

SMART & TRENDY CITY

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW 2019
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



BRAGA
Município

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

RICARDO RIO



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the ideal framework to guide everyone's efforts towards a world that is socially fairer, environmentally more sustainable, and economically more developed and less unequal.

On the one hand, this agenda projects an indispensable horizon to "leave no one behind", on the other hand, it allows for a multi-stakeholder approach with several levels of participation.

However, despite a global agenda, I understand that it is at the local level where we can enhance its implementation. It is up to the municipalities and local governments to play a central and fundamental role in the response to its implementation through in-depth knowledge of the context of the populations, proximity to people, with the ability to involve and mobilize local agents, but above all through the legitimacy of institutional action.

This ability to involve and mobilize local agents has already been demonstrated. In Braga, in 2014, and for the first time, we joined the living forces of the City in order to develop a concerted strategy with a long-term vision, thinking about the territory and the future with the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Economic Development of Braga 2014-2026.

Today, Braga is recognized in the Iberian top 10 and national top 3, in terms of economics, culture and quality of life; the generation of 500 new jobs per year; a level of growth 1% above the Iberian average and the creation of a center for innovative industries and youth is a reality.

Economic development was fundamental to boost job creation, stimulate sustainable investment, disseminate cosmopolitan and

contemporary culture, attract and retain visitors and boost trade. All this work was also fundamental for Braga to be recognized as a true smart and trendy city.

Additionally, a true smart and trendy city also involves boosting its quality of life, sustainability and social and cultural dynamics.

This strategic positioning therefore intends to align Braga with the public policy guidelines for the next decade focused on innovation and knowledge, namely the Europe Strategy for the new cycle of cohesion funds and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this sense, we decided to integrate the Goals for Sustainable Development into decision-making and action processes at municipal level, ranging from the strategic approach to be followed to implementation mechanisms and monitoring instruments. It is thus an institutionalization of the principles of sustainability in all our activities.

For this, the creation of a VLR was fundamental. The 2019 Sustainability Report is, therefore, more than the portrait of a respective year. This document is intended to be the embodiment of the vision and excellence in which we believe.

The elaboration of the first VLR of the Municipality of Braga demonstrates a complete and integrated view of municipal activities and the respective impacts created by them. Additionally, it intends to demonstrate a greater demand regarding the design of strategic initiatives and the strategic execution outlined.

It is also intended to obtain a continuous evaluation of the orientation and evaluation

of the municipality's quality of life indices in the various domains of sustainability.

In a society increasingly marked by scrutiny and the desire for transparency in the performance of organizations, this report also intends to be an accountability document for the Braga community.

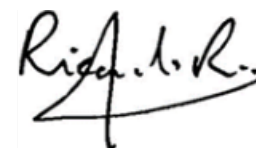
Thus, the determination of the strategic vectors of action, based on the analysis of the main urban trends, the understanding of the risks and opportunities for the Municipality of Braga and the involvement of the expectations and opinions of the various interested parties of the Municipality was the basis for the definition of the Sustainability strategy.

Throughout this review, we highlight the strategic initiatives that the Municipality has developed with various organizations, from universities, associations, in addition to the important collaboration with NGOs, among others.

This demand and the Municipality's commitment to building a low-carbon society was recognized for the first time by the organization Climate Disclosure Project (CDP), which confirmed its ranking at the Leadership level (A-Climate) and placed Braga as a of the 88 cities in the world with the best climate action policies. In addition to making us sure of the path we are taking, it also means that we are implementing the best practices in this field and puts us at the forefront in the fight against climate change and performance in terms.

Finally, I want to thank all the people who, directly or indirectly, contributed to Braga being at the forefront with regard to Sustainable Development, portrayed in this document.

Ricardo Rio
Mayor of Braga

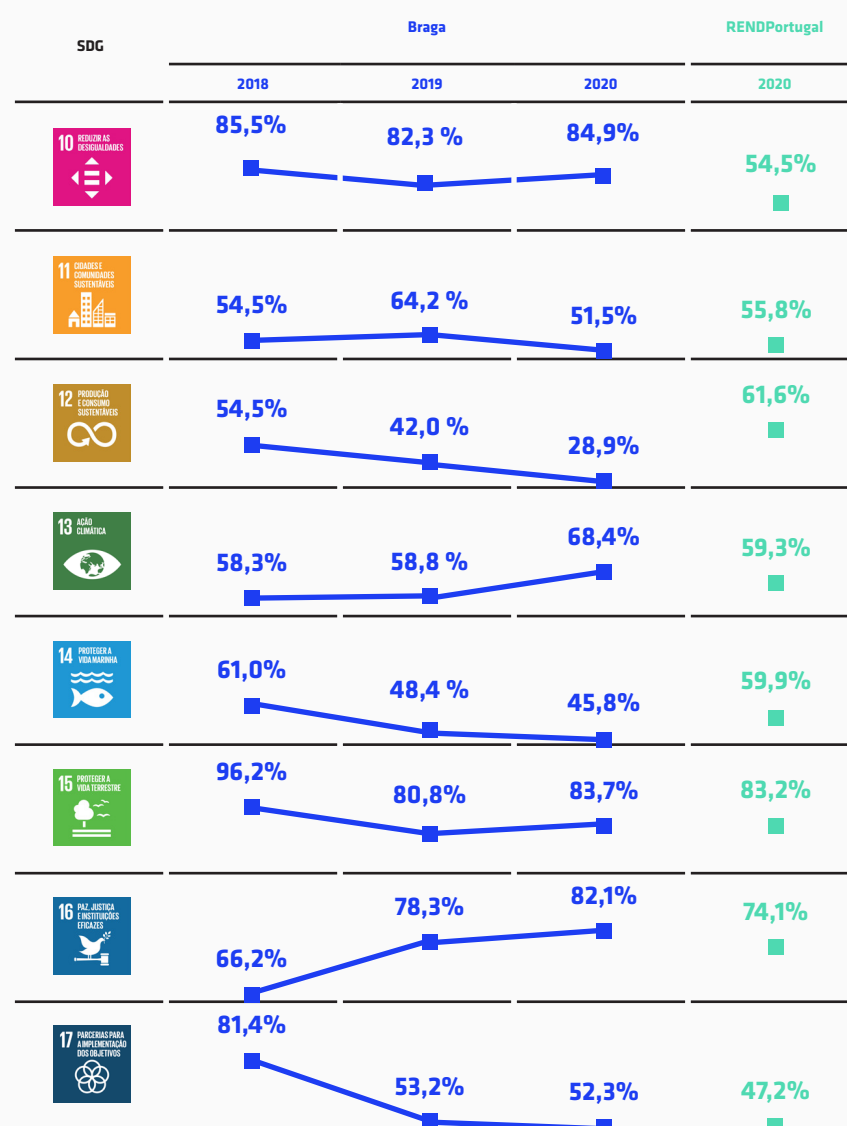
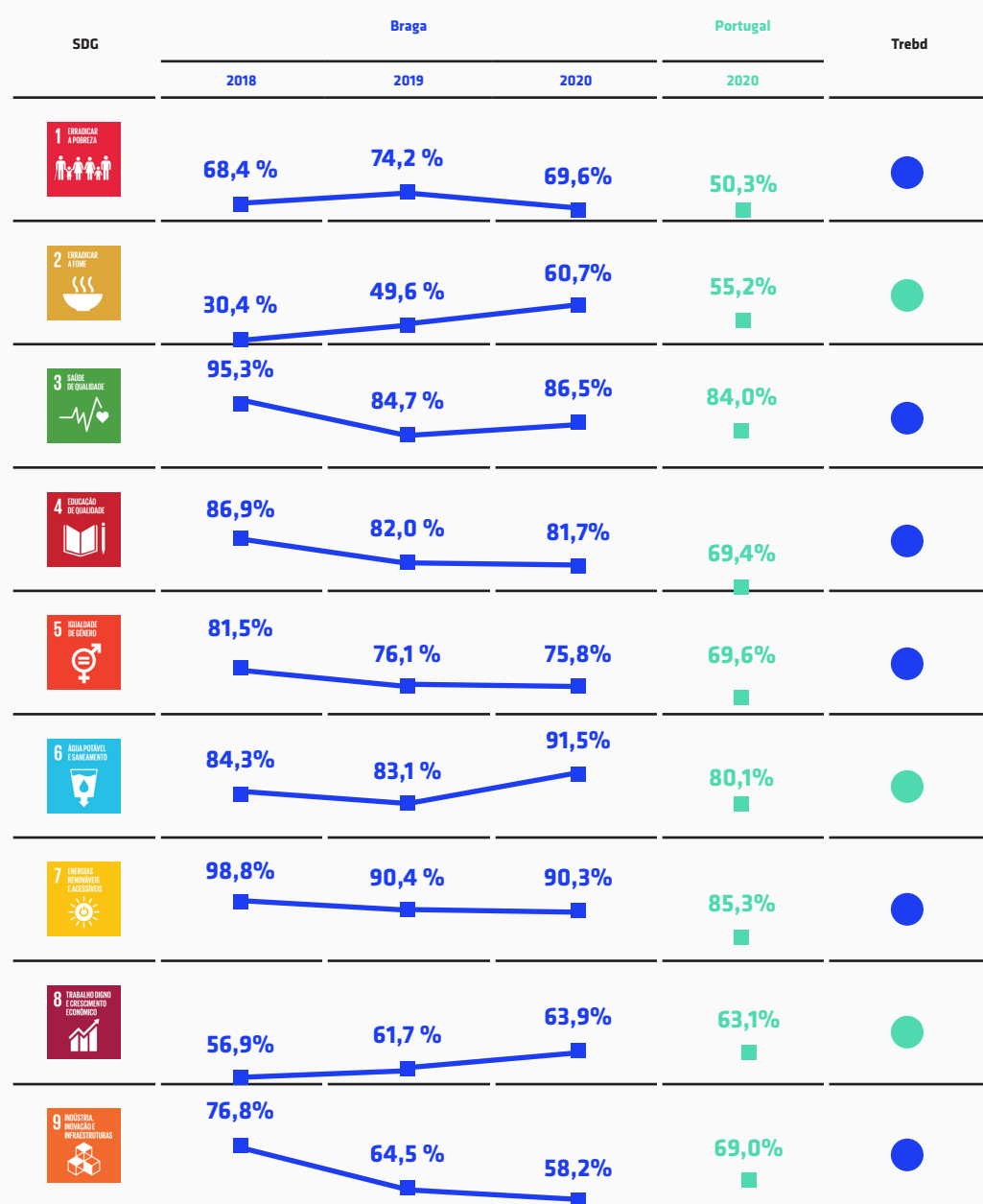


ROADMAP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Indicador



Level of achievement of the Municipality of Braga to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda



■ Level of compliance with the Sustainable Development Goal in Braga

● Negative Sustainable Development Goal progress

■ Level of compliance with the Sustainable Development Goal in Portugal

● Positive Sustainable Development Goal progress

Source: Municipal Sustainability Index from the Center for Surveys and Studies of the Catholic University of Portugal

Highlights

The 2030 Agenda has been an opportunity for the Municipality of Braga, as it provides a medium-term roadmap for its development process. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Municipality of Braga launched its first Sustainability Report to assess its progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The latter's growing role in implementing the 2030 Agenda has led to increased global attention on localizing the SDGs and preparing Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). This allows review of SDG implementation at the local level. The VLRs thus complements the Sustainability Report, ensuring a more detailed and differentiated assessment of progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda in Braga.

The Municipality of Braga has been a pioneer city in the implementation of the United Nations Agenda 2030 in the organization and in the territory, but also in the engagement with other territorial and regional organizations that allow it to leverage the achievement of its goals. Since the launch of the SDG in 2015, the Municipality has aligned its activities and viewed this agenda as an opportunity for the city to develop in the face of the challenges that the planet suffers. These solutions can be observed with several sectorial action plans implemented that corresponded to a specific SDG.

After the successful launch of these plans, the MP needed to study the degree of effectiveness of the implemented policies. **To this end, in partnership with the Centro de Estudos e Sondagens da Universidade Católica (CESOP), was implemented the Municipal Sustainability Index in 2018. This**

index, pioneer in Portugal and Europe, allowed the identification of 97 indicators related to 61 SDG targets, the degree implementation and evaluate the performance of its policies. In 2019, this project demonstrated that the Municipality of Braga had already achieved 69% of the SDG.

However, it soon became apparent that for the SDGs to be successful, action must be holistic, transversal and inclusive to all sectors of municipal activity. The efforts of local government, the private sector, universities, civil society and ordinary citizens should be coordinated and engaging. Bringing diverse groups together on sectoral plans for a global agenda was a difficult task, especially when they work in isolation. Even so, the Municipality of Braga, as a local government, has responsibility and is well placed to help guide public understanding of the complex sustainability challenges presented in the SDGs.

Thus, in 2019 the Municipality has the decision and the respective political framework in the planning of policies that support the achievement of the SDGs in the municipality based on the design, implementation, monitoring and review of the strategic initiatives for this achievement. To this end, this bet can be translated into 3 marks, namely:

– Creation of the Sustainable Development Political Field: placed the SDGs achievement at the top of decision level;

– Creation of a Strategy, Innovation and Sustainability Unit: a body within the municipal structure, under the responsibility of the presidency, with exclusive obligations in the coordination of policies for the implementation of the

SDGs and the respective performance evaluation;

– Signing of a Protocol with the University of Minho to support the creation of the strategy for Sustainable Development 2030: the choice of the University of Minho in this strategy is due, on the one hand, to the University having its implementation in the city of Braga and, on the other hand, for the University to be considered the 83rd best university in the world to fulfill the SDGs according to the first edition of "THE Impact Rankings" by Times Higher Education and to rank among the best in the world in terms of sustainability in other rankings.

In this way, the holistic and integrated model for Sustainable Development of Braga was created being defined in 3 important steps:

– Stakeholder Engagement: This process is related to listening to the thematic priorities and SDGs in view of the strategy defined by the Municipality. This engagement involved most citizens, associations, representatives of local governments, business sectors, institutions of higher education and education. In this way, the stakeholder engagement process is intended to be a multi-stakeholder methodology, continuous over time and collaborative;

– Annual Sustainability Report/Review: Reference document for the performance and the direction that the Municipality is following in the achievement of the SDGs. This document is also intended to be a reflection of the control systems aligned with the strategy that the Municipality has defined for the municipality. Reference document for the performance and direction that the Municipality is following in achieving the SDGs. This document also

intends to be a reflection of the control systems aligned with the strategy that the Autarchy defined for the municipality. This is a document that intends to aggregate all good practices within the scope of Sustainability and the SDG, namely the VLR;

– Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development 2030: in collaboration with the University of Minho, a set of multidisciplinary and intersectoral teams is being developed that will define strategic initiatives to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

– Finally, it is worth mentioning that in 2020 the Municipality had two important recognitions regarding the implementation of policies related to the SDGs. Firstly, at the national level, where in addition to the Municipality having been awarded the Green Flag, an award from the Associação Bandeira Azuis Europa, it was identified as one of the 10 best municipalities in the country in the theme Sustainable Development. Secondly, internationally, with the inclusion of the Carbon Disclosure Project - list A, ranking the city of Braga in the 88 best cities in the world with regard to the implementation of sustainability policies, namely policies to adaptation to climate change.

On the basis of this Local Volunteer Report, the city had a first broad point of view regarding the implementation of the Goals in the municipality and the work it has been developing in favor of the Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, this report will be a first approach within the scope of the policy and strategy for Sustainable Development of the Municipality of Braga, which intends to demonstrate its positioning in relation to the agenda with other cities committed to their Local Voluntary Reports around the world.

