



# Examples of integrating SDGs into strategies in Europe

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*Local work on the Sustainable Development Goals in UBC Cities part II*

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# JRC mission

JRC is the science and knowledge service of the European Commission

Its mission is to **support EU policies with independent evidence** throughout the whole policy cycle



# Content of the presentation

- The **Localisation** of the SDGs
- **Examples** of integrating SDGs into local strategies in Europe
- **Challenges and opportunities**

# The Localisation of the SDGs

# What is the localisation of the SDGs?



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

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

# Who localises the SDGs?



Local governments



Academia and research institutions



Civil society



Private sector



Religious and community organizations

# Integrating the SDGs into local strategies

Examples in Europe

SDG awareness raising		SDG mapping	SDG Voluntary Local Review	Full alignment of the SDGs into the strategic plans
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication campaigns</li> <li>• Citizens engagement</li> <li>• Pilot actions</li> </ul>	<p>Mapping of the city plan's priorities vs the SDGs</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The city highlights the actions/programs that contribute to one or more SDGs</p>	<p>The city measures the achievement of the SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All SDGs</li> <li>• Under-review at the HLPF</li> <li>• Priority SDGs</li> </ul>	<p>The 2030 Agenda is fully integrated into the definition of the strategic plan and it is used as a framework for the identification of priorities, actions and monitoring actions.</p>
Stakeholders	Local administration + Target groups	Local administration	Local administration + Statistical office + Consultants + Others	All stakeholders usually involved in the planning process + additional linked to the SDGs
Resources	Limited	Limited – internal at the administration	Limited - Depending on VLR management method	Extensive
Timeframe (Indicative)	----	6 months - 1 year	± 1 years	18 months - 2 years



# SDG awareness raising – VVSG Association of Flemish local authorities

- *Collect and disseminate good practices e.g. with regard to **sensitization of personnel and politicians of local authorities, awareness raising amongst citizens***
- *Develop an awareness raising campaign with the pilot municipalities to make the SDGs more visible within Flanders/Belgium and to attract media attention.*

## SDG-materiaal

Op deze pagina vind je publicaties en visueel materiaal terug die VVSG ter beschikking stelt. VVSG leent dit materiaal niet uit. De formats zijn wel beschikbaar zodat je gemakkelijk zelf het materiaal kan aanmaken.

Wens je extra informatie, aarzel zeker niet om ons te contacteren.



SDGs in een notendop



SDG-bingo



SDG-video



SDG-bierviltjes



SDG-publicaties



SDG-vlaggen



SDG-droomkaartje



SDG-cirkeloefening

# Mapping – Milan, Italy

- The municipality approved a council decision to map every budget chapter according to the SDG targets.
- The city elaborated several documents to assess the priority SDGs, with a participatory approach and the partnership with stakeholders



# Mapping – Gothenburg, Sweden

- The municipality commissioned an assessment of the SDGs in city plans to research consultants
- The report included:
  - analysis of the City's 2018 budget with regards to the SDGs
  - analysis of which SDG targets were relevant to the city (100 over 169)

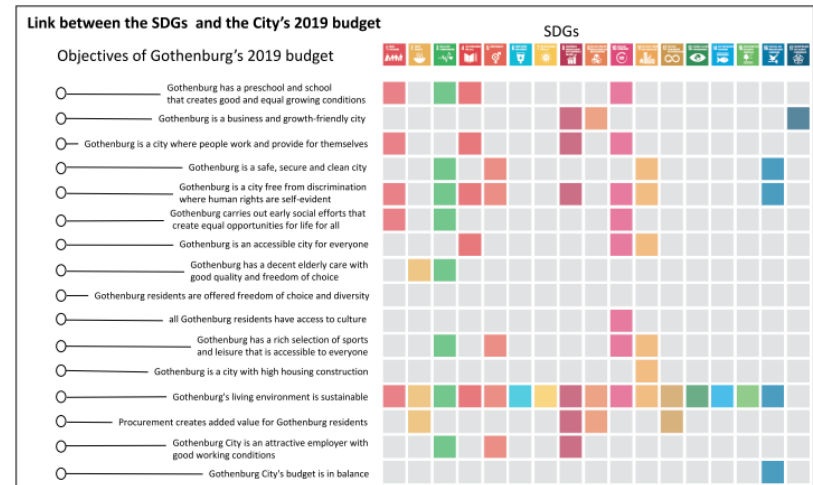


Figure 1. Mapping of Gothenburg City's 2019 budget to the SDGs  
Source: SLK A2030 Team analysis. Translated to English by author

# SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

## Official guidelines

**United Nations** Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Global Guiding Elements for Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) of SDG implementation

**Introduction**

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member States to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels, which are country-led and country-driven" (paragraph 79). As part of this review, starting in 2016, countries have presented their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.

Local and regional governments are increasingly engaging in their own subnational reviews, so called Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), which have proven useful for cities and regions to foster SDG localization and demonstrate local governments' capacity and commitments. Unlike the VNRs, local reviews do not directly have an official basis in the 2030 Agenda or other intergovernmental agreements, even though the 2030 Agenda underlines in several places the importance of governments working closely with regional and local authorities on its implementation. However, the process of undertaking these subnational reviews provides multiple benefits to the entities engaging in them and has the potential to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. While subnational reviews of 2030 Agenda implementation contribute to the attainment of the Goals in their own right and have intrinsic value as part of the implementation process, they can also contribute to the national-level Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and reinforce vertical coherence.

The critical role of local and regional actors was also highlighted by member States in the Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit<sup>1</sup> in which member States committed to empowering and supporting cities, local authorities and communities in pursuing the 2030 Agenda, and recognized their critical role in implementing and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The guiding elements outlined below provide a starting point for local and regional governments considering producing their own Voluntary Local Review and aim to give an overview of useful focus areas for the review process and the eventual report. As such, they are voluntary, as are the VLRs themselves, and they are not meant to be prescriptive nor restrictive. Given the variety of local and regional governments conducting reviews of their SDG implementation, these global guiding elements do not aim at addressing best practices for institutional arrangements, data collection or stakeholder engagement, but merely highlight areas that could be addressed in the process. Hence, the guiding elements aim at providing a low-threshold entry point to VLRs by showcasing a check list of issues that could be addressed. They aim at providing a framework that, building on the SDGs as the common language among all levels of government, enhances the dialogue between VNRs and VLRs and relevant actors at all levels.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SDG-Summit-2019-Political-Declaration.pdf> (A/RES/74/44), paragraph 27 (e), <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/4>

## VLR examples

**From Agenda to Action** Helsinki  
The Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Helsinki 2019

**BRISTOL AND THE SDGs**  
A VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS 2019

**LOS ANGELES**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
A VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN 2019

**Oaxaca 2030**  
Voluntary Subnational Review

## Networks

**Voluntary Local Reviews: A handbook for UK cities**  
Building on the Bristol experience

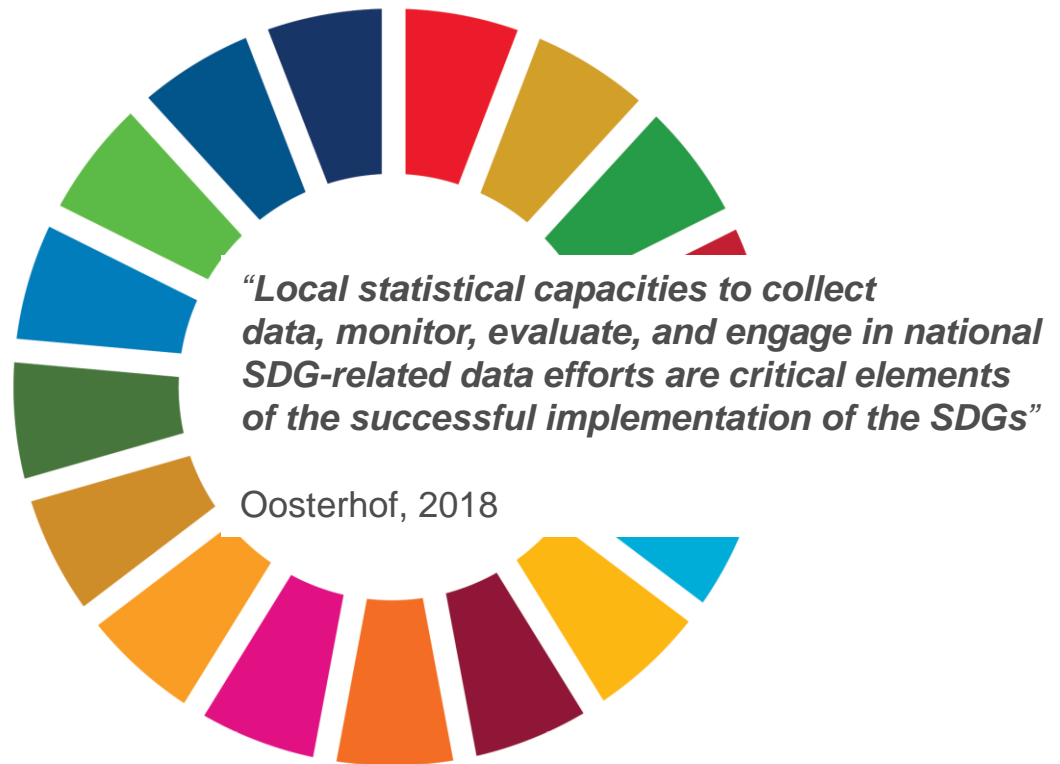
**Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities**  
A Guide for Stakeholders July 2016

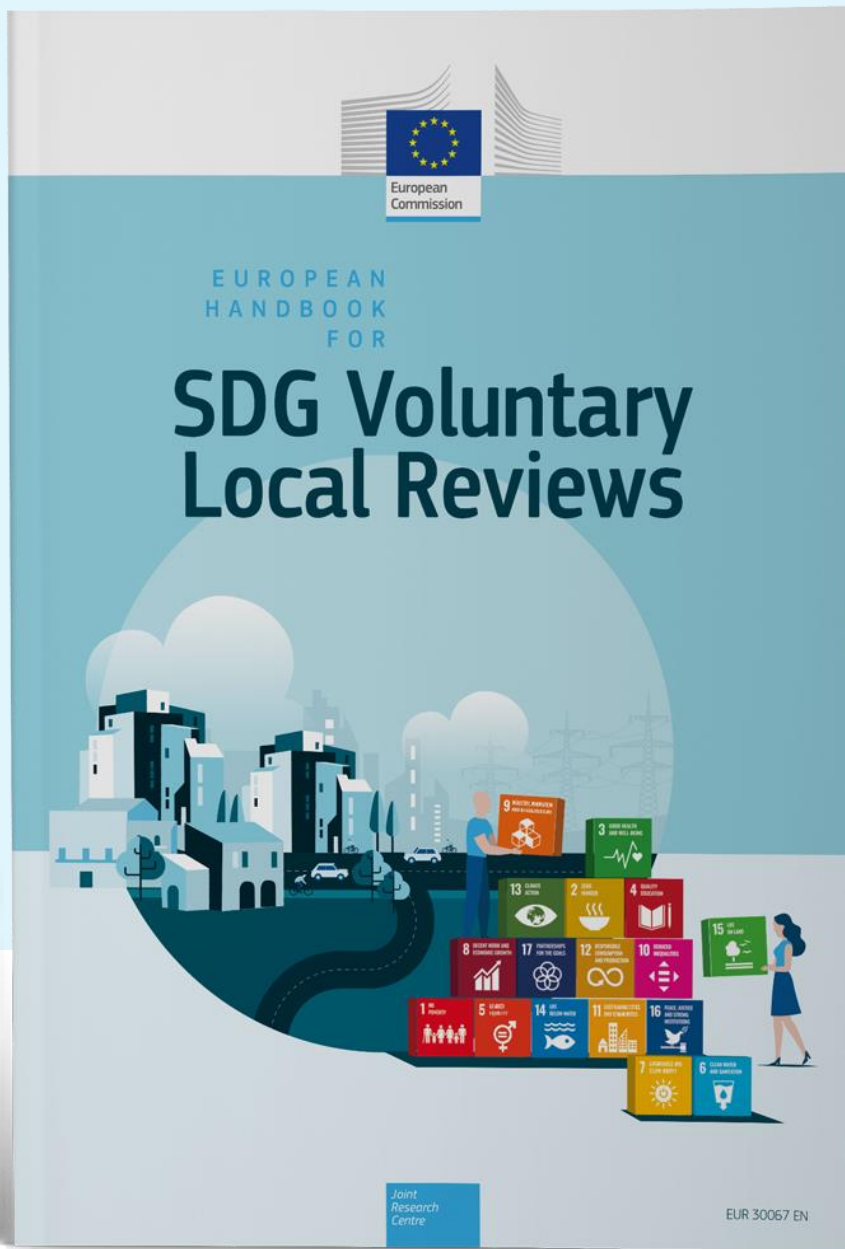
**MIRANDO HACIA EL FUTURO: CIUDADES SOSTENIBLES**  
Los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible en 100 ciudades españolas

# From national to local systems

- **Global system**
- Designed at **country level**

A Voluntary Local Review is a **tool** that **allows cities to assess the achievement of the 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.

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



# Full alignment of the SDGs into the strategic plans – Reggio Emilia, Italy

The city started to elaborate the new strategic planned in 2019:

- SDG oriented assessment
- SDG clustering in main transitions
- Re conceptualization of development concept
- Definition of Missions



## Key characteristics:

- Community based process
- Participation of citizens
- Training / awareness raising process
- True commitment/ shared roles of local community

# Challenges and opportunities



# Local activities on SDGs

## Awareness raising

Awareness of all city departments  
Involvement of citizens

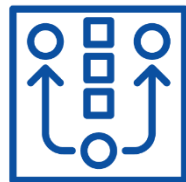
## Mapping

Endogenous process of identification of areas of competence  
Participation of all city departments

## Voluntary Local Review

Enhance for city accountability and transparency  
Engagement in a global movement  
Peer-to-peer learning

Full alignment of the SDGs into the strategic plan



# Challenges

- Dedicated **resources**
- **Clear link** to the national or sub-national level
- **Translation** of global or national priorities into the local context
- **Legal** framework

# Thank you

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