# The local monitoring of the SDGs and the European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

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*High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*

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# Content

- Localisation of the SDGs
- The Voluntary Local Reviews as tools for localising the SDGs
- The European Handbook for the SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

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# What is the localisation the SDGs?

Defining, implementing and monitoring **strategies at the local level** for achieving global, national and subnational sustainable development goals and targets.

This involves concrete mechanisms, tools, innovations, platforms and processes to effectively **translate the development agenda into results at the local level.**

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# Who localise the SDGs?

Local governments

Academia

Civil society

Private sector

Religious organizations

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# Why the SDG local monitoring?

- To highlight successes and gaps
- To inform decisions using evidences
- To benchmark and peer-to-peer learning
- To be part of global community

# The SDG Reporting system

- Global system
- 231 indicators for all targets
- Designed at country level
- Reporting periodically to the UN General Assembly

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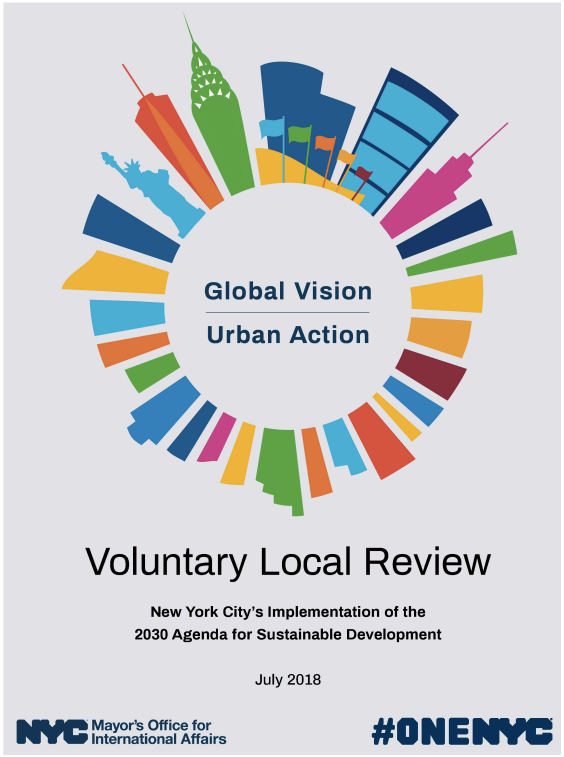
# The first Voluntary Local Reviews

## New York City (USA) - 2018




## Basque County (Spain) - 2017

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# Localise the SDGs using a VLR

- **Internal benefits for the city** (hidden connections, common framework, link between priority and data, sustainable networks, leave no one behind)
- **External benefits at local scale** (transparent accountability, new cross-sectoral partnerships, building leadership)
- **External benefits at global scale** (engagement in the global community, city leaders on the world stage, elevate city priorities to the global conversation).

*Source: (Deininger et al. 2019)*

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# SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

- First 4 African Cities will present their VLRs to the HLPF 2020
- Europe is the region with most cities. New ones in 2020 (i.e. Germany, Finland, Spain)

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# From national to local systems - challenges

- Adapt to the regional and national context
- Designed to address the local level (subnational and urban)
- Limited number of indicators
- The goal is to illustrate the local actions and achievements

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# Reference materials

**Official guidelines**

- VNR guidelines
- VLRs guidelines (Under preparation)

**VLR examples**

- New York City
- Bristol
- Helsinki
- Los Angeles
- Japanese cities
- ….

**Networks plus others**

- UCLG
- SDSN
- …

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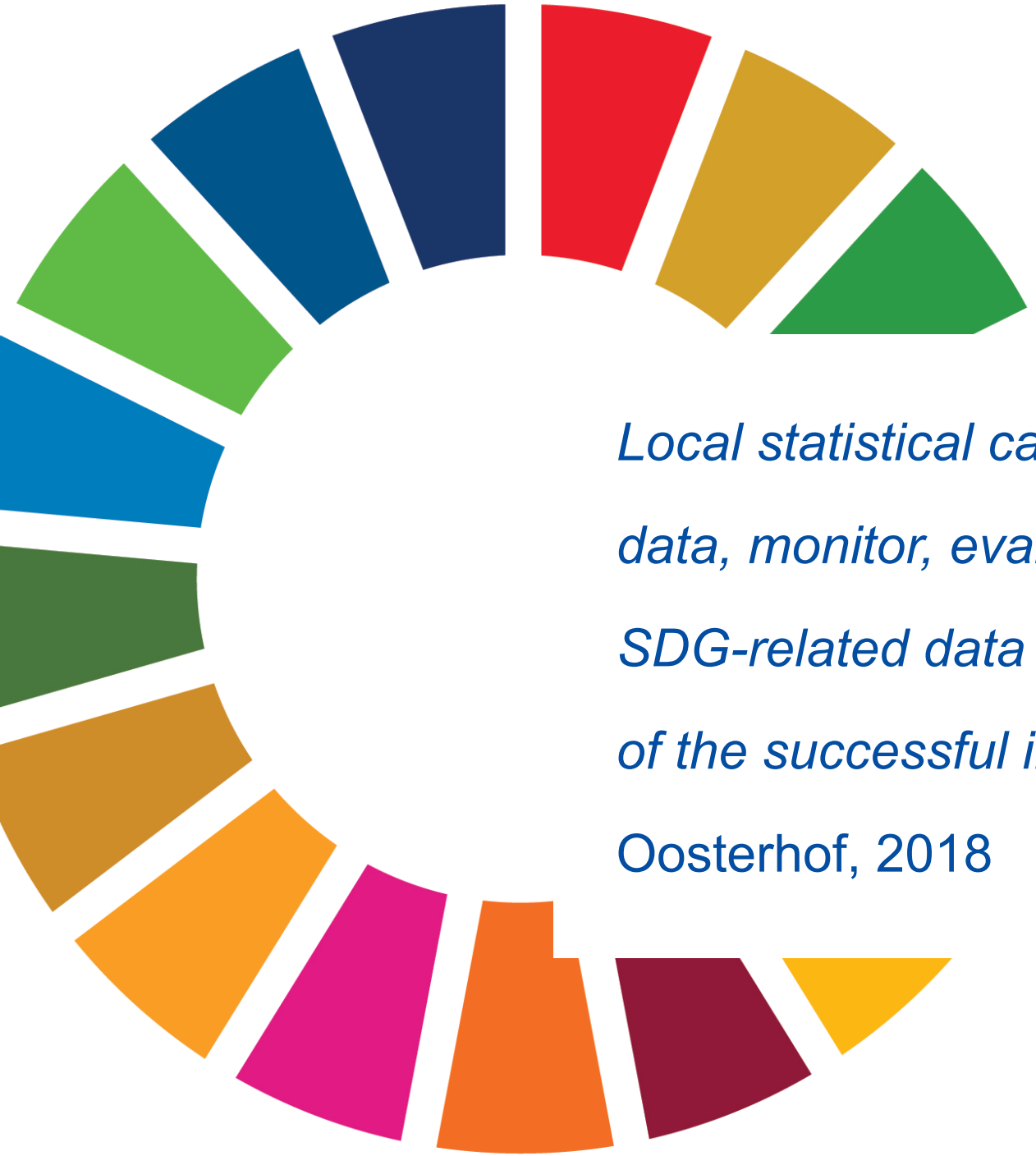
# Why SDG indicators do not work for cities?

**Global Indicator Framework for the SDGs**

- National averages
- Hide inequalities
- Cannot represent the area of competence of local governments

**EU SDG Indicator Set**

- National averages
- Adapted to the European context



*Local statistical capacities to collect data, monitor, evaluate, and engage in national SDG-related data efforts are critical elements of the successful implementation of the SDGs*

Oosterhof, 2018

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# European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

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2020

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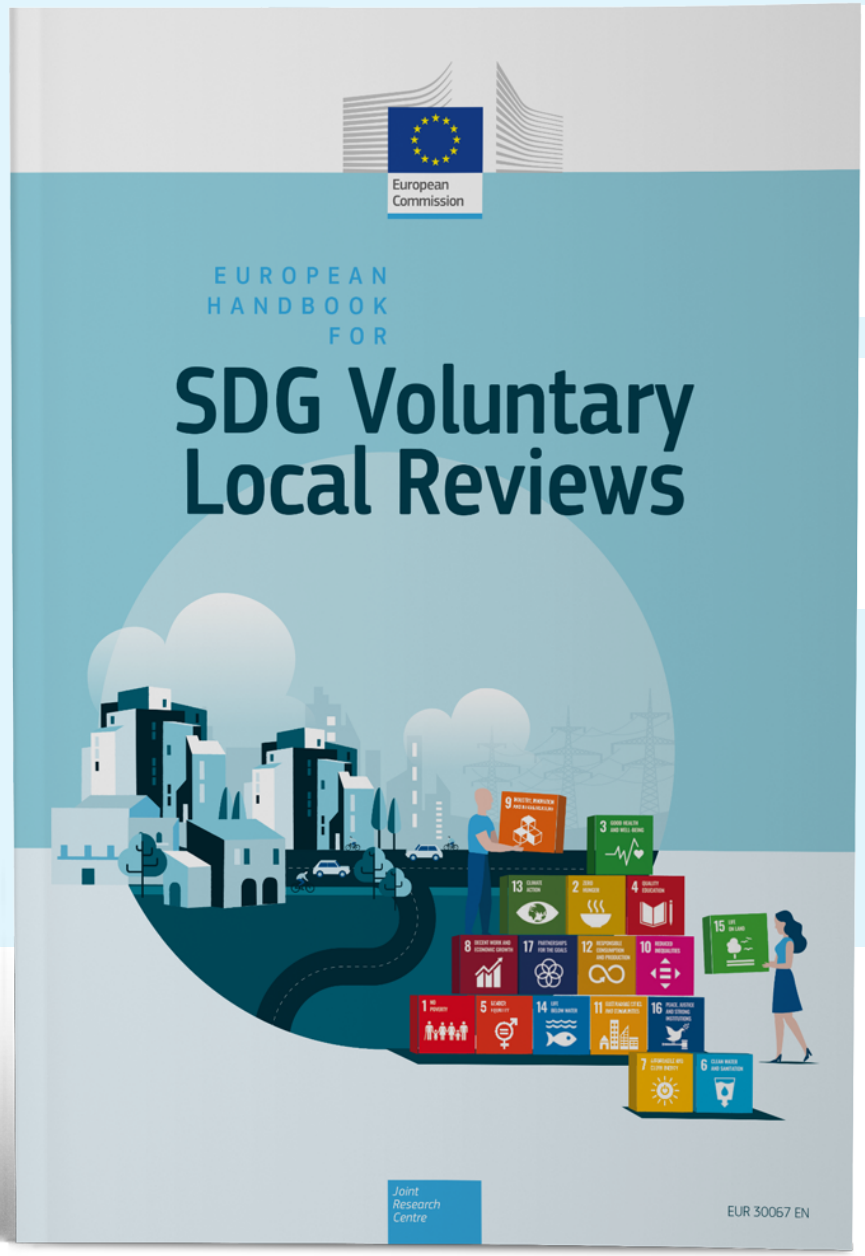


**It was launched** in **February 2020** at the **WUF10**

**Downloads:**
**More than 4,000 times**

AVAILABLE AT
https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sdgs

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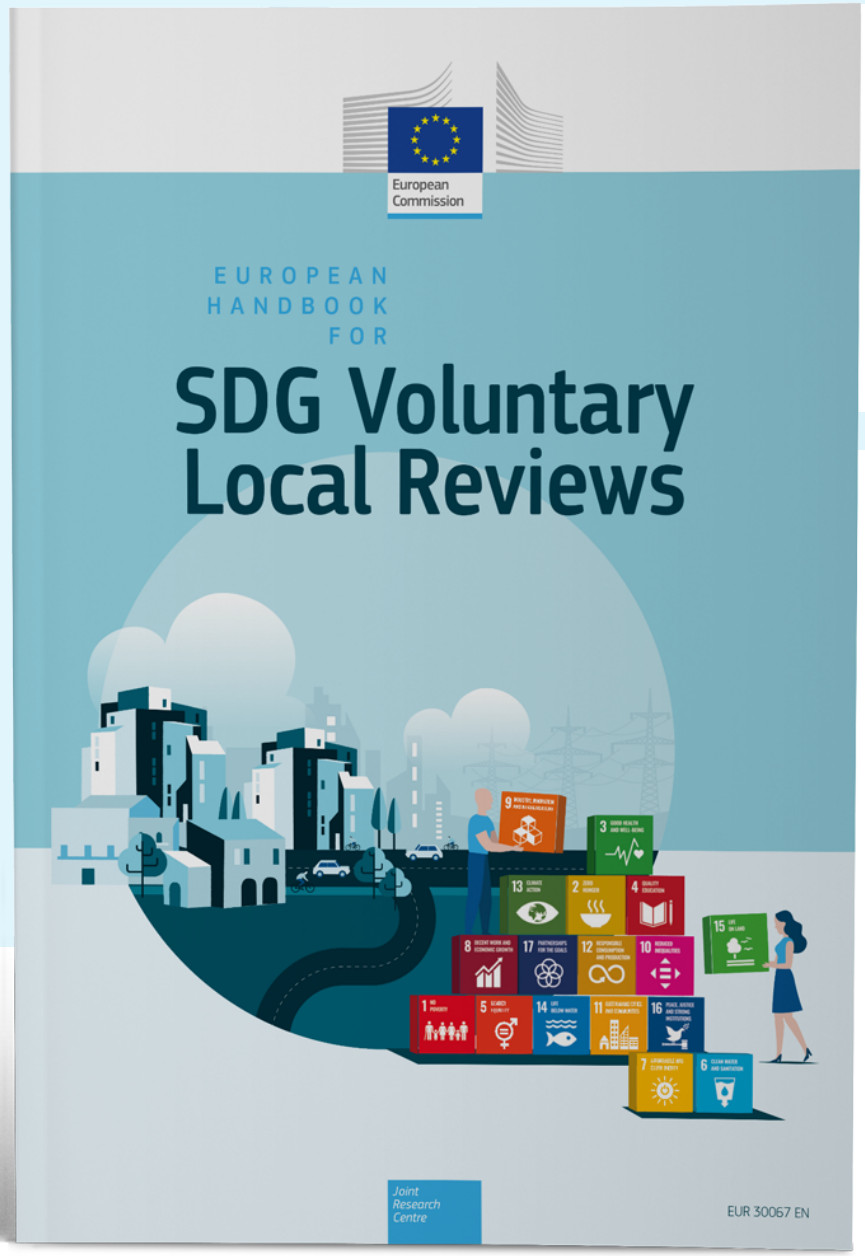


**It supports to European cities** willing to prepare their **SDG Local Voluntary Reviews**

**It offers a framework for the selection of appropriate indicators** to tailor the reviews to local context and to ensure comparability among cities.

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# Content and target audience

CONTENT

Overview of methods and INDICATORS

TARGET

European Local and sub-national authorities

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Part 1

The **Voluntary Local Reviews**

Navigating the **SDG monitoring systems**

**Data challenges** for local authorities

**Main components** of the VLRs

**Methodology** for the selection of the indicators

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# INDICATORS

Example of indicators for all 17 SDGs

Part 2

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Part 3

**Local governments** measuring the SDGs

How to **integrate** the SDG **monitoring** and the **strategic plans**

Some considerations on VLR **methods** and **comparability**

Ways forward

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# Ongoing activities

- **Work with cities** (Trainings, peer-to-peer learning)
- Organise/participate **expert group meetings and trainings**
- **Cooperate with external partners** (CEMR, UCLG, UNDESA, UNDP, OECD)

**2nd European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews** (2022 edition)

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# Thank you

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