

## **Call for Background Paper dedicated to sustainability practices**

### **Urban 6th Report@it "Agendas for sustainable urban development"**

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The proposal of the 6th Urban@it Report on the cities wants to put into phase the knowledge produced by the academic world and crossed with the different experiences taking place in the cities on the themes set by the 2030 Agenda, which were partly collected in the XXII Conference of the SIU last June, through a process of recognition of active, but also implicit, policies that already operate unconsciously within those principles. The aim is to accompany the construction of the Italian Urban Agenda, recognizing sustainable development within a context of global crisis in which to direct action, professions and practices to give localized answers to problems, assuming the diversity of the anthropo-geographic dimension of the national context, as a proactive factor to confront.

The Global Agenda for sustainable Development and its objectives, to be achieved by 2030, were approved in September 2015 with the consequent unanimous adoption of the 193 UN member countries of the resolution entitled "Transforming our world: the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development". The Agenda came into force on 1 January 2016, and replaced the previous *Millennium Development Goals* - MDGs that had guided international action in the 2000-2015 period.

Three new dimensions of sustainable development interconnect the 17 SDGs articulated in 169 Agenda targets: *economic growth, social inclusion, environmental protection*, which extend Agenda 2030 from the only social pillar envisaged in the Millennium Goals to the other two pillars, economic and environmental. The SDGs, moreover, are based on five Ps

*People: eliminate hunger and poverty in all forms and guarantee dignity and equality;*

*Prosperity: guaranteeing prosperous and full lives, in harmony with nature;*

*Peace: promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies;*

*Partnership: implementing the agenda through solid partnerships;*

*Planet: protect the natural resources and climate of the planet for future generations.*

which correspond, really, to the 5 areas in which the National Strategy for Sustainable Development SNSvS was structured in Italy, each of which contains Strategic Choices and Strategic Objectives for our country, related to SDGs. As is known, the SNSvS was approved by the CIPE in December 2017 and should define the guidelines for economic, social and environmental policies aimed at achieving sustainable development goals by 2030. Furthermore, in 2016 Italy voluntarily entered into part of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which carries out the first *voluntary reviews* - VNRs implemented by 22 countries on the progress of the 2030 sustainable

development goals focused on the theme "*Ensuring that nobody stays behind*". Forum 2018, dedicated to "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies", focused on 6 of the 17 SDGs, including the eleventh (Sustainable Cities and Communities)<sup>1</sup>. The indicators are processed by the International Agency on SDG Indicators and supplemented by indicators for national and regional levels developed, on the contrary, by the member States. For Italy, ISTAT plays an active national coordination role in the production of indicators for sustainable development and the monitoring of its objectives.

Added to this is the carrying out of a survey on Italy's international action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, launched in the early months of the XVIII Legislature (September 2018)<sup>2</sup>, an investigation that will end on december 31st 2019, which intends to focus our country's contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda Goals. The coordination of the implementation of the SNSvS is under the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; where the "Benessere Italia" Control Room (Ministries, Conference of Regions, UPI, ANCI) was established, with the task of drafting an annual report on the implementation of the same SNSvS.

Moreover, in 2018 the Ministry of the Environment supported the Regions in adopting their own Strategies for sustainable development to which many of them are providing with the first expected results by May 2019

In this global and national scenery, excluding the process launched by the Bologna Charter for the Environment<sup>3</sup>, signed on June 8, 2017 by the metropolitan Mayors, which provides that each Italian metropolitan city has its own Agenda for sustainable development, there is not evidence of a precise policy reference for a national urban Agenda based on the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. Urban@it together with ASviS since 2016 has supported with "the urban Agenda for sustainable development" of which it is in course of publication the first annual Report, that the national urban Agenda should be based on the Goals for sustainable development, indicating the policies and actions necessary to achieve them.

The *Agenda for sustainable urban development* could, indeed, also perform the function of urban articulation of the SNSvS which was previously referred<sup>4</sup> to. Since it is the conviction of Urban@it that the objectives of sustainable development directly concern the cities, and from cities can derive a decisive contribution to their achievement; in fact, they have a strong transversal character and concern, in addition to the environment and mobility, the social, economic and institutional dimensions.

The need, therefore, is to build a Strategy for sustainable urban development, on which the national urban Agenda can be based, analogous to the European one, as proposed by the Italian Report for the UN Conference Habitat III "(p. 83)<sup>5</sup> also referred to by Anci in Bari in 2016 and by Urban@it already in its second annual Report. This situation would strengthen the usefulness of a Report of

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<sup>1</sup> The monitoring of the results is based on a panel of 232 global statistical indicators (global indicators framework), identified to measure the 169 targets of the SDGs.

<sup>2</sup> The Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously approved for sustainable development: the effectiveness of the national regulatory framework and the Italian cooperation system pursuant to article 144, paragraph 1 of the Chamber of Deputies regulation.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.comune.bologna.it/sites/default/files/documenti/Carta di Bologna for the Ambiente.pdf](http://www.comune.bologna.it/sites/default/files/documenti/Carta%20di%20Bologna%20for%20the%20Ambiente.pdf) The Bologna Charter for the Environment is inspired by the urban Agenda for the sustainable development of ASviS and Urban@it of March 2018

<sup>4</sup> The Strategy was approved by the Council of Ministers on October 2 2017 and approved by CIPE on December 22 2017. In line with article 34 of Legislative Decree 152/2006, within twelve months of the CIPE resolution to update the national strategy, the regions must equip themselves with an overall sustainable development strategy, which is coherent and defines the contribution to achieving the objectives of the national strategy

<sup>5</sup> Italian Alliance for sustainable development (ASviS), Italy and sustainable development Goals. ASviS 2016 Report, [http://www.asvis.it/public/asvis/files/ASviS\\_RAPPORTO2016.pdf](http://www.asvis.it/public/asvis/files/ASviS_RAPPORTO2016.pdf)

our Study Center on the theme of the Sustainable Urban Development Agenda, for which Urban@it could also identify forms of involvement of the ASviS of the ANCI and the RUS, with which it has the establishment of a National Thematic Cluster of Applied Research on Cities for Sustainable Urban Development is underway.

The VI Urban@it annual Report due out in January 2021 will be divided into 3 parts, respectively:

**1° Part: Urban policies to the test of the SDGs**

**2° Part: Urban Resilience, Climate Change and Environmental Risks**

**3° Part: Environmental changes and social disparities, new themes of an Urban Agenda**

## ***Call***

As every year to complete the annual Report on the cities, several experts and researchers are asked to provide contributions in the form of *Background Papers*, **which will be published in an issue of the online journal "Urban@it Working papers" with ISSN** with full respect for autonomy of individual products.

For the VI Report "Agendas for sustainable urban development", during the preparatory meetings of 10 April in Rome and 19 June in Bologna, it was decided to have the Report prepared beforehand, to better orient the editorial work of the 3 parts of which are constituted, **a collection of Background Paper dedicated to sustainability practices activated by different subjects, not only operating in institutions and civil society but also active in the applied research sector.**

These Background Papers will be published in issue 2/2019 of the Urban@it online journal *Working Papers* with ISSN due out by December 2019.

## ***Abstract and deadline Background Paper***

**The abstracts must not exceed 3,000 characters (spaces included)** and must contain the following data:

- a.** Title, author/s, contact details, affiliation, three keywords;
- b.** Indication of a first and second preference with respect to the 3 constituent parts of the Report

They must be sent to the following e-mail address: **segreteria@urbanit.it by September 10 2019.** The editors of the VI Report will select those most interesting for the Report by communicating it to the authors by October 1, 2019.

**Following the Background Paper of 15,000 characters** (including spaces) as well as any figures and tables must be sent to the following e-mail address: **segreteria@urbanit.it** by November 15th for their publication on the Urban@it website [www.urbanit.it/annual-reports/](http://www.urbanit.it/annual-reports/)

15 July 2019