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

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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
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.
Who localise the SDGs?

Local governments, Academia, Civil society, Private sector, Religious organizations
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
The first Voluntary Local Reviews

New York City (USA) - 2018

Basque County (Spain) - 2017
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)*
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)
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
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
• …
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
It was launched in February 2020 at the WUF10

Downloads:
More than 4,000 times

Available at
https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sdgs
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.
Content and target audience

**CONTENT**
- Overview of methods and INDICATORS

**TARGET**
- European Local and sub-national authorities
Part 2

URBAN INDICATORS FOR THE SDGs IN EUROPE

INDICATORS

Example of indicators for all 17 SDGs
Local governments measuring the SDGs

How to integrate the SDG monitoring and the strategic plans

Some considerations on VLR methods and comparability

Ways forward
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)
Thank you

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