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FRANCE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2017-2022

Transforming society with
the 2030 Agenda



2023
2030



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CONTENTS

EDITORIAL.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
PART 1.....	11
France’s state of play with the six areas of action in the Road Map for the 2030 Agenda	
Area of Action 1.....	13
Work for a fair transition by eliminating all forms of discrimination and inequality and guaranteeing the same rights, opportunities and freedoms for all	
Area of Action 2.....	27
Effect transformative societal change with low-carbon, resource-efficient economies working in support of the climate, the planet and biodiversity	
Area of Action 3.....	45
Leverage education and lifelong learning to gear behaviour and lifestyles to our future world and sustainable development challenges	
Area of Action 4.....	57
Improve health and well-being for all through healthy and sustainable food and agriculture	
Area of Action 5.....	75
Ensure effective citizen participation in efforts to achieve the SDGs, and accomplish transformative societal changes by scaling up local experimentation and innovation	
Area of Action 6.....	87
Work at European and international levels for sustainable transformation	
PART 2.....	109
France’s progress toward achieving the 2030 Agenda Goals	
Methodology.....	110
Data-visualizations of the 17 SDGs.....	116
Overview of the 17 SDGs.....	156

EDITORIAL

We all recognize the need for transformative change for our societies to eradicate poverty and inequality, keep the planet in good health for present and future generations, and build peaceful societies. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set for the 2030 Agenda form the metric for these ambitions. They lay down the many needs to be addressed to build tomorrow's world. These 17 SDGs steer and propel international cooperation. They also form a window of opportunity for each country to identify those sectors where they need to conduct greener and more responsible public policies for a more sustainable and inclusive society.

Building the future is about working together to shape the France of 2030. This is why public administrations, private players and French civil society have embarked upon the national Road Map for the 2030 Agenda.

The state of play with progress and obstacles reported in the Voluntary National Review bear witness to France's commitment to implementing and monitoring the SDGs. This review reports on the main areas of action and challenges, government action focuses, and best practices and model measures already put in place by stakeholders nationwide in a spirit of experience sharing.

Although many advances have been made, the project is ambitious and calls for the concrete actions already put in place to be scaled up at both national level and on France's international front. Informed by contributions from public bodies and civil service players, this report presents a transparent state of play with the implementation in France of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals alongside the Road Map's six areas of action.

The 2030 Agenda is everyone's responsibility and we all have a duty to pursue our efforts and actions to take up the many challenges facing our country and our planet.

We are midway and we have just over seven years to go to achieve the goals set in 2015. So we all need to take forward and step up our efforts. Green planning led by the Prime Minister aims precisely to work for a fair transition to make France a "green nation".

Christophe Béchu

Minister for the Ecological Transition
and Territorial Cohesion

EDITORIAL

On 25 September 2015, nearly eight years ago, the 193 Member States of the United Nations committed to work together to meet the 17 universal goals of the 2030 Agenda: a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.

In September 2019, following two years of consultation and co-construction with civil society, France put together a Road Map for the country's new national strategy for sustainable development.

These Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) form a concrete and attainable transformative programme to build a better future. It is a profoundly humanist and aspirational project bearing a message of commitment in the face of fear and uncertainty. The health, climate, environmental and geopolitical crises have clearly shown the utility, if not the necessity, of working together on this common foundation for sustainable development.

In view of our steadfast commitment to sustainable development on the national and international fronts, France proposed to present its approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda with this voluntary national review exercise.

Informed by contributions from all players involved in meeting the SDGs, this report presents a full and transparent state of play with the implementation by France of the 17 SDGs and the Road Map's six areas of action. It is based on contributions from all the ministries, which analysed their public policies through the lens of the SDGs, identifying the main areas of action and challenges. This report is also the outcome of work by researchers, non-governmental organizations, associations, local and regional authorities and many other stakeholders who all played a key role in steering the work and pointing up best practices in a spirit of experience sharing.

2023 is a pivotal year: we are midway and we have a considerable way to go to achieve our ambition. In a degraded world, we have to continue to set the example and together take forward our efforts to fully achieve the SDGs. France is fully committed on the international front to delivering on this agenda. This was one of the aims of the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact hosted by the President of the French Republic in Paris in June 2023, just months ahead of the SDG Summit held by the UN Secretary-General in New York in September 2023. And it is why France has been steadily increasing its official development assistance since 2017, including these last two years with their many major crises.

Building the future is about working together to shape the France of 2030, a dynamic, inclusive and green France that leaves no one behind and works beyond its borders for a fairer and more sustainable world. It is about delivering on our country's quests for social justice, environmental ambition and development.

The 2030 Agenda is everyone's responsibility and we all have a duty to pursue our efforts and action to together take up the many challenges facing our country and our planet.

Chrysoula Zacharopoulou

Minister of State for Development, Francophonie
and International Partnerships

INTRODUCTION

At the midpoint of 2030 Agenda implementation, steering and staying the course to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2019, France launched a new national sustainable development strategy to deliver on the SDGs with France's Road Map for the 2030 Agenda.

At this midpoint of 2030 Agenda implementation, France has produced a second joint summarized Voluntary National Review following the 2016 VNR. This VNR is a non-exhaustive documented review identifying progress made and problem areas to be addressed with a view to accelerating transformative societal change through action taken by ministries and civil society in mainland and overseas France to contribute more effectively to the nation's sustainable development. It points up the priority issues for French society in a systemic picture of the state of play in France through the lens of the SDGs.

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Just months ahead of the SDG Summit of Heads of State and Government meeting under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2023, it is more urgent than ever to scale up our efforts for fairer, more sustainable and more resilient societal models.

The interlinked crises over the last three years, exacerbated by the global impacts of the conflict in Ukraine, have put a brake on progress towards achieving the SDGs if not caused setbacks in some areas. Once again, the most vulnerable are the hardest hit. However, these worrying developments for the 2030 Agenda should not obscure the fact that the world was already off track in its efforts to meet the SDGs by 2030 before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rise in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events – with their many repercussions on all SDGs – serves as a dramatic illustration of the climate and environmental emergency confronting us today. The increase in the global mean temperature in 2022 (1.15 °C above the pre-industrial average)¹ is edging dangerously closer to the lower target of the Paris Agreement,² while fossil fuel emissions hit a record high in 2021.

Sustainable development funding is key to achieving the SDGs today. Following a sharp drop in 2020, foreign direct investment (FDI) in developing countries rebounded in 2021 (+30%), but is still inadequately aligned with the SDGs. Official development assistance (ODA), the flagship of international solidarity, hit a historic record of 204 billion dollars^{3 4} in 2022 compared with 153 billion dollars in 2018. This increase marked the fourth year running that ODA had topped its previous record level and demonstrates the international commitment to delivering on the SDGs with action in the developing countries in particular.

¹ [World Meteorological Organization, WMO Provisional State of the Global Climate 2022](https://www.wmo.int/en/press-releases/2022/09/09-01-2022)

² https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11359.

³ Grant-equivalent measurement. This sum refers to official development assistance granted by member countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

⁴ [OECD DAC, ODA Levels in 2022 – preliminary data](https://www.oecd.org/dac/development/ODA/2022-ODA-levels-preliminary-data)

Nevertheless, official financial flows fall far short of singlehandedly closing the 2030 Agenda financing gap estimated at 3.9 trillion dollars for the developing countries alone.⁵ Envisaged solutions include aligning private financial flows with the SDGs and leveraging new innovative financing mechanisms. France is actively engaged in work on this question, holding the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris on 22 and 23 June 2023 with its agenda including financing in response to the environmental emergency.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

France's Road Map for the 2030 Agenda, adopted in 2019, takes up the multitude of 2030 Agenda issues to transition our society to a more prosperous, inclusive and environmentally sound model. It defines France's priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This Voluntary National Review presents a preliminary midpoint assessment of work in this area.

Growing numbers of players in France are embracing the SDGs, speaking their language and steering their strategies accordingly. This represents considerable progress since 2016, one year after the launch of the SDGs. In 2018, France set up a dashboard of 98 indicators to monitor national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These indicators are updated annually by the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE). They form the basis for our Voluntary National Review.

The open-access indicators can be used today in Local 2030 Agenda Reviews to steer and monitor local sustainable development and environmental planning.




The French administration's institutional governance of the 2030 Agenda is coordinated by the ministries for the environment and foreign affairs. Reporting to the Prime Minister, the Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development steers and coordinates the network of Senior Officials for Sustainable Development and the action of the central administrations working on sustainable development. The Senior Officials for Sustainable Development support the coordination and evaluation of public sustainable development policies in each ministry.

⁵ [OECD, Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2023](#)

METHODOLOGY

The VNR was drafted by the central government services and presents the progress made with the French road map for the implementation of the SDGs. It is rounded out by contributions from civil society.

The first part of this review presents an analysis of the six areas of action in France's Road Map for the 2030 Agenda. Subjects are organized into three categories charting France's progress towards the goals and targets set by France's Road Map for the 2030 Agenda:

-  Progress made,
-  Progressing,
-  Challenges.

The "progress made" category presents the areas of action that are very close to target or are on track. The "progressing" category covers the areas of action whose targets have not yet been met even though progress has been made. The "challenges" category concerns the areas of action with problematic targets that are off track.

The second part presents a data visualization overview of how the situation has evolved in France for each SDG. Following a presentation of the development of the French dashboard of 98 SDG monitoring indicators, this section presents a graphic representation of France's dashboard indicators for the different goals. This work, which rounds out the cross-cutting analysis of the Road Map's areas of action (Part 1), uses the version of the dashboard released on the INSEE website⁶ in January 2022.

Results are based on the indicators' average annual trends measured using Eurostat's method for analysing five-year progress towards the SDGs in its annual monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context. This visual representation is a preliminary trend monitoring exercise that will be updated as the dashboard is updated.

An 18th factsheet in addition to the 17 SDG factsheets provides a snapshot of France's state of play.

Civil society was invited to contribute in three ways throughout the preparation of this Voluntary National Review. First, in autumn 2022, they submitted a five-year review of their work on the 2030 Agenda identifying their key actions, drivers for and brakes on progress in the lead-up to 2030. Second, a contributory conference was held by the Open Diplomacy Institute in spring 2023. Third, the National Council for Development and International Solidarity, a government-NGO advisory body working on France's development and international solidarity policy goals and resources, took up the VNR and put together an ad-hoc working group co-chaired by the French development NGO coordinating body, Coordination Sud, and the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations.

The purpose of these two bodies, open to all, was to report on civil society's contribution to France's implementation of the 2030 Agenda in France and worldwide. Their contributions in the form of summaries of their deliberations have been reproduced in their entirety at the end of each chapter concerned as supplements to the Voluntary National Review itself.

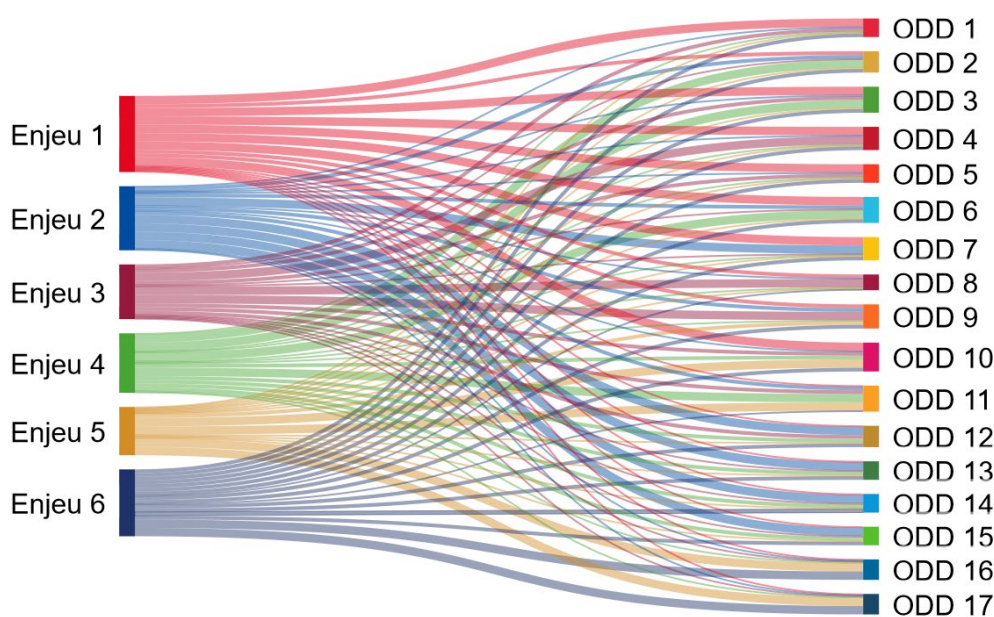
Lastly, this review presents illustrations of actions by civil society and work by the world of research to highlight their commitment at all levels nationwide.

⁶ [INSEE, Sustainable Development Goals National Monitoring Indicators](#) (Link to website in French).

Figure 1: The six areas of action of France’s Road Map for the 2030 Agenda

AREA OF ACTION 1	Work for a fair transition by eliminating all forms of discrimination and inequality and guaranteeing the same rights, opportunities and freedoms for all
AREA OF ACTION 2	Effect transformative societal change with low-carbon, resource-efficient economies working in support of the climate, the planet and biodiversity
AREA OF ACTION 3	Leverage education and lifelong learning to gear behaviour and lifestyles to our future world and sustainable development challenges
AREA OF ACTION 4	Improve health and well-being for all through healthy and sustainable food and agriculture
AREA OF ACTION 5	Ensure effective citizen participation in efforts to achieve the SDGs, and accomplish transformative societal changes by scaling up local experimentation and innovation
AREA OF ACTION 6	Work at European and international level for the sustainable transformation of societies, peace and solidarity

Figure 2: The links between the 17 SDGs and the six areas of action of France’s Road Map for the 2030 Agenda



Made with SankeyMATIC

Note: The Sankey diagram models the links between France’s Road Map for the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs. This diagram produced by the scoping study conducted by SDSN France (Sustainable Development Solutions Network) on the conceptualization of the notion of international externality with respect to the six areas of action of France’s Road Map for the 2030 Agenda clearly shows that the SDGs as a whole are well covered by the priorities for action in the Road Map.



France's state of play with the six areas of action in the Road Map for the 2030 Agenda

THE SIX AREAS OF ACTION

Area of action 1

Work for a fair transition by eliminating all forms of discrimination and inequality and guaranteeing the same rights, opportunities and freedoms for all

Area of action 2

Effect transformative societal change with low-carbon, resource-efficient economies working in support of the climate, the planet and biodiversity

Area of action 3

Leverage education and lifelong learning to gear behaviour and lifestyles to our future world and sustainable development challenges

Area of action 4

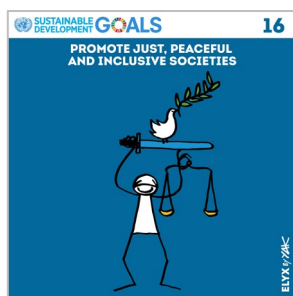
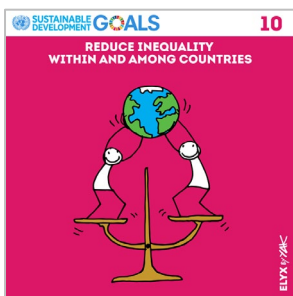
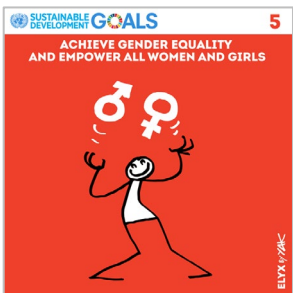
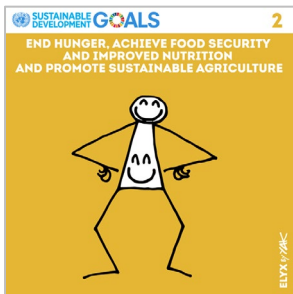
Improve health and well-being for all through healthy and sustainable food and agriculture

Area of action 5

Ensure effective citizen participation in efforts to achieve the SDGs, and accomplish transformative societal changes by scaling up local experimentation and innovation

Area of action 6

Work at European and international level for the sustainable transformation of societies, peace and solidarity



Area of Action 1

Work for a fair transition by eliminating all forms of discrimination and inequality and guaranteeing the same rights, opportunities and freedoms for all

Key points

The 2020 health crisis marked the first upturn in global poverty in ten years. Over 20% of the European Union population are at risk of social exclusion. France ranks well in the international indicators, but inclusion still calls for improvement.

Ending poverty remains a priority with 9.2 million people below the monetary poverty line in 2019. Actions specifically targeting young people and students have been put in place, including education, training and employment measures. New social and solidarity economy actions are being developed with voluntary work, donations, individual engagement and a boom in collective initiatives. Awareness is growing among all society's players as businesses and organizations engage in responsibility approaches.

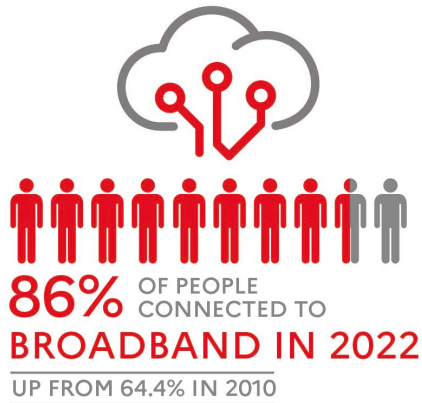
Public policies are committed to eradicating regional inequalities. The French justice system is actively working to provide access to justice for all and promote everyone's rights by increasing court resources and facilitating procedures and access to law with the deployment of legal advice centres, local citizens advice bureaus and 2,379 France Services public service centres.

France is also conducting a committed gender equality policy. It was ranked 15th out of 156 countries in the World Economic Forum's rankings in 2021 (2022 report). Nevertheless, 28.1% of women work part time as opposed to 7.6% of men. In addition, a marked wage gap of 15.8% persisted in 2020 despite narrowing since 2014.

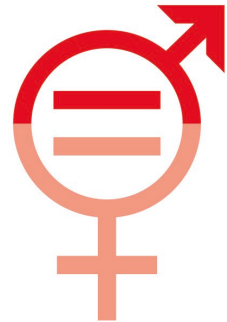
AREA OF ACTION 1

Work for a fair transition by eliminating all forms of discrimination and inequality and guaranteeing the same rights, opportunities and freedoms for all

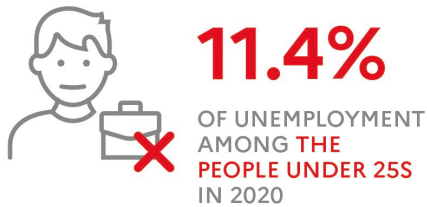
PROGRESS MADE



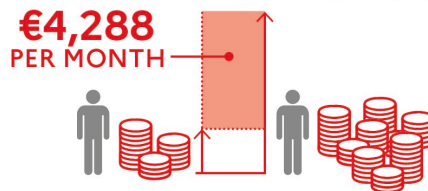
FRANCE HAS MADE **PROGRESS** WITH **GENDER EQUALITY**



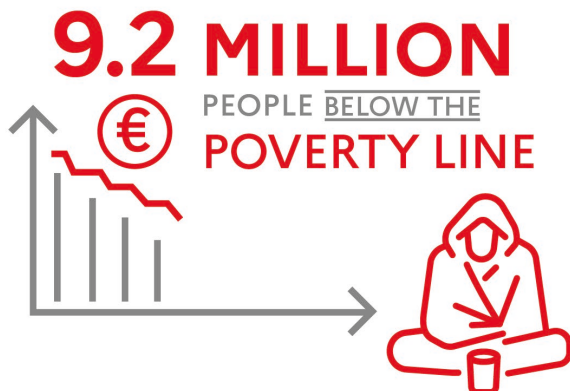
PROGRESSING



AVERAGE STANDARD OF LIVING GAP BETWEEN THE RICHEST 10% AND THE POOREST 10%



CHALLENGES



STATE OF PLAY

France's progress with Area of Action 1 – “Work for a fair transition by eliminating inequality” – is addressed in this chapter in the light of the Road Map's priorities of universal access to basic services, elimination of all forms of discrimination and a better distribution of wealth. The importance of re-establishing regional equality, in particular through access to digital technologies, was highlighted by the health crisis and is the subject of targeted policies. Although progress has been observed with access by women to leadership positions, other priority areas call for considerable and rapid action such as eliminating poverty, exclusion and intimate partner violence.

PROGRESS MADE

France is conducting a number of policies to contribute to Area of Action 1 in France's Road Map for the 2030 Agenda: “Work for a fair transition by eliminating inequality”.

*Four types of action taken are covered here: nationwide **access to digital technologies**, changing attitudes to **the position of women**, **social and solidarity economy** developments, and **ending poverty**.*

Priority 1.1 - Leave no one behind and ensure access to fundamental rights and basic services for all

Although the health crisis changed our habits with a **massive shift to digital tools, especially in public administration services, access to digital technologies nationwide continues to be a priority⁷ in order to “leave no one behind”**. The rollout of fibre optics by the Public Initiative Networks has gathered pace. From the second quarter of 2020 to the second quarter of 2021, the number of households connected to high-speed broadband grew 40% and the number of households connected to fibre optics rose 53% to reach some 7 million premises. The nationwide rollout of fibre optics will be complete by the end of 2025 at the latest. This is a success since 86% of people were connected to broadband in 2022, compared with just 64.4% in 2010, and a similar percentage of people were using the Internet regularly.

The digital divide is gradually narrowing. At the same time, a government initiative to bring public services closer to users saw France launch the network of France Services public service centres in 2019.⁸ These centres have brought public services to everyone's doorstep providing advice on administrative formalities and assistance with the use of digital services. A total of 2,379 public service centres were government-approved France Services centres as at the end of 2022. The second phase of the programme covering service quality and staff training will be rolled out in 2023.

These France Services centres have also been set up to tackle digital illiteracy found more particularly among the over-65s and the working classes, 20% of whom do not conduct any formalities on line. Young people are also affected by this digital illiteracy, which penalises them in terms of access to employment.

Solidarity initiatives have emerged or been ramped up to access services and opportunities with, in particular, the jeuxaider.gouv.fr platform launched in March 2020 in response to the health crisis.

The National Acceleration Strategy⁹ has been put together to support and bolster existing interministerial action plans **to ensure respect for all fundamental rights**. The strategy aims to scale up and accelerate France's efforts to achieve Target 8.7 of the SDGs – end child labour by 2025, and eradicate forced labour,

⁷ [Act of 27 December 2019 on engaging in local life and local public action](#) (Link to website in French)

⁸ [France Services, Local Public Services](#). (Link to website in French)

⁹ [France, Pioneering Alliance 8.7 Country](#). (Link to website in French)

modern slavery and human trafficking by 2030 – by working on three tracks: stepping up prevention by building stakeholder agency; improving victim protection by making progress with detection, care and assistance and compensation; and giving our action strong and ambitious European and international momentum. This strategy thereby sets the stage to drive forward work in this area by providing a framework for action to public authorities and stakeholders nationwide, in our European trade and investment policies, in our international cooperation for a socially and environmentally responsible economy, and in the supply chains used by multinational corporations established on French soil and in French public procurement.

Priority 1.2 - Make ending all forms of discrimination, especially gender-based, a priority for public and private spheres

The government is successfully pursuing its commitment to gender equality, particularly in the workplace. The indicators show that France has made progress with gender equality, ranking 15th out of 156 countries in the World Economic Forum's rankings for 2021.¹⁰

The number of women in senior management is growing: the rate observed in companies with 50 to 500 employees has virtually doubled in eight years. However, an analysis of the situation reveals that management committees are still lagging behind boards of directors in terms of the proportion of women: just over 18% of SMEs report plans to have more women on their management committee. This figure falls to 8% in companies with over 500 staff.

An obligation to have balanced gender representation among senior management and managing executives in all companies with 1,000 or more staff¹¹ was introduced in 2021 to step up female participation in the workplace. In the public administration in 2020, 39% of managerial positions were held by women, representing a higher rate than in the private sector where only 26.6% of women were in managerial positions.¹²



The Gender in Geopolitics Institute

creates SDG 5 content with a gender calendar and podcasts and webinars to inform the population about subjects ranging from feminist diplomacy to the development of the right to abortion worldwide.

The number of women in positions of responsibility has grown and France is in first place in the European ranking for boards of directors and executive committees, with 46.2% of women on CAC 40 boards and 46.1% on SBF 120 boards in 2021.

The Act for the Freedom to Choose One's Future Occupation, enacted in September 2018, saw an indicator set up to measure wage inequalities in companies with at least 50 employees. This Professional Equality index¹³ awards a score out of 100 based on five indicators: the wage gap, the gap in pay rises, the gap in promotions, the proportion of female staff given a pay rise following maternity, and the proportion of women among the top ten wage earners. In 2022, the average score was 86/100. A total of 56% of companies with over 50 staff obtained a score of over 75/100, a minimum below which companies are bound to take corrective measures.¹⁴

The obligation to measure these data is coupled with obligations to publish and disseminate the results. The overall score must be published visibly and legibly on the company's website by 1 March every year. At the same time, the results must be made available to the Social and Economic Council (CSE) via the business and social database and sent to the administration. Wage and employment inequalities are narrowing, but a wage gap of 15.8% persisted in 2020 and 28.1% of women were in part-time work as opposed to 7.6% of men.

¹⁰ [World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2022](#)

¹¹ [Act 2021-1774 of 24 December 2021 on accelerating equality at work.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹² [INSEE, Sustainable Development Goals National Monitoring Indicators, 2021 \(SDG 5: Proportion of women in managerial positions\)](#) (Link to website in French)

¹³ Available at: <https://index-egapro.travail.gouv.fr/>. (Link to website in French)

¹⁴ [Ministry of Labour, Full Employment and Economic Inclusion, Results of the Gender Equality in the Workplace Index 2022.](#) (Link to website in French)

Lastly, in a move to encourage female employment, paternity and settling-in leave doubled from 14 to 28 days on 1 July 2021. The purpose of this move was twofold: to provide better conditions for newborn development by enabling the second parent to be more in attendance in the newborn's early days and to help balance out household and parenting tasks between parents.

With respect to the elimination of gender-based violence in the workplace, in 2019, the Ministry of Culture made access to arts funding conditional on the introduction of effective procedures and tools to prevent and eradicate gender-based and sexual violence in all cultural and media sectors. This approach is integral to the promotion of a culture of equality not only at work, but also by extension in artistic and cultural output, which are powerful channels when it comes to building our belief systems and countering stereotypes. Gender-based and sexual violence remains a pervasive reality for women in the world of work where nearly four in ten women have been victims at least once in their careers.¹⁵

Particular attention is paid to countering gender-based stereotypes in schools and higher education to change the gender-based division of roles in society and prevent discrimination. The Interministerial Convention for Gender Equality in the Education System was renewed for five years in 2019 (2019-2024). The convention lays down a number of courses of action (staff training; transmission of a culture of equality and mutual respect; elimination of gender-based and sexual violence and online violence; and a careers guidance policy to promote a greater balance on courses and in occupations.

The Rixain Act¹⁶ (2021) also provides for a new indicator for the education system with the publication of an index of equal opportunities for women and men by the higher education establishments for each of their courses. The applicant selection boards for all higher education courses must also include at least 30% women.



In recent years, the number of women on scientific university courses has grown, accounting for 49.4% of students in sciences in 2022.^{17 18} However, behind this rate lay disparities between courses since women represented 86% of students on paramedical and social courses, but just 28.9% of engineering students¹⁹ at the start of the academic year in 2020, albeit an improvement over the rate of 26.5% in 2010.

In addition to the institutional environment, actions have been taken to encourage women to stand up for their rights. In March 2022, the Defender of Rights published a legal guide on pregnancy-based discrimination in private employment. This guide provides victims with legal tools and is designed to assist legal professionals with identifying and handling cases of pregnancy-based discrimination.

Discrimination is also being tackled at local level. In 2021 and 2022, the government granted €1.5 million to 48 associations working locally for access to rights through the development of outreach programmes, the prevention and elimination of violence against women, and the inclusion and economic empowerment of women.

¹⁵ [Towards Real Gender Equality, Key Points and Figures –2022 edition, p. 81. Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁶ [Act 2021-1774 of 24 December 2021 on accelerating equality at work.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁷ Up from 46.7% in 2016.

¹⁸ [INSEE, Sustainable Development Goals National Monitoring Indicators, 2021 \(SDG 5: Proportion of women on scientific higher education courses\)](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁹ [Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Gender Equality in Higher Education.](#) (Link to website in French)

Priority 1.3 - Ensure a better distribution of wealth and systematically include poverty in public policies to work for a fair transition

France continues to make progress with the development of new social and solidarity economy (SSE) measures and corporate social responsibility. In addition to the provisions promoted by the PACTE Act on the Action Plan for Business Growth and Transformation,²⁰ which encourages businesses to take a socially and environmentally responsible approach, the SSE is gaining full traction and the health crisis has proved fertile ground for it to flourish. The approach has been taken up by organizations and certain public services.

As a major focus of the SSE, the eradication of food waste is also supported by measures such as a national "anti-food waste" label to support and reward best practices by public and private players and the development of sector-

based standards (retail, food service industry, agrifood and production) including a list of label award criteria and an audit plan.

The government is also a signatory to the Too Good to Go pact signed by a coalition of players committed to clarifying the meaning of Best Before dates, harmonizing them and working together on the shared ambition to reduce food waste caused by Best Before dates. Spearheaded by Too Good to Go in 2018, the pact was officially launched in January 2020. The initiative delivers on ten commitments explained and formalized in a document drafted by Too Good To Go and the members of the pact's steering committee.

In the circular economy, the French Anti-Waste Act for a Circular Economy (AGEC) has driven the development of solidarity shops, associations already working on the ground often in association with third places. The role of thousands of recycling centres and waste sorting and recovery centres is recognized by the government as essential in creating inclusive jobs, meeting a demand for affordable products and reducing waste by repairing and recycling. The possibility for central and local government bodies to donate items has been opened up alongside a one-stop donation and swap platform for central government bodies.

The Reuse Fund was also created by the AGEC Act for the SSE sector to lengthen product use lifetimes. Launched in 2021, the fund supports the financing and development of social and solidarity economy reuse activities. Industries manufacturing electric and electronic products, furniture, textiles, sports items, and DIY and gardening tools will contribute 5% of their contribution to the extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme to these funds. Only certain sectors whose waste can be easily reused in a circular economy approach are eligible to benefit from this fund.



Global Compact France has developed the SDG Action Manager in cooperation with B Lab. The tool is a web-based impact management solution to enable businesses to take action on the SDGs through to 2030. It is available in English, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. The SDG Action Manager brings together B Lab's B Impact Assessment, the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals to enable meaningful business action through self-assessment and benchmarking. It is informed by the work and feedback of a range of stakeholders, including experts in corporate sustainability, civil society, UN and academia; and it is inspired by the Certified B Corp community and participating companies of the UN Global Compact.

²⁰ [PACTE Act for Business Growth and Transformation, 22 May 2019](#) (Link to website in French)

PROGRESSING

*Certain economic and social inequalities persist despite efforts that have significantly reduced insolvency, for example. These social difficulties mean that we need to stay the course towards 2030, in particular in French regions posting strong disparities in **employment and wage inequalities**. In addition, particular attention is paid to the **difficult situation of young people**, be they students or low-skilled, hard hit by the health crisis as much financially as in terms of their physical and mental health.*

Priority 1.1 - Leave no one behind and ensure access to fundamental rights and basic services for all

To take forward this work, the National Poverty Reduction Strategy provides for an increase in purchasing power by simplifying income support benefit claims and unlocking youth employment opportunities. This strategy is built on the conviction that poverty reduction is a matter of social investment policy extending beyond monetary benefits to the development of more services and support for underprivileged, low-income persons. In the coming years, this will entail pursuing the measures that work best and scaling up the action taken by a new move for solidarity to reduce poverty and essential household expenditure.

The French landscape remains mixed with poverty disparities also found at regional level. Seine-Saint-Denis, Aude and Pyrénées-Orientales post high poverty rates of up to 20%, rising to 30%-40% in Overseas France, while poverty stands at less than 10% in Savoie and Haute-Savoie, Yvelines and Vendée. The *départements* with major cities present the most marked income inequalities.²¹ However, the regional economy is showing signs of change as smaller cities have seen an upturn in attractiveness²²

expedited by the pandemic, even though its medium- and long-term effects remain to be seen. The figures show that employment dynamics have been slightly more upbeat in the smaller cities than in the conurbations.



The EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) funds Member States' recovery policies to help them recover from the social and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The RRF is set to reimburse €40 billion of the €100 billion French recovery plan. To benefit from this reimbursement, France's recovery measures must further gender equality and equal opportunities for all in keeping with the guidelines set by the European Commission for the drafting of national recovery and resilience plans explicitly referring to SDG 5.

Priority 1.3 - Ensure a better distribution of wealth and systematically include poverty in public policies to work for a fair transition

Income inequalities have remained stable over the last decade.

The average standard of living gap between the richest 10% and the poorest 10% (net of taxes and social benefits for a single person) is €4,288 per month. INSEE's latest estimates show the Gini coefficient and the D9/D1 interdecile ratio to be stable from 2013 to 2019 and even decreasing from 2018 to 2019. The rate of poverty in living conditions²³ fell slightly from 11.8% to 11.4% from 2013 to 2021.²⁴ Another positive point is the drop in insolvency which has halved since 2014 due in part to information campaigns.²⁵

²¹ [INSEE, France and its Regions, 2021 Edition](#). (Link to website in French)

²² [France Stratégies, The Revenge of Small Cities, Really?, January 2022](#). (Link to website in French)

²³ The rate of poverty in living conditions represents household well-being and their level of material restrictions.

²⁴ [INSEE, National Wealth Indicators \(Poverty Rates in Standards of Living\), 2022](#). (Link to website in French)

²⁵ [INSEE, Sustainable Development Goals National Monitoring Indicators, 2021 \(SDG 1: Number of Insolvencies\)](#). (Link to website in French)

CHALLENGES

*Ending poverty remains the priority to achieve a more inclusive society and “leave no one behind”. Despite considerable progress in certain areas in recent years, as mentioned above, living conditions, especially for the poorest, have deteriorated due to the pandemic and the increase in the cost of living. Work needs to be taken forward in line with the support already put in place by the government. This section presents the impacts of the pandemic and the persistent problem areas that call for attention to help the most vulnerable cope with the crisis situation, such as: **employment assistance**, access to **decent housing for all**, support to **maintain purchasing power** in an economic crisis, support for victims and families affected by **inter-generational tensions** exacerbated by the health crisis, and support for those affected by **violence against women**.*

Priority 1.1 - Leave no one behind and ensure access to fundamental rights and basic services for all

One priority for action is to tackle the situations of hardship encountered by young people and students as highlighted by the health crisis.

Some found themselves isolated in cramped housing, whether students or jobseekers, without income and often highly financially insecure with other vulnerabilities. Figures for 2020 reported by a student support association estimate that 31% suffered in terms of their mental health. This situation appears to be borne out by a 40% increase in helpline calls recorded in 2020²⁶ and a threefold increase in the number of people shopping at social supermarkets near university campuses.

The government has turbocharged its work on student mental health with a combination of actions to improve mental health problem prevention, care and first aid. The Student Mental Health programme was launched in March 2021 for students to benefit from up to eight sessions with a psychologist without any out-of-pocket expenditure thanks to the engagement of over 1,200 psychologists nationwide. Over 147,000 consultations were provided in this way.²⁷

Intergenerational tensions also appeared as a new subject on the agenda during the pandemic. As reported by the High Commission for Planning, the virus hit the elderly harder, forcing them into mentally exhausting isolation and postponing treatment considered to be less of a priority. Young people, less subject to the severe manifestations of the virus, may have felt forced to sacrifice years of their lives for the benefit of the populations more at risk. The COVID-19 crisis also exacerbated health inequalities with higher mortality among the most underprivileged.²⁸ INSEE reported 668,800 deaths in 2020, representing an increase of 55,500 over 2019, with uneven impacts nationwide. These figures subsequently fell with 660,136 deaths recorded in 2021. Aside from the episodes of mortality due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of deaths has been on an upward trend for the last decade due to demographic growth and ageing.

In housing, over 65% of the population qualify for social housing in France although some are owner-occupiers. The aim is for the government to house low-income individuals and families who cannot afford private-sector housing. The social housing policy aims to promote

²⁶ [Association Nightline in Les Échos, COVID-19: Harmful Effects on Young People, published 21 December 2020.](#) (Link to website in French)

²⁷ [French Senate Official Journal of 16 October 2022.](#) (Link to website in French)

²⁸ [French Directorate for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics \(DREES\), Social Inequality in the COVID-19 Pandemic: State of Play and Outlook, 2020 \(Link to website in French\)](#): “Although the Grand Est followed by the Greater Paris Region were the hardest hit regions (Map 3), within-region excess mortality was not homogeneous: the highest excess mortality rate in the Greater Paris Region in the week of 16 March was +51% in Seine-Saint-Denis, where it reached +290% in the week of 30 March to become the *département* with the highest excess mortality in France across all the weeks.”

neighbourhood social diversity and reduce local and regional inequalities. It is also working on housing or rehousing people living in accommodation facilities and in situations of deprivation. The social housing bodies receive direct and indirect public subsidies to build and manage social housing for people with means below a certain level and apply capped rents. Every year, the government sets the means-tested levels and rents for social housing. As regards social diversity, the local councils are also responsible for building social housing depending on their size and the tightness of the rental market.

It is also worth noting the issue of energy poverty,²⁹ in both mainland France and overseas France where needs are focused on cooling, which is a particularly significant item, especially in an inflationary environment. Energy poverty already concerned 10.5% of the French population or three million households in 2020.³⁰ The President of the National Energy Poverty Observatory (ONPE) reports that energy consumption had become a major cause for concern for 84% of the French population by 2021, and most worrying for the 18-34 year olds. An ONPE survey³¹ of energy poor households shows that these households' difficulties are caused by a combination of low, if not unstable/irregular incomes and heating energy-inefficient homes. A massive energy-smart housing retrofit campaign is therefore considered to be the main driver to lift households out of energy poverty. The *MaPrimeRénov'* bonus introduced on 1 January 2020 has become the main state aid measure for energy-smart housing retrofits. The measure was ramped up in 2023.³²

Priority 1.2 - Make ending all forms of discrimination, especially gender-based, a priority for public and private spheres

In addition to work on mental health issues, youth education, training and employment actions have been taken. In 2019, 36,000 or 5% of young people were still leaving higher education without a qualification.^{33 34} However, the situation prior to the COVID-19 pandemic was displaying a positive trend since the proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 not in education, employment or training had fallen to 11.4% in 2020 from 12% in 2015.³⁵ Youth employment remains a government priority, in particular via the "1 young person, 1 solution" plan deployed by the recovery plan. From mid-2020 to mid-2021, 1.8 million young people joined the programme, representing a 41% increase in one year.³⁶ The government is also upgrading its youth employment opportunities measures with the Youth Employment Contract (CEJ)³⁷ set to reach 400,000 beneficiaries in 2022.³⁸

The youth employment rate is on the increase again following a cyclical downturn in the second quarter of 2020 when it lost 1.7 percentage points. In mid-2021, the employment rate caught back up to the level observed in the first quarter of 2020 and, in the third quarter of 2022, reached a record high since INSEE started measuring the rate in 1975.

Social distancing measures in response to the health crisis drove up family tensions,³⁹ including violence against women, exacerbated by lockdown and furlough measures. By the

²⁹ Energy poverty relates to households that have to spend over 8% of their household income on energy.

³⁰ [National Energy Poverty Observatory \(ONPE\), Energy Poverty Scoreboard, 2022.](#) (Link to website in French)

³¹ [ONPE, Panel Survey – Energy Poverty Drivers and Brakes.](#) (Link to website in French)

³² [Ministry for the Energy Transition, Energy-Smart Retrofits.](#) (Link to website in French)

³³ [DEPP \(MENI\), The State of Education, 2022, Factsheet 33.](#) (Link to website in French)

³⁴ [Key Facts and Statistics 2022, Factsheet 7.24.](#) (Link to website in French)

³⁵ [INSEE, Sustainable Development Goals National Monitoring Indicators, 2021 \(SDG 8: Young people not in education, employment or training\)](#) (Link to website in French)

³⁶ [DARES Statistics Division, Who are the young people joining the "1 young person, 1 solution" plan? July 2022](#) (Link to website in French.)

³⁷ [Youth Employment Contract, Ministry of Labour.](#) (Link to website in French)

³⁸ [Economic, Social and Financial Report, 2023.](#) (Link to website in French)

³⁹ [Governed by the 28 December 2019 act on action against violence within the family](#) (Link to website in French)

time the health crisis lifted in 2021, the security authorities had registered 208,000 victims of violence committed by current or former intimate partners (an increase of 21% over 2020) at a time when people were speaking out and the forces of law and order were improving their handling of victims.⁴⁰ One-quarter of the cases reported concerned events prior to 2021. The proportion of reports relating to previous incidents (committed before their year of registration) hence rose from 18% in 2016 to 28% in 2021. Regarding femicide, 122 women were killed by their intimate partners in 2021, representing a relatively stable figure since 2016 (123 victims). With the exception of 2020 when there was a sharp drop, the number of intimate partner deaths still remained lower in 2021 than registered numbers for the previous 15 years. The registered number of victims of sexual violence is on an upward trend, which has sharpened since 2017 as victims have spoken out following #metoo. The number of victims of sexual violence registered by the security authorities hence rose by 11% in 2022 following a sharp rise of 33% in 2021. This increase came at a time of improved handling of victims by the forces of law and order, leading victims to report previous incidents of sexual violence. The proportion of sexual violence committed more than five years before being reported has risen sharply in recent years from 13% in 2018 to 16% in 2020 and 19% in 2022. The percentage is even higher for minors (19% in 2018, 23% in 2020 and 26% in 2022).⁴¹

The French institutions are working on combatting violence against women and children. The Criminal Justice Code for Minors was adopted in February 2021, introducing a two-step criminal procedure for fast-track legal action and an education programme geared more to minors. A fourth interministerial plan to prevent and eradicate violence against women has also been launched.

Priority 1.3 - Ensure a better distribution of wealth and systematically include poverty in public policies to work for a fair transition

France still needs to make progress with poverty reduction with 9.2 million people living below the monetary poverty line (set at 60% of median income) in 2019,⁴² accounting for 14.6% of the population, half of whom live on less than €885 per month.⁴³ France's goal for 2030 is to reduce the poverty and exclusion figures by 1.9 million people.



The impact of poverty on living conditions captures the difficulties encountered: 40% of the most underprivileged struggle to raise their standard of living compared with the population as a whole. Material and social deprivation concerned 13.1% of household individuals in 2020, although this figure is lower than the European average.

The government has introduced measures to support the most vulnerable with a labour market reform and a policy to make work pay and support purchasing power.

The National Poverty Prevention and Reduction Strategy presented in September 2018 was designed to drive forward equal opportunities with 35 measures budgeted at €8 billion through to 2022. A July 2022 strategy monitoring report⁴⁵ concluded that four of these measures **had been implemented in their entirety**: raising the in-work benefit, introducing supplementary healthcare cover (CSS), renewing the CSS for inclusion benefit scheme (RSA) recipients, and deploying 400 budget management advice bureaus. Note, however, that the strategy was developed before the health crisis and that many goals had to be revised accordingly.

⁴⁰ Ministry of the Interior, [Intimate partner violence registered by the security authorities in 2021](#), Interstat Analysis No. 53, December 2022. (Link to website in French)

⁴¹ Ministry of the Interior, [Insecurity and Crime 2022: A preliminary snapshot. Interstat Analysis No.4. January 2023](#). (Link to website in French)

⁴² INSEE defines an individual (or household) as poor when living in a household where the standard of living is below the poverty line. In France and Europe, this line is generally set at 60% of the median standard of living.

⁴³ A person is considered as poor in France when their monthly income is less than €885 or €1,102, depending on whether the poverty line is set at 50% or 60% of the median standard of living. This median standard of living corresponds to the level at which half of the population has less income and the other half has more. It is measured net of taxes and social benefits. For more information: www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/5431755?sommaire=5435421. (Link to website in French)

⁴⁴ Inequality Observatory, *Report on Inequalities in France*, 2020.

⁴⁵ [Committee for the Evaluation of the National Poverty Prevention and Reduction Strategy, July 2022](#). (Link to website in French)

The strategy was rounded out by a raft of emergency measures taken to ensure that the health crisis did not give way to a social crisis. And it was successful in doing so. During the COVID-19 crisis, the number of households qualifying for the inclusion benefit scheme (RSA) peaked at two million in November 2020 (up 8.2% over September 2019) and has fallen off since. On the economic front, household consumption of goods plummeted at the start of the health crisis and, despite resuming an upward trend, has not returned to its pre-pandemic level.⁴⁶ In 2021, final household consumption picked up 5.2% in volume following a historic nosedive of 6.7% in 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis.⁴⁷ More recent

figures present a downturn in household consumption of goods in December 2022 (-1.3% following +0.6% in November). This drop was due to the decrease in the consumption of food (-1.7%) and manufactured goods (-1.7%). Household energy consumption, however, rose 0.7%. House consumption of goods fell 1.9% in the fourth quarter of 2022. The government worked on a number of fronts to boost consumption and restore purchasing power to households with targeted tax measures such as €2 billion in tax cuts for eight million French citizens, measures to combat the high cost of living in Overseas France, and the extension of the interest-free loan eligibility criteria to facilitate home ownership.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ [INSEE, Household Goods Consumption Falls 1.3% in December 2022.](#) (Link to website in French)

⁴⁷ [INSEE, Household Goods Consumption Falls 1.3% in December 2022.](#) (Link to website in French)

⁴⁸ [French Government, Give Back Purchasing Power to Households.](#) (Link to website in French)

Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations

*proposed and held by the Open Diplomacy Institute on 22 May 2023,
open to members of France's 2030 Agenda Community
drafted by the Institute's committee*

Following a day of discussions, the Contributory Conference participants identified pathways towards delivering results in this Area of Action. Below is a summary of their contribution based on their exchanges as a supplement to the Voluntary National Review.

“Work for a fair transition by eliminating all forms of discrimination and inequality and guaranteeing the same rights, opportunities and freedoms for all”

① Systematically use SDG-based impact evaluations

We recommend that SDG-based impact studies become common practice in both the public sector (impact study upstream of a bill, regulatory decision, etc.) and the private sector (impact study upstream of an investment decision, management decision, etc.). This approach has started to develop with the testing of public finance “green budgeting”, which could be extended to all SDGs. Yet a constant normative effort should be made to systematically apply this approach – with tools such as those referred to in the first recommendation for Area of Action 5 and the fourth recommendation for Area of Action 6 – underpinned by ex-ante and ex-post checks to guarantee the validity and effective use of these impact studies in public and private decision-making.

② Tackle wealth inequalities as a decisive factor for a fair transition

We recommend that the definition of a fair transition be extended beyond income redistribution mechanisms, already very strong in France, to fully incorporate the redistribution of wealth accumulated in assets that underlie real “inequalities of opportunity”. We consider that these inequalities of opportunity represent a significant factor for democratic destabilization today in that they create a palpable feeling of social injustice to the point of undermining the French Republic’s promise of equal opportunities. We believe that preliminary wealth redistribution mechanisms could be created by scaling up share-based and cash-based profit sharing in businesses, but that the question of taxation in a fair transition needs to be addressed. We believe that these redistribution mechanisms could consequently encourage investment in the social and solidarity economy.

③ Launch a massive drive to scale up access to rights for all, in particular the most vulnerable populations

We stress the persistent and significant lack of access to and exercise of rights alongside lack of access to and use of public services in a highly redistributive country despite efforts made to eradicate this phenomenon. We therefore recommend that action be taken targeting the 10% poorest of the French population as a priority in order to provide sustained support for their administrative, legal, digital and financial empowerment so that they can fully exercise their civil and social rights. This outreach approach should be designed considering all the discriminatory biases that could undermine this effort. The public authorities are therefore encouraged to work in a more cross-cutting manner and more in partnership with civil society and to scale up the human and financial resources made available to frontline public services.

④ Develop a policy of exemplary sanctions for all forms of discrimination

We believe that the sense of impunity felt by perpetrators of discrimination is a serious factor for democratic society polarization whose impact on social cohesion could put a brake on, if not prevent, a fair transition. To uphold and consolidate the sense of social justice needed for the challenge of a rapid, strong and ambitious transition, we recommend revising the policy of civil and criminal sanctions applicable to discrimination of all kinds to make perpetrators liable to much harsher sanctions, including with respect to eligibility for public employment and political office.

⑤ Establish the right to access to drinking water as a fundamental right

Recognized as a human right by UN Resolution 64/292 adopted in 2010, access to drinking water must be adopted as such in French law. We recommend that this universal right be systematically put into effect by means of safely managed sanitation and water distribution services with the aim of an equitable distribution of resources geared to adaptation to climate breakdown. In implementing this recommendation, particular attention should be paid to people not connected to the water supply and overseas territories particularly vulnerable with respect to access to drinking water.

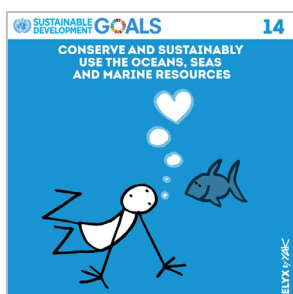
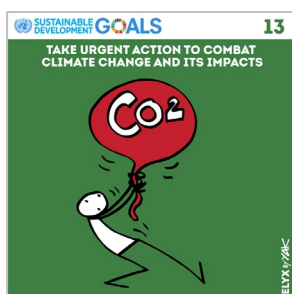
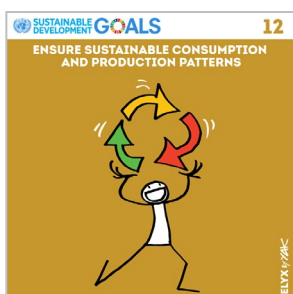
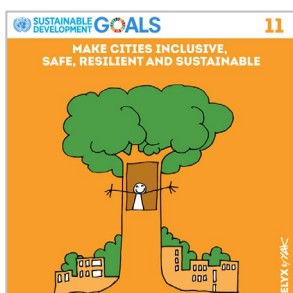
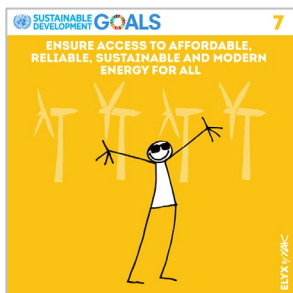
A model SDG 11 initiative

The Zero Long-Term Unemployment Districts project is designed to provide access to decent work for all by creating as many useful jobs as required that are respectful of humans and the environment. Designed by people excluded from employment and others working with them, steered by the association Agir Tous pour la Dignité Quart Monde (ATD Quart Monde) and joined by many players, the project galvanizes local districts by onboarding residents in and out of employment, business and social players, and public institutions. The conviction and commitment of all are behind the unanimous passing of two pilot test acts. Nearly 3,000 jobs have already been created in 60 active districts and 120 projects are in the pipeline. The project meets SDG 11 by improving the safety, attractiveness and sustainable development of local areas with new participatory governance practices. It encapsulates the ambition of a society that leaves no one behind. It also contributes to SDG 1 by providing a decent income, SDG 3 by improving prevention and treatment, and SDG 8 by creating non-relocatable economic activity. It is set to develop in all local areas that wish to take it up. It has already inspired similar projects in Belgium, Austria and the Netherlands.



In the project leader's words: "Our movement embodies the ambition to build an inclusive society with the poor. We are proud to be working alongside them in this project where everyone can take back control of their lives."

Marie-Aleth GRARD, President of ATD Quart Monde France



Area of Action 2

Effect transformative societal change with low-carbon, resource-efficient economies working in support of the climate, the planet and biodiversity

Key points

Considerable progress has been made with improving the quality of air and water. However, behind the largely satisfactory situation with access to water and sanitation, serious failings are to be found in certain regions (overseas France) and among certain vulnerable populations. Groundwater quality is therefore monitored for nitrate pollution and domestic and industrial wastewater, with algal blooms affecting more particularly the north-west of France. Marine protected areas have grown significantly in the last nine years and now cover 32% of the water surface area.

Work on polluting sectors (residential, transport and industry) has made a marked improvement to the quality of air in the major cities, even though work remains to be done for the smaller cities and to prevent pollution peaks. French forests, which play a vital role in air quality, have doubled in a century and currently cover 31% of the country, sequestering 70 million tonnes of CO₂ or 20% of annual greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) per year. A plan to replace endangered species is underway to counter the vulnerability of French forests to climate change.

Although national greenhouse gas emissions are trending downwards (-25% from 1995 to 2019), France is not yet on track to meet the target set by the national low-carbon strategy – a target that now needs to be raised in line with the European goals. Emissions in some sectors (transport) are still growing, as is France's carbon footprint, which includes emissions associated with imports of goods and services. Renewable energy has grown 70% since 2005 with public policy support. Energy poverty remains a focus of attention and a government priority in its recovery plan, which makes the green transition a strategic goal with €30 billion earmarked exclusively for green investments. Circular economy measures are also being deployed as additional drivers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Problem areas persist more particularly in the areas of biodiversity and land take. Life below water continues to deteriorate. Rising ocean temperatures, now very high in places (Mediterranean), and ocean acidification are causing major disruption to marine biodiversity with marked impacts on the food security of the people who depend on these resources. The disappearance of birds, with a loss of nearly 40% of farmland birds, is also a red flag and should put the quality of our land management under a microscope.

AREA OF ACTION 2

Effect transformative societal change with low-carbon, resource-efficient economies working in support of the climate, the planet and biodiversity

PROGRESS MADE

IN 2021



1 in 5
NEW CARS SOLD
WAS ELECTRIC
OR HYBRID



AIR QUALITY
IMPROVES IN MAJOR CITIES

RATE OF EXCEEDENCES OF THE REGULATORY LIMIT
FOR FINE PARTICULATE MATTER

IN 2011 **31.4%** → **0.0%** IN 2021



PROGRESSING

342.4
MILLION

TONS OF WASTE IN 2018
DOWN FROM 355.1 MILLION
TONNES IN 2010

≡ **5.1** TONNES OF WASTE
PER INHABITANT



PRIMARY PRODUCTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES

+ 70% SINCE 2005

WIND TURBINES

HEAT PUMPING

BIO-FUEL



OVER **32%** OF THE PRIMARY
PRODUCTION OF RENEWABLES IN FRANCE IN 2021
UP FROM 6% IN 2005

CHALLENGES

FROM
1989
AND
2021

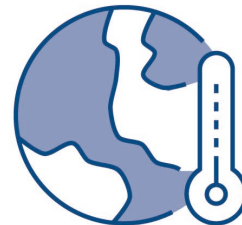
IN MAINLAND FRANCE
COMMON BIRDS
POPULATION DROPPED



-36%
ON
FARMLAND

-33%
IN
BUILT-UPAREAS

-2%
IN
FORESTS



THE OCEANS ABSORB
over **90%** OF GLOBAL WARMING



RISK FOR THEIR ECOSYSTEM

STATE OF PLAY

Area of Action 2 – “Effect transformative societal change with low-carbon, resource-efficient economies working in support of the climate, the planet and biodiversity” – covers, alongside the social and societal issues addressed above, **the green transition**, which is a French priority accounting for one-third of the recovery plan budget.

Understanding the interactions between oceans, climate and marine and terrestrial biodiversity is key to taking up these challenges. France is strongly committed to this point at both national and international levels, in particular with the holding of the One Ocean Summit in Brest in 2022. This event was held under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union to scale up commitments by all for an international treaty to ban/encourage a ban on single-use plastics and raise awareness of the importance of protecting 30% of the world's marine areas, sustainably managing marine resources, and decarbonising transport including shipping.⁴⁹

National progress with the green transition is imbalanced across the different subjects with good progress made in improving water and air quality, a rate of 32.5% of marine protected areas (MPAs),⁵⁰ a commitment agreed at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to decarbonize shipping by 2040, a road map for Zero Plastic Reaching the Sea in 2025, businesses with more of a sustainable production culture, and the prevention of marine pollution with a range of approaches and labels such as Green Marine, the SAILS Charter and the Ocean Approved label. However, problem areas remain such as in **biodiversity** and **land take**. The droughts of the summer of 2022 and the winter of 2023 also highlighted the need to rethink how we use and share water to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The chosen focuses illustrate SDG targets associated with this area of action in the form of Road Map priorities, concentrating on the most significant areas at the time of writing this report.

PROGRESS MADE

*Area of Action 2 covers the main **green transition policies**, including water and air quality improvement policies where progress has been made*

Priority 2.1 - Establish a binding legal mechanism for low-carbon, resource-efficient, circular economy and climate change adaptation goals

France has assumed its climate change action responsibilities. The first results are in.

A record of over one million French people have bought a cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicle benefiting from the new car-scrapping

bonus and green bonus. In 2021, nearly one in five new cars sold was electric or hybrid.⁵¹

On 1 January 2023, letting or renewing lets on the 200,000 most energy-inefficient housing units in the rental sector was prohibited by law. On 1 January 2025, a ban will be introduced on renting any housing units with Energy Efficiency Rating Band G. In 2028, the rental ban will extend to Rating Band F housing units followed by Rating Band E housing units in 2034. At the same time, a record of nearly one million French people have benefited from the *MaPrimeRénov'* bonus or housing retrofit

⁴⁹ [One Ocean Summit: Discover the Brest commitments for the oceans | Ministry of State for the Sea](#). (Link to website in French)

⁵⁰ [INSEE, Sustainable Development Goals National Monitoring Indicators, 2022 \(SDG 14: Marine Protected Areas\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁵¹ [Statistical Data and Studies Department \(SDES\), Registrations of Passenger Cars in 2021](#). (Link to website in French)

subsidies.⁵² One-third, or €30 billion, of the France Relance recovery plan has been earmarked for green actions.⁵³ This effort continues with the France 2030 plan. The number of safe cycle tracks has grown by one-third or 15,000 kilometres nationwide in five years⁵⁴ and two million French people have received up to €50 in Coup de Pouce Vélo bicycle repair aid.⁵⁵

To meet the challenge to design and build low-carbon energy-efficient living environments, the Environmental Regulation for New Buildings (RE2020) will gradually replace the 2012 Thermal Regulation with three main objectives: reduce the carbon footprint of construction, prioritize energy savings and low-carbon energy; and guarantee comfort during heatwaves. This new regulation came into force on 1 January 2022 for residential buildings (houses and blocks of flats) and on 1 July 2022 for office buildings and primary and secondary schools. It is one of the first regulations worldwide to introduce environmental performance requirements for new buildings with the building life cycle assessment. The RE2020 is designed to drastically reduce carbon emissions by gradually tightening limits through to 2031 in order to cut new building emissions by 30% to 40%.

France has reduced its gas emissions by 9.6% across all emissions sectors since 2017.⁵⁶

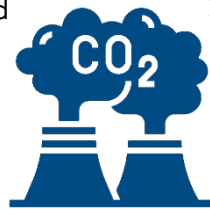
France is fully committed to the EU's European Climate Law of 30 June 2021, which sets a new binding climate target for 2030 to reduce net



The [Act of 22 August 2021 on combating climate change and strengthening resilience to its effects](#), passed on 20 July 2021, was the result of the work of the Citizens' Convention for the Climate. It made advances in five areas: consumption, work and production, travel, housing, food, and legal protection of the environment.

greenhouse gas emissions (i.e. net of removals by carbon sinks) by 55% compared to 1990 levels, and to the EU's Fit for 55 package of new and revised legislative proposals actioned by legislative texts that have virtually all been adopted.

At France's initiative, the European Green Deal includes tracks to reduce the carbon footprint of European consumption, including emissions associated with imports. In particular, an agreement was reached on the EU carbon border adjustment mechanism in December 2022⁵⁷ to defend the competitiveness of European businesses that take a sufficiently ambitious green transition approach and to prevent carbon leakage. Other regulations, such as the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products,⁵⁸ which was also the subject of an agreement at the end of last year, and the future EU regulation on ecodesign requirements for sustainable products,⁵⁹ will also contribute to curbing the carbon footprint of products placed on the European market.



⁵² [SDES, Progress Chart on Energy-Smart Retrofits in the Residential Sector | Statistical Data and Studies \(developpement-durable.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁵³ [France Relance: Green Transition | ministries for ecology, energy, territories \(ecologie.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁵⁴ [Cycle Tracks and Lanes by Géovélo](#). (Link to website in French)

⁵⁵ [The Bicycle Plan Celebrates its Third Anniversary | Gouvernement.fr](#). (Link to website in French)

⁵⁶ [CITEPA, Secten Report](#). (Link to website in French)

⁵⁷ [Government, European agreement on a carbon border tax](#). (Link to website in French)

⁵⁸ [EU Regulation – National Strategy for Deforestation-Free Imports \(ecologie.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁵⁹ [Green Product Design | Ministries for ecology, energy, territories \(ecologie.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

Priority 2.2 - Design and promote new sustainable low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular consumption, production and supply models

France is gearing up to transition from a linear model to a circular model.

It is one of the first countries worldwide to have introduced legislation to end single-use plastics with a binding road map to scale up recycling and eliminate waste, including in areas where this is a sizeable challenge (hygiene, food, medical instruments and supplies, etc.).⁶⁰ The rollback of disposable plastic has started and is moving forward with a ban on many single-use products that are particularly harmful for biodiversity such as cutlery, drinking straws, fruit and vegetable packaging, cotton buds, teabags, plastic bags, sandwich cartons, etc. The law provides for a range of binding goals: zero unnecessary plastic packaging by 2025 and zero single-use plastic packaging by 2040.

Waste reduction is a key focus. Unsold non-food items such as clothing can no longer be destroyed and have to be donated primarily to associations. Supermarkets and institutional catering establishments have to half their food waste by 2025.

Extended producer responsibility relates to systems and measures that extend a producer's responsibility for its manufactured goods to include the management of final and intermediate waste generated by the products that it manufactures or places on the market. It has been extended to a host of sectors: cigarette butts, boats, toys, sport and leisure, building materials, etc. **Construction sector producers and tobacco manufacturers will now be responsible for collecting and recycling their products at the end of their life cycle,⁶¹ taking action at source against illegal waste dumping, financing most of the costs** (cleaning) and scaling up the repair of items rather than throwing them away. Illegal dumps are also

liable to heavier fines and the possibility for the forces of law and order to immobilize the perpetrators' vehicles.



Consumers are better informed about product repairability,⁶² with the creation of a repairability index now displayed on smartphones, laptops, television sets and washing machines. The

index is gradually being extended to other products. Manufacturers are now bound to make it easy to access spare parts for repairs to counter planned obsolescence. Repairs will be encouraged by a fund launched this year for the government to pay set amounts towards repairing certain products (washing machines, toasters, smartphones and computers).

Advertising is now more tightly controlled. Motor vehicle advertising must now display carbon emissions classes.⁶³ Greenwashing (making a product appear more environmentally friendly than it is) is now considered to be a misleading commercial practice and carries heavy fines.⁶⁴

Global warming has made considerable changes to the water cycle in France in recent decades: episodes of drought such as in 2022, a drop in groundwater levels and changing rainfall patterns. These changes affect many sectors such as agriculture, energy, leisure and industry.

The protected part of our aquatic natural heritage has risen sharply in nine years from 3.83% in 2013 to 32.5% in 2022.⁶⁵ All of mainland France's coastlines are now the subject of a systemic approach.⁶⁶ France also pays particular attention to the exacerbation of ocean pollution by plastics, which are endangering species. The 2020 Anti-Waste Act for a Circular Economy⁶⁷ and the 2018 Act on Balanced Commercial Relations in the Agricultural and Food Sector and Healthy,

⁶⁰ [Anti-Waste Act for a Circular Economy | Ministries for ecology, energy, territories \(ecologie.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁶¹ [Order of 23 November 2022 on specifications for eco-bodies and individual systems in the extended producer responsibility sector for tobacco products - Légifrance \(legifrance.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁶² [Repairability Index | Ministries for ecology, energy, territories \(ecologie.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁶³ [Motor Vehicle Advertising Regulation | Ministries for ecology, energy, territories \(ecologie.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁶⁴ [Action to End Greenwashing in Advertising | Ministries for ecology, energy, territories \(ecologie.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁶⁵ [INSEE, Sustainable Development Goals National Monitoring Indicators, 2022 \(SDG 14: Marine protected areas\)](#) (Link to website in French)

⁶⁶ [Coastlines 2030, Strategic Coastline Documents](#). (Link to website in French)

⁶⁷ [Ministry for the Ecological Transition, AGEC Act](#). (Link to website in French)

Sustainable and Accessible Food For All (EGAlim) provide for a reduction in single-use plastics, one of the main causes of pollution in aquatic environments.⁶⁸

Another key element characteristic of “planetary boundaries”⁶⁹ is **the air we breathe**. Air quality efforts have been made in polluting sectors (residential, transport and industry). **City air quality is improving significantly** with measurements showing a substantial downturn in exceedances of the regulatory limit of PM₁₀ for fine particulate matter from 31.4% in 2011 to 0.0% in 2021.⁷⁰ Yet although the rate is zero for cities with over 250,000 inhabitants, work remains to be done to keep it at this level and to attain a similar rate for conurbations with 50,000 to 250,000 inhabitants. In 2021, the PM₁₀ rate in these smaller cities was 4.3%. Pollution peaks are also still occurring.



Low-emission mobility zones (LEZ-m)

have been put in place by 11 major cities with circulation restrictions on the most polluting vehicles and eligibility for a car-scraping bonus supplement (bonus paid when buying or leasing a clean vehicle). The most polluting vehicles, identified by Crit’Air windscreen stickers (5, 4, 3 and 2) may be subject to circulation restrictions when prefects impose road space rationing during pollution peaks.

Priority 2.3 - Use knowledge of ecosystem dynamics to accelerate recovery of biodiversity, nature and landscapes

Forests are key to maintaining good air quality and cover over one-quarter of France. They play a vital role⁷¹ in biodiversity, water protection, carbon capture and air quality. France has a rich natural heritage and French forests have doubled in a century to cover 31% of mainland France for a total of 16 million hectares, representing 10% of European woodland,⁷² 74% of which is privately owned.⁷³ Overseas France covers a further eight million hectares of woodland, mainly in French Guiana.

French forests sequester⁷⁴ 70 million tonnes of CO₂ (of the 8 billion sequestered worldwide)⁷⁵ every year, accounting for 20% of annual greenhouse gas emissions. Trees are suffering from climate change, a lack of water and insect infestations, but forests are an important carbon regulator due to the carbon absorption capacity of trees in their growth phase. Sustainable forest management hence promotes long-term carbon storage and the replanting of trees.

The France Relance recovery plan therefore aims to scale up planted areas, regenerate existing forests and restore degraded forests by replanting 45,000 hectares of forest that will capture an additional 150,000 tonnes of CO₂ every year. The President of the French Republic has announced that one billion trees will be planted nationwide over the next ten years.

⁶⁸ [Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Ending Plastic Pollution \(website\), published 4 May 2021](#). (Link to website in French)

⁶⁹ Planetary boundaries are the thresholds that humanity must not cross so as not to compromise the conditions conducive to human development and to be able to live sustainably in a safe operating space. This concept was proposed by an international team of 26 researchers and published in 2009 (Johan Rockström et al., *A Safe Operating Space for Humanity*, 2009).

⁷⁰ [INSEE, Sustainable Development Goals National Monitoring Indicators, 2022 \(SDG 11: PM₁₀ fine particulate matter in cities\)](#) (Link to website in French)

⁷¹ [Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Infographic – The Forestry Sector \(website\), published 16 December 2020](#). (Link to website in French)

⁷² [Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Infographic – The Forestry Sector \(website\), published 6 December 2020](#). (Link to website in French)

⁷³ [Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Forests and Woodlands \(website\), published 11 February 2020](#). (Link to website in French)

⁷⁴ For more information on natural carbon capture and storage, see: <https://www.fao.org/soils-portal/soil-management/soil-carbon-sequestration/en/>.

⁷⁵ [National Forestry Commission, Understanding the Forests \(website\), last accessed on 4 August 2021](#). (Link to website in French)

PROGRESSING

Following the above presentation of the “progress made” with air and water, **this section addresses the climate impacts of production and energy generation.** Although national GHG emissions are trending downwards, this appears to be less the case with France’s **carbon footprint**,⁷⁶ which includes emissions associated with imports of goods and services. Reduction efforts therefore need to take this factor more into account.

Although **renewable energies** have grown significantly, they failed to meet the European Union target of 23% by 2020. Note that the Green New Deal⁷⁷ sets the goal of reaching climate neutrality by 2050 and the emissions reduction target for 2030, set at -40% in the road map, has been raised to -55%. The target for transport is to achieve a 90% reduction in emissions by 2050.

Priority 2.1 - Establish a binding legal mechanism for low-carbon, resource-efficient, circular economy and climate change adaptation goals

Although the provisional figures for 2022 indicate that France is still on track with its 2019-2023 carbon budget,⁷⁸ **France aims to be the first leading nation to end the use of fossil fuels.** The magnitude of the changes required is such that huge momentum is needed throughout our society to speed the pace. The war in Ukraine stands as a reminder of the pressing need for a greater step change in the name of the environment, independence and sovereignty.

Such is the challenge of the energy and environmental planning task assigned to the Head of Government to action decarbonisation goals sector by sector, region by region. Enhanced steering will guarantee fluidity and nationwide engagement. This organization should also improve public policy consistency with a more systemic approach focused on the long term. The “environmental” aspect of green planning will moreover be interfaced with economic and social considerations, with sights set firmly on a fair and sustainable transition.



Focus on the government’s decarbonisation plan

As the climate and environmental emergency escalates, it is immensely important to effectiveness and credibility for the government to stand as a model. The government has been working on an energy savings plan for the public administration since early 2022, with the assistance of the European Commission. This low-carbon plan in response to the energy crisis has driven a huge step change in the level of ambition and engagement in this area. With a target of reducing energy consumption by 10% in two years, this plan will also cut government GHG emissions by 500 k tonnes of CO₂eq by 2024 (-5% compared with 2019).

The energy savings plan is the keystone of this decarbonisation strategy to achieve carbon neutrality in the French administration by 2050 as part of a broader government environmental planning approach.

⁷⁶ INSEE defines the carbon footprint as the amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs) induced by a country’s domestic final demand (consumption by households, public administrations and non-profit organizations and investments), whether the goods or services consumed are produced domestically or imported.

⁷⁷ [2021 European Green Deal](#)

⁷⁸ [CITEPA press release of 30 March 2023](#). (Link to website in French)

Making the low-carbon approach a long-term model transcending the economic climate is a priority whose principles and implementation have to be developed in association with all stakeholders and with support for those in need. Work in each sector covers the issues of jobs and skills and all the measures required to support their transformative change, another key cross-cutting focus of green planning. An unprecedented training effort is already underway for decision-makers and the administration. Lastly, work is actively underway on the investments needed for GHG emissions reduction and for the resilience and adaptation of society and the economy to the impacts of climate change.

The budget for 2023⁷⁹ includes a €4.5 billion increase in green expenditure, earmarked in particular for a €2 billion green fund⁸⁰ to be set up for local government.

Priority 2.2 - Design and promote new sustainable low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular consumption, production and supply models

France is taking forward its work for a circular economy with a set of workstreams. Lifespan labelling for household appliances will counter planned obsolescence. A target has been set for "100% recycled plastic nationwide" by 2025 by modernizing the sorting centres. Environmental labelling is set to be introduced in 2024 to help consumers with their choices,⁸¹ especially in food and textiles. Bulk and loose sales will continue to develop, reducing the use of packaging and waste. Supermarkets will have to sell at least 20% of their products loose or in bulk by 2030.

In 2020, the circular economy already accounted for 10% of GDP and was generating 14% of private waged employment.⁸² There has been an increase in circular economy projects in recent years,⁸³ raising hopes of an improvement in production models geared more to recycling and materials reclamation.

The recovery plan has earmarked €500 million to promote the circular economy by scaling up recycling and reuse, including of plastics, and modernizing the waste sorting centres. In 2018, France produced 342.4 million tonnes of waste, down from 355.1 million tonnes in 2010. This represents 5.1 tonnes of waste per inhabitant, a level close to the European average.⁸⁴

Two-thirds of this waste is recycled, leaving significant room for improvement in terms of less waste and more recycling of both organic and technological materials.



The energy savings plan

France launched its energy savings plan in October 2022 in response to the economic and energy crisis brought about by the war in Ukraine and the climate emergency. An enduring change in habits and behaviour is needed if France is to break out of its dependence on fossil fuels and reduce its energy consumption by 40% by 2050. Measures taken concern a range of sectors such as buildings, mobility, business, local government, sport and the government leading by example.

⁷⁹ [Green Budgeting: €4.5 billion increase in green expenditure in 2023, excluding the impact of the increase in energy rates | Ministries for ecology, energy, territories \(ecologie.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁸⁰ [Green Fund | Ministries for ecology, energy, territories \(ecologie.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁸¹ [Article 2 - Act 2021-1104 of 22 August 2021 on combating climate change and strengthening resilience to its effects - Légifrance \(legifrance.gouv.fr\)](#). (Link to website in French)

⁸² [Ministry for the Economy, The Social and Solidarity Economy](#). (Link to website in French)

⁸³ [Anti-Waste Act for a Circular Economy \(AGEC Act\) of 10 February 2020](#) and French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) call for projects and circular economy fund. (Link to website in French)

⁸⁴ [SDES, Datalab, France Environmental Assessment – 2020 Edition, May 2021](#). (Link to website in French)

Primary production of renewable energy has risen more than 70% since 2005. This growth is due mainly to the sharp increase in wind turbines, heat pumps and biofuels. These three sectors grew from just 6% of primary production of renewables in France in 2005 to over 32% in 2021,⁸⁵ accounting for 19.3% of final energy consumption in 2021.⁸⁶

In fossil fuels, France had only one coal-fired power plant still in operation in 2022 compared with 202 Europe-wide. However, a second coal-fired power plant was reopened temporarily in response to the winter 2022 energy crisis.

Here, the energy mix diversification policy supports the deployment of renewables and heat recovery systems.

France intends to scale up the development of sea-based wind turbines by building 50 offshore wind farms by 2050 accounting for 40 GW of total capacity and nearly 20% of electricity consumption in France. An offshore wind farm observatory will monitor progress made with integrated maritime spatial planning of marine uses, which is making tremendous strides with the validation of the strategic documents for coastlines in mainland France and overseas France basins.

Under the green planning measures, a five-year policy act on energy and the climate will set the goals and main priorities for action for the national climate and energy policy in line with the new European objectives.

In addition to energy, the transport and building sectors are also responsible for a large proportion of emissions. Key figures on transport reported in 2022⁸⁷ estimate that transport expenditure totalled €387.7 billion in 2020, representing a decrease of 13.6% compared with 2019 and with just 14.6% of this expenditure allocated to investment. Although the health crisis drove a downturn in private and public transport, the proportion of travel by private transport remains preponderant at 80.6% and work needs to be taken forward on public transport



IFREMER (French Institute of Marine Research and Exploration) is a major research player for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources. IFREMER conducts research on marine current turbines and ocean thermal energy with a view to providing island communities with access to these energies. The Institute also works with innovative and tech start-ups to support their development in a wide range of fields including the decarbonisation of shipping, the production of renewable hydrogen, the development of swarms of drones to improve our understanding of coastal areas, and bio-sourced UV production. In addition, IFREMER explores the outlook for French commercial fisheries in a context of global change to inform the public debate and strategic planning for the sustainable management of French fisheries.

promotion and coverage nationwide. Despite a steady downward trend in GHG-emitting vehicles, the transport sector represented 31% of national GHG emissions with 94% of carbon emitted due to road transport in 2019.⁸⁸ In 2021, one in five of all new cars sold was electric or hybrid.

All transport-related pollutants – aside from copper – were reduced from 1990 to 2019.⁸⁹ In GHG emissions reduction, in addition to low-carbon vehicles and transitioning to mass transit, the development of car sharing is a key game changer propelled by the wave of solidarity initiatives triggered by the crisis. The number of safe cycle tracks has also grown by one-third or 15,000 kilometres nationwide in five years. These two drivers (bicycles and car sharing) are priority government policies supported by plans with dedicated scaled-up resources (2022 and 2023).

⁸⁵ [SDES, Datalab, Key Renewable Energy Figures, 2022](#). (Link to website in French)

⁸⁶ [INSEE, Sustainable Development Goals National Monitoring Indicators, 2022 \(SDG 7: Final energy consumption and share of renewables\)](#) (Link to website in French)

⁸⁷ [SDES, Datalab, Key Transport Figures, 2022](#). (Link to website in French)

⁸⁸ SDES, [Key Transport Figures – 2021 Edition](#). (Link to website in French)

⁸⁹ [CITEPA, Inventory of emissions of atmospheric pollutants in France pursuant to the Geneva Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and the EU Directive on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, 2022](#). (Link to website in French)

To step up the transition to public transport, work is underway on new public transport lines in the major cities, in particular with the Grand Paris Express, tramway and underground train developments in Marseille and Toulouse, and hundreds of segregated mass transit infrastructures.

Following the submission of a report by the Infrastructure Steering Committee, a sharp upturn in investment in passenger and goods transport infrastructures under the green planning measures was announced for railways, waterways and ports alongside network regeneration to maintain service quality and supply.

The building sector accounts for 25% of GHG and 44% of energy consumption.⁹⁰ Energy poverty remains rife in housing with 6% of the population unable to keep their homes "at the right temperature" (19 °C)⁹¹ in 2021 compared with 4.9% in 2017.⁹² The National Energy Poverty Observatory (ONPE) estimates that over three million people are living in energy poverty today. At the same time, 60% of housing built prior to 2012 need energy-smart retrofits. The ONPE estimates that 5.2 million main residences are "energy sieves".⁹³

In addition, the Indoor Air Quality Observatory launched a national fact-finding campaign on the quality of air in homes in mainland France, measuring pollutants in indoor air from November 2020 to February 2023. These measurements are currently being processed. Regarding ventilation, building regulation checks have revealed a large number of non-compliant ventilation systems.

Energy-smart retrofits reduce the most vulnerable households' bills and meet a sizeable demand. Applications for social housing are constantly on the rise. Social housing quality,⁹⁴ materials and energy performance remain key to improve the budgets and health of residents and reduce emissions.

Substantial resources have been freed up by the recovery plan with €6.7 billion earmarked for energy-smart retrofits, including €2 billion for retrofits for private housing. The measures put in place will give low-income households a low-cost option to do the work required to reduce their GHG emissions and improve their comfort.

In water resources and to meet future challenges, the government has proposed a series of measures designed to redefine our water management policy in order to gear it to climate change in cooperation with elected officials and local and regional authorities. The aim of this water savings and efficiency plan is twofold:

- In the short term: prepare for summer 2023 and minimize water cuts;
- By 2030: reduce water consumption by 10% in all sectors.

The actions taken will steer us towards a more efficient, resilient and concerted system to manage and share this strategic resource.



Water resources depend on **natural reserves**. This is why particular attention is paid to groundwater. Water quality concerns call for close monitoring of discharges of pollutants from agricultural fertilizers, especially nitrates, and domestic and industrial wastewater that degrades aquatic environments due to a process of eutrophication associated with the algal blooms⁹⁵ affecting more particularly the north-west of France. This example shows the need for a systemic sustainable development approach to make sector policies more cross-cutting in areas such as the influence of agricultural discharges of pollutants on drinking water resources.

Wetlands play a vital role in water resource regulation, purification and flood prevention. They effectively provide climate change mitigation and adaptation services.

⁹⁰ [Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Environmental Regulation RE 2020, November 2020.](#) (Link to website in French)

⁹¹ [Service-Public.fr, At what temperature should a home be heated? \(website\), checked on 16 October 2019.](#) (Link to website in French)

⁹² [INSEE, Sustainable Development Goals National Monitoring Indicators, 2021 \(SDG 7: Inability to keep housing at the right temperature\)](#) (Link to website in French)

⁹³ [Vie publique, Energy poverty: 25% of households had difficulties paying their bills in 2021](#) (Link to website in French)

⁹⁴ [Housing Reform and Digital Rollout Act \(ELAN Act\) of 23 November 2018.](#) (Link to website in French)

⁹⁵ [Significant growth of algae due to the eutrophication of their environment.](#)



The French Water Partnership (PFE) has developed a *Water4allSDGs* open-access application in French and English to detect and roughly assess in less than an hour the impacts of a water-related action on all the targets of the 17 SDGs. The application provides a concrete, operational approach to the 169 targets in a way that respects the systemic value of the 2030 Agenda and it makes the 2030 Agenda operational for water players worldwide. The possible replicability of this first application to other areas opens up interesting opportunities.

In the 4th National Wetlands Plan 2022-2026, a key component of the 2030 National Biodiversity Strategy, the government undertook to restore 50,000 hectares of wetlands by 2026, to purchase 8,500 hectares of wetlands and to create new protected areas including a twelfth national reserve entirely for wetlands.

Setting up new economic sectors calls for an intense innovation, co-construction and information sharing effort on the part of all players. Transformative change for key sectors of our economy through technological and industrial innovation is **the ambition of the France 2030 plan, which takes up the major challenges of our time, in particular the green transition**, with a massive investment plan to hatch the future technological champions and support the transitions of our sectors of excellence: energy, motor vehicles, aeronautics and space. France 2030 earmarks nearly €30 billion for the green and energy transition, mainly for the decarbonisation of the economy. It will apply the principle of Do No Significant Harm to the environment.



ASTEÉ (French association of water and waste professionals) disseminates and promotes water-related SDGs and targets to French sector member professionals. Its main means of promotion is to hold meetings on the SDGs, generally at annual congresses.

Priority 2.3 - Use knowledge of ecosystem dynamics to accelerate recovery of biodiversity, nature and landscapes

The 2030 National Biodiversity Strategy actions France's commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It covers the period from 2022 to 2030, building on the first two strategies covering 2004-2010 and 2011-2020. Its purpose is to reduce pressure on biodiversity, protect and restore the ecosystems and drive transformative change in order to reverse the decline in biodiversity.

The strategy is based on three principles:

- Efficient use of natural resources;
- Consistency of action, whether in public policy and partnerships with the private sector or at local, national or international intervention level;
- Operationality, by taking concrete actions that will drive the changes needed for the green transition.

France is the first country to have developed a strategy to reduce and subsequently end the impact of French imports on deforestation by 2030. Products containing palm oil and soya can no longer be used in biofuels.

Recovering biodiversity calls for the rollback of land take, which has an unprecedented level of support: the recovery plan provides for a fund of €750 million for the redevelopment of industrial areas to prevent urban sprawl. This fund has since been supplemented by additional green fund financing.

The rewilding fund has hence been deployed as one of the drivers to smooth the way for French regions towards the green transition and recovery of biodiversity. In addition to the transition agenda, the fund also meets a demand from French society for "nature in the city".

The fund finances climate change adaptation solutions based on the presence of nature in urban environments: rewilding of land and urban areas, presence of water and aquatic settings in urban environments, and greening of buildings. Just two months after its launch, this extremely popular fund had already received 831 applications for a total sum of €428 million and the rewilding of an estimated 700 hectares.

With an average rate of 1.7 hectares rewilded per million euros requested by applicants, the measure should largely exceed its target of 100 hectares rewilded in 2023. In addition, the construction of new shopping centres on natural land is now banned.



France now conducts an evaluation of the environmental impacts of budgetary and tax revenue and expenditure ("green budgeting"). Green budgeting, a commitment made at the 2017 One Planet Summit, presents a breakdown of 2021 public expenditure based on six criteria: fight against climate change, adaptation and risk management, circular economy, waste management, pollution prevention and biodiversity protection. A *Report on the Environmental Impact of the Central Government Budget* is produced each year regarding the environmental effects of the budget act.

This report is the first of its kind worldwide. It ensures that public policy steering mainstreams environmental considerations and it measures the budget's compatibility with France's commitments to the Paris Agreement. The government has also undertaken to prioritize sustainable procurement with the 3rd **National Action Plan for Sustainable Public Procurement for 2021-2025.**

CHALLENGES

This section focuses on state of play with biodiversity⁹⁶ and one of its destabilizing factors in the form of urban sprawl.

Priority 2.1 - Establish a binding legal mechanism for low-carbon, resource-efficient, circular economy and climate change adaptation goals

The 2019 Energy-Climate Act⁹⁷ provides for a Pluriannual Policy Act on Energy and the Climate (LPEC) to set five-year goals and priorities for action for the French energy and climate policy.

The first such pluriannual policy act is due to be passed in 2023. The National Low-Carbon Strategy 3 (SNBC) and the 2024-2033 Multiannual Energy Plan (PPE) should be adopted in the year following the enactment of the act to implement its guidelines. These three documents – alongside the 3rd National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PNACC) – will form the future French Energy and Climate Strategy (SFEC).

Priority 2.2 - Design and promote new sustainable low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular consumption, production and supply models

The government has launched a consultation on the possibility of introducing a deposit return scheme for bottles and alternative solutions. The 2020 Anti-Waste Act for a Circular Economy provides for a decision on the deployment of a deposit return scheme to be made in June 2023.

The purpose of this consultation, from 30 January through to June 2023, is to table the conditions for the possible introduction of a deposit return scheme based on the opinions of the different structures invited to take part. The Minister of State unveiled the method and timetable for this consultation at the launch meeting.

The contribution of French research

French climate change research focuses on three workstreams gradually developed over time. **Climate science has developed to understand the physical processes controlling the climate and its spatial and temporal variabilities.**

It is based on long time-series observation, laboratory investigation and experimentation programmes, whose findings are incorporated into sophisticated digital models. France is developing two major climate models based on work by two leading research clusters in Paris (Institut Pierre Simon Laplace, IPSL) and Toulouse (Météo-France and associated laboratories).

As this modelling work has progressed with the qualification and quantification of future global warming, research has also started to focus on the impacts of global warming at all scales, from local to planetary level, focusing first on impacts on resources (water and plants) followed, more broadly, by the entire biosphere and then including human societies. The researchers are also working on research into mitigation and remediation.

Priority 2.3 - Use knowledge of ecosystem dynamics to accelerate recovery of biodiversity, nature and landscapes

Life below water continues to deteriorate with an unfavourable conservation status reported for nearly 76% of habitats studied between 2013 and 2018. Nearly 60% of the 642 assessments conducted of species living in aquatic environments between 2013 and 2018 found them to have a poor conservation status as opposed to just over one-quarter with a good conservation status. Just 8% of the habitats and species assessed between 2013 and 2018 presented an improvement compared with the previous five-year period.⁹⁸

⁹⁶ [Act for the Recovery of Biodiversity, Nature and Landscapes of 8 August 2016](#). (Link to website in French)

⁹⁷ [Energy-Climate Act | Ministries for ecology, energy, territories \(ecologie.gouv.fr\)](#) (Link to website in French)

⁹⁸ [SDES, DataLab, Rare and Endangered Biodiversity: little improvement since 2007, 2020](#). (Link to website in French)



Close attention needs to continue to be paid to the oceans, which absorb over 90% of global warming⁹⁹ to the detriment of the balance of their ecosystem. France boasts an extraordinary wealth of marine

biodiversity with 240,000 listed marine species.¹⁰⁰ However, pollution is threatening this biodiversity. Marine pollution rose by 9.3% from 2012 to 2017, calling for behavioural changes in all spheres of society.

Terrestrial ecosystems are exposed to a loss of biodiversity, the destruction of natural land habitats, deforestation, intensive farming practices, urbanization and growth in international transport, but also illegal trade in wild species transiting through the European Union¹⁰¹ that give pathogenic microbes more of an opportunity for contact with animal, plant and human species and therefore increase the risks of epidemics, if not pandemics.

Terrestrial biodiversity is an asset in France, which is one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries. Policies are in place to protect terrestrial biodiversity, in particular with the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy. In 2022, France was protecting 31.07% of its natural land spaces (mainland and overseas France). We have already met the 2030 protection goal set by the Global Biodiversity Framework. These results will be scaled up by the implementation of the 2030 National Strategy on Protected Areas.

The French Natural History Museum reports that biodiversity reserves are developing: some taken land and brownfield sites¹⁰² (quarries, industrial wastelands, agricultural brownfields, etc.) can flourish with plant and animal life.¹⁰³ Heritage sites play a role in this effort. A 2016 act established the system of "national estates" designed mainly for the conservation, if not restoration in the long run, of the land unity of estates presenting an exceptional connection with the history of the Nation. The first 16 national estates, soon to be followed by others, are inalienable.

In 2021, France set goals to curb the consumption of natural, agricultural and forest areas. The government plans to halve the current rate of land take by 2031 and reach the target of "no net land take by 2050".

The importance of maintaining agricultural and natural areas is such that urban sprawl and land take are two red flags. Land take is currently growing faster than demography (1.4% per year for population growth of 0.5% from 2006 to 2015).¹⁰⁴ **It is vital to curb urban sprawl in order to conserve agricultural and natural land and increase the country's food self-sufficiency.** The green planning agenda includes rethinking urban development and effectively reducing land take. Urban sprawl could be curbed by targeted densification and town planning actions following the lead of the government's Town Centre Action Programme, which has been working with 222 towns since 2017.

⁹⁹ [IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C, 2019](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁰⁰ [Fondation de la Mer, Marine Diversity](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁰¹ [WWF, Illegal trade in wild species: WWF France calls on the French logistics and transport sector to rally against this scourge, published 24 April 2020](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁰² An estimated 60% of biodiversity is found on wastelands

¹⁰³ [Audrey Muratet, Nathalie Machon, Frédéric Iguet, et al., The Role of Urban Structures in the Distribution of Wasteland Flora in the Greater Paris Area, France, 2007](#).

¹⁰⁴ [AGRESTE \(Ministry of Agriculture and Food\), Dossier 3: Land cover from 1982 to 2018, 2021](#). (Link to website in French)

Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations

*proposed and held by the Open Diplomacy Institute on 22 May 2023,
open to members of France's 2030 Agenda Community
drafted by the Institute's committee*

Following a day of discussions, the Contributory Conference participants identified pathways towards delivering results in this Area of Action. Below is a summary of their contribution based on their exchanges as a supplement to the Voluntary National Review.

“Effect transformative societal change with low-carbon, resource-efficient economies working in support of the climate, the planet and biodiversity”

① Introduce systematic reporting to make all forms of organization accountable for effecting transformative change

We regret that extra-financial reporting is currently legally binding in France solely for companies with over 500 employees. We recommend that this requirement be made compulsory for all kinds of organization and based on a more integrated approach, like the SDGs. We believe that this is necessary to steer public and private financial flows towards fully responsible investment. We believe that the extra-financial reporting systems should be designed to encourage investment in circular models in the spirit of SDG 12. We recommend that the publication of such reporting also be made a legal obligation to identify the actual contribution of each organization to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

② Hold a citizens' convention on the end of consumerism

Building on France's encouraging greenhouse gas emissions results, we encourage the authorities to take a more holistic approach to the environmental footprint based on planetary boundaries, which would effectively call into question the very foundations of mass consumption. To this end, we advocate the creation of a citizens' convention to consider all actionable and acceptable drivers to reduce the environmental, social and economic damage caused by consumerism and promote sustainable green consumption. The Convention would explore in particular all the normative, legislative and regulatory means along with the tax and administrative policing means that could be used to address these problems in depth, not forgetting constitutional limitations that might prevent the accomplishment of such measures. Even without such a citizens' convention, it is imperative to urgently re-assess the effectiveness of measures governing advertising for products harmful to the environment and health as well as all forms of direct and indirect public subsidies for such products. It is also necessary, in the short term, to consider taxation conducive to the circular economy that would encourage eco-design, reuse and refurbishing, and the emergence of economic models based on these rationales.

③ Scale up measures targeting sectors key to accelerating the transition

Certain key sectors are decisive to accelerate the green transition.

- a. In the construction sector, we recommend taking all useful tax measures to incentivize the use of bio-sourced and geo-sourced building materials and the development of the sector's circularity (e.g. reduced VAT rate). We are also mindful of the consistency of legislation and regulations that will either facilitate or hinder the pursuit of these objectives (e.g. in the re-use of materials and building safety).
- b. In the transport sector, we recommend taking all useful tax and regulatory measures for the rapid development of car sharing and the massive deployment of electric cars. We also propose that car-scraping bonuses should be more targeted for rural populations. In addition, we insist on the need to heavily tax kerosene for commercial flights within the European Union.

- c. In the food industry, we expect a transformative change to the French agricultural model guided by an initial goal of 50% organically farmed agricultural areas by 2030 and a second goal of ending intensive stockbreeding and industrial fishing by the same date. Other recommendations are made in this area in the section on the 4th Area of Action in the French Road Map for the 2030 Agenda.
- d. In general, we encourage all mechanisms to measure the environmental footprint of services and products to enable price internalization of negative externalities in order to develop responsible production and consumption.

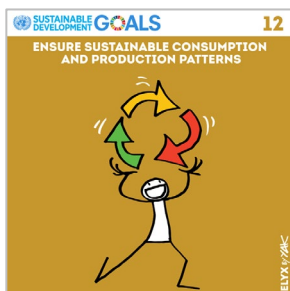
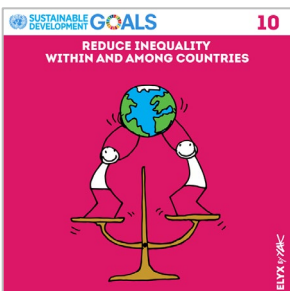
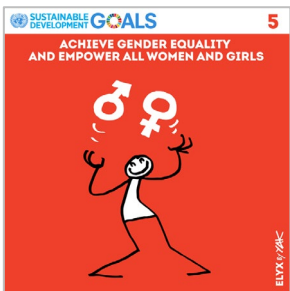
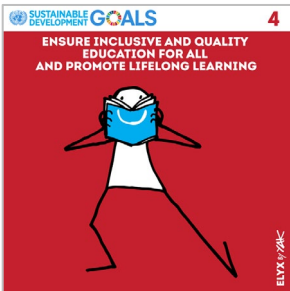
A model SDG 9 initiative

The Farm3 engineer teams are the first in the world to have developed a vertical farm for the forestry sector: the FarmTree project! It is a 4.0 tree nursery for the local production of more drought-resistant species requiring less water and no pesticide. Over 5,000 super trees grow in less than 20 m² without damaging the soil or biodiversity. The FarmTree's high level of automation has been specially designed for nursery workers to reduce the strain of the work and further gender equality in a still highly male sector. Its goal is to create technology capable of sustainably replanting our forests. In cooperation with the National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology and the FCBA Technological Institute (forests, cellulose, building timber and furniture), the machine is energy-optimal. The technology was designed essentially for France's forests, but Farm3, a France 2030 award winner for this project, has the flexibility to be able to work with all types of species based on a preliminary accelerated research phase. The ambition is to modernize all tree nurseries in countries where forests are an environmental and economic concern. By securing and renewing the planet's forests, the world's second lungs, Farm3 is securing a vital link for humanity



In the project leader's words: "Technology should serve the planet for the common good and not enslave it for its comfort. Farm3 has rallied a team around a project: resistant trees for resilient forests."

Romain SCHMITT, Managing Director of Farm3



Area of Action 3

Leverage education and lifelong learning to gear behaviour and lifestyles to our future world and sustainable development challenges

Key points

Education at any age is a key driver in training, informing and encouraging action for a sustainable society. Tomorrow's world needs educated citizens fully aware of the environmental and solidarity agenda in France and worldwide. It also needs a population with skills geared to the new, more sustainable production and consumption models and with healthy lifestyles at all ages. Access to an SDG-inclusive education empowers everyone at all ages to be 2030 Agenda players.

Education is also the ground where crucial sustainable development questions come to light and play out, often from early childhood, such as equal access to knowledge, employment and health, gender equality, diversity and social cohesion. In certain rural and overseas French areas, these issues are matters of acute concern. As stated in the French Constitution, "The Nation guarantees equal access for children and adults to instruction, vocational training and culture." The French Republic's schools hence play a key role in taking up these challenges.

Education is a cornerstone of the French strategy to meet the targets of the 2030 Agenda. The attention that France pays to education as a cross-cutting driver for sustainable development can be seen from its policies and actions such as reducing the school starting age from six to three years old, school dropout prevention policies, the priority education policy (including reducing class sizes in the first two years of primary school in priority education zones), the sustainable development education policy, and school attendance for pupils with disabilities including local school inclusion units and special educational needs teaching assistants.

AREA OF ACTION 3

Focus on lifelong education and training to change behavior and lifestyles that are adapted to our future world and sustainable development challenges

PROGRESS MADE

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

SINCE 2019 FRANCE HAS MET **4** TARGETS SET BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



100%
OF YOUNG CHILDREN AGED 3 AND OVER BENEFIT FROM EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SCHEMES



7.8%

OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD WITH NO QUALIFICATIONS OR TRAINING
> DOWN 1.4 POINTS SINCE 2015



69.4%
OF YOUNG GRADUATES FROM UPPER SECONDARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE DURING THEIR STUDIES



50.3%

OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN FRANCE ARE HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES



PROGRESSING

AT UNIVERSITY
NEARLY 1 IN 2 STUDENTS
IN SCIENCES IS A WOMAN (2022)



IN 2022
10,000
SCHOOLS ACCREDITED OR ENGAGED IN A SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT APPROACH



CHALLENGES

TO MEET **THE 2030 AGENDA**,
HIGHER EDUCATION NEEDS TO PRIORITIZE



IMPACTS ON THE **ENVIRONMENT**
SOCIETAL AND **GOVERNMENTAL** ISSUES
TAKING **ACTION**

IN 2018

8 IN 10
YOUNG PEOPLE
(UNDER 15)
WERE PROFICIENT IN
READING



STATE OF PLAY

The French education system is based on the principles of free and secular education, freedom of education, and mandatory school attendance for all French and non-French children aged 3 to 16 residing in France. In applying these principles, the government contributes to the equality of opportunity and ending social and regional inequalities of academic achievement. Government action to eradicate social inequalities focuses on inclusive education and access to education on an equal footing for all girls and boys.

The education and training system has a raft of goals to meet: overall performance, combating inequalities, employability, etc. To take up these challenges, the French education system as a whole (the national education system alongside agricultural training, maritime training, etc.) takes a structural approach to **defining school objectives, funding for education** (from early childhood to higher education), the curriculum taught at each level and the **organization of the education system**.¹⁰⁵ In addition to teaching basic skills and disciplines, a number of cross-cutting subjects contribute to shaping our future informed, responsible citizens. Among these, **education for sustainable development** (ESD) is key to building an understanding of the relations between environmental, economic and socio-cultural issues. It is deployed by the Ministry of National Education in all primary and secondary schools in France and has been scaled up in recent years. Education for sustainable development is also highly developed in the agricultural training system, which trains future farming players.

PROGRESS MADE

*France implements different public policies in schools and in the vocational training and higher education systems to contribute to Area of Action 3 of France's Road Map for the 2030 Agenda – "Leverage education and lifelong learning to gear behaviour and lifestyles to our future world and sustainable development challenges". This section presents the following **positive outcomes achieved by France**: mandatory education from the age of three, reduction in the rate of young people with no qualifications, the rate of higher education graduates and apprenticeships. France is also making progress with access to schools for pupils with disabilities.*

The government is stepping up its action to roll back social inequalities

Mandatory education from the age of three introduced at the start of the 2019 academic year firmly establishes the educational importance of nursery school in the French education system and underpins the decisive role of pre-primary education in reducing inequalities from early childhood.



Government action is also taking forward the priority education policy to ramp up education resources and efforts in areas with social and economic difficulties. In recent years, this action has been seen at work in the policy to reduce class sizes in the last year of nursery school and the first two years of primary school in priority

¹⁰⁵ [France Stratégie, 2017-2027 What Are the Education Priorities?, 2016.](#) (Link to website in French)

education zones. This action now concerns over 360,000 pupils and is starting to bear fruit in reducing achievement gaps between priority education zone pupils and other areas.

In addition to priority education, France is delivering on its commitment to more effectively address the social realities of each area, whether rural or urban. This policy is based mainly on two key principles:

1. Progressive resource allocation to meet schools' needs;
2. Enhanced partnerships and local cooperation, particularly with local and regional authorities.

Other actions are underway, including:

Work on more of a social balance in schools (introduction of a coaching and cultural programme in the most underprivileged schools; increase in the rate of pupils on scholarships in the most privileged secondary schools; and changes to school catchment areas with the development of multi-secondary school sectors).

The 307 schools awarded the Boarding School for Excellence label in 2021 will receive support to further their pupils' academic achievements and personal growth.

The development of the *Cordées de la Réussite* higher education entry programme is reducing self-censorship among pupils furthest from information on higher education and is raising their level of ambition.

Priority 3.1 - Mainstream sustainable development in the education system

French education policy is designed to develop **cross-cutting interdisciplinary education** based on school syllabuses covering all the disciplines and concrete educational projects involving the pupils.

Education for sustainable development is taught in all education establishments (general, technological and vocational) **from nursery school to the end of upper secondary school**. The chosen approach is to teach both



Education for sustainable development has become a pillar of agricultural training policy today.

The **National Education Network for Sustainable Development (RNEDD)** supports transformative projects by schools for sustainable development and education for sustainable development as much in cross-cutting and systemic areas (e.g. general management of schools' sustainable development strategies and teaching) as in specific subjects and targeted focuses (eco-responsibility, energy, water, food, landscapes, biodiversity, inclusion, transport and agriculture) in cooperation with local and regional actions (regional councils, regional nature parks, *Pays* cooperative areas, etc.) and action by associations. This network contributes to the emergence of "planetary citizenship" to include the issues of "republican citizenship" and the necessary mainstreaming of climate change and the green transition.

Student involvement from a social and educational perspective can be promoted by the creation of the [optional "citizen's engagement" unit](#) for agricultural courses.

environmental issues and their social and economic aspects through the sustainable development lens.¹⁰⁶

2019 saw the launch of the scale-up of this cross-cutting education policy. Included as an article in the French Education Code for the first time in 2013, education for sustainable development was ramped up by the Act of 26 July 2019 for Trust-Based Schools followed by the 22 August 2021 Climate and Resilience Act, **which consolidated the schools' education for sustainable development mission**. This act also reaffirmed **the state system's responsibility for content, the teaching of content and deployment in schools**.

¹⁰⁶ [Ministry of National Education and Young People, Eduscol Website, ESD Page](#). (Link to website in French)

In the education community, two texts were published in 2019 and 2020¹⁰⁷ to structure the education for sustainable development policy and align it with the 2030 Agenda in connection with the September 2019 adoption of France's Road Map for the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the government published a manual in January 2021 to help the education community and school partners by explaining the issues and concepts and presenting concrete examples.¹⁰⁸

School syllabuses (primary and secondary) were revised in 2019 and 2020 to scale up biodiversity and climate concerns in a range of disciplines and sustainable development in general.

Environmental pupil representatives have been in place since the start of the 2020 academic year. Environmental pupil representatives are elected in every secondary school class. They play a role in training and informing all pupils. They conduct environmental and sustainable development projects in their schools. They are assisted by the education community and external partners.

Successful projects are many and varied: food waste reduction, energy consumption reduction, biodiversity observation and protection, playground greening, waste reduction and sorting, repair and reuse, eco-solidarity shops, solidarity actions for the elderly and the poor, etc.

In-service teacher training has been powered up to underpin this move. Education for sustainable development is an integral part of the National Training Plan (PNF), and a Resources Forum for Education for Sustainable Development (FOREDD) has been held every year for the last 15 years with the participation of national education system's public and association partners. Other national training programmes address these areas in the different disciplines.

Since 2021, the government has been scaling up the National Training Plan with new national training courses added to the FOREDD Forum designed to train teaching staff and head teachers (cross-cutting training) to build a common culture of education for sustainable development. The regional education authorities then roll out these courses for teachers in their areas geared to local needs.



The ELYX Foundation promotes 2030 Agenda uptake and implementation.

In an upbeat inclusive educational approach, presentations of the 17 SDGs and a certain number of targets have been shared worldwide in immediately understandable non-verbal language.

Every year, the ELYX Foundation publishes a 10TOGO chapter in order to make the issues less complicated and to make everyone feel more comfortable about the challenges of the decade.

10TOGO unravels the discussions of international meetings and links them to the 2030 Agenda, through infographics, exhibitions, virtual spaces and poster campaigns.

10TOGO is integrated into the official resources of the French national education system and within the associated schools of the UNESCO network. More generally, 10TOGO is widely and freely used by training organisations, associations and companies... not to mention all curious citizens.

Many tools are available: infographics for a broad understanding of each subject, quizzes in the form of Sulitests to assess sustainable development knowledge, immersive games, and activities for adults and children to do alone or in groups.

¹⁰⁷ [Circular of 24 September 2020, Scaling up Education for Sustainable Development – 2030 Agenda](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁰⁸ [Ministry of National Education and Young People, Vademecum "Vision 2030 Education for Sustainable Development", 2021](#). (Link to website in French)

Teaching resources are developed and made available to teachers on the Eduscol gateway providing resources in various educational fields, including a section specially dedicated to education for sustainable development.¹⁰⁹

Over 20 national partnerships were signed or scaled up in 2021-2022, in particular in the areas of biodiversity, the climate and the oceans. For example, a partnership with the Tara Océan Foundation has just produced a guide¹¹⁰ to give teachers pointers and guidelines on the SDGs. Another example is France's support for the Office for Climate Education, which develops teaching tools to help teachers make use of the IPCC reports in their classes.¹¹¹

Priority 3.2 - Leverage education outside the school system, including lifelong learning, to change behaviour

Over 16,000 free libraries for all play a major role in 2030 Agenda uptake and implementation in France. As the most frequented cultural institutions available nationwide and in the universities, libraries contribute to the dissemination of high-quality information on the 17 SDGs with their collections and their wide range of cultural services (workshops, events, courses, etc.), informing the public and changing behaviour in regions in transition.¹¹²

Priority 3.3 - Leverage education and training to leave no one behind

In France, education has been mandatory from the age of three since the start of the 2019 academic year. In 2019-2020, the rate of young

children in school from the age of three and in mandatory primary education at the age of six was therefore 100% compared with 93% in the European Union on average.

France has reduced its school dropout rate.

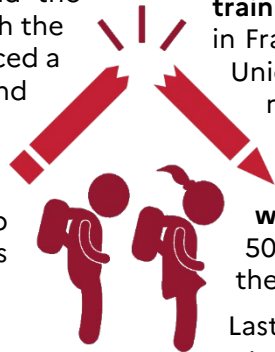
In 2021, the rate of young people aged 18 to 24 leaving education and formal and non-formal training¹¹³ without a qualification was 7.8% in France as opposed to 9.7% in European Union countries on average. This represents a decrease of 1.4 percentage points since 2015.

The rate of people aged 25 to 34 with higher education qualifications is 50.3% in France compared with 41.2% in the European Union.

Lastly, in terms of apprenticeships, the rate of young people aged 20 to 34 with upper secondary school vocational qualifications who have gained work experience (internships or apprenticeship) lasting more than one month during their studies is 69.4% in France compared with 59.1% in European Union countries as a whole.

France is making progress with both access to education (SDG 4) and reducing inequalities (SDG 10) by improving access to schools for pupils with disabilities. At the start of the 2022 academic year, 430,000 pupils with disabilities were attending ordinary schools as opposed to 185,000 in 2006.

In five years, spending on inclusive schooling rose 66% (€3.5 billion in 2022) and the number of special educational needs teaching assistants grew by over 50% to more than 81,000 full-time equivalent jobs by the start of the 2022 academic year.



¹⁰⁹ [Ministry of National Education and Young People, Education for Sustainable Development](#). (Link to website in French)
¹¹⁰ [Tara Océan Foundation. SDGs , leverage for education. Pointers and guidelines for the education community. 2023](#). (Link to website in French)
¹¹¹ [Office for Climate Education. Climate Change and Land - Summary for teachers based on the IPCC special report](#).
¹¹² [Contribution of French libraries to the UN's 2030 Agenda](#), CFIBD, ENSSIB, Bpi, ABF, IFLA, 2019. (Link to website in French)
¹¹³ Formal school or higher education is taught in educational institutions by permanently employed teachers within the framework of a fixed curriculum. Formal education refers to the structured education system. This type of education is characterized by uniformity and programming with horizontal structures (age-graded classes and standardized cycles) and vertical structures (programming and hierarchical cycles). Non-formal education is organized for a normally voluntary identifiable target public to achieve a specified set of learning objectives. Non-formal education may take place in or outside of educational institutions and caters to people of all ages.

PROGRESSING

*This section addresses essentially the actions taken to facilitate **ownership of a cross-cutting vision and the representation of sustainable development** as more than environmental protection and climate change mitigation.*

Priority 3.1 - Mainstream sustainable development in the education system

New measures were launched at the end of 2022. The government made the green transition one of the priorities for the 2022 academic year. Primary and secondary schools are invited to pursue their actions, especially the already abundant educational projects conducted by the environmental pupil representatives, and to focus their school's strategy on the green and energy transition, in particular with a **sustainable development approach label for their school**. A guide on the green transition for schools will be published for the education community and environmental pupil representatives.

10,000 schools have already been awarded the "E3D" sustainable development approach school label (national annual report, October 2022), accounting for 17% of primary and secondary schools in France. Educational projects are being developed with pupils driving the approach in connection with the school's management, maintenance and retrofit actions.¹¹⁴

Steering of the education for sustainable development mechanism has been scaled up at all levels since 2020. In the secondary schools, head teachers appoint a school ESD contact point, generally a teacher. In the universities, chief education officers appoint ESD mission heads to steer ESD, and each regional education authority has put in place a university ESD steering committee. National steering is provided by the ministry.

In late 2022, the government tasked the High Council for Curricula (CSP) with making proposals to scale up sustainable development learning, especially in the areas of biodiversity

and the climate, and to establish a skills standard. The National Distance Learning Centre will develop a digital certification tool for the skills levels acquired by pupils. This work will be published in 2023 to take the deployment of education for sustainable development in schools to the next level.

Priority 3.2 - Leverage education outside the school system, including lifelong learning, to change behaviour

The government is incorporating sustainable development into the Universal National Service (SNU) programme¹¹⁵ to build a culture of sustainable development among young people. Universal National Service is open to all French girls and boys aged 15 to 17. It is a civic programme designed to foster a sense of national unity based on shared values of citizenship, engagement and social cohesion.

The SNU has a brief to mainstream the 17 SDGs as a conceptual framework for rethinking our society and practices. The SNU is also tasked with training our future citizens and preparing them for the transitions to come.

This calls for sustainable development to be addressed in the integration course content and the organization of the programme itself as well as in all the time young people spend on the programme, from the integration course to the later engagement phases. Work has started on this task.

Priority 3.3 - Leverage education and training to leave no one behind

The quest for a better gender balance on university courses is a fundamental challenge for France to achieve real gender equality at work and women's economic empowerment and to narrow wage gaps.

In France, women accounted for 49.4%¹¹⁶ of students reading sciences at university and 43.1% of students on scientific courses (including engineers) in 2022.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁴ [Ministry of National Education and Young People, E3D Label](#). (Link to website in French)

¹¹⁵ [Service National Universel](#) (Link to website in French)

¹¹⁶ [INSEE, Sustainable Development Goals National Monitoring Indicators, 2022 \(SDG 5: Proportion of women on scientific higher education courses\)](#) (Link to website in French)

¹¹⁷ MESRI-DGESIP/DGRI-SIES www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4997315?sommaire=2654964#tableau-SDG-5-graphique2-fr.

In 2019-2020, 0.7% of graduates from higher education were women with degrees in information and communication technologies (compared with a rate of 2.9% for men) and 3.3% were women with degrees in engineering, manufacturing and construction (compared with a rate of 10.8% for men).¹¹⁸

The government is working on a number of tracks to promote more of a gender balance in education.

Resources for gender-equal mathematics teaching practices are available to support teachers and courses.¹¹⁹ Work has been stepped up to encourage women to enter

digital professions. The Pathway to the Future secondary school programme has been in operation **since 2015** offering pupils activities and specific times to discover and train in the workplace. This programme pays particular attention to the development of a gender balance in the digital professions.

Training women for the digital professions has also been scaled up **in higher education.** The Grande Ecole du Numérique public interest group was set up in 2015. It awards a label to digital courses in France and, to date, covers 500 courses.¹²⁰

CHALLENGES

This section focuses on the mainstreaming of education for sustainable development in higher education and the need to develop occupations accordingly.

Priority 3.1 - Mainstream sustainable development in the education system

In the school system, as seen in previous sections, education for sustainable development is mainstreamed from nursery school through to the end of upper secondary school.

Occupations and professional practices also need to be developed accordingly. This calls primarily for changes to vocational training courses. The Ministry of National Education has made the green and energy transitions a pillar of vocational qualification developments in liaison with professionals in the sectors concerned. For example, qualification standards have been revised in the following sectors: construction and civil engineering, culinary and food service trades, energy, digital technology, transport, etc. Qualifications have consequently been reviewed to incorporate the green transition: to develop professional

skills and practices that do more to support the green transition in each trade and to develop trade standards focused directly on the energy and green transitions.

In higher education, mainstreaming sustainable development is actioned primarily by courses on the green transition focusing on climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, greening and the energy transition. More work will be needed to rethink and develop certain traditional skills, professions and methods to gear them to sustainable development.¹²¹

France has therefore appointed Jean Jouzel, Research Director at the French Atomic Energy Commission and distinguished member of the IPCC, to chair a working group to examine the question of informing and educating all higher education students with respect to the green transition agenda. In March 2021, a first report recommended that, "Henceforth, all students leaving first-cycle higher education should have been trained on the green transition agenda and the ways and means of implementing it." The working group submitted its second report on operational support to higher education institutions in February 2022.

¹¹⁸ [Ministry of National Education and Young People, DEPP, 2022 European Education Figures.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹¹⁹ [Ministry of National Education and Young People, Changing student perceptions of mathematics.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹²⁰ [DEPP \(Ministry of National Education and Young People\), NI 22.13, EU education and training goals for 2030: Where does France stand? 2022.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹²¹ Recommendations of the multistakeholder working group of 17 December 2020 with a view to drafting *The State of France 2020*, internal MTE/CGDD documentation.

The report identified six key actions¹²² to meet the goals:

1. All higher education courses need to evolve. The focus will be two- year higher education programmes with four priority issues to be addressed: environmental impacts at planetary and local level, societal implications, governance and taking action.
2. The green transition will become a benchmark criterion for schools and agencies' activities.
3. Higher education institutions will accelerate and scale up their work in this area, and labelling procedures for institutions' policies, already largely underway, will be encouraged.
4. Higher education staff engagement will be encouraged. Training the trainer is a priority.
5. Student engagement will be encouraged. In addition to educational content, student engagement in concrete green transition projects will be key to success.
6. Facilitate and monitor the actioning of proposals. The organization of resource and experience sharing on discussion platforms will be decisive to engage all players.

Some occupations and professional practices will need to evolve and others emerge, mainstreaming sustainable development as a way forward for action that will successfully transform our production models and work towards cleaner and more environmentally sound technologies.

Starting in September 2023, a green transition and sustainable development skills and knowledge base will be included in all French first-cycle higher education courses across all disciplines to inform and educate students about these issues. Some occupations will therefore need to evolve and new ones emerge.



The Ministry for Agriculture's second **Teach to Produce Differently** (EPA2) plan is working for transformative change in agricultural occupations and qualifications. This agroecological drive by the agricultural education system is structured by four pillars geared to the green and food transitions.

¹²² [Report on Green Transition Agenda Information and Training in Higher Education](#), Ministry of Higher Education and Research. (Link to website in French)

Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations

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“Leverage education and lifelong learning to gear behaviour and lifestyles to our future world and sustainable development challenges”

① Identify, share and raise the profile of educational initiatives that actively contribute to education for sustainable development in France

As a powerful driver for uptake of the SDGs and a leading means of building this new culture in French society, education for sustainable development abounds with educational initiatives that warrant systematic identification by the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. We recommend pooling these initiatives on a platform sharing best practices between schools and teachers and even providing funding to those that work the best so that they can be developed and brought to scale. If necessary, pilot tests could be conducted at regional education authority level upstream of any funding decision. We recommend that the government support and raise the profile of educational initiatives involving players external to the education system (associations, local authorities, business, etc.) for an understanding of the SDGs in practical terms and to continue to make school a pillar of society. We note with particular interest initiatives regarding the shift towards the social and solidarity economy and we pay particular attention to education for citizenship and international solidarity (ECIS) initiatives. Lastly, and more broadly, we insist on the need for more proactive government support for education for sustainable development (ESD) to: (i) deploy this model right along the school continuum from the start of primary school to the end of upper secondary school, and (ii) promote all useful initiatives as much in terms of support from regions/*départements* and regional education authorities as in terms of teachers' career dynamics, irrespective of their discipline. To best prepare this inventory of and support for existing educational initiatives, we recommend that the General Inspectorate of Education be tasked with evaluating the implementation of the ESD programmes and the adequacy of budget and human resources with respect to stated ESD ambitions.

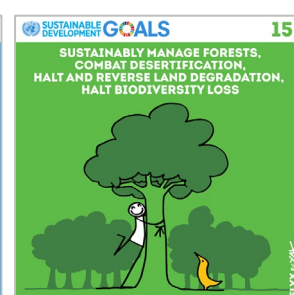
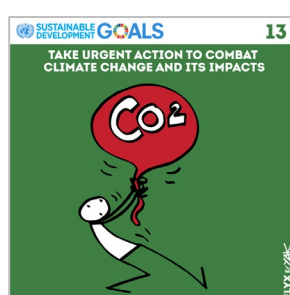
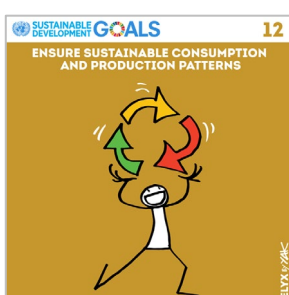
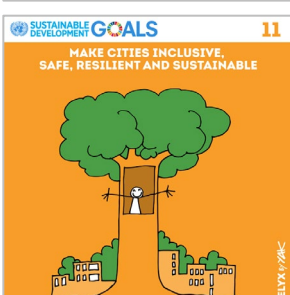
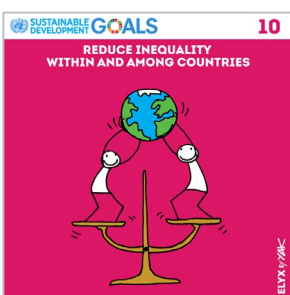
② Launch voluntary local reviews by municipal youth councils

Education for sustainable development could be enriched by original teaching approaches such as simulation exercises. We recommend asking the municipal youth councils to conduct voluntary local reviews to immerse the young participants in an original, stimulating and impactful exercise on the use of the SDGs. This initiative should be supported by the municipal authorities and possibly the regional directorates for the environment, planning and housing (DREAL) to generate useful policy discussions between municipal youth councils and municipal councils. It should systematically hold a debate on the sustainable development report for the local authority in question, where municipalities are bound to do so. Lastly, such educational innovations should have the support of the area's secondary schools to work closely with all the environmental pupil representatives already working on the subject, if not bring on board more pupils to develop the environmental pupil representatives' projects and build the municipal youth councils' capacities.

③ Scale up SDGs in the education system and lifelong learning in general and for local elected officials in particular

Lifelong learning is central to this track of the French road map.

- a. In general, we recommend that courses eligible for the individual training account (CPF) systematically contain a clear reference in their syllabus to how the course develops useful skills to meet one or the other of the SDGs.
- b. Tools exist to scale up the presence of SDGs in the education system (from primary to higher education) and in lifelong learning in the form of certificates of self-assessment of sustainable development knowledge levels. Although such initiatives are being included in a number of courses, they need to be rolled out further to give strong meaning and direction to all forms of personal development.
- c. We draw particular attention to in-service training for public decision-makers. This has passed a milestone with the climate agenda training course for public servants. Yet we advocate taking action much further as much in terms of target audiences as the subjects themselves. We propose a law binding on all local elected officials to take an SDG-based sustainable development training course covering both theory and practical exercises. In addition to the purpose of building a new culture by taking a more comprehensive academic approach than one limited to climate issues, the idea is also to prompt concrete initiatives by encouraging the use of existing tools to contribute to delivering on the 2030 Agenda (see Recommendation 3 in Area of Action 5) and the creation of “local sustainable innovation laboratories” to apply course takeaways in the form of tangible projects spearheaded by local elected officials.



Area of Action 4

Improve health and well-being for all through healthy and sustainable food and agriculture

Key points

France has a universal healthcare system. Healthcare cover under France's Social Security system enables very good access to healthcare compared with many other countries around the world. A small proportion of mainland France's population renounces medical treatment for financial reasons, and unequal access to healthcare in France is closely connected with inequitable distribution of healthcare services depending on geographical location, and this is particularly true for overseas territories. Obligatory health measures (extension of mandatory vaccines), incentives for healthful behaviours, as well as measures to combat abstention from treatment, as part of the "Santé 2022" national public health plan, have enabled French people's life expectancy to consistency rise in recent years. France has furthermore introduced numerous measures in order to improve access to healthcare and hospital services (such as fostering teleconsultations with medical practitioners and holding the "Ségur" health consultations so as to mobilize levers for attracting more healthcare resources to the areas displaying greatest need).

Most French people enjoy access to satisfactory water and food. Thanks to its favourable geography and well-utilized agricultural potential, France's challenges with regard to the 2030 Agenda, when compared with other countries, are more to do with enhancing nutrition for its people than with achieving food security. The national food and nutrition programme (known by its French initials, PNAN), adopted in 2019, aims to ensure universal access to safe, varied, and sufficiently abundant food of high gustatory and nutritional quality, produced through a sustainable agricultural system. It is also designed to promote an enabling environment for healthful dietary choices and daily physical activity while limiting sedentary behaviours. Malnutrition and its associated health problems are still, however, issues of concern. Indeed, although malnutrition rates and especially obesity rates are declining, they remain stubbornly high, and are furthermore correlated with poverty dynamics. Food poverty also remains a reality in France. It particularly affects young people and France's overseas populations. In addition, difficulties accessing food were exacerbated by the financial insecurity triggered by the health crisis, leading France to launch in 2020 of a national coordination committee for fighting food poverty and to bolster food assistance mechanisms.

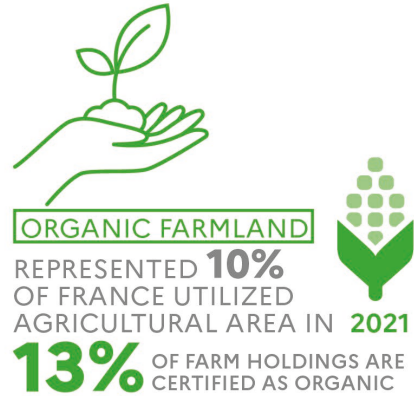
Moreover, lack of information and limited access to education because of insufficient money and/or time (multiple jobholding, overtime work, shift work, lengthy commutes, large families), **exacerbate health inequalities that are linked to consumer habits.** France is still facing problems regarding smoking and alcohol, in differentiated circumstances depending on social context. While these habits are on the decline, they nevertheless remain at a level higher than the European average. Obesity is also on the rise, especially among young people, both on the mainland and overseas, reflecting the upward trend internationally, affecting a quarter of the population in high-income countries.

France is working to ensure a healthy environment for its population, limiting air, soil and water pollution. It is also revising its models of production and consumption, especially as concerns the agricultural sector in order to ensure healthy, safe and sustainable food. However, access to a healthy environment remains uneven across France. Air pollution in France is concentrated in certain hotspots, notably around urban centres, near highly industrialized areas and in some alpine valleys.

AREA OF ACTION 4

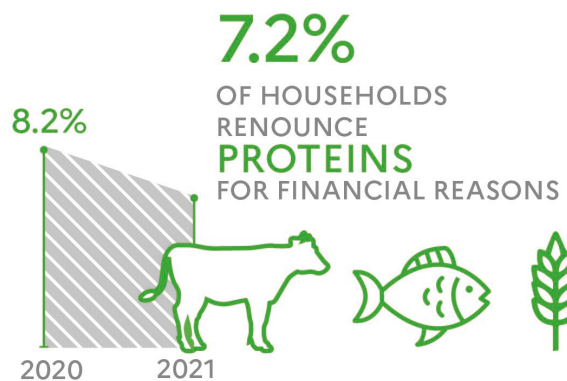
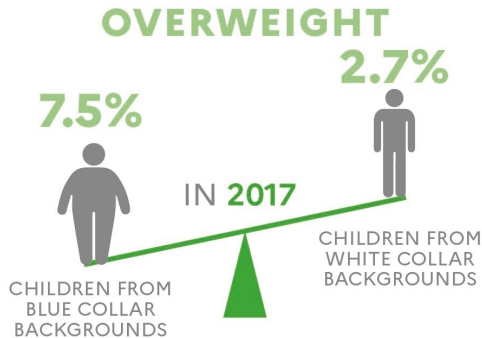
Act for the health and well-being of all, with a focus on healthful and sustainable food and agriculture

PROGRESS MADE



PROGRESSING

CHILDREN (COMPLETING MIDDLE SCHOOL) FROM BLUES COLLAR BACKGROUNDS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE



CHALLENGES

USE OF **PHYTOSANITARY PRODUCTS**
-0.3%
OVER THE 2014 AND 2019 PERIOD



MENTAL HEALTH



STUDENTS AND THE ELDERLY ARE THE MOST AFFECTED BY SUICIDAL THOUGHTS

+12%  **TWICE AS HIGH**
BETWEEN 2020 AND 2022

STATE OF PLAY

Area of Action 4, covering health and nutrition, is closely linked to inequalities and precariousness. The Covid-19 health crisis underscored the importance of **healthcare access for all** in a context of growing physical and psychological disorders. **Quality food is vital for health and the boom in more responsible farming practices is supporting a positive trend.** However, difficult living conditions are a barrier, for many people, to a healthy lifestyle, in particular to a healthy diet. **These socioeconomic inequalities can limit access to healthcare or sustain addictive behaviours.** Efforts need to focus on easy access to care and a healthy diet across the nation, as well as limiting pollution that is detrimental to people's health.

PROGRESS MADE

France boasts a universal healthcare system. It aims to make **healthcare services accessible to one and all, and to reduce inequalities both geographically and within the population**, despite the shortcomings in the hospital sector that were laid bare by the Covid-19 crisis. Progress is also taking shape when it comes to democratization of high-quality food.

Priority 4.1 - Enable easy and structured access to healthcare for all

In 2018 France established 2018 a strategy called Ma Santé 2022 (My Health 2022), a collective commitment¹²³ in response to divergent difficulties across geographical areas¹²⁴ in obtaining medical appointments and improving attractiveness for the zones experiencing the most problems. The solutions identified focus on coordinated rollout in all of their different forms (multi-professional health centres, multi-disciplinary medical centres, local networks of healthcare professionals), investment in facilities, especially with regard to beds on demand. In July 2021, an additional 2,686 beds were made available compared with the previous year,

172 local networks of healthcare professionals were in operation (as opposed to 73 in 2020) and there was a net monthly salary increase of €183 for more than one and a half million staff.¹²⁵

It is also important to note that the health sector constitutes a major source of employment in France, with potential for lowering unemployment, as indicated by the High Commission for the Plan.¹²⁶ With the health crisis, this sector indeed revealed the need for support as much in the hospital setting as in at-home care for patients and for the elderly.

Improving health does not merely refer to ensuring access to healthcare; it also involves being able to avoid falling ill. The system of universal healthcare, covered by France's social protection system (Social Security), enables very good healthcare access when compared with other countries around the world. In France, it is a small percentage of the mainland population that turns down medical treatment for financial reasons (3.9% of the population in 2020), including for care that is less generously covered by the social protection system, such as dental work (5.7% of the population in 2020).¹²⁷

¹²³ [The Ma Santé 2022 Plan](#) entailed a budget of 3.4 billion euros up to 2022, including 1.6 billion euros for structuring healthcare at the local level, 920 million for hospital investments, 500 million for the digital revolution and 420 million for developments in the healthcare professions. (Link to website in French)

¹²⁴ [The Ma Santé 2022 Plan announced in 2018](#) and [act dated 24 July 2019 on the organization and transformation of the healthcare system](#). (Link to websites in French)

¹²⁵ [Ségur de la Santé, A year of healthcare system transformations](#). (Link to website in French)

¹²⁶ [High Commission for the Plan, "And what if Covid were a long-term phenomenon?" brief, 2020](#). (Link to website in French) The High Commissioner for the Plan, appointed in September 2020, is tasked with coordinating the planning and forecasting work for the government, with support from France Stratégie.

¹²⁷ [Insee, National monitoring indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, 2022 \(SDG 3: "Renouncing care for financial reasons"\)](#). (Link to website in French)

France continues to invest heavily in research and development: public budget credits for research and development (R&D) in health increased strongly between 2018 and 2022 (from 906 to 1,946 million euros).¹²⁸

This healthcare system, coupled with unceasing medical progress thanks to research, has led to continuous life expectancy increases in recent years for French people.¹²⁹ These increases are also due to the State's pedagogical approach on issues such as combatting addictions and promoting a healthy diet. The focus has been on prevention, on reducing socioeconomic inequalities in healthcare access and due consideration of old age.

Improving health furthermore means combatting inequalities, be they social, economic, territorial, educational or related to access to information.

To this end, the "Santé 2022" plan¹³⁰ comprises mandatory health measures (extension of compulsory vaccines), incentives for healthy habits (price increases for packs of tobacco, which crossed the 10-euro threshold in March 2020), as well as measures designed to stop people from renouncing healthcare because of cost. The "100% Santé" reform thus significantly improved access to hearing aids and care for hearing loss (780,000 hearing aids fully refunded between 2020 and 2022).¹³¹ Smoking prevention endeavours are also under way as part of the national anti-tobacco programme. With regard to this programme specifically, the 2023 Social Protection Budget Act furthered the rise in tobacco prices. The prevention campaigns seem to be bearing fruit,

especially those concerned with sexually transmitted diseases, as HIV diagnoses dropped 25% between 2013 and 2021.¹³² This is also an observable downward trend in unhealthy lifestyle habits, notably with regard to smoking: in 2020 smokers accounted for 25.5% of the population, down from 28.5% in 2014.¹³³ This trend appears to be in line with the global tendency, as smoking has decreased 33% around the world since 2000. Furthermore, technical progress in automobile safety, together with reduced alcohol consumption – leading cause of road accidents – has also led to a 14.9% drop in fatal crashes between 2015 and 2021 (for the year 2021, the drop was likely further accentuated by the health crisis).¹³⁴



Improving health also means ensuring decent and dignified living conditions for the elderly.

France is addressing problems stemming from the fact that its population is ageing. After broad consultations between autumn 2018 and spring 2019 (the Libault report), the 2022 Social Protection Budget Act was the start of a new era for supporting independent living. Funding for at-home services was thus secured, with the establishment of a minimum price, and bolstered resources for retirement homes with medical facilities. Lastly, the State set its 2020-2022 strategy for mobilizing and supporting carers¹³⁵ who provide assistance on a daily basis to their loved ones who have lost their independence.

¹²⁸ [Insee, National monitoring indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, 2022 \(SDG 9: "Public budget credits for R&D"\)](#). (Link to website in French)

¹²⁹ With the exception of the year 2020.

¹³⁰ France's health authority, the Haut Conseil de Santé Publique, notes the sound consistency between this plan and both the National Health Strategy and the SDGs (see the HCSP Report, March 2019, on the assessment of the relevance and consistency of the National Public Health Plan).

¹³¹ Monitoring Committee of the "100% Santé" reform, figures from January 2022.

¹³² [Insee, National monitoring indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, 2022 \(SDG 3: "Discovery of HIV-positive status"\)](#). (Link to website in French)

¹³³ [Insee, National monitoring indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, 2022 \(SDG 3: "Prevalence of daily smoking"\)](#). (Link to website in French)

¹³⁴ [Insee, National monitoring indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, 2022 \(SDG 3: "Road toll"\)](#). (Link to website in French)

¹³⁵ [Strategy for mobilization and support 2020-2022 "Supporting the assistants" 2019](#). (Link to website in French)



In this regard, France is working, through a cross-cutting, inter-ministerial approach, to develop ambitious environmental health policies by mobilizing all available levers for action. Indeed, the WHO holds that environmental factors (chemical, physical and biological agents) contribute to 23% of deaths worldwide.

The fourth National Environment Health Plan (known by its French initials, PNSE 4), spearheaded by the Ministries of Health and of the Ecological Transition and published 7 May 2021, proposes specific actions aimed at enabling everyone to live in a pro-health environment. This plan sets forth four priorities in the lead-up to 2025: better inform and train populations, including the most vulnerable as well as professionals, regarding the connections between health and the environment (especially thanks to consumer product labelling); reduce environmental exposures affecting our health (indoor air quality, noise, nanomaterials, radio frequencies and electromagnetic waves, contaminated sites and soils, obtrusive light, including blue light, etc.) and affecting ecosystems; support local administrations as they develop their own health-environment policies; and lastly, continue research so as to enhance understanding of the links between health and the environment and better apprehend the exposome, which is to say the ensemble of environmental exposures throughout life. The cross-cutting nature of this plan requires input from various Ministries: Health, Ecology, Agriculture, Research, Higher Education, Education, Economy, Labour, etc. **The One Health approach** is mainstreamed into this plan, given the inextricable interactions between human health, animal health and ecosystem health. In addition, France has furthermore developed specific plans and/or strategies so as to better take into consideration the issues associated with each environmental factor as well as societal expectations. Examples include the national strategy on endocrine disruptors (2019), the radon plan (2020), the chlordecone plan (2021), the national climate change adaptation plan (2018) and the national plan for reducing atmospheric pollutant emissions (or PREPA, 2017). All of them contribute to the Priority plan and to the Ministry of Health's prevention work, and involve several ministries.

Priority 4.2 - Limit threats to human health stemming from a degraded environment

In order to keep people healthy, it is important to limit the threats to health that a degraded environment can pose. We now understand the hazards of air, soil and aquatic environment pollution to the health of living things, not only for the animals and plants that we consume, but also for human life. France is therefore making efforts to ensure a healthy environment for its population. Keeping people healthy also means preventing illness. Indeed, 75% of emerging diseases are zoonotic. France's upcoming 2023-2027 global health strategy, which aims to contribute to delivering SDG 3, is currently in the drafting stage. One Health is to be one of this strategy's guiding principles, especially as concerns prevention.

With regard to water, the issue of access to health standard compliant water is marginal, given that in 2020 almost 98% of people in France had a water supply that was compliant (both in terms of microbiology and chemico-physical properties).

Priority 4.3 - Ensure safe, healthy and sustainable agriculture and food for everyone and at all levels

Good health also depends on adequate access to quality food. The population does have satisfactory – albeit unequal – access to this vital resource. Thanks to its favourable geography and well-utilized farming potential, France's challenges with regard to the 2030 Agenda, unlike other countries, are more to do

with improving nutrition for French people than with achieving food security. However, continued improvement of the processes guaranteeing food safety remains a priority, substantiated by the decision to place all food chain inspections under a single authority as of 2023.

Efforts are under way to ensure fair and equitable access to healthy food. France's approach to accessing a healthy diet is through the prism of the One Health concept,¹³⁶ a comprehensive approach that is perfectly in step with the SDGs' interconnectedness. Indeed, this concept considers human health, animal health and ecosystem health in a holistic way, and the environment is taken into account in public health issues. Under the EGalim Act,¹³⁷ in force since 1 January 2022, meals served in any public service establishment by institutional caterers must comprise at least 50% high-quality, sustainable products, including at least 20% of which come from organic farming. As of November 2019, public and private school catering service providers must also propose a vegetarian menu at least once a week.

The introduction of Nutri-Score in France in 2018 – a five-coloured graphic rating scale – made it possible to easily grasp a summary, at a glance, of a product's nutritional quality (considering both negative constituents, like sugars, saturated fatty acids and salt, and positive elements, such as protein and fibre).

In 2020, Nutri-Score's reputation continued its upward trend, reaching 93%. A growing proportion of France's population acknowledged having changed, thanks to this measure, at least one of their grocery shopping habits (57% in 2020 as opposed to 43% in 2019, a rise of 14 points).¹³⁸

Other, more targeted, measures have also been introduced. Indeed, France has observed a strong socioeconomic correlation with diet-related risk factors. Individuals in the lowest income decile are twice as likely as their top decile counterparts to never consume (or only rarely consume) fruit and vegetables: respectively 10.7% against 4.9% for fruit and 3.7% against 1.9% for vegetables.¹³⁹

One of these targeted measures, a back-to-school allowance for any family with a child aged between 6 and 18 years, was increased by 100 euros in 2020 and was further raised in 2022 by 4% given the inflationary economic context. Access to university catering services was facilitated, with the introduction of the one-euro meal on 31 August 2020 for students with grants, and this was extended to all students during the health crisis, expiring at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year.

The National Food and Nutrition Programme (or PNAN)¹⁴⁰ adopted in 2019 aims to enable universal access to safe, varied and sufficiently abundant food of good gustatory and nutritional quality, produced through sustainable agriculture. It also aims to promote an enabling environment for healthful dietary choices and daily physical activity while limiting sedentary behaviours. In particular, a communications campaign has been introduced regarding the National Nutrition and Health Programme (or PNNS) dietary recommendations, accessible at all times on the website manger-bouger.fr. Moreover, every year there is a call for projects so as to support dietary transition projects falling under the different areas of the National Food Programme (social justice, dietary education, combatting food waste and institutional catering), with support for implementing local food projects.

¹³⁶ One Health approach: an integrated, unifying approach to sustainably optimize and balance the health of people, animals and the environment. It recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the environment more broadly (including ecosystems) are closely connected and interdependent.

¹³⁷ [The act on balanced commercial relations in the agricultural sector and healthy and sustainable food, known as the EGalim Act, dated 30 October 2018, establishes specific measures, in particular, to improve public sector food provision.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹³⁸ [Santé Publique France \(France's public health agency\), Nutri-Score: Developments in reputation, perception and impact on reported shopping habits between 2018 and 2020.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹³⁹ [DREES, the French Directorate of Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics \(2022\), State of health of the population in France, DREES dossiers N°102.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁴⁰ [France's National Food and Nutrition Programme, 2019.](#) (Link to website in French)



France 2030: investing in healthy, sustainable and traceable food

The effects of climate change on agricultural production, the development of agroecology, the development of the forest-timber industry and resilience in the agrifood sector are all major issues to be borne in mind when addressing the challenge of food sovereignty. The France 2030 programme supports innovation and investment so as to enable access to healthy, sustainable food for all.

2.3 billion euros in order to invest in healthy, sustainable and traceable food and accelerate the third agricultural and food revolution.

Key objectives: accelerate the agroecological and food transitions by disseminating innovation; ensure food sovereignty by enhancing sectoral resilience and promoting the organic economy's potential; lower GG emissions and restore biodiversity, ensure forests' resilience so as to strengthen their role as carbon sinks; structure the agricultural and food industries and the forest-timber sector nationwide; deepen understanding of the food-health nexus so as to promote good dietary habits.

Strategic areas: improve agricultural production capacity, products and services diversification, climate change adaptation and food production relocation ; promote more integrated and resilient production models by financing innovation and its dissemination throughout local industries and by supporting new entrepreneurs in farming, fishing and forestry; experiment with and implement innovation combinations (technical and biotechnological, digital, organizational, etc.) in a bid to reduce GG emissions, use fewer agricultural inputs and restore biodiversity; support consumers in their shift to healthy, sustainable food, chiefly through food education and protein source diversification; adapt forests and forest ecosystems to climate change and regain our economic and carbon sovereignty through the forest-timber sector.

The agroecological transition provided for in the new directives of the common agricultural policy (CAP) have plotted the way forward for France. In 2021, there were 58,413 organic farms; around 13.41% of all agricultural holdings in France. The surface area devoted to organic farming, which had risen 9% since 2020, stood at 2.78 million hectares. The symbolic milestone of having 10% of utilized agricultural area (UAA) under organic farming was thus attained in 2021.¹⁴¹ Furthermore, when France adopted its national strategy for developing plant proteins in 2020, the aim was to improve its food production self-sufficiency and meet daily protein requirements.

Organic farming helps conserve soils and water resources. Organic farming has developed in France in response to consumer demand over the last twenty years, notably thanks to "conversion assistance" and "maintenance payments" and even tax rebates for farmers starting out with organic farming so as to offset

the sizeable investment costs and practices that are sometimes less market-competitive. From 2018 to 2019, the number of certified organic agricultural holdings rose by 13%, thus making France Europe's second-ranked country in terms of organic UAA.¹⁴² Organic farming, which generates more than 200,000 FTA, most of which cannot be delocalized, is one of the drivers of local-level job creation, at all stages in the sector. In this way, **an organic farm employs 30% more labour than a non-organic farm**, with an average of 2.4 FTA per organic holding.¹⁴³ Lastly, the "Ambition Bio 2022" plan focuses primarily on institutional catering for making organic foodstuffs more widespread, guaranteeing that at least 20% of the food used in public institutional catering in 2022 was organic. At least 50% of the food provided by public catering services must furthermore be products of quality, certified by labels.¹⁴⁴

¹⁴¹ [Snapshot of organic farming data, 2022](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁴² Other countries around the world also boasting sizeable organic surfaces include Argentina, Spain and Tunisia.

¹⁴³ [What are the 2021 organic farming figures?](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁴⁴ [The act on balanced commercial relations in the agricultural sector and healthy and sustainable food, or EGAlim Act, dated 30 October 2018](#). (Link to website in French)

PROGRESSING

However, while current efforts are a step in the right direction, much remains to be done. Socioeconomic inequalities still persist in France and they have repercussions on living environments (housing, transport, working conditions, social support), on mental health and on people's **level of education regarding health and diet**. Scant resources and later access to information can lead to behaviours that are detrimental to health and which further exacerbate inequalities. **Malnutrition and obesity**, which affect disadvantaged populations in particular, are still a major challenge.

Although the French healthcare system is universal, significant rates of treatment avoidance undermine its effectiveness. Reasons behind this phenomenon include poor reception of information, complex access to assistance and a perceived stigma for some would-be recipients about resorting to assistance. There are also **regional inequalities in terms of healthcare service availability** required to reach the goal of "good health" in France. **Lastly**, environmental pollution in various forms may be concentrated in certain regions and distributed unevenly.

Priority 4.1 - Enable easy and structured access to healthcare for all

Although health cover is universal in France, the rate of abstention from social benefits is significant. It is estimated to be 50% for the extended health support scheme (*complémentaire santé solidaire*),¹⁴⁵ which enables low-income persons to benefit from almost completely free healthcare cover (depending on the overall household's resources) and refunds practically all medical expenses (doctor, dentist, nurse, hospital, medication, etc.). This scheme, established in 2019 through the merger of two existing extended healthcare mechanisms (*couverture*

maladie universelle complémentaire and the *aide au paiement d'une complémentaire santé*), has only enjoyed limited success in improving the uptake rate. In order to further its efforts in this regard, the 2022 Social Protection Budget Act provided for automatized access to extended health support to beneficiaries of income support benefits whose limited resources would make them eligible.

The same inequalities can be seen when it comes to abstention from food support (see below). There are an estimated 5.5 million eligible people in France. Yet this benefit, often complex and little-known, can be regarded as stigmatizing. Only 2 million people actually draw on this benefit.¹⁴⁶ In an effort to combat such abstentionism, the State has been experimenting since 2018¹⁴⁷ with datamining methods¹⁴⁸ so as to identify and contact welfare beneficiaries who are potentially eligible for certain allowances.

Improving people's health means striving for their well-being, both physical and mental. On this issue, overall life satisfaction indicators have stagnated, since 2010, at around 7 on a scale of 0 to 10.¹⁴⁹ Mental health problems have risen, particularly among young people. Between May 2020 and July 2021 nearly one person in four was found to have suffered a depressive syndrome at least once. In youths aged 15 to 24 years, this concerned more than four women out of every 10. Indeed, use of psychoactive medication has increased since the pandemic and attempted suicides among young people have been on the rise since the year 2020.¹⁵⁰ France has been working to improve access to mental healthcare, notably with the MonPsy mechanism, operational as of 2022, which provides for the full reimbursement of psychological counselling sessions under a simplified patient referral procedure.

¹⁴⁵ [2021 annual report on extended health support](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁴⁶ [Food banks, Annual Report 2020: The strength of connection, 2020](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁴⁷ [National strategy for preventing and combatting poverty: Investing in solidarity for the emancipation of all, 2018](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁴⁸ Process of analysing very large datasets from different angles in order to identify patterns across the data and derive useful information.

¹⁴⁹ [Insee, Indicators for national monitoring of the sustainable development goals, 2022 \(SDG 3, "Satisfaction with life"\)](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁵⁰ DREES, 2022, *The state of health of the population in France*.

Lack of information and poor access to education due to shortages of money and/or time (multiple jobholding, overtime work, shift work, lengthy commutes, large family commitments) exacerbate other health-related inequalities. There are still considerable problems in France concerning smoking and alcohol, particularly in certain social groups. These habits, while on the decline, remain nonetheless higher than the European average. Obesity is on the rise, especially among young people in mainland France and in overseas territories, mirroring the trend at the international level, in which the phenomenon is increasing, affecting a quarter of the population in high-income countries.¹⁵¹

Lack of access to information and food-related education, coupled with insufficient financial wherewithal, may explain the higher rate of persons in underprivileged populations who are overweight/obese and who entertain at-risk habits (tobacco and alcohol). In 2019, the proportion of obese people was two to three times higher among non-graduates and those without a high school diploma than among their counterparts who had completed three or more years of tertiary education. In 2017, children in their fourth and final year of middle school from blue-collar backgrounds were more than twice as likely to be overweight than children of the same age with a parent who was an executive. With regard to obesity, this gap is even wider: for children in this same age group – final year of middle school – it was 7.5% blue-collar family children who were obese, compared with 2.7% of white-collar family children.¹⁵² There are more observable unhealthy habits in the most disadvantaged populations and this has a direct impact on their life expectancy. Between 2012 and 2016, among the country's wealthiest 5%, whose average standard of living is calculated as being 5,800 euros per month, life expectancy at birth



is 84.4 years for men. Among the most modest 5%, whose average monthly standard of living stands at approximately 500 euros, life expectancy at birth is 71.7 for men.¹⁵³ In an effort to overcome these disparities, various national strategies focus on prevention through, for example, the 2019-2023 PNNS, the 2019-2023 national programme for food (or PNA in its French initials) and the Priority Prevention plan established in 2018. The 2023 Social Protection Budget Act is designed to be proactive, providing for prevention-focused appointments to be proposed at milestone ages in a person's life.

Unequal access to healthcare in France is also closely connected with the problem of uneven healthcare service availability depending on locality. As indicated in Area of Action 1, although current public policies have taken into due account the magnitude of the problem and offer reason to hope for improvement, some regions continue to be dogged by the so-called “healthcare desert” phenomenon, where the number of doctors is falling and is insufficient to meet local requirements. These healthcare deserts are often in areas that are home to the most vulnerable populations (districts identified as priority zones and rural areas), further aggravating the previously mentioned health inequalities. **The Ma Santé 2022 plan introduced various ways to remedy this situation,** notably through incentives encouraging doctors to move to these particular regions and by supporting the development of local networks of healthcare professionals (or CPTS).

Alongside medical centres and hospitals, these CPTS networks group together professionals who work together to cover the local healthcare needs and ensure that local-level care is available in these otherwise under-served areas. Since the health crisis,

¹⁵¹ [OCDE, Health at a Glance : Europe 2022, State of Health in the EU Cycle](#) et [OMS, World health statistics 2021 : Monitoring health for the SDGs, 2021](#).

¹⁵² [DREES \(Ministry of Solidarity and Health\), Studies and Results N°1122: In 2017, adolescents generally in better physical health but more often overweight, 2019](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁵³ [Insee, Life expectancy by standard of living: In men, 13 years of difference between the most affluent and the most modest \(website\), published 6 February 2018](#).

teleconsultations have also been encouraged, in a bid to expand healthcare access for all. Other measures have been factored into the 2023 Social Protection Budget Act in order to overcome the shortage of doctors in some places, such as the addition of a fourth year in the general medicine residency programme, and the extension of on-duty care provision in certain areas. However, inconsistent access to healthcare remains very problematic in France's overseas territories, where there is a shortage of specialist doctors, and where infant mortality is double that of mainland France and HIV-positive rates are ten times higher.

Priority 4.2 – Limit threats to human health stemming from a degraded environment

Access to a healthy environment is inconsistent across France. Air pollution in France is concentrated in certain geographical hotspots, especially around major urban centres, in heavily-industrialized zones (such as Fos-sur-Mer, Dunkirk, and Lyon) and in some alpine valleys (such as the Arve Valley).¹⁵⁴ Santé Publique France estimates that outdoor air pollution is responsible for **48,000 premature deaths every year**,¹⁵⁵ or 9% of mortality in France and two years or more of lost life expectancy by the age of thirty. In 2016, if all of France's urban conglomerations had respected the thresholds recommended by the WHO for PM_{2,5} (10µg/m³), 17,000 deaths could have been avoided annually in France, according to the same source.¹⁵⁶



In terms of economic impact, the Senate's Commission of Enquiry into the Economic and Financial Costs of Air Pollution estimated the total cost of air pollution (indoor and outdoor) to be between 68 and 97 billion euros each year for France, much of which is attributable to impacts on health.¹⁵⁷ France's main urban centres continue to exceed regulatory thresholds regarding "air quality for long term human health protection" (for levels of PM₁₀ particulate matter for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and ozone (O₃), in 2018). They are, however, at their lowest point since the 2000s (37 conglomerations concerned compared with only nine in 2019).¹⁵⁸ ¹⁵⁹ Air pollution in rural areas during agricultural spraying operations also impacts health, for both farmers and residents. In order to ensure their protection, non-treatment zones were established in areas close to dwellings and premises accommodating regular workers, through the implementation of two texts that entered into force on 1 January 2020. In this regard, safety distance perimeters were defined in accordance with several criteria relating to the products and the nature of the crops in question, ranging from 5 m to a mandatory minimum of 20 m for a list of products displaying warnings.

Priority 4.3 - Ensure safe, healthy and sustainable agriculture and food for everyone and at all levels

Under France's act on fighting climate change and improving resilience to its effects (2021) a national strategy for food, nutrition and climate (or SNANC) is to be drafted by 1 July 2023. This strategy will offer guidance for policies on sustainable food, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, respecting human health, enhancing protection of biodiversity, fostering resilience for agricultural systems and local food systems and ensuring food sovereignty. It will also pave the way for policy orientation on nutrition, building on the PNA and the PNNS.

¹⁵⁴ [The WHO revises its air quality guideline levels for key pollutants.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁵⁵ [Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, Air pollution: causes, current situation and impacts.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁵⁶ [Effects of chronic exposure to fine particles on mortality in continental France, 2019.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁵⁷ [Santé Publique France, Effects of chronic exposure to fine particles on mortality in continental France and analysis of health gains across several air pollution reduction scenarios \(website\), 1 January 2016.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁵⁸ [SDES, Datalab: Snapshot of outdoor air quality in France in 2019, 2020.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁵⁹ [Insee, Indicators for national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2021 \(SDG 11: "Particulate matter \(PM₁₀\) in cities\): average annual concentration of particles \(PM₁₀\) in the urban setting: 16 µg/m³: -15,8% compared with 2014-2019.](#) (Link to website in French)

Healthier and more sustainable food in institutional catering. As of 1 January 2024, 60% of all "meat and fish" products are to be sustainably sourced or labelled for origin and quality for all public and private mass catering services (and 100% for catering operations managed by the State, its public entities and national State-owned enterprises).

Despite the raft of measures introduced, malnutrition and its associated health problems are issues that have yet to be resolved. Indeed, high rates of malnutrition and obesity persist and are correlated, furthermore, with poverty dynamics. Overweight and obesity are widespread public health issues and affect adolescents from blue-collar families (24% and 7.5% respectively) more than children from white-collar backgrounds (12% and 2.7% respectively) with an overall average of 18% of adolescents being overweight and 5.2% suffering obesity in 2017.¹⁶⁰ Today, nearly one French person in two is overweight and 17% of the adult population suffers obesity, or 8.5 million people.

While persons aged 65 and over are more likely to be carrying excess weight (57.3% affected) than people aged 18-24 (23.2% affected), it is in the youngest age groups that obesity prevalence is increasing the most year on year. The obesity rate rose from 5.4% in 2012 to 9.2% in 2020, an increase of 70%. 34% of children aged between 2 and 7 years and 21% of 8-17 year olds were also either overweight or obese in France in 2020.¹⁶¹ Access to vitamin and protein sources also remains uneven,¹⁶² despite awareness-raising efforts in recent years. 7.2% of French households in 2020 had to make the decision to forego eating proteins for financial reasons, as compared with 7.9% in 2011.¹⁶³

Food banks increased their offering by 20% in 2020¹⁶⁴ ¹⁶⁵ (by way of example, in the overseas *département* of French Guiana, 6,000 families received service vouchers and 290,000 children benefitted from packed lunches as a substitute for the school canteen, which for some was the only meal in the day). In 2021, in a context of rising inflation, 37% of French people were finding it difficult to eat fresh fruit and vegetables every day.¹⁶⁶

The France Relance plan launched an initiative called "Alimentation Locale et Solidaire" (Solidarity-based local food), with an envelope of 30 million euros, which supports projects enabling those with modest incomes or who are isolated to access local, quality food. Cocolupa, the national coordinating committee on combatting food poverty, held its inaugural meeting on 8 September 2020. It brings together food poverty stakeholders from across the board and aims to coordinate their actions and help improve the French model for eradicating food poverty. Since 2021, eight Cocolupa working groups have been working on each of the action plan's objectives with a view to improving universal access to nutritious, sustainable food. A fund of 60 million euros for sustainable food support is to be dedicated to these objectives in 2023. The goal of this fund is, in particular, to enhance the environmental and nutritional quality of foodstuffs distributed by food assistance stakeholders, by targeting the procurement of fruit and vegetables and products bearing quality labels, as well as supporting local food solidarity alliances among producers, associations and local administrations, making it possible to source products that are locally grown or bearing a quality label for the most underprivileged.

¹⁶⁰ [Insee, Indicators for national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2021 \(SDG 2: Prevalence of overweight among adolescents by parental socio-professional category\)](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁶¹ [OECD, Health at a Glance 2021](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁶² [Senate Background Report, Toward sustainable food: A major health, social, territorial and environmental issue for France, 2020](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁶³ [Insee, Indicators for national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2021 \(SDG 2: "Renouncing proteins for financial reasons"\)](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁶⁴ 4.7 million people were receiving food support prior to the pandemic.

¹⁶⁵ [CESE Report France as it stands today: Setting a new course, 2020](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁶⁶ Ipsos, Secours Populaire, Results of the 16th Ipsos barometer / Secours Populaire, 2022.

The fight against food waste, in which France is deploying considerable measures as mentioned in the "Progress Made" section of Area of Action 1, may also play an important role in this regard, given the context in which 20% of food is systematically wasted in France, or 150 kg per person per annum, according to the French green transition agency, Ademe,¹⁶⁷ through the diversification of food donation sources, as well as through the reduction of household food waste.

With the national food programme, the State is supporting projects designed to ensure autonomous access to food and which serve as a complement to food assistance. Other major levers that are also operational include means-

tested pricing scales for school canteens or breakfasts, under the National Poverty Prevention and Reduction Strategy for (Action 19 of Programme 304).

The European Union is also a stakeholder in the fight against food poverty, through its Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) which is to be merged with the European Social Fund Plus (FSE+) for the 2022-2027 period.

Since 2018, the EGAlim Act¹⁶⁸ has been mobilizing stakeholders able to support people facing food poverty, through food support or through social and solidarity-based grocery stores.

CHALLENGES

*Infrastructure that is essential for good health, especially concerning **access to water, is also unevenly distributed across the country. The health crisis furthermore revealed weaknesses in the French health model, owing to its relative shortfall in resources, materials and healthcare staff. The crisis also seriously affected the population's health structurally, with postponement of certain treatments and mental health deterioration. Financial insecurity, worsened by the crisis, in turn hampered access to good food. Although France is undergoing an agroecological transition, it has an **agricultural system that is still largely dependent on farming inputs.** The farming sector is the country's second-largest GG emitter. Intensive farming practices and high input usage combine to degrade environmental matrices (air, water and soil) and may also impact human health.***

Priority 4.1 - Enable easy and structured access to healthcare for all

Regional inequalities affect infrastructure, some of which have implications for people's health.

While the water supply is compliant for most French people, those living in overseas territories face location-specific difficulties. This is

particularly the case with water treatment infrastructure. The health crisis shone a light on this issue because hygiene played such an important role in stemming the spread of pathogens.

In order to remedy this situation, the State has implemented an action plan for water in the overseas *départements* and regions and in Saint-Martin aiming to improve the drinking water treatment and distribution service in France's overseas *départements* and regions.

The health crisis revealed the French healthcare system's strengths and weaknesses.

In May 2022, statistics showed that since the pandemic's outbreak there were 37.5 million confirmed Covid-19 cases and between 130,000 and 146,000 deaths. The crisis showed how dependent France was on "value chains" to meet its requirements for medical provisions. Supply problems, especially in vital production chains, for surgical masks, essential medicines and ventilators, for example, became apparent as of the first Covid-19 wave. These problems led to questions about how France could better prepare for such a crisis.¹⁶⁹

The tendency to "abstain from treatment" worsened, in particular during the first lockdown, which posed risks for both chronic

¹⁶⁷ [ADEME, Study on volumes of food loss and waste: state of play at each stage in the food chain, 2016.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁶⁸ [The act on balanced commercial relations in the agricultural sector and healthy and sustainable food, or EGAlim Act, dated 18 October 2018.](#)

¹⁶⁹ The government tasked several missions with producing reports analysing France's response to the Covid-19 crisis in comparison with those of other countries. The overall conclusions are yet to come.

and acute pathologies. The “Ségur” health consultation process held in response and the resultant 19-billion-euro investment plan¹⁷⁰ in the healthcare system should improve patient care.

In addition, the lack of recognition for nursing and support professions was keenly felt. The outcome document of the Ségur health consultation process provides for the modernization of France's health system and seeks to improve the day-to-day experience of nursing staff, who, having been on the frontlines from the outset of the pandemic, may again be called upon in years to come should further epidemics arise. An additional 10 billion euros for healthcare and medical-social professions were to be financed between 2020 and 2022.

In a bid to boost capacity to counter any future epidemics, the State provided logistics and financial support to the healthcare system, strengthened its resources and flexibility and facilitated the reorganization of nursing services around the upgraded status of healthcare professions. In 2021, an exceptionally proactive national health insurance expenditure target (known by its French initials, ONDAM)¹⁷¹ was established under the 2022 Social Protection Budget Act so as to overcome the crisis and invest in the healthcare system.

The Covid-19 crisis also shone a powerful light on mental health issues.

The effects of the successive lockdowns, changes in people's way of life and adopting new habits, such as self-isolation, teleworking and social distancing, took their toll on the population's mental well-being. According to Santé Publique France,¹⁷² in September 2022 the proportion of persons reporting a generally positive perception of their life is still 6.5 points lower than before the epidemic. Anxiety disorders are still at high levels (26% of French

people) and reported depressive syndromes remain high (18% of French people). The number of persons reporting suicidal thoughts in the twelve months prior more than doubled between the pre-epidemic period and September 2022, to reach 12% of respondents. It tends to be the most isolated persons, such as students and the elderly, who are most affected.

The State took measures to improve access to mental health care, especially through the MonPsy mechanism, operational since 2022, which provides for the full reimbursement of psychological counselling sessions under a simplified patient referral procedure. The already established “chèques psy” (a kind of voucher system),¹⁷³ make the first three psychotherapy sessions free for students.

Priority 4.2 - Limit threats to human health stemming from a degraded environment

The state of the environment and of human health (just like animal health and plant health, through the One Health approach) appear increasingly interconnected.

France's soils are vulnerable to multi-factor degradations, both physical and chemical, including contamination from various sources: particularly pollution from at-times uncontrolled agricultural fertilization and from cultivation methods (excessive fertilizers,¹⁷⁴ pesticides), and accidental or clandestine pollution (burial of toxic waste, unlawful discharge, particularly in overseas France). Pollution of soils and groundwater can directly impact the health of French people. Studies show that between 2011 and 2015, the proportion of mediocre-quality surface water bodies, depending on their ecological state, increased by more than three points (13.6% in 2018 as opposed to 10.3% in 2011).^{175 176}

¹⁷⁰ [Ségur health consultations, July 2020](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁷¹ A mechanism in France's social protection system that sets the estimated authorizations for certain disbursements.

¹⁷² [Santé Publique France, CoviPrev: A survey for monitoring behaviours and mental health during the Covid-19 epidemic \(website\), updated September 2022](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁷³ [Service-Public.fr, Santé Psy Etudiant: A website for psychological care for students \(website\), 10 March 2021](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁷⁴ Nitrogen fertilizers often contain cadmium (Cd), a heavy metal which contaminates soil and the food chain. [The Esteban biomonitoring study of the French population](#) shows widespread cadmium suffusion throughout the population, including in children. (Link to website in French).

¹⁷⁵ [Insee, Indicators for national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2021 \(SDG 6: “Quality of surface water and groundwater”\)](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁷⁶ Given the changes in methods and greater understanding nowadays, the increase in results between 2011 and 2015 should be interpreted with caution.

While the indicators for national monitoring of the SDGs¹⁷⁷ confirm a decrease in the sales of plant protection products since 2016, the use of herbicides (for market gardens, fruit trees, large-scale field crops, etc.) remains dominant in comparison with other families of products, which can lower not only soil and groundwater quality, but also that of the air when being spread. Large holdings **with little arable crop diversity**¹⁷⁸ are still very numerous in France: they call for the regular use of fertilizers and plant protection treatments.

The Écophyto plan,¹⁷⁹ operational since 2008, aims notably to lower dependence on phytosanitary products (reduce by 50% by 2025) and increase population protection.¹⁸⁰ In 2020, the NODU¹⁸¹ for agricultural use stood at 88.5 Mha while the provisional indicator for 2021 is 85.7 Mha, in decline since 2016.¹⁸²

The plan and regulations currently in force call for a stricter framework for their usage near dwellings, for greater protection of persons working close to treatment application areas and for tougher provisions on safeguarding places frequented by vulnerable persons. The State furthermore pledged to assist farmers in reducing the use of these, so as to offer them, in particular, alternatives to these problematic products.

Legislative and regulatory changes have placed more stringent conditions on the use of phytosanitary products, while more and more local bodies, as well as entities like the French waterways and navigation authority (VNF) and the National Forests Office (ONF), have been able to declare that they are 'Phyto free'.

Over and above phytosanitary products, endocrine disruptors are to be found in myriad objects and products that we use in daily life (such as household cleaning products, detergents, crop sprays, cosmetics and food products). They are present in the environment owing to contamination via various channels (including water, sediments, soil and air).

In 2020, a list of endocrine disruptors (EDs) was published and shared with other European countries, following assessment of the health risks that they may pose. In people, the main form of ED exposure is through ingestion, inhalation and skin contact. The 2019 national strategy on endocrine disruptors aims to train healthcare professionals and inform the population as to their potential danger. The European Commission is revising the rules that apply to objects that people use in their daily lives, with a view to enhancing protection. A strategy will subsequently establish a legally binding endocrine disruptor identification system throughout the European Union.

While the potential dangers of these substances are increasingly well-known, it is nonetheless difficult to ban the most harmful ones, with the exception of Bisphenol A, outlawed since 2015 in food packaging. The national public health plan aims to lower endocrine disruptor exposure, in particular during pregnancy and early childhood.

In yet another domain, the 2017-2022 Écoantibio plan focuses on reducing animals' exposure to antibiotics.¹⁸³ It has delivered excellent results thus far: a drop of 47% in animals' exposure to antibiotics over ten years.¹⁸⁴

¹⁷⁷ [Insee, Indicators for national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2021 \(SDG 2: "Average diversity of arable crops"\)](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁷⁸ Arable crops include large-scale field crops, market gardens, cultivated grassland and fields lying fallow. With the exception of market gardening, they use phytosanitary treatments less intensively, relatively, than vineyards and orchards.

¹⁷⁹ The [Écophyto II+ plan, 2018](#) codifies the commitments undertaken by the Government and provides the impetus needed to deliver the planned 50% reduction in use of plant protection products by 2025 and phase out glyphosate by the end of 2020 for main uses and at the latest by the end of 2022 for all usage. (Link to website in French)

¹⁸⁰ In total, 71 million euros are earmarked annually for the Écophyto II+ plan, both at the national and regional levels, thanks to a levy raised on the sale of phytosanitary products. The proceeds are used to finance, for example, initiatives designed to accelerate the discontinuance of the substances of most concern, support for research and innovation, protection of human health and biodiversity, and even support for farmers undergoing the agroecological transition.

¹⁸¹ The NODU monitoring indicator (number of unit doses, or *Nombre de Doses Unité*) makes it possible to account for substitutions of active substance with new substances that are effective in lower doses. Indeed, to calculate the NODU for a given substance, the quantity sold is calibrated to a dosage unit (DU) that will be unique to that particular substance, corresponding to the maximum authorized dose of the active substance that can be applied during "average" annual treatment, for all crops across the country.

¹⁸² Substances that are classified as "CMR" are carcinogenic, mutagenic, or toxic for reproduction. Given that the indicator is based on sales data, it may be skewed somewhat by the effects of inter-year storage and de-stocking (as was the case between 2018 and 2019). Undertaking a calculation using triennial data averages out any such effects.

¹⁸³ [Écoantibio Plan 2017-2022: Reduce the use of veterinary antibiotics, 2017](#). (Link to website in French)

¹⁸⁴ [Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty – Our animals' exposure to antibiotics has dropped by nearly 50%](#). (Link to website in French)

Priority 4.3 - Ensure safe, healthy and sustainable agriculture and food for everyone and at all levels

France has launched consultations on an agreement and pluriannual policy act on the future of its agricultural sector, involving stakeholders from across the board. The goal is to deliberate, collectively, on action to be taken in four areas, including one centred on climate transition and adaptation.

The drop in incomes and increasing financial insecurity stemming from the Covid-19 crisis had a direct impact on diet. The difficulties in accessing healthy food encountered by the most disadvantaged worsened, despite the food support mechanisms in place. There was an observable increase in the number of people using these safety nets, with 10% more registrations for the winter campaign for hot meal provision by the Restos du Cœur charity, an additional 10-15% of Red Cross beneficiaries and 20-25% new recipients for the Federation of Food Banks in November 2020. In order to respond to this challenge and prevent these populations from falling into poverty, the State introduced various measures, particularly through the social cohesion chapter, totalling 27 billion euros, of its France Relance recovery plan, including 6 billion for combatting poverty. New measures for preventing and

fighting poverty, announced by the Prime Minister in July 2020 at the National Assembly, France's lower house, included financial support of 94 million euros to the food support sector.

During this period, university dining-halls made two one-euro meals available every day for students. This measure serves as a good illustration of the role that can be played by institutional catering, in which the State can invest to assuage food poverty issues. In 2022, considerable efforts were made to bolster food support and thus assist associations, totalling 95 million euros in additional funds, leveraged through amended Budget Acts. On top of these funds, a fund of 60 million euros for sustainable food support was established as of 2023 specifically to finance additional supplies of foodstuffs for the associations accredited to distribute food aid. These new initiatives build on the Citizens' Convention on Climate and the EGAlim Act, and are part of the Cocolupa mechanism. This fund pursues the goals of: improving the nutritional and gustatory quality of the food support supplies; reducing the environmental footprint of the food support system; and strengthening and developing local mechanisms for fighting food poverty so as to meet the objectives for eliminating food poverty (local sourcing, coverage for under-served areas).

Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations

*initiated and organized by the Open Diplomacy Institute, on 22 May 2023,
open to members of France's the 2030 Agenda Community
drafted by the institute's committee*

The Contributory Conference participants, following a day of discussions, identified pathways toward delivering results in this Area of Action. Below is a summary of their contribution, stemming from their exchanges, as a complement to the Voluntary National Review.

“Improve health and well-being for all through healthy and sustainable agriculture”

① Align our agricultural policy with our objectives regarding sustainable development

We recommend that France accelerate changes to its import-export strategy for agricultural products. The aim is to quickly prioritize national production with a view to national consumption. Ultimately, the goal is to simultaneously reduce food supply dependency risks and the global environmental footprint of France's primary industries. These efforts need to give due consideration to our food solidarity objectives concerning our main international partners. Updating our agricultural policy will also require changes to the consultative entities that support the sector's decision-making authorities: greater representativeness for civil society stakeholders is expected so as to limit, to the extent possible, influence from certain lobbies.

② Completely overhaul our dietary habits

We call for the creation of a plan for transformative change in our eating patterns in order to reduce our consumption of meat, dairy, egg and fish products by at least 30% and, if possible, by up to 50% by 2030. Given that this ambition will no doubt constitute a cultural challenge, we underscore how vital it is for public bodies to be exemplary, ensuring that public procurement aims for fewer meat-based meals in institutional catering for administrations such as the education sector, from primary right through to tertiary levels. We furthermore recommend that the State, local authorities and consumer associations work together to produce positive narratives outlining the objective benefits of a more plant-based diet for both human health and for the environment. For this to be successful, the State needs to encourage the development, through all regulatory and taxational means possible, of a sector producing plant proteins in France. More broadly, we recommend that France make every effort to develop its agroecological industries through the appropriate reorientation of Common Agricultural Policy proceeds and through integrated and sustainable management of water resources.

③ Step up the fight against junk food advertising

We note that the measures adopted to combat advertising for foods that are high in fat, sugars and salt are partially effective. We call for the creation of a joint fact-finding mission by the General Inspectorate for the Environment and Sustainable Development (IGEDD) and the General Inspectorate for Social Affairs (IGAS) to examine the avoidance mechanisms used by advertisers. The mission should also assess the feasibility of extending the advertising ban to animal-based agricultural products.

④ Enhance and swiftly implement the fourth National Environment Health Plan

On the one hand, we highlight the importance of swiftly rolling out the provisions already included in the fourth National Environment Health Plan, featuring many worthwhile innovations for turning the One Health approach of the World Health Organization (WHO) into a reality. On the other hand, we underscore that the time is ripe to enrich this Plan by including new elements, without waiting for the next Plan. We emphasise the usefulness of integrative health approaches for making prevention policies more effective, for example by establishing a “health-environment assessment” enabling an evaluation of people’s diet and state of mental health. We also advocate consolidating this Plan through training measures targeting health and education personnel so as to combat addictions, including new types of addictions, such as those linked to prolonged screen-time exposure, especially among young people.

⑤ Consolidate the French care system with transformative new measures

With regard to health policy in the strict sense of the term, we advocate that the status of family caregivers be given recognition through eligibility for social protection entitlements (paid leave, retirement fund contributions and support in various guises designed to foster a healthy work-life balance). We also recommend, moreover, introducing a stricter policy when it comes to post-training distribution of healthcare professionals so as to swiftly eradicate France’s healthcare deserts, through a system of geographical postings similar to the one used for teacher postings around the country.

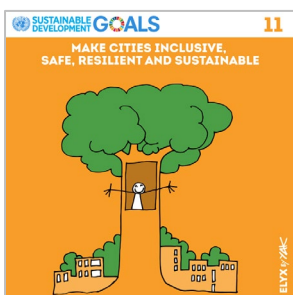
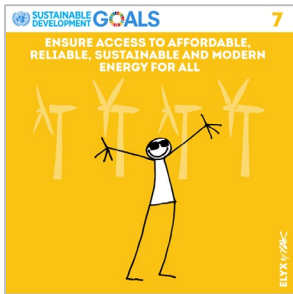
An exemplary initiative on the road to SDG 6

In a pioneering move in France, Calydial, a community healthcare establishment for renal patients, began installing, in 2015, a latest-generation water treatment facility, coupled with an on-site system for producing acid concentrate – which was subsequently replicated in other Calydial sites. The most recent one, installed in 2022, will enable a 40% saving in the amount of water used; the equivalent of an Olympic-sized swimming pool every year. The dialysis nurses no longer have to carry around dozens of heavy containers of acid before each dialysis session: production and distribution are automated thanks to pipes connecting all of the generators. It is easy to see why they are so smitten with this innovation! This initiative is a fine example of comprehensive eco-design: it lowers water consumption, carbon footprint, plastic waste... and also lightens the workload of the dialysis staff. Given that haemodialysis is responsible for a direct annual utilization of more than 3 million cubic metres of drinking water in France, Calydial has proven that small-scale stakeholders who are flexible and responsive can do their share at the local level and at the appropriate scale, contributing to efforts to innovate, use resources wisely and assist with France’s green transition.



In the project leader’s words: “I am delighted and proud of the Calydial team’s societal commitment, in particular our trailblazing work to ensure that dialysis uses less water, a resource that is so precious and increasingly under threat.”

Dr. Agnès CAILLETTE-BEAUDOIN, Managing Director, Calydial, doctor-nephrologist



Area of Action 5

Ensure effective citizen participation in efforts to achieve the SDGs, and accomplish transformative societal changes by scaling up local experimentation and innovation

Key points

The 2030 Agenda cannot be delivered without citizen engagement: ensuring their participation in public policies helps improve public decision-making and is vital for the ensuing decisions to be sustainable ones. It is therefore vital to achieve effective public participation in all spheres, starting from the design phase of public policies, throughout their implementation and right through to their evaluation. Special attention needs to be paid to the most vulnerable, so as to ensure that no-one is left behind, lest existing inequalities become exacerbated. Institutions, if sincerely motivated in these approaches, will be able, through their attitudes, attentiveness, transparency and accountability, not only to build trust among all stakeholders, but also to establish a momentum of engagement and empowerment that is all the more likely to bring about lifestyle transformations.

In order to anchor the 2030 Agenda in people's day-to-day lives and in the diverse local and regional specificities, access to essential services for all is crucial, as is support and encouragement for stakeholders who innovate and develop economic activity; in other words, it is important to liberate creative energies, support the desire for civic engagement and give localities that are mobilizing the power to accomplish changes in behaviours and ways of doing things.

The Government, administrations, parliamentarians and local authorities are increasingly turning to approaches based on community participation. There are texts and procedures that underpin such approaches, as well as consultation mechanisms enabling the information, consultation, dialogue and co-construction with the public. While it was at the local level that these were pioneered, consultations at the national level have been multiplying in recent years as well. These come in various guises: online or offline, general public, at times organized as institutional dialogues, conventions or congresses.

The purpose of **the Conseil National de la Refondation (CNR) consultation committee, established in 2022 at the behest of the President of the French Republic,** is to constructively discuss issues together so as to find solutions to the challenges of tomorrow. The consultations can be held at three different levels: CNR plenary meetings, thematic national CNR meetings and local and regional dialogues. The issues addressed dovetail with those of the 2030 Agenda, including schools, health, barriers to employment and the green transition.

AREA OF ACTION 5

Ensure effective citizen participation in efforts to achieve the SDGs, and accomplish transformative societal changes by scaling up local experimentation and innovation

PROGRESS MADE



THE CNR CONSULTATION COMMITTEE
MORE THAN **300,000**
CONTRIBUTIONS
IN 2022



537 REGIONAL AND LOCAL
AUTHORITIES

WITH CONSTITUENCIES OF
OVER 50,000 INHABITANTS

DRAFT A SUSTAINABLE **DEVELOPMENT**
REPORT PRIOR TO BUDGET APPROVAL



PROGRESSING



MULTI STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS
IN ORDER TO SET

**A PROGRAM
OF ACTION**



IMPLEMENTATION OF
LOCAL **2030 AGENDAS** LOCAUX



DEVELOPMENT OF
**LOCAL AND INDUSTRIAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

+37% COMPARED WITH THE 2015-2019 PERIOD



AIMS

- RATIONALIZE THE RESOURCE USE
- UPCYCLE **OUTFLOWS AS INPUTS**

CHALLENGES

LOCAL BODIES ENCOUNTER **DIFFICULTIES** ACHIEVING
MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT
OF THEIR POPULATIONS IN THEIR ACTIVITIES



STATE OF PLAY

As early as 1992, the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro was already placing particular emphasis on local administrations, introducing the Local Agenda 21, intended to break the sustainable development principles down into specific elements that could be enacted by willing local authorities. In 2015, the 2030 Agenda constituted a new phase in mainstreaming sustainable development into the work of local and regional authorities.

Since then, the 2030 Agenda has come to be viewed as a tool for local authorities, at the service of their respective local and regional projects, as a way of ensuring consistency across policies and actions in the drive toward sustainability.

Around the country, the contribution that citizens make to public action – a crucial mobilization if it is to be sustainable – relies not only on people's expertise, but also their initiative. Civic participation implies on the one hand more accountability regarding political decisions, and on the other, in a complementary manner, exemplifies truly representative democracy, at the heart of the French Republic.

PROGRESS MADE

Under Area of Action 5 of France's roadmap for the 2030 Agenda, "Ensure effective citizen participation in efforts to achieve the SDGs, and accomplish transformative societal changes by scaling up local experimentation and innovation", different initiatives are being undertaken around the country so as to foster dialogue and reduce regional inequalities.

Priority 5.1 – Support local experimental initiatives and regional innovations in order to bring about changes in behaviours and practices

Local-level action is absolutely key to bringing about transformative change. The profusion of initiatives underway all around the country make transformation possible. There is a growing appreciation among local authorities of how vitally important it is to foster citizen participation in shaping public policies.

In recent years, **the role of local authorities has been changing**. Depending on each municipality's local context, history and ambitions, it will adopt different methods: creation of urban innovation laboratories, establishment of participatory democracy policies, co-construction

with communities of municipal projects, setting municipal budgets with inhabitants, development of multi-stakeholder partnerships, etc. There are countless forms of cooperative endeavours aiming to enhance the community's quality of life and initiate local projects and action.

Numerous tools designed for local authorities throughout France have been developed with a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Some local and regional authorities have opted to use the 2030 Agenda as a starting point for analysing and reassessing their policies and programmes with regard to the 17 SDGs, with a view to initiating or bolstering their contribution to the national green transition objectives.

As part of an ongoing improvement process, several tools have been developed so as to guide and assess regional sustainable development endeavours. Visualisation tools have been created covering objective statistics from a database. The State disseminates territorial indicators that are consistent with the 2030 Agenda.¹⁸⁵ These indicators, available to the public, can be used for steering and monitoring sustainable development and environmental planning at the local level.

¹⁸⁵ [Territorial sustainable development indicators](#). (Link to website in French)



The city of Strasbourg has embarked on a budget alignment process regarding the SDGs, encompassing not only the council budget of the city itself, but also the budget of the Eurométropole de Strasbourg, the wider area encompassing 33 municipalities. In 2019, a line-by-line analysis of the budgets for investment, general operations and associated appended budgets confirmed the pertinence of the UN framework for more integrated management of sustainability policies for these two different levels of local government.

Priority 5.2 - Bridge the territorial divide and improve public service proximity

The health crisis changed the way that we do things, including an *en-masse* shift to digital tools, especially in public services, meaning that **France's priority of ensuring digital access for all¹⁸⁶ remains as relevant as ever, so as to "leave no-one behind"**. The objective is to extend the optical fibre network to every corner of the country by the end of 2025 at the latest. In 2022, 86% of the population already had high-speed internet connections, as opposed to a mere 64.4% in 2010, and a similar proportion of people use the internet on a regular basis.

The digital divide is steadily narrowing.

In parallel, since France aims to bring its public services ever closer to those who use them, it has been rolling out a France Services public services centres, known as *maisons*, since 2019. Bringing public services to the areas where they are needed, citizens can visit these centres for administrative procedures or to seek help in using digital services. Figures from late 2022 show that there are currently 2,379 accredited France Services *maisons* in total. The main purpose of these *maisons* is to address digital illiteracy, which particularly affects people aged 65 and over and the working classes, 20% of whom are unable to perform any on-line tasks.

The local-level issues around France are protean. In a bid to support local and regional authorities through their environmental, demographic, digital and economic transitions, France has come up with a new kind of contract for them: **the recovery and green transition contract (or CRTE)**. Every CRTE contract,¹⁸⁷ signed for a six-year period, embodies the furtherance of a new form of collaboration between the central and local government. Each stakeholder helps develop a shared roadmap and a common programming calendar, in order to successfully conclude the transition processes under way, and provide specific solutions to local issues while simultaneously contributing to the entire country's overarching environmental, economic and social objectives.

Priority 5.3 - Increase citizen input to public action

Local and regional authorities, like the Government, administrations, parliament members, are making increasing use of community participation approaches: Citizen workshops,¹⁸⁸ on-line open consultations, participatory workshops, etc., permit greater ongoing community participation in public endeavours. Numerous consultations have been held in recent years by administrations on important public decisions, major reforms and draft bills.



France has various texts and procedures (such as the right of local petition, right of citizen's initiative, public enquiries, public debates organized by the National Public Debate Commission, open internet consultations, Environmental Charter and Public Participation Charter) providing for the information, consultation, dialogue and co-construction with the public. Local authorities have been encouraging public participation since the 1990s.

¹⁸⁶ [Act on engagement in local life and public service proximity, known as the Engagement and Proximity Act, of 27 December 2019.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁸⁷ As at 21 February 2023, 841 CRTE contracts had been signed and entered into force.

¹⁸⁸ This is a collective brainstorming method enabling a group of citizens, selected at random and who are non-specialists in the subject, to give their opinion on a public issue under discussion, thus providing input to the political decision-making process.

The purpose of the **Conseil National de la Refondation (CNR) consultation committee**, launched in 2022 at the instigation of President Macron, is to enable broad, constructive exchanges in order to find solutions to tomorrow's challenges. It is structured as follows:

- The CNR plenary: a forum bringing together very diverse stakeholders from national life to discuss the major challenges that the country is facing and their respective constraints;
- Thematic CNR sessions: the thematic workshops address the major transitions of our time, bringing together all relevant players. There are nine topics covered including, notably, work, ageing well, climate and biodiversity, youth, housing, schools and health;
- Territorial CNR sessions: regional dialogues bringing together local stakeholders on issues that are important in everyday life, such as schooling, health, hurdles to employment and even the green transition as experienced locally. The idea is to use French people's first-hand experience of local realities as a starting point, reflecting territorial diversity, so as to propose innovations, experiments and pragmatic solutions to the problems that they encounter.

Since the launch in September 2022, more than 300,000 contributions have been registered on the national platform.

In 2020, the **Citizens' Climate Convention** submitted 149 proposals aimed at lowering GHG emissions by at least 40% by 2030. This first ever experimental citizens' climate assembly, with its outcomes and practical implications, especially of a legislative nature, with the Act passed on 22 August 2021 on combatting climate change and building resilience against its effects, has become a point of reference, even internationally, for rethinking citizens' involvement in public debate.

Still at the national level, the Open Government Partnership movement¹⁸⁹ mobilizes dozens of public institutions, administrations and local and regional authorities. Several initiatives are under way to promote transparency, openness, effectiveness and accountability. The third



The Sustainable Development Meetings (known by their French initials, RDDs) - (Open Diplomacy Institute)

The purpose of these RDD meetings is to help people forge their own opinion on sustainable development issues thanks to rich debates that are as widely accessible as possible.

These major democratic events therefore enable all willing participants to get firmly to grips with the issues surrounding our world's transformation, through numerous free-of-charge debates, organized with experts, decision-makers, business leaders, politicians and so on.

The latest edition, held over the course of three months, comprised eight stages: Paris, Metz, Bordeaux, Nantes, Montpellier, Lyon, Dijon and Berlin. The aim was to make the event more widespread, geographically, and reach out to new participants, such as young people in higher education.

For the last two RDD meetings, the stage held in Paris coincided with the **anniversary of the 2030 Agenda's adoption, which is acknowledged every year in France** with gatherings, exchanges and deliberations with civil society representatives.

National Action Plan (2021-2023)¹⁹⁰ reiterates France's commitment to civic participation and transparent public action. It provides for onboarding of new stakeholders, including the French Cassation Court, the Conseil d'État, the Data Protection Office, the Regulatory Authority for Audiovisual and Digital Communication (known as the Audiovisual Board until 1 January 2022) and even the National Digital Council.

There are also many endeavours under way for making public data more open and public action more transparent (such as the barometer for public action outcomes), as well as committing to quality user experience, through quality service and relations.

¹⁸⁹ France is one of 78 countries in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which works, everywhere around the world, for transparency in public action, co-construction with civil society and democratic innovation.

¹⁹⁰ [France's third National Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership, 2021](#). (Link to website in French)

Open data and digital democracy are topical issues for many local authorities, all varying greatly in size and function. In recent years, they have had increasingly to address these



questions. They tend to have consistently high expectations with regard to digital tools for civic participation.

Digital processes are central to the participatory “toolkits” of certain local authorities, such as those in Grenoble, Nantes, Rennes, Angers, and the intermunicipal cooperation authorities of Lille European Metropolis, Nîmes Metropolis and Bordeaux Metropolis. Digital consultation or discussion platforms are the second most frequently-used mechanisms after one-off processes regarding local and urban planning and neighbourhood issues.

It is mandatory for any local and regional communities with own-source levy revenue with more than 50,000 inhabitants to submit, before their budget is adopted, **a report on their sustainable development situation. Since 2021, the 2030 Agenda serves as a frame of reference for these reports.** The aim is to ensure consistency between public policies and objectives pursued at the local, national and international levels and those of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The purpose of the document is to take stock of

policies, programmes and actions, and how things are run in that constituency with regard to sustainable development, so that potential improvements can be identified, and also to serve as a support for budgetary discussions. There are more than 500 local and regional communities in this category.



The short supply-chain **local food projects** (LFPs) are an excellent illustration of the emergence of collective, systemic projects designed to create a rapprochement among all value chain stakeholders in a given geographical area. In this particular example, the focus is on meal provision, and the projects bring together producers and consumers, as well as those performing food processing, distribution and institutional catering. These LFPs satisfy the desire to locally source solutions not only for food, but also public health, economic development, social justice, environmental protection and climate change adaptation, and ensure that they dovetail with agricultural and food transition objectives. Under the France Relance recovery plan, State support for LFP rollout was amplified. As of 1 April 2022, more than 370 LFPs had been registered, with at least one LFP in every *département*.

PROGRESSING

Priority 5.1 - Support local experimental initiatives and regional innovations in order to bring about changes in behaviours and practices

Mobilizing players from the area needing support and development in order to construct a local version of the 2030 Agenda. Some municipalities, using the 2030 Agenda as a base, are mobilizing local stakeholders in order to forge a shared vision of their locality and create **a local-level 2030 Agenda**, manifested through an action programme. The programme is the culmination of dialogue and collaborative

efforts among all kinds of players – such as local and regional authorities, businesses, associations, individual citizens – and examples include **Venelles**,¹⁹¹ **Longvic**,¹⁹² **Niort**¹⁹³ and **Evian**.¹⁹⁴ There are various associations lending support in order to get the ball rolling and establish a programme, such as the association called “Notre Village” (Our Village). This entity supports rural municipalities in their sustainable development endeavours and awards a label¹⁹⁵ in recognition of the municipality’s commitment; more than 45 Local 2030 Agendas have received a “Notre Village” label since 2017.

¹⁹¹ [Priority actions under the 2030 Agenda, Municipality of Venelles.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁹² [Action plan of the Municipality of Longvic.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁹³ [Niort's roadmap to the SDGs.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁹⁴ [The Municipality of Evian, a sustainable development pilot.](#) (Link to website in French)

¹⁹⁵ [The label is called “Notre Village Terre d’Avenir”.](#) (Link to website in French)



In a bid to raise the general public's awareness of the SDGs and achieve greater local stakeholder involvement, the Comité 21 has been organizing, since 2017, the Tour de France of the SDGs.

The aim is to make the 2030 Agenda more widely known to all the organizations and individuals participating in the Tour. Pro-SDG initiatives are promoted and ways are identified in which stakeholders can interact in to achieve their sustainability goals. The multi-stakeholder, participatory and unifying events, held in different regions both in mainland and overseas France, have been an opportunity to discuss global issues, take inspiration from innovative accomplishments and to explain how the SDGs can be implemented locally. Twelve regional events have been scheduled for the 2018-2022 period, bringing together over 3,000 participants. An evaluation and knowledge capture event is scheduled for the first quarter of 2023, aiming to shed light on how the SDGs are being implemented at local and regional level around the country.

Promoting the 2030 Agenda in the community, vital for wider onboarding. Numerous initiatives for raising awareness, running training courses and sharing experience and best practices have been launched since 2016. They are to be continued so as to foster stakeholder ownership of the 2030 Agenda.

Various aids have been produced in a bid to **facilitate the utilization and ownership of the 2030 Agenda** by local bodies and citizens (such as toolkits and support manuals). More needs to be done, however, to raise further awareness of the 2030 Agenda and of how it can apply at the local level.

Priority 5.2 - Bridge the territorial divide and improve public service proximity

The territorial divide affects all parts of the country. Inequalities persist or are increasing between rural villages, small towns and big cities when it comes to creating wealth and jobs. The fact that it is difficult to access public services in rural areas, in particular, calls for consolidation of physical infrastructure density and facilitated access via other means, especially digital channels.

France's ultra-high speed internet plan will enable digital coverage everywhere. In parallel, the rollout of France Services public services centres will be broadened in two ways: firstly, through a wider range of services on offer; and secondly, by reaching a greater number of users. This will enable access for all without discrimination, guaranteeing full network coverage.

CRTE contracts are now in place all around the country. The goal is to scale them up and especially to enhance the mainstreaming of sustainable development issues so that these contracts become the logical supporting document underpinning environmental planning.

Priority 5.3 - Increase citizen input to public action

Improving civic participation, irrespective of the locality's size, requires support measures so that communities acquire a participatory culture, which will further develop, the more they become involved. Fostering co-construction and collaborative intelligence means that participatory practices will need to shift toward greater explicit transparency regarding choices made and the overarching impact that people's participation can make.

It will take time for a culture of participation to develop locally and it will require the availability of spaces for dialogue and exchange among the various different stakeholders. Having more informed citizens, ensuring open and transparent decision-making processes, giving due consideration to the community's ideas in public action, ensuring inclusiveness, creating fora for deliberations, developing people's



With regard to the involvement of the National Assembly, the Speaker of this "house of the people," wanted to "open the National Assembly's doors wide" to the French people, by hosting the 2022 Parisian stage of the RDD meetings.

The Speaker recalled that she was seeking to devise a new parliamentary working method that would incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals. "The SDGs need to be guiding the Parliament's work" according to the resolution adopted 26 November 2020 on mainstreaming the SDGs into the legislative process.

political skills... so many steps that all need to be put in place to achieve renewed citizen engagement.

Numerous local authorities indicate that they assess their participatory mechanisms. Civic

participation is often a strategic approach in the official mandate for most local and regional authorities. However, it is a commitment that is seldom formalized through deliberation.

CHALLENGES

The internet made large-scale civil society participation possible, as well as outreach to people who had hitherto not been involved in such processes, such as young people. While digital technology helped facilitate and expand participation, it is not without its limitations. Internet consultations make it possible to gather opinions, but it is not ideal for deliberations. The digital space tends to reproduce the biases and inequalities observed in consultations undertaken in conventional administrative and political spheres. In addition, there is the problem of the digital divide, as seen earlier: some segments of the population have no internet access or technical equipment and knowledge to effectively make online contributions.

Local and regional authorities encounter difficulties establishing participatory processes. The fact that such participation has proved to be non-representative is a major concern for local and regional authorities. Many local and regional authorities report difficulties mobilizing certain groups of the population: youth, working classes, foreign nationals, as well as households with children and working-age people.

Assimilation of the 2030 Agenda by populations and localities, an ongoing challenge. Implementing the 2030 Agenda locally requires ownership in greater numbers and across a more diverse range of stakeholders. Rather than "mere" awareness-raising, it is important to convey the operational added value in order to arrive at new ways of doing things and new forms of organization, at the service of inclusive and resilient communities. With this

aim in mind, activities of different kinds will need to be undertaken, designed to change mindsets and foster the capacity to rethink policies, projects and initiatives so as to ensure that they both respond to the region's needs and also contribute to delivering the SDGs.

Mobilizing local stakeholders to implement the 2030 Agenda remains a day-to-day challenge. **The 2030 Agenda needs to be made even more operational so that everyone can contribute to achieving the SDGs.** Among the approaches currently being rolled out (such as diagnostics, continual improvement and sustainable development reports) local authorities note that voluntary local reviews would be helpful for strengthening guidance regarding the 2030 Agenda.



SDG Champions France is an

association that works to facilitate the implementation, all around the world, of projects and policies that would make a demonstrated contribution to the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets. To this end, the association is creating *4allSDGs* applications with its partners, along the same lines as the *Water4allSDGs* web tool, which was made publicly available by the French Water Partnership, for all major sectors. Currently, for example, in partnership with UNESCO, it is building the *Education4allSDGs* application, which will enable assessment of the positive and negative impacts of an education policy or project on the 17 SDGs.

Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations

*proposed and held by the Open Diplomacy Institute on 22 May 2023,
open to members of France's Agenda 2030 Community
drafted by the Institute's committee*

Following a day of discussions, the Contributory Conference participants identified pathways towards delivering results in this Area of Action. Below is a summary of their contribution based on their exchanges as a supplement to the Voluntary National Review.

“Ensure effective citizen participation in efforts to achieve the SDGs, and accomplish transformative societal changes by scaling up local experimentation and innovation”

① For all environmental planning, use the SDGs as a reference in every process of multi-scale governance

Considering the difficulties involved in articulating the different levels of public action – international, European, national and local – we underscore the importance of referring to a reference that is common to all spheres of governance. We consider the SDGs to be the only universal reference, being multi-stakeholder in nature, and endowed with a holistic approach, which constitutes a grammar that is common to the United Nations, the European Union (EU), the State and local and regional communities. This shared matrix, designed from the outset to connect the global with the local, building on Agenda 21, is therefore a highly effective tool for any multi-scale governance exercise. We recommend referring to this cross-cutting and holistic reference in order to implement France's environmental planning at a local level, given that all local and regional communities with own-source levy revenue with over 50,000 inhabitants must refer to it for drafting the sustainable development report that they need to adopt before their budget is put to the vote. We further recommend using the SDGs for designing and steering recovery and green transition contracts (CRTE contracts), not only so that all facets of the transition can be duly considered in these CRTE contracts, but also so that the contracting process itself can help align efforts at all levels toward delivering the 2030 Agenda. It would appear that clarity concerning the use of the SDGs in public policy design and implementation (*cf.* the first recommendation under Area of Action 1) whenever environmental planning is performed is a prerequisite if effective participation of all stakeholders, and in particular for local experimentation and innovation, is to be maximised.

② Encourage SDG-based design for all local and regional projects

While it is vital that the State use the SDGs systematically as a reference when cooperating with local and regional authorities on transition issues, it is also, in a symmetrical fashion, imperative that the SDGs constitute a positive reference for the latter in the design of their local and regional strategies. We recommend the creation of a “call for exemplary local projects” in order to politically showcase and financially support local and regional authorities that have truly taken the SDGs on board, especially those that have taken the initiative of producing a voluntary local review, those that have overhauled their governance processes so that the budget debates give pride of place to examination of the sustainable development report prior to having their budget adopted by the relevant decision-making body, and those that have fully incorporated partnership-based approaches as per SDG 17 into the design of their regional strategies. This call for projects could reward those local and regional authorities that

have performed the best, but also those that are launching experiments in this regard and those (especially Regions and Metropolises) disseminating such approaches to the other localities with which they work. This call for projects could be launched by the Prime Minister responsible for Ecological and Energy Planning at the Congress of French Mayors, in partnership with the association of France's Regions, in light of the Regions' role in the transition since the promulgation of the law reorganizing France's local and regional administrations (the NOTRe Act).

③ **Scale up existing mechanisms for centralizing and disseminating tools and best practices for committed stakeholders**

As a complement to the work of awareness-raising about the SDGs, education for sustainable development (*cf.* Area of Action 3) and lending support to regions (*cf.* recommendations 1 and 2), it is furthermore important to provide specific tools to stakeholders, firms and local and regional communities who wish to use the SDGs as a fertile matrix for developing their strategy and as a comprehensive reporting reference for ensuring accountability. We recommend that the Commission for Sustainable Development (known by its French initials, CGDD) organize a collective intelligence seminar with all players who have worked on such tools in order to financially support the development of tools with a proven track record, select the most relevant tools for each category of organization (firms, local and regional authorities, associations, universities, etc.), reference these tools as commons on the 2030 Agenda website, and run a communications campaign targeting any organizations that could make use of them. Indeed, while we observe that at the macro-level, there is increasing ownership of the 2030 Agenda and, at the micro-level a growing number of organizations are taking on the SDGs, we underscore the importance of awareness-raising at the meso-level in order to provide such tools to major networks of intermediate bodies so as to amplify the current momentum, capitalizing on existing networks and on examples that can inspire action and greatly increase commitment to the cause.

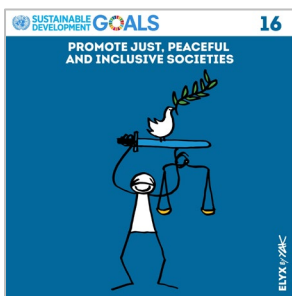
An exemplary initiative on the road to SDG 7

The Castelnau-le-Lez City Council has created a photovoltaic power station with the social housing office of the Montpellier Metropolis. This power station comprises 2,500m² in solar canopies and produces 500 kWp, or 660 MWh/year, making it possible, through the public electricity grid, to cheaply power the city's schools and administrative buildings, which represents a third of the Council's contracted electricity for 30 years. The electricity that is of benefit to schools contributes to SDG 11.1. The social housing office can use the power for its own requirements, thus contributing to SDG 7.1. The longevity of the facilities and the lengthy contract phase – 30 years – aims for SDG 9. The funding draws on broad civic participation (SDG 17): participatory investment that was open to anyone able to invest between 10 and 500 euros. The municipal budget has not had to bear any cost at all. In parallel, energy saving measures were implemented for public buildings (SDG 7.3) and measures for attenuating summer heat (such as canopies, greenery and night-time airing) at the service of SDG 13.1. This technical, regulatory and contractual system can easily be replicated.



In the project leader's words: "I incorporated this project into our municipal local planning programme for the city's green transition. The project will be completed this year and it is an honour to be able to present it at the HLPF!"

Dr. Jean KOEHLIN, Deputy Mayor of Castelnau-le-Lez, Sustainable City Officer



Area of Action 6

Work at European and international levels for sustainable transformation

Key points

Area of Action 6 of France's roadmap toward the 2030 Agenda encompasses France's action for delivering the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the international arena. This action occurs at different levels: bilateral, European and multilateral.

- **In the year 2022 our official development assistance (ODA) set a historic record** - (more than €15 billion, or 0.56% of our gross national income). The steady and unprecedented allocation of resources to solidarity-based development since 2017 (+ 50%) illustrates our commitment to ensuring that no-one is left behind. France is now the world's fourth largest ODA donor.
- **The funding gap for SDGs at the international level was exacerbated by a series of crises (health, food, energy, financial and geopolitical) over the last three years.** It would appear more necessary than ever to uncover novel sources of funding for sustainable development. France is able to use its expertise in innovative financing solutions and its influence in multilateral fora to propose practical solutions in a bid to better finance the SDGs.
- **Through its development policy, France is promoting all facets of sustainable development:** economic, social and environmental. With the adoption of the planning law on solidarity development and the fight against global inequalities, on 4 August 2021, the very core of our work for developing countries became explicitly connected to the multilateral framework that the international community established through the 2030 Agenda, the Addis-Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, and the Paris Agreement for the climate.
- **France is using the 2030 Agenda as a guiding framework for its international action.** It is working on clearly defined priorities: the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss, promoting world health, access to education for all, food and nutritional security, gender equality and sustainable development in fragile areas. This framework guides the endeavours of "Team France" and is implemented, operationally, through myriad projects and initiatives.

France's action follows a reinvigorated partnership-based approach, in line with SDG 17. In keeping with the 2021 New Africa-France Summit, France intends to break out of an exclusively State-to-State format and reach out to all development stakeholders working on the ground in our partner countries. It is fostering wider involvement of French sustainable development stakeholders (civil society, local and regional authorities, the private sector, research institutes, etc.) through practical mechanisms.

AREA OF ACTION 6

Work at a European and international level for the sustainable transformation of societies, peace and solidarity

PROGRESS MADE

FRANCE IS THE 4TH LARGEST DONOR



€15.1B

IN OFFICIAL
DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE
IN 2022



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

INCREASE BY

40%

IN FRANCE'S
CONTRIBUTION



TO THE GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENT FUND



SUPPORT FOR
THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP
FOR EDUCATION



LARGEST
DONOR

€333M

FOR 2021-2025

PROGRESSING

47% OF OFFICIAL
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
CONTRIBUTES TO **GENDER
EQUALITY**



50% IN 2022 AND
75% BY 2025

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



**MORE RESOURCES
EARMARKED
FOR CSOS**

7.75% OF ODA
IN 2021

CHALLENGES

IN 2021

**FRANCE'S CARBON
FOOTPRINT** WAS ESTIMATED AT



604 MT CO₂eq,

OR **8.9 TONNES**
CO₂ EQ PER CAPITA



IMPORTED EMISSIONS
ACCOUNT FOR 51%,
OR 308 MT CO₂ EQ

CONCENTRATION OF RESOURCES FOR THE
MOST VULNERABLE COUNTRIES

IN 2022

**OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE**

TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



0.12% OF GROSS NATIONAL INCOME
19% OF BILATERAL AID

STATE OF PLAY

Area of Action 6 “Work at European and international levels for the sustainable transformation of societies, peace and solidarity” is approached through the prism of the priorities set forth in the 2019 roadmap. There have been notable changes in recent years, with an unprecedented boost in the wherewithal of our policy regarding solidarity-based development and the fight against global inequalities, and an alignment of our activities with the 2030 Agenda. Current circumstances, however, amply illustrate the need for ongoing engagement in order to safeguard global public goods and address the global SDG funding gap (estimated at \$3,900 billion by the OECD).¹⁹⁶ The current multiple crises are exacerbating global inequalities and call for redoubled efforts. The challenges are global and respect no boundaries, meaning that the multilateral framework is more necessary than ever if we are to deliver sustainable, effective responses to the shared challenges that we all face.

PROGRESS MADE

Priority 6.1 - Promote sustainable development as the necessary foundation of international stability

Since 2021, **France's development aid policy has been set by the planning law on solidarity development (or LOP-DSLIM). It anchors our international action within the multilateral framework that the international community established with the 2030 Agenda, the Addis-Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and Paris Agreement on climate, as well that of European development policy.**

France's priorities include the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss, prevention of pandemics, the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition, the education systems crisis, as well as access to water, gender equality, and the stabilisation and sustainable development of vulnerable areas. Safeguarding these global public goods is both a condition for and an accelerator of development, for the benefit of populations.

The SDGs serve as a frame of reference and a compass for France's action internationally.

Alignment between financial flows and the SDGs guides the approach of the State and its agencies, in particular that of the French development agency, Groupe Agence Française de Développement (or AFD Group), which is the linchpin for implementing our development aid projects, and is ambitiously driven by its SDG-related activity.

Working in support of the climate and the environment is naturally a key priority for our external action.

Since the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in 2015, which was held in Paris,¹⁹⁷ France has been furthering its commitment across all areas of climate diplomacy. It supports multi-stakeholder coalitions (States, local bodies, civil society and the private sector).¹⁹⁸

France uses its diplomacy to support those of its partners that are the most exposed to the effects of climate change, especially in Africa, and strives to bolster climate finance, so that all countries may benefit from the most effective

¹⁹⁶ OECD (2022), Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2023: No Sustainability Without Equity.

¹⁹⁷ The COP21 adopted the international climate agreement aiming to limit global warming to 1.5-2°C in conformity with the predictions made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

¹⁹⁸ Examples include the International Solar Alliance, High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, and the Alliance for the Preservation of Rainforests.



The French development agency and the SDGs

France's development agency (AFD) has an innovative framework for ensuring that the cross-cutting issue of sustainability is given due consideration in its financing operations. Created in 2014, the "sustainable development analysis and assessment" (or AADD) mechanism is now the cornerstone that ensures alignment between AFD's operations and the SDGs.

This tool is built upon three principles:

1. Increase impact and push transformative projects: The idea is to design projects of high quality, with positive impact, that incorporate the basic principle of "doing no harm"; **2. Foster synergies among SDGs:** The AADD mechanism systematically questions the projects' capacity to address environmental, social and economic challenges, while also paying attention to governance, and giving full consideration to interactions between SDGs; **3. Promote responses tailored to each context:** Thanks to a thorough analysis of the issues specific to each locality, this mechanism does much more than quantify the projects' contributions to the SDGs. It also takes into account problems regarding data access; a challenge faced by numerous sectors and geographical areas.

The AFD Group furthermore publishes an activity and corporate social responsibility report (or RARES in its French initials) which quantifies the contribution made to the SDGs. In 2021, AFD Group thus financed over 1,000 pro-SDG projects in more than 150 countries, totalling 12.15 billion euros.

technologies and practices for lowering their emissions and adapting to climate change. By way of example, France is one of the main contributors to the Just Energy Transition Partnership with South Africa, which aims to support the progressive decarbonization of South Africa's economy, through significant financial and technical assistance from several donor countries.¹⁹⁹ France is also a supporter of the Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative in Sahel-Saharan Africa.²⁰⁰

France, which participates in all multilateral discussions on the subject, pledged to raise its public climate funding in developing economies from €3 billion in 2015 to €5 billion in 2020. This objective had already been reached and surpassed as early as 2019. Since then, it has further increased and extended the commitment made at the COP21, reaching €6 billion annually between 2021 and 2025, a third of which is earmarked for adaptation measures. France keeps its promises: in 2021, it mobilized 6 billions of euros, a third of which was for adaptation.

France is very involved in multilateral entities working for biodiversity protection. At a time when 75% of terrestrial environments and 40% of marine ecosystems are severely degraded, and when the rate of species loss is 100 to 1,000 times higher than the natural extinction rate, the international community urgently needs to take decisive action. France does so in multilateral arenas. At the COP15 in December 2022, France supported, alongside its European partners, the adoption of a Global Biodiversity Framework with emblematic commitments such as reducing by half the risks from pesticides and excessive nutrients, restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems and protecting 30% of land and 30% of marine areas by 2030 (30x30). In January 2021 France furthermore held the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. In addition, France co-chairs with Costa Rica the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC N&P) which, with its 117 members, plays a key role in the adoption of the "30x30" target.²⁰¹

¹⁹⁹ [Investment Plan for a Just Energy Transition in South Africa - Elysée](#). (Link to website in French)

²⁰⁰ The President of the French Republic launched the GGW Accelerator at the One Planet Summit in 2021, so as to give this iconic project renewed impetus. The different partners in the initiative are currently committed to mobilizing almost 16 billion euros in international funding for the countries concerned by 2025.

²⁰¹ The Coalition will now be able to support developing countries in their work toward this target through the creation of a permanent Secretariat (HAC 2.0).

Biodiversity also has an important place in our ODA. French commitments on biodiversity rose from an annual average of €105 million for the 2006-2010 period to €2.3 billion in 2021. AFD has pledged to dedicate €1 billion to biodiversity in 2025,²⁰² which is twice as much as in 2019.²⁰³ France is therefore already on track to double its international funding by 2025 as requested of developed countries under the Kunming-Montreal GBF.

After the first Earth Summit, France created the French Facility for Global Environment (or FFEM) in 1994, which has made it possible to support 400 projects in more than 120 countries, two-thirds of which are in Africa. For the 2023-2026 period, the State's disbursement amounted to €132 million, which comes on top of France's contribution to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), totalling €300 million for the 2022-2026 period.

A similar approach is being taken to protect the oceans and forests, since these environments directly contribute to climate change mitigation through their capacity to absorb carbon, and constitute biodiversity reservoirs that are vital for humanity's well-being and prosperity. In February 2022 France organized the One Ocean Summit on ocean protection, which culminated in the Brest Commitments and the launch, for example, of the Blue Carbon Coalition. France is also to host, jointly with Costa Rica, the next United Nations Ocean Conference, in Nice in 2025.²⁰⁴

France was one of the initiators of the Alliance for the Preservation of Rainforests.²⁰⁵ In order to gain further momentum, France and Gabon co-hosted in March 2023 the inaugural One Forest Summit, culminating in

the Libreville Plan. This Plan includes the launch of numerous multi-stakeholder coalitions for mobilizing the private sector (10by30), scientific cooperation (One Forest Vision) and sustainable value chains, as well as the creation of a 100 million euro fund for positive conservation partnerships (PCPs). France has furthermore supported, since its creation in 2015, the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), for which the French President announced, at the One Forest Summit, that France's contribution would double.²⁰⁶

Fresh water also plays a crucial role in sustainable development and reduces poverty and inequalities. Climate change has a significant effect on the water cycle and exacerbates the risk of natural disasters (floods, drought, erosion and soil degradation, etc.). This change in the quality and availability of water resources, combined with demographic growth and increasing needs, poses a threat to current water use (domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational and environmental), to economic and human development, as well as to world peace.

France has reaffirmed its commitment to SDG 6 with its 2020-2030 international strategy for water and sanitation.²⁰⁷ This strategy is built upon an intersectoral approach so as to ensure cohesion between the water and sanitation sector with other SDGs and address major water-related challenges such as food and nutritional security, health, gender equality, reducing inequalities, education and economic development. In 2022, AFD contributed around €1.2 billion for this sector, or 10% of the Group's commitments,²⁰⁸ and enabled four million people to benefit from water-related projects.²⁰⁹

²⁰² Including through projects benefitting both climate and biodiversity simultaneously.

²⁰³ AFD was the first development bank to declare that it would align 100% with the Paris Agreement, thereby ceasing to finance any project that would be incompatible with the Agreement. It also promotes this pro-alignment position among its 24 counterparts in the International Development Finance Club (IDFC) network.

²⁰⁴ International governance of the oceans will be at the heart of UNOC-3. The Conference will be an opportunity to promote and spur different processes under way (establishment of marine protected areas in waters beyond national jurisdictions, the fight against plastic pollution and overfishing) and facilitate implementation of SDG14 ("Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development").

²⁰⁵ Launched in 2019 alongside the 74th General Assembly of the United Nations.

²⁰⁶ In 2023, France disbursed 18 million euros, on top of the 21 million euros in co-funding for CAFI projects by AFD. This initiative encompasses six central African countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea) and aims to reduce deforestation while improving livelihoods.

²⁰⁷ www.diplomacy.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/eau_fr_web_cle07e783.pdf. (Link to website in French)

²⁰⁸ www.afd.fr/fr/resources/eau-and-assainissement-bilan-activite-2022. (Link to website in French)

²⁰⁹ www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/expert-afd-forum-mondial-eau-dakar. (Link to website in French)

Decentralized cooperation plays a substantial role in the sector, thanks to the 2005 legislation²¹⁰ permitting local authorities to earmark 1% of their water budgets for cooperation and international solidarity. As a result, nearly €300 million in donations between 2007 and 2018 were mobilized by local government, federations and water agencies for the benefit of partner countries. Firms, in particular Veolia and Suez, also play a vital role in implementing suitable solutions for underprivileged populations, especially through their support for the French Water Partnership (FWP).²¹¹

With climate change, **extreme weather events are on the rise, in terms of both intensity and frequency.** Disaster risk reduction is thus a key element of climate change adaptation, in particular in the most vulnerable countries. Early warning systems have a proven track record when it comes to lowering mortality and threats to property and means of subsistence stemming from natural disasters. This spurred France to launch, at the COP21, the CREWS multi-donor initiative. Its initial aim of mobilizing \$100 million to cover the funding gap for early warning systems was accomplished in 2022.²¹²

France's international action regarding food security is centred on five objectives.²¹³

- 1) strengthen global governance of food and nutrition security;
- 2) support the development of sustainable agricultural and food systems, in particular through agroecology;²¹⁴
- 3) scale up pro-nutrition activities;
- 4) support the structuring of sustainable agrifood industries, fostering the creation of decent jobs in rural areas, especially for young people;
- 5) boost food assistance activities for vulnerable populations and improve their resilience to the causes of food insecurity.



Supported by **Cités Unies France**, local and regional authorities are working to better integrate the SDGs into decentralised cooperation. For example, a "Training/Action" experiment has been launched to identify the SDG framework in cooperation endeavours between the Aude *Département* and the Hauts-Bassins Region in Burkina Faso, as well as between the cities of Strasbourg in France and Douala in Cameroon.

In 2022, ODA's disbursements in the field of food security, nutrition and agricultural and rural development totalled around €720 million. In parallel to its bilateral action, France supports multilateralism and donor coordination.

In response to the effects on global food security of the war in Ukraine, France also launched, in March 2022, the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) initiative, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, comprising three pillars: trade, solidarity and support for local sustainable production in the most vulnerable countries, especially in Africa.

France, champion of the worldwide School Meals Coalition launched by the WFP in 2021, will be hosting the first international meeting in autumn 2023. School meal programmes promise excellent joint benefits in terms of enhancing education, combatting poverty, improving health and nutrition and bolstering gender equality.²¹⁵ In late 2024 or early 2025 France will host the Nutrition 4 Growth Summit (N4G) which will bring together the world's major players in nutrition in order to secure concrete financial or political commitments.

²¹⁰ Act 2005-95 dated 9 February 2005 on local government's international cooperation and water agencies in the areas of water supply and sanitation.

²¹¹ The French Water Partnership (FWP) is the main platform for French public and private water stakeholders operating internationally. For 15 years the FWP has been advocating at the international level that water be given priority in sustainable development policies and fostering exchanges between French expertise and that of other countries.

²¹² CREWS is now aiming to mobilize a further \$155 million by 2027, in line with the Early Warnings for All initiative launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in March 2022 in a bid to achieve universal early warning system coverage in five years. As of 2023 France doubled its CREWS contribution to 8 million euros per year.

²¹³ France's international strategy on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture (2019-2024), into which gender equality issues have been fully mainstreamed, thus contributing to feminist diplomacy.

²¹⁴ The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty also funds agricultural and rural training activities connected with research and innovation, which are major levers for achieving cost-effective and sustainable agriculture, especially for family farming.

²¹⁵ These programmes can also support the local economy, benefitting local food markets and systems.



The “**LegAE – Legumes for the AgroEcological transition and food security in Africa**” project is coordinated by the French agricultural research and international cooperation organization (CIRAD), in association with the IRD, INRAE and several local partners, and financed through a solidarity fund for innovative projects (FSPI) over the 2022 and 2023 period. The project aims to identify and promote opportunities for the development of legumes in Africa, throughout the value chain, from production to consumption, for three plant species (cowpea, groundnut and soybean) in five countries (Senegal, Burkina Faso, Benin, Sudan and Ethiopia). It aims to focus research and training on the agriculture-health-environment nexus, in an integrated approach to food systems and the various SDGs to which they contribute, across all the links in the targeted value chains, in a participatory, multi-player and multi-disciplinary way, putting stakeholders on the ground, and in particular women and young people, at the centre of implementation.

Although life expectancy is increasing globally, **there are still considerable disparities regarding health**. France promotes a prevention-rich approach, putting forward in a coordinated way a raft of public policies beyond the health sector *per se*, based on multi-sectoral and complementary measures that benefit people's health.

Because of its catalysing role in inclusive, sustainable economic growth, **health is also a tool for human, economic and social development**. France supports: strengthening health systems; achieving universal healthcare cover; fighting against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; combatting pandemics; promoting sexual and reproductive rights and health; the fight against genital mutilation; and supporting maternal, neonatal, infant and adolescent health.²¹⁶

Among the main points of its world health strategy, France is helping to fight the three biggest pandemics threatening global public health (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria) and is working toward their eradication. France is a member of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Unitaaid and the Gavi Alliance, where it is respectively the second-, first- and fifth-ranked contributor. France is also actively involved in combatting antimicrobial resistance, to which the WHO refers as a “silent pandemic”.

The One Health approach, which recognizes the fact that ecosystem health, animal health and human health all compose an interconnected whole, has become an indispensable prism for research and intervention strategies. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the relevance of this approach for coordinating multilateral preventive and responsive action regarding infectious diseases. Moreover, at the start of the COVID-19 health crisis, France, in collaboration with the WHO, the European Commission and Germany, established the ACT-Accelerator initiative so as to facilitate access to anti-pandemic tools (diagnostics, treatments, vaccines), in particular for developing countries. France is proactive in the construction of the post-COVID-19 world health architecture, in both broad multilateral (UN, WHO)²¹⁷ and reduced multilateral (G7, G20) fora.

France has broadened its arsenal for promoting health as a global public good. In this regard, it increased its contributions to the WHO over three years (€25 million in 2020 and 2021 and €80 million in 2022), notably under the ACT-Accelerator initiative and in line with the pledge made by the President of the French Republic for the 2020-2022 period. In addition, AFD has committed more than €1.2 billion to financing new projects for strengthening health and social protection systems. This funding has steadily increased over the last five years, peaking at €2 billion per annum in 2020 with the launch of “COVID-19 - Santé en Commun” (Health in Common).

²¹⁶ Priorities set forth in the Programming Act adopted on 4 August 2021.

²¹⁷ France is thus engaged in the current international negotiations at the WHO regarding the creation of an International Pandemic Treaty and a review of International Health Regulations.

The education-training-professional integration continuum is an essential factor for sustainable and inclusive growth and for reducing inequalities in partner countries. It is also a condition for demographic transition in developing countries and a factor of social cohesion. Inclusive, equitable and high-quality education and training lifts people's skills in all sectors of the economy: modern and traditional; urban and rural. It helps raise the overall standard of living and facilitates integration into the economy, in particular for young people. Investing in education and training also fosters gender equality, counters any marginalisation of the most vulnerable populations and makes the younger generation resilient against the effects of climate change and various current and future humanitarian, health and environmental crises.

France also has major standing in global education aid architecture: in 2020, it was the second-largest education donor after Germany and ahead of the United States. In 2020, France disbursed €1.6 billion in ODA on actions relating to the education continuum.²¹⁸ At the fourth replenishment conference of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in July 2021, three years after announcing its historic contribution of €200 million at the Dakar Conference, France reiterated its engagement by announcing a new contribution of €333 million for the 2021-2025 period, making France the third-ranked donor for the cycle. In order to eliminate gender inequalities in schooling, France supports the Priority Equality initiative, launched under the French presidency of the G7 in 2019, aiming to bolster girls' education and foster gender mainstreaming in education policies. The initiative is present in eight pilot countries: Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Mozambique. France is the chief donor for the initiative, with a contribution of €6.6 million since 2019.



Co-constructed with partners from the global South, the [International Joint Laboratories](#) (LMI) encourage the co-production of knowledge and take into account the interrelationships between SDGs. This is the case of the [LMI NEXUS](#) (climate, water, agriculture and energy) on the initiative of the first intercomparison of regional climate models in West Africa. The IRD is also focusing on impact assessment methodologies adapted to its research systems and specific to the Institute, integrating the SDGs and their cross-cutting features.

The IRD is at the heart of SDG17 through the promotion of inclusive partnerships, built on shared principles and values. The IRD was the first French research institute to join the Research Fairness Initiative, a self-assessment tool for fair partnerships. The Institute has also supported the emergence of [knowledge communities](#), each made up of around 200 participants from all from different backgrounds, organised around major societal challenges, and committed to **researching innovative and sustainable solutions** that are fundamentally open to others.

Moreover, half of France's contribution to the GPE²¹⁹ is earmarked for girls' education and gender equality projects in and through education. The African continent is the primary beneficiary of French aid in the education sector, having received \$3.1 billion between 2017 and 2020. Furthermore, the Sahel region alone – a priority region for France – absorbed nearly 10% of the GPE's funding over the last twenty years. France's approach aims to develop activities all along the education-training-integration continuum.

²¹⁸ France's interventions in this sector fall under the French Strategy for External Action in Education, Vocational Training and Integration, currently being renewed for the 2023-2027 period.

²¹⁹ Contribution for the 2021-2025 cycle.

France works at several education levels. With activities concentrated on higher education and research, scientific diplomacy aims to strengthen international scientific communities, in phase with the SDG target on scientific and technological cooperation (17.6). The work of the Institute of Research for Development (IRD) and the French agricultural research and international cooperation organization (CIRAD) helps support scientific institutions so that they will be able to address the economic, environmental, social and cultural challenges of development.

Priority 6.2 - Renew France's international solidarity and development policy

The increase in the resources allotted to ODA is key to France's solidarity international endeavours. In 2022, our ODA stood at €15.1 billion, a record high, representing an 86% increase since 2015 (€8.1 billion). Having crossed the €10 billion threshold for the first time in 2017, France's ODA commitments have never ceased their upward climb. France is one of the leading donor nations, ranked fourth in the world in terms of volume and seventh in terms of gross national income (GNI), standing at 0.56% (compared with 0.37% in 2018).

Given the magnitude of funding required if we are to deliver the SDGs, public resources, while undeniably indispensable, are nonetheless far from sufficient. ODA now needs to serve as a catalyst for mobilizing alternative sources of finance. Innovative financing makes it possible to fulfil this requirement, offering not only crisis response capacity, but also additional resources. France has been a driving force in this domain, helping create in 2006 the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development (and hosting its Permanent Secretariat), and being one of the first countries to adopt solidarity levies. In 2005, France established a levy on airline tickets (TSBA), the first ever example of a solidarity levy to finance global public goods (with health given priority). The contribution therefrom reached €210 million in 2022. In 2012, France established a tax on financial transactions, which has levied



The IRD is committed to making the SDGs its own, with research based on its innovative approach to sustainability science, at the interface between scientific issues and public policies. In addition to linking its activities to the different SDGs, the IRD aims to provide solutions to the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda. With nearly [80 texts](#) co-authored by 200 agents and partners since 2021, the IRD offers a **common framework for reflection and understanding** based on analyses, insights and critiques of sustainability science and the SDGs.

€528 million (2022), of which some of the proceeds are channelled to the Solidarity Fund for Development (FSD).

In a bid to support the emergence of innovative solutions to development problems and to combat poverty, and in line with target 17.3 of the 2030 Agenda, France **created in 2021 the [Fund for Innovation in Development \(FID\)](#)**. As an embodiment of the French authorities' commitment to ODA modernization, this ground-breaking mechanism makes it possible to support the development of innovation, to ensure dialogue between the worlds of innovation and research, in order to rigorously assess the potential impact of the solutions being funded, and swiftly seek ways to scale up such solutions and transform public policies.

In a partner-based approach, **France also works to increase private sector involvement in financing for sustainable development in partner countries.** The strategy called [Innover Ensemble](#) (Innovate Together) run by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs promotes partner-based initiatives for an inclusive economy with social safety nets and solidarity and for impact investment at the international level, enabling the rollout of many innovative projects with social and/or environmental impact, and creating leverage for achieving the 2030 Agenda and accelerating foreign direct investment in the

least developed countries (LDCs). In 2022 the first French Development Impact Bond (DIB) was launched, dedicated to improving health and menstrual hygiene in Ethiopia (SDG 5),²²⁰ thanks to collaboration between the NGO Care France, the BNP Paribas bank and AFD, with support from the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

France's local and regional authorities also have a key role to play. Between 2017 and 2021, their contribution to French ODA has steadily risen, going from €100 million to €126 million in four years. In direct cooperation with developing countries, they help finance development projects, most of which fall under the framework of their decentralized cooperation partnerships: posting local experts; supporting the operations of NGOs and associations that are active in the ODA countries; humanitarian aid; or more targeted multilateral funds.



In the face of global challenges that know no borders, progress toward the SDGs requires stronger multilateralism.

The need for efficacy makes this all the more important: firstly, because our action benefits from the unique expertise

that has been developed by international organizations specialized in certain subjects; secondly because pooling resources in some cases determines whether or not a critical mass can be reached. The multilateral sphere above all helps demonstrate the legitimacy of our action because it is where solutions are agreed upon collectively and implemented by objective and impartial international organizations. This engagement is reflected especially at the financial level, since more than 40% of our ODA (or €5.2 billion) transited through multilateral organizations in 2021 (as opposed to 35% in 2020). Given the increasing multiplication of instruments, France is seeking to avoid excessive fragmentation and to instead promote concentrated efforts on a limited number of competent institutions.



France recently adopted with its programming act on solidarity development (or LOP-DSLIM), a new mechanism for the restitution of “ill-gotten” gains. This innovative mechanism, steered by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, provides for the restitution of monies confiscated in France stemming from the sale of “ill-acquired assets”, through cooperation and development activities. This now-operational tool makes it possible to tackle corruption specifically, via the return of these confiscated sums in the form of projects that will improve the living conditions of the populations who could have consequently suffered deprivation.

France contributes actively to the capital of multilateral development banks and participates in their associated funds, such as the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA). France contributes to the United Nations specialized agencies and to the so-called “vertical” funds – such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) or the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) – which permit the funding, on a worldwide scale, of projects addressing global challenges. France is also the instigator behind numerous international events. After having organized the first “Finance in Common Summit” (November 2020), which brought together public development banks in order to accelerate alignment of financial flows and the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, France hosted the Summit on the Financing of African Economies (May 2021). It hosted the Generation Equality Forum (July 2021)²²¹ initiated by UN Women and more recently the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in June 2023

²²⁰ [Signature of France's first Development Impact Bond, to support menstrual hygiene management in Ethiopia \(28 January 2022\) - France Diplomacy.](#) (Link to website in French)

²²¹ [The Generation Equality Forum: a historic global feminist gathering \(30 June - 2 July 2021\) - France Diplomacy.](#) (Link to website in French)



In order to compile a more comprehensive view of public financial flows or those raised by public sector action for the SDGs in partner countries, France has advocated for a Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) indicator. In 2021, France invested €34.5 billion in SDGs, which was twice its ODA. It supports widespread use of this indicator.

France participates actively in drafting European development policy, which is an essential part of its own development policy. It helps finance EU aid mechanisms: almost half of France's multilateral ODA is channelled thereto (49% in 2021). France was the second largest contributor to the European Development Fund (EDF) for the 2014-2020 period, excluding the EU budget itself. It is also a major contributor to the EU's new single external

action instrument, "NDICI-Europe in the world" for 2021-2027 (Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument). France is the country that participates the most in the Team Europe Initiatives (135 out of 168), which bring together the Commission, Member States, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in large-scale projects designed to enhance the effectiveness and visibility of European action. On the ground, our embassies coordinate closely with EU delegations and the embassies of other Member States, as part of the "Team Europe" approach, which also includes development agencies (AFD Group and its European counterparts). France used its presidency of the Council of the European Union (January to June 2022) to put forward strong priorities (strengthening dialogue with the African Union and the Indo-Pacific region in February 2022; renewing the partnership with least developed countries; human development; biodiversity; and the external dimension of migration and forced displacement).

PROGRESSING

While significant progress has been made, France is still working to strengthen the partnership-based and inclusive approach that underpins its development policy, co-constructed with various French stakeholders. The government is keen to provide greater support for international action by civil society organizations in connection with the SDGs. Since gender equality is a key priority of the sustainable development agenda due to its cross-cutting nature, France seeks to offset the inequalities suffered by women and girls through its feminist diplomacy, and aspires to devote more resources thereto by setting ambitious targets.

Priority 6.1 – Promote sustainable development as the necessary foundation for international stability

France has a dense and diversified network of civil society organizations (CSOs) (international solidarity associations, foundations, trade unions and employers' organizations, etc.) which **play an essential role in the sustainable development of partner countries** (designing projects and innovative approaches, strengthening civil society in partner countries, advocating international solidarity, monitoring public authorities' accountability to their populations, raising awareness among citizens and mobilizing them on international issues).

CSOs contribute directly to the development of public policies through a process of co-construction, in particular within the framework of the National Council for Development and International Solidarity (CNDSI).²²² Members of the CNDSI were especially involved in drafting the LOP-DSLIM and were consulted during the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund. More recently, CSOs also took part in preparatory discussions for the 2023 Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development, which aims to reset the priorities of our development policy. French CSOs are also involved in drawing up sector strategies (education, health, etc.) or renewing them, as well as in certain monitoring and evaluation processes. By way of example, CSOs have been vital parties in designing the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations, and contribute, alongside the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, to giving substance to the Presidential commitments in favour of gender equality.

These organizations are also key implementers of development projects. French CSOs respond to different calls for projects, especially to implement projects on behalf of AFD. They are the main implementers of AFD's calls for crisis and post-crisis projects to address fragile contexts. French CSOs and CSOs from ODA-eligible countries can finance their own projects (right of initiative) through AFD's **CSO Initiatives** mechanism. This mechanism makes it possible, in particular, to finance large-scale programmes that provide direct support to local populations, to structure the French and local associative sector in a partnership approach and to upskill the associations supported.



France Volontaires is the French platform for international exchange and solidarity-based volunteering. An agency of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, it brings together the State, local and regional authorities and associations around a mission of general interest: the development and promotion of international volunteering for exchange and solidarity (known by its French acronym, VIES). The VIES programme encompasses myriad projects that enable every citizen to get involved in international solidarity. By virtue of its universal nature, volunteering contributes to strengthening civil society and to the emergence of societies that are more inclusive, supportive and open to the world. Between 2016 and 2022, more than 47,000 volunteers carried out international missions under the VIES programme. Between 2017 and 2022, France welcomed 860 international volunteers from 61 countries (outside the EU) via the civic service scheme.

France is also committed to increasing funding transiting through CSOs, as we have long lagged behind our main partners in this regard. The LOP-DSLIM formalized the doubling of ODA volume channelled through CSOs between 2017 and 2022, reaching a high point of €620 million in 2022. The share of our ODA channelled through CSOs represented 7.75% of France's total bilateral ODA in 2021, and is to continue increasing in order to better align with the European Union average, which currently stands at 11% of bilateral ODA. This funding

²²² The CNDSI, created in 2014, is a forum for dialogue and consultation with civil society on the direction of French development policy. In order to represent the diversity of French development players, its membership was expanded in 2021, with the creation of colleges of multi-stakeholder platforms and foundations.

also includes direct subsidies granted to local civil society organizations, with the increase in credits allocated by diplomatic posts (via the increase in FSPI funds) and with AFD's CSO Initiative mechanism being opened up to CSOs working in partner countries, as well as pro-youth projects run by CSOs and volunteer missions which also respond, in a cross-cutting way, to achieving the SDGs. In 2022, the State contributed €22 million for the rollout of volunteer assignments in countries eligible for public development assistance.

Priority 6.2 - Renew France's international development and solidarity policy

Gender equality is a priority that France is promoting internationally as part of its feminist diplomacy, in line with the French President's pledge to make equality between women and men the major cause of his five-year term. This is reflected in all of France's external action, pursuant to the international strategy for gender equality,²²³ which is currently being renewed.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental right; it is also a real accelerator of sustainable development and a guarantee for societies to function smoothly and – in countries emerging from crisis – for reconstruction. With the planning law of 4 August 2021, the State undertook "to ensure that by 2025, 75% of the annual volume of commitments of France's programmable bilateral ODA has gender equality as its main or significant objective, and 20% has it as its main objective". More effort is to come, since in 2020-2021, 47% of ODA (i.e. \$5.5 billion) satisfied this objective.



France's action comes in several forms. **Promoting gender equality requires strong advocacy and the promotion of ambitious standards in European and international bodies**, in particular the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). France is leading the creation of the first international ISO standard for gender equality and women's rights. Every year it awards the Simone Veil Prize of the French Republic to an activist or collective working for women's rights around the world, and allocates €100,000 to support their project. Our commitment also takes the form of annual voluntary contributions to UN Women (€5.6 million) and to the United Nations Population Fund (€1.045 million).

In 2020 France launched, in line with its partnership-based approach to development policy, a Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF) in order to support organizations working for women's rights and gender equality in partner countries, amounting to €138 million over three years (with an initial commitment of €120 million). As sexual violence continues to be used as a weapon of war, France is supporting the Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, co-founded by the two 2018 Nobel Peace Laureates Nadia Murad and Dr Denis Mukwege (€8.2 million between 2019 and 2022). Strengthening gender equality also concerns the economic sphere. France supports the AFAWA initiative, spearheaded by the African Development Bank, which mobilized \$1.5 billion in funding over the 2019-2024 period for women's entrepreneurship in Africa.

²²³ Empowerment of women and girls, defence of sexual and reproductive rights and health, elimination of all forms of gender-based discrimination in all areas of social, political and economic life, and combatting stereotypes.

France has a demonstrated capacity for leadership in this area at international level. When it **co-organized the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) on 30 June 2021 with Mexico under the aegis of UN Women, the event mobilized the entire international community and led to pledges totalling more than €40 billion in favour of women's rights.** In a context where sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are being challenged around

the world, France pledged €400 million for SRHR at the GEF. This commitment especially concerns the French Muskoka Fund,²²⁴ which has been operating in West and Central Africa since 2011 to accelerate reductions in maternal and infant mortality and improve sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health, as well as nutrition (SRMNIA-N).

CHALLENGES

The 2030 Agenda raises the question of how to ensure consistency across all public policies regarding sustainable development. Research is revealing the strong interactions between the SDGs and the impact – both positive and negative – of a State's actions on third countries. In light of these new challenges, France is working with its European partners to find operational solutions. In addition, France has defined clear geographical priorities for its development policy, responding to a dual rationale of effectiveness and solidarity, but not all of the objectives have yet been achieved.

Priority 6.1 - Promote sustainable development as the necessary foundation for international stability

Faced with ever-increasing integration of economic systems and value chains, France is striving to improve coherence of its policies for sustainable development, especially by strengthening the way that they are steered globally and by enhancing interministerial coordination.²²⁵ France must act on the spillovers (both positive and negative) of its actions on partner countries, in particular the least developed and developing countries, and therefore take into due account any international consequences of its internal policies.

While these effects are methodologically difficult to gauge, a growing number of studies are attempting to estimate their economic, social and environmental impact. Eurostat²²⁶ has observed a noteworthy difference between carbon emissions generated within EU borders (3.2 Gt in 2018) and the emissions for which European consumption is directly responsible (3.6 Gt). The environmental footprint of EU agricultural consumption was also unsatisfactory, with a net total of 20 million hectares of arable land abroad dedicated to European consumption (equivalent to 12% of the EU's arable land) in 2019. In total, the EU appears to be importing 40% of the raw materials required for its consumption, with potential environmental impacts in other countries, some of which have not enacted strict regulations. This issue is under particular scrutiny in France, where the High Council on Climate estimates that in 2020, 49% of France's carbon footprint could be connected to France's net imports.²²⁷ The issue of social impact is also important: according to data from the International Labour Organization, French consumption was likely responsible for 2.4 fatal workplace accidents per million inhabitants in third countries in 2018.²²⁸ It is important to also note the positive spillovers of France's action regarding the rest of the world, starting with those generated by its official development assistance policy.

²²⁴ The fund will benefit from political, technical and financial support of €10 million annually until 2026.

²²⁵ This objective is explicitly set forth in Article 3 of the Act passed on 4 August 2021, which states that France must "ensure that [its] public policies contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals".

²²⁶ Eurostat report, *Sustainable Development Goals in the European Union - 2022*, p.343

²²⁷ High Council on Climate, 2022 Annual Report, p.38. (In French)

²²⁸ SDSN, Spillover Index.

Our commitment to this issue is largely in concert with our European partners, given the central importance of trade in spillover phenomena. France has been a driving force, for example, behind the European agreement to introduce a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). The CBAM is due to be phased in from 1 October 2023 and will aim to limit “carbon leakage”, which refers to the practice employed by certain multinationals of relocating their activities to avoid the EU’s self-imposed stringent standards in this regard and then exporting to the European market, thereby undermining the emission reduction efforts made by European countries. In practical terms, the CBAM will make it possible to impose a surcharge, calculated on the basis of the carbon emissions trading scheme, on imported goods that have a zero or low carbon price in their country of production. The surcharge will be applied in a non-discriminatory manner, at the same rate for imported products and for those produced in the EU. Initially, seven very carbon-intensive sectors will be affected: iron and steel, aluminium, cement, fertilizers, electricity and hydrogen.

France has also been a pioneer in the fight against imported deforestation. It was the first country to adopt a national strategy in November 2018, the aim of which is to put an end by 2030 to imports of forest and agricultural products that contribute to deforestation (soya, palm oil, cacao, beef, rubber, wood and derived products). France helped reach ambitious political agreement at the European level on a regulation on European market authorization and export from the EU of certain products associated with deforestation and forest degradation. This text is based on the obligation of due diligence. It requires companies importing or exporting certain agricultural and derived products identified as the main culprits of deforestation to justify the conditions of production with regard to the provisions of the regulation, as well as to legislation in the country of origin.

Combatting the adverse impacts of our consumption also involves mobilizing our businesses, which are leading players in today’s value chains. France was breaking new ground when it became the first country in the world to establish a cross-cutting legal framework on duty of care. The Act, dated 27 March 2017, sets out new obligations for the largest firms, which must draw up and effectively implement a due diligence plan. Under this law, companies will be held liable if they fail to meet these obligations, which are designed to prevent the risk of serious violations of human rights, especially at work, and of the environment, including when committed by their direct or indirect subsidiaries, in France or elsewhere in the world. France is currently applying its national experience to the negotiations on the due diligence directive, which should enter their final phase in the second half of 2023.

Priority 6.2- Renew France’s international development and solidarity policy

France pays particular attention in its development policy to fragile contexts and least developed countries. There is a concentration in these areas of the main obstacles to achieving the SDGs, as well as the greatest funding needs in terms of infrastructure and basic services. To this end, the LOP-DSLIM stipulates that the increase in resources allocated to ODA should be focused “on least developed countries, in particular the priority countries of French development policy”. These 19 priority countries, identified by the Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development in 2018, all belong to the category of least developed countries, and 18 are in sub-Saharan Africa. This is reflected in the figures; €1 billion of ODA in grant equivalent was paid out to the 19 priority countries in 2021.

In so doing, France intends to respond to the dual imperatives of equity (“leaving no one behind”, as per the 2030 Agenda) and efficiency (concentrating resources where poverty is most acute). Our total aid to the least developed countries amounted to €3.15 billion in 2021: a significant increase (it stood at €2.5 billion in 2018), it represented 0.12% of our GNI, a result still below the internationally agreed target of 0.15% of GNI, which should encourage us to continue our efforts.

The challenge of crisis prevention and addressing fragility remains closely linked to the fight against extreme poverty. In 2030, if current trends continue, areas of fragility and crisis, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, will

account for 86% of the world's extreme poverty, according to the OECD. In recent years, France's action to prevent and deal with crises and fragility has been part of the Prevention, Resilience and Sustainable Peace strategy (2018-22).²²⁹ This strategy recognizes the central role of prevention and of building resilience, before, during and after crises and conflicts. On the other hand, it focuses on treating their root causes, capitalizing on the comparative advantages and complementary mandates of the players in Team France as part of a “comprehensive approach”. In keeping with the logic of the 2030 Agenda, France addresses fragility in a systemic way, because peace and stability are both a prerequisite and a logical consequence of inclusive and sustainable development.

²²⁹ France is currently renewing this strategy, which will take effect from 2023. It maintains the priorities set out below.

Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations

*proposed and held by the Open Diplomacy Institute on 22 May 2023,
open to members of France's Agenda 2030 Community
drafted by the Institute's committee*

Following a day of discussions, the Contributory Conference participants identified pathways towards delivering results in this Area of Action. Below is a summary of their contribution based on their exchanges as a supplement to the Voluntary National Review.

“Work at European and international levels for sustainable transformation”

① Pursue and amplify diplomatic efforts to promote global economic governance that is more conducive to the Sustainable Development Goals

The organization of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact is a major step towards finding every possible innovative solution for financing the transition of middle-income countries more swiftly and with greater impact, and advancing discussions on updating international financial institutions so as to better support the transition of low-income countries. We recommend that this initiative be supported by ongoing diplomatic efforts requiring dedicated budgetary and human resources to order to capitalize on the momentum created at the Paris Summit on 22 and 23 June 2023. We further recommend that this impetus fully integrate the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for an “SDG Stimulus” to counter the regression or stagnation of more than 80% of Agenda 2030 indicators due to the coronavirus pandemic and the effects of Russian aggression in Ukraine. Lastly, we stress the importance of extending this reflection beyond financial fora to trade fora, strengthening the European Union's efforts to ensure that the World Trade Organization can study the validity of international trade agreements in the light of the 2030 Agenda. More generally, we welcome all efforts to make these international spaces more open to civil society, following the example of the major groups established at the United Nations ahead of the Rio+20 Summit in preparation for the 2030 Agenda.

② Mobilize every diplomatic resource necessary to defend a European approach to non-financial accounting based on double materiality

The development of extra-financial standards, regarding both calculation and transparency, represents a decisive step in accelerating the transition. A battle of geo-economic standards is underway to define the best way to account for the social and environmental impacts generated by organizations. We believe that an approach based on the logic of double materiality is crucial so as to best account for the issues at stake and create an accounting system to pave the way for all future standard-setting developments: carbon taxation, administrative policing of corporate social responsibility (CSR), and so on. This is why we urge France to use every diplomatic means possible to create an international coalition, with our European partners at the forefront, to ensure that preparatory work on the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) is in line with these objectives.

③ Adapt official development assistance (ODA) policy to better consider the local specificities of end beneficiaries, in the partnership-based spirit of the 2030 Agenda

The Contributory Conference highlighted that it is worthwhile facilitating access to ODA for local initiatives directly linked to the SDGs so as to take better account of the needs and specificities of the final beneficiaries thanks to civil society organizations' grassroots knowledge. We also recommend any measures that could make fund utilization by civil society organizations more flexible for the rollout of their projects and encourage the transfer of knowledge to civil society organizations in order to strengthen their capacities and develop their autonomy. In this respect, we especially encourage the development of international volunteering as a powerful tool for upskilling local organizations through expert assessment assignments.

④ Strengthen the political and statistical stewardship of the 2030 Agenda using existing international best practices

The SDGs are unique in that they constitute not only a programme of action with clear targets, but also a statistical system enabling international comparisons to be made. The political importance of comparative studies at the High-Level Political Forum has been amply demonstrated. We recommend that the Government use the tools developed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), such as coherence sheets and matrices, to evaluate all public policies relating to the 2030 Agenda. We also recommend that the Government adopt tools developed by certain international partners to gauge the international effects of certain public policies (spillover index). This is particularly important in the case of greenhouse gas emissions, in order to move towards an environmental footprint approach. Lastly, we recommend that France work with other Member States of the European Union (EU) that have already adopted or would like to adopt such an approach, so that these provisions can be mainstreamed into SDG assessments at the EU level. We hope that this initiative will ultimately lead to the widespread adoption of such approaches throughout the EU via the European Sustainable Development Network.

A model SDG 17 initiative

A 3Zero House is a collaborative space serving to multiply and accelerate partnerships, innovations and solutions by local stakeholders in a country, thus contributing to the achievement of SDG 17. 3Zero Houses have three main functions: to connect stakeholders within and between territories on a global scale; to free up people's potential by building capacity; and to promote innovations locally, from experimentation to deployment. The first 3Zero House was inaugurated in 2019 in Manila, where dozens of entrepreneurs and civil society organizations are supported in their development. It has already hosted three 3Zero fora developed with local working groups, and around thirty events and multi-stakeholder training courses on reducing inequalities, protecting the environment and the concept of a responsible economy. These activities promote a cross-cutting approach to the 2030 Agenda. A second House has opened in Tajikistan and others are being developed in ten countries. Houses are also being established in various regions in France, starting in Compiègne in the Oise Region in partnership with Hermitage, a third place for rural and civic innovation. Convergences and ACTED also wish to replicate this initiative throughout France, in close cooperation with local ecosystems.



In the project leader's words: "The multidimensional nature of environmental and social challenges requires a collective response from the grassroots to the global level if we are to be effective in our fight against inequalities, climate change and to rethink our economic models. This is why we have created 3Zero Houses with ACTED".

Fanny ROUSSEY, Executive Director, Convergences

Summary of work from the 2030 Agenda Working Group of the National Council for Development and International Solidarity

prepared by its co-chairs from Coordination SUD and the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

The “2030 Agenda” Working Group of the National Council for Development and International Solidarity (CNDSI), co-chaired by Coordination SUD, the coordination body for NGOs, and the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations think tank, identified, through their discussions, seven priority areas for action to further France’s commitment to the SDGs as part of its international solidarity policy, as well as its domestic policies. The summary of the Working Group’s contribution, as it emerged from their exchanges, is reproduced below, as a supplement to the Voluntary National Review.

The lack of investment in sustainable development in the least developed and most vulnerable countries is worsening from crisis to crisis, despite overall levels of public aid being maintained by the world’s richest countries. Over and above the issue of the amounts of public assistance, delivering the SDGs in the countries of the global South also depends on key factors that the Working Group reviewed in order to make its proposals.

Promote a holistic approach to the 2030 Agenda

One of the major hurdles to the 2030 Agenda’s implementation that was identified is the impulse to act by targeting one or a handful of SDGs, without considering the others. This can result in some SDGs being negatively impacted in the name of improving others. For this reason, the CNDSI’s 2030 Agenda WG is advocating a systemic approach to the 2030 Agenda that takes due account of any social and economic issues, in addition to the environmental dimension. As illustrated by the practices of French stakeholders (the French development agency, or AFD, and civil society), which are to be highlighted in the Voluntary National Review and are the subject of special focus in the other sections, this would require, in particular, promoting and supporting projects and initiatives through a cross-SDG approach, focusing on long-term approaches and co-benefits so that no funded projects jeopardize any SDGs.

Make French public policies more consistent with the 2030 Agenda and establish a stronger statistical system

During the 2030 Agenda WG’s discussions, numerous organizations stressed the need for complete and accurate information on France’s impact on the 2030 Agenda, both domestically and internationally. The participating organizations therefore recommended systematically incorporating the indicators developed by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) into the indicators already used by France, in order to measure France’s spillovers. The same is true for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) indicators, in order to gauge policy coherence for sustainable development (target 17.14). These indicators could be used, notably, in the preparation of a VNR every two years, which would also highlight any lessons learned from the experiences of stakeholders at the local level for whom the SDGs facilitated the task of accounting for co-benefits.

Apply the process of policy coherence for sustainable development throughout the policy decision cycle, from planning public policies through to their evaluation

A recurring difficulty pointed out by public authorities when it comes to ensuring public policy coherence regarding the 2030 Agenda is a lack of tools. This is why the Working Group first proposed mainstreaming the objective of achieving policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) into existing planning tools. The desired coherence could also be achieved by using tools developed by the OECD for guiding policy choices in order to take better account of the 2030 Agenda, such as the matrix or coherence sheet. However, the SDGs need to be steered, if this is to be successful, at the highest level of the State and monitored by Parliament.

Direct funding towards the overall achievement of the 2030 Agenda

The need to better align budgets with the 2030 Agenda was repeatedly identified, so as to maximize France's positive impact on the SDGs and give greater consideration to the "leave no one behind" objective and any potential negative impacts of French funding. The Working Group therefore argues for the adoption of cross-cutting rather than piecemeal approaches to SDG funding and for the inclusion of the 2030 Agenda in long-term national (or local/regional) trajectories. This can be done by promoting, in particular, finance for essential services through public funding, by aligning budget programmes with the SDGs and by assessing the contribution of the national budget to the SDGs.

Take action at European and international level to ensure that the policies, standards and principles negotiated there are consistent with the commitment to achieve the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda WG highlighted the crucial role of certain policies dependent on the European Union and the World Trade Organization in achieving the SDGs. Promoting the following was therefore recommended: measures to make EU trade policies and agricultural imports compatible with the SDGs; the establishment of financial measures to promote agroforestry products and/or to combat deforestation; and changes to competition law in order to more effectively prevent the formation of oligopolies in competitive sectors and to authorize horizontal price agreements where they allow the sharing of value that is essential to achieving the SDGs.

Encourage technical and financial partnerships

In order to foster technical and financial partnerships, the 2030 Agenda WG recommends expressing long-term and cross-cutting visions for interventions on specific services or sectors, ensuring that these are based on mobilizing local expertise and involve investment plans sequenced over time and at system level rather than project by project. The aim is to ensure, through the intersectoral nature of the approach, greater visibility and stability for public and private investors, and to enhance the co-benefits between SDGs.

Improve consideration of the needs, respect for human rights and aspirations of the people targeted and involved

To ensure that the positions of civil societies and local populations directly affected by the implementation of the SDGs are better taken into account, the 2030 Agenda WG recommends that the role of stakeholder organizations (including citizens, civil societies and populations affected by change) be recognized in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies that concern them. This will entail, in particular, better localization of the SDGs, taking into account the importance of grassroots dynamics, civil society, citizens, local governance and democratic forms, as well as bolstering education and outreach so as to ensure ownership of the SDGs and civic participation in their implementation.

In order to capitalize on these deliberations, it was lastly recommended that the 2030 Agenda WG be maintained within the CNDSI, and that organizations in partner countries also be mobilized.



France's progress toward achieving the 2030 Agenda Goals

Methodology

THE CHOICE OF INDICATORS

In order to monitor global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN Statistical Commission adopted a set of 232 indicators in 2017. These indicators, as defined at the time, are intended to serve as a basis for monitoring global progress towards the SDGs. They are therefore not necessarily applicable to all national contexts, due to each country's specificities.

States were therefore invited to each establish their own set of indicators for monitoring the SDGs at the national level, based on their respective priorities, realities, calculation capacities and situation. To this end, France created a multi-stakeholder working group (associations, research institutes, government institutions, businesses, local and regional authorities, public bodies, ministries and ministerial statistics departments) within the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS).

Following an analysis of the 232 UN indicators, 66 were selected for inclusion in the French set of indicators and these were supplemented by 32 additional indicators.

THE CHOICE OF METHOD

This Voluntary National Review presents an assessment of trends over the last five years in the 98 national indicators selected 230 to track France's progress towards achieving the 17 SDGs.²³¹

The method applied here is inspired by the one used by Eurostat for assessing the European Union's progress towards achieving the SDGs.²³² With this method it is possible to determine **whether an indicator is moving towards or away from the target, and at what rate.**

However, there is no assessment of how long a given trend can be sustained. Where French or European public policies have set quantitative targets for a given date, the trends observed for each indicator are compared with the theoretical trends required to achieve them within the timeframe.

THE CALCULATION METHOD USED

Some of the 98 SDG monitoring indicators (iSDGs), **are disaggregated by several variables.**²³³ For some of these indicators, only one variable may have been chosen. But for other indicators, several variables were included in the analysis (for example: life expectancy with good health for men and life expectancy with good health for women). In total, **112 indicators**²³⁴ **were used.**

²³⁰ INSEE, *Indicators for national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2021*. (Link to website in French)




²³¹ CNIS, *Report: A breakdown of France's indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, 2018*. (Link to report in French)

²³² Eurostat, *Sustainable Development in the European Union; Overview of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context, 2020*.

²³³ For example: the monetary poverty rate is monitored at thresholds of 50% and 60%; the prevalence of obesity among adults is monitored for men and women.

²³⁴ In 2021, the dashboard included 472 variables.

The data used are those from the dashboard of indicators for monitoring the SDGs²³⁵ produced by INSEE and the SDES. Changes are observed over a period of five years from the last available value. Depending on data availability, the **length of the observation period may vary. The trend is assessed only if the available data cover at least three consecutive years and if it is possible to measure progress.**





-  The trend was assessed for 100 of the 112 indicators selected.
-  The 12 indicators for which the trend was not evaluated are indicated in the data-visualization sheets by the ○ symbol:
-  The evaluation method uses the calculation of average annual growth rates (AGR) based on the values recorded at the beginning and end of the period in question.

INTERPRETING THE RESULTS

This Voluntary National Review provides an assessment of short-term trends in indicators in relation to France's SDG targets. The method applied here is inspired by the Eurostat system for evaluating the European Union's progress towards achieving the SDGs. This method reveals whether an indicator is moving towards or away from the target and at what speed. What is not assessed, however, is how long the trend can be sustained. Where possible, the trends observed for each indicator are compared with the theoretical trends required to achieve the quantitative target. This target is set either through political processes or by consensus within the scientific community.

The indicator trends are displayed in the form of colour-coded dots. The colours show whether the indicators have moved in a sustainable direction or not and at what speed. For indicators with a quantitative target, the dots indicate whether, on the basis of the progress made, France is on track to meet the target. For indicators without a quantitative target, the dots indicate whether the indicator has moved towards or away from the Sustainable Development Goal and how fast. The evaluation method therefore differs slightly for these two types of indicator, as explained below.

Table 1: Colour key

Colour of the dot	The indicator's contribution to achieving the SDGs
	Favourable
	Moderately favourable
	Moderately unfavourable
	Unfavourable

²³⁵ INSEE, Indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, published in January 2022. (Link to website in French)

1. Preliminary stage: determining method applicability

The method is applied to the short-term trend. The data used are taken from the SDG indicators dashboard.²³⁶ Changes over a five-year period since the last available value are observed. The trend is assessed only if the available data covers at least three consecutive years and if the measure of "progress" is possible.

The evaluation covers 100 out of the 112 indicators selected,²³⁷ illustrating the 98 SDG monitoring indicators (iSDGs).

The 12 non-assessable indicators are indicated by a colourless dot: ○

The evaluation method uses the calculation of average annual growth rates (AGR) based on the indicator values observed at the beginning and end of the period in question.

2. Assessment method for indicators without quantitative targets

This applies to 88 of the 100 indicators assessed.

The trend assessment for indicators without quantitative targets is based on the average annual growth rates (AGR), using the following formula:





$$\text{AGR} = \left(\frac{y^t}{y^{t0}} \right)^{\frac{1}{t-t0}} - 1 \quad \text{formula (1)}$$

Where:

- t0 is the baseline year.
- t is the most recent year.
- y^{t0} is the value of the indicator for the baseline year.
- y^t is the value of the indicator for the last year.

Table 2 shows the thresholds applied and the resulting symbols.

Table 2: Thresholds for assessing trends if the indicator has no quantitative target, where the desired direction is upwards²³⁸

Growth rate (AGR)	Symbol
≥ 1%	
< 1% and ≥ 0%	
< 0% and ≥ - 1%	
< - 1%	

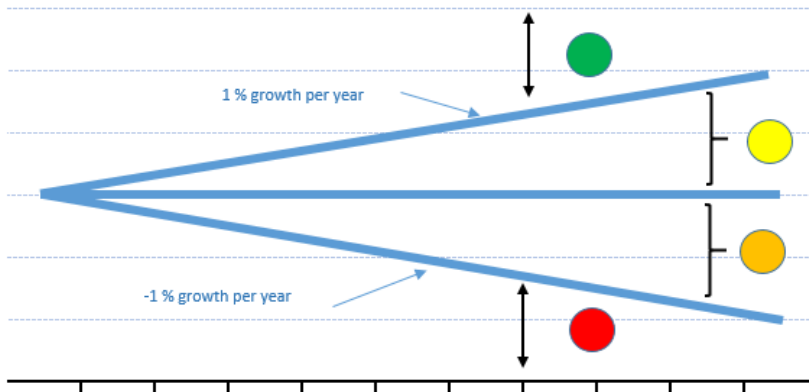
²³⁶ INSEE, [Indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals](#), published 21 January 2022.

²³⁷ The 98 iSDGs can be broken down into sub-indicators based on different criteria, such as gender, age, income, geography or employment.

²³⁸ Where the desired direction is downwards, the thresholds are multiplied by -1 and the signs (≤, ≥, <, >) are reversed.

Figure 1 illustrates the thresholds applied and the resulting symbols.

Figure 1: Graphic representation of trend assessment thresholds for indicators without quantitative targets



3. Assessment method for indicators with quantitative targets

This applies to 12 of the 100 indicators evaluated.

The trend assessment for indicators with quantitative targets is based on the AGR described above and also takes into account the value of the target. For this type of indicator, the actual (observed) growth rate is compared with the (theoretical) growth rate for the target to have been met in the target year. This comparison does not take into account projections of the indicator possible future developments. The calculation of actual and required indicator trends is based on the following three steps.

- Step 1: Calculation of the actual (i.e. observed) annual growth rate

$$AGR_a = \left(\frac{y^t}{y^{t0}} \right)^{\frac{1}{t-t0}} - 1 \quad \text{formula (2a)}$$

Where:

- t0 is the baseline year.
- t is the most recent year.
- y^{t0} is the value of the indicator for the baseline year.
- y^t is the value of the indicator for the last year.

- Step 2: Calculation of the required (i.e. theoretical) annual growth rate

$$AGR_r = \left(\frac{x^{t1}}{y^{t0}} \right)^{\frac{1}{t1-t0}} - 1 \quad \text{formula (2b)}$$

Where:

- t0 is the baseline year.
- t is the target year.
- y^{t0} is the value of the indicator for the baseline year.
- y^t is the indicator value for the target year

- Step 3: Calculate the ratio between the current and required growth rates

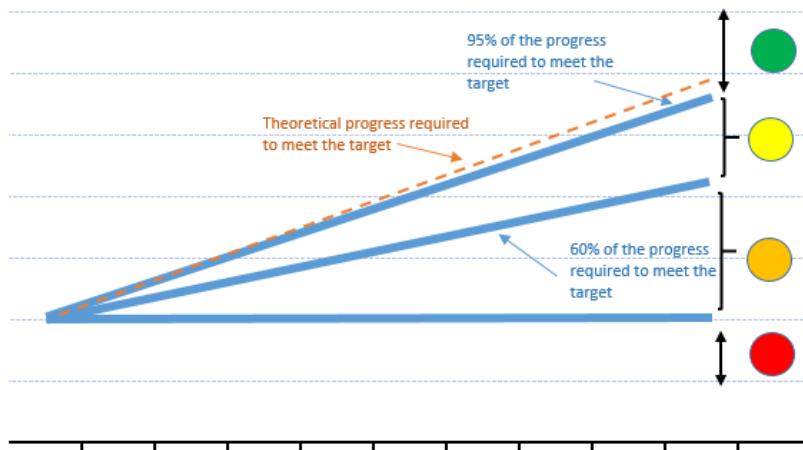
$$R_{a/r} = \left(\frac{AGR_a}{AGR_r} \right) \quad \text{formula (2c)}$$

Table 3: Thresholds for assessing trends if the indicator has quantitative targets

Ratio of actual and required AGR	Symbol
Ratio \geq 95%	●
95% > Ratio \geq 60%	●
60% > Ratio \geq 0%	●
Ratio < 0%	●

Figure 2 illustrates the thresholds applied and the resulting symbols.

Figure 2: Graphic representation of trend assessment thresholds for indicators with quantitative targets

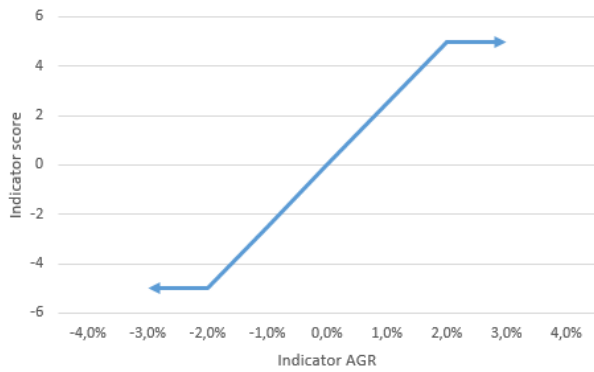


4. Calculation of average scores per SDG

The calculation of average scores for each SDG is based on the calculations described above. For indicators without quantitative targets, the AGR (formula (1)) is used. For indicators with a quantitative target, the ratio of actual growth to required growth (formula (2c)) is used. These values are fed into a scoring function in order to calculate a score ranging from - 5 to 5 for each indicator. This function is different for indicators with and without quantitative targets (Figures 3 and 4). For each SDG, the arithmetic mean score for the indicators whose trend is assessed²³⁹ is converted into a ten-point score ranging from 0 (equivalent to an average score of -5) to 10 (equivalent to an average score of 5).

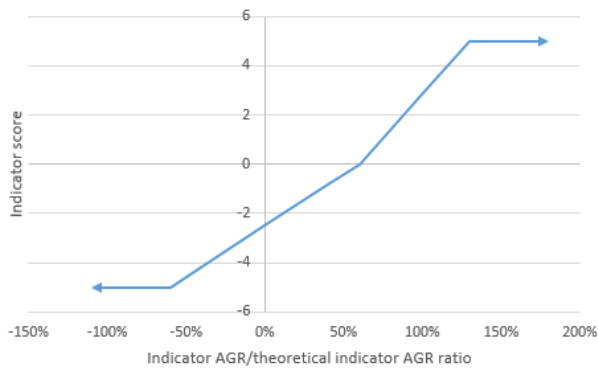
²³⁹ When the trend of several variations of an SDG monitoring indicator are assessed, only the arithmetic mean of their scores is taken into account when calculating the average score for the specific SDG.

Figure 3: Scoring function for indicators without quantitative targets



Note: the orange dotted lines represent the AGR thresholds used to assess the trend.

Figure 4: Scoring function for indicators with quantitative targets

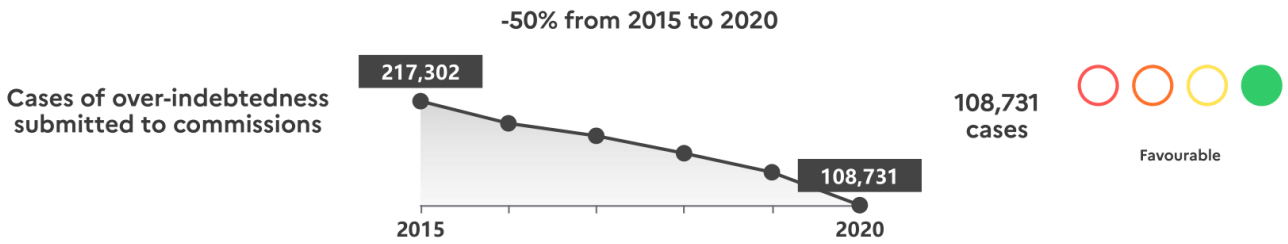


Note: the orange dotted lines represent the thresholds for the actual AGR /required AGR ratio used to assess the trend.

Data-visualizations of the 17 SDGs

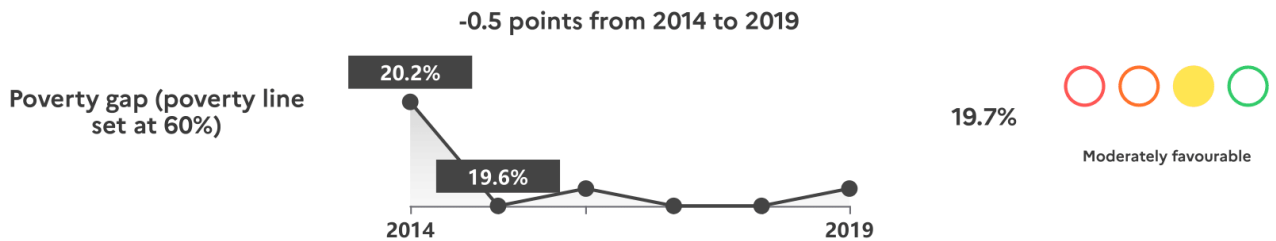
SDG1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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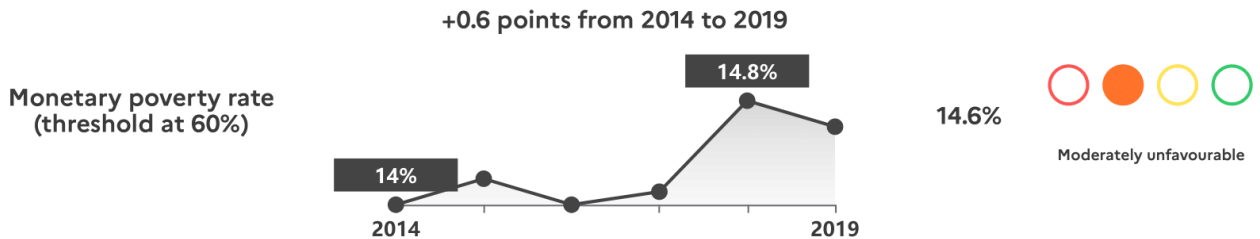
According to the Banque de France, the number of cases of over-indebtedness fell by 7% between 2021 and 2022, and has fallen by half since 2014. Women are the most at risk of over-indebtedness, as they earn on average 22% less than men, and because they are four to five times more likely to be the head of a single-parent family; 54% of over-indebted persons between the ages of 25 and 54 are women. Unemployed persons are also overrepresented. The total debt of over-indebted households reached €4.9 billion in 2021. Among over-indebted persons, 60% have a standard of living below the poverty line, 25% are unemployed, and 50% of over-indebted households have a repayment capacity of less than zero.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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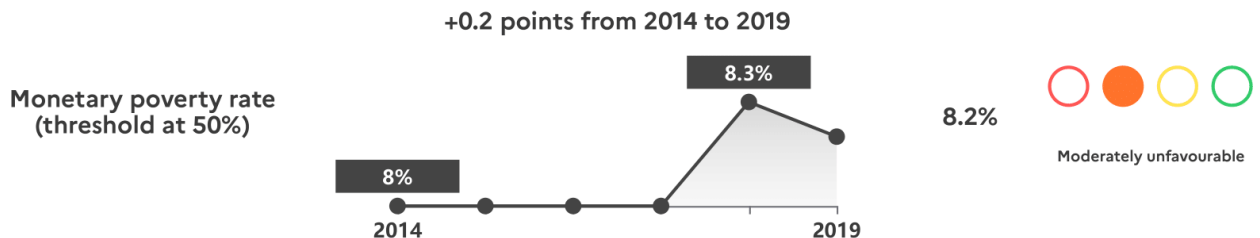
In 2019, fixed at a threshold of 60% of the median income, the poverty line was €1,102. Half of people considered poor had a standard of living below €885 per month, i.e. 19.7% less than the poverty line (poverty gap). This indicator concerns people living in a household with positive or zero reported income, and of which the reference person is not a student.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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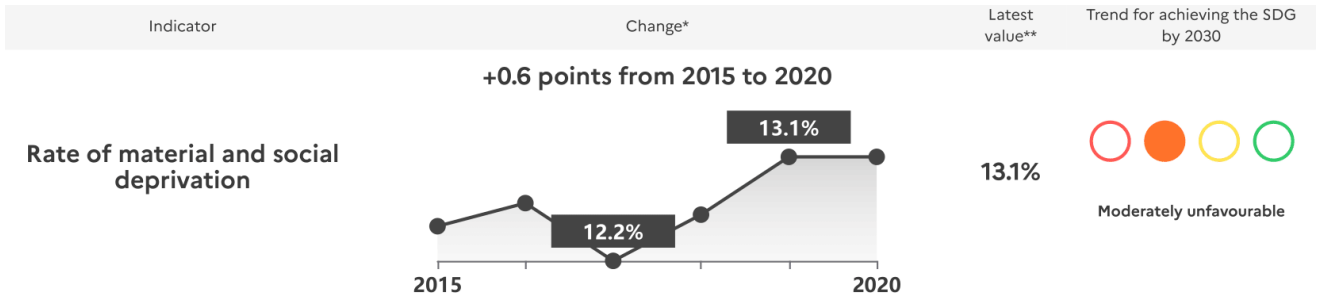


The poverty line is conventionally set at 60% of the median income level of the population. It corresponds to a disposable income of €1,102 per month for a person living alone and €2,314 for a couple with two children under the age of 14. The Statistics on Income and Living Conditions survey shows a near-stable poverty rate, assessed according to this source at 14.3% in 2020. In 2019, the monetary poverty rate differed by 0.9 points between men and women.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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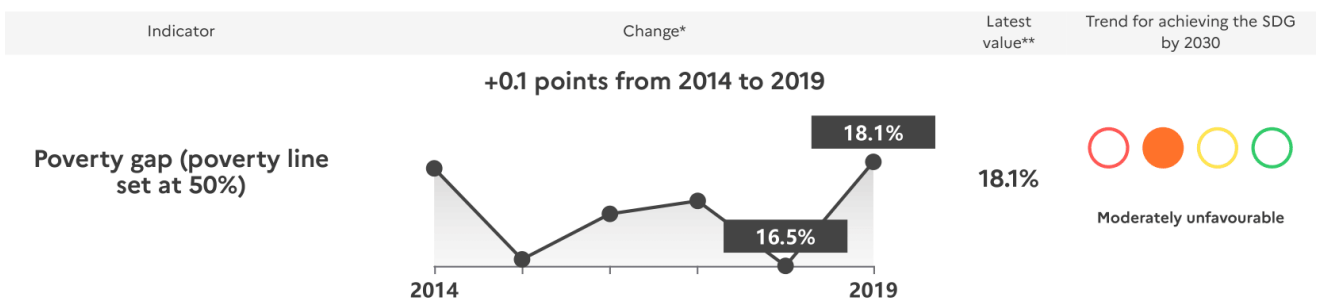


In 2019, the monetary poverty rate at a threshold of 50% was 8.2% in mainland France, a slight decrease compared to 2018 (8.3%). This indicator concerns people living in mainland France, in a household with positive or zero reported income and of which the reference person is not a student. Gender disparities are less pronounced for this indicator than for the monetary poverty rate set at 60%, as the rate of women living below the poverty line set at 50% is only 0.2 points higher than the rate among men.

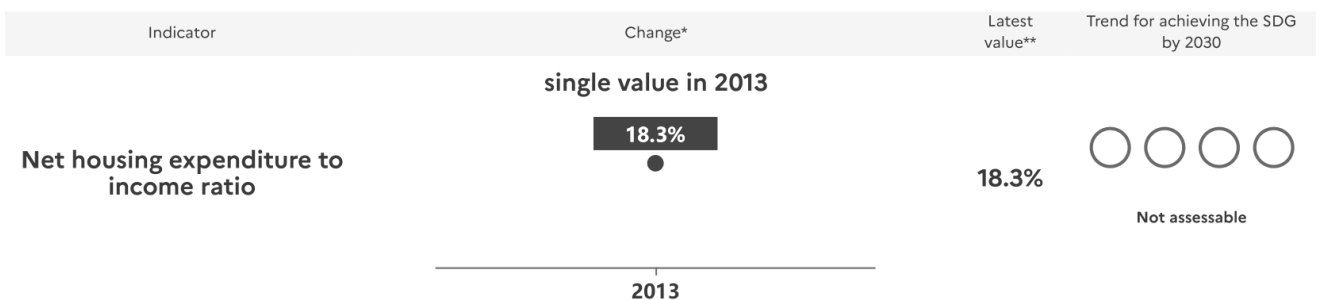


Note: provisional 2020 data

In France, the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SRCV) survey collects data on income and financial situation as well as employment, well-being and health. These data enable the poverty rate to be measured in terms of living conditions, an indicator designed to provide a better understanding of the phenomena of poverty and social exclusion and to assess the effectiveness of policies to combat inequalities. In 2021, the poverty rate in terms of living conditions stood at 11.4%, a significant drop compared to 2020 (-2.1 points). The 2021 figures are slightly below the average rate of 11.7% in the EU.



In France, the poverty line set at 50% of the median standard of living was €918 per month for a person living alone in 2019. The median standard of living of people with an income below this threshold was €752.



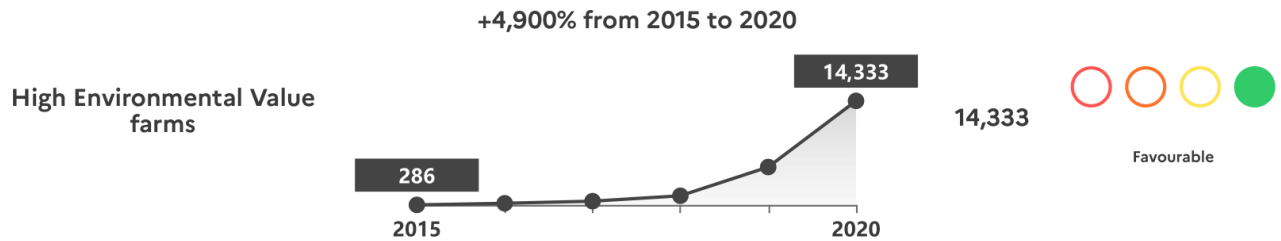
In 2013, net housing expenditure as a share of income was 18.3% in mainland France. This is the most recent figure. The 2019 assessment of personal housing benefits shows that these subsidies are one of the pillars of French housing policy. They benefit around 6.5 million households, and are among the most redistributive forms of government aid, with 99% going to households in the first three income deciles. These allowances have a significant impact on low-income households. For example, for a couple without children living outside of the largest urban areas, with income equivalent to one minimum wage and base rent (excluding utilities) of €330, personalized housing assistance would reduce their housing cost burden from 24.0% to 18.8% of their income.

*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).
 **Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

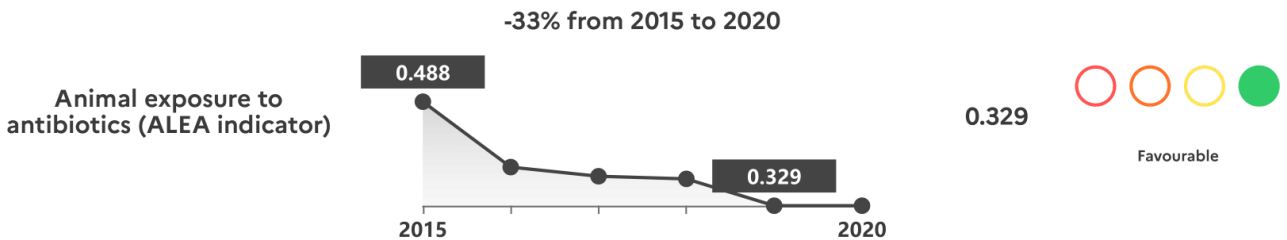
SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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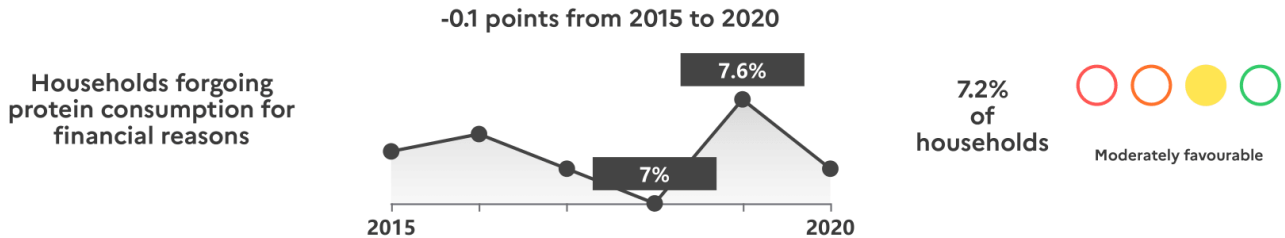
At 1 January 2022, 24,827 farms held HEV certification, of which around 10,500 were certified after 1 January 2021, representing an increase of 73% over one year. This progression will continue since the certification standard has been revised (legislative texts published on 22 November 2022) to strengthen the general level of requirements and offer a route to participation in the eco-scheme introduced in 2023 under the new CAP.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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The Écoantibio plan has produced very positive results: overall animal exposure to antibiotics has been reduced by half since 2011 (down 47% over 10 years according to the results for the 2011-2021 period, with the first Écoantibio plan implemented in 2012).

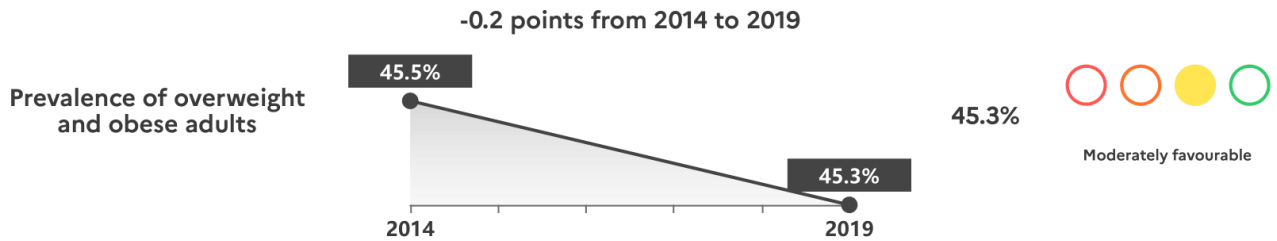
Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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Note: provisional 2020 data

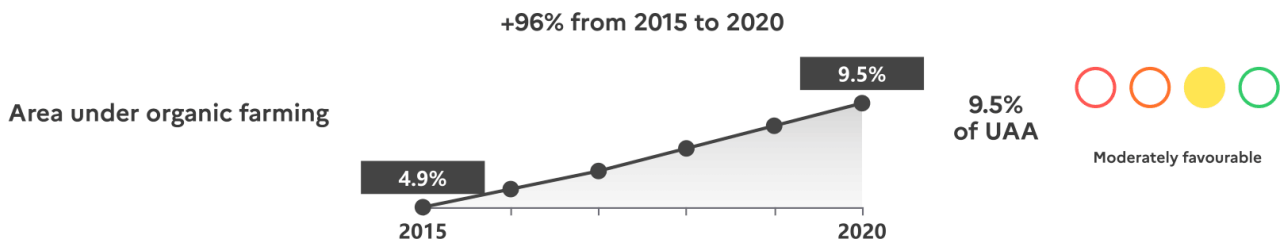
Based on the earliest available data from 2020, there was a slight decrease in people forgoing protein consumption for financial reasons between 2020 and 2021 (-1.0 point), but it remains difficult to determine a long-term trend. A 2010 study conducted by the former French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA) found that adults living in households experiencing food insecurity for financial reasons presented even greater dietary imbalances than those observed among people who reported lower average incomes but did not perceive themselves as experiencing food insecurity. The various manifestations of food insecurity were particularly brought to light by the COVID-19 crisis, and in November 2020 a national coordination committee for the fight against food insecurity (Cocolupa) was established to combat food insecurity.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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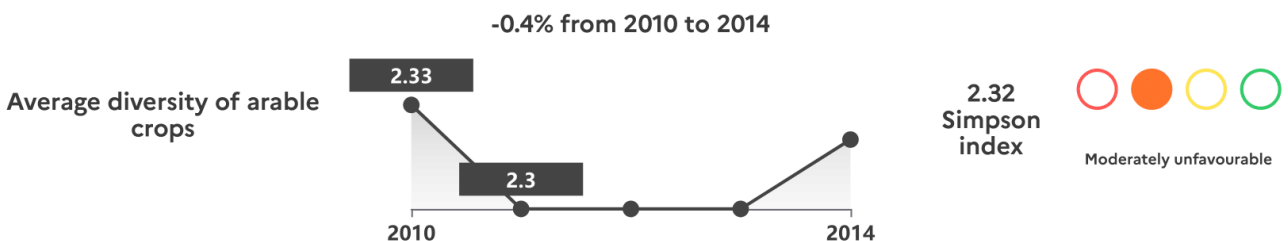
The 2019-2023 National Nutrition and Health Programme aims to promote satisfactory nutrition for all, with a particular focus on populations that are disadvantaged or have lower levels of education. Numerous complementary initiatives have been implemented, including measures to improve the physical and food environment (availability of nutritious food products, school meals, food marketing targeting children, etc.), measures to encourage healthy individual behaviours (promoting nutritional recommendations, promoting physical activity, Nutri-Score, etc.) and measures regarding the healthcare of overweight and obese people. The proportion of overweight or obese women rose between 2014 and 2019 (+0.5 points for overweight and +0.4 points for obesity). There was a slight decline in obesity among adult males, but an increase in overweight people of 3.4 points between 2014 and 2019.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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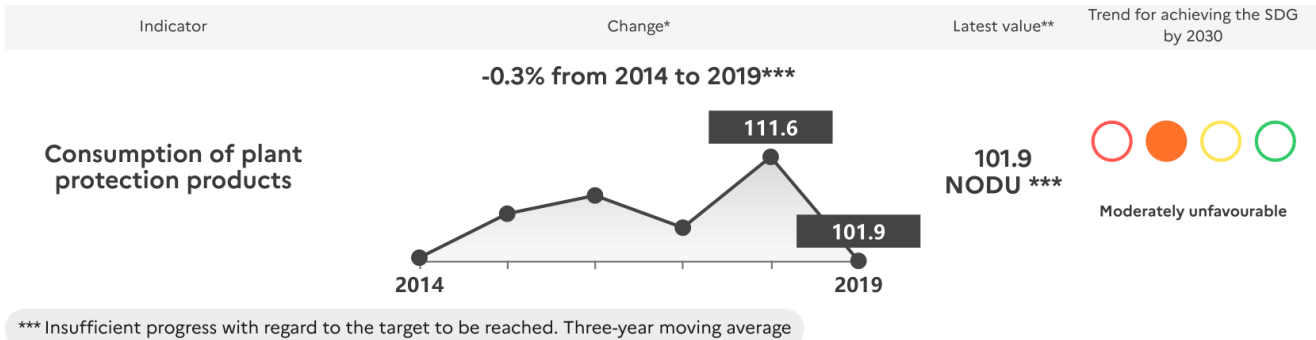


In 2021, there were 58,413 organic farms, representing 13.41% of the total farms in France. Organic farmland area, up 9% since 2020, reached 2.78 million hectares. The symbolic mark of 10% of utilized agricultural area (UAA) under organic farming was thus reached in 2021. However, sales of organically produced food fell by 1.3% compared to 2020. This drop can be explained by the decrease in household food spending (-2.28%) in the wake of the pandemic. The sector nonetheless continues to be valued at €13 billion and maintains a stable share of the French food market. This decrease is not observed in all distribution channels.

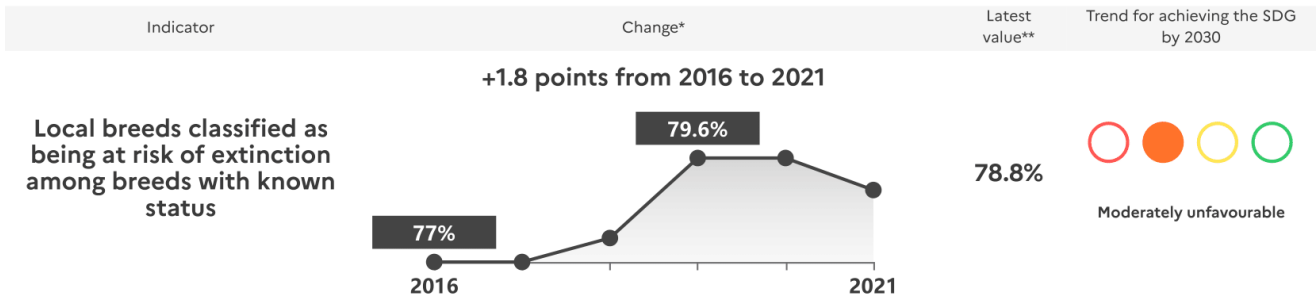
Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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In the data set used, the indicator has not been updated, but France predicts an improvement in this indicator in particular due to the "green payment" mechanisms implemented under the new CAP.



The 2021 figures on the use of plant protection products were published in November 2022 and show a significant improvement compared to several years ago (2021 NODU = 88.5 million ha, 2014 NODU = 105 million ha). This is attributable to several government actions taken to reduce the risk and use of pesticides. The Écophyto Plan II+ will accelerate the withdrawal of the most concerning substances, improve the prevention of public exposure to plant protection substances, support research and innovation and support farmers through the transition. In June 2022, the European Commission adopted the "Nature Protection Package". This legislative package is composed of proposals for the Nature Restoration Act and a new Regulation on the sustainable use of pesticides (SUR). Following the interministerial referral of 21 April 2022 by the French ministries responsible for agriculture, the ecological transition and health, the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE) launched a process to study potential alternatives to certain plant protection products.

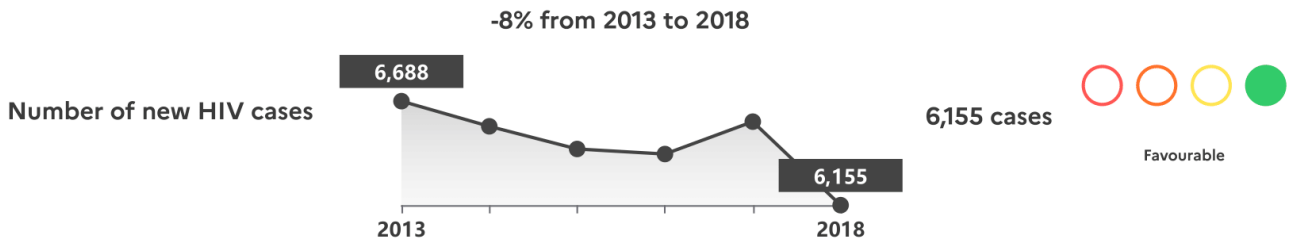


The most recent INRAE study on the local breeds at risk within several species was published in 2014. This study is in the process of being updated, with a report expected in 2023. This update is expected to conclude that certain breeds no longer qualify as being at risk of extinction (due to the recent increase in numbers for example), and on the contrary classify other breeds whose numbers have recently decreased as being at risk of extinction. Such changes are relatively rare and the indicators are stable, in particular in the classification used here with only two statuses (at risk or not at risk, without quantification of risk level such as high or low).

*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).
 **Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.
 Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

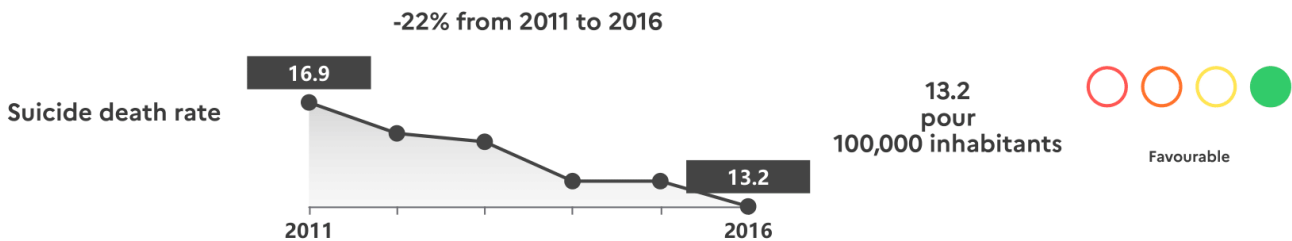
SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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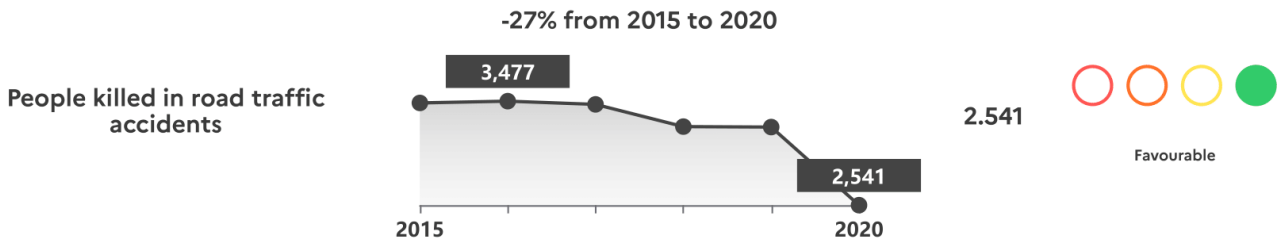
The number of new HIV cases remained stable in 2021. However, 29% of people diagnosed in 2021 were at an advanced stage of the disease, precluding the possibility of early treatment and care. HIV disproportionately affects homosexual men and heterosexual people born abroad. The 2017-2030 National Sexual Health Strategy aims to “end the AIDS epidemic by 2030” and ensure that 95% of all people living with HIV are aware of their HIV status, that 95% of people that know they are HIV positive have access to treatment, and that 95% of people being treated have a suppressed viral load by 2030.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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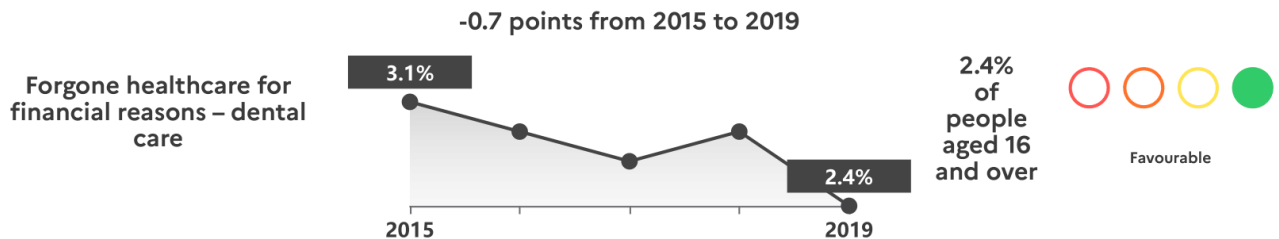
Suicide prevention is a major public health issue that was addressed in the French roadmap for mental health and psychiatry presented in 2018. The aim of the national strategy for suicide prevention, described in Instruction No. DGS/SP4/2022/171 of 6 July 2022, is to implement a set of integrated actions for the prevention of suicide, through a coordinated approach throughout the regions. These include the Vigilans programme to maintain contact with people who have attempted suicide, updated training in recognizing and assessing suicide risk factors and crisis intervention, measures to prevent suicide contagion, the setting up of a national suicide prevention hotline, and public awareness initiatives.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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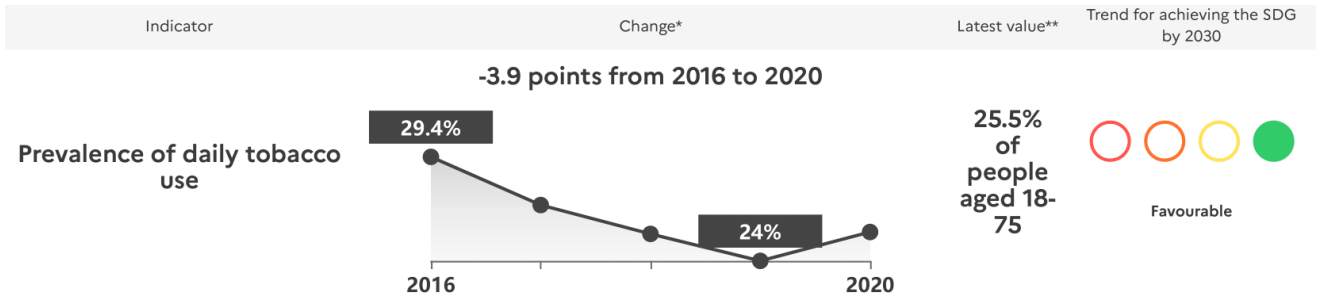


The number of people killed in road traffic accidents has declined since 2015. There were 3,461 fatalities in 2015, compared to 2,944 in 2021. In 2020, this drop was even more pronounced, in large part due to travel restriction measures as part of the fight against COVID-19.

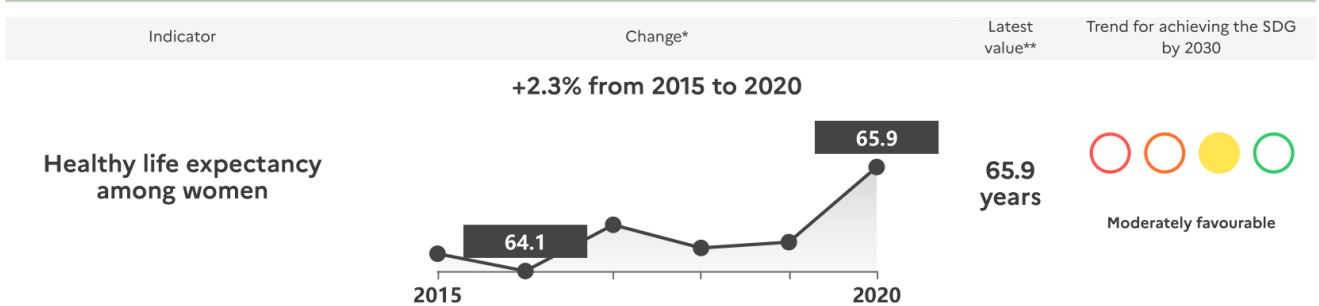
Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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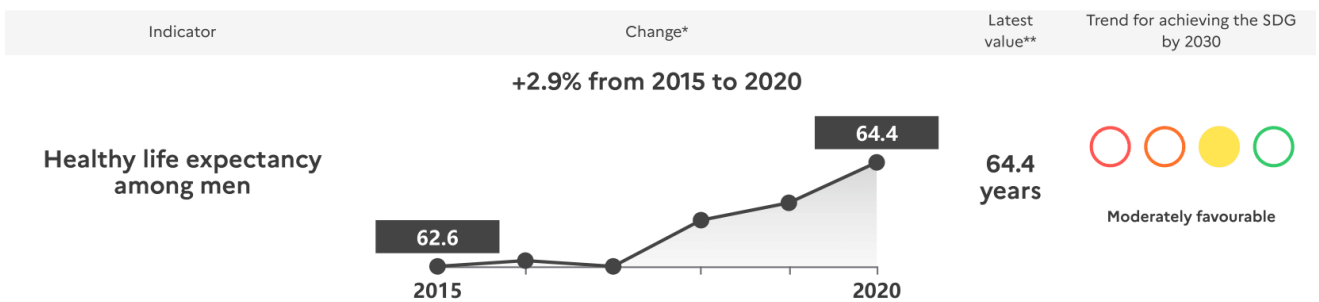
The proportion of the population with unmet needs for dental examination or treatment was 5.7% in 2020. This is due in part to the fact that dental examinations and treatment are often covered to a lesser extent by the social security system.



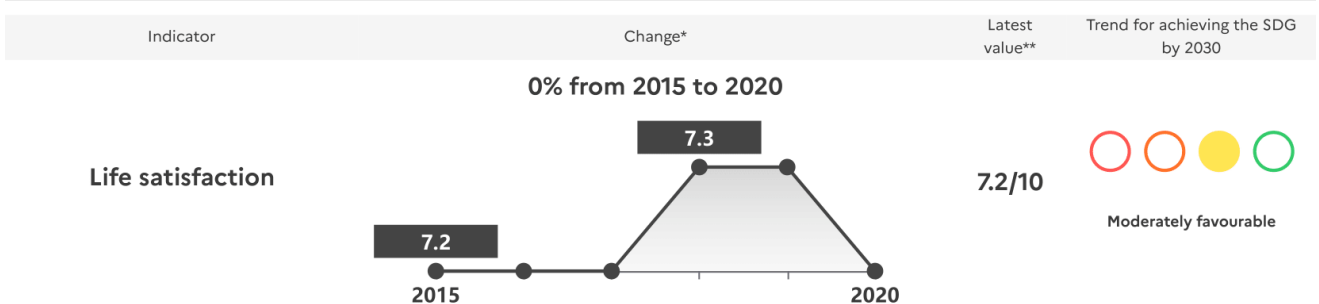
After an unprecedented drop in tobacco use between 2014 and 2019, the prevalence of daily tobacco use began to rise again in 2020. Over ten years, the prevalence rate decreased from 29.7% to 25.5% (from 2010 to 2020). Regional inequalities remain important; in 2021, the rate of daily tobacco use among people aged 18-75 varied from 22% to 29% in different regions in mainland France.



Healthy life expectancy among women stood at 65.9 years in 2020, and has been steadily on the rise since 2010. France is slightly above the EU average (by 10 months) for the number of healthy life years at birth (or disability-free life expectancy) among women.

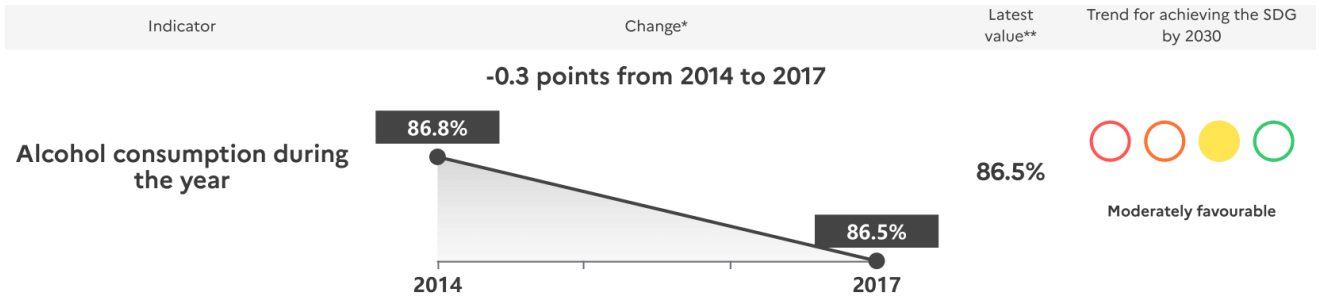


Healthy life expectancy among men was 64.4 years in 2020, and has been steadily on the rise since 2010. France is slightly above the EU average (by 5 months) for the number of healthy life years at birth (or disability-free life expectancy) among men.

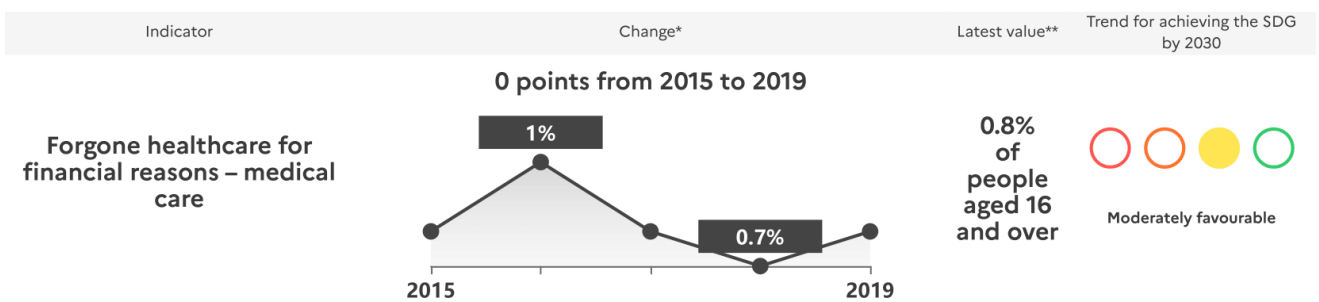


Note: provisional 2020 data

From 2010 to 2020, people in France reported an average level of life satisfaction fluctuating between 7.1 and 7.5. Life satisfaction in mainland France declined significantly for all social groups in 2021, reaching its lowest level since 2010. Changes in lifestyle and anxiety related to the pandemic led to an unprecedented fall in overall life satisfaction: the average level stood at 6.8 in 2021.



Without distinction as to sex, age or socio-professional category, the prevalence of alcohol consumption during the past year as well as the figures on daily alcohol consumption have remained stable. While alcohol consumption has greatly decreased in France since the 1980s, France continues to rank among the countries in the EU with the highest alcohol consumption. Moreover, since 2005 there has been a significant rise in at-risk alcohol use and episodes of heavy drinking, in particular among those aged 18-34. From binge drinking to “neknomination” (an online trend where people film themselves consuming alcoholic beverages), excessive consumption has become commonplace among young people. France has implemented a policy to prevent and address harmful alcohol use, in particular directed at vulnerable groups such as young people and pregnant women.



The share of the population with unmet needs for medical examination and care was 3.9% in 2020. A study by the French Directorate of Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics (DREES) highlighted a low density of physicians as a contributing factor, with people considered poor in terms of living conditions up to 8 times more likely to forgo healthcare in areas underserved by general practitioners. Non-financial reasons can combine with a lack of resources and lead to an even greater tendency to forgo care.

*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).

**Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

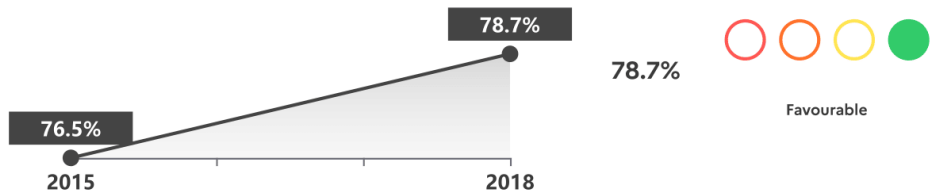
Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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+2.2 points from 2015 to 2018

Young people at age 15 achieving at least minimum proficiency in mathematics

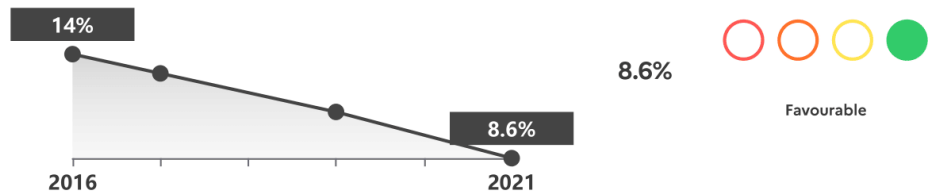


The change in this indicator between 2012 and 2018 is modest, with an increase of about 1.1 points over six years. As with reading, the foundations for mathematics must be laid beginning in pre-primary school. Education has thus been made compulsory from the age of three (instead of six previously) since the beginning of the 2019 school year. In addition, from the start of the 2023 school year, mathematics education will be reinforced at all levels of schooling.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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-5.4 points from 2016 to 2021

Digital skills: people who have not used the Internet in the preceding 3 months

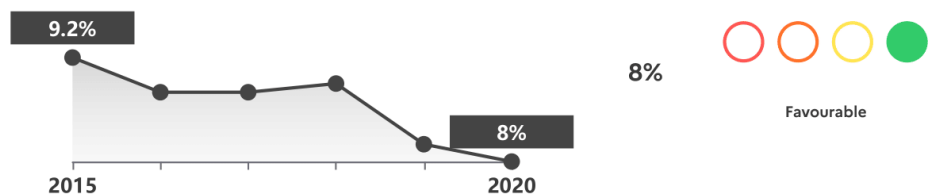


The proportion of people who reported not using the Internet during the preceding three months has fallen steadily since 2015, decreasing from 15% to 9% in 2021. The French government places importance on training for both the public and the professionals assisting them with digital public services, in order to combat digital illiteracy and the digital divide. According to INSEE (the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies), in 2019, 15% of the population did not use the Internet during the course of the year. This indicator is closely linked to the digital divide. While access to the Internet is growing, inequalities persist among older adults, individuals with lower education levels and low-income households. For example, one in two people over the age of 75 does not have Internet access at home (53%), compared to only 2% of people aged 15-29. This is also the case for 34% of individuals with low levels of education (compared to 3% of those with a university degree), and 16% of households in the lowest income group (compared to 4% of the most affluent).

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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-1.2 points from 2015 to 2020

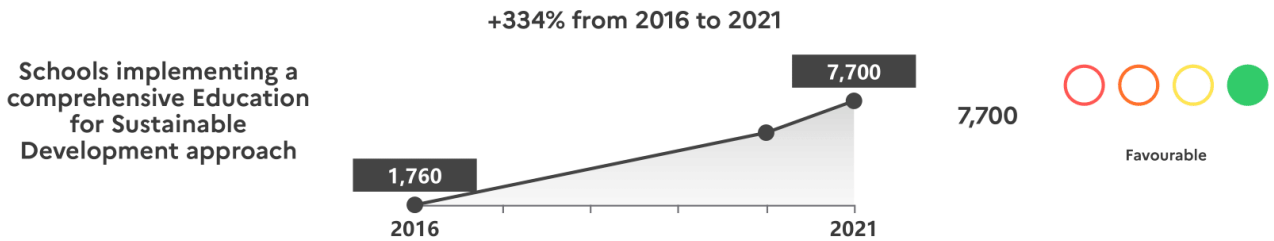
Early leavers from education and training (young people aged 18-24)



Note: provisional 2017-2020 data.

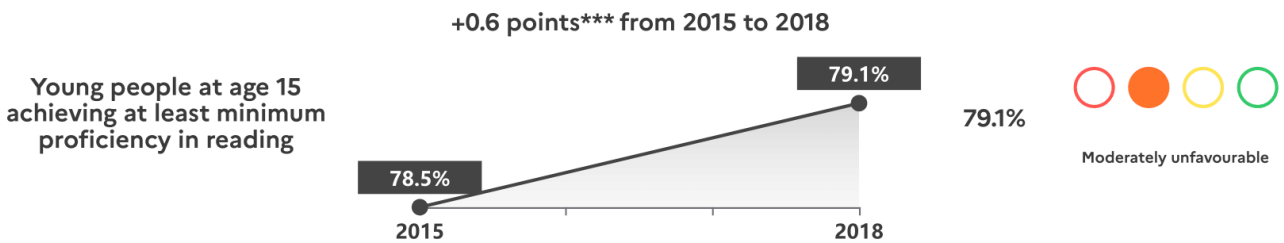
Premature withdrawal from education is a reality in France, with numerous young people leaving school without earning a qualification or degree. The “Mobilized together to stop early leaving” action plan, implemented since 2014, has shown positive results. The plan offers a personalized approach to give each individual a new chance to earn a qualification and find their place in society. The programme entitled “Supporting school attendance and children’s sustainable access to education” aims to expand outreach and support for families through increased resources for school mediation. In 2020, it enabled the creation of 30 mediator positions based in 15 French departments, whose mission is to help children attend and stay in school. To fight against early leaving, the agricultural education field has launched the “Ancrochage” action research project to “anchor” young people in their studies. It gathers data on the conditions that favour academic perseverance and retention. “Anchoring” students is about getting them to stay (dropping anchor) by mobilizing and engaging them in their educational programme. It also means providing them with the social and professional tools to succeed as well as waypoints to give them direction in their learning programme (setting a course). Lastly, it aims to equip them to leave and join the workforce (raise anchor).

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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The “E3D” label (“Schools implementing the Education for Sustainable Development approach”) is awarded to primary and secondary schools (general, technological and vocational) as well as apprentice training centres that adopt a comprehensive sustainable development approach. These schools involve the entire educational community in their approach. Obtaining this label does not constitute the achievement of an end goal, but is rather a mark of commitment to pursuing continuous improvement. E3D responds in particular to the objectives of the agro-ecological plan for France as defined in the Future of Agriculture, Food and Forests Act (LAAAF) of 13 October 2014 and in the related action plan on “Teaching to produce differently”. For the 2022-2023 school year, France has presented the fourth edition of the *Tous écoresponsables, on parie !?* (“Eco-friendly together, want to bet?!”) call for projects, which seeks to encourage and recognize students’ civic engagement through the achievement of one or more challenges.

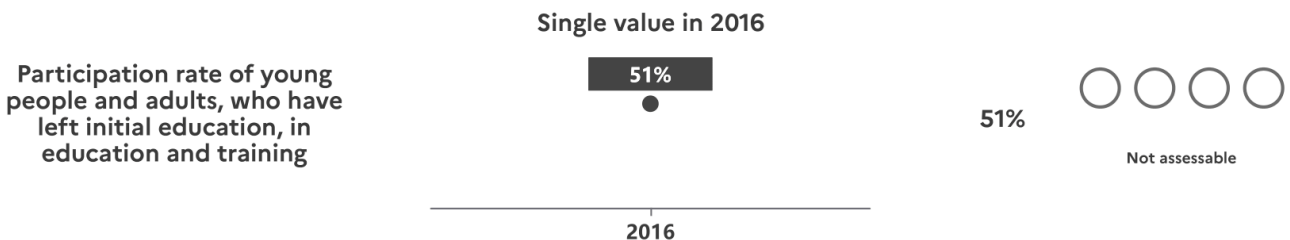
Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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*** Insufficient progress with regard to the target to be reached.

There has been no substantial change between 2012 and 2018 for this indicator. France is committed to improving this indicator through the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture, and in partnership with local and regional authorities and families. In addition, as reading skills begin to develop at an early age, education in this field has been made compulsory from the age of three (instead of six previously) since the start of the 2019 school year.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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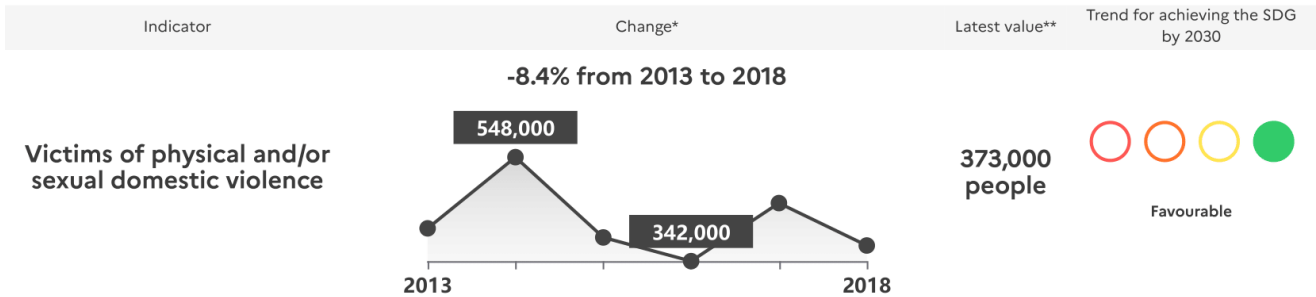
According to the Adult Education Survey (AES) carried out in 2016, in mainland France, 51% of people aged 18-64 who have left initial education participated in at least one formal or non-formal education or training programme in the previous 12 months. Few of them (2%) took part in formal education resulting in a degree or recognized qualification. This primarily concerns young adults returning to their studies after an interruption of more than a year. The annual rate of access to informal training is substantially higher: 50% for all purposes combined, and 39% for non-formal vocational training.

*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).

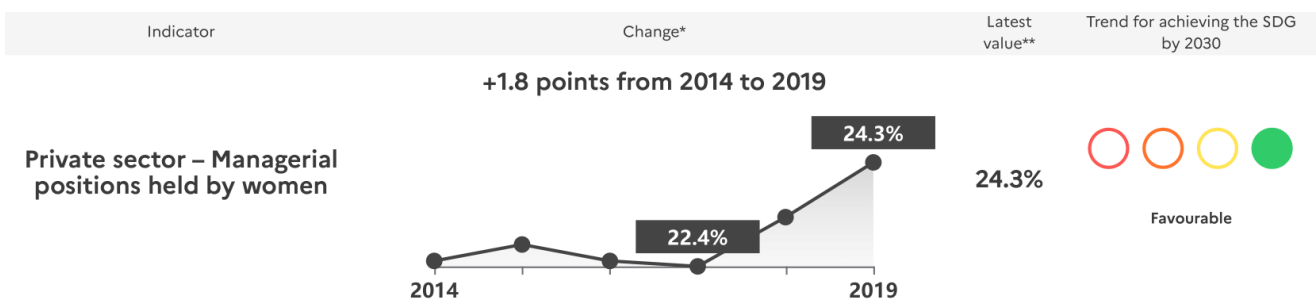
**Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

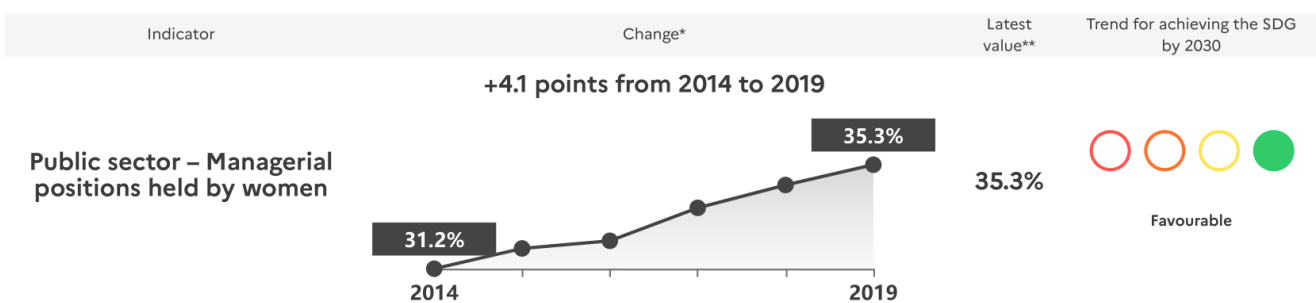
SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



The number of victims of physical and/or sexual domestic violence decreased from 457,000 victims in 2017 to 373,000 in 2018. To better understand and measure the progression of this indicator, France developed a new general population victimization survey. As the first edition of the survey was carried out in 2022, the first results will be available in 2023. The most recent available data are thus administrative data: in 2021, authorities recorded 208,000 victims of violence committed by a current or former intimate partner. The number of reported cases has practically doubled since 2016, amid a context where victims feel greater freedom to come forward and improvement has been made to the assistance they receive from law enforcement services. The proportion of cases of abuse committed in the past (prior to the year they were reported) is continually rising; a quarter of the reported incidents dated back to before 2021. The proportion of these cases increased from 18% in 2016 to 28% in 2021. A comprehensive action plan to combat domestic violence was implemented in 2019 and reinforced the following years. At the end of 2022, of the 54 measures in the plan, 46 were in effect and 8 were in progress. In parallel, the legal arsenal has been strengthened, with four acts passed since 2017 to better protect victims.

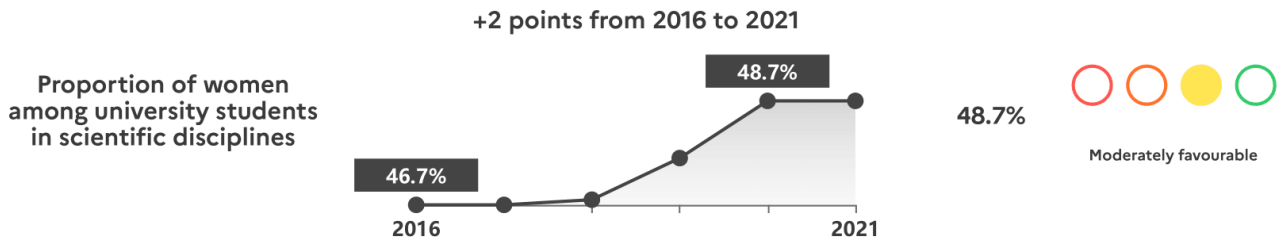


In 2020, 26.6% of senior management positions in the private sector were occupied by women, compared to 25.3% in 2018. With the introduction of the Act of 27 January 2011 on the balanced representation of men and women on boards of directors and supervisory boards and gender equality in the workplace, the proportion of women on the boards of directors of CAC 40 companies has increased dramatically, from barely 10% in 2009 to 44.6% today. As a result, France leads the European Union in this respect and ranks second worldwide. To encourage the continued development of gender equality within companies, since 2013 the office of the French Minister Delegate for Gender Equality has presented the Awards for the Representation of Women in SBF 120 Companies, a ranking of the largest French publicly traded companies. It recognizes the companies with the most commendable commitment to gender balance in their governing bodies and policies promoting diversity. In total, 116 out of 119 companies responded to the survey. This record rate of 97.5% is a sign of companies' growing commitment to equality in the workplace. In addition, the Act of 24 December 2021 aimed at accelerating economic and professional gender equality introduced requirements for balanced gender representation among senior executives and governing bodies of companies employing at least 1,000 employees for the third consecutive financial year, along with an obligation for transparency in this area.



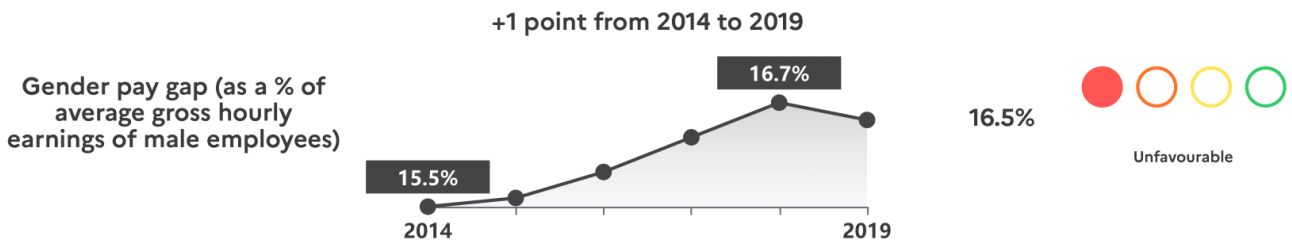
In 2020, 39% of senior management positions in the public sector were occupied by women, compared to 37% in 2018. Representing 20% of jobs in France, the civil service aims to set an example in terms of professional gender equality. Since the end of 2019, all public employers have been required to implement a multi-year action plan to promote equality in the workplace. In addition, under the system to ensure gender equality in appointments to senior management positions, introduced by the Act of 12 March 2012 on access to tenured employment and improving the employment conditions of contractual employees in the civil service, the fight against discrimination and including various provisions relating to public administrations, public employers must respect a 40% gender quota in initial appointments to senior management and decision-making positions in the public sector. As a result, women made up 42% of those appointed for the first time to a leadership position within the civil service in 2020. This was the first time that this objective was met, a reflection of the effectiveness of the gender equality policies. At the same time, the proportion of women holding senior positions grew in nearly all French ministries.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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The proportion of women pursuing university studies in scientific disciplines is progressively rising, reaching 49.4% in 2022, compared to 46.7% in 2016. While this indicator is on the rise, women continue to be broadly represented in certain scientific fields in higher education (such as biology, medicine and veterinary science), while other fields have only a small proportion of women (engineering, physics, etc.). This segregation reflects the weight of gender stereotypes, which have a powerful influence on the way girls and boys come to determine their academic and career paths, beginning at a very young age. This is seen in secondary school, where girls are turning their back on the digital technology field early on: girls made up 56% of students in the general programme for the second year of secondary school, and less than 30% of the computer science specialization. A gender diversity action plan aims to achieve, in all specialized programmes, technological tracks and post-baccalaureate pathways, a rate of at least 30% gender diversity within five years.

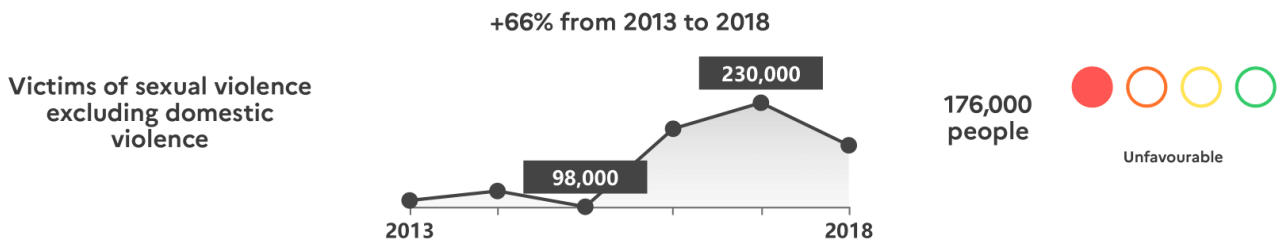
Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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Note: provisional 2019 data.

Since 2018, the gender pay gap has slightly diminished to reach 15.8% in 2020 (versus 16.7% in 2018). Gender pay disparities have been steadily shrinking over the past forty years, and have been reduced by a quarter over the past twenty years. The remaining gap is due to multiple factors: differences in the volume of work, with women far more likely than men to be employed part-time (28.1% versus 7.6% in 2021); unequal pay for the same volume of work, stemming largely from the fact that men and women are not equally represented in the same sectors and the same jobs; and lastly, women have less access to the highest paying jobs, particularly when they have children.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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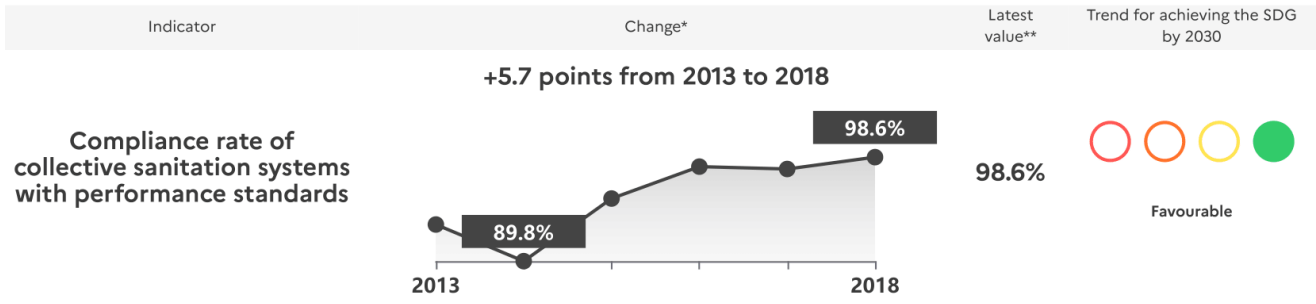


The number of victims of sexual violence, excluding cases of domestic violence, decreased from 230,000 victims in 2017 to 176,000 in 2018. To measure change in this indicator, France has developed a new general population victimization survey. As the first edition of the survey was carried out in 2022, the first results will be available in 2023. The most recent available data are thus administrative data: in 2021, law enforcement services recorded 72,000 cases of violence of a sexual nature, committed by someone outside of the victim's family. In 2021, the number of these victims continued to reflect the upward trend begun in 2017, in a context of victims more freely speaking out and being heard. France is implementing numerous measures, such as the national helpline for women experiencing violence (3919). Launched in 2021, this helpline is open 24/7. A women's rape helpline is also offered by CFCV (the Feminist Collective Against Rape), and the organization En Avant Toute(s) provides the "Comment on s'aime" chat service that is particularly geared toward young people.

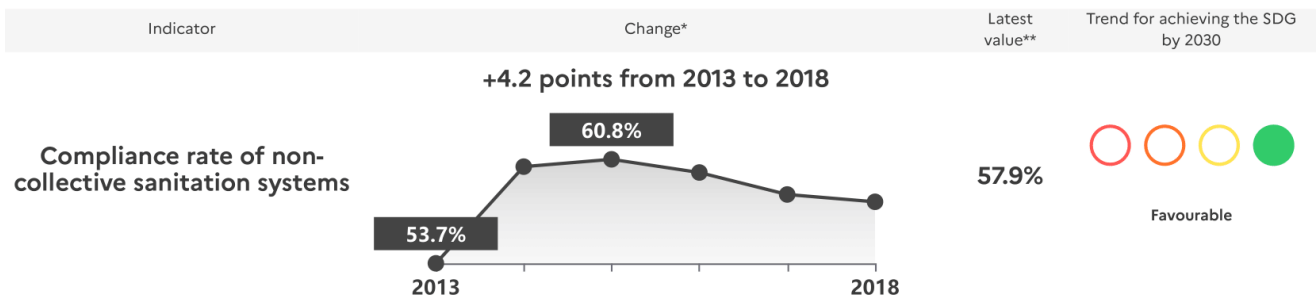
*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).
 **Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

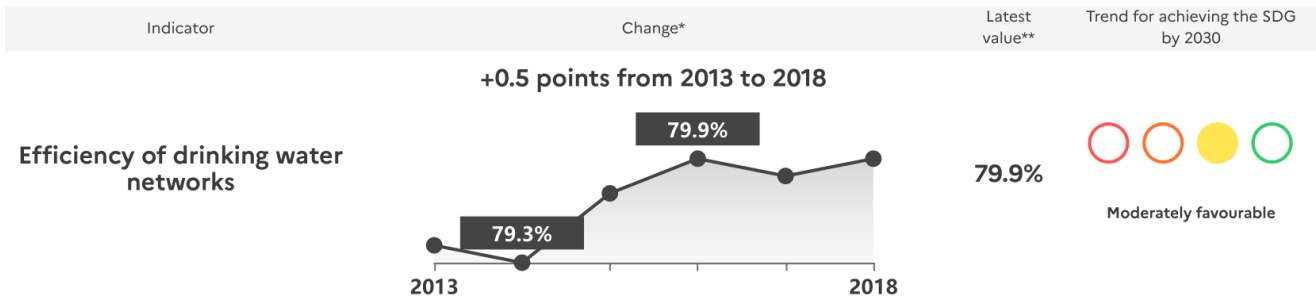
SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



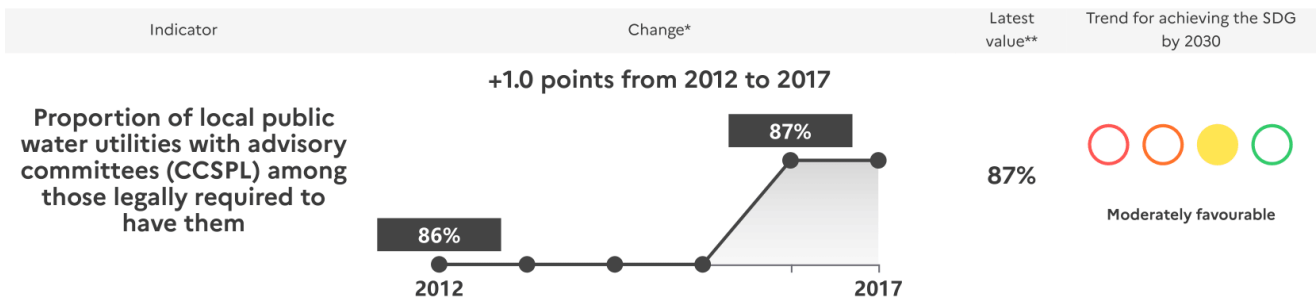
This indicator assesses the rate at which all water treatment facilities of a sanitation network comply with the regulatory performance standards stemming from the EU's Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. This indicator has improved between 2013 and 2018. Between 2015 and 2020, the pollution load discharged into the environment, measured in population equivalent (PE), has also decreased.



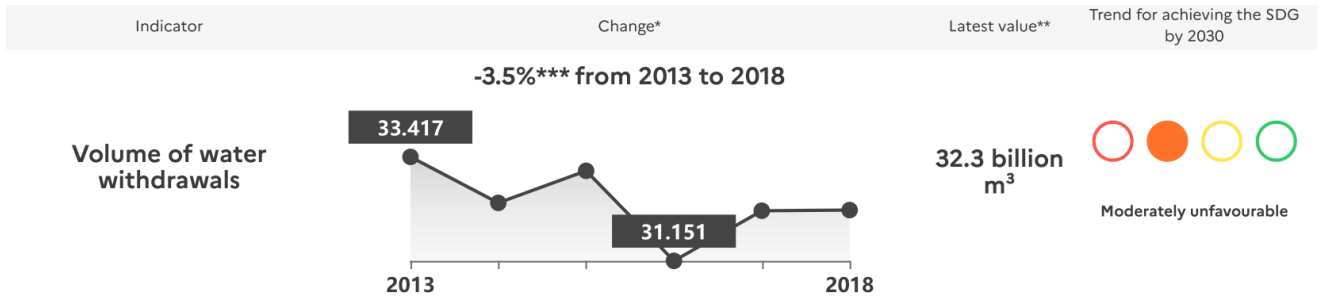
This indicator is rising, according to the latest report of the French observatory on public water and sanitation services. The compliance rate of non-collective sanitation systems increased slightly between 2015 and 2020. France is on track to achieve its aim for the 2030 Agenda.



This indicator is rising, according to the latest report of the French observatory on public water and sanitation services. The efficiency of drinking water networks increased slightly between 2015 and 2020.

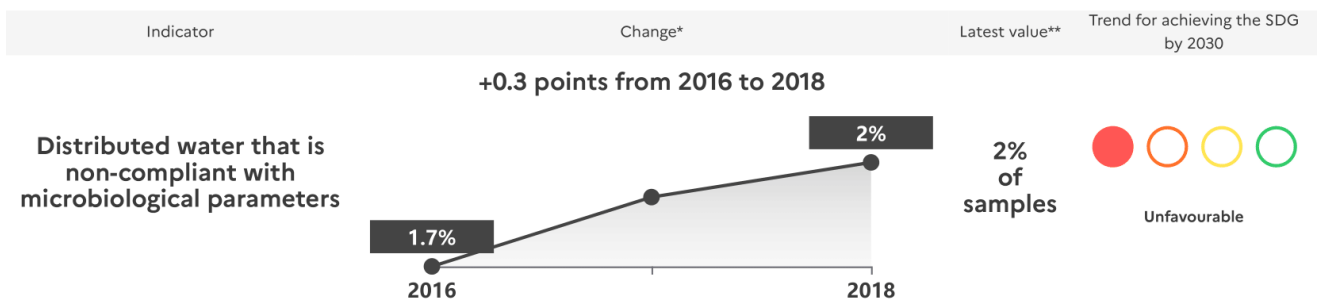


On the rise, this indicator measures the percentage of local public utilities providing drinking water that have advisory committees, among those with a legal obligation to do so. In France, the proportion of local administrations that have put policies in place to encourage the participation of the local community in water management, among those legally required to do so, has increased. France is on track in this area.

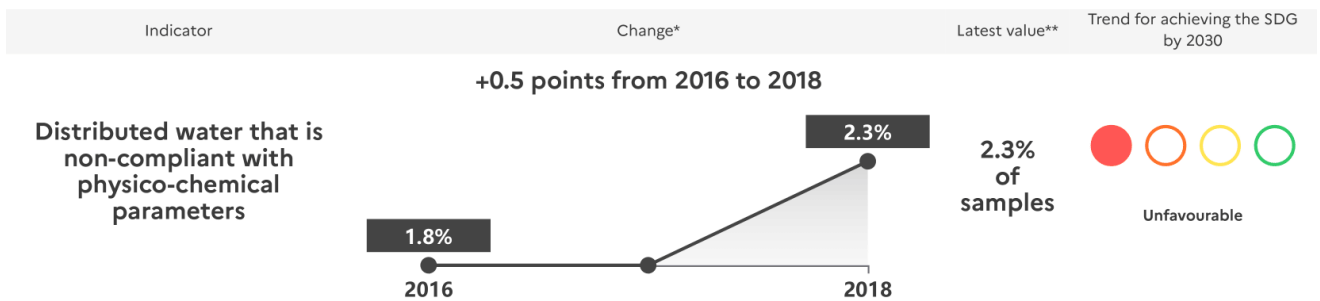


*** Insufficient progress with regard to the target to be reached.

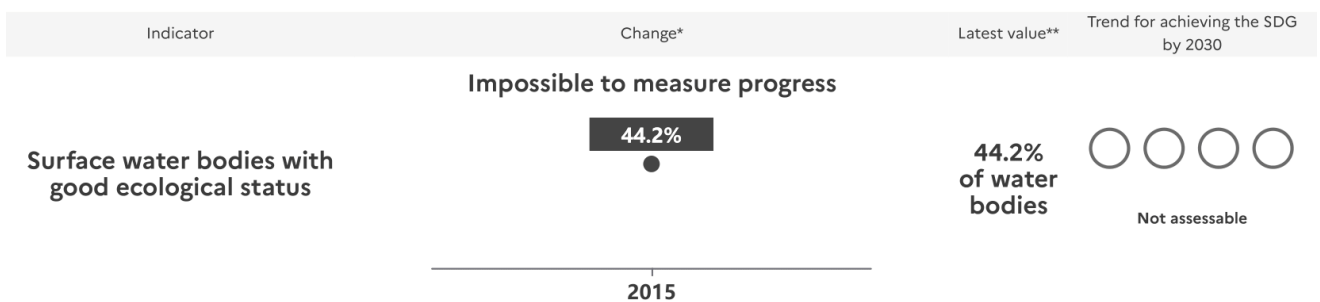
In 2020, 31.4 billion cubic meters were withdrawn in France for major uses (production of drinking water, industrial use, agriculture, supplying navigation channels and cooling power plants; excluding water used to run hydroelectric dams). The volume of withdrawals in France fell between 2015 and 2020. France set itself even more ambitious goals, however, which explains why the trend is characterized as insufficient.



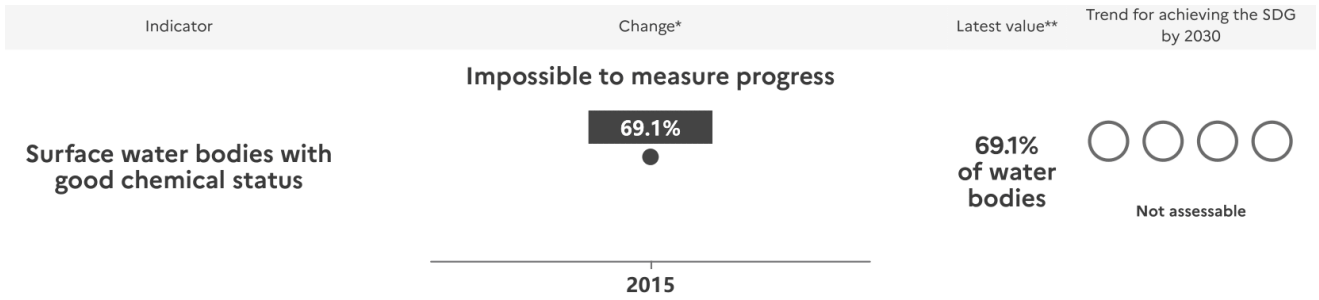
According to the most recent report of the French observatory on public water and sanitation services, the trend in the proportion of water distributed in France that is non-compliant with microbiological parameters showed improvement between 2016 and 2020. Problems with microbiological compliance can arise in certain regions, in particular in rural areas with intensive agriculture such as monoculture farming and wine growing using pesticides; in areas near livestock farms, where significant quantities of nitrates can be present; and in areas near certain industrial sites. Non-compliance with microbiological parameters for water quality can also be due to inadequate protection or maintenance of water collection infrastructure, disinfection treatment failures or water contamination occurring during transport and storage in the network.



According to the most recent report of the French observatory on public water and sanitation services, the proportion of distributed water that is non-compliant with physico-chemical parameters was nearly stable between 2016 and 2020.



In 2019, 43.1% of surface water bodies had achieved good or high ecological status. As changes to measurement rules under the EU Water Framework Directive and improved monitoring methods are leading to more effective detection of problems, the comparison of data from one assessment to another underestimates the progress made.



In 2019, 66.9% of surface water bodies were assessed as having good or high chemical status. As changes to measurement rules under the EU Water Framework Directive and improved monitoring methods are leading to more effective detection of problems, the comparison of data from one assessment to another underestimates the progress made.

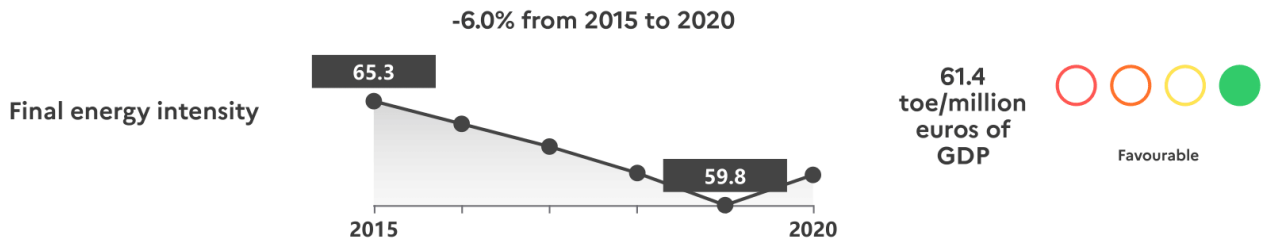
*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).

**Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

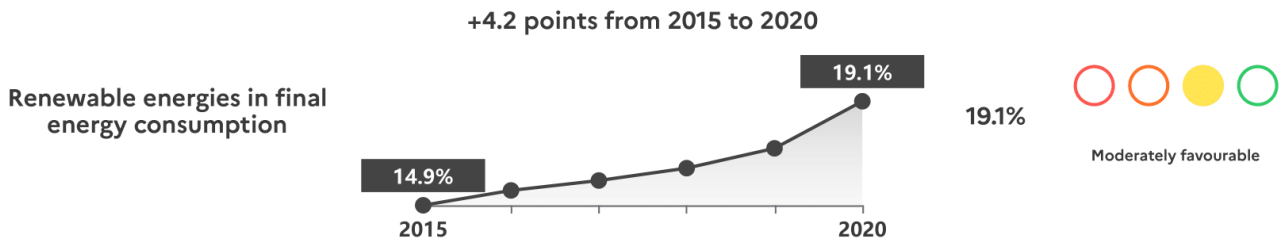
Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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Note: provisional 2020 data.

Final energy intensity (the ratio between final energy consumption and gross domestic product) increased by 2.8% in 2020: final energy consumption, adjusted for climate variability, fell sharply (-5.8%), but at a lesser rate than economic activity (-8.3%). Over the long term, however, this intensity has been decreasing almost continuously, by an average annual rate of 1.3%. This reduction is linked to France's efforts to promote energy efficiency, in particular under the framework of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive. Final energy intensity was down to 704.3 MWh/million euros in 2021, compared to 790.4 MWh/million euros in 2013.

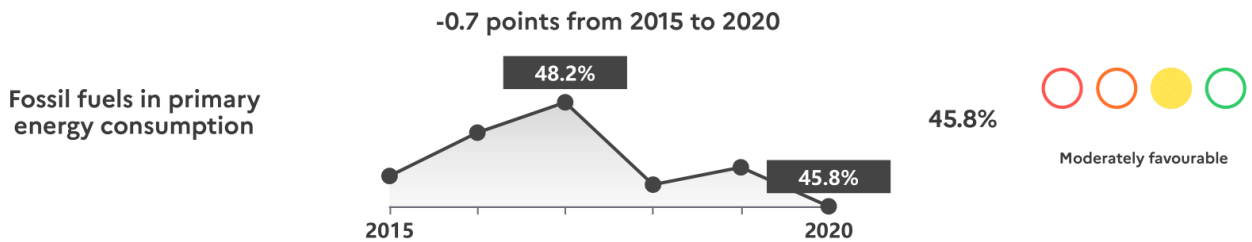
Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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Note: provisional 2020 data.

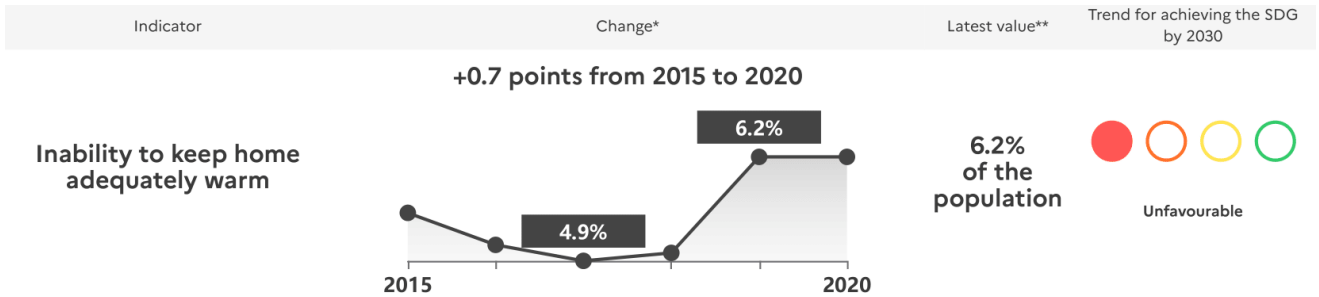
The share of renewable energies in final energy consumption in France has been growing steadily for several years. In 2021, they accounted for 13.0% of primary energy consumption and 19.3% of gross final energy consumption. Their contribution to the French economy has increased in parallel: in 2019, investments in renewable energies reached €10.1 billion and the sector provided 80,000 full-time equivalent jobs. In absolute terms, France is the second largest producer of hydroelectric power, renewable waste and biofuels in Europe. Renewable energies in France are very diverse, covering about ten different sub-sectors. Wood energy and hydroelectric power remain the most developed, but wind and heat pumps are among the fastest growing sectors in recent years. To meet the rising demand for electricity, in particular for industry and transport, the development of 40 GW of offshore wind power and 100 GW of solar capacity by 2050 is among the government's top policy priorities.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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Note: provisional 2020 data.

After steadily increasing until 2005, primary energy consumption, adjusted for climate variability, has been modestly in decline. The long term trend differs according to energy source: since 1990, the consumption of coal and oil has decreased by 72% and 27%, respectively. Conversely, the consumption of nuclear power and natural gas rose by 15% and 44%, respectively, while that of renewable energies has more than doubled. In 2021, fossil fuels accounted for 46% of France's primary energy consumption, an increase of 4.4% (climate corrected), following an unprecedented drop in 2020 (-8.3%). This rise is mainly due to the progressive lifting of travel restrictions, which resulted in a rebound in fuel consumption, in particular automotive, as well as a strong demand for electricity stimulated by the economic recovery and the development of renewable thermal energies, to a lesser extent.



Note: provisional 2020 data.

This situation concerned 6.0% of the population in 2021, compared to 6.8% in 2020. The fight against energy poverty in France is driven by two main approaches: addressing the causes by focusing on consumption, in particular through improving the energy efficiency of housing; and offering assistance to help low-income households pay their energy bills, such as the energy cheque.

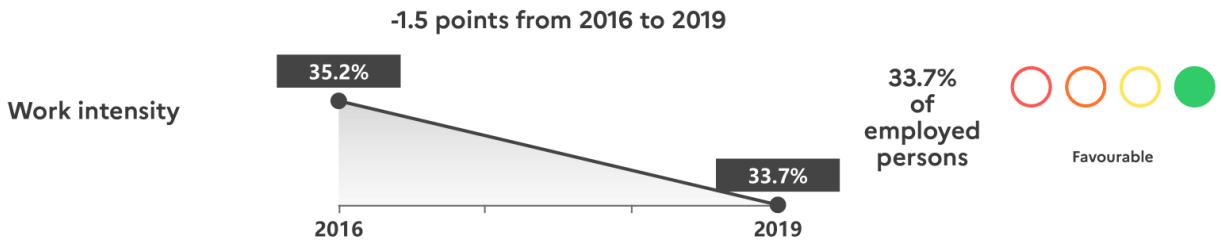
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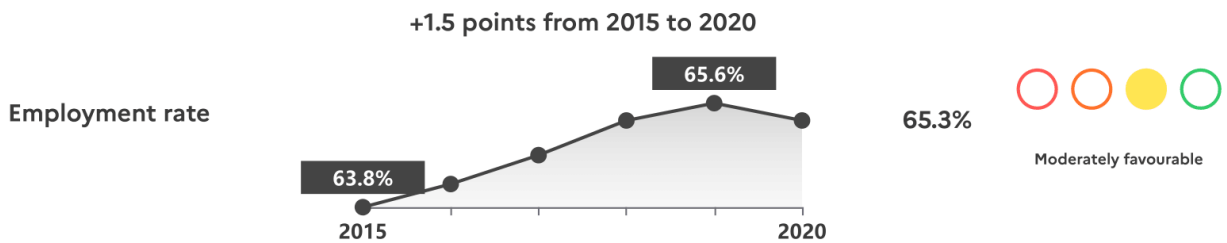
SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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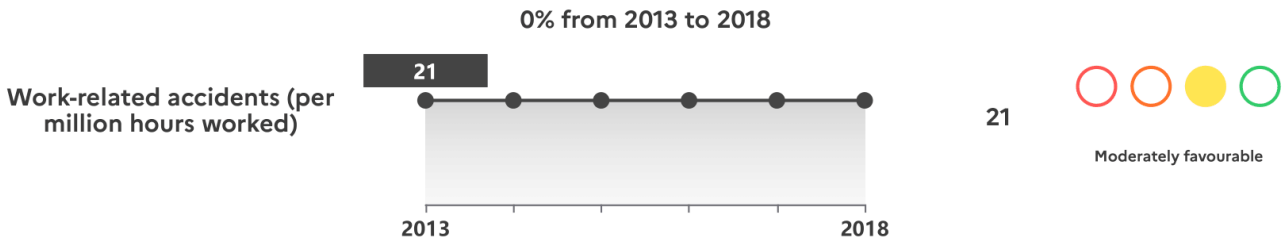
From 2016 to 2019, work intensity significantly decreased: in 2019, 33.7% of employees reported experiencing pressures at work imposing a high level of intensity (constraints on the pace of work, time pressure, etc.), a measure of psychosocial risk, down 1.5 points compared to 2016. Work intensity particularly decreased for men (-2.6 points from 2016 and 2019), although they remain more likely to be affected by these constraints (in 2019, 38.8% of men were concerned, versus 28.6% of women).

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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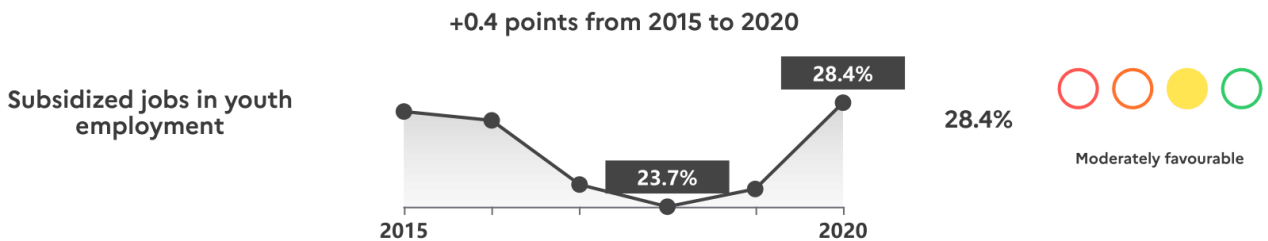
In 2020, 65.3% of people aged 15-64 were employed. This rate rose significantly between 2015 and 2020 (+1.5 points). Over this period, the employment rate among women grew slightly faster than the rate among men (+1.6 points for women versus +1.4 points for men). The employment rate of people aged 50-64 showed a particularly marked increase (+3.8 points). The employment rate has continued to rise since 2020, and in the third quarter of 2022 reached its highest level since INSEE began measuring it in 1975.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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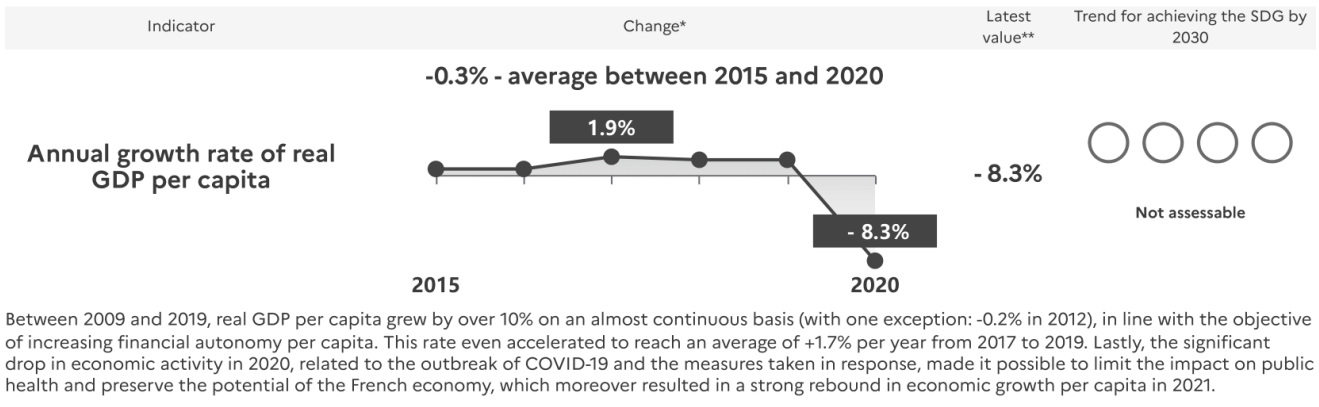
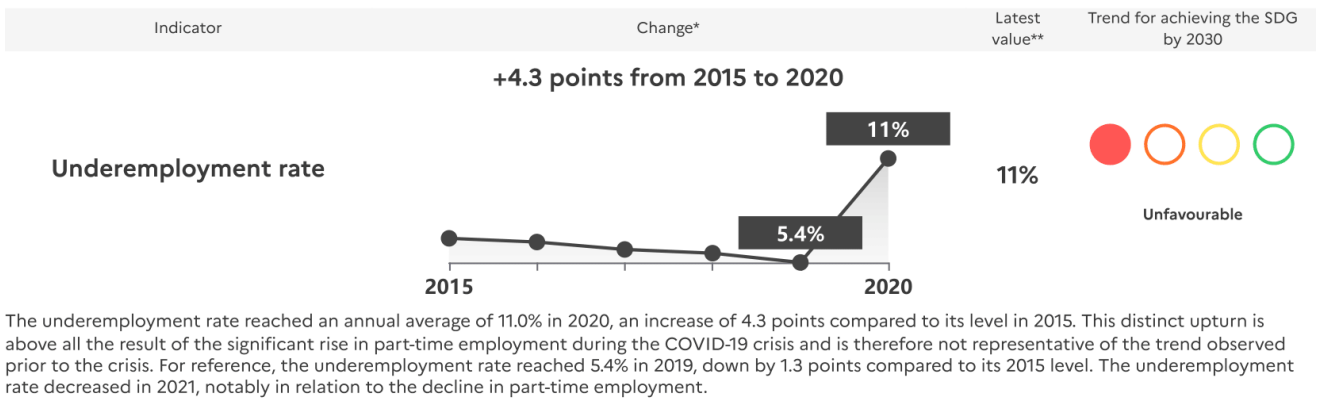
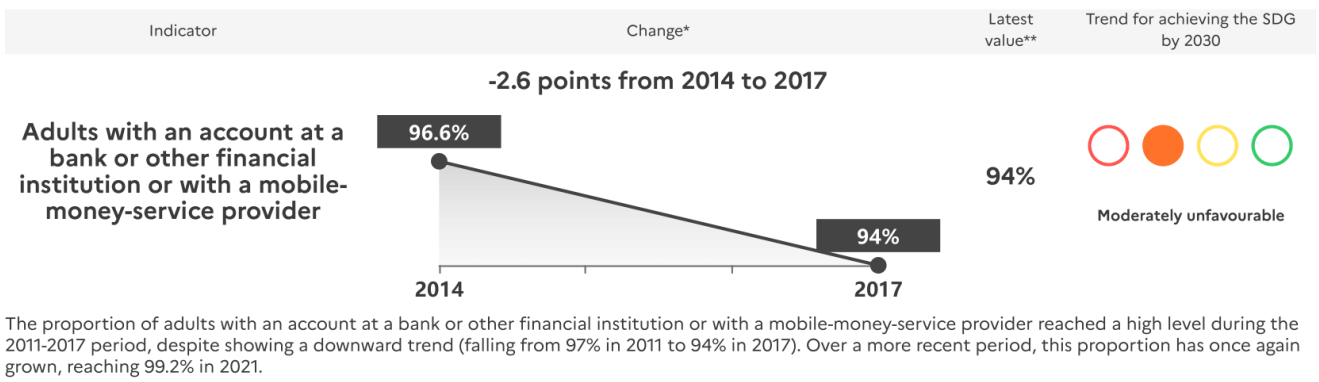
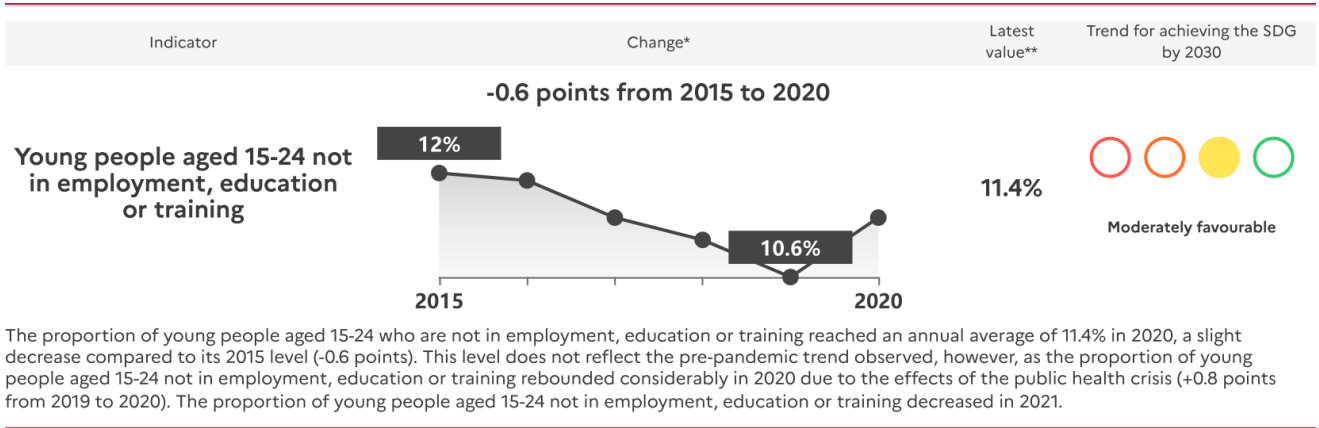
The frequency rate of work-related accidents was stable between 2013 and 2018, standing at 21 accidents per million hours worked. Its progression varied, however, within different socio-professional categories: the number of work-related accidents sharply declined among labourers (from 43 accidents per million hours worked in 2013 to 37 in 2018), while it increased slightly in other socio-professional categories (employees, intermediate occupations and managerial/higher grade occupations).

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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Note: provisional 2020 data.

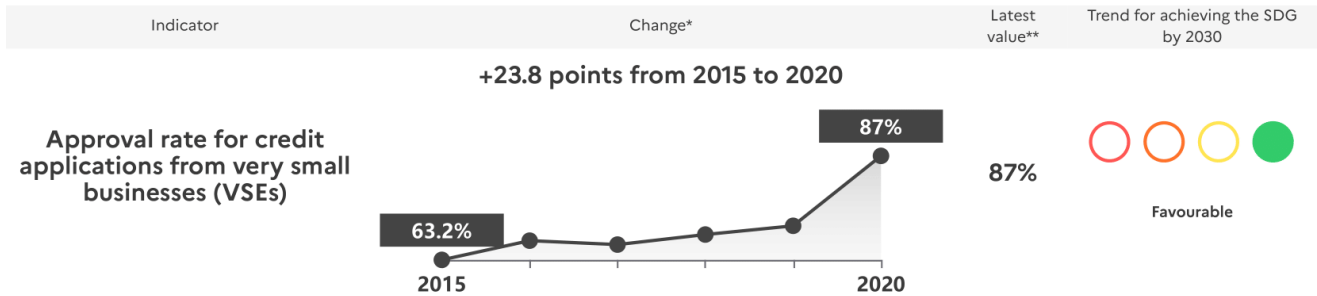
The share of subsidized jobs in the employment of young people under the age of 26 rose by 0.4 points between 2015 and 2020, reaching 28.4% in 2020. This increase is primarily driven by the rise in apprenticeships (+8.2 points between 2015 and 2020), as the share of other subsidized jobs in youth employment (non-apprenticeship dual learning programmes, subsidized employment contracts in the commercial sector and the non-commercial sector) decreased over the same period.



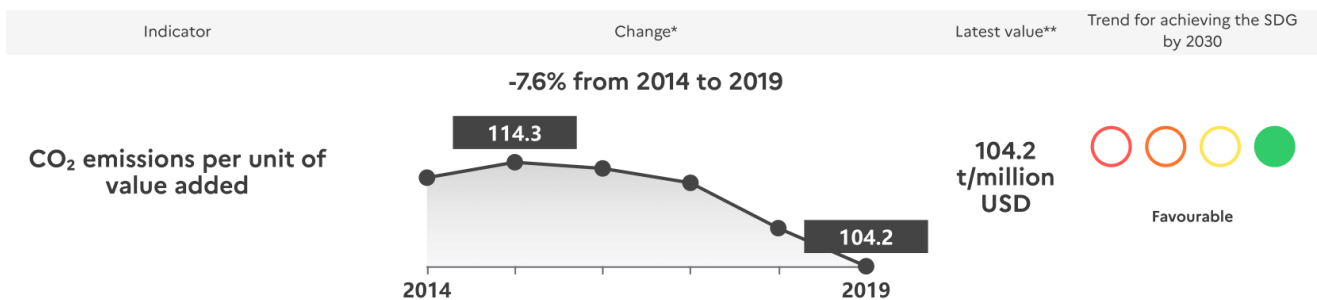
*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).
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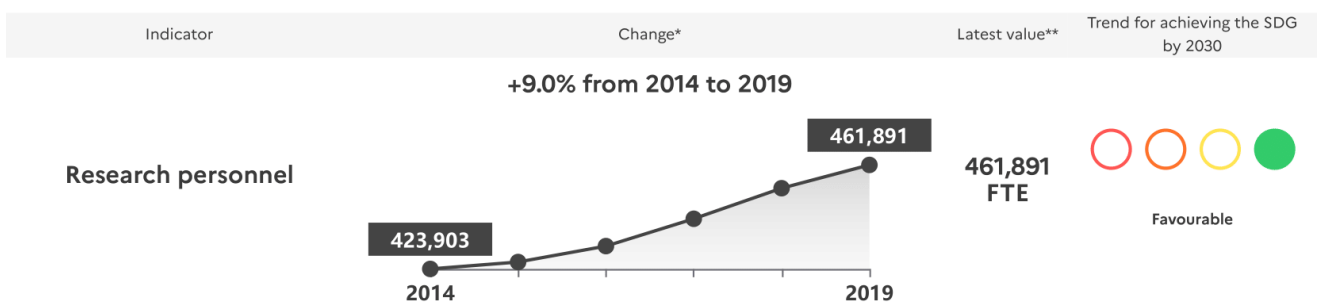
SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



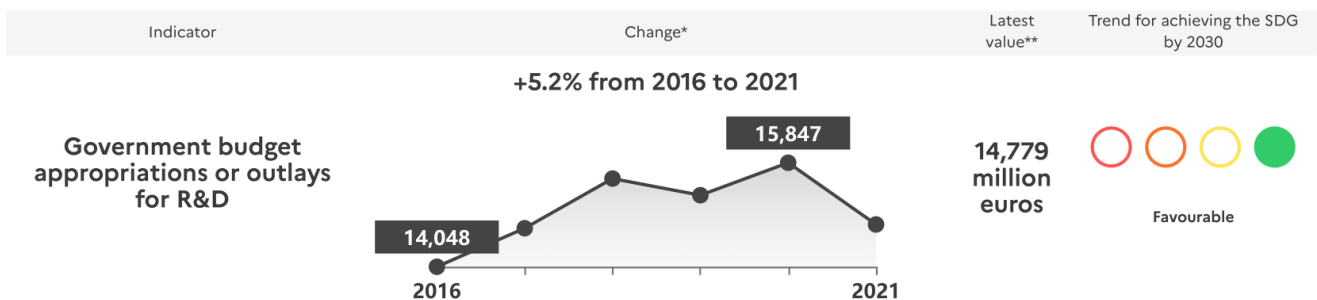
The approval rate for applications for credit facilities submitted by VSEs reached 87% in 2020, up 16 percentage points compared to 2019. While the approval rate has been steadily growing in recent years, this was the biggest increase since 2015.



Gross CO₂ emissions per unit of value added, excluding biomass and emissions from manufacturing processes, fell by 25% between 2010 and 2019. This reduction is due to the 16% decrease in emissions over the period, combined with a 13% increase in GDP in constant 2010 values.

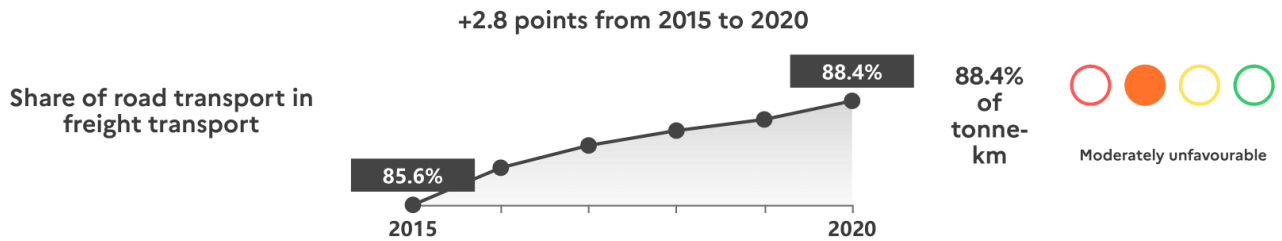


The number of researchers (in full-time equivalent) grew by 16% from 2010 to 2019. In 2019, INSEE counted 461,891 jobs dedicated to research. Since 2002, there have been more researchers working in companies than in the public sector. In 2019, 62% of the total number of researchers worked in the private sector. Of these, 59% worked in the manufacturing industry, 38% in the services sector and 3% in the “primary, energy and construction” sector.



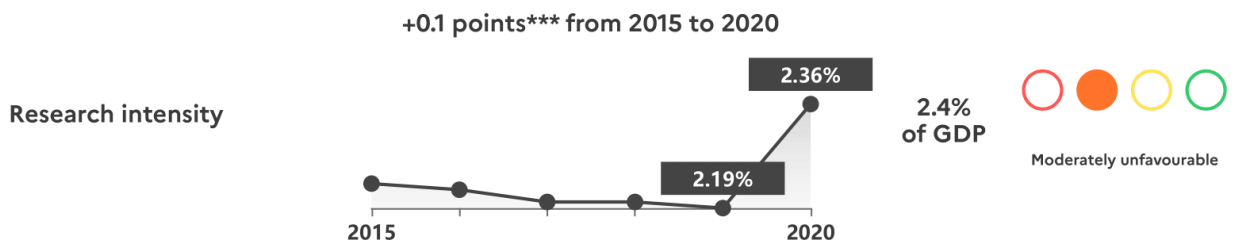
In 2021, €14.8 billion was allocated to public R&D, up from €14.0 billion in 2016. Space exploration and exploitation received the largest share of civilian budget allocations for R&D in 2021 (€1.7 billion) followed by energy (€1.1 billion) and health (€1.0 billion). Spending on space and health benefited from substantial additional allocations in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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In 2019, the share of road transport in land transport excluding oil pipelines was 89%, the share of rail transport was 9.6% and that of inland waterways was 2% (shares expressed as a % of tonne-kilometres). The modal share of road transport has been rising since 1990, although its growth has slowed since 2006. The share of non-road transport modes has decreased considerably over the past two decades, in particular due to the reduction in rail transport (-2.3% per year on average between 2004 and 2019). This decline in modal share is shown in the stagnation of rail traffic (relatively stable since 2015) and an increase in road traffic. This reflects France's low density of industry and de-industrialization, as well as the flexibility, competitiveness and service quality of road transport, which has become the dominant mode.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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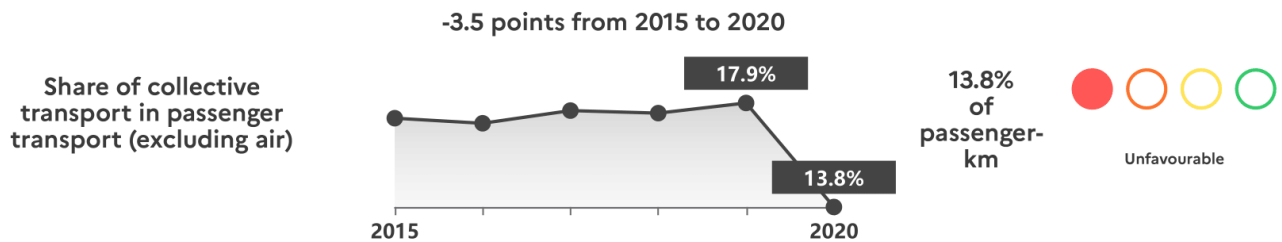


*** Insufficient progress with regard to the target to be reached.

Note: estimated 2020 data.

In 2020, research and development expenditure as a percentage of GDP stood at 2.36%, versus 2.19% in 2019, reflecting the continuation of R&D spending despite the decline in GDP. Domestic research expenditure fell in volume by 1%, due to a decrease in government R&D spending (-1.7%) and, to a lesser extent, business spending (-0.6%).

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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In 2019, collective modes of transport accounted for a share of 17.3% of passenger-kilometres (excluding air transport), of which 11.3% was by rail (trains and urban rail transit) and 6% by coach, bus and tram. Collective transport is thus placed in contrast to private passenger vehicles (including motorcycles), which had a share of 81.1% of passenger-kilometres. Urban public transport and rail transport nevertheless saw an average annual increase of 1.6% between 2014 and 2018, while private vehicles gained only 0.4% per year over the period. Meanwhile, domestic air traffic in mainland France rose by an average of 2.9% per year over the same period. For everyday travel, the "Mobilité des personnes" survey on the mobility habits of people in France showed that in terms of the number of journeys, the use of cars in urban areas with more than 20,000 inhabitants dropped noticeably between 2008 and 2019, in favour of an increase in walking in mid-sized urban areas and the use of public transport in large ones. The COVID-19 crisis greatly disrupted mobility habits, in particular causing a fall in collective transport traffic in 2020 and 2021. The return to normal has been gradual and is expected to be seen in 2023 or 2024 in light of the latest mobility figures.

*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).

**Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

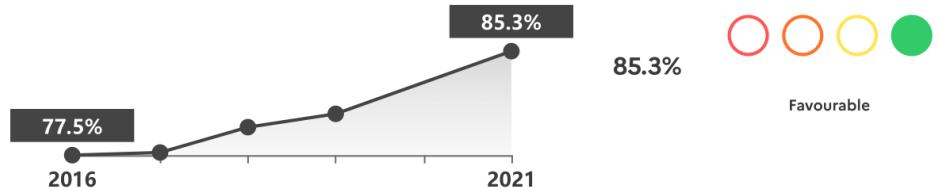
Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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+7.8 points from 2016 to 2021

People with broadband internet at home

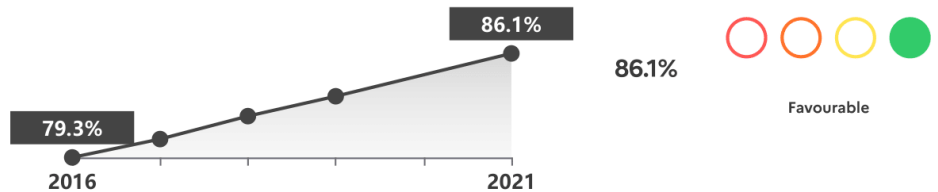


In 2022, 86% of people in France had broadband internet at home, a figure that has been rapidly rising since 2016 (up 9.4 points). This indicator takes into account all individuals aged 15 and over living in an ordinary household. This growth can be attributed to certain government policies and subsidies, such as the financial aid granted to support access to quality fixed internet, ranging from €150 to €600. The France Très Haut Débit plan for broadband development, launched in 2013, will be continued and strengthened until 2025, and this indicator should thus continue its upward trend.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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+6.8 points from 2016 to 2021

People who used the Internet in the last three months

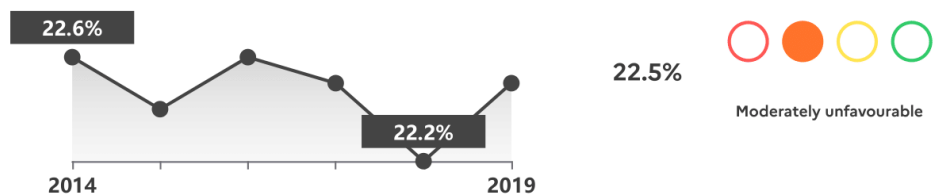


In 2021, 86.1% of the population had used the Internet in the preceding three months. This is an indicator that has seen strong growth since 2016 (+6.8 points). Compared to 2019, it was up 2.8 points. This indicator takes into account all individuals aged 15 and over living in an ordinary household. In the context of the digital transition of government services, eliminating the digital divide and digital illiteracy is of key importance. The government has put in place the "Compétence des citoyens" strategy to promote digital skills, in particular through the digital inclusion initiative using the Pix platform. This initiative is being continued in 2023.

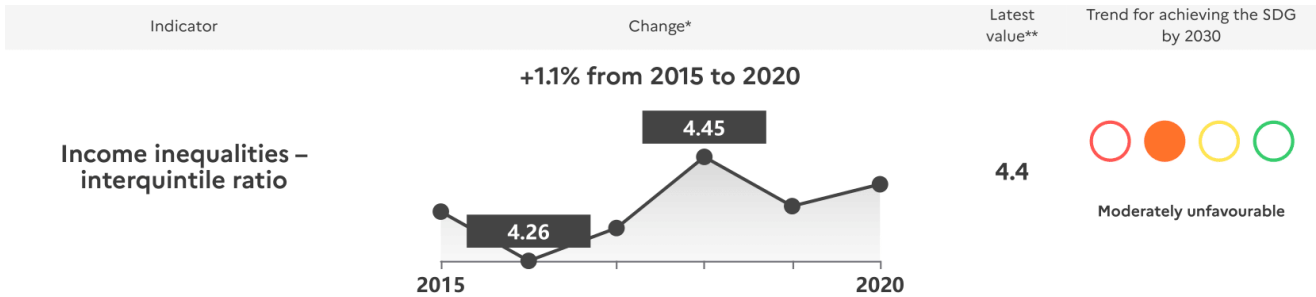
Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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-0.1 points from 2014 to 2019

Standard of living share of the poorest 40% of the population

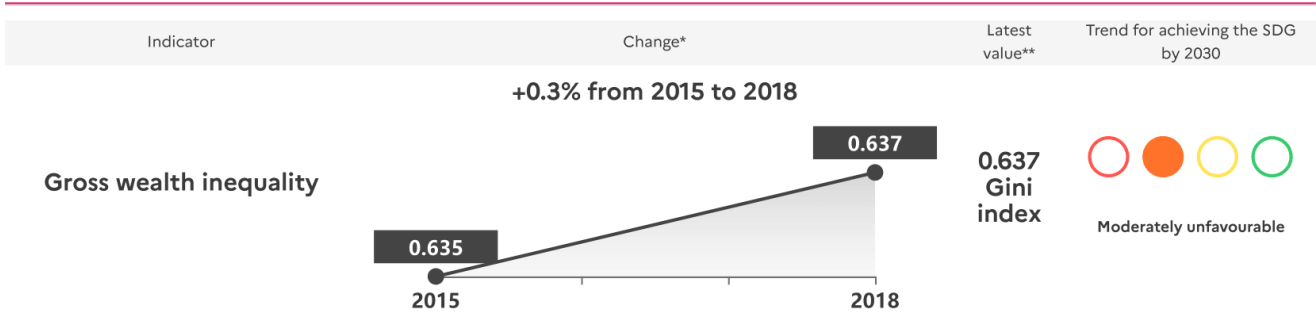


Between 1975 and 2016, in mainland France, the median standard of living after adjustment for household composition (or equivalized disposable income) increased by 56% in constant euros. It rose almost continuously from 1975 until the mid-2000s, and has stagnated since the 2008 financial crisis. Since 2012, the standard of living share held by the poorest 40% of the population has remained nearly constant, with only slight fluctuations. In 2019, the poorest 40% held 22.5% of the overall standard of living share. This is a slight rise compared to 2018 (+0.3 points). This indicator takes into account, for mainland France, people living in a household with positive or zero reported income, and of which the reference person is not a student.



Note: estimated 2020 data.

As this indicator has varied only marginally since 2012, it appears that income inequalities in France have stabilized despite the crises. This ratio has been relatively stable since the 1990s. These income inequalities are notably due to the rise in the highest incomes, which have grown at a rate of 2.2% per year, compared to less than 1% for the rest of the population since 1983. The share of capital income of the highest-earning individuals also increased over this period, and the trend has not been reversed since. The interquartile ratio compares the first and third quartile of the distribution of monthly standards of living and is calculated as: Q3/Q1. According to INSEE, the interquartile ratio in France was 4.36 in 2019. This means that the wealthiest 25% of the population had a standard of living at least 4.36 greater than that of the poorest 25%.



At the beginning of 2018, household wealth in France was very unequally distributed, with half of households owning 92% of all assets. Inequalities in household wealth remain stable compared to 2015. Gross household wealth is mainly comprised of real estate assets (61%) and financial assets (20%). The Gini index for gross wealth in France was 0.637 in 2018, compared to 0.654 in 2010. Wealth inequalities increased between 1998 and 2018. This trend can primarily be attributed to the strong rise in the value of real estate assets (+141% in current euros), especially over the 1998-2010 period, which benefited the wealthiest households. Within a three-year period, only a third of people living in stable households changed position in the distribution (by more than a twentieth of gross wealth). These transitions are more frequently upward (41% to a higher twentieth) than downward (29% to a lower twentieth). This low degree of wealth mobility contributes to social reproduction in France.

*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).

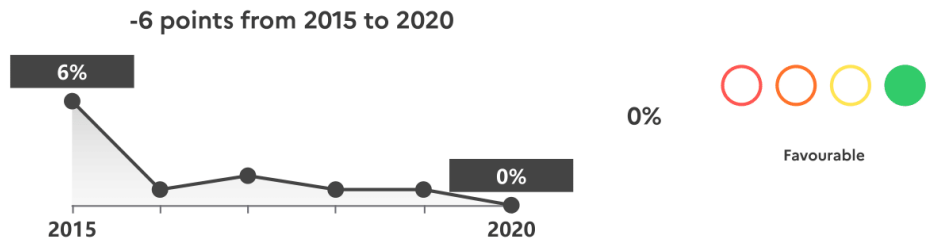
**Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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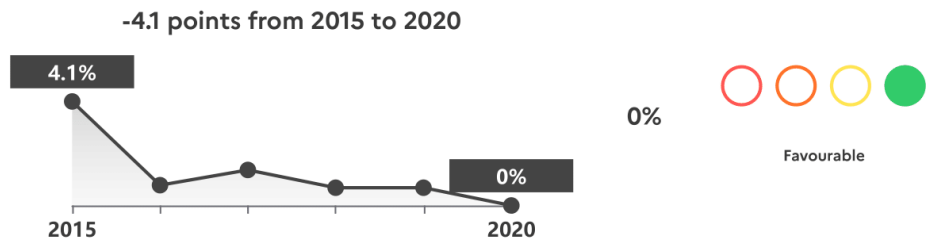
Measuring stations exceeding the daily threshold for long-term human health protection for PM₁₀ during the year – urban areas with more than 250,000 inhabitants



Over the 2007-2021 period, the percentage of measuring stations exceeding the regulatory daily threshold for PM₁₀ for the protection of health fell in urban areas with more than 250,000 inhabitants. In 2021, this indicator reached 0% for PM₁₀. In 2021, the number of urban areas concerned by exceedances of regulatory thresholds for NO₂ and PM₁₀ was limited. In addition to incentive measures, such as the vehicle scrappage scheme, the 2019 French Framework Act on mobility (LOM) provides for the implementation of low-emission mobility zones (LEZ-m) in all urban areas concerned by exceedances. Currently, 11 urban areas have implemented a low-emission mobility zone (LEZ-m), including the greater Paris region, Lyon, Aix-Marseille and Toulouse. By 2025, all 43 urban areas with over 150,000 inhabitants will be required to implement an LEZ-m. Lastly, the year 2021 was marked by an episode of PM₁₀ pollution on a nationwide scale and desert dust pollution episodes in overseas territories.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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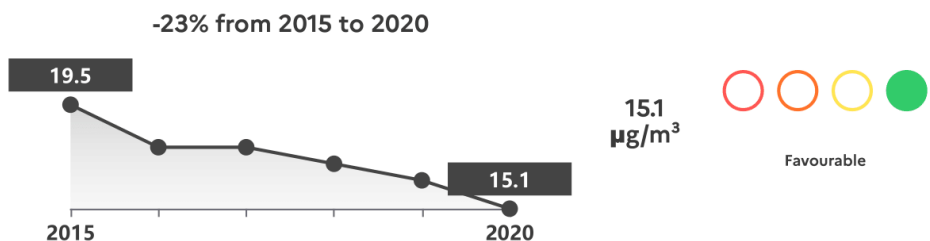
Measuring stations exceeding the daily threshold for long-term human health protection for PM₁₀ during the year – urban areas with 50,000 to 250,000 inhabitants



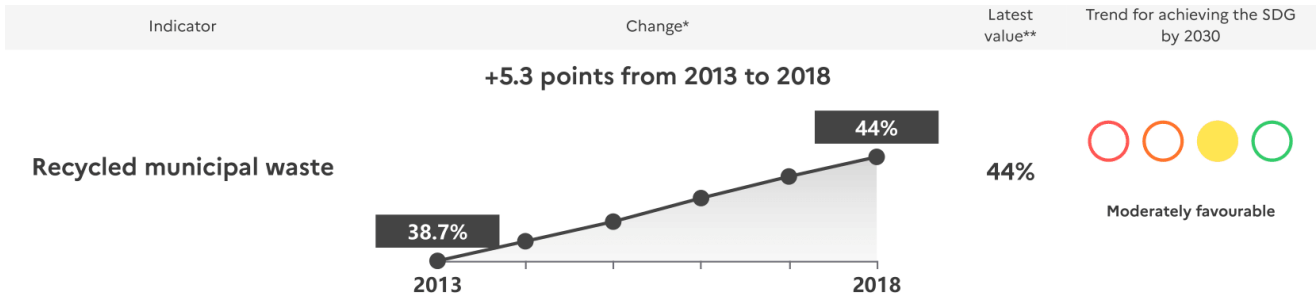
Over the 2007-2021 period, the percentage of measuring stations exceeding the regulatory daily threshold for PM₁₀ for the protection of health fell by 4.3% in urban areas with 50,000 to 250,000 inhabitants. Annual variations have nonetheless been observed, as the presence of particulate matter in the air is linked to several factors: direct emission into the air, from human activities or natural sources; the formation of particles through chemical reactions between gaseous pollutants and/or particles already present in the atmosphere; meteorological conditions; and the long-range transport of pollutants. The 2021 report on ambient air quality in France confirmed that air quality is improving in conjunction with the reduction of pollutant emissions, as a result of strategies and action plans that have been implemented in various sectors over several years. Average annual concentrations of air pollutants are decreasing, and exceedances of regulatory air quality thresholds for the protection of human health are affecting fewer and smaller areas. With regard to fine particles, France counted ten areas with exceedances of the PM₁₀ threshold in 2015. The number of urban areas exceeding regulatory thresholds for PM₁₀ has also seen a sharp decline; while 30 urban areas registered exceedances in 2011, zero were affected in 2020.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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Annual mean PM₁₀ concentrations at urban background stations

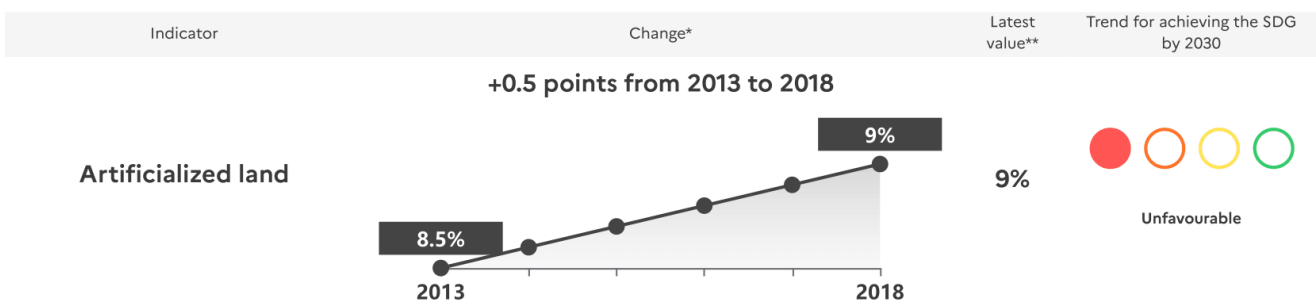


Annual mean PM₁₀ concentrations observed in urban areas fell significantly over the 2007-2021 period, both in areas distanced from direct sources of pollution (urban background) and in proximity to road traffic. In 2021, these levels stood respectively at 15 µg/m³ and 20 µg/m³. The progress made can notably be attributed to the measures implemented to reduce PM₁₀ emissions such as improving industrial techniques to control dust, and improving the performance of biomass combustion equipment. The exceptional measures restricting travel and economic activity that were taken to manage the COVID-19 pandemic had little impact on PM₁₀ levels in 2020.

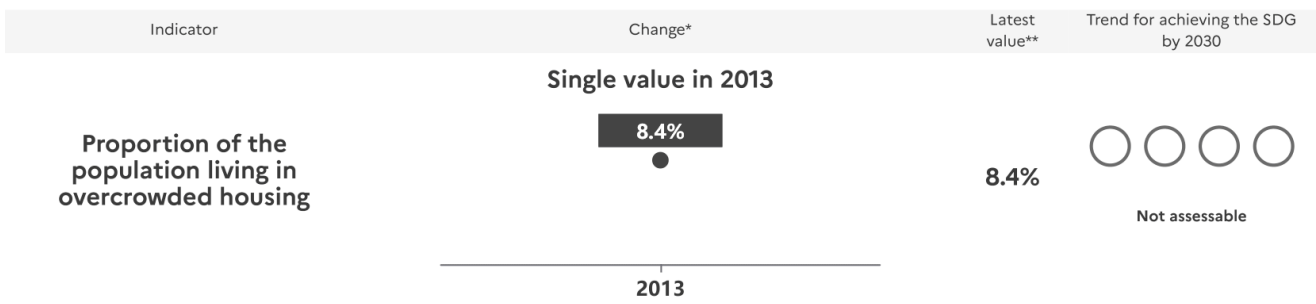


Note: estimated 2014, 2016 and 2018 data.

Recycling progress has been steady, as the share of residual household waste continues to fall. In ten years, source separation has developed significantly: the tonnage sorted by households has increased by 20% and the tonnage sent to recycling centres by 32%, while commingled waste has decreased by 13%. Numerous measures have also been adopted under Act 2020-105 of 10 February 2020 on the circular economy and the fight against waste, in order to increase source separation and recycling, with a particular focus on source separation of organic waste. In addition, the France Relance recovery plan notably included the aim of promoting the circular economy, the decarbonization of industry, the acceleration of recycling and reuse (including for plastic) and the modernization of waste sorting facilities. According to ADEME, the French Environment and Energy Management Agency, waste generation per capita has decreased by 4.6% since 2007. In the long term, the aim is to continue the trend toward a reduction in the quantity of waste sent to landfills. France has set itself the goal of achieving a recycling rate of 65%, excluding mineral and hazardous wastes, by 2025.



In France, 20,000 ha of natural, agricultural and forest areas (ENAF) have been consumed annually in recent years. Land consumption has increased at a rate four times faster than population growth over the past twenty years. This issue concerns all of France, predominantly in sparsely populated areas (60%), and especially in low-density peri-urban areas. To continue reducing the rate of ENAF land consumption and land artificialization, France has set the goal of achieving "net zero land artificialization" by 2050. It has also set an intermediate objective for 2031 for reducing the rate of ENAF consumption in relation to the consumption observed over the 2011-2021 decade, prior to the enactment of Act 2021-1104 of 22 August 2021 on combating climate and strengthening resilience to its effects.



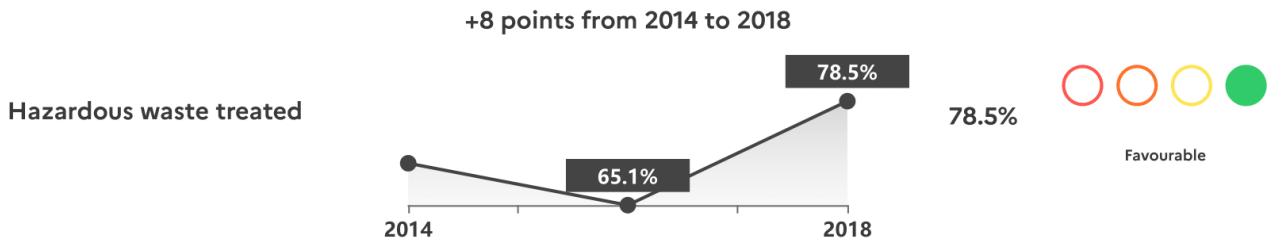
In 2016, over 5 million people, or 8.2% of the population excluding Mayotte, were living in overcrowded housing, i.e. in a household of two or more living in a dwelling with an insufficient number of rooms for the size of their household. This situation affects 3.2% of the population living in houses and 16.5% of those living in an apartment. The majority of households concerned live in large urban areas. 74% of households living in overcrowded housing lived in an urban area with over 100,000 inhabitants, of which 40% lived in the greater Paris region. Overcrowding affects only 2.3% of households in urban areas with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants, but 5.3% in those with over 100,000 inhabitants. Numerous laws have been introduced over the last several years to combat housing overcrowding. In France, the housing policy mobilized €376 billion in 2020, equivalent to 1.6% of GDP, all public administrations combined. However, the housing costs borne by French households not only remain high (26.2% of their income in 2019) but continue to rise (20.9% of their consumer spending in 2020, up from 19.0% in 2008).

*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).
 **Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

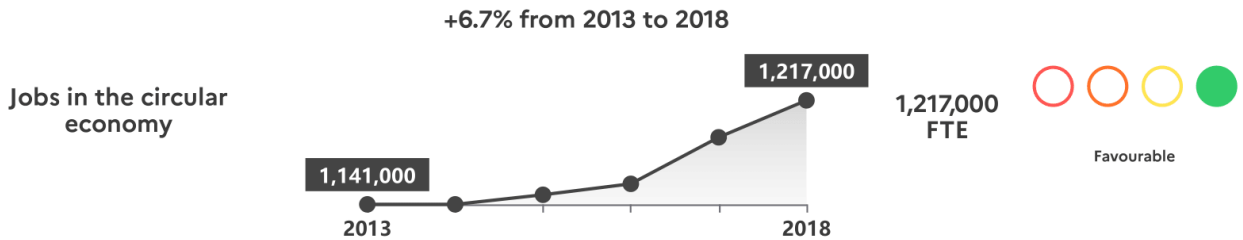
SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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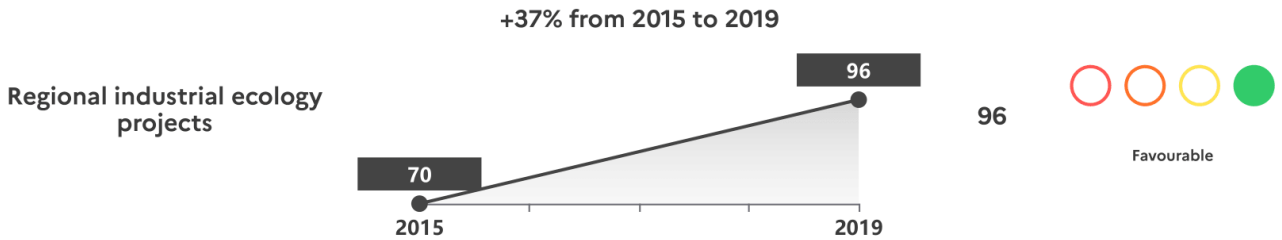
The generation of hazardous waste decreased from 12.1 million tonnes (Mt) in 2018 to 11.2 Mt in 2020, representing 3.6% of the total waste generated in France. This is due in part to the slowdown in economic activity in 2020. Four sectors account for nearly 80% of the hazardous waste produced: water production and distribution, sanitation, the waste management and remediation sector; construction; the chemical industry; and the tertiary sector. A total of 310 Mt of waste was generated in France in 2020, a decrease of 9.7% compared to 2018. Of this total, mineral waste accounted for 66%, other non-hazardous waste made up 30% and hazardous waste 4%. Households produce little hazardous waste, mainly consisting of end-of-life vehicles and waste from electrical and electronic equipment.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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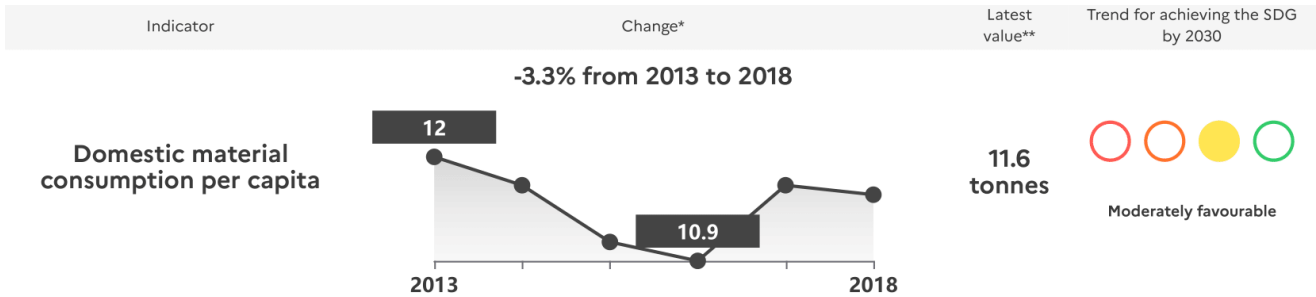
In 2017, recycling and repair provided 455,600 jobs (number of persons employed regardless of working time), representing 1.6% of total jobs in France. With 370,000 jobs, “product life extension” accounted for four fifths of the total, while “recycling” provided for 85,000 jobs. Among the sectors contributing to product life extension, automotive maintenance and repair is by far that with the most jobs, employing 168,000 people, or 45% of the total. There were 40,500 jobs in the machine repair sector, and 30,500 in computer repair. Further downstream, the sale of second-hand goods in stores accounted for 14,600 jobs, representing 1.6% of jobs in retail sale in non-specialized stores excluding food retail (also excluding fuel and pharmaceutical products). In the “recycling” category, recovering materials from waste streams provided a little over 53,000 jobs, while the rest were generated by waste collection (nearly 30,000 jobs) and shipbreaking and dismantling services (2,000 jobs).

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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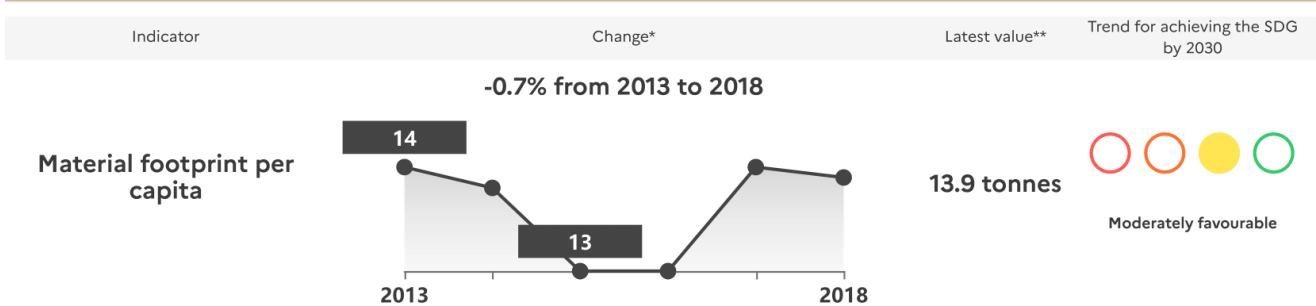


According to SYNAPSE, the national network of players in regional industrial ecology (ITE), there were 152 active industrial and territorial ecology initiatives in August 2020, of which two thirds had been launched during the preceding three years. All regions are now implementing at least one initiative of this kind. This approach can involve two types of synergies:

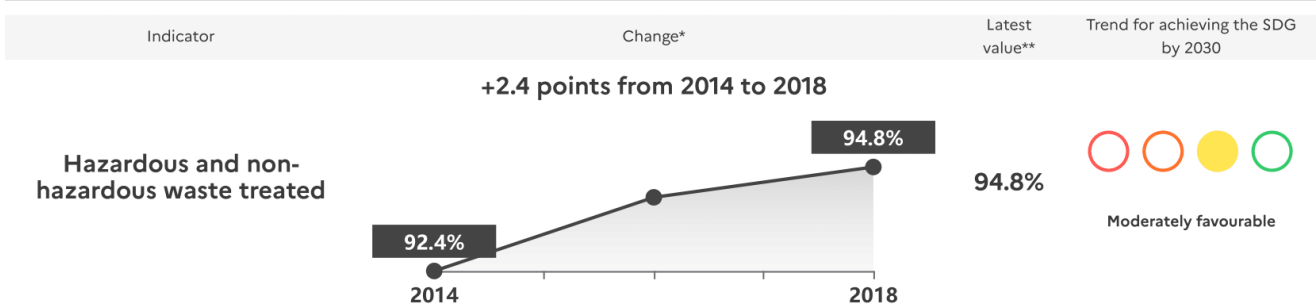
- pooling synergies, in order to rationalize the use of resources, such as equipment (sharing between multiple companies to encourage use rather than ownership), services and transport (waste management, ridesharing, security, etc.), joint procurement and training.
- substitution synergies, allowing the by-products of one company to be used as inputs for another through the exchange of flows, including water and heat (reuse of wastewater, heat recovery, etc.), energy (biogas reinjection, local electricity self-consumption) and waste (recovery of by-products and effluents).



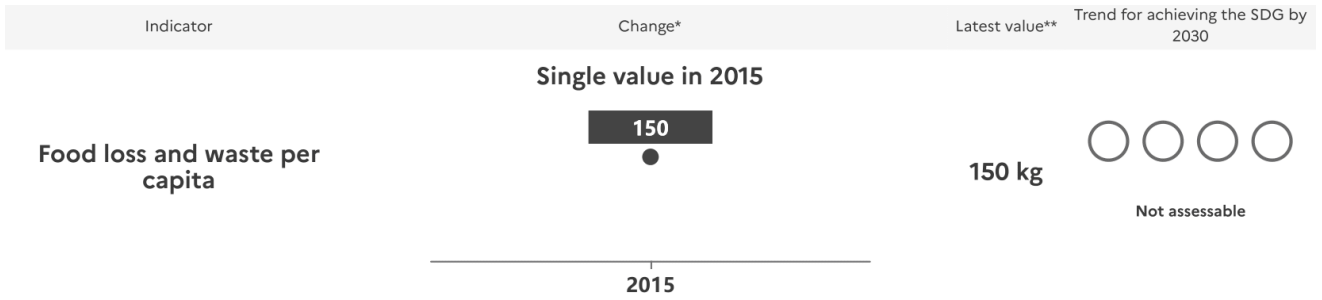
Between 2007 and 2018, domestic consumption of materials per capita decreased by 19%, from 14.3 to 11.6 tonnes per capita. Construction materials, in particular those used in public infrastructure works, contributed in large part to this drop; they represent nearly half of the total materials consumed in France and their consumption declined in the wake of the 2008 economic crisis. Domestic materials consumption quantitatively illustrates one of the pressures exerted on the environment, and is a reflection on the level of resource-efficient behaviour. Among the materials in the categories used, some are renewable (biomass). Others are not, namely minerals (metal ores and non-metallic minerals) and fossil energy materials (water is not included in this indicator). At 398 million tonnes (Mt), minerals, primarily used in construction, made up half of the materials consumed in France in 2018 (774 Mt in total). Biomass (253 Mt in 2018) accounted for nearly a third. Fossil energy materials, of which two thirds were petroleum products, came close to 16% of the total. In addition to changes in activity in the construction industry, fluctuations in agricultural production have also made a significant impact on the trend in materials consumption since 2013.



Estimated at 16 tonnes per capita in 2008, France's material footprint stood at around 14 tonnes per capita from 2009 to 2014. It then fell before rising again to its previous level (14 t per capita in 2017 and 13.9 t per capita in 2018). Fossil energy materials and metal ores, of which very low quantities are extracted in France (0.2% of domestic extraction), are essentially imported, unlike biomass and non-metallic minerals. When the quantities of these materials are expressed in raw material equivalent, which accounts for indirect flows (for example, fuel used to produce imported steel), total imports appear 2.6 times higher. This makes for a greater material footprint, which is higher than apparent domestic material consumption by approximately 20%. The 2008 financial crisis particularly impacted the construction sector, leading to a fall in the use of non-metallic minerals (such as gravel, sand and aggregates). The breakdown of the material footprint by main material categories remained relatively stable over the period, however construction materials continued to account for a great portion, representing nearly half of the materials consumed, while biomass accounted for around a quarter, fossil energy materials for a fifth and metal ores for 10%.



In 2018, 343 million tonnes of waste were generated, or 51 tonnes per capita, which corresponds to the average in the European Union. Mineral waste accounted for nearly 69% of this total, other non-hazardous waste made up 28% and hazardous waste 3%. The French Energy Transition for Green Growth Act set the targets of recycling 65% of non-hazardous waste and reducing the amount sent to landfills by 50% by 2025, and the materials recovery of this waste is at 53%. The 2021-2027 National Waste Prevention Plan updates planning measures for waste prevention with regard to the reforms undertaken since 2017 to promote the circular economy (in particular the Circular Economy Roadmap of April 2018 and the Anti-Waste and Circular Economy Act of 10 February 2020). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic shutdown, all economic sectors saw a reduction in their waste generation, primarily in industry (-24%), construction (-11%), which is responsible for 69% of waste, and the water and waste treatment sector (-8%). Households were the only source of increased waste generation (+13%), due to the lockdowns and widespread teleworking.



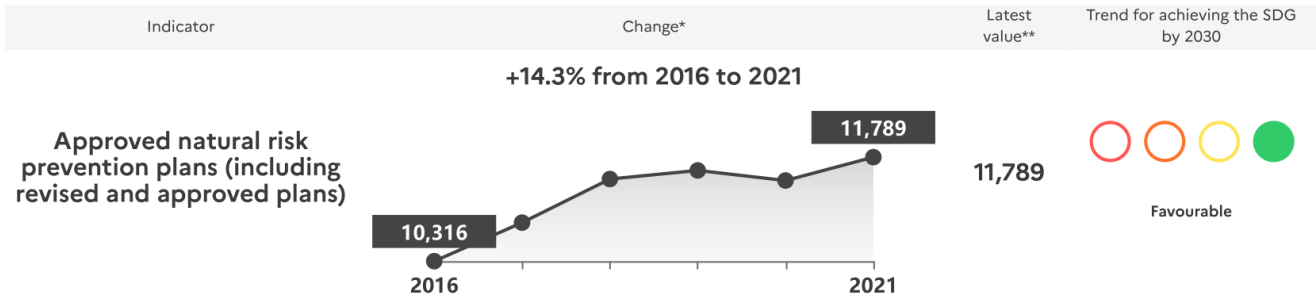
According to 2020 food waste data, reported to Eurostat for the first time in 2022 (based on the definition of food waste set out in the SDGs), food waste in France is estimated to have decreased by 10% between 2016 and 2020, down from 10 Mt in 2016 to slightly under 9 Mt in 2020 (133 kg per capita, all sectors combined). Substantial decreases were observed in the food services and retail sectors, while a significant rise was seen in the manufacturing sector (agri-food industries). These data should be interpreted with caution, both due to the imperfect nature of the data collection method, and to the year concerned by this reporting, 2020, a period in which the public health crisis severely disrupted the functioning of the food supply chain, from production to the consumer level. The Anti-Waste and Circular Economy Act of 10 February 2020 set the goal of reducing food waste by 50% in the retail and food services sectors by 2025, compared to 2015 levels, as well as reducing food waste by 50% at the consumer level and in production, processing and commercial catering by 2030, compared to 2015.

*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).

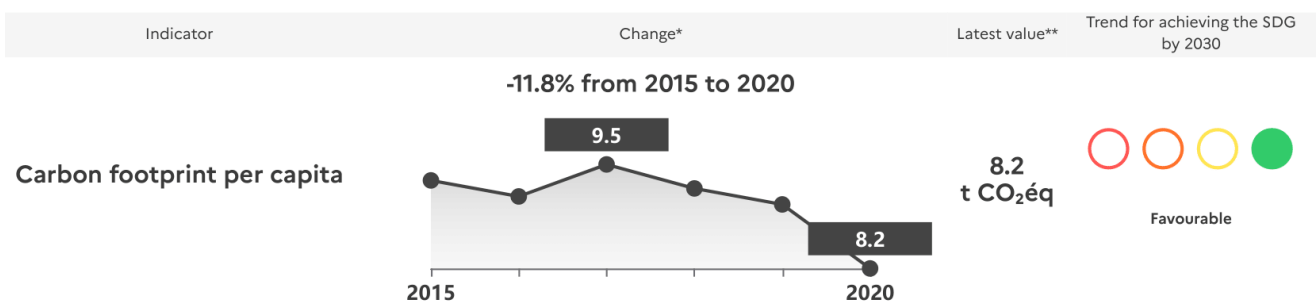
**Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

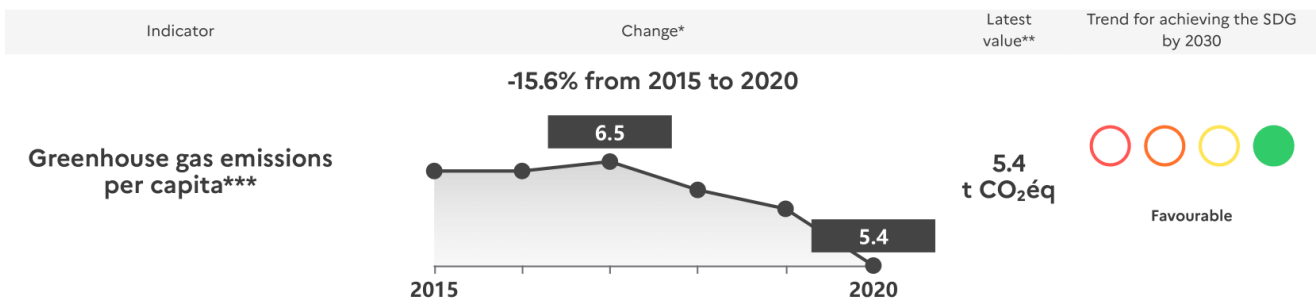


Natural risk prevention plans are an important tool to provide the most in-depth knowledge on one or more natural hazards to which a region is exposed, and to determine how they should best be taken into account in land use planning and management. The regulation of the plan approved by the local prefect allows conditions to be attached to building permits in order to reduce vulnerability to these risks, or to prohibit development in zones where the risk level is too high. This indicator is therefore representative of government action (although naturally not comprehensive).



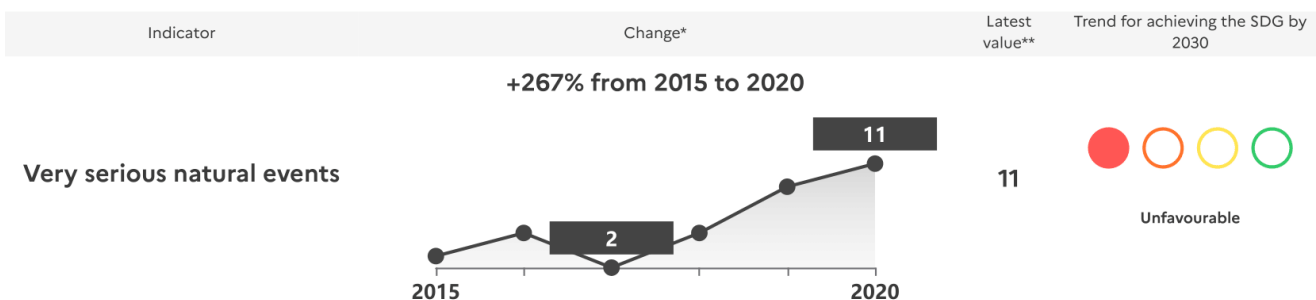
Note: estimated 2017-2020 data.

In 2021, France had a carbon footprint of 8.9 t CO₂eq per capita. From 1995 to 2005, per capita emissions remained at a level of approximately 11 t CO₂eq, before beginning to trend downward. Taking population growth into account, the change in carbon footprint in proportion to the number of inhabitants decreased significantly (-20%) between 1995 (11.2 t CO₂eq per capita) and 2021. Emissions associated with imports accounted for 51% of the French carbon footprint. Since 1995, these emissions have risen by 20%. At the same time, domestic emissions were reduced by 27%. Of domestic emissions, 113 Mt CO₂ are directly emitted by households, and 183 Mt CO₂ are tied to the domestic production of goods and services for French final demand excluding exports.

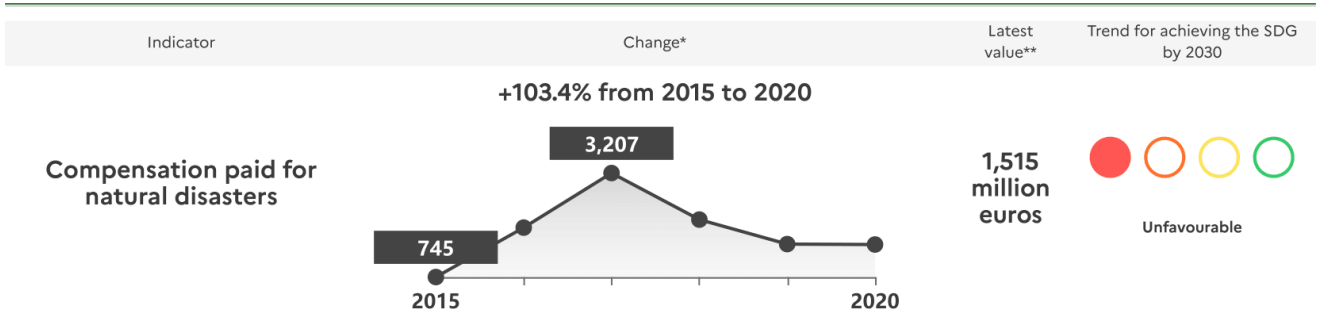


*** LULUCF included.

Greenhouse gas emissions per capita, excluding LULUCF, stood at 6.2 t CO₂eq in 2021 (figure updated in 2023). The carbon footprint of the French population is lower than the average footprint of people living in the European Union (6.9 versus 7.8 t CO₂eq per capita in 2019 – pre-COVID figures).



This indicator measures the number of natural events categorized as “very serious” (level 3 or above on the French severity scale), referring to events causing at least 10 fatalities or over €30 million in material damages. Naturally, it reflects the number of events affecting French territory and is not directly representative of government action in terms of risk prevention: continuous improvement in the understanding of natural hazards, in particular emerging risks related to climate change; water level monitoring and forecasting; and government funding of local prevention action programmes.



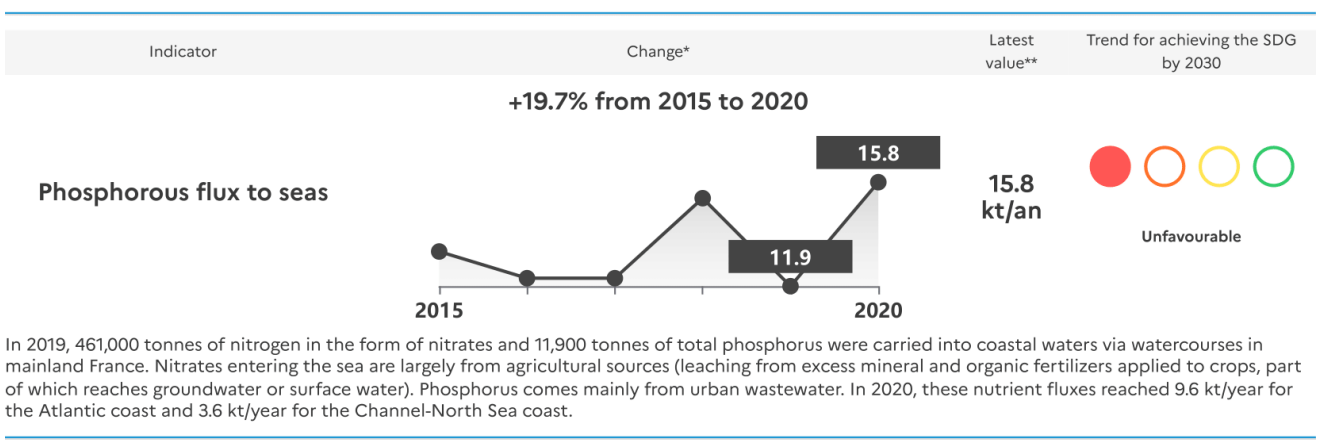
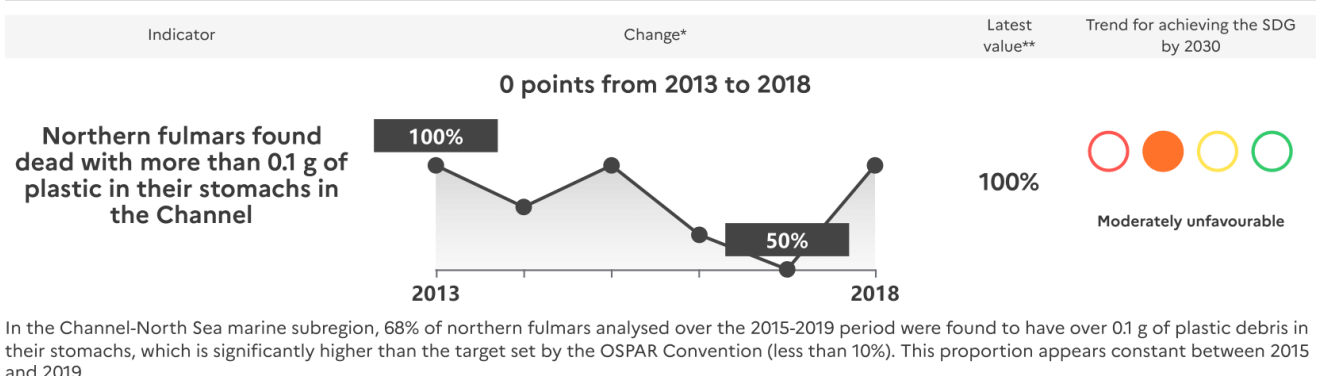
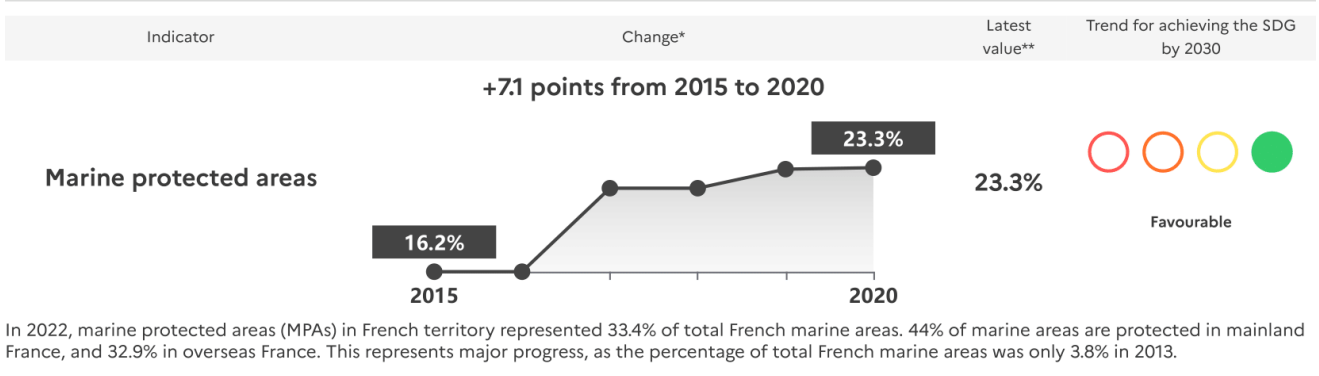
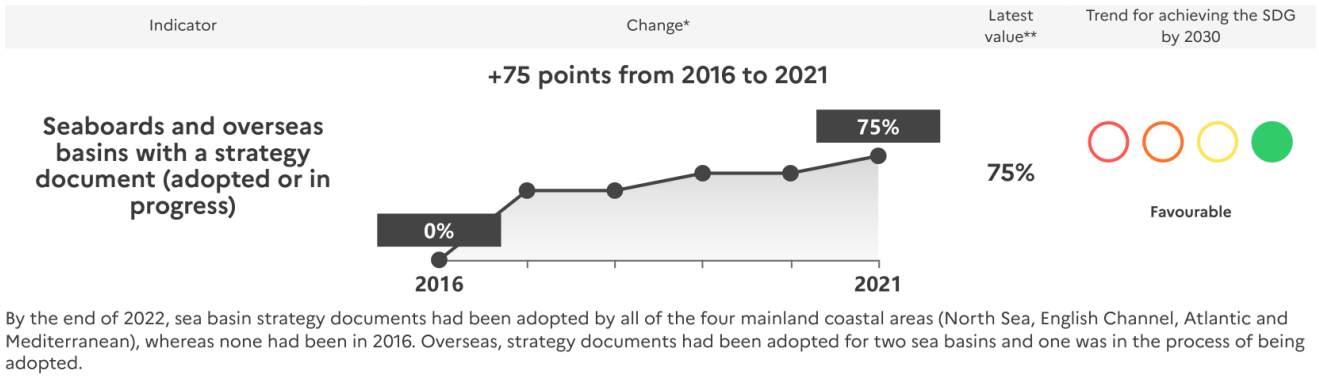
Note: estimated 2015-2020 data.

As with the preceding indicator, this indicator is not representative of government action with regard to the prevention of natural risks, but reflects the number and severity of natural disasters. Over a larger sample period, no trend is observed in the amount of insured losses, despite an increase in the portfolio of insured values. To limit the amount of insured losses, France has set up an ambitious natural risk prevention policy, based in particular on controlling urban development and strong financial support for local governments' prevention action programmes through the fund for the prevention of major natural risks (FPRNM).

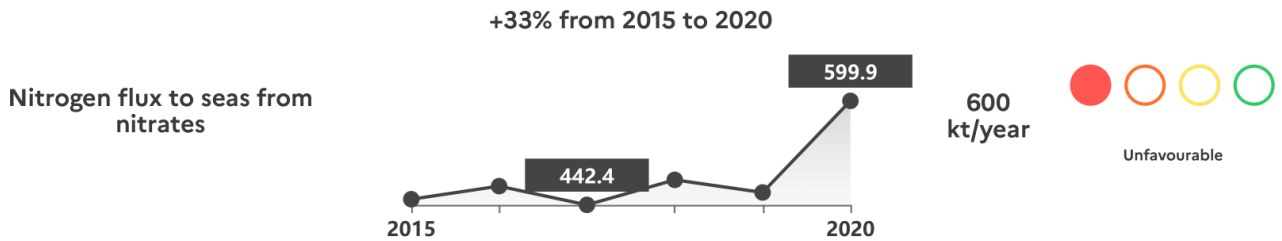
*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).
 **Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

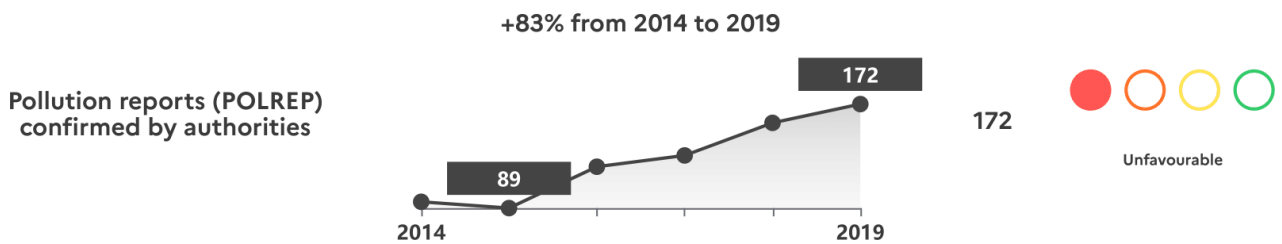


Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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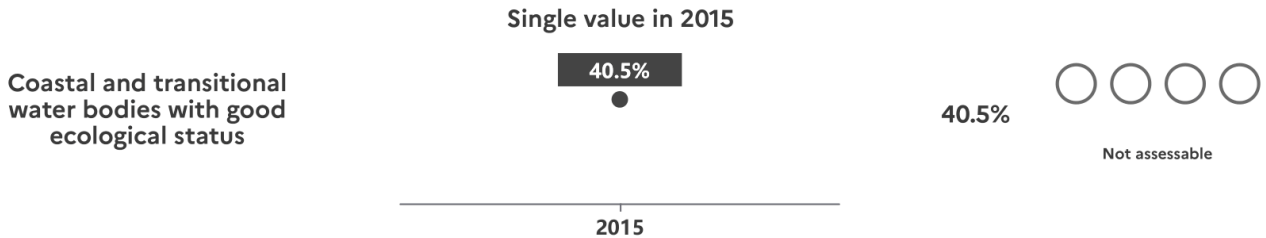
This indicator serves to measure France's progress in terms of reducing marine pollution from anthropogenic sources. Over the 2000-2020 period, nitrogen fluxes relating to nitrates entering coastal waters remained stable, at an average of around 500 kt/year. Nitrates reaching the sea are primarily from agricultural sources (leaching from excess mineral and organic fertilizers applied to crops, part of which reaches groundwater or surface water). The increase observed in 2020 is the result of two factors: data indicate strong variations in water flows into the Atlantic (+21% on average along the coast, ranging from +60% to 70% in places), and higher peaks were seen in maximum concentrations. The flux of a chemical substance is calculated by multiplying the flow rate of a watercourse by the concentration of the substance in its waters.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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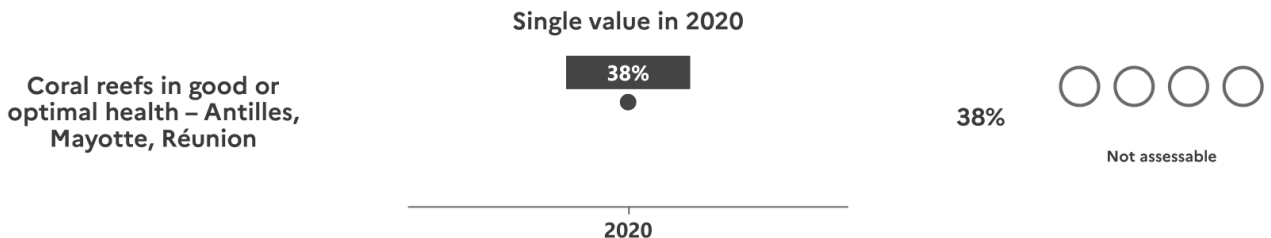
In 2021, there were 155 official reports of incidents of marine pollution. In 2019, among the 237 confirmed pollution incidents, nearly three quarters (73%) concerned hydrocarbon pollution, 11% involved harmful liquid substances and 3% concerned discharges of wastewater.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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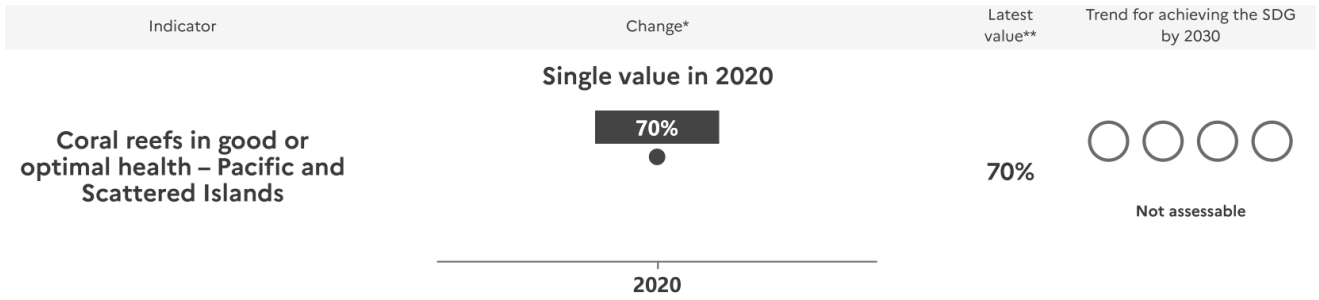
In 2018, 47% of the 295 coastal and transitional water bodies had good or high ecological status (51% of the 179 coastal water bodies and 41% of the 116 transitional water bodies).

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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The current ecological/health status of French coral reefs was assessed based on four classes. The criteria used to assess health status differ depending on the local area, but for each region, these classes represent the following conditions:

- class 1: optimal conditions, with a generally high rate of coral cover and reefs in very good health;
- class 2: good conditions, with slight impacts, such as some signs of coral necrosis, low macroalgae cover and a good rate of coral cover;
- class 3: degraded conditions, with a moderately to heavily impacted environment, numerous corals with necrosis, macroalgal dominance and/or high sedimentation, and a reduced rate of coral cover;
- class 4: highly degraded conditions, with a severely impacted environment (Indian Ocean), a majority of dead coral and extensive macroalgae cover and/or fully covered in sediment (Antilles), and a very low rate of coral cover. For the French Antilles and territories in the Indian Ocean (excluding the Scattered Islands): in 2020, the majority (62%) of reefs inventoried in these areas were degraded and assessed as class 3 or 4.



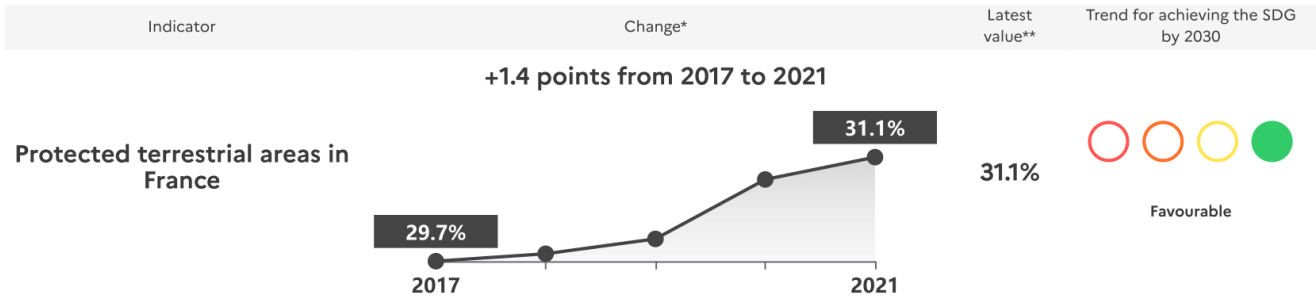
The three pillars for the survival of coral reefs are mitigating climate change, reducing anthropogenic pressures and innovating to improve resilience. In 2017, 71% of coral reef monitoring sites in overseas France were in a state of stable or increasing live coral cover (60% stable, 11% increasing). The 11 French overseas territories with coral reefs represent 78% of France's maritime territory, which is the second largest worldwide after the United States of America. With nearly 60,000 km² of coral reefs and lagoons in overseas France, making up 10% of the world's total area, France ranks fourth in the world in terms of coral reef area. For the Pacific region and the Scattered Islands: in 2020, the majority (70%) of the reefs inventoried in these areas were in good health and were assessed as class 1 or 2.

*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).

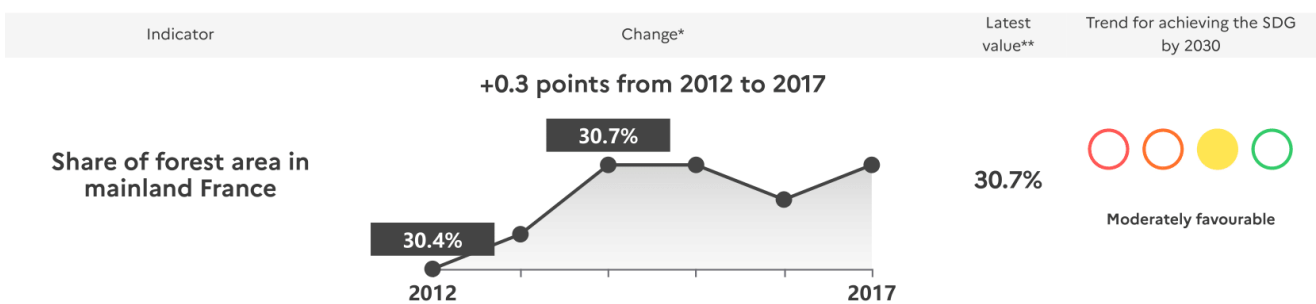
**Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

Source : INSEE, Dashboard of national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals – published January 2022. Statistics processed by SDES (ministerial Statistical Data and Studies Department) - Only available in French. (Insee, Tableau de bord des indicateurs pour le suivi national des objectifs de développement durable - paru janvier 2022. Traitements SDES)

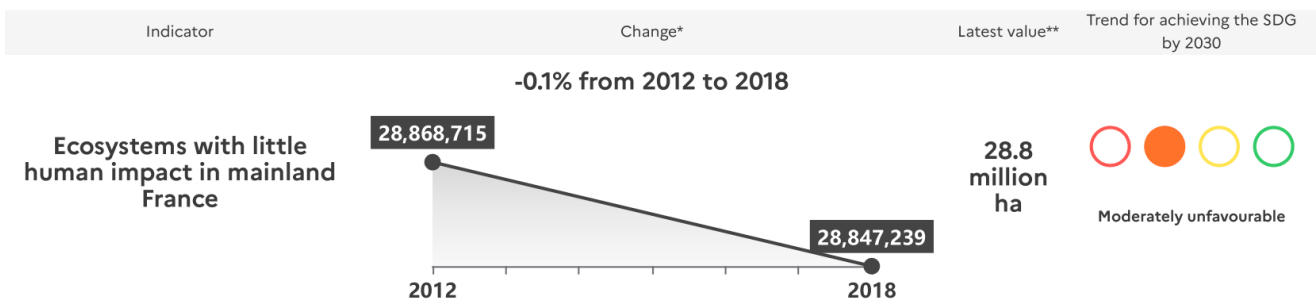
SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems



In 2022, 31.07% of terrestrial natural areas in France (mainland and overseas) were protected. The surface area of protected areas has continued to grow in France and the objective has been fully met in this area. These results are further reinforced by the implementation of the 2030 National Strategy for Protected Areas. For the first time, France has adopted a unified strategy for both mainland and overseas France, which recognizes the connection between terrestrial and marine issues, concerns protected areas of all status types, and addresses both their creation and the quality of their management.

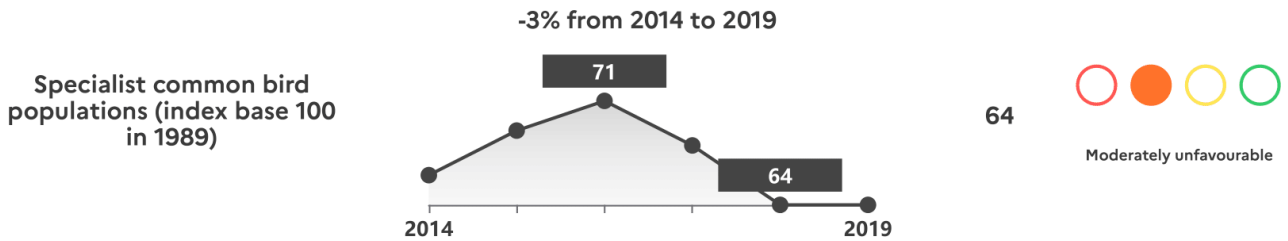


Forests in mainland France are on course to meet the SDG 15 target, through promotion of the sustainable management of all forest types and forest restoration. They nonetheless continue to be closely monitored, in light of the pressures they face from climate change and pest attacks. In 2019, France established its first national park devoted to forests, Forêts National Park. Covering over 199,828 ha, it has the dual aim of conserving exceptional national heritage while supporting economic, social and cultural development.



Urbanization has continued to expand in recent years to the detriment of natural and semi-natural areas. To improve the state of biodiversity, Act 2021-1104 of 22 August 2021 on combating climate disruption and strengthening resilience to its effects seeks to reduce the consumption of natural, agricultural and forest areas by 50% by 2031. By 2050, the objective is to achieve “net zero artificialization”. Local and regional authorities and cities have thus found themselves on the front line in implementing projects for responsible land use, which prevent land artificialization, and re-naturing strategies, which give a greater place to nature, water and biodiversity, in particular in the way cities are managed.

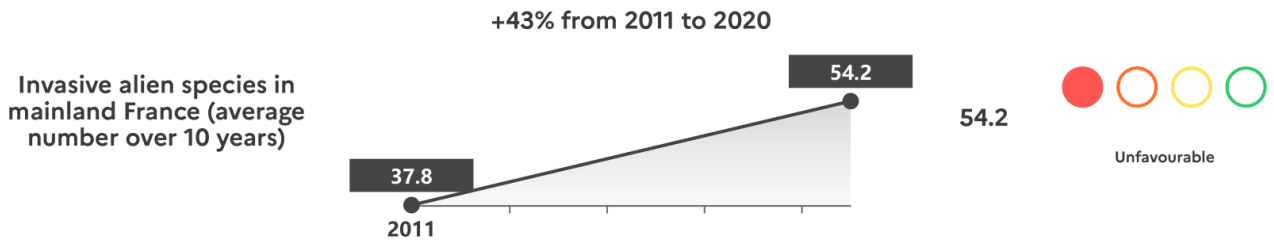
Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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France is experiencing a major decline in biodiversity. Common bird populations, like most animal species, have been steadily shrinking. Various causes contribute to this downward trend, including:

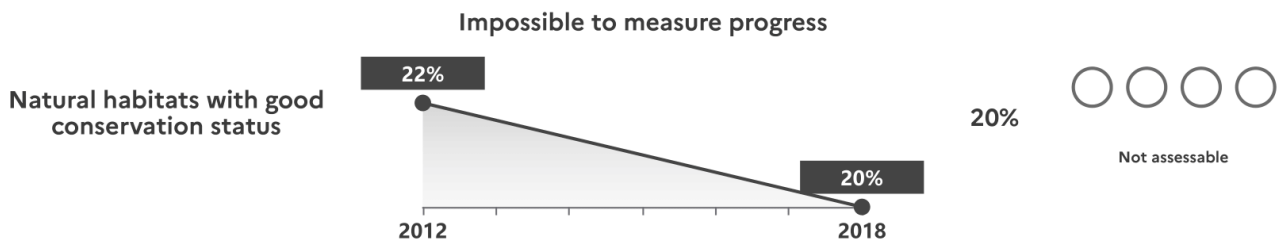
- Climate change, with particularly high temperatures and periods of severe drought. This affects certain species that have seen their distribution range shrink and shift northward or in elevation.
- Agricultural practices, with the simplification of European agroecosystems that results in a loss of diversity in habitats. The use of pesticides that have decimated insects, an important food resource for birds, is also a major cause of the decline in bird populations. Urban development is furthermore responsible for the loss of habitats. To improve the state of biodiversity, France adopted the National Biodiversity Strategy, backed by the Government, which aims to identify the objectives and actions to be taken to reverse this trend. The Écophyto plan is also delivering results, with a 19% reduction in pesticide sales in the 2017-2019 and 2019-2021 periods, and an increase in the share of utilized agricultural area under organic farming (8.5% in 2019).

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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Target 15.8 calls for States to take measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS) by 2020. The fight against invasive alien species is complex, in light of the globalization of human activities. France is aware of the substantial pressure IAS place on biodiversity. An action plan to prevent the introduction and spread of alien species recognized as invasive has therefore been drawn up by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion for the 2022-2030 period. It particularly addresses aspects of prevention. This plan covers all of France, both mainland and overseas. It aims to prevent the arrival and spread of invasive alien species by focusing on raising awareness and enlisting the participation of all actors at risk of contributing to the spread of IAS.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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Natural habitats are under pressure from urbanization, pollution and climate change. A number of public policies, in particular for the protection of natural habitats and species, natural parks, water quality and ecosystem restoration, aim to improve the conservation status of natural habitats. Furthermore, under the framework of the proposed new regulation on nature restoration, the European Union plans to set a measurable target for restoring the area of each group of terrestrial habitat types with poor conservation status.

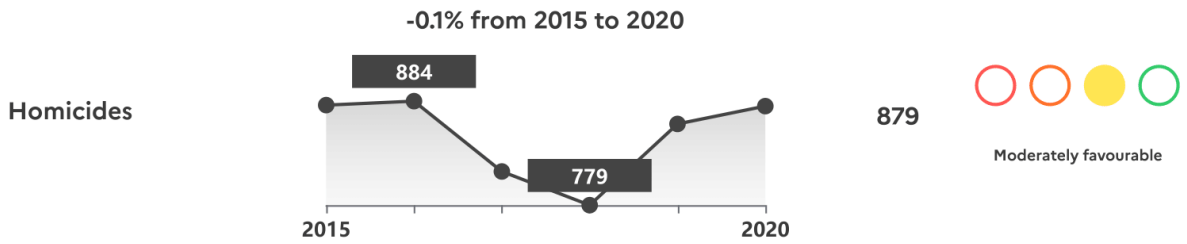
*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).

**Latest value: value corresponding to the last year of the trend graph.

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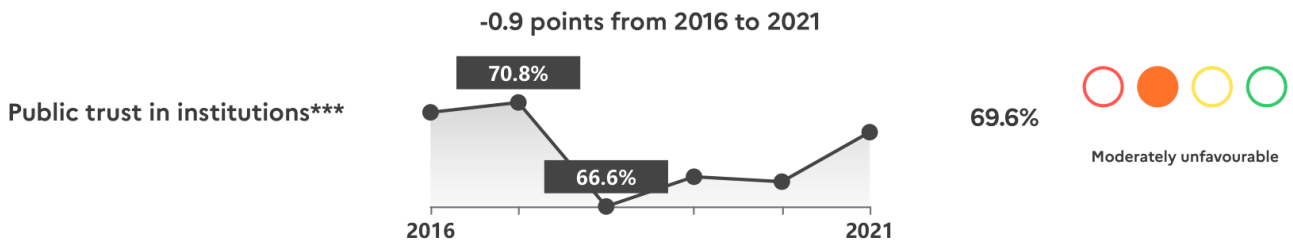
SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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France recorded a very slight decrease in homicides (879), down by 0.1% from 2015 to 2020. Excluding terrorist attacks, homicides are a heterogeneous phenomenon that affects the country and population unevenly according to geography, sex and age. The vast majority of homicides are intentional (85%), but are very rarely financially motivated (score-settling and homicides related to theft, representing 10% of the total); 15% of homicides concerned wilful acts of violence resulting in unintended death.

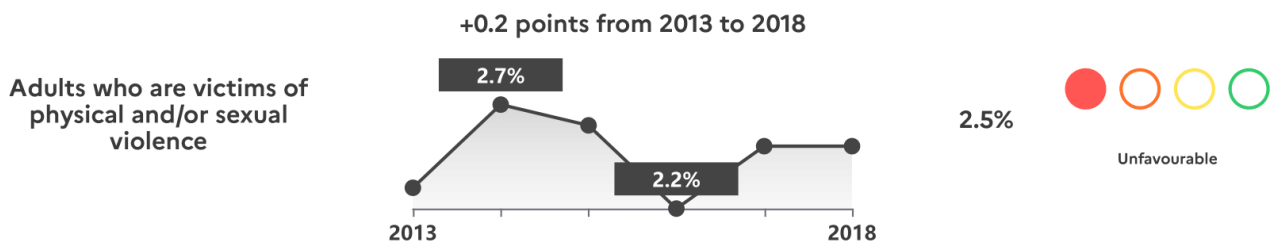
Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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*** Military, justice system, police, schools and hospitals.

The rate of public trust in institutions stood at 69.6%, representing a slight decline compared to the average over the 2016-2021 period (-1.1%). According to the results of multiple surveys, notably the European Values Study (EVS) and an Opinion Way survey for CEVIPOF (the Centre for Political Research at Sciences Po), people in France consider democracy to be the best form of government, but a significant majority think that it functions poorly in France. Attitudes of distrust toward institutions and the functioning of democracy can be viewed as an inherent challenge in a representative system of government. A large number of French people felt that they did not need either political parties or unions to act as their voice. This rejection of representatives and social organization was particularly reflected in the "yellow vests" movement. Through the Ministry of Justice, France is working to improve trust in the judicial system with Act 2021-1729 on the same subject, and by organizing a public forum on justice, which will help to improve the functioning of the justice system and access to justice for all.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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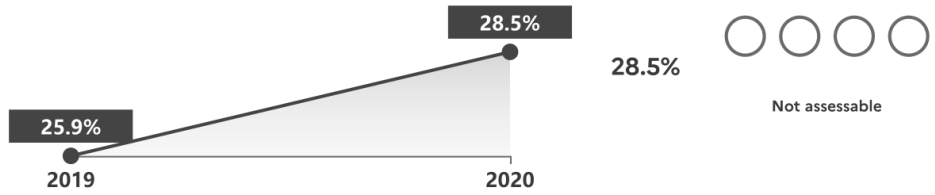


2.5% of adults were victims of physical and/or sexual violence, an increase of 0.2 points compared with the average for 2013 and 2018. The "victims of sexual violence excluding domestic violence" indicator for SDG 5 should be viewed in relation to this indicator. Legislation aimed at preventing violence and supporting victims includes the 4th interministerial plan for preventing and combating violence against women, the Act of 3 August 2018 on sexual and gender-based violence and the Act of 30 July 2020 on the protection of victims of domestic violence.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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27.2% – average over 2019-2020

Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population



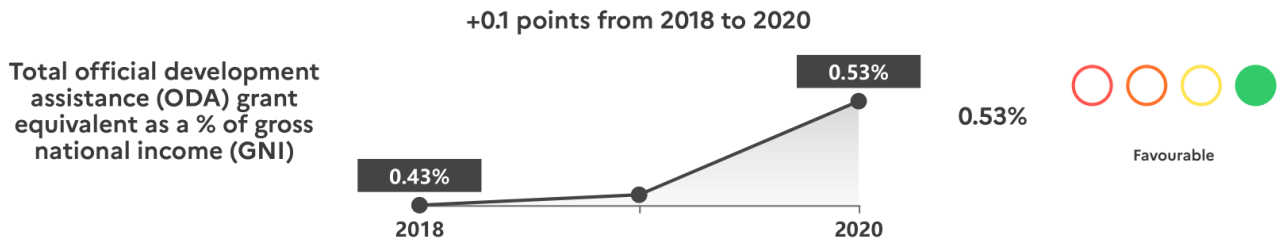
The proportion of persons held in detention who have not yet been sentenced is 28.5%. In comparison with the annual average for the 2019-2020 period (27.2%), this figure is slightly on the rise. The Act on trust in the judicial system and the enactment of the new French Penitentiary Code aim to improve the effectiveness of the justice system in this respect. In 2020, the report on the assessment of specially equipped hospital units (UHSA) for detainees set out proposals for improving the care pathway of detained patients and providing better treatment options through a stepped care approach. The Act gives prison administrations a maximum of one month to remedy inhumane conditions of detention, should a complaint be found admissible. Otherwise, the judge may order the person's transfer, immediate release, or a modification of their sentence. A decree was introduced on 15 September 2021 specifying the conditions for appealing the judge's decision.

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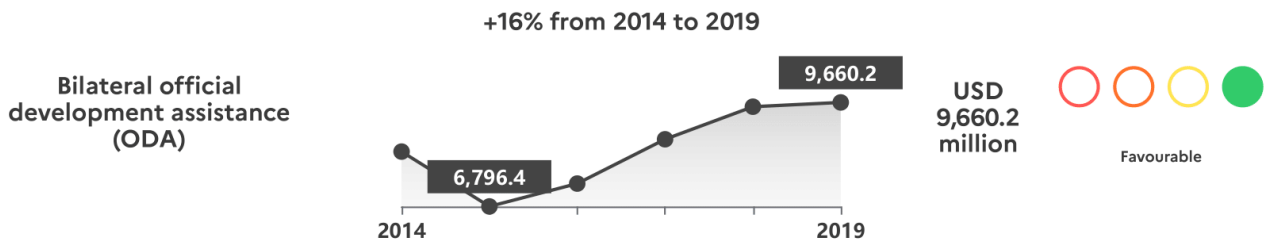
SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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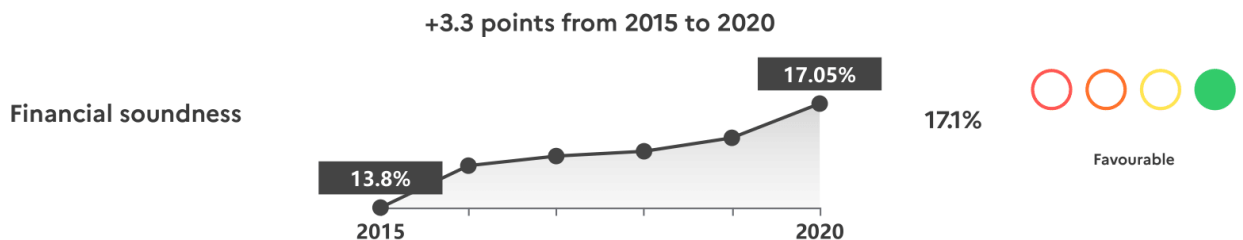
Official development assistance represented 0.56% of France's gross national income in 2022 (amounting to €15.1 billion). This proportion has risen considerably compared to 2018, when it stood at 0.43% (€10.3 billion), in line with the President of the French Republic's commitment to reaching the target of 0.55% of GNI by 2022. These efforts made France the fourth largest donor worldwide in terms of amount and tenth in terms of percentage of GNI in 2022.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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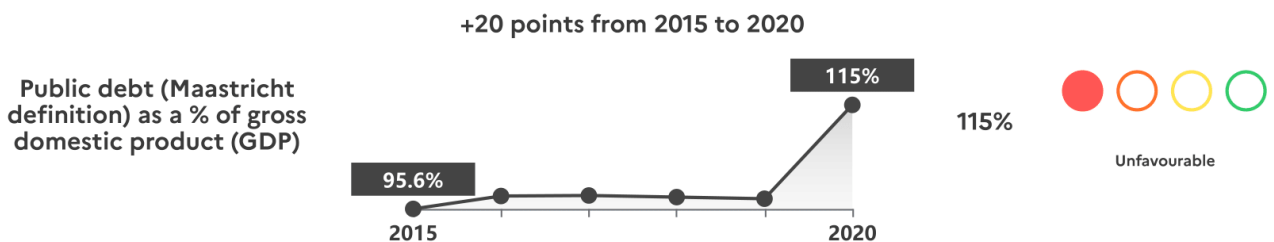
France's bilateral official development assistance (ODA) has increased continuously since 2015, reaching €9.1 billion in 2022 (9.6 billion USD). In 2022, France's bilateral commitment represented 60% of its total ODA, as in the previous year. This objective is among the targets set by the planning act of 4 August 2021, which sets the bilateral component of French official development assistance at an average of 65% of total ODA for the 2022-2025 period.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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In 2022, the rise in prices was expected to reach 8.4% in the euro area. According to INSEE, average consumer price inflation stood at 5.2% in France, compared to 1.6% in 2021, a level that is far too high and above the inflation target. Finance for the economy remains well-assured: for private individuals, mortgage loans in France are the most affordable, plentiful and safest among major European countries. For businesses, the value of outstanding bank loans has grown significantly, and a shift has been seen in the balance of company financing toward bank credit due to the more contained cost. The finance needs of the real economy thus continue to be largely met, thanks to the work of banks. French banks and insurers are in a solid financial and prudential position: the solvency ratio of the six main banking groups is close to record highs, reaching 14.5% at the end of September 2022, and that of insurers increased in the first half of 2022 to reach 263%.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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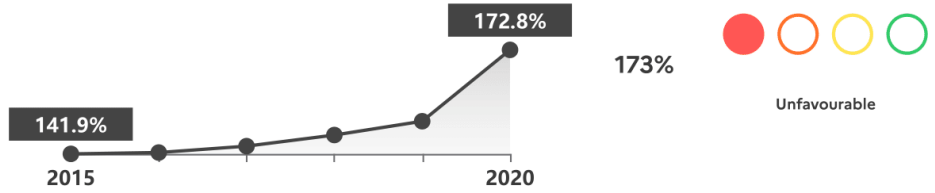


In 2020, public debt in the euro area and particularly in France was at a concerning level, despite the European Central Bank's stepped up and expanded public and private sector debt purchase programmes. The government debt-to-GDP ratio also rose sharply during 2020 to reach 115.7%. France remains one of the most heavily indebted countries in the euro zone and the European Union. In 2021, public debt stood at 112.9% of gross domestic product. The level of government debt in France remains high, despite debt reduction efforts that have begun to bear fruit. In view of this level of debt, it is highly likely that France's public debt will remain high over the long term.

Indicator	Change*	Latest value**	Trend for achieving the SDG by 2030
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+31 points from 2015 to 2020

Private debt as a % of gross domestic product (GDP)

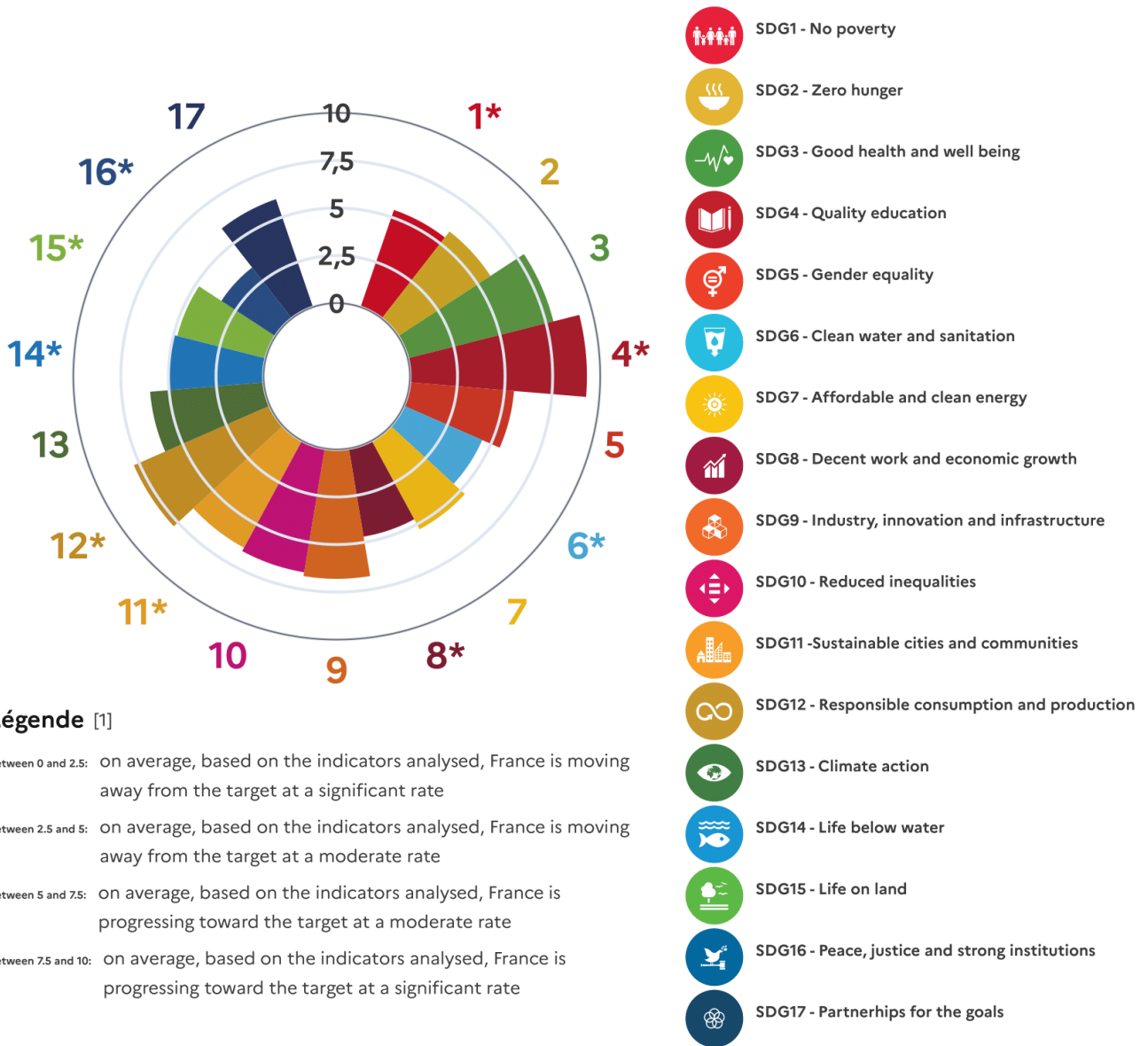


In 2021, France saw an increase of over 21% in the non-financial private sector debt ratio compared to 2019. At 151%, France had one of the highest non-financial private sector debt ratios in the euro zone. These figures are not cause for alarm, however, according to the report by the Banque de France, which highlights the unusual sharp falls in GDP seen in 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis as the primary reason for the marked increase in the non-financial private sector debt ratio. In 2022, the ratio in France was stable (with the increase in debt offset by the growth in nominal GDP), at 147% of GDP. France's private debt ratio remains the highest of major European countries.

*Change: since the latest available value, change over a period of 5 years (longer or shorter depending on data availability).
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Overview of the 17 SDGs



[1] : The score for each SDG should be interpreted in perspective, in particular due to the variable number of indicators monitored per SDG (for example: 8 indicators monitored for SDG3, and 4 indicators taken into account for SDG16).

* For this SDG, one or more monitoring indicators for the SDG are not taken into account to assess progress, as their change is not measurable (ex: only one value available).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL..... 4

INTRODUCTION..... 6

PART 111
France’s state of play with the six areas of action in the Road Map for the 2030 Agenda

Area of Action 1 13
Work for a fair transition by eliminating all forms of discrimination and inequality and guaranteeing the same rights, opportunities and freedoms for all

 Key points..... 14

 State of play 16

 Progress made..... 16

 Progressing.....20

 Challenges..... 21

 Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations 25

Area of Action 2..... 27
Effect transformative societal change with low-carbon, resource-efficient economies working in support of the climate, the planet and biodiversity 27

 Key points..... 28

 State of play 30

 Progress made..... 30

 Progressing..... 34

 Challenges..... 40

 Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations 42

Area of Action 3..... 45
Leverage education and lifelong learning to gear behaviour and lifestyles to our future world and sustainable development challenges..... 45

 Key points..... 46

 State of play 48

 Progress made..... 48

 Progressing..... 52

 Challenges..... 53

 Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations 55

Area of Action 4..... 57
Improve health and well-being for all through healthy and sustainable food and agriculture 57

 Key points..... 58

 State of play 60

 Progress made..... 60

 Progressing..... 65

 Challenges..... 69

 Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations 73

Area of Action 5.....	75
Ensure effective citizen participation in efforts to achieve the SDGs, and accomplish transformative societal changes by scaling up local experimentation and innovation.....	75
Key points.....	76
State of play.....	78
Progress made.....	78
Progressing.....	81
Challenges.....	83
Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations	84
Area of Action 6.....	87
Work at European and international levels for sustainable transformation	87
Key points.....	88
State of play.....	90
Progress made.....	90
Progressing.....	98
Challenges.....	101
Summary of the Contributory Conference deliberations and recommendations	104
Summary of work from the 2030 Agenda Working Group of the N C D I S.....	106
PART 2	109
France’s progress toward achieving the 2030 Agenda Goals	
Methodology	110
Data-visualizations of the 17 SDGs	116
Overview of the 17 SDGs	156
Acknowledgements.....	161

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