

## Urban waste recycling in advance of the SDGs and ESG

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the contribution of municipal waste recycling to the (non-)compliance with the SDGs and ESG, through an analysis of the evolution of the recycling rate from 2000 to 2023 for Portugal and Spain within the context of the European Union (EU). The respective positions in the EU ranking are highlighted, and the Member States that have occupied 1st place (those that recycle the most) and those that have occupied the opposite extreme (those that recycle the least) during this period are also identified, allowing for a perception, albeit incomplete, of the difficulties in achieving the targets set by the 2030 Agenda for sustainability. Statistical data from the EU Statistical Office (Eurostat) were used, supplemented by other databases (INE and Pordata), and a descriptive statistical methodology. The results obtained allow us to conclude that the recycling of municipal waste, in general, has been improving in the EU, but slowly and at quite different rates among the various Member States, not contributing, in some cases, as necessary and desirable to the progress of the SDGs/ESGs, and thus compromising the great objective of Sustainability.

**KEYWORDS:** Member states; ranking; recycling; waste.

**JEL Classification:** Q53; Q56.