

Agriculture activities should be more concerned about environmental challenges. The amount of nitrate in groundwater, the abuse of nutrients and ammonia emissions must become focal points for a change. Spain should lay the foundations for a sustainable agriculture, proficient enough to foster the transition to organic farming activities, capable of generating added value for consumers and reducing environmental pollution. Spain seems to have already good conditions for the development of this type of agriculture due to its favorable climatology and the extensive production systems traditionally applied in a large number of crops [61], but according to the study carried out in this paper, there is still a long path ahead.

As for education, it is necessary to work on quality. Measures to expand the network of early schooling and the design of complementary support measures, at all stages of training, might have a positive impact to avoid dropping out of school. Tax incentives for the recruitment of new graduates would increase the added value of University training. Citizenship education needs to be implemented as well in adult population.

Although Spain obtains a good result in gender equality policies, measures to promote and actively regulate the presence of women in decision-making and management positions in companies are still needed [62].

It is vital to go ahead promoting sustainable energy generation using renewable sources, which will make possible to avoid dependence on energy from other countries. Favoring self-generation and self-consumption in clean energy households, through autonomous energy production systems is as well crucial. Not only is that a goal included in 2030 Agenda, but also a shorter-term objective expressly assumed by Spain in a EU context [63].

Spanish economy is highly conditioned by an extremely high unemployment rate [64]. It is a serious problem that generates inequalities, causes exclusion and affects social cohesion. The difficulty of accessing a decent and adequately paid work and the high rate of temporary contracts are factors that suggest a reform in the job market regulation which in consultation with the social partners, may introduce a social perspective into labor relationships.

A pending issue in Spain has to do with the investment in R&D and the development of knowledge and information technologies. Although there have been formal government efforts to revert the situation [65], this paper proves that they have been till now insufficient. New measures need to be enhanced. Again, tax deductions could be implemented for companies making this sort of investments.

Social concern on sustainability has to be boosted [16]. It is advisable to launch social awareness campaigns to promote the recycling of materials, the use of public transports and vehicles with zero or low carbon emissions in order to reduce pollution. Taxes penalizing environmentally irresponsible behavior could be introduced to help the achievement of these goals.

In Spain there are major inequalities in terms of national wealth distribution. Without redistributive measures, inequalities could increase substantially and could lead to greater social conflict. Hence, the existing inequalities between Spanish regions have to be accounted and an investment plan for the most disadvantaged regions should be drawn up in order to attach population to land, ensure a certain social well-being and reduce the inequality gap [66]. The Spanish situation is somewhat similar to UN global appreciation [67] when it points out the slow-paced progress to many Sustainable Development Goals in recent years. Certainly, UN has also concluded that the most vulnerable people and countries are still suffering the most, and that the global reaction has not been determined enough.

Also regarding regional differences and provided past and more recent experiences in historical backgrounds such as Basque Country and Catalonia, an essential task for political action is to guarantee peaceful coexistence within the nation and to generate a framework of mutual trust. In the other hand it is urgent to strengthen public institutions, and especially the judiciary, promoting equal access to justice for all.

Eventually, provided national economic recovery, it is necessary to retrieve the path of development aid policies to developing countries in order to fight humanitarian crises.

5. Conclusions

Summing up, Spain has a long way to go in order to fulfill commitment to the 2030 Agenda and meet EU standards. Such a diagnosis is confirmed by our calculations and strongly conditioned by the current situation of both political and social crises in the country. Indeed, since 2015 Spain has experienced an extraordinary chain of interim governments with General Elections in April and again in November 2019. In January 2020, a coalition government has been conformed and it has to seek deals to adopt the measures and implement the policies needed to comply with SDG. As it has been exposed, the 2030 Agenda has a leading presence in a wide range of institutional actions plans and formal declarations, but action to positive measures is also required. On top of everything, the changes needed are neither minor nor easy to put in force.

The new government has already shown concern, and a Declaration facing Climate and Environmental Emergency has been approved by the Cabinet, to implement 30 lines of actions. Among the first to be launched, within the first 100 days in office, there is a draft bill to achieve zero net emissions by 2050, establish the basis for decarbonization, develop the second National Climate Change Adaptation Plan and drive the transformation of the industrial and service model through the formalization of Fair Transition Agreements. Other measures to be developed in a near future engage the integration of the effects of climate change on economic, consumer, mobility, housing, international cooperation, education or health policies.

In short, a turnaround is essential for Spain to achieve the objectives set out in the 2030 Agenda. The first steps taken by the new government, on the long and difficult road to fulfill the objectives, seem hopeful and prove a mounting concern about the situation.

We hope that the results obtained and the conclusions presented in this paper would be useful for the governmental authorities to become aware of the situation and adopt legislation and policies that will allow a reorientation. The aim is also to raise awareness among citizens of the urgent need for a paradigm shift.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, data curation, formal analysis, methodology, review and editing of manuscript, A.B.-Á. and R.G.-F. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Acknowledgments: The authors truly thank University of Oviedo support and all the suggestions and concerns expressed by the peer reviewers and the editor, which have improved the final result.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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