

Sustainable Development Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities. Where does Portugal stand?

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Sustainable development goals (SDGs) are an important tool to bring countries' efforts together, in order to achieve a sustainable future for the world. The 17 goals, which include 169 targets were adopted during the United Nations Summit on September 2015, in New York, where world leaders committed to their full implementation between 2016 and 2030.

While the Millennium Development Goals were mainly focused in developing countries' needs, such as extreme poverty and universal primary education, SDGs broaden the spectrum and include also the high-income countries. Therefore, this ambitious agenda requires them to think about the policies already implemented and to perform a continuous monitoring.

It has been pointed out that one of the principal challenges for the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCDE) countries is goal 10 – reduced inequalities. Although existing inequalities reflect a country's development, high-income countries are also facing a rising gap between the poorest and the richest people. Furthermore, this goal is closely related to the fulfillment of the other goals.

This work aims to describe the present situation of Portugal regarding SDG goal 10. We started by analyzing Portugal's performance on the three indicators featured on the SDG Index & Dashboards - A Global Report: Palma Ratio, Gini's Coefficient and Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) Social Justice Index. Afterwards, we conducted a more detailed research in order to evaluate Portugal's status on goal 10 targets. Data was collected to

assess existing inequalities based on economic status, gender, race, disability and age. Additionally, we reviewed Portugal migration's politics and transaction costs of migrant remittances. Since health inequalities are one of the main consequences of social and economic inequalities, they were also analyzed.

Evaluation of the three main indicators ranks Portugal at developed countries level, but at the bottom of OECD nations. A more detailed analysis shows that Portugal excels on migration policy, standing second in the Migration Integration Policy Index (MIPEX). Nonetheless, transactional costs of financial remittances to developing countries are still above recommendations held on SDG 10.

On the other hand, gender inequality (particularly regarding leadership positions), age discrimination and prejudice against minorities are still preeminent issues in Portugal. And even though the law stipulates gender equality and there is a National Committee for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination, they have shown to be clearly insufficient to mitigate the existing inequalities.

Data reveals inequalities on healthcare access, particularly regarding low socioeconomic status population and migrants. Low educational level and female gender are related with obesity and low self-perception of health status. Portuguese National Health Plan addresses equity challenges in healthcare access and highlights the importance of social determinants of health, but there is a need to implement focused strategies.

Portugal is committed to SDGs and an effort to improve is currently being made, particularly on inequalities related issues addressed on goal 10. Nevertheless, gender equality, age discrimination, prejudice against minorities and healthcare access are priority areas, requiring specific interventions to achieve all goal 10 targets.