

# How the Reduction of The Italian Gap Between the North and The South Can Contribute to Sustainable Development Through the Regional Authorities' ESG Balance?

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## Abstract

*The theme of sustainable development has been at the center of a broad debate involving international institutions and the world of research. In fact, the concept has multiple implications (environmental and economic, social and cultural) linked to development processes and the global effects of planetary transformations.*

*In recent years, due to the climate crisis, we are facing very worrying situations.*

*The last three years have been a wake-up call for the country. The summer droughts that occurred in many regions confirmed the theories of scientists that the process of desertification on the peninsula has been going on for a long time. According to the CNR (the National Research Center) today this phenomenon involves about 20% of the national territory with a peak of 70% in Sicily.*

*However, the Italian gap between the North and the South is also repeated in terms of water. To date, compared to the 14.9 billion euros of public and private funds that should be invested in the sector on a national scale in the coming years, only 3.8 billion will be allocated to the southern regions.*

*The aim of this research is to investigate how the Regional Authorities, by allocating the right resources and investing in sustainable research, can reduce the intra-regional gap and contribute to sustainable development by using renewable energy sources that the territory already supplies.*

**Keywords:** sustainable development, renewable energy, south of Italy, Regional Authorities' ESG balance