Sustainability report 2018



Introduction

Sustainability, strategy and shared value



million euro shared value Ebitda, 36% of total Ebitda (+14% over 2017)

2018 Reporting Oscar and special prize for innovative reporting

184

million euro shared value investments, 40% of total investments

CE100,

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Hera among the world's leading circular economy companies, part of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's program

71/100

customer satisfaction

our annual survey confirms the high quality of Group services

Hera in the Global Diversity and Inclusion Index

Hera ranked 2nd in Italy and 22nd worldwide among the 100 companies in the Thomson Reuters index for its inclusion and diversity policies

Introduction

Letter to stakeholders

Our sustainability reporting: previous elements confirmed and new features introduced

This year's sustainability report reaffirms the innovative representation of its content as introduced in 2017, focused on **creating shared value (Csv)**. The positive results we are able to report this year as well, alongside the new goals we have set for the future, are once again flanked by an overview of the scenario in terms of sustainability. Taken as a whole, they represent our response to the significant **environmental and socio-economic challenges** faced by the communities we serve. With the aim of introducing further improvements in our accountability profile, in this report we have included new sections dedicated to the **results achieved in each local area served**. Furthermore, our sustainability reports focused on single issues have recently been enhanced by a fifth report, concentrated on **Goal 17 of the UN's Agenda** and dedicated to the many initiatives involving collaborations between Hera and the citizens and organisations found in the communities served.

A new goal: the strength of business in regenerating the ecosystem and the environment

The considerable extent of the economic, social and environmental changes we are currently witnessing, in some ways a historical turning point, raises complex issues for businesses, who can no longer simply limit themselves to containing the negative impact of their operations. Moreover, within a context in which institutions have difficulty coming up with effective and widely accepted solutions, **communities are now showing higher expectations** towards the business world, increasingly urged to tackle the social and environmental challenges we are currently facing.

We believe the answer lies in our approach to creating shared value. Ours is an approach that calls for the ties between Csr and a company's strategy to be reshaped, bringing the former into the very heart of the latter. While Csr as defined until present had pondered the "what" and the "how" of a business, thus taking a "reactive" stance, shared value brings to the foreground its "reason why", dealing with the basic grounds on which a business exists – that is to say, its mission and its strategy – and the distinctive features that set it apart from all others. In our opinion, the companies with the strongest future are those who use their strength **to contribute to regenerating the ecosystem and the environment**. We are committed to ensuring that Hera remains part of this category of companies.

Reporting: shifting the focus from "what" and "how" to an evolving "reason why"

The most significant room for improvement in business reporting therefore consists in creating a direct and unavoidable link between Csr and corporate strategy, capable of raising questions as to a company's "reason why", guiding innovation and forcing us to reflect on how it can support society. Integrating the "what" and the "how" that are already factored into traditional business reporting, all of this not only implies a deep knowledge of the company's activities and the impact it has on



Energy, resources and territory:

three drivers for creating shared value

375 million euro the Ebitda from Csv activities its various stakeholders. It also calls for an accurate analysis of its external context, identifying the points at which its business intersects with the ecosystem; these are the **points that offer opportunities for creating shared value and sustainably developing** the company. The opportunities we have identified for ourselves, based on an analysis of the UN's 2030 Agenda and over sixty sustainability policies seen worldwide or on a European, national or local level, fall into three categories: (i) smart **use of energy**, (ii) **efficient resource management** and (iii) **innovation and contribution to development**. These three areas directly concern Hera's "reason why" and have a positive influence on its current, and above all future, competitiveness. Furthermore, they lie at the root of three of the most prominent chapters in our sustainability report.

Our new strategic approach substantiated by a 14% rise in "shared value" Ebitda

One of the strong points of innovative Csv reporting is its quantification of "shared value" Ebitda. This indicates the amount of total Ebitda deriving from business activities capable of responding to the goals listed in the "global agenda", i.e. the "calls to action" that move towards sustainable growth, as summarised by the three drivers mentioned above. In 2018, "**shared value" Ebitda came to 375 million euro**, increasing by 14% over the previous year and representing 36% of total Ebitda. This result thus shows progress along the path set out by the 2018-22 Business Plan, designed in order for approximately 40% of 2022 Ebitda to come from business initiatives responding to the global agenda priorities that match the Group's activities.

Hera for a smarter use of energy

The initiatives identified by Hera Spa, Inrete, AcegasApsAmga and Marche Multiservizi within the framework of Iso 50001 (included in the energy improvement plan) and already implemented allowed energy consumption to be reduced by roughly 10.300 Toe, or -4.4%, compared to the figures seen in 2013. The improvement plan calls for additional energy efficiency initiatives that will make room for 5.3% in overall savings, once again compared to 2013, well over the 5% target set for 2020. A considerable number of initiatives have been introduced with our customer businesses/partners: 27 agreements with professional associations and enterprises were signed by the end of 2018. Among the initiatives currently available to residents, the Group's marketing offers include **Hera Led, Hera Thermo and Hera ContaWatt**; in this area, one must also consider **the consumption analysis report**, a free service allowing one's own energy consumption to be compared with that of a similar family. At the end of 2018, almost 15% of customers took advantage of Hera Comm's energy efficiency services.

Some additional elements, part of our contribution to countering climate change, include: purchasing 100% renewable electricity for the business activities of Hera Spa, AcegasApsAmga and Marche Multiservizi; launching **biomethane production** from the organic portion of waste in the Sant'Agata biorefinery in the province of Bologna; producing 600 GWh of renewable energy; **reducing the Group's carbon footprint for energy production by 16%** compared to 2015.

Hera for a more efficient use of resources

A further **increase in sorted waste** was seen in 2018, now reaching 62.5% (as against the 2017 Italian average of 55.5%), with a corresponding reduction in the use of landfills for urban waste disposal, which has now settled at 4.5% (compared to the 2017 Italian average of 26%). In this area, Hera is almost 20 years ahead of the EU goal for a circular economy and is positioned on the same level as the best-performing European countries. The ninth edition of the report entitled **Sulle tracce dei rifiuti** ("Retracing Waste"), published in 2018, indicates an overall recycling level of



Introduction

48% for the areas served by Hera, which thus ranks well in comparison to the goal of 55% set by the EU for 2025, and a packaging recycling level of 70%, which already meets the EU's target set for 2030.

As regards industrial waste, increases were seen in 2018 concerning the amount of waste recovered by HASI, which rose to 41.6%, and the recycled plastic products sold by Aliplast, which totalled over 84 thousand tons (+4% compared to 2017). Our strong commitment towards sustainability in the **sewerage and purification sector** also continued in 2018. The main projects included Rimini (7 interventions completed out of the 14 comprising the Integrated reclamation plan, with additional interventions aimed at mitigating water risk) and completing the Servola treatment plant in Trieste (fully operational as of June 2018), which has recently allowed the community infraction to be definitively closed, after being inherited from a previous manager.

Hera for innovation and a sustainable development of the local area

Significant results were achieved by the Group in 2018 regarding Csv issues linked to the economic and occupational development of local areas, innovation and digitalisation, and air and soil protection. The value coming from local service providers reached 69% of the total, amounting to 632 million (+7% over 2017), while induced employment is estimated at approximately 8,100 workers; this data confirms the Group's leading role in local development. Investments in innovation came to roughly 62.4 million euro and were dedicated to projects in four areas: smart city, utility 4.0, circular economy and customer experience. Smart city initiatives included smart eco-friendly islands, environmental quality monitoring, a sustainability analysis and monitoring dashboard for municipalities and energy maps. As regards utility 4.0, numerous projects were aimed at further optimising operating processes, benefitting safety and service continuity, work quality and internal efficiency. Additionally, the Group's efforts towards developing digital channels for customer relations continued in 2018. The new app MyHera was launched, which is dedicated to residential customers and has reached 100,000 downloads. Air protection was confirmed by positive results coming from the environmental performance of the Group's ten waste-to-energy plants, which in 2018 as well showed a very modest amount of emissions into the atmosphere, 86% lower on average than the legal limits. Furthermore, in soil protection the projects completed by Heratech in 2018 proved able to reuse 68% of the soil involved.

To conclude, in light of the encouraging results reported in this document, we can maintain that sustainability reporting guarantees the well-known and consolidated "external" value of the Hera Group; at the same time however, it has also opened the way, from the very outset, towards creating an "internal" value whose importance cannot be overlooked. This internal value has been responsible for the **organisa-tion's significant cultural growth**, with tangible and progressive improvements in managing its daily business and in its relations with stakeholders, with an excellent grasp of the "what" and the "how". Our current strategic approach to creating shared value has introduced a new phase, focused on the "reason why", that has led us to renew our reporting and that, we believe, will be able to **support our company's future growth**.



Tomaso Tommasi di Vignano Executive Chairman

Hepens Denser

Stefano Venier

Shared value

Smart use of energy

Sustainable Development Goals



14.6%

customers adhering to initiatives involving energy efficiency services

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600_{GWh}

renewable energy produced

equivalent to the consumption of 182 thousand families

-16%

carbon footprint

for energy production compared to 2015, aiming at -23% by 2022

4.4%

energy consumption reduction compared to 2013, -5.3% including projects already in the works

100%

renewable energy

for activities managed by Hera Spa, AcegasApsAmga and Marche Multiservizi

10

energy efficiency projects presented to the Gse for white certificates, 5 of which include behavioural measures

12%

customers with the Nature Package offer

based on energy deriving from 100% renewable sources

2.3

million

tons of greenhouse gas avoided

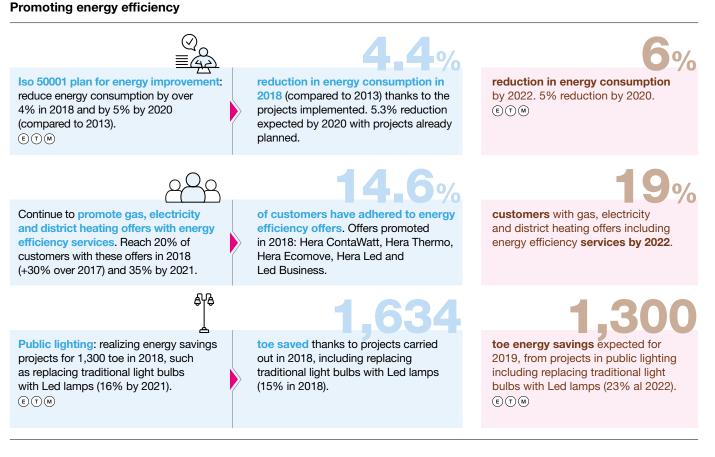
Biomethane project

production underway in the Sant'Agata Bolognese biorefinery

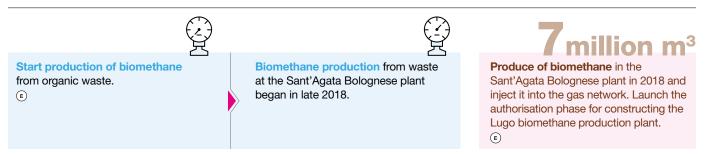
what we said we would do ...

what we did...

what we will do ...



Advancing renewable energy



Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Reduce the carbon footprint for energy production (kg CO ₂ /MWh) by 22% within 2021 (compared to 2015). (E) ① (M)	reduction in the carbon footprint for energy production in 2018 (compared to 2015).	23% reduction in the carbon footprint for energy production (Kg CO ₂ /MWh) by 2022 (compared to 2015). (E) T (M)
Applicable local area of improvement measures	 (€) Emilia-Romagna (T) Triveneto (∞) Marche Multiservizi 	Other objectives, results and future targets at bs.gruppohera.it

Shared value

Efficient use of resources

EU 2035 goal

already reached

Sustainable Development Goals

4.5% Hera Italy

Urban waste collected and disposed of in landfills

62.5%

sorted waste over an area with 3.1 million inhabitants

93%

waste recovered the amount of sorted waste recuperated, going towards a circular economy

95%

C

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

١

of urban areas brought in line with purification regulations >2,000 PE

14 LIFE BEL

4

of Italy's top 10 cities

for sorted waste performance per capita are served by the Hera Group (>100 thousand inhabitants)

150

thousand tons of CO₂ avoided with the plastic recycled by Aliplast

500

thousand cubic metres coming from the Bologna purifier recovered in 2018 thanks to the first agreement signed with local authorities

550

thousand euro in nonexpired medication

and 11 thousand meals, recovered with FarmacoAmico and CiboAmico

70%

.....

.....

level of packaging recycled EU 2030 goal reached

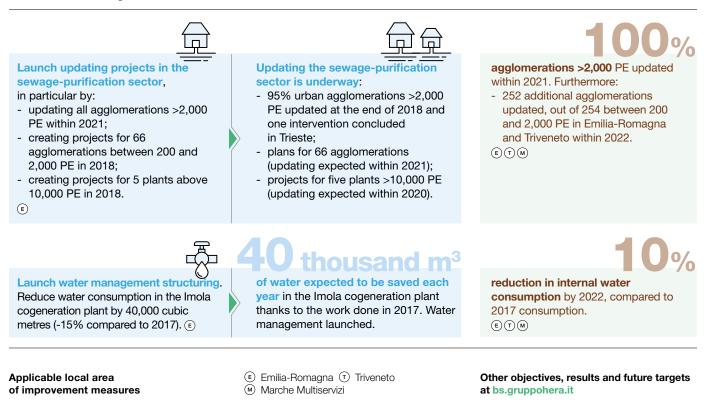
what we said we would do ...

what we did...

what we will do ...



Sustainable management of water



Shared value

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Innovation and contribution to development

Sustainable Development Goals



8,120

workers

the induced employment generated by Hera in 2018

Bio-plastic

two agreements for production of the biodegradable plastic of the future

816

people facing hardship

included thanks to supplies from social cooperatives, totalling over 62.2 million euro

-86%

legal limits

on emissions form waste-to-energy plants. -98% PM₁₀ limits in the Imola plant

69% 66% 69% 2016 2017 2018 17.5%

Value of local services (632 million euro in 2018) Customers making use of online services

62.4

million euro

for innovation and digitalisation, 22 projects in smart city, circular economy and data analytics

68%

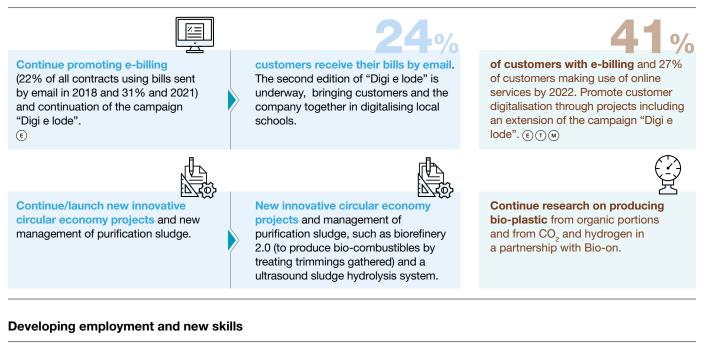
reused soil in projects implemented in 2018

what we said we would do ...

what we did...

what we will do ...

Broader use of innovation and digitalisation





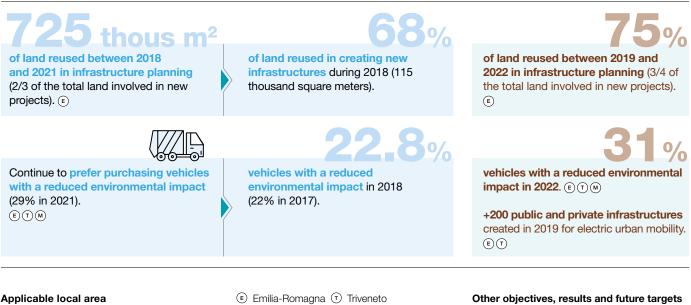
Continue to use the social clause to guarantee employment with contracts for emergency services on networks and services linked to customer management. (E) (T) (M)

are the tenders, including the most important, in which the social clause guaranteeing employment was included.

Continue to use the social clause to guarantee employment with contracts for emergency services on networks and services linked to customer management. (E) (T) (M)

Shared value

Air and soil protection



of improvement measures

Marche Multiservizi

at bs.gruppohera.it

Governance and value creation



Outside areas se
 Areas served
Total economic value

distributed

78%

22%

(million euro)

1,281

million euro added value distributed to local stakeholders

Hera in the FtseMib

Hera now among the 40 most important companies listed on the Italian stock exchange

+212%

total return on stock compared to original listing in 2003

632

million euro value of services from local suppliers

.....

) **1,913**

million euro

economic value distributed to local areas (+4% compared to 2017)

......

300

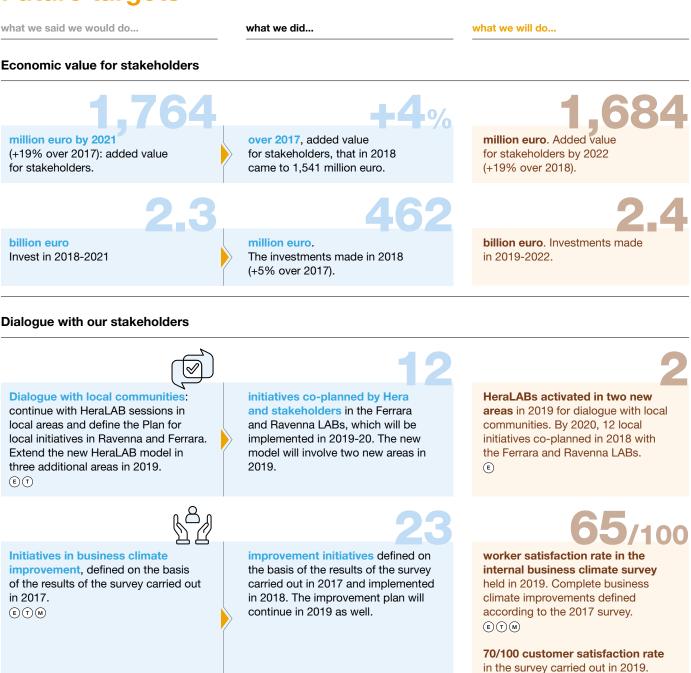
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hours listening to stakeholders

in the ten sessions of HeraLAB in 2018

First "sustainable" line of credit in Italy

signed by Hera in 2018 with a mechanisms rewarding sustainability targets



Applicable local area of improvement measures Emilia-Romagna () Triveneto
 Marche Multiservizi

Other objectives, results and future targets at bs.gruppohera.it

ETM

Customer service quality, costs and safety

-27%

lower than the

urban waste

Italian average for non-household



Average yearly expense for four types of non-household users (euro/m²)

45%

of bills attributable to Hera 28% raw materials and 27% taxes and system charges

9.6

minutes average waiting time

at help desks and chance to book an appointment with an operator

......

334	
	272
Italy	Hera

Average yearly expense per family

96.7%

calls to the emergency gas service

lower than the Italian average

for household urban waste

with arrivals within 60 minutes (service obligation: 90%)

36

seconds average

waiting time at the Group's call centre to answer calls from residential customers

99.6%

compliance with quality standards

Sec. Sec.

set by the Authority for four services

399

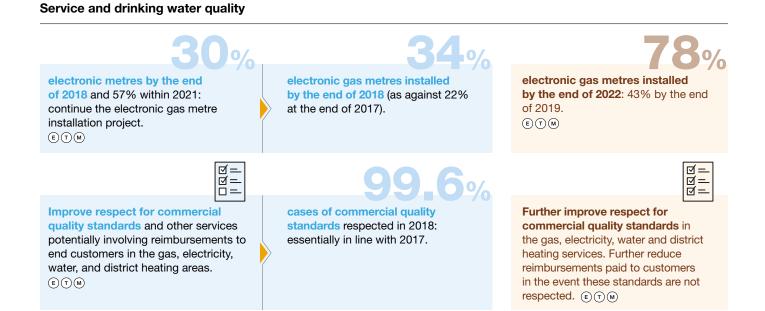
thousand analyses

carried out on Group drinking water, 1,100 per day, of which 63% on the distribution network

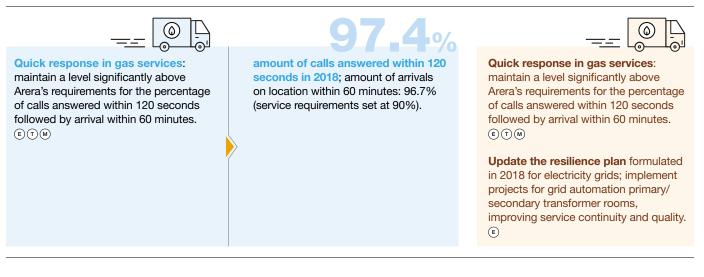
what we said we would do...

what we did...

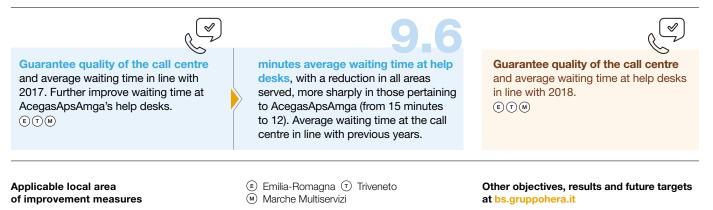
what we will do ...



Safety and service continuity



Customer relations



People



96.2%

.....

employees with permanent contracts

4.2

million euro

used by employees with Hextra, the company's welfare plan (with 98.5% of employees adhering)

32.3%

women in positions of responsibility

41% in career advancement (excluding blue-collar workers)

30%

variable retribution

of middle and senior management depending on sustainability, 17% on hsared value

1,500

Group employees involved in the company's Smart working project

Hera Top Employers

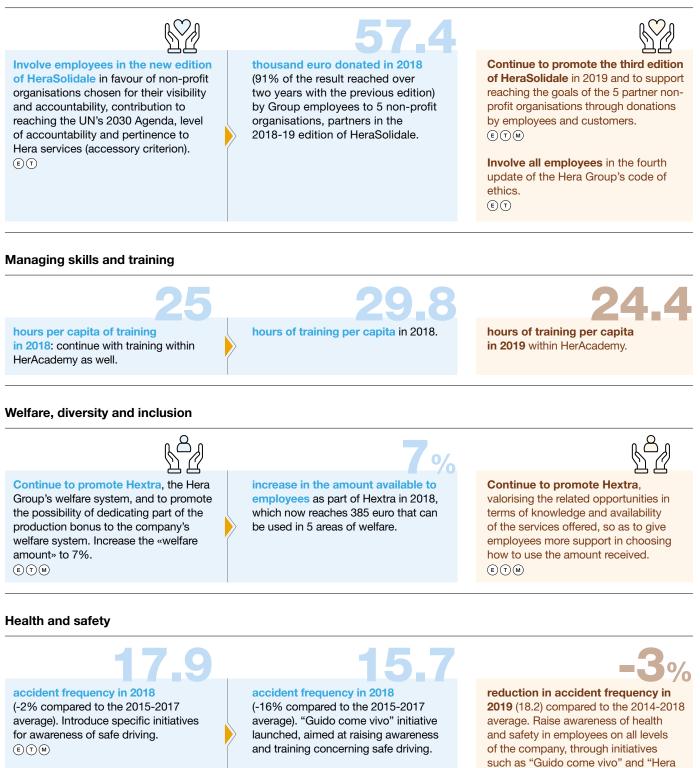
10th year of certification among the best working environments. Hera stood out for its new Hextra initiatives and for measures enhancing reconciliation between work and private life

what we said we would do ...

what we did...

what we will do...

Workers



Applicable local area of improvement measures

Other objectives, results and future targets at bs.gruppohera.it

cardioprotetta". E T M

75%

supplies with accident monitoring

Suppliers



93.5%

value of public tenders awarded by adopting the economically most advantageous bid method

21

suppliers

invited on average to participate in negotiated tendering procedures for open and transparent competition



of total tenders with the economically most advantageous bid method

32/100

average score assigned to sustainability in tender awards

Responsible tenders:

23 tenders included clauses safeguarding jobs. Clauses limiting discount percentages and authorising temporary outsourced work confirmed

Workplace conditions monitoring

20 audits of suppliers, of which 7 in their offices, 1 directly on-field and 12 in Hera work sites

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what we said we would do ...

what we did...

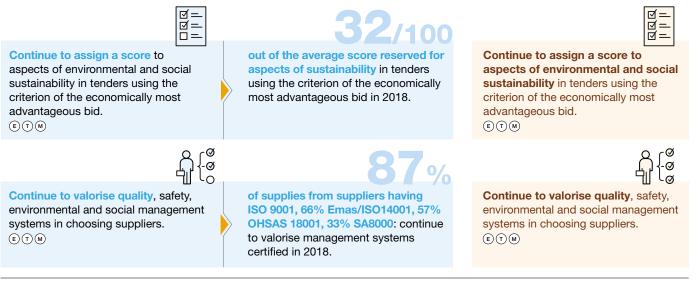
what we will do...

Suppliers

SA8000 certification: 90 additional evaluation questionnaires and 19 supplier audits (offices and work sites) in 2018. (E)

SA8000 audits at supplier offices and work sites and 90 evaluation questionnaires in 2018

Qualification selection and evaluation of suppliers



Contract management



Applicable local area of improvement measures Emilia-Romagna Triveneto
 Marche Multiservizi

Other objectives, results and future targets at bs.gruppohera.it

Hera Spa

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