Spain almost exclusively focused on its own SDG 14 activity, with a single story published about Asian countries not meeting its SDGs. Canadian sources published a mix of positive and negative stories about global SDG progress – they reported SDG activity within Europe highly negatively, while they published Canada’s own progress positively.

Among the coverage published within high-income countries, the U.S. and the U.K. were the leading sources of negative coverage aimed at low/middle-income countries. Sources in the U.S. primarily focused on SDG activity in other high-income countries such as Japan and Norway.

High-income countries that produced the least coverage on SDG 14 included Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Japan, Ireland and the United Arab Emirates. Conflicting reports were published within the U.A.E. about the Middle East’s SDG progress; Salaamgateway reported that the Middle East’s progress is ‘rough and uneven’, while The National reported that the University of Manchester in the U.A.E. ranked first for its commitment to sustainability, adding that ‘the Middle East fares well’.

U.N. reports heavily influenced how high-income countries reported SDG progress seen in low-income countries, as seen within articles regarding Asia-pacific published within the U.S., the U.K. and Italy.

A trend was identified where low/middle-income countries focused on the current state of the ocean and SDG 14, while high-income countries reported progressive solutions to accelerate SDG 14 progress, with a minimal focus on local and global SDG 14 progress.

Five percent of SDG 14 content was published by international tier one sources such as Europa Press, Abu Dhabi National and Cinco Dias. Spain, Colombia and the U.S. were the leading sources of tier one coverage.