



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Summary

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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the only universal Agenda that calls on a dynamic cooperation between the public and private sectors and civil society, to promote humanity's sustainable and prosperous development, compatible with nature. They are, in this regard, an indispensable agenda for this Decade of Action, thus proclaimed in 2019 by the Secretary-General of the UN, António Guterres.

Data shows that, despite having progressed since 2015, with the rise of challenges associated with the pandemic, war, and economic crisis, and the worsening of environmental degradation, many of the 17 objectives in the 2030 Agenda suffered stagnation or even a reversal. Thus, it is more than never necessary a joint action and the development of partnerships and strategic actions from all agents of society so that the 2030 Agenda can progress, and, with it, humanity can hope for true development, fully integrated with the planet.

It is in this sense that Católica Lisbon School of Business and Economics, in partnership with BPI – Fundação “la Caixa” and the Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos, are launching the first and ambitious study of the implementation of the SDGs in Portuguese companies. This comprehensive study aims at consolidating efforts, diagnosing actions, and promoting progress in this Agenda, in the Portuguese private sector. The private sector, especially the business sector, merges many varied resources, without which the Agenda of Sustainable Development will not be fulfilled. Its action is, therefore, pressing and urgent so that the ambitions for 2030 and 2050 start to be fulfilled today, and the companies may be strong support for the actions of the public sector and civil society.

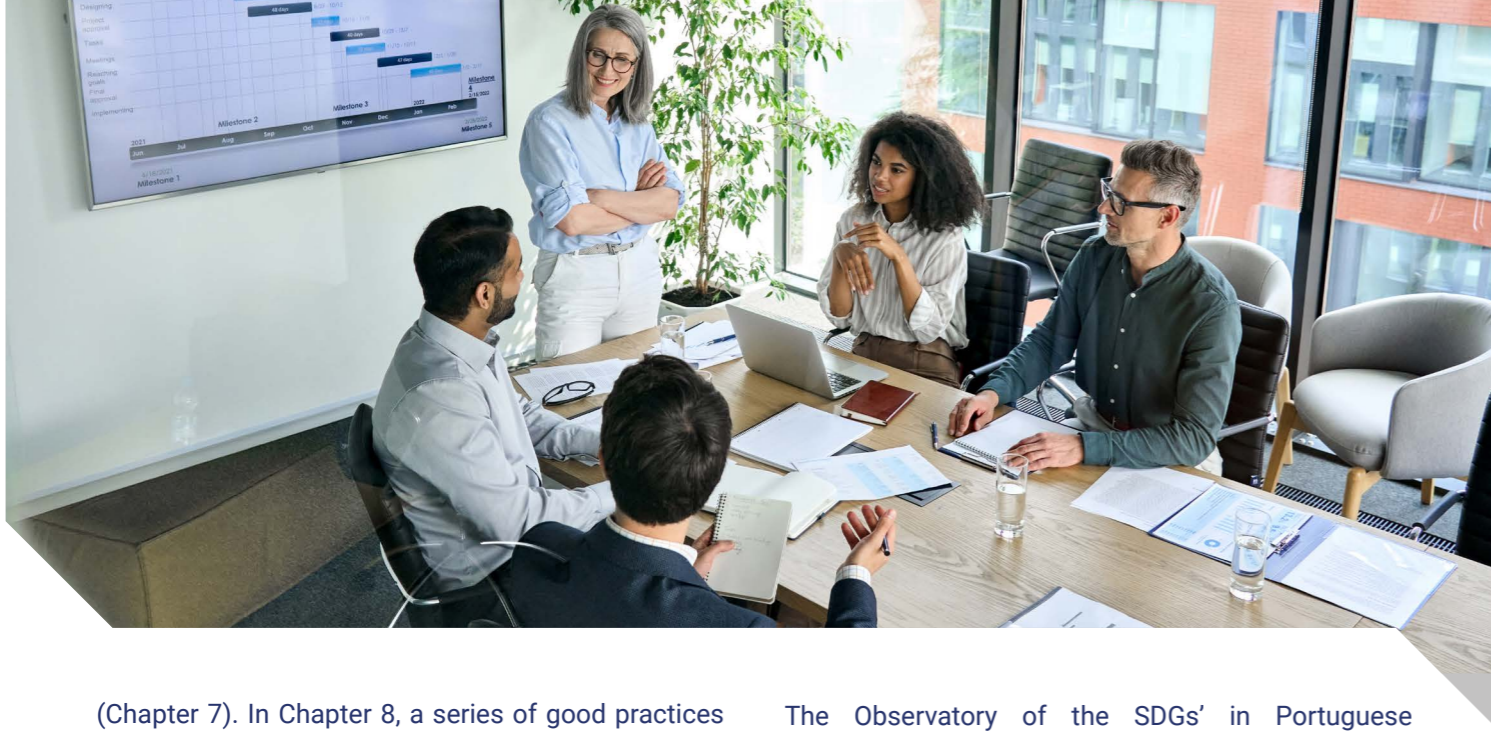
It is CATÓLICA-LISBON's responsibility, as an Impact School, to contribute now to this Agenda in an ambitious way and in cooperation with all partners and participants of this study, as well as all who want to contribute to this project. To that end, the current

project proposes to carry out a series of studies and actions that, over the next years, may promote the development of the 2030 Agenda together with the Portuguese private sector, in close cooperation and with positive spillovers to the Government and Portuguese society.

Therefore, The Observatory of the SDGs in Portuguese companies proposes to:

- promote a thorough knowledge of the implementation of the SDGs in the private sector;
- collect good practices that push forward this Agenda from Portugal to the rest of the world;
- speed up the implementation of the SDGs in Portuguese companies and in Portugal.

This first Report by The Observatory of the SDGs in Portuguese companies presents the bases of knowledge so that all aspirations are fulfilled. It is the first in a series of actions that CATÓLICA-LISBON proposes to carry out. It follows from an initial diagnostic work carried out through the years 2021 and 2022 in which, besides the study of the context of the implementation of the SDGs in the country, 60 of the largest companies participating in the Portuguese economy and 103 Small and Medium-Sized Companies were heard. It is divided into eight chapters, throughout which are presented the 2030 Agenda (Chapter 1), the Observatory of the SDGs in Portuguese companies' ambitions (Chapter 2), the importance of the SDGs in the business sector (Chapter 3), the context of the progress of the SDGs in the world, in Portugal, and the Portuguese private sector (Chapters 4 and 5). The methodology and theoretical background of the project are presented in Chapter 6. Following this is the presentation of the data collected and analyzed throughout this first year, resulting from the analysis of questionnaires, interviews, and Non-Financial Reports of the companies being studied



(Chapter 7). In Chapter 8, a series of good practices collected within the companies being studied are presented to make these cases known so that they may inspire other companies to pursue their sustainability agenda.

From the data analysis, it was concluded that:

- Portugal is a relatively advanced country concerning the progress of the 2030 Agenda, but it still has many challenges in fulfilling some of the goals considered strategic for our economy and society.
- Portuguese companies have diverse conducts in their ambition and actions on the 2030 Agenda. Large companies show greater progress with the SDGs than SME companies due to legal and market requirements, although some challenges still cut across the whole private sector.
- Portuguese companies have a great awareness of the importance of the Sustainable Development Agenda and, through their actions, show a commitment to its fulfillment. As a result, countless good practices can promote joint action.

The Observatory of the SDGs' in Portuguese companies is a work in progress, wherefore we expect that this first Report will be the basis for an extended contribution to companies, science, and Portuguese society. We hope this work prompts all readers to a closer view and more effective action on behalf of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.