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KEEPING TRACK OF SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS - BENCHMARKING INSIGHTS FROM INTERNATIONAL INDEXES

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ABSTRACT
Accompanied by a plethora of controversies, sustainability – assumed and proclaimed by the Agenda 2030 (UN, 2016) as global concern and desideratum – has become a ubiquitous hot topic nowadays: both positive and negative references to it are made each day, emphasizing on the complexity and dynamism of this ever emerging and never ending process. However, sustainability's multiple facets and kinds of expression seem to be more visible at the lower levels of the global system, where the search for sustainability phenomenon – fuelled by the (media intermediated) positive interplays between the increased accountability of firms and the proliferation of highly informed customers – has led to the disruption of industries and ways of life. Thus, concepts and practices such as: sustainable travel, fashion, fisheries or consumption; green products, processes, buildings, or jobs; eco-friendly energy, materials, cars, or cities – have redefined industries and/or created new ones, while changing peoples' lives. But: what is the aggregate effect of all these transformation, their cumulative impact?; what positive and/or negative spillovers have they generated and to whom? – these are the questions this paper ultimately aims to answer to. The main objective of the paper is to find out how are countries positioning themselves against the requirements of global sustainability, and what is the measure of their real progress towards them. Based on the analysis of a series of internationally renowned reports and indexes – such as: The Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index (SolAbility, 2017), The Sustainable Development Goals Index (Sustainable Development Solutions Network & the Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2018), and the Sustainable Society Index (Sustainable Society Foundation, 2016) – the paper will compare and contrast data and indicators across countries, in order to identify and benchmark the progress different groups of countries have made towards sustainability, as well as the main challenges ahead of them.

Keywords*: Agenda 2030, Sustainability, Sustainability Indexes.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

Following the Millennium Development Goals, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have officially came into force on 1 January 2016. The "17 Goals to transform our World" represent "a call for action by all countries (…) to promote prosperity while protecting the planet" and they refer to: (1) No poverty; (2) Zero hunger; (3) Good health & well-being; (4) Quality education; (5) Gender equality; (6) Clean water & sanitation; (7) Affordable & clean energy; (8) Decent work & economic growth; (9) Industry, innovation & infrastructure; (10) Reduced inequalities; (11) Sustainable cities & communities; (12) Responsible consumption and production; (13) Climate action; (14) Life below water; (15) Life on land; (16) Peace, justice & strong institutions; and (17) Partnerships for the goals (UN, 2016).

Later on, the General Assembly has adopted (on 6 July 2017) the Resolution containing "the global indicator framework for the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which will be refined annually when necessary (UN, 2017); at this point, the official list "includes 232 indicators on which general agreement has been reached". In the same time, a "dissemination platform of the Global SDG Indicators Database" has been developed – in order to provide "access to data compiled through the UN System in preparation for the Secretary-General's annual report on <<Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals>>" (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/). Moreover, Sustainable Development Goals Reports are annually released (UN, 2018a), as well as Reports of the Secretary-General on the Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (UN, 2018b), accompanied by Statistical Annexes (UN, 2018c).

But sustainability – and particularly its country-related perspective/dimension is not a new topic; quite the opposite: a plethora of academics and/or different organizations have had sustainability on the top of their agenda, trying to develop different frameworks in order to properly capture and define the concept, to make it operational at country level and to asses / measure the progress towards some pre-determined goals/targets, both before (Moran, Wackernagel, Kitzes, Goldfinger, Boutaud, 2008; Hák, Moldan, Dahl, 2012; WEF, 2014) and after (Strezov, Evans, Evans, 2017; Schmidt-Traub, Kroll, Teksoz, Durand-Delacre, Sachs, 2017, Leal Filho et al., 2018) the emergence of the SDGs.

The reminder of the paper is organized as follows: the second section is dedicated to the analysis of the "oldest" index (whose development and publication have started in 2006) – the *Sustainable Society Index (SSI)* – which is "showing at a glance the level of sustainability of a country" (Sustainable Society Foundation, 2017); the third section will address the "younger" (firstly developed in 2012) *Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index (GSCI)* – which is "a measurement for social, environmental and economic development. Measuring wealth, and prosperity – inclusively" (SolAbility, 2017); the forth section will deal with the "youngest" index (available since 2016) – the *SDG Index* – which "provides a report card for country performance on the historic Agenda 2030 and the SDGs" (Bertelsmann Stiftung, Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2018); then will follow the conclusion and finally the bibliography.

2. THE SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY INDEX (SSI)

In order to address the question "How sustainable is your country?" in a concrete, measurable manner, the Sustainable Society Foundation has developed a composite tool – the *Sustainable Society Index (SSI)* – which it has been published every two years since 2006. Based on the Brundtland Report definition of sustainable development, SSI considers that "a sustainable society is a society: (a). that meets the needs of the present generation; (b). that does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; (c). in which each human being has the opportunity to develop itself in freedom, within a well-balanced society and in harmony with its surroundings" (Sustainable Society Foundation, 2017). The SSI Framework (Table 1) gathers 21 indicators, grouped in 7 categories, which form and define the 3 wellbeing dimensions of SSI: human, environmental, and economic.

Table 1: SSI Framework (http://www.ssfindex.com/ssi/framework/)

Sustainable Society Index						
Human Wellbeing			Environmental Wellbeing		Economic Wellbeing	
Basic Needs	Personal Development & Health	Well-balanced Society	Natural Resources	Climate & Energy	Transition	Economy
Sufficient food Sufficient to drink Safe sanitation	Education Healthy life Gender equality	Income distribution Population growth Good governance	Biodiversity Renewable water Resources consumption	Energy use Energy savings Greenhouse gases Renewable energy	Organic farming Genuine savings	Gross domestic product Employment Public debt

As concerns the most recent SSI available (2016): (a). 154 countries have been ranked on the three dimensions, based on a scale of 1-10 (10=sustainable, 1=not sustainable); (b). the scores of the indicators were aggregated into scores for the three wellbeing dimensions; (c). the dimension levels have not been aggregated "into one single figure for the overall index [...due to...] the negative correlation between Human and Environmental Wellbeing" (Sustainable Society Foundation, 2017).

The analysis of the 2016 SSI reveals the following:

If considering the SSI Scores – by Dimensions (Table 2): Human Wellbeing (HB) scores the best – in terms of both maximum and minimum; Environmental Wellbeing (EB) scores the second in terms of minimum and the last in terms of maximum, while Economic Wellbeing (EcW) scores the second in terms of maximum and the last in terms of minimum. With averages (both per country and per person) above 6,4 (on the scale of 1-10), the human dimension of sustainability is far ahead of the environmental dimension and especially of the economic one.

Table 2: SSI 2016 Scores – by Dimensions (http://www.ssfindex.com/data-all-countries/)

2016 Dimensions	Human Wellbeing	Environmental Wellbeing	Economic Wellbeing
Maximum	9,00 (Finland)	8,13 (Burundi)	8,43 (Norway)
Average per country	6,45	5,02	4,41
Average per person	6,41	4,76	4,60
Minimum	3,12 (Chad)	1,52 (Qatar)	1,28 (Mauritania)

If considering the Top 5 and Bottom 5 countries, by Dimensions (Table 3): five high income European countries make the Top 5 on the human and economic dimensions of sustainability (only Norway being present in both of them, but in opposite places); with respect to the environmental dimension, Top 5 is occupied by five African (four of them low income, and the fifth lower middle income) countries. The Bottom 5 on the HW dimension is made by five African low income countries; four Western Asia high income countries and a Central Asia upper middle income one are making the Bottom 5 of EW, while the Bottom 5 of EcW is occupied by three African countries (two of them with lower middle income, and the third one with low income) and two (upper middle income and lower middle income respectively) Asian countries. Central African Republic (the second country that appears twice), scores the forth global in terms of EW and the penultimate global in terms of HW.

Table 3: SSI 2016 – Top 5 & Bottom 5 Countries, by Dimensions (http://www.ssfindex.com/results/ranking-all-countries/)

Human Wellbeing		Environmental Wellbeing		Economic Wellbeing	
Top 5 (1-5)	Bottom 5 (150-154)	Top 5 (1-5)	Bottom 5 (150-154)	Top 5 (1-5)	Bottom 5 (150-154)
Finland	Guinea-Bissau	Burundi	Oman	Norway	Iraq
Germany	Niger	Togo	Saudi Arabia	Switzerland	Congo
Netherlands	Congo Democratic Rep.	Lesotho	United Arab Emirates	Estonia	Yemen
Iceland	Central African Republic	Central African Republic	Turkmenistan	Sweden	Mozambique
Norway	Chad	Uganda	Qatar	Czech Republic	Mauritania

3. THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVENESS INDEX (GSCI)

Aiming "to measure sustainable success and competitiveness of nations that integrate all three dimensions of sustainable development", (SolAbility, 2017), SolAbility has developed a comprehensive *Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index (GSCI)*, which it releases annually (since 2012). Considering that "sustainable competitiveness is the ability to generate and sustain inclusive wealth without diminishing the future capability of sustaining or increasing current wealth levels, […] the sustainable competitiveness model is based on a pyramid (Figure 1), where each level is required to support the next higher level. In the top-down direction, the different levels of the pyramid have influence the state of the lower levels" (SolAbility, 2017).

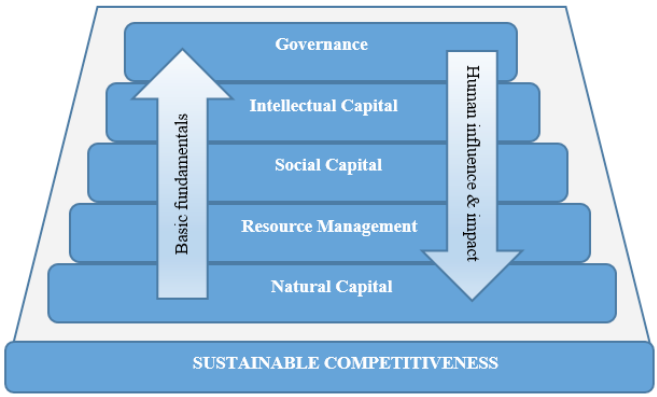

Figure 1: The Sustainable Competitiveness Pyramid (SolAbility, 2017)

With reference to the most recent Global Sustainable Competitiveness Report and GSCI (2017): (a). "the GSCI is based on 111 measurable and comparable quantitative indicators"; (b). 180 countries have been included; (c). for each indicator, country scores were calculated from 100 (highest) to 0 (lowest); (d). "the Sustainable Competitiveness Index is calculated based on the [...5...] sub-indexes, each weighted equally" (SolAbility, 2017).

The analysis of the 2017 GSCI reveals the following:

In terms of GSCI 2017 – Top 5 & Bottom 5 Countries (Table 4): the overall score of GSCI varies from 60,5 (Sweden – quite far from 100) to 30,2 (Iraq); five HIC European countries make the Top 5, while the Bottom 5 is composed by three African countries (two LIC and one HIC) and two Asian countries (one LIC and the other one UMIC).

Table 4: GSCI 2017 - Top 5 & Bottom 5 Countries (http://solability.com/the-global-sustainable-competitiveness-index/downloads)

Top 5	Country	Score	Bottom 5	Country	Score
1	Sweden	60,5	176	Haiti	34,5
2	Norway	58,2	177	South Sudan	32,3
3	Iceland	57,6	178	Seychelles	32,0
4	Finland	57,4	179	Yemen	31,0
5	Denmark	57,2	180	Iraq	30,2

In terms of sub-indexes scores (Table 5): Governance capabilities has the highest average score (47,4), while Intellectual capital has the lowest average score (38,3) – against the GSCI average score of 43,7; looking at the maximum values, Intellectual capital scores the highest (79,0), while Resource intensity scores the lowest (58,6); looking at the minimum values, Social capital scores the highest (29,1), while Intellectual capital scores the lowest (12,1).

Table 5: Sustainable Competitiveness Scores – by Sub-indexes (http://solability.com/the-global-sustainable-competitiveness-index/downloads)

	Sustainable competitiveness	Natural capital	Resource Intensity	Intellectual capital	Governance capabilities	Social capital
Average	43,7	44,5	41,4	38,3	47,4	46,7
Max	60,5	71,2	58,6	79,0	68,7	63,2
Min	30,2	18,4	28,7	12,1	22,7	29,1

In terms of GSCI 2017 – Top 5 & Bottom 5 Countries – by Sub-indexes (Table 6): out of the Top 5 countries by GSCI only two countries score for two categories of Top 5 countries by sub-indexes (Sweden and Norway), while the other three countries (Iceland, Finland and Denmark) score for just one category; out of the Bottom 5 countries by GSCI, South Sudan is the only country that also score (at two categories) for Top 5 countries by sub-indexes; other countries score for both Top 5 and Bottom 5 Countries (at different sub-indexes): Democratic Rep. of Congo and West Bank & Gaza, while countries such as Kiribati, Chad and Central African Republic score for two categories of Bottom 5.

Table 6: GSCI 2017 – Top 5 & Bottom 5 Countries – by Sub-indexes (http://solability.com/the-global-sustainable-competitiveness-index/downloads)

Rank	GSCI Sub-indexes – Countries & Scores				
	Natural capital	Resource Intensity	Intellectual capital	Governance capabilities	Social capital
1	Laos (71,2)	Norway (58,6)	South Korea (79,0)	Ireland (68,7)	El Salvador (63,2)
2	Guyana (70,5)	Luxembourg (58,4)	Sweden (69,3)	Czech Republic (67,8)	Azerbaijan (62,9)
3	Democratic Rep. of Congo (66,9)	Iceland (58,1)	Norway (66,7)	Romania (65,0)	West Bank & Gaza (61,6)
4	Cameroon (63,8)	Finland (57,1)	China (66,7)	New Zealand (64,1)	Singapore (60,7)
5 …	Sweden (63,6) …	Germany (56,6) …	Denmark (66,5) …	Germany (62,7) …	Bolivia (60,0) …
176	West Bank & Gaza (23,8)	Fiji (29,5)	South Sudan (16,7)	Solomon Islands (28,6)	USA (35,1)
177	Bahrain (22,6)	Swaziland (29,5)	Uganda (16,7)	Sao Tome & Principe (28,3)	Ukraine (34,5)
178	Jordan (21,9)	Kiribati (29,5)	Central African Rep. (15,1)	Chad (27,9)	Mauritania (31,9)
179	Cyprus (20,4)	Democratic Rep. of Congo (29,3)	Madagascar (14,4)	South Sudan (27,1)	Russia (30,7)
180	Lebanon (18,4)	Central African Rep. (28,7)	Zambia (12,1)	Kiribati (22,7)	Chad (29,1)

4. THE SDG INDEX (SDGI)

Aiming to benchmark the performance of countries on the SDGs – by presenting "a revised and updated assessment of countries' distance to achieving the SDGs, […while including…] detailed SDG Dashboards to help identify implementation priorities for the SDGs, […and…] a ranking of countries by the aggregate SDG Index of overall performance" (Bertelsmann Stiftung, Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2018), Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network have annually produced and released (since 2016) the *SDG Index and Dashboards Report*.

As regards the 2018 edition of the Report: (a). "country profiles are generated for all 193 member states but total country scores and ranks are available for

156 countries"; (b). it includes 86 global indicators – which means, on average, around five indicators per goal, but the actual number of indicators per goal varies between one (SDG10) and fourteen (SDG3); (c). "the global SDG Index score and scores by goal can be interpreted as the percentage of achievement (Lafortune, Fuller, Moreno, Schmidt-Traub, Kroll, 2018).

The analysis of the 2018 SDG Index and Dashboards Report reveals the following:

If considering the Top 5 and Bottom 5 countries by SDGI Score (Table 7): The SDGI scores vary from 84,98 (Sweden) to 37,66 (Central African Republic); Three Northern Europe (OECD members and High Income) countries top the 2018 ranking, while three Middle Africa (Low Income) countries are positioned at the bottom of it; Top 5 is completed by two Western European countries, while Bottom 5 is completed by an Eastern Africa (Low Income) and a Western Asia (MENA, Lower Middle Income) country.

Table 7: Top 5 and Bottom 5 countries by SDGI Score, 2018 (http://www.sdgindex.org/reports/)

Top 5			Bottom 5		
Rank	Country	SDGI Score	Rank	Country	SDGI Score
1	Sweden	84,98	152	Yemen, Rep.	45,66
2	Denmark	84,61	153	Madagascar	45,59
3	Finland	83,00	154	Congo, Dem. Rep.	43,39
4	Germany	82,28	155	Chad	42,81
5	France	81,22	156	Central African Republic	37,66

If considering the Income Classes (Figure 2): The High Income Countries' ranks vary from 1 (Sweden – 85,0 SDGI) to 106 (Qatar – 60,8 SDGI); The Upper Middle Income Countries' ranks vary from 23 (Belarus – 76,0 SDGI) to 144 (Angola – 49,6 SDGI); The Lower Middle Income Countries' ranks vary from 28 (Moldova – 74,5 SDGI) to 152 (Yemen, Rep. – 45,7 SDGI); The Low Income Countries' ranks vary from 102 (Nepal – 62,8 SDGI) to 156 (Central African Rep. – 37,7 SDGI).

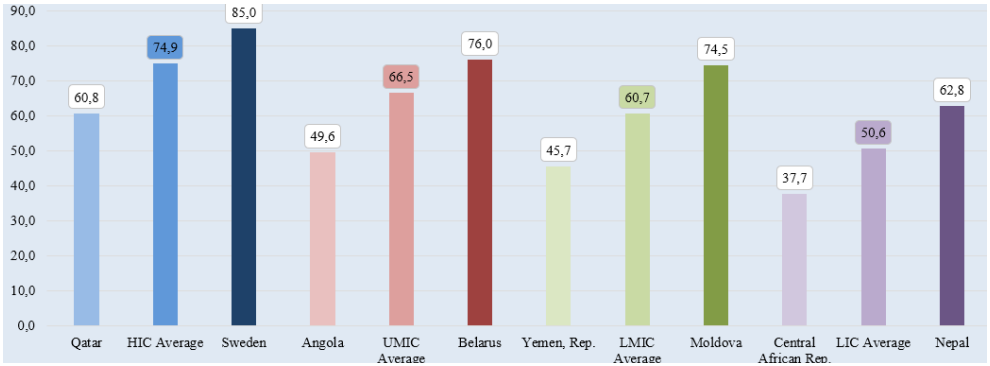

Figure 2: SDGI 2018by Income Classes (http://www.sdgindex.org/reports/)

If considering the regions used for the SDG Index & Dashboard (Figure 3): The OECD region gathers 35 countries, ranking from 1 (Sweden) to 84 (Mexico); The E. Europe & C. Asia region gathers 24 countries, ranking from 21 (Croatia) to 151 (Afghanistan); The LAC region gathers 23 countries, ranking from 33 (Costa Rica) to 145 (Haiti); The East & South Asia region gathers 18 countries, ranking from 43 (Singapore) to 126 (Pakistan); The MENA Region gathers 15 countries, ranking from 60 (United Arab Emirates) to 152 (Yemen, Rep); The Africa region gathers 41 countries, ranking from 88 (Cabo Verde) to 156 (Central African Rep.).

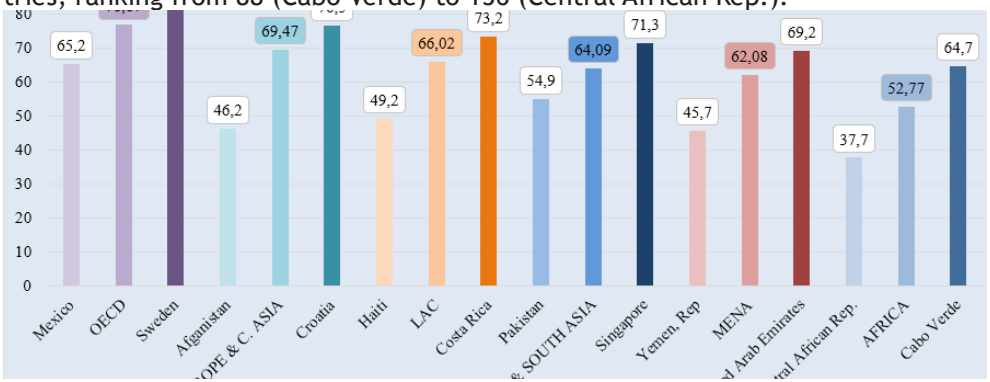

Figure 3: SDGI 2018 Regional Scores (http://www.sdgindex.org/reports/)

5. CONCLUSION

As regards the evolution of countries towards sustainability and the challenges ahead, the SDG Dashboards (Figure 4) provide an eloquent picture of both the progress made by countries and the unsolved issues – as the SDG Dashboards' "color scheme (green, yellow, orange and red) illustrates how far a country is from achieving a particular goal" (Lafortune, Fuller, Moreno, Schmidt-Traub, Kroll, 2018). A synthesis of the main aspects – by SDGs (and regions) is presented in Table 8.

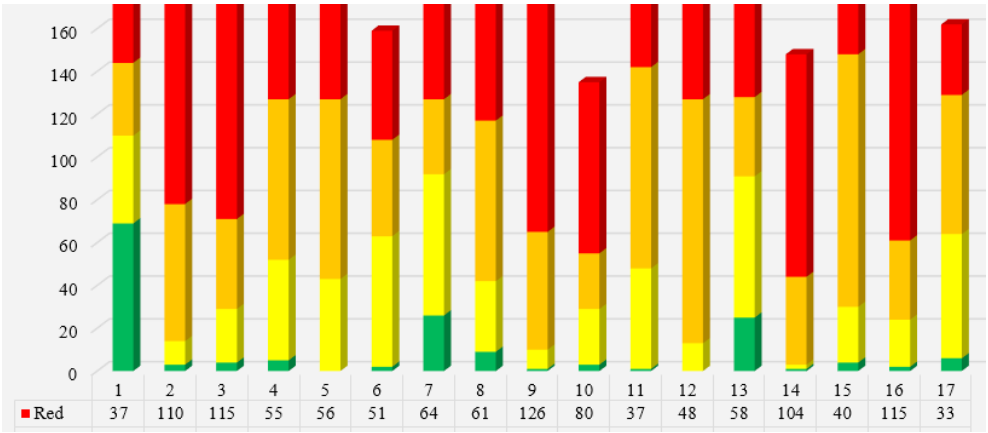

Figure 4: SDG Dashboards 2018 (http://www.sdgindex.org/reports/)

Table 8: SDG Dashboards – main findings & challenges ahead – by SDGs

1. No poverty – available data: 181 countries; missing data: 12 countries It is the most "balanced" goal, with the highest "green area" – 69 countries, and the second best in terms of "red lights" – 37 countries. Three regions (OECD, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Middle East and North Africa) are "Red free", while one (Sub-Saharan Africa) has 28 Red countries and 16 Orange ones (out of its total of 49 countries).
2. Zero hunger – available data: 188 countries; missing data: 5 countries The goal is dominated by Red and Orange areas – that gather together more than 90 percent of the countries (174). Six regions have no Green area, while only one (Eastern Europe and Central Asia) has three Green countries. 43 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (out of 49) and 20 countries in East and South Asia (out of 22) are Red.
3. Good health & well-being – available data: 186 countries; missing data: 7 countries The goal is dominated by Red and Orange areas – that count together for more than 80 percent of the countries (157). Five regions have no Green area, while OECD has three Green countries and Eastern Europe and Central Asia has one Green country. 48 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (out of 49) and 19 countries in East and South Asia (out of 22) are Red.
4. Quality education – available data: 182 countries; missing data: 11 countries The goal is dominated by Orange and Red areas (130 countries); the remaining 52 countries are Green (5) or Yellow (47). Four regions have no Green area, while two of them (OECD & Eastern Europe and Central Asia) have two Green countries and one (Oceania) has one Green country. Yellow and Orange dominate in OECD (28 countries out of 35), East and South Asia (18 countries out of 22), Eastern Europe and Central Asia (22 countries out of 28), and Latin America and the Caribbean (26 countries out of 31). In Sub-Saharan Africa 36 countries (out of 49) are Red and 11 are Orange.
5. Gender equality – available data: 183 countries; missing data: 10 countries The dominant color here is Orange (84 countries), followed by Red (56 countries) and Yellow (43 countries); there is no Green country. Yellow and Orange dominate in four regions (29 countries out of 35 in OECD, 16 countries out of 22 in East and South Asia, 24 countries out of 28 in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and 27 countries out of 31 in Latin America and the Caribbean), while Orange and Red dominate in the other three regions (all the 16 countries in Middle East and North Africa, 43 countries out of 49 in Sub-Saharan Africa and 8 countries out of 12 in Oceania).

6. **Clean water & sanitation** – available data: 159 countries; missing data: 34 countries

The goal ranks the third in terms of missing data. Only two countries – one in East and South Asia and the other one in Eastern Europe and Central Asia – are Green. Yellow is the most prominent color in three regions (24 countries out of 35 in OECD, 10 countries out of 28 in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and 18 countries out of 31 in Latin America and the Caribbean), Orange colors almost a half of one region (10 countries out of 22 in East and South Asia), while Red is the most prominent color in the remained three regions (7 countries out of 16 in Middle East and North Africa, 35 countries out of 49 in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 3 countries out of 12 in Oceania).

7. **Affordable & clean energy** – available data: 191 countries; missing data: 2 countries

The goal ranks the first (alongside the ninth goal) in terms of data availability, and it ranks the second in terms of Green areas – they "cover" 26 countries, belonging to five out of the seven regions (with Middle East and North Africa and Oceania being the exceptions). The best represented Green area is the Latin America and the Caribbean region (with 10 countries out of 31). Yellow is the most prominent color in three regions (20 countries out of 28 in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 14 countries out of 31 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 13 countries out of 16 in Middle East and North Africa), Orange defines 13 countries out of 35 in the OECD countries, while Red is the most prominent color in the remaining three regions (10 countries out of 22 in East and South Asia, 44 countries out of 49 in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 5 countries out of 12 in Oceania).

8. **Decent work & economic growth** – available data: 178 countries; missing data: 15 countries

Orange and Red areas cover more than three quarters of the countries (136 in total). Two regions (Sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania) have no Green country, one region (East and South Asia region) has three Green countries, two regions (OECD and Middle East and North Africa) have two Green countries, while Latin America and the Caribbean has just one Green country. Yellow is the most prominent color in OECD (20 countries out of 35) and it is at parity with Orange in Oceania (3 countries out of 12). Orange is the most prominent color in East and South Asia (13 countries out of 22), Eastern Europe and Central Asia (12 countries out of 28) and Latin America and the Caribbean (17 countries out of 31), while Red defines 32 countries (out of 49) in Sub-Saharan Africa.

9. Industry, innovation & infrastructure – available data: 191 countries; missing data: 2 countries

The goal ranks the first (alongside the seventh goal) in terms of data availability, and, unfortunately, it ranks also the first in terms of Red areas – 126 countries (belonging to all the seven regions). Only one country – in the East and South Asia region is Green, while Yellow defines another nine countries (7 countries belonging to OECD region, one from East and South Asia and one from Eastern Europe and Central Asia). Orange is the most prominent color in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (16 countries out of 28) and Middle East and North Africa (9 countries out of 16). Red dominates in OECD (16 countries out of 35), East and South Asia (17 countries out of 22), Latin America and the Caribbean (19 countries out of 31), Sub-Saharan Africa (47 countries out of 49), and Oceania (9 countries out of 12).

10. Reduced inequalities – available data: 135 countries; missing data: 58 countries

It is the goal with the most "missing data". Only three countries are Green (two in OECD and one in Eastern Europe and Central Asia), while Red dominates (80 countries); Yellow and Orange are at parity (26 countries). Yellow is the most prominent color in OECD (14 countries out of 35) and Red is the defining color of five regions (East and South Asia – 9 countries out of 22; Eastern Europe and Central Asia – 10 countries out of 28; Latin America and the Caribbean – 17 countries out of 31; Middle East and North Africa – 4 countries out of 16; and Sub-Saharan Africa – 31 countries out of 49).

11. Sustainable cities & communities – available data: 179 countries; missing data: 14 countries

Only one country (belonging to the East and South Asia) is Green, while Orange defines more than a half of countries (94). Yellow is the most prominent color in Oceania (7 countries out of 12), Yellow (17 countries) and Orange (18 countries) are almost equal sharing OECD countries, Orange is the most prominent color in: East and South Asia (12 countries out of 22), Eastern Europe and Central Asia (16 countries out of 28), Latin America and the Caribbean (13 countries out of 31), and Middle East and North Africa (14 countries out of 16), and Red defines 26 countries (out of 49) in Oceania.

12. Responsible consumption and production – available data: 175 countries; missing data: 18 countries

The goal is dominated by Orange (114 countries), followed by Red (48 countries) and Yellow (13 countries); no Green area is present. OECD countries score the highest percentage of Red areas (24 countries out of 35), and no Yellow zones either. Yellow is present in only 13 countries belonging to four regions (Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa); all the other regions except from OECD are defined by Orange (East and South Asia – 19 countries; Eastern Europe and Central Asia – 17 countries; Latin America and the Caribbean – 19 countries; Middle East and North Africa – 7 countries; Sub-Saharan Africa – 37 countries; and Oceania – 4 countries).

13. Climate action – available data: 186 countries; missing data: 7 countries

The goal is dominated by Yellow (66 countries) and red (58 countries). 32 of the OECD countries are Red, while 3 are Orange (out of 35); no country in this region is Green or Yellow. At the other end of the spectrum, 6 countries in Oceania (out of 12) are Green and 2 of them are Yellow. The other five regions are in between: 30 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (out of 49) and 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (out of 31) are Yellow, 7 countries in East and South Asia (out of 22) are Orange, while 7 countries in Middle East and North Africa (out of 16) are Red (to mention only the colors with the highest number of records for each group).

14. Life below water – available data: 148 countries; missing data: 45 countries

It is the goal ranked the second in terms of "missing data", and it is dominated by Red (104 countries). Oceania is the only region with a full distribution of colors (1 Green, 1 Yellow, 5 Orange, and 4 Red); all the other regions, except from OECD countries, are only defined by Orange and especially Red (15 countries out of 22 in East and South Asia; 12 countries out of 28 in Eastern Europe and Central Asia; 18 countries out of 31 in Latin America and the Caribbean; 10 countries out of 16 in Middle East and North Africa; and 26 countries out of 49 in Sub-Saharan Africa), while the OECD region counts for one Yellow country, 9 Orange and 19 Red countries respectively (out of 35 countries).

15. Life on land – available data: 188 countries; missing data: 5 countries

The goal is dominated by Orange (118 countries), followed by Red (40 countries), Yellow (26 countries) and Green (4 countries). The 4 Green countries belong to Sub-Saharan Africa (3 countries) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (one country). Orange prevail in: OECD (21 countries out of 35); East and South Asia (15 countries out of 22); Eastern Europe and Central Asia (20 countries out of 28); Latin America and the Caribbean (20 countries out of 31); Middle East and North Africa (11 countries out of 16); and Sub-Saharan Africa (28 countries out of 49). Yellow and Red complete the picture with different, less important contributions.

16. Peace, justice & strong institutions – available data: 176 countries; missing data: 17 countries

The goal is dominated by Red (115 countries). Only two countries are Green (one belonging to OECD and the other one to Eastern Europe and Central Asia). Yellow and Orange count for more than three quarters in OECD (27 countries out of 35), while 7 countries here are Red. Red is prevalent in all the remaining 6 regions – 15 countries (out of 22) in East and South Asia; 13 countries (out of 28) in Eastern Europe and Central Asia; 25 countries (out of 31) in Latin America and the Caribbean; 8 countries (out of 16) in Middle East and North Africa; 45 countries (out of 49) in Sub-Saharan Africa; and 2 countries (out of 12) in Oceania.

17. Partnerships for the goals – available data: 162 countries; missing data: 31 countries

The goal is dominated by Orange (65 countries) and Yellow (58 countries), followed by Red (33 countries). Out of the 6 Green countries, 3 are in Sub-Saharan Africa and the other three are in Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa and Oceania. In OECD 21 countries are Red, and 12 are Orange (out of 35). A half of the East and South Asia region (11 countries out of 22) is Orange. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia (28 countries in total), Yellow and Orange share the same number of countries (10), as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean (31 countries in total, out of which 11 are Yellow and another 11 are Orange).

The majority of countries (11 out of 16) are Yellow in In Middle East and North Africa, while they are Yellow (19) and Orange (17) in Sub-Saharan Africa (49 countries in total).

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