

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Strumenti per il monitoraggio dello sviluppo sostenibile

2627-BbetweenSDG-05-02

Module description

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda comprise 169 targets. These are monitored through hundreds of indicators produced by different institutions at the global, European and national levels. How can such complexity be measured, and how should the results be interpreted? The module presents the logic of monitoring complex, multidimensional phenomena. It starts from the main monitoring systems (United Nations, Eurostat, Istat, ASviS) and moves on to the construction and evaluation of composite indicators. Particular attention is paid to the challenges of data collection, harmonisation and aggregation. It also covers data disaggregation by gender, age and migration background, in line with the principle of "leaving no one behind", and the measurement of progress towards targets. Through examples, comparisons across countries and territories, and exercises with open data, the module provides the tools to answer questions such as: "Which countries are closest to the goal? Which are progressing at the pace needed to reach it by 2030? Who is being left behind within each country?"

Learning goals

Knowledge and understanding: The module will provide knowledge of the main systems for monitoring sustainable development and of the sources of basic data. It also covers the process of building composite indicators, including the main methods of normalisation, weighting and aggregation.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding: By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- identify appropriate data available for several countries and years;
- recognise the type of data and its limitations (missing data, comparability, disaggregation);
- distinguish between raw data, indices and composite indicators;
- critically assess rankings and measures of progress towards targets.

General goal

To understand how sustainable development goals are measured and monitored. This runs from the choice of basic data to the construction of composite indicators, and on to assessing the position and progress of countries and territories with respect to the targets.

Specific skills and competences

- Navigate the main systems and databases for SDG monitoring (UN SDG Global Database, Eurostat, Istat).
- Identify appropriate data available for several countries and years, and recognise its type.
- Aggregate basic data into composite indicators and assess the robustness of the resulting rankings.
- Evaluate progress towards a target in terms of both distance and trend.

Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 UN Agenda

The proposed module is consistent with several Goals of the 2030 Agenda:

- Goal 4, Quality Education. Target 4.1: ensure "free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes".
- Goal 17, Partnerships for the Goals. Target 17.18: "increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts". Target 17.19: "develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building".

Breakdown of meetings

Monitoring systems and data

- 2 hours: Conceptual framework for selecting data
- 2 hours: From raw data to indices: data selection, units of measurement and orders of magnitude
- 2 hours: Missing data

From indices to composite indicators

- 2 hours: Polarity of indices, weighting and aggregation
- 2 hours: Building a ranking and going beyond it: an example of a cardinal method
- 2 hours: Measuring progress: distance to target and trend assessment. Final summary exercise.

Number of participants

The number of participants is not limited. The module is delivered in E-learning format (through recordings, handouts, exercises, etc.) and is available 24 hours a day.

Language used in meetings

Italian

Delivery period of the module

The course consists of pre-recorded lessons that can be accessed from December 1, 2026 to September 20, 2027

Methods of assessing the outcomes of the learning process

Utilization of the materials provided and closed-question test.

Department of affiliation of the teacher

Statistics & Quantitative Methods

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
