

European territories localise the SDGs: Making this the Decade of Action

Annex with examples

This list of examples complements the [CEMR PLATFORMA 2023 SDG report](#)

July 2023

The [CEMR PLATFORMA 2023 SDG report](#) is based on a survey carried out jointly by CEMR, PLATFORMA and [UCLG](#), which coordinated with all its regional sections to produce a parallel global report. The 2023 edition of this annual survey was disseminated in February to CEMR's members and PLATFORMA's partners. The purpose was to compile the most recent information on how and to what extent LRGAs and analogous networks were engaged in localising the SDGs, both in Europe and with their counterparts further afield. This information is all the more precious amidst the context of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine. The 2023 survey therefore included questions pertaining to SDG implementation since 2015, recovery from the impact of the pandemic and the current energy crisis. The last two sections also contained additional questions regarding key challenges and existent opportunities for accelerated actions to boost sustainable development and decentralised cooperation. We received **41 responses** to the survey **from 29 countries (26 local and regional government associations from the EU and 15 from non-EU Member States)**. To complement our SDG report, we are including **190 case examples** provided by our associations¹ in this annex.



¹ The examples presented are for informational purposes and the Associations retain direct responsibility for the content provided. Responses may have been edited however in the interests of clarity and/or uniformity.

CEMR & PLATFORMA

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the oldest and broadest European association of local and regional governments. It is the only organisation that brings together the national associations of local and regional governments from 40 European countries and represents, through them, all levels of territories – local, intermediate and regional. Since its creation in 1951, CEMR promotes the construction of a united, peaceful and democratic Europe founded on local self-government, respect for the principle of subsidiarity and the participation of citizens. CEMR is also the European Section of the world organisation, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), through which it represents European local and regional governments on the international stage.

PLATFORMA is the pan-European coalition of towns and regions and their associations active in city-to-city and region-to-region development cooperation at the national, European and global levels. All of them are key players in international cooperation for sustainable development. PLATFORMA acts as a hub of expertise for European local and regional governments' international actions and works to boost European local and regional governments' contributions to EU development cooperation policies and international frameworks. PLATFORMA is an externally funded action (by the Directorate General DG INTPA of the European Commission) led by CEMR. A new framework partnership agreement was signed in 2022 between CEMR and DG INTPA.

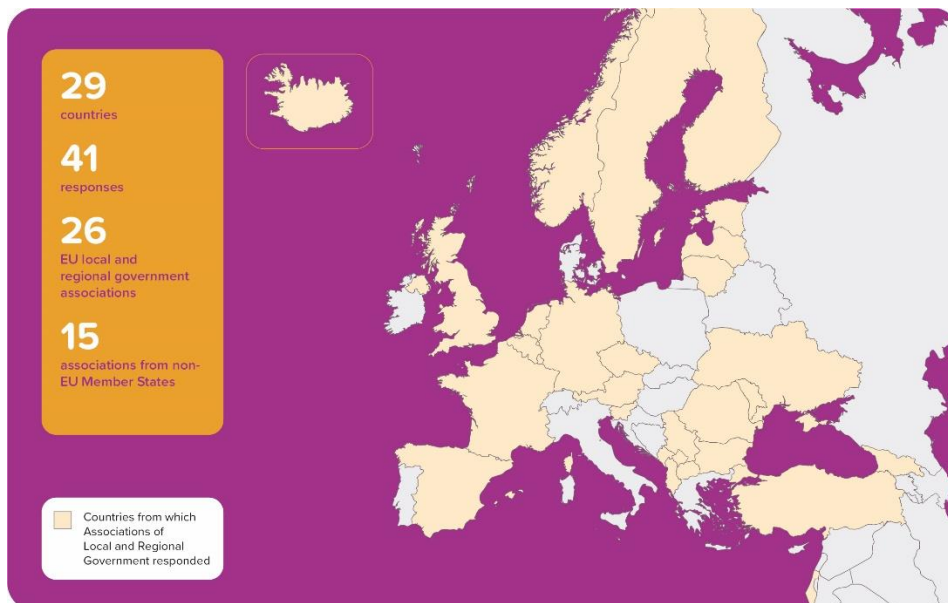
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LIST OF RESPONDENTS

Respondents: 41 responses to the survey received from members of CEMR and partners of PLATFORMA representing 29 countries (26 Associations of LRGs from the EU and 15 from non-EU Member States):

Countries from which Associations of Local and Regional Government responded



Associations:

Associations: **Albania:** Association for Local Autonomy of Albania (AAM); **Austria:** Austrian Association of Cities and Towns (AACT); **Belgium:** Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (Brulocalis); Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG); Union of Cities and Municipalities of Wallonia (UVCW); **Bulgaria:** National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB); **Czech Republic:** Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic (SMOČR); **Estonia:** Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities (AECM); **Finland:** Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (AFLRA); **France:** French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AFCCRE); Cités Unies France (CUF); **Georgia:** National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG); **Germany:** Association of German Cities (DST); German County Association (Deutscher Landkreistag – DLT); **Iceland:** Association of Local Authorities in Iceland (SAMBAND); **Israel:** Federation of Local Authorities in Israel (Masham); **Kosovo:** Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM); **Latvia:** Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG); **Lithuania:** Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (LSA); **Luxembourg:** Association of Luxembourg Cities and Municipalities (SYVICOL); **Moldova:** Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CALM); **Montenegro:** Union of Municipalities of Montenegro (UOM); **The Netherlands:** Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), National Town-Twinning Council Netherlands-Nicaragua (LBSNN); **North Macedonia:** Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS); Association of the Units of Local Self-Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (ZELS); **Norway:** Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS); **Romania:** Association of Communes of Romania (ACOR); **Serbia:** Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SKGO); **Slovenia:** Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia (ZMOS-SI); **Spain:** eLankidetza-Basque Government Agency for Development Cooperation and Euskal Fonda/Basque Local Authorities Cooperation Fund (EUSKADI); Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP); Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL); Andalusian Municipal Fund for International Solidarity (FAMSI); Majorcan Fund for Solidarity and Cooperation; Barcelona Provincial Council (DIBA); **Sweden:** Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR); **Turkey:** Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU); **Ukraine:** Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC); **United Kingdom:** Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA); Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA).

LIST OF CASE EXAMPLES PROVIDED BY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

1. SDG awareness-raising actions developed in different territories (communications, conferences, events, joint declarations, festivals, awards, SDG champions, training...) and the role of associations
2. Local and regional associations' efforts to recover from the crisis through SDG 11 implementation and their role in its achievement
3. Actions/projects implemented by LRGAs to tackle the current energy crisis
4. SDG indicator system, role of other stakeholders and data collection
5. LRGAs' strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
6. LRGAs' SDG coordinator
7. LRGAs' contribution to the development of Voluntary National Reviews
8. Changes in LRGAs' participation in VNR production: progress and setbacks
9. Involvement of SDG representatives in national governments' institutional mechanisms for coordinating SDG implementation
10. Developments regarding LRG/LGA involvement in national coordination mechanisms
11. Biggest challenges in implementing SDGs and other global agendas
12. Benefits from local and regional governments' efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals and implement global agendas

- 13. Organisations' management of the international dimension of the global goals
- 14. The impact of the SDG framework on organisations' international partnerships
- 15. Specific activities set up by LRGAs to support non-EU partners in localising SDGs
- 16. Knowledge of EU organisations' non-European partners about SDGs
- 17. Knowledge of non-EU partners about SDGs

Additional general examples from the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities project (www.rfsc.eu) have also been included.

1. SDG awareness-raising actions developed in different territories (communications, conferences, events, joint declarations, festivals, awards, SDG champions, training...) and the role of associations

Albania: Every project that involves the Association is related to SDGs. Depending on the project, actions have consisted mainly of putting together or providing support for the organisation of training, seminars, workshops and peer-to-peer exchanges involving the participation of civil society, private sector, academia, representatives from local and central institutions, LRG members, etc. In addition, documents such as local action plans, reports, white papers, etc. have been produced.

Austria: AACT: 1) Actions: Two member surveys on the localising of SDGs (in 2017 and 2021) were conducted to get an overview of the status quo, progress, challenges, needs and potential regarding the implementation of the SDGs at the local level. Training for LGs to better localise the SDGs (SDG Labs) is offered. AACT also worked with the KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research to develop an electronic platform on sustainable development for LGs ("Kommunale Nachhaltigkeit" platform) for networking, information and good practice exchange along with helpful tools for localising the SDGs. Furthermore, AACT is a cooperation partner of the annual SDG conference organised by the Austrian Climate Ministry in cooperation with the states (Länder). 2) Role: Funder and co-organiser. 3) Stakeholders: LGs (members), private sector, civil society organisations. 4) Results: The SDGs are well-known among the Association's members. However, the alignment of members' daily work with the SDGs is still very heterogeneous and monitoring remains an exception rather than the norm.

Belgium: Union des villes et des communes de Wallonie: Communication, conferences, and information actions have been carried out by UVCW, but not with the necessary and desirable scope and frequency. The lack of support from national governments has been problematic in this respect.

Belgium: Brulocalis: An information brochure on the SDGs was published for Brussels municipalities.

Belgium: VVSG: A Sustainable Municipality Week has been organised yearly since 2018. In 2022, 110 out of 300 local governments actively took part and many other governments and organisations in Belgium raised the SDG flag for this occasion as well. For the first time, this campaign week was also organised in 2022 in the southern hemisphere, in Tarija (Bolivia), the partner municipality of the Flemish municipality of Brasschaat. In total, more than half of Belgium's local governments have participated over the years. Sustainable Municipality Week is a format readily accessible to LGs for raising SDG awareness by spotlighting local heroes for global goals:

citizens, organisations, schools and businesses who, in their daily life or work, contribute to sustainability. In 2022, the focus was on 'Leave No One Behind'. To inspire and support other associations or organisations, VVSG has developed a methodology laid out in a campaign week guide available in Dutch, English, French and Spanish:

https://www.vvsg.be/Leden/Internationaal/week_van_de_duurzame_gemeente/inspiratienota_WDG_ENG_jan2023.pdf.

An SDG academy for local governments provides information and working sessions for municipalities. VVSG places important emphasis on integrating the SDGs into existing policy processes. In 2022, an SDG check for local projects was developed. This self-assessment tool allows local governments to assess their project with respect to the 17 SDGs and the 3 basic principles of the 2030 Agenda (interlinkages, Leave No One Behind, multi-stakeholder partnerships). The tool also includes suggestions to improve the project and generates a visual result that can be incorporated into project worksheets and documents for the city council. In 2022, the VVSG also published an inspirational guide to integrate SDG monitoring into local policy processes (guide available online [here](#)). In 2024, local elections will take place and a new multi-annual strategic plan is to be developed in each municipality. VVSG will update its materials and organise information sessions and workshops on the different stages in the policy cycle (context analysis, local party manifestos, coalition agreements, multi-annual policy plans). In 2023, VVSG will start up SDG partnerships. Given that fewer and fewer Flemish local governments commit themselves to a structural town twinning, which is considered administratively burdensome, VVSG wants to identify, share and facilitate alternative and more accessible forms of international cooperation. Specifically, it wishes to experiment with 'SDG partnerships' during the 2022-2026 period and introduce it in eight test cases (four in Benin and four in Rwanda). These partnerships will focus on joint contributions to the 2030 Agenda and will mainly build on colleague-to-colleague exchanges, taking extra care to ensure the learning process remains visible in both municipalities. By working intensively and thematically with a select group of peers, we anticipate that the SDG partnerships will produce local ambassadors for international cooperation and, in a few cases, may even prove to be a stepping stone for long-term international cooperation.

Estonia: The Association has been directly involved in the process of implementing the European Green Deal at local government level.

France: **Cités Unies France: CUF** set up a training/action initiative involving local authorities and their foreign partners. The aim of this work was to incorporate the SDG reference framework into their decentralised cooperation. This approach has made it possible to rebuild political dialogue between local government officials and to define new paths of cooperation centred around the SDGs. Cités Unies France also advocates for SDGs through UCLG and its participation in the HLPF.

Iceland: Regular meetings with municipalities have been held since 2019 to raise awareness and competences related to the SDGs and a special six-month support programme was introduced in 2021-2022 for interested municipalities (almost half of the country's municipalities participated). The main goal of the Icelandic VSR will be to get more municipalities interested in SDG localisation.

Israel: Local government leaders were part of the national delegation to COP 26 and COP 27. The topic of SDGs was highlighted as one of the central issues at the Association's MUNIWORLD 2022 International Conference for Local and Urban Innovation.

The Netherlands: **National Town Twinning Council Netherlands-Nicaragua (LBSNN):** 1) As an

umbrella organisation of several local authorities, LBSNN promotes, subsidises and co-organises well-attended established public events, introducing SDG-themed connections. For example, a running competition with more than 10 000 participants in Tilburg (the seventh largest city in Holland) was rechristened 'Tilburg Ten Miles: a run to 17 global goals'. Every runner sports a Tilburg4globalgoals event logo on their bib and receives an information flyer. Each athlete who completes the course, running past 17 SDG banner 'goalposts' receives a medal with the event logo. At the finish line on 'Tilburg4globalgoals Boulevard', more than 20 local organisations representing the public/private sector, civil society, educational institutions, etc. then present their actions on behalf of SDGs. It is considered a successful example of how to reach a wider public (in the case of Tilburg, more than 85 000 people) who may be completely unfamiliar with SDGs. Plans are already underway to replicate this cooperation every year and to help spread it to other municipalities and events. 2) LBSNN also works with LGs to organise 'world citizenship' projects in primary, secondary and sometimes vocational schools. The project makes use of a storyteller in a village in Nicaragua to get students and children actively engaged in thinking about SDGs and the role they can play. The project result is then publicised by local officials and the news media. LBSNN finances and organises it along with the local authority and organisations and encourages the involvement of parents and the neighbourhood. The tangible results give positive feedback to the kids who learn by doing! Another programme that LBSNN works on raises SDG awareness indirectly by incorporating the concept into curricula, training educators and coordinating among schools and local stakeholders to get them to take part in SDG-related projects that are developed upon request by schools instead of the reverse, as was the case previously.

The Netherlands: **VNG International's** annual calendar includes four key actions to raise SDG awareness, which are carried out in conjunction with their regularly scheduled activities organised nationwide. They include the Global Goals Meetup (an event open to all members consisting of workshops, field trips, knowledge-sharing); the Most Inspiring Global Goals Municipality Election; SDG Flag Day (a symbolic event at which sustainably produced SDG flags are hoisted by our municipalities to raise awareness); SDG Action Day (a big national event for all stakeholders, jointly organised by a steering committee). Other SDG-related congresses and events are periodically held for mayors and aldermen.

North Macedonia: **Association of the Units of Local Self-Government of the Republic of North Macedonia:** successfully advocates for the interests of municipalities in a way that preserves their key position in the dialogue and cooperation between the central government and municipalities. As laid out in our strategic plan and annual programme, most of our goals are linked to the fulfilment of the SDG goals. Our organisation has been very active, especially in the following fields: gender equality and providing gender-responsive budgeting, social inclusion, improving the quality of education, environmental protection, energy efficiency. Actions have mainly consisted of lobbying, advocacy, capacity-building activities and the development of concrete projects and intervention.

North Macedonia: **Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe: NALAS** took part in various projects as a strategic regional partner of the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in the Western Balkans: Regional Learning for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in South East Europe (July 2020 until the end of 2021); Promotion and scaling up of models for the inclusion of minorities and other vulnerable groups in the Western Balkans (April to December 2021); Enhancing local capacities to implement the 2030 Agenda and the "Leave No One Behind" Principle (10 December 2019 to 10 June 2022); Regional cooperation for better social inclusion at local level (December 2022 to November 2025).

NALAS' role: principal implementer. Main stakeholders: NALAS, member LGAs from five Western Balkan countries, NGOs, civil society.

Results: The Social Mapping Reports identified the needs of vulnerable groups and contained recommendations for all relevant stakeholders for an appropriate community response to meet these needs. Certain projects have contributed to increasing public awareness of the real needs of marginalised groups and fostering the inclusion process of vulnerable groups, as reflected in social protection policies at local level.

National events (National Conference and High-Level Forum) provided an opportunity to promote local governments as active stakeholders in the field of social protection as well as to enhance vertical cooperation in the exchange of data on vulnerable groups. Municipalities involved in capacity-building activities seized the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and learn good practices on how to apply social approaches and tools for diversity management. NALAS' members took steps to motivate and encourage municipal staff to take an active role in promoting minority rights, addressing their needs in local policies and thus contributing towards more inclusive and cohesive communities where no one and no space is left behind.

LRGAs, in close cooperation with their members and local partners, have been working not only to enhance their own institutional capacities, but also so that they may systematically integrate the economic, social and cultural human rights issues in their programmes and budgets. NALAS' member associations have expressed a very strong interest and commitment to introducing social affairs as part of their agendas. All these projects will contribute to the development of the associations' capacities, both in terms of human resources and training system capabilities in fostering the social inclusion of vulnerable groups in line with the overarching LNOB principle of the 2030 Agenda.

Norway: **KS** coordinates, together with the national Sustainability Network, monthly webinars on SDG-related topics. KS develops SDG e-learning modules, tools, and methods for SDG implementation. Social media is used to share SDG progress and activities among LRGs. The SDGs are an important part of our events and conferences, both at the national and regional level. Working together with the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO), the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) and other labour organisations, KS has developed a national sustainability pledge to reinforce the progress on fulfilling the 2030 Agenda. This cooperation strengthens the regional SDG collaborative work and boosts innovative solutions. KS is also working actively with our Nordic sister associations, as well as the Nordic research institution, Nordregio, to develop a joint Nordic VSR.

Slovenia: **ZMOS-SI** disseminated information regarding SDGs as a reference point for the development of sustainable urban development strategies, which were adopted by each of their member cities. At various events co-organised by the Association, such as the Urban Forum, there was a heavy emphasis on sustainable development and SDG 11 was often mentioned.

Spain: **The Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI)** has grouped together all its activities linked to events/projects/actions promoting SDGs on this website: <https://odslocalandalucia.org/>

Spain: **Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias (FEMP):** Meetings, training courses and open workshops have been developed by FEMP.

Spain: **Association of Basque Municipalities: EUDEL** has organised and promoted various awareness-raising activities, such as information campaigns, workshops and training activities for

elected officials and public employees. As part of Basque municipalities' contribution to the 2030 Agenda and the work on SDGs, EUDEL has consolidated two experiences that continue to attract more Basque municipalities as they develop:

- The ELoGE Label of Excellence in Governance (<https://eloge.eudel.eus/>) has been awarded to EUDEL as a regional platform accredited by the Council of Europe. It is thereby responsible for implementing a common methodology established by the Council of Europe, adapted to the Basque reality, and in which EUDEL has incorporated the perspective of the SDGs. Specifically, the label signifies that a local government has attained the highest overall level (institution, organisation and management) according to the Council of Europe's 12 principles of good governance. This initiative has made inroads, particularly regarding SDG 16 and, building on this, EUDEL undertook the task in 2022 of matching each of the 12 principles to the SDGs.
- Udalsarea 2030. EUDEL has signed a collaboration agreement with Udalsarea 2030, the Basque Network of sustainable municipalities coordinated by Ihobe, Society of the Basque Government, with the support of all Basque institutions. From its start 20 years ago, this network has been working on the development of the Local Action Strategy for Climate and Energy. It has now embarked on a new journey as a platform to achieve the implementation of Local 2030 Agendas. Plans are underway for an ambitious citizen and social awareness-raising initiative to be developed through coordination among the Basque Country municipalities once the new governmental teams have been instituted following the May 2023 municipal elections.

Spain: Diputación de Barcelona (DIBA): The Barcelona Provincial Council has various instruments at its disposal to raise awareness, train people and disseminate information regarding the SDGs, both directly as well as by supporting the 311 municipalities that form part of the province of Barcelona. Financial and technical support for the 311 municipalities in the province of Barcelona has taken on many different forms:

- Catalogue of Services 2021-2023 of the Barcelona Provincial Council: This catalogue offers economic, technical and material resources to local authorities in the province of Barcelona so that they can, either autonomously or with the Council's support, develop their strategies for implementing the 2030 Agenda, consisting predominantly of work related to awareness-raising and dissemination of the SDGs.
- Awareness-raising material: The Provincial Council provides the 311 municipalities of Barcelona with a set of SDG cubes (consisting of 19 SDG cardboard cubes (47cm x 47cm)), along with two information posters on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This material is given to the municipalities upon request so that they can be used in their awareness-raising, training and communication actions.
- Production of a video on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs that presents, in a succinct and dynamic manner, the Barcelona Provincial Council's actions in this area and the important role of local authorities in promoting sustainable development and achieving the SDGs.
- DIBA also manages an SDG-specific website, which received more than 59 000 visits in 2022.
- Various publications have been produced to ensure municipalities have access to the information and tools needed to implement the 2030 Agenda.
- A guide promoting the SDGs as a cross-cutting agenda to align local reconstruction policies in the wake of the pandemic was also developed.
- A practical guide on making the 2030 Agenda a reality at local level that focuses on a local context for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is also available.

Training: Various training courses on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are offered at different levels, aimed primarily at Provincial Council staff and local authorities in the province. This training is offered through DIBA's Training Action Bank (BAF) and can be conducted online or in person. In 2022, 26 courses were organised and 441 technicians from the provincial municipalities received training; but if the 2020, 2021 and 2022 legislatures are counted as well, a total of 48

courses were held and 848 people from 102 local entities in the province have participated. More recently, the Barcelona Provincial Council and UCLG have been promoting their fourth online course "Localising the Sustainable Development Goals: Tools for local transformation". This course is primarily aimed at technical and political decision-makers whose area of work touches on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and is offered to local governments worldwide, which is why it is taught simultaneously in English, French and Spanish. In 2022, 40 people participated. Conference: DIBA, in collaboration with FEMP, organised the "Municipal Leadership with the 2030 Agenda" conference, which took place on 14-16 November 2022, with more than 250 local entities from all over Spain taking part.

Internal DIBA actions: To commemorate the seventh anniversary of the 2030 Agenda's adoption, an internal communication campaign titled "Passa a l'Acci-ODS" (a play on words in Catalan) was carried out the week of 21 September 2022 to raise awareness among DIBA's employees. Activities included distributing awareness-raising material in all the DIBA buildings, having DIBA employees play a quiz game, organising events and disseminating news and information structured around the 5 Ps of the 2030 Agenda throughout the week.

Spain: **Fons Mallorquí de Cooperació i Solidaritat** organised the campaign "Compromesos amb l'Agenda 2030" which comprised: 2030 Agenda localisation training for municipalities (elected officials, civil servants), libraries and NGOs from Mallorca and Bolivia, Nicaragua, Peru (online); training related to SDG 5 for municipalities and CSOs on how to adapt the indicators and address gender bias; a short film competition on SDGs held in several high schools; holding of roundtables and debates on SDGs 6, 12, 10, 17, 5, and 13 made up of academics, politicians, CSOs, civil servants, private enterprise; film cycles on SDG 10; exchanges of experiences and diagnoses focused on SDG 6 in Tunisia and Burkina Faso; a diagnosis of Target 5.5 in Kairouan, Tunisia; the organisation of exhibitions presenting the 2030 Agenda, SDG 6 and the current situation with respect to Target 5.5; indicator identification assistance for municipalities.

Turkey: **Marmaris Municipalities Union: MMU** has been very actively carrying out awareness raising activities, which is the first step for local actors in adopting the global agenda and shaping their actions accordingly. Below are some details regarding the SDG-related work carried out by MMU between 2021-2022. 1) Mentor Program: This programme aims to support knowledge and experience-sharing among MMU member municipalities. Bilateral national and international meetings are organised by matching municipalities working on SDG reporting and/or integrating SDGs into their strategic plans and policies with municipalities that want to improve and progress on these issues. To date, seven meetings have been organised. Two mentee municipalities have started work preparing their VLR and one of them (Avcilar Municipality) finished their VLR and presented it at the HLPF. 2) Publications: A series of articles titled "Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals" has been published in MMU's quarterly *Urban* magazine. Each *Urban* issue has covered one SDG, including the good practices for achieving it (issues of *Urban* are available to download in English and Turkish: <https://mbbkulturyayinlari.com/dergiler/>). In addition, "Sustainable Development Goals" were the focus of Issue No. 22 of *City & Society* journal, another MMU periodical. In this issue, the concept of sustainable development was discussed from the viewpoints of culture, migration, social inequalities, governance, and environmental concerns. Articles on SDG reporting at the local level, the state of cities in the sustainability paradigm and practices fostering sustainable development at the urban and regional levels have also been addressed in the journal. Lastly, a report on SDGs was published by MMU. The report included the findings of their "Local Governments Sustainable Development Goals Activities Research", which MMU conducted between May and June 2021. 3) Workshops: MMU ran workshops at events organised by two universities in Turkey. During the workshop, MMU representatives gave a detailed presentation on a specific SDG (SDG4 for the workshop held at Yeditepe University

and SDG11 for the workshop at Istanbul University) for the students in attendance. The participants were then divided into groups and presented with a problem pertaining to the SDG in question. Each group was expected to come up with a project that could potentially solve their assigned problem within an allotted time period. The solution proposal was then shared with all the workshop participants who then debated the proposed project's weaknesses and strengths.

4) A launch event was organised by MMU to publicise its latest SDG report. The event was open to all and broadcast live on MMU's YouTube channel. The agenda consisted of three parts. The first was a networking session using an MMU platform to facilitate participants getting to know each other. In the second part, the report findings were presented by the authors. In the third part, an evaluation of the report was conducted by speakers representing different sectors. (The video of the launch event is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pzj94IZERU>.)

5) Golden Ant Award 2022: The Golden Ant is an award presented by MMU to reward good practices implemented by its member municipalities. The Golden Ant contributes to sustainable urbanisation and a higher quality of life by honouring successful projects implemented by municipalities and thereby promoting and publicising good practice examples. For the 2022 Golden Ant Award, the selection criteria placed special emphasis on SDGs. During the application process, the municipalities were asked to associate their project with the relevant SDGs and to explain how the project contributed to their achievement. Thus, MMU was able to raise awareness of SDGs among local authorities. (For more information on the Golden Ant Award, see: <https://www.altinkarinca.com.tr/>).

Ukraine: AUC considers the need to raise SDG awareness among its members and representatives from LGs when organising meetings.

Sweden:

- Glokala Sverige

This initiative was undertaken to build a stronger local commitment to the global goals and focuses on communication and knowledge capacity building among local and regional elected representatives and officials in Sweden. It is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and co-organized by the Swedish UN Association, the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) and SALAR. The project was launched in 2018. As of 2022, more than two-thirds of Sweden's municipalities and regions are involved in the network. Due to SIDA's receiving less funding than anticipated from the national government, rather than concluding at the end of 2023 as originally scheduled, it was scheduled to close at the beginning of 2023. Annual meetings of the project bringing together all the participants have been positive.

- Open comparisons

SALAR began mapping its members' 2030 Agenda initiatives early on. This resulted in "Open Comparisons", which aims to promote cross-comparisons in municipalities and regions regarding their state of transition to a sustainable future. It also seeks to further strengthen knowledge sharing and inspire municipalities and regions to work even more vigorously to achieve the 2030 Agenda goals. So far, 50 key figures have been collected for municipalities and 50 for regions. These key figures are to be supplemented and updated in 2023.

- Webinar series, lectures and conferences

SALAR has developed theory sessions that provide support and knowledge on improving sustainable governance.

- International seminar on VLRs

Together with UCLG, UN HABITAT and ICLD, a webinar on Voluntary Local Reviews was organised in March 2023. There has also been co-operation with the Nordic LGAs on the global

goals in view of developing a joint VSR in 2024.

Serbia: Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SKGO): From 2019 to 2021, a number of awareness-raising events were held to promote the localisation process of SDGs and implementation of the 2030 Agenda among local self-governments (LSGs). Their organisation mostly came about through cooperation between governmental stakeholders, SKGO and GIZ under the scope of the project “Public Financial Management Reform – financing of the 2030 Agenda”. There were four such events in 2019 and one in 2020, regional conferences held in person and attended by neighbouring LSGs, as well as an online event on 27 May 2020 open to all of Serbia’s LSGs.

Close cooperation to further familiarise LSGs with the 2030 Agenda continued in 2021 along the same lines. Priority was given to engaging with less developed LSGs, which called for active cooperation with government entities responsible for non-developed LSGs, as well as human and minority rights and social dialogue, and the organisation of round tables with LSGs (SKGO participated in several such events in June, September and December 2021).

Coordination has also been boosted among the various project teams supporting the central government as well as LSGs and CSOs with respect to the 2030 Agenda. This has resulted in actions such as: an exchange of educational tools and approaches, e.g., running the platform “SDGs for all” (<https://sdgs4all.rs/en/about-the-platform/>); coordination with the Statistical Office, which has been increasingly working on nationally compatible indicators for SDGs (<https://sdg.indikatori.rs/en-US/>); and synergies with the GIZ/NALAS project “Enhancing local capacities to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Leave No One Behind Principle”, implemented by LGAs from the Western Balkans in cooperation with and with support from the regional project “Social Rights for Vulnerable Groups”. In June 2022, the platform “SDGs for all” presented key findings from the 2022 Report on the readiness of the Republic of Serbia to implement the 2030 Agenda, which also contained recommendations for various national stakeholders, including SKGO. The launch of initiatives developed by the Ministry in charge of social dialogue to appoint 2030 Agenda contact points within LSGs is likewise being followed by SKGO.

During the fourth quarter of 2022, SKGO implemented the GIZ/NALAS regional project “Scaling up of minorities inclusion models and strengthening of service delivery in municipal structures in the Western Balkans” in accordance with the principles of the 2030 Agenda. Currently, SKGO is a partner in the GIZ/NALAS regional project “Regional cooperation for better social inclusion at local level”, with the aim of supporting LGs and LGAs to strengthen the social and economic inclusion of vulnerable groups in accordance with the LNOB principle of the 2030 Agenda (2023-2025).

The prospect of introducing SDG localisation as part of the training offered by official professional development programmes for LSG employees was first examined by the National Academy for Public Administration (NAPA) in 2021. A pilot exercise was launched at the end of the year as part of the GIZ-2030 Agenda project and SKGO was given the responsibility of developing and piloting the resulting training programme in 2022. Upon completion of the test cycle in mid-2022, the training programme was proposed to NAPA and subsequently incorporated into its official programme for 2023.

Lastly, as part of its broader participation and cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, and specifically in its role as national coordinator for the European Week of Local Democracy, which has highlighted SDG 11 for the past two years, SKGO managed a number of activities related to this SDG that contributed to an increase in awareness of SDGs overall at the local level in Serbia.

Germany: The Association of German Cities (DST) drafted a 2030 Agenda resolution in 2015 that has since been signed by 240 municipalities. Working with eight partners, they launched an

SDG portal to boost the localisation of SDGs by providing indicators to members (www.sdg-portal.de). Along with annual networking meetings, they also started a "Club of 2030 Agenda Municipalities".

Lithuania: In recent years, two large important conferences were organised by LSA to raise SDG awareness: one was international and included Eastern Partnership countries and one was aimed at local stakeholders.

Czech Republic: A series of webinars was organised for representatives of municipalities and towns that focused on topics related to the principles of sustainable development, such as the integration of migrants, rainwater management and funding opportunities for municipal development investments. These events gave municipalities the opportunity to share their experiences and examples of good practices in a given area. SMOČR also organised "Inspiration", a forum for representatives of towns and municipalities to share their experiences in the presence of experts on such topics as climate change adaptation, monument conservation and care, water management in cities and mental health. The event was held in person with live streaming on YouTube and Facebook. The Association considers its members, i.e. Czech municipalities and towns, as well as experts from the public sector and NGOs specialising in dedicated topics, to all be SDG stakeholders. The results obtained from all these actions include the sharing of experiences among local representatives and a raising of awareness on specific topics related to sustainable development, not only among towns and municipalities, but also among the general public.

Bulgaria: Information about events and initiatives related to the SDGs are duly disseminated by NAMRB. The Association has also encouraged its member municipalities to participate in events focused on SDGs; for instance, it has been active in nominating cities to take part in the UN's Forum of Mayors 2023 in Geneva. NAMRB also works through its international delegations to the European Committee of the Regions and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to contribute to topics pertaining to the SDGs.

2. Local and regional associations' efforts to recover from the crisis through SDG 11 implementation and their role in its achievement

Albania: ALAA acts as an extra bridge of communication between LGs and the central government and also serves them in an advisory capacity through its cooperation with the Consultative Council. The LGs and the central government have been active in the following areas: Target 11.1: Safe and affordable housing --> (Offering a specific percentage of financing to families who want to install solar panels or thermal insulation in the buildings where they live; building the capacities of water and sanitation companies); Target 11.2: Affordable and sustainable transport systems --> (Promoting the transition to rechargeable electric vehicles; adding bicycle lanes); Target 11.3: Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation --> (Ensuring each municipality has an urbanisation plan); Target 11.4: "Protect the world's cultural and natural heritage" --> (Carrying out the project "Improving and Renovating the Museum System in the City of Gjirokastra", a place inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site); Target 11.5: "Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters" --> (Setting up national and local civil emergency structures); Target 11.6: "Reduce the environmental impacts of cities" --> (Implementing many projects to improve waste management systems); Target 11.7: "Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces" --> (Adding and maintaining green spaces; promoting renewable energy to

reduce pollution, etc.); Target 11.a: "Strong national and regional development planning" --> (Putting together contributions from each ministry to develop the "Intersectoral Strategy for Regional Development"); Target 11.b: "Implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction" --> (Developing of a national strategy for disaster risk reduction by the Ministry of Defence for 2023-2030); Target 11.c: Support least developed countries in sustainable and resilient building --> (Dedicating more finances from the central and local governments to this area).

Austria: The Austrian Recovery and Resilience Plan supports Austrian cities and municipalities primarily in the area of green transition (e-mobility, climate-fit municipalities and climate-fit cultural infrastructure) and social cohesion (community nurses and expansion of childcare for the youngest children). AACT works to keep its members informed of these funding possibilities. As an LRGA, AACT does not limit its focus to SDG11 but takes a holistic approach as all the SDGs are interconnected and impact each other. Essentially, the Association endeavours to align all its activities through its committees (advocacy, consultation, experience and information exchange, commissioning of studies....).

Belgium: **Brulocalis:** Only a small role has been played by the Association. However, it followed the national debates and identified the parts in the recovery plan of interest to municipalities, which were then communicated to its members.

Iceland: As the country was not particularly hard hit by the pandemic, it had no need of a special recovery plan.

Netherlands: **VNG** has developed various products that support municipalities in tackling the social and economic impact of the pandemic measures. Moreover, VNG has also acted to ensure that municipal recovery agendas are taken into consideration at the national level. As a result, national, regional and local connections are established and other parties also become more aware of what municipalities need and what they can contribute to achieving socially, economically and physically sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11). The COVID-19 Social Impact Committee has released its report 'Socially stronger out of the crisis'. Society has been hit hard by COVID-19 and its aftermath. There are particular concerns when it comes to the prospects of young people, the self-employed and traditionally vulnerable groups in the labour market. By investing and innovating together with the government according to a long-term agenda based on resilience, equality of opportunity, ownership and social cohesion, society can emerge stronger from the pandemic. The coronavirus measures have had a huge impact on the economy; both at a macro and micro level. Municipalities played an important role during the crisis phase (for entrepreneurs and citizens), and still have a major interest and an essential role to play in economic recovery. The position paper 'Municipalities partner in economic recovery and transition' illustrates how municipalities can and should contribute to this process. Even as a new Dutch cabinet was being formed, it was already understood that it would need to come up with a post-COVID-19 recovery plan. This is particularly important for Dutch municipalities because it allows the Netherlands to claim European funds. It is also vital that the national plan be in line with plans already being developed by municipalities as they have already been working energetically with residents, entrepreneurs and various agencies and organizations. The national plan should facilitate and encourage this. One creative method used by VNG to raise awareness is the virtual reality experience, Sustainable Development Goalgles, a virtual urban sustainability test launched in 2022 that actually shows the user all that a sustainable city/community entails. This experience consists of a four-minute game used at congresses to provide an overview of the various elements relevant to

SDG 11. To complete the game, the player has to eliminate the elements that are not in line with SDG 11. It also works as a conversation starter for discussing local policies' effects on different elements linked to sustainability in municipalities.

Slovenia: Unfortunately, the national recovery and resilience plan totally disregards urban development and most local development. Only a limited amount of funds were allocated to public housing projects (mostly loans) and to the improvement of sewage and water systems. The majority of funds went to state projects, which is also a reflection of the fact that the RRF plan was developed without any real involvement of municipalities.

Ukraine: AUC's experts will continue to raise awareness among LG representatives at its events.

Spain Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL): Any actions in this regard have been through its participation in the Multi-agency Forum on Social Transition and the 2030 Agenda of the Basque Country. The Forum's activity is organised by way of various committees and working groups organised by sector; municipal representatives participate in all of them under the coordination of EUDEL.

EUDEL, as the Association of Basque Municipalities, has established an information and support service for local entities to ensure any eligible benefits under the "Next Generation EU" and its European funds are not overlooked (<https://next.eudel.eus/>). This service, operational since March 2021, encompasses two lines of action: a) immediate information on new aid lines and programmes; b) support documents for the processing, management and execution of funds (e.g. model contracts and administrative procedures).

At Autonomous Community level, a specific "Euskadi Next 2021-2026 Programme" has been set up to attract and manage "Next Gen" funds through a list of projects jointly coordinated with the Provincial Councils and the City Councils of the Basque capitals (public-private). This programme is complemented by the Basque Country 2022-2024 Strategic Investment Plan.

During the pandemic and in subsequent recovery phases, EUDEL has acted to facilitate the collaboration of Basque municipalities with other institutional levels as well as between municipalities and has continued to play this role during the implementation phase of the projects.

Spain: Diputación de Barcelona (DIBA): The national government, owing to the Next Generation, has contributed to a major push on many projects and initiatives that impact SDG 11, and which are key to recovering from the economic crisis.

DIBA has established an office, NEXT DIBA, aimed at local entities in the province of Barcelona, intended to share knowledge and respond to the challenges and opportunities that approval of the European Next Generation EU funds would entail, as they represent, for the local level, the promise of a successful economic recovery and the potential for modernisation, both which have been detrimentally affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

On the Next DIBA website, it is possible to grasp the impact that the projects have on each of the SDGs, including SDG 11. An overview of the projects being carried out under this framework by the municipalities of Barcelona and DIBA is also available, showing how they contribute to recovering from the crisis and to achieving the SDGs.

There have also been actions such as improving access to housing and basic services, increasing towns and cities' capacity for participation and management in view of achieving a more inclusive and sustainable urbanisation, as well as ensuring universal access to affordable energy services, increasing the weight of renewable energy, thus contributing directly to the post-crisis recovery and to strengthening the resilience of towns and cities.

Spain: eLankidetza-Basque Government Development Cooperation Agency and Euskal Fundoa/Basque Local Authorities Cooperation Fund have already linked their priorities and projects to each SDG. With respect to SDG 11 in particular and how it connects with the development cooperation projects, see:

https://www.elankidetza.euskadi.eus/elankidetza_memorias/webela01-eduki/es/

https://www.elankidetza.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/doc_interes_memorias/es_publicaciones/adjuntos/MEMORIA-2021_cas.pdf.

For concrete SDG 11 projects headed by Euskal Fundoa, see:

<https://www.euskalfundoa.eus/es/euskal-fundoa/noticias/visita-de-una-delegacion-de-el-salvador-y-costa-rica-en-el-marco-del-programa-akual/0-1410875251/>

<https://euskalfundoa.eus/es/sensibilizacion-y-educacion-para-la-transformacion-social/actividades/gaztenpatia/27/>.

The Basque cooperation actors are also involved in and leading seven flagship projects linked to specific SDGs. The project targeting SDG 11 is "Opengela" (Promoting a green and inclusive ecosystem in transport, cities and urban planning). For additional information on the flagship projects, see: https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/docs_interes_transicionsocial/es_def/adjuntos/ENG-Programa-prioridades.pdf.

Sweden: Even though the Swedish and global economies underwent a period of recovery after the pandemic, they are now weakening at a rapid pace. After two years of the pandemic, there was still hope that LRGs, fortified by a record-breaking economy, would have time to deal with the pandemic's long-term consequences and impending demographic challenges. Yet once again, their work has come to be affected by factors over which municipalities and regions have no control. In just a short period of time, the bright future scenario has already darkened considerably and promises uncertainty, mainly as a result of the war in Ukraine and all the consequences that such conflict entails. The war has caused great suffering for Ukraine's population, and it has also affected both the current situation and future prospects for Swedish municipalities and regions. The inflation rate has been pushed up to historical levels and, together with rising pension costs, SALAR estimates that earnings in the sector will fall sharply. At the same time, the challenge of demographic change is becoming increasingly clear. The need for health and social care is intensifying at the very moment when there is a clear labour shortage.

The financial result in the municipal sector reached a record high in 2020, which was then surpassed in 2021. Earnings were also expected to be strong in 2022, albeit at a more normal level, before falling to a projected deficit in 2023.

Serbia: At the time of writing, Serbia was in the midst of preparing its Proposal for the Adaptation Program to Changed Climate Conditions, and SKGO was involved in the Working Group preparing this document. In addition, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection, SKGO assisted in developing the Adaptation Plan for the city of Smederevo. In cooperation with the UNDP, SKGO formulated a methodology for the development of local adaptation plans a few years ago.

Lithuania: The national government has adopted a national recovery and resilience plan and financial package. LSA has taken an active role in identifying relevant components (fields) of the plan for investments, most of which reflect an urban dimension and SDG 11.

Czech Republic: Some parts of the national recovery and resilience plan specifically apply to cities, such as projects focused on towns' digital services, building infrastructure for

(sustainable) public transport, rainwater management and protection against drought and flood. In addition, Czech towns and municipalities are eligible to apply for funding by submitting proposals addressing energy savings in public buildings, capacity-building for youth groups or redevelopment of brownfields for business. The Union of Towns and Municipalities is actively involved in preparing the calls to secure funding under the national recovery plan. Throughout this process, SMOČR emphasises the importance of the local dimension of funding and the fact that it can be easily accessed by towns and municipalities.

More generally, SMOČR also organises webinars to facilitate the opportunities for cities to engage in peer-to-peer learning and to share their experiences with crisis management. Under the scope of another grant project (“Effective administration of municipalities”), lectures and other activities focusing on crisis management for cities have also been organised.

Moldova: The SDGs are not a topic of discussion at the national level, most likely due to the fact that people do not view SDGs as relevant to national development.

3. Actions/projects implemented by LRGAs to tackle the current energy crisis

Albania: Sharing of information through the Association’s social media.

Belgium: **Brulocalis:** The Association’s action was limited to working in certain niche areas, e.g. putting together working groups on energy savings in sports centres and swimming pools, public facilities that are very energy-intensive.

Estonia: The Association is a partner in the LIFE project, which aims to establish local energy communities.

Iceland: No national recovery plan exists given that the country has not been severely affected by the energy crisis.

Luxembourg: A compilation of local government best practices and shared information regarding a wide range of subjects is available at: <https://www.syvicol.lu/en/thematic-information/zesumme-spueren>.

Moldova: There has been continual contact and communication sessions with relevant central authorities.

Netherlands: **VNG International:** VNG maintains a database of good examples for the purpose of knowledge exchange. Other actions include lobbying and the production of useful tools. For example, VNG put together an overview of financial schemes that can help make an energy transition more affordable. It identifies the financial instruments that can make all the difference in being able to fulfil municipal ambitions, as well as any resources that can specifically assist municipalities with the execution of additional tasks. International cooperation and knowledge sharing are other topics that are addressed. For instance, at an international event looking into policy options for financing climate adaptation, Alderman Hans Boerkamp described how the city of Rhenen had integrated climate adaptation into its municipal development plans.

North Macedonia: **Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe:** As NALAS is a member of Energy Cities, NALAS’ member LGAs are kept duly apprised of Energy Cities’ project activities in the field of energy transition, renewables and zero-emission goals,

decarbonisation of districts and buildings, clean energy, efficient renovations, Climate City Contracts, etc.

Norway: **KS:** The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO) and the Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature have jointly proposed policy recommendations to the national government on how to develop renewable energy faster while also preserving the vulnerable natural world. KS has also lobbied for fiscal support models that help local and regional businesses, particularly in overcoming rising energy prices.

Slovenia: The Association shared information from the Covenant of Mayors with its members, presenting international cities' best practice for energy savings, the Cities Energy Saving Sprint initiative, etc. ZMOS-SI has also actively engaged in advocacy regarding a number of state measures, mainly to ensure local public entities' inclusion as beneficiaries of state measures (e.g. with respect to limits on prices).

Ukraine: Even if unplanned, AUC was obliged to attract international partners to provide Ukrainian municipalities with power generators after Russian shellings further worsened the effects of the energy crisis. SDG 7 however has been a central aim in the Association's activities and events.

Spain: **The Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL)** has acted on behalf of Basque municipalities in participatory processes undertaken to define regulations, strategies and plans linked to the energy transition in the Basque Country.

Transformative project: Renewables by 2030:

Massive implementation of renewable energies to power local entities' energy consumption and the creation of different models of energy communities in view of shifting towards a decarbonised and less delocalised economy. The objectives of this action respond to targets 7.1. and 7.2 (and indirectly 13.2 and 13.3). This initiative uses four associated indicators to measure the level of achievement and, in the case of three of the four indicators, the target value set for 2022 has been reached, whereby 80% of the province's municipalities possess at least one renewable energy installation.

Transformative project: Energy and Climate Action Plan:

Decarbonisation of the Barcelona Provincial Council's direct activity, also offered to its municipalities, which would exceed the targets set by the European Union to reduce emissions by 2030 and 2050, and inclusion of measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The objectives of this action respond to targets 7.1 and 7.2 (and indirectly 13.2 and 13.3). This initiative uses three associated indicators to measure the level of achievement and the target value set for 2022 has already been reached for one of the indicators.

Spain: **eLankidetza-Basque Government Development Cooperation Agency and Euskal Fondona/Basque Local Authorities Cooperation Fund:** One flagship project directly aligns with SDG 7: Energy-Ekiola + Climate-Ondarea Project. For information on all the flagship projects: https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/docs_interes_transicionsocial/es_def/adjuntos/ENG-Programa-prioridades.pdf.

Sweden: **SALAR's** work has focused on energy saving measures, energy efficiency improvements and ensuring that members receive financial compensation from the State for high-energy costs.

Serbia: **The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities** has been promoting the energy

saving plan adopted by the national government among the public sector through its Network of Energy Managers and other info channels. In addition, it has prepared an analysis of the impact of disruptions in the energy market on LSGs' budgets. In the coming period, in cooperation with the USAID "Better Energy" project, SKGO plans to develop a methodology for small municipalities to produce energy saving plans, and it will actively assist at least ten municipalities in creating these plans.

Czech Republic: **The Union of Towns and Municipalities** is aware of the European Commission's proposed reforms to tackle the current energy crisis. Primarily through its participation in the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and its cooperation with the national government and the presence of Czech representatives in EU institutions, the Association has worked to contribute to EU policy making by sharing the views and positions of Czech towns and municipalities. SMOČR also regularly initiates national discussions regarding the role municipalities can play in the current energy crisis and their needs. The Union also ensures that any important information regarding potential sources of assistance that municipalities are eligible to receive from the State in this area is shared with its members through its website, weekly newsletter or journal.

4. SDG indicator system, role of other stakeholders and data collection

Albania: <https://www.shav.al/sq/media-al/raportedhe-publikime>

Belgium: VVSG's "SDG indicatorset" for local governments was developed in 2018 and then revised in 2022 to reflect updates in the Municipal monitor. The Municipal monitor, which is coordinated by the Flemish government and contains data for all 300 municipalities (statistics + survey data), now also contains a list of SDG indicators (existing indicators which are considered relevant to the SDGs). The VVSG "SDG indicatorset" also includes references to SDG goals and indicators from the Flemish and federal government. Furthermore, it lists some suggestions of possible indicators to monitor at the local level (thus no central data). In 2022, VVSG developed a VSR which will rely on the data available (e.g. SDG monitor and Municipal monitor), but the association also hopes to work together with a group of municipalities to collect data that is more directly linked to the impact of local policy, such as local governments' energy consumption (currently, context indicators are often the only ones available, e.g. (un)employment levels or poverty rates, indicators that are influenced by different actors and not just local government alone), as well as more disaggregated data. VVSG (together with the Association of Flemish Provinces (VVP)) is in the process of developing a VSR. For this VSR and the data analysis, VVSG hired Idea Consult (also responsible for the free online SDG monitor for local governments) and UNU-CRIS, an academic institution associated with the UN. Based on discussions with a working group of nine municipalities and an examination of the data sources available, an SDG index of more than two hundred indicators was established. The indicators were broken down into subindexes for greater conciseness and comprehension. For the VSR, the data analysis not only looks at how Flemish municipalities score on the chosen indicators in comparison to one another, but it also takes into account contextual factors, such as the number of inhabitants, average income of inhabitants and age of inhabitants. The SDG index indicators have been published in the SDG monitor update (www.sdgmonitor.be). For more information about the methodology used, please visit the [UNU-CRIS website](http://www.unu-cris.org). A byproduct of the VSR is the analysis of detailed information for each municipality. For instance, it includes a quadrant depicting a municipality's SDG position relative to other Flemish municipalities, but also against its prognosticated value (based on

context factors). Looking at the case of larger cities for example, their track record on poverty reduction tends to be poorer. Nonetheless, when context is taken into account, it may be that a given city does well relative to its expected value. The inclusion of a graph showing the evolution of each indicator over time is also helpful. Tapping into its experiences as well as working group discussions with municipalities, VVSG has developed an aspirational note on SDG monitoring and reporting for local governments. It aims to more efficiently link SDG monitoring and reporting to existing mechanisms (VLRs, which are separate SDG reports, would be considered in addition to existing mechanisms).

https://www.vvsg.be/Publiek/Internationaal/2022_Inspirational%20guide%20on%20SDG%20monitoring%20and%20reporting.pdf.

Estonia: SDG indicators are available here: <https://minuomavalitsus.ee/en>.

Iceland: Indicators for municipalities have been developed by the Federation of General and Special workers in Iceland (SGS), in cooperation with **SAMBAND**, the Prime Minister's Office and Statistical Iceland, but the financing aspects have not yet been completed.

Netherlands: VNG International: More and more municipalities view the Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals) as a useful compass in the pursuit of broad prosperity, i.e. balancing social, economic and physical objectives. One challenge in this respect is being able to measure one's own performance and use the data to guide policy choices or, more broadly, the budget and policy cycle. This Global Goals data tool was developed with this aim in mind. Unfortunately, the indicators formulated by the UN for the Global Goals cannot always be directly transposed for ready use; they are intended to be 'universal', globally valid indicators. However, given the major contextual differences between countries, not all of them are relevant to Dutch municipalities. This is why VNG winnowed down a selection and added some of its own SDG indicators relevant to the Dutch municipal context, with the aim of giving all Dutch municipalities a readily usable tool for monitoring their SDG progress. This task was carried out in collaboration with data experts and different municipalities. Relevant indicators were identified for each of the 17 Global Goals in accordance with the following principles: 1) the indicators must be relevant to the Dutch context; 2) they must be useful for all Dutch municipalities; 3) the whole must be manageable. Thus, the aims were not formulated in such a way as to be considered exhaustive nor do they address only certain aspects of the Global Goals; similarly, none of the associated sub-goals were taken into account; 4) moreover, only data already available through www.Waarstaatjegemeente.nl has been used for the time being. Down the line, VNG aims to further expand the impact of this Global Goals tool with datapoints for additional indicators. A more extensive set of indicators (without any data) has already been defined and is available as is. Municipalities are of course free to select additional indicators themselves and to obtain the data from sources outside [Waarstaatjegemeente.nl](http://www.Waarstaatjegemeente.nl).

North Macedonia: Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS): This Network has been working together with the UCLG World Secretariat, the member LGA from Romania (ACOR) and the Association of Romanian Municipalities (ARM) to produce a VSR and to contribute to the VNR scheduled for May 2023. As a result of the pandemic, it opted to base its work on the budget implementation at South-East Europe (SEE) level, giving special emphasis to education, health and social protection policies by addressing them distinctly in a separate chapter of the 8th edition of the NALAS SEE Fiscal Decentralisation Report. The intention was to highlight both the practical importance of understanding how social responsibilities are divided up between different levels of government and how this entire setup can be quickly upended due to external requirements,

with all the repercussions on basic quality service delivery that this can entail (SDGs 3, 4, 6 and 11). Data has been provided through NALAS' Fiscal Decentralisation Task Force members, consisting of NALAS' member LGAs and their specialists as well as external expertise.

Norway: **KS** has developed, together with Statistics Norway, a classification system (taxonomy) that classifies and assesses either a given indicator or a set of indicators. The taxonomy helps users, including policymakers and LRGs, to choose indicators useful to them in measuring SDG progress based on their own context and priorities. Applying a common standard taxonomy to all SDG indicators brings greater clarity in terms of their use and usability. KS has also been working with the government to further develop indicators that are useful to Norwegian LRGs.

Spain:

Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI):

<http://www.odslocalandalucia.org/index.php/pack-localizacion>

<http://www.odslocalandalucia.org/index.php/component/k2/item/88-practica-ods-un-pack-con-todas-las-herramientas-para-implementar-la-agenda-2030-local-en-tu-territorio>

An indicator system has been created in coordination with the regional and national levels.

Spain: **Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias:** Work is being carried out with the central government to adapt global indicators to the local level. FEMP has advocated to have spending budgets aligned with the SDGs.

Spain: **Association of Basque Municipalities: EUDEL** has been actively participating in setting up a system of indicators for the 2030 Agenda that is aligned with the United Nations system. This indicator system is being developed by a working group within the Multi-agency Forum on Social Transition and the 2030 Agenda of the Basque Country and is considered to be a particularly promising tool for localising the 2030 Agenda at municipal level. The work has been divided up into different phases.

There are two aspects worth noting. First, the indicators are applicable to the different institutional levels (municipality-territory-region). Secondly, the indicators, maintained and updated under a shared system (the Basque Institute of Statistics), will eventually provide disaggregated information pertaining specifically to the municipal level.

Spain: **Diputación de Barcelona (DIBA):** All of DIBA's planning and evaluation instruments have either integrated the SDGs or are aligned with them, and all of them make use of monitoring systems with indicators. They consist of the following: DIBA Mandate Action Plan (MAP): The MAP is a strategic document that sets forth the main policy objectives that correspond to DIBA's governance priorities as well as the lines of action to achieve them. The Plan is made up of 21 transformative projects that have resulted in 89 indicators under the strategic framework and 73 budget sub-programmes that have yielded 201 indicators under the operational framework, all of them aligned with the SDGs. In addition to the quantitative balance a qualitative monitoring system has been promoted.

Strategic Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda (PEIA): The PEIA is DIBA's strategic document for defining a roadmap to guide, organise and monitor the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda within the provincial council. The PEIA consists of 43 actions resulting in 185 indicators with a 2030 horizon. The PEIA monitoring system works in an interconnected manner through an internal working space open to the different areas of the governing body referred to as MesA2030. The first year's progress report was scheduled to be drawn up.

Spain: **Fons Mallorquí de Cooperació i Solidaritat:** VISOR2030 is a virtual platform that contains a set of 54 SDG-related municipal indicators based on the social, economic and environmental reality of local authorities in the province of Barcelona. This tool was developed in order to provide the province's municipalities with information regarding their degree of progress in achieving the SDGs on their territories, thus enabling them, both the municipalities and the provincial council, to fine-tune their assessment, analysis and decision-making. VISOR 2030 allows for an interactive and comparative analysis with respect to municipalities, counties, population groups, SDGs or the use of indicators. The set of VISOR2030 indicators was derived from the EU Statistical Commission's references, Eurostat's set of EU SDG indicators and Catalonia of Idescat's SDG indicators (Statistical Institute of Catalonia). The Diputació de Barcelona (DIBA) are developing and adapting the indicators through a process based on what is used by UNSTAT and for SDG 6 of the joint monitoring program.

Spain: **eLankidetzta-Basque Government Development Cooperation Agency and Euskal Fonda/Basque Local Authorities Cooperation Fund** have already published six VLRs and a set of indicators and have also been working closely with the regional stakeholders, in cooperation with the UN, OCDE, EU and other actors. The Basque local, provincial and regional authorities' budget is aligned with the SDGs.

Ukraine: The Association has been using the criteria laid out in "Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development" in their work.

United Kingdom: **Convention of Scottish Local Authorities:** Scotland's approach to implementing the SDGs has been to align its work with the National Performance Framework (NPF), co-signed by the Scottish Government and COSLA. This means in practice that the whole public sector has been guided by the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and that the SDGs are therefore reflected in the local outcome plans produced by local authorities. COSLA does however have some concern that the Scottish NPF indicators do not sufficiently reflect UN indicators linked to SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities. In 2020, COSLA contributed to the Scottish supplementary review, which also served as a submission to the UK Voluntary National Review. In addition, the 2021/22 Programme for Government in Scotland indicated that the Scottish Government would consult local government prior to introducing a Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill, given that it could entail additional local responsibilities, but also to take into consideration the impact of their decisions on sustainable development, in Scotland and internationally. COSLA noted however a lack of political engagement with local government, as well as a neglect with respect to the importance of multi-level governance in delivery and the role local leaders can play in proactively driving forward this agenda. COSLA recognises the value of international cooperation between local authorities and their national associations, particularly where the 2030 Agenda and SDGs are concerned as they buttress our strategic goal for a just transition to net zero no later than 2045. The Scottish Association also supports a global advocacy that recognises local governments and communities as the catalysts of change promoting achievement of the global goals; and lastly, calls for Local Authorities to be supported to localise and effectively translate the development agenda into results at local level.

Sweden: Municipalities across the country have access to the "Kolada database" through which they can find important data to assess their sustainability development. The key figures available in Kolada are primarily sourced from national statistics available through Statistics Sweden, but data is also obtained from other sources. Kolada is owned by the Council for the

Promotion of Municipal Analyses (RKA), a non-profit association, and is run in collaboration with the central government and SALAR. There has been great interest in the Kolada database and the possibilities it offers to municipalities to map and compare their progress against their counterparts when analysing their SDG progress. The indicators are to be reviewed in 2023.

Serbia: In addition to the support for various projects that SKGO has provided to LSGs since 2019 to boost the implementation of the new planning system and encourage the drafting of LSG development plans, efforts are being made to stress the importance of localising the SDGs by linking locally determined priority objectives and related indicators with SDGs (sub-goals) and accompanying 2030 Agenda indicators. In this context, LSGs are the ones in charge of generating, collecting and/or analysing indicators, as well as reporting on their achievement. LSGs are nonetheless advised to use nationally available statistics (e.g. the DevInfo databases and the sets of SDG-related indicators managed by the Statistical Office: <http://devinfo.stat.gov.rs/Opstine/libraries.aspx/Home.aspx> and <https://sdg.indikator.rs/en-US/>; see also Analytical and Reporting Service for LSGs managed by the Public Policy Secretariat: <https://rsjp.gov.rs/en/analytical-and-reporting-system/>).

However, SKGO did not work on creating a new indicator system aligned with the SDGs for LSGs, given that such work has been progressively carried out by the national Statistical Office (for all levels of government). Instead, it has mainly been instructing LSGs to turn to this official accessible source of localised indicators wherever possible when working on their planning documents. There is no systematic ranking of any particular SDG-related indicators, as there is no prioritisation of the SDGs themselves, given that this would differ from one LSG to another, with each LSG selecting the ones that best fit their locally identified priority objectives. Of course, given that LSG competencies are almost uniformly prescribed in Serbia, their priority needs and development objectives are often similar, and thus any links to certain SDGs and the associated indicators that they integrate tend to be as well.

With respect to indicator 11.3.2. of the UN 2030 Agenda specifically, SKGO has played a more prominent role in how it is addressed in Serbia, dating back to when a methodology was first defined but also in terms of collecting the relevant data from LSGs. The methodology for monitoring indicator No. 27 of the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia – corresponding exactly to indicator 11.3.2. of the UN 2030 Agenda – was first developed, in coordination with the Ministry in charge of infrastructure, in 2021. Its integration soon followed, which is also monitored by SKGO as part of its 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. The methodology calls for a quality assessment and the collecting of LSG questionnaires, which are then used to calculate the baseline for the index on participation in urban planning, all of which will be subsequently monitored.

Germany: **The Association of German Cities** runs an SDG portal offering useful indicators and tools for monitoring and creating sustainability reports (such as VLRs). The relevant indicators are collected by Bertelsmann Stiftung and analysed by DST's research institute, DIfU, and selected by a working group of eight partners headed by the Association. The partners include Bertelsmann Stiftung, ICLEI, RNE, SKEW, DIfU, BBSR and sister associations. The portal is a crucial tool as it offers a massive amount of data that can be used by member cities.

Lithuania: The indicator system used to monitor the implementation of the SDGs and their targets was developed by the State Data Agency (Statistics Lithuania).

5. LRGAs' strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Austria: The **Austrian Association of Cities and Towns** has continued its work advocating and supporting activities aimed at localising SDGs, focusing in particular on awareness-raising and providing tools for the implementation of the SDGs at local level. As regards its advocacy, the AACT has represented the concerns and needs of its members at the regional and national levels at relevant events and coordination meetings.

Belgium: **Union des Villes et Communes de Wallonie:** There has been limited progress. The organisation lacks the means to implement an action plan for the implementation of the SDGs.

Belgium: **Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities:** VVSG does not follow any specific policy document for the SDGs, but they have been integrated into some of its strategic documents, such as the memorandum for the regional/federal and European elections (2019). A new memorandum is being drafted (for the 2024 elections), with specific mention of the 2030 Agenda in the memorandum's text (among other references to VVSG's VSR). Consideration is also being given to holding an SDG exercise with political representatives. An action plan on sustainability also exists, which takes into account the different 'P' pillars of sustainable development. Visual references to the SDGs are also included at many VVSG events and mentioned in meeting materials. Beginning in 2023, an introduction to the SDGs will be part of the onboarding kit for each new VVSG employee. See also <https://www.vvsg.be/kennisitem/vvsg/memorandum>

Netherlands: **VNG International:** Recently, progress was made towards internalising the SDGs within the Association (not only at VNG International, but the wider VNG). A connection to SDGs does exist in the 2030 horizon strategic plan for our members. However, staff remain largely unaware of the why and how. Knowledge on the subject is rather diffuse.

Norway: The SDGs have been integrated into KS' long-term strategies and annual work plans.

Spain: **Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias:** The resolutions of all 27 FEMP working committees have been aligned with the 17 SDGs. A Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda has been created.

Spain: **Diputación de Barcelona (DIBA):** The Barcelona Provincial Council has ensured that any planning and evaluation instruments being developed integrate and/or align the SDGs, starting with the Mandate Action Plan (MAP), which is wholly centred around the SDGs, the MAP's key objectives. Already approved prior to this in 2021, DIBA's Strategic Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda (PEIA) established a strategic and operational framework along with indicators with a 2030 horizon. The monitoring and evaluation reports for both the MAP and PEIA are being finalised. The provincial council has also aligned the budget and its local cooperation instruments (e.g. catalogue of services) with more than 300 resources offered to local entities in its territory.

Spain: **eLankidetza-Basque Government Development Cooperation Agency and Euskal Fonda/Basque Local Authorities Cooperation Fund:** With regard to 2030 implementation in the Basque Country region, the Basque Programme of Priorities for the 2030 Agenda, established and directed by the Basque Government, is the key coordination instrument for the 2021-2024 period, involving not only the region's LRGs, but the regional ecosystem stakeholders. ELankidetza/the Basque Cooperation Agency is a proactive partner of the programme, and Euskal Fonda is aligned with it, particularly its mission to promote, through the 2030 Agenda, a culture of social contract. The programme has four main objectives:

contribute to greater internal social cohesion; be part of the best international efforts for peace, justice and sustainability; promote policy coherence; and take ownership of the 2030 Agenda as a commitment to promoting transformative priorities. It has already accomplished the following: six VLRs, a multilevel stakeholders platform, a development education strategy (Habian 2030), training, indicators, key flagship projects involving others territories linked through development cooperation and decentralised cooperation priorities aligned with the SDGs.

Turkey: **Marmara Municipalities Union's** Strategic Plan for the current term (2020-2024) includes targets related to sustainable development. Furthermore, its statute includes a reference to SDGs. MMU's Statute was first adopted in 1975 and amended in 2018. In the present version, the specific mention that MMU "contributes to social, environmental, economic and cultural development in line with the sustainable development goals" has been added to Article 7 (for the full text, see: <https://marmara.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/MMU-Statute.pdf>). MMU's current Strategic Plan, covering the 2020-2024 period, was adopted in 2019 by the MMU General Assembly. The plan reiterates the same statement mentioned in Article 7 of MMU's Statute and "sustainability" is deemed to be one of MMU's core values. Moreover, even though there is no direct reference to an SDG framework, several sections place emphasis on the notion of "sustainability". (For the full text of MMU's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan (in Turkish only), go to: <https://marmara.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MBB-2020-2024-Stratejik-Plani.pdf>).

Ukraine: The **AUC** has not developed an official strategy, but the SDGs are taken into consideration when organizing and holding events.

Sweden: In 2016, SALAR's Board adopted a rather general position paper on the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the SDGs, affirming that LRGs are key players if the SDGs are to be achieved and that LRGs must be allowed to define their own strategies and goals, adapted to local contexts. Since then, SALAR's Board of Directors has issued opinions on the government committees' proposal for an overall action plan for Sweden's implementation of the agenda (2019) and on the EU Commission's reflection document "Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030" (2019).

Czech Republic: In 2021, the **Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic (SMOČR)** launched a systemic change in its functioning with respect to sustainable development: it is now one of the Union's priority areas for 2021-2023. Thus, a new working group for sustainable development was established and the Union educates and supports municipalities to better assist them in implementing SDGs in a more intensive and structured manner. For instance, the Union has organised for its members (towns and municipalities) a series of webinars or lectures on topics related to sustainable development, such as the integration of migrants and rainwater management. In addition, SMOČR has been a supporter of the Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy since 2021.

6. LRGAs' SDG coordinator

Moldova: One to two people have been handling this issue, only on rare occasions and only for the international level.

Montenegro: No one has been assigned a specific duty in this regard.

Spain: eLankidetzta-Basque Government Development Cooperation Agency and Euskal Fonda/Basque Local Authorities Cooperation Fund: There is a sub-directorate for the 2030 Agenda, which manages the RED (Network of Spanish local authorities for the 2030 Agenda), and is itself coordinated at the international level along with the international and cooperation sub-directorate. In addition, FEMP's budget is also aligned with the 17 SDGs.

The regional coordination is headed by the President of the Basque Government. The concrete daily work is carried out by the General Secretariat for Social Transition and the 2030 Agenda, an office within the Basque Presidency.

Ukraine: There is no specific department at the AUC in charge of coordinating SDG-related work.

Lithuania: There is an officer responsible for sustainable urban development and other urban issues.

7. LRGAs' contribution to the development of Voluntary National Reviews

France: AFCCRE: The central government has not planned any formal VNR participation, but an ad hoc working group has been formed under the aegis of the National Council for Development and International Solidarity, a forum for dialogue between cooperation actors (NGOs, local authorities, foundations, etc.) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Meanwhile, UCLG, AFCCRE, CUF and Comité 21 have been actively working to identify the practices of French local authorities so that the working group can highlight their significance and possibly get them taken into account in the VNR. Concurrently, contact was established with the department in charge of drafting the VNR at the Ministry of the Environment.

Lithuania: The Ministry of Environment has formed a working group to prepare the Voluntary National Review. The LGA was identified as one of the stakeholders and is therefore a participant in this process as well.

8. Changes in LRGAs' participation in VNR production: progress and setbacks

Belgium: Union des Villes et des Communes de Wallonie: The UVCW's contribution should be included in the VNR; however, this has not yet been confirmed. It is the first time that the Association was asked to write a chapter for the VNR, which represents a major step forward.

Belgium: Brulocalis: Participation has progressed thanks to coordination between the three Belgian regional associations of local authorities (Flemish, Walloon and Brussels). The coordination in Belgium has been led by the Flemish association.

Belgium: VVSG: Belgium produced its first VNR in 2017. At the time, there was limited consultation and integration of local governments' work, either in the process or in the report. For the 2023 VNR, a lot has changed. VVSG started working on a VSR in April 2022 (for which it received funding from both the Flemish government and federal government as part of broader subsidy programmes). This pro-active approach contributed to the decision of the national working group to include a separate chapter on SDG localisation in the VNR. The umbrella associations of local and provincial governments in Belgium (VVSG, UCVW,

Brulocalis, VVP and APW) did not have to fill in the survey for stakeholders but were given the opportunity to develop their own chapter with extensive leeway on how their work should proceed. VVSG took up the role of coordinating between the associations. For the time being, not many editorial changes have been made to the draft chapter. The associations will have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding any suggested changes. The joint VSR produced by the VVSG and the VVP (associations of the local and provincial governments in Flanders) will be referenced as an annex to the VNR. There are also plans to present the VSR at a side event of the Flemish government during the HLPF.

France: **Cités Unies France:** There has been very little consultation of local authorities for the drafting of the VNR. Dialogues have been initiated between the ministry in charge and Cités Unies France, but there has not been any highlighting of the role of local authorities in SDG implementation.

Iceland: There has been a greater degree of VNR involvement as the municipalities have now progressed more in localising the SDGs, ensuring there is more to report.

Sweden: **SALAR** has had more articulate and regular contact with the ministries responsible for producing the government's report.

Lithuania: In the previous reporting process in 2018, stakeholders contributed only to the VNR section covering topics pertaining to their activities. This time, in 2023, stakeholders were invited to submit contributions pertaining to the VNR as a whole.

9. Involvement of SDG representatives in national governments' institutional mechanisms for coordinating SDG implementation

Estonia: The Association's Secretary General is Vice Chair of the National Sustainable Development Commission at the Prime Minister's office.

Netherlands: **VNG International** is part of the Steering Committee at the national level, which is made up of multi-stakeholders and meets quite regularly. However, it is more of a knowledge-exchange and advisory board than a decision-making body. For instance, VNG has contributed to the national report, representing decentralised governments in the Netherlands (on behalf of municipalities, water boards and the provincial level) and has been invited to provide recommendations to the State, all while remaining actively involved in nationwide events. Yet, there is still a lack of coordination when it comes to decision-making.

Spain: The **Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias (FEMP)** is a party to the Sectoral Conference for the 2030 Agenda, which is the body for cooperation between the General State Administration, the autonomous communities, the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla and the local administration – through FEMP – for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Its purpose is to ensure cooperation based on dialogue, the exchange of experiences and the promotion of joint efforts that seek to maximise the knowledge accumulated by the different levels of administration from exercising the competences attributed to them in the Constitution and the Statutes of Autonomy. Its operating regulations also provided for the creation of a Sectoral Commission for the 2030 Agenda, intended to act as a support and advisory body. Both bodies, the Sectoral Conference and the Sectoral Commission for the 2030 Agenda, met on two occasions, in July and December of 2022.

Spain: Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL): As regards the Basque Country and the 2030 Agenda for the Basque Country, local governments have actively participated – through EUDEL – at the same level as the rest of the institutions, in the governance body of the Multi-Agency Forum on Social Transition and the 2030 Agenda, under the leadership of the presidency of the Basque Government.

Spain: Diputación de Barcelona (DIBA): In the case of Spain, local governments have not been invited to participate in any of the mechanisms established to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; their participation is solely through the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), as the only interlocutor authorised to participate in these forums and the principal intermediary between the national and local governments. From this viewpoint, DIBA is a member of FEMP and, in December 2020, the provincial council's plenary session formally approved its joining FEMP's Network of Local Authorities for the 2030 Agenda.

Spain: Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI): The Fund's involvement consisted mainly of either presenting or approving projects to boost and accelerate public climate policies and commitments related to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, which is financially supported by the State Secretariat for Agenda 2030 of the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030.

Spain: Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias. Coordination exists, both with other levels of government and with non-governmental actors. Regarding the subnational level, this occurs quite effortlessly because FEMP (and therefore LRGs) takes part in the Sectoral Conference, a body of multilevel cooperation operating at the highest level, which allows FEMP to have an inordinate impact on the development of the national strategy for the 2030 Agenda, which indeed acknowledges, in a distinct chapter, the role of Spanish local governments. FEMP's creation of the RED (Network of Spanish local authorities for the 2030 Agenda) has further increased horizontal cooperation between local governments.

Spain: Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL): There has been inter-institutional coordination at Basque Country level on the "Basque Country 2030 Agenda":

A global multi-level 2030 Agenda has been created for the Basque Country as a whole, involving the participation of the Basque Government, the Provincial Councils and the Basque municipalities through EUDEL. This agenda integrates the following: the Basque Country's work and commitment to the 2030 Agenda, particularly the actions raising awareness of the global agenda throughout Basque society, participation in analogous international activities and the flagship projects promoted by each of the participating institutions.

In the case of Basque municipalities, 15 flagship projects have been programmed for the 2021-2024 period, which are detailed in the document "Contribution of Basque Municipalities to the Basque Country's 2030 Agenda". These are transformative projects, driven by the local governments themselves, and developed in collaboration with the consolidated networks of municipalities in the Basque Country, three of which are directly coordinated by EUDEL (elected women, town councils for equality, ELoGE-Good Governance Seal).

EUDEL has developed its own methodology in parallel to introduce municipalities to the alignment of municipal budgets with the SDGs: "Practical guide to aligning budgets and SDGs". The Basque Government, for its part, has created the Multi-agency Forum for Social Transition and the 2030 Agenda of the Basque Country as an interchange for coordination, collaboration and promotion at inter-institutional level and with the participation of entities representing

public-private collaboration.

The Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) is the only subnational association that has formal relations with the national government, acting as an interlocutor for surveys and other participatory mechanisms.

Spain: Diputació de Barcelona (DIBA): The national government has not been involved in the promotion of cooperation between LRGs. Any cooperation between local or regional governments has been initiated by DIBA, either through other networks such as FEMP's Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda, UCLG, Urbact Network, Platforma, etc. or at regional level through the Catalunya 2030 Alliance, a network promoted by the Generalitat de Catalunya (regional government), of which DIBA is also a member. In addition, DIBA has promoted Xarxa2030, a small network formed by municipalities in the province of Barcelona that centres most of their work around the 2030 Agenda framework and the SDGs. The main objective of this network is the creation of synergies between municipalities, the exchange of experiences and the promotion of cooperation between members.

Turkey: Marmaris Municipalities Union (MMU): To date, the national government has not invited the MMU to take part in any SDG-related studies at the national level. As an LGA, MMU asked its member municipalities this same question as part of field research conducted in 2021. According to the responses (102 in total), 36% stated that they were not involved at all; 28% indicated that they did not know; 22% said that they had participated in a small number of one-off meetings but that there was no permanent or regular structure; 11% stated that they participated regularly in national mechanisms, but were present only in an advisory capacity and exercised no decision-making authority; 2% affirmed that they participated regularly in decision-making mechanisms (e.g. with a right to vote in the decision-making process); and 1% selected "other" (see page 53 of our report "Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of The Marmara Region" – available here: <https://mbbkulturyayinlari.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/MBB-SKA-EN-web-1.pdf>).

Sweden: There is a 2030 Agenda coordinator and contacts with the regional government association.

Lithuania: In 2017, the Ministry of Environment set up a multi-stakeholder working group to coordinate the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, the group's meetings and activities are not held on a regular basis.

Bulgaria: National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB): The Association was not directly involved in the development of the National Development Program BULGARIA 2030 (NDP BULGARIA 2030), a strategic framework document of the highest order as it sets forth the overriding vision and general objectives of development policies in all sectors of public administration, including their territorial dimensions. Legislative provision entitled NAMRB to provide input during the public consultation phase for this document. The Council of Ministers approved the general principles and overall priorities of the NDP BULGARIA 2030 in its Decision No. 33 in January 2020 and passed into effect a more detailed version by way of Protocol No. 67 in December 2020. This latter document notes the particulars regarding the targeted areas for intervention in view of 2030, ordered by priority and sub-priority, and it also includes result indicators, financial resources, funding sources and relevant UN Development Goals. A mechanism for monitoring and regulating the implementation of the strategic document is also prescribed, involving the development of three-year action plans to manage the process. The first Action Plan for 2022-2024 was adopted in September 2022. In

addition to the operational strategy for the programme's individual priorities, a final report was also prepared regarding the national development programme's implementation: Bulgaria 2020. Again, there was no direct communication with NAMRB with respect to the drafting process. The main body that will observe/ monitor the plan's actual implementation is the Development Council, which does not include any local government representation. Still, the programme's mechanism specifies that all leading institutions are to report on the progress of implementation in their respective areas. NAMRB and its municipalities usually take part in the different working bodies or are consulted by the ministries during the reporting phase. Furthermore, a wide range of the NDP measures are to be implemented using municipal budgets. Most recently, the central government established a working group to identify indicators for measuring SDG implementation, including at local level. NAMRB was invited to take part.

10. Developments regarding LRG/LGA involvement in national coordination mechanisms

Albania: Since 2017, **ALAA** has been a full member of the Consultative Council, the central government's principal forum for consultation of local government. The Council works to institutionalise the consultation process between these two levels of government. As a representative of local government, the Association works to improve central-local government relations by making proposals that respond to local needs and challenges as well as by providing support for new regulations and laws.

Austria: The national government regularly invites both the **Austrian Association of Towns and Municipalities** and the **Austrian Association of Municipalities** to take part in "Inter-ministerial Working Groups". These meetings provide an opportunity for all parties to exchange information on progress made at the federal, state and municipal levels towards achieving the SDGs. They also constitute part of the preparatory work for Austria's annual progress report. With regard to municipalities themselves, there has been greater local government involvement in national events on SDG implementation organised by individual ministries, e.g. the Ministry for Climate.

Belgium: **Union des Villes et Communes de Wallonie:** There has not been any vertical cooperation between the national and local governments.

Belgium: **VVSG:** There is an Inter-Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development in Belgium that brings together all the different governments at the federal and regional levels. Local governments are not part of this mechanism however and there are no plans to change this in the future. However, the Conference has been tasked with the coordination of the 2023 VNR and, in this capacity, VVSG has been involved.

Estonia: The Association's Secretary General is elected to the position of Vice Chair of the National Sustainable Development Commission at the Prime Minister's office.

France: **Cités Unies France:** To our knowledge, the national government has not set up any consultation mechanism with local and regional authorities. Nevertheless, there have been exchanges of information with the Ministry of Ecological Transition in order to share information regarding the process of developing the Voluntary National Review.

Iceland: The [Association of Local Authorities in Iceland](#) was invited by the Prime Minister to take part in the National Review Process and to join the Icelandic delegation to the HLPF.

Moldova: The Association's involvement was limited to one occasion several years ago when the VNR was being prepared.

Montenegro: The SDG National Council has recently created working groups on several subtopics. One of these groups consists of only local representatives. In addition, the Association participates in three other groups.

Netherlands: [VNG International](#): Decentralised governments, particularly municipalities, are now clearly represented in national coordination mechanisms. The national government and specifically the national SDG coordinator (Sandra Pellegrini) have been very keen to involve LRGs in the 2030 Agenda movement and in its ambitions regarding the SDGs. This transpires on a regular basis through VNG (International), in its role as a mediator that translates national level ambitions to the local. VNG's lobbying has resulted in their securing a position on the ministries' permanent steering committee. Through this channel, it represents LRG needs and endeavours to break through any bottlenecks facing LGAs at the national level.

North Macedonia: [Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe](#). [NALAS](#) has been involved via a GIZ-supported project titled "Regional Learning for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Western Balkans (particularly North Macedonia and Kosovo)" that works to support the efforts of the central government's SDG-coordination bodies to prepare Voluntary National Reports (VNRs) in North Macedonia and in Kosovo by contributing analytical summaries of the results obtained by the thematic groups "Localisation of SDGs" in these countries.

Norway: [Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities \(KS\)](#): The country submitted a VNR in 2021. The government decided that regional and local sustainability work must be a focal area in this report. Under an agreement with the government, KS, contributed a chapter dedicated to LRGs' SDG-related work and their progress in reaching these goals. KS and its members based their contribution to the national report on aggregated data that provided a comprehensive overview of the work done by local and regional governments (Voluntary Subnational Review - VSR) by mapping the sector's sustainability work, identifying limitations and highlighting successful achievements. KS representatives are members of Norway's delegation to the HLPF. In addition, KS and the government have entered into a political agreement on innovation and the sustainability agenda. The agreement defines specific action points, making it possible to quickly progress from knowledge to joint action. KS is also a member of the National Advisory Board on SDGs. It also coordinates a national Sustainability Network made up of Norwegian LRGs that works to support its members in implementing the SDGs.

Slovenia: Cooperation with the national government took place when the VNR was being prepared, but otherwise there has not been any dedicated forum/body specifically addressing SDG-related interactions between LRGs and the national government.

Ukraine: Ever since the full-scale Russian invasion began in February 2022, the focus of national policy has changed. Thus, there have been fewer events since that time related to the coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation and its follow-up.

United Kingdom: **Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA):** Due to the political difficulties in Northern Ireland over recent years, there has been a lack of central government leadership and local government has been rarely consulted on their progress regarding the SDGs.

Sweden: There is a national coordinator for the 2030 Agenda appointed by the government. SALAR and some LRGs take part in various project-based collaborations and/or groups organised by the coordinator. It is difficult to say whether SALAR's involvement in this type of national coordination has had any impact on the dialogue and cooperation between the national government and the local and regional levels in terms of strategies or on the horizontal cooperation between LRGs (regions, provinces and municipalities).

Serbia: The main coordinating mechanism in the Republic of Serbia for SDG implementation follow-up is the Inter-ministerial Working Group for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which was initially chaired by the Minister without Portfolio in charge of Demography and Population Policy. SKGO was proactive in terms of contributing to this group's work and, following this initiative, the Minister in charge announced to SKGO their formal involvement in the working group in May 2019. With elections held shortly thereafter, in 2020 and 2022, and the subsequent formation of a new government, the 2030 Agenda portfolio remained active, including within the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, but the Inter-ministerial working group has not been reinstated and no meetings have been held since (at least to SKGO's knowledge). Nevertheless, activities concerning the 2030 Agenda and the development partners' support thereof have continued and strengthened over the years, insomuch that there is coordination among the relevant stakeholders, including SKGO.

Germany: **Association of German Cities:** In 2021, the three German associations of local governments produced a Voluntary Local Review. This VLR became an integral part of the German VNR.

Bulgaria: As described under the previous point, NAMRB was invited to appoint representatives to a working group to identify the indicators to be used in measuring the implementation progress of the NDP 2030.

Spain: **eLankidetza-Basque Government Development Cooperation Agency and Euskal Fonda/Basque Local Authorities Cooperation Fund:** The Basque Government, the City of Bilbao, the BBK Foundation, the UN and the Spanish Government have joined forces and the secretariat of the resulting Local2030 Coalition has been established in Bilbao.

11. Biggest challenges in implementing SDGs and other global agendas

Belgium: **VVSG:** The SDGs have been overshadowed by subsequent crises, namely COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, inflation and the accompanying burden on municipal finances.

Israel: There is limited access to information in Hebrew. The SDGs have also been overshadowed by internal and security issues.

Moldova: Information, support, coordination, interest and/or awareness, resources, capacities, access to funding, participation, relevant data are all lacking or very scarce in the

country, and these limits currently hinder any progress regarding SDG implementation. In addition, the SDGs have taken a backseat to the post-covid recovery and energy crisis. At national level, mainly policy and tools are discussed, much more so than targets and quantitative indicators.

Ukraine: The main factor that impacts any implementation of the SDGs in Ukraine is the Russian war, which has necessarily changed the focus from accelerating actions for sustainable development to simple survival.

Spain: **Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL):** Two primary difficulties have been identified: 1) The need to establish a local model that can integrate the SDG perspective, a prerequisite when it comes to defining global, local, and regional development strategies. This allows the SDGs to serve as a blueprint for any strategic planning and prioritisation of local actions. Municipalities must also recall the need for multi-sectoral and cross-cutting plans. 2) Civil society's unfamiliarity with the SDGs. In many cases, there is a lack of knowledge regarding the implications and impact of the SDGs at municipal level.

Spain: **eLankidetzta-Basque Government Development Cooperation Agency and Euskal Fondona/Basque Local Authorities Cooperation Fund:** It would be preferable to have a more friendly narrative concerning the SDGs in order to strengthen ties with civil society.

Germany: **Association of German Cities:** Achievability of SDGs

Bulgaria: Municipalities in Bulgaria are not explicitly working towards achieving the SDGs or any related plan. At the same time, their work and activities are inevitably linked to the SDGs, and they are part of their agendas in one way or another.

12. Benefits from local and regional governments' efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals and implement global agendas

Belgium: **VVSG:** Enhanced multi-disciplinary, cross-sectoral work (coordination within local government); shared language to enter into discussion and collaboration with stakeholders.

Moldova: For the time being, any such benefits seem to be rather vague.

Spain: **eLankidetzta-Basque Government Development Cooperation Agency and Euskal Fondona/Basque Local Authorities Cooperation Fund:** The Basque stakeholders are already thinking beyond 2030 and calling for a greater global commitment. The NOW initiative was set in motion. For more information, please refer to: https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/docs_interes_transicionsocial/es_def/adjuntos/NOW_Proposal.pdf.

13. Organisations' management of the international dimension of the global goals

Belgium: **VVSG:** Develop specific material on SDGs and international cooperation for publication. Relevant material is translated into English and sometimes French and Spanish. Facilitate SDG partnerships. In 2023, VVSG will institute SDG partnerships. As fewer and fewer Flemish local governments commit to a structural town twinning, which is considered

administratively burdensome, VVSG wishes to identify, share and facilitate alternative and more accessible forms of international cooperation. Specifically, it wants to experiment with 'SDG partnerships' over the 2022-2026 period and use eight test cases in a trial run (four in Benin and four in Rwanda). The partnerships will centre around a joint contribution to the 2030 Agenda and will mainly build on colleague-to-colleague exchanges, taking extra care to ensure the learning process remains visible in both municipalities. By working intensively and thematically with a select group of peers, we anticipate that these SDG partnerships will produce local ambassadors for international cooperation and, in a few cases, may prove to be a stepping stone for long-term international cooperation.

Lithuania: The Association has taken part in international projects related to the implementation of the SDGs at local level as well as in good practice exchanges.

Spain: Diputación de Barcelona (DIBA): The Barcelona Provincial Council's International Relations Directorate is responsible for the international dimension of the 2030 Agenda, and adopts a cross-cutting approach to all the SDGs, with extra attention given to SDG 17 with respect to international cooperation and the creation of partnerships. The 2030 Agenda and SDG Unit however concentrates more on advancing localisation in the province of Barcelona by offering financial and technical support as well as training to its local governments.

14. The impact of the SDG framework on organisations' international partnerships

Belgium: Brulocalis: For the most part, the Association's partners do not view the SDG framework as a roadmap that can help guide their work. Usually, they do not consider it important to use the SDG framework to map their actions. Despite this perception, almost everything they do falls within the scope of the SDGs.

Spain: Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL): The SDG framework has strengthened and improved EUDEL's practice of multi-level, interinstitutional coordination.

15. Specific activities set up by LRGAs to support non-EU partners in localising SDGs

Belgium: Brulocalis: Under the Association's decentralised cooperation programme, the joint strategic framework 'Sustainable City' was set up by Brulocalis with non-EU partners in order to promote this concept within the Belgian cooperation and thus, to a large extent, the SDGs as well.

Belgium: VVSG aims to start up a programme providing assistance to developing countries (such as Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine) to achieve their climate policy goals, with the help of support measures from the Estonian Environmental Investment Centre. For more information, see: <https://kik.ee/en/grants/climate-policy-objectives-developing-countries>.

Luxembourg: The Association does not have any non-European partners.

Serbia: For the time being, most activities have consisted of exchanging experiences and participating in joint training in the scope of their regional and international projects/initiatives.

Lithuania: The Association has organised international conferences and seminars on localising the SDGs that have included participants from Eastern Partnership countries.

Belgium: **Brulocalis:** Mainly SDG 11.

Estonia: At this stage, activities in developing countries have focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Israel: SDGs number 11 and 9 as they are most relevant to partner local authorities, as well as being the most readily understandable. They often already have projects dealing with these issues and goals and therefore simply need to adapt them to the SDG framework.

Netherlands: **VNG International:** SDGs 1, 2, 8, 11, 13, 16 and 17.

North Macedonia: **Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS):** Generally speaking, NALAS focuses on the SDGs as a whole. However, according to the VNR, the VSR support targets specific SDGs in particular.

Slovenia: The focus is mainly on SDG 11 even though there is almost no work involving non-EU partners. Just prior to responding, the Association had organised a study tour for a group of representatives from Albanian municipalities under TAIEX, in which sustainable urban development had been a prominent theme, but the study tour did not highlight SDGs.

Sweden: Resilience in Local Governance, Efficient and Sustainable Municipal Management and Development.

Serbia: SDGs 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 17. The Association had the opportunity to take part in activities organised through NALAS (the regional LGA) focusing on these SDGs, consisting of peer-to-peer exchanges of information or joint work on regional (Western Balkan) projects.

Germany: **Association of German Cities:** SDG 7 for the localisation of German-African energy partnerships, facilitated by Connective Cities.

Spain: **Fons Mallorquí de Cooperació i Solidaritat:** SDGs 6, 5, 12, 13 and 16.

Spain: **eLankidetza-Basque Government Development Cooperation Agency and Euskal Fonda/Basque Local Authorities Cooperation Fund:**

https://www.elankidetza.euskadi.eus/elankidetza_memorias/webela01-eduki/es/

16. Knowledge of EU organisations' non-European partners about SDGs

Belgium: **VVSG:** It depends on the partner. VVSG has three: ANCB (Benin), RALGA (Rwanda) and SALGA (South Africa). ANCB has produced a VSR and aligns its work priorities with the SDGs. The other two partners mostly use SDGs as a reference.

Iceland: The Association is not working with any non-European partners.

Luxembourg: No non-European partners.

Spain: **Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias:** An overall assessment is not possible as it depends on the level of knowledge of the partners.

Bulgaria: No experience to share.

17. Knowledge of non-EU partners about SDGs

Serbia: Given SKGO's work, which has increasingly focused on assisting LSGs to localise SDGs and, as an LGA, following up with monitoring of any SDG links in the work carried out, it would appreciate gaining a better understanding of how to best approach the integration of SDGs in international cooperation/decentralised cooperation. Building the capacity of the Association's staff to provide training in this area may be premature and not possible at this stage, but SKGO would appreciate receiving more information regarding any such opportunities.

ADDITIONAL GENERAL EXAMPLES (including from the RFSC project)

Albania: The RCDN Project (Regional Capacity Development Network for Water and Sanitation Services) tackles SDG 6. The RCDN aims to improve the performance of local government units and water utilities in delivering water and sanitation services to citizens by enriching the regional capacity development offer, establishing partnerships and fostering a capacity development environment. The Network proposes improved capacity development products for water and sanitation services to LGs and water utilities (see <https://rcdnsee.net>).

Belgium: VVSG: Town twinning partners Brasschaat (Flemish municipality) and Tarija (city in Bolivia >200,000) have a city-to-city partnership and jointly celebrate Sustainable Municipality Week. The two local governments have been working together since 2004 on issues such as forest firefighting, composting, sustainable mobility, road safety and water. The SDGs have long provided a framework for the development of this twinning programme. In 2022, Tarija decided to publicise its commitment to the 2030 Agenda locally by organising its own 'Sustainable Municipality Week', following the model of the campaign week organised by VVSG since 2018. The Sustainable Municipality Week is a format provided by VVSG to LGs to raise awareness of SDGs through 'local heroes for global goals'. These are citizens, organizations, schools, businesses, etc. who contribute to sustainability in their daily life or work. In Tarija, an extensive call for sustainable heroes was issued, that resulted in more than 100 individuals and organisations being nominated. After a few rounds of voting by a jury of 30 people (consisting of the city council and local organisations involved in SDG-related work), 12 heroes were officially designated. The heroes were ceremoniously honoured in the city square. They received an SDG award, a municipal title and an SDG tote bag with sustainable products. Together with the city council, they hoisted an SDG flag. Local artists recited a musical verse corresponding to each SDG as well as a poem for the heroes of Brasschaat and Tarija (the poem was published in Brasschaat in Dutch). Videos of the hero ceremony were shared by SDG ambassadors, including the mayor, the president of the municipal council, local TV presenters and influencers. The celebrations were accompanied by a sustainable market and the presentation of an SDG literature prize (pupils from seven schools could submit SDG-themed poems ahead of time). Brasschaat and Tarija broadcast video footage of the SDG flag raising on social media simultaneously: https://www.vvsg.be/Leden/Internationaal/SDG-pagina/documentsinforeignlanguages/EN_campagnehandleiding2020.pdf

VLR Ghent: Regular ongoing sustainability reports since the start of the process in 2020. The first 2020 report focused on indicators. Subsequent reports shared good practices tied to each P: the 2021 report was dedicated to People and the 2022 one looked at Prosperity. Good

practices are sought among stakeholders within the city and are selected in cooperation with these same stakeholders. For more details, see: <https://stad.gent/en/city-governance-organisation/city-policy/ghents-sustainable-development-goals>

VVSG SDG-check for local projects: Together with a working group of some 15 Flemish local governments, VVSG developed an SDG self-assessment tool in 2022 to gauge local projects against the 2030 Agenda and subsequently reassess actions to improve their sustainability. The tool essentially does the following: it scores projects based on the 17 SDGs and the 3 basic principles of the 2030 Agenda (leave no one behind, interconnectedness, multi-stakeholder partnerships); maps both positive and negative impacts; provides concrete improvement suggestions, enabling users to make actions and projects more sustainable; and generates a visual result that can be incorporated into project sheets and documents for the city council. Currently, it is only available in Dutch, but there are plans (given user feedback) to translate the tool in 2024. https://www.vvsg.be/Leden/Internationaal/SDG-pagina/SDGenbeleid/221209_SDG-toets_stellingen_akkoordII.xlsx

SDG Pioneer programme: In 2023, six local governments (Bruges, Kontich, Kalmthout, Lebbeke, Landen, Huldenberg) are to receive the certificate of SDG Pioneer. The SDG Pioneer programme for local governments in Flanders launched in 2020 and is a cooperation action involving CIFAL Flanders, Idea Consult and VVSG. The certificate (after a positive evaluation) is awarded by CIFAL Flanders, in liaison with UNITAR, to the Pioneers following an almost three-year trajectory during which they managed to broaden the organisation's SDG knowledge and to develop an SDG action plan.

Finland: Mwanza-Tampere SDG Twinning project: This project falls under the technical cooperation component of the Finland-UN-Habitat Strategic Partnership on Localising the SDGs. The project is facilitated by UN-Habitat's SDG Localisation and Local Governments Team, with key support from the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, and involves direct cooperation between the city administrations of Mwanza and Tampere. The project also achieves close collaboration between the UN Association of Finland, the UN Association of Tanzania and Tanzania's Association of Local Authorities (ALAT). The overall objective of the twinning project is to accelerate the SDG localisation process in Mwanza and Tampere and to establish a cooperative framework of cities between the two countries. Specifically, the project targets the following:

- Strengthening the partnership between Mwanza and Tampere around the SDGs while consolidating a network of partners that will support the knowledge exchange between the two cities.
- Capitalizing on Tampere's experience on the VLR process, using it as a model for the development of Mwanza's first VLR.
- Building opportunities stemming from the VLR process and its findings to improve the integration of the SDGs in local planning.
- Informing the local population of the strategies in place to implement the SDGs in Mwanza using the VLR findings.
- Sharing the SDG Twinning project experience between Mwanza and Tampere with UN-led dialogues and processes, making use of hybrid and online meetings.
- Harnessing the potential and experience of Tampere and Finland on VLRs and SDG localisation, including the systematisation of Tampere's experience.
- Integrating Mwanza and Tampere into UN-Habitat's global network on SDG localisation and VLRs as well as piloting UN-Habitat's comprehensive approach on SDG localisation, including the SDG Cities initiative and the Global Urban Monitoring Framework.
- Publicising the Mwanza VLR process as a model for other cities in Tanzania and laying the ground to replicate the Finnish network SDG46 in Tanzania.
- Keeping the SDG Toolkit Guidelines developed by the UN Association of Tanzania apprised of the VLR process to replicate the process in other localities in the country.
- Strengthening multilevel connections on SDG monitoring and reporting in Tanzania and Finland by fostering the VLR-VNR link.
- Capitalising on the VLR process and VNR production to produce a Voluntary Subnational Review for publication at the 2023 HLPF. Work centred around SDG11 and SDG17 in particular (but VLRs encompass all SDGs):

<https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/event/mwanza-tampere-twinning-project-kick-workshop>

SDG46 Network: The network started off as a project in November 2021. It is funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and coordinated by the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities. The network consists of Finland's six largest cities: Espoo, Helsinki, Oulu, Tampere, Turku and Vantaa. The Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of the Environment are also associated with the activities. The project's purpose is to support the decision makers, staff and stakeholders in localising the 2030 Agenda SDGs and in so doing bring about a change in the prevailing attitudes and culture that is required to achieve a sustainability transformation. The network will support the co-development of systemic management models for sustainability management and practical management tools. The project will also promote national and international cooperation and co-development for the work on the SDGs and is scheduled to continue until the end of 2023. The six largest cities will pilot tools that promote the local implementation of the SDGs. These tools will then be made available to the entire local government sector in the future. The network works on all SDGs, but principally SDG11: <https://www.localfinland.fi/network-strategic-management-sdgs-cities>

Future Mentors: The Future Mentors programme is a mentoring programme in reverse, in which a small group of young people mentor a decision maker from their own city about the hopes, dreams, and fears of the younger generation regarding the future of their city. The programme is a platform for city youth to initiate a dialogue with the people making decisions that affect them and know their concerns and wishes are being heard. Twenty-six cities across Europe participated in the programme in 2022. The aim of the mentoring programme is to:

- Provide a platform for dialogue between city leaders and youth on a sustainable future in cities. The values and decisions of today's cities directly affect the future of the next generation and for many more to come. It is today's youth, as the ones who will have to live in that future, who should therefore have a say in the conversation.
- Bridge the gap between youth and the city leaders. Young people all over the world have begun to fight the global sustainability deficit and are demanding that governments take action, especially against climate change. The youth climate movement has not only shone a light on the sustainability challenge, but also on the gap between decision makers and young citizens.
- Increase the mutual understanding through dialogue and decision makers' knowledge of the values, hopes and dreams driving younger generations, thus giving new perspectives to all participants.
- Ensure the voice of young people are heard within the Eurocities network and in cities.
- Increase the feeling of togetherness between young people in European cities.
- Participate in the European Year of Youth as the Eurocities network.
- Create a new and future-oriented way of working towards dialogue with the youth in cities. The initiative will spark an increased understanding of how to include the voices of youth and citizens in Eurocities and in its upcoming work.
- Increase young people's feeling of being invested in the city's future. The cities need youth to stay and to feel invested in the city's future. Work focuses on SDG9 and SDG11: <https://oecd-opsi.org/innovations/future-mentors/>

France: AFFCRE: Training/Actions: Integrating the SDGs in decentralised cooperation projects; Questionnaire on SDG localisation; Conducting a joint survey involving several international networks of local authorities (UCLG, AFCCRE, Committee 21) to better understand LGs' concerns in implementing the SDGs (<https://cites-unies-france.org/CUF-Localisation-des-ODD-repondez-au-questionnaire>).

Netherlands: National Town Twinning Council Netherlands-Nicaragua (LBSNN): see earlier examples regarding Tilburg and the education sector.

North Macedonia: Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS): "Promotion and scaling up of models for inclusion of minorities and other vulnerable groups in the Western Balkans" (SDGs 5 and 10): Actions included: Systematic learning and transfer of know-how to support LGs in improving the economic, social and cultural human

rights of their citizens in line with the all-encompassing LNOB; Cluster Learning meetings and peer exchange-enhanced professional knowledge on the challenges and opportunities in implementing Minority Commissioner and Social Dialogue Forum (SDF) approaches. The MC and SDF concepts were finalised and implemented through operational structures within LGs: <http://nalas.eu/News/MCWS97>.

Enhancing local capacities to implement the 2030 Agenda and the “Leave No One Behind” Principle (SDGs 5, 10, 17): Interest and commitment of the NALAS member associations to integrate social affairs in their agendas is very high. This is key to developing the Associations’ capacities in terms of human resources and training system capabilities. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the project’s implementation process and hastened an adaptative shift to online work.

Regional Learning for the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 in South East Europe (SDGs 3, 4, 5, 10, 17): There were 75 participants at the High-Level Forum/National Workshop from central and local government entities, CSOs, media and the international donor community who collaborated in producing and signing Joint Declarations on how to improve Kosovo’s roadmap towards successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs in Kosovo. The Recommendations were presented to: (i) the National Council of Sustainable Development, (ii) the Ombudsman’s Office, (iii) the Prime Minister’s Office, and (iv) the National Statistics Office. <http://nalas.eu/News/DGSKs>

Scaling up of minority inclusion models and strengthening of service delivery in municipal structures in the Western Balkans (SDGs 5, 10, 17): The use of peer-to-peer learning directly from practitioners, in view of successfully transposing innovative approaches and management tools, works to enhance motivation and render know-how exchange even more effective, encouraging municipal staff to take an active role in promoting minority rights, integrate their needs in local policies and thus contribute towards more inclusive and cohesive communities where no one and no space is left behind.

Regional cooperation for better social inclusion at local level (SDGs 5, 10, 17): This consists of: Developing roadmaps and recommendations on social inclusion for LGAs; Strengthening capacities for conducting LNOB social mapping methodology; Applying innovative social approaches based on data that is obtained through social mapping and reflected in evidence-based decisions. <http://nalas.eu/News/MIMconference2023>

Norway: The National Sustainability Network: Network of Norwegian LRG SDG frontrunners: <https://www.ks.no/fagomrader/barekraftsmalene/barekraftsnettverket/>
Sustainability Fridays: Monthly webinars on dedicated SDG topics: <https://www.ks.no/fagomrader/barekraftsmalene/barekraftsfredag/>
KS SSB Taxonomy: Classification system for SDG indicators: <https://www.ssb.no/en/natur-og-miljo/artikler-og-publikasjoner/a-taxonomy-for-indicators-related-to-the-sustainable-development-goals>

Spain: **Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI):** SDG ACTIONAD: Improve administrations’ capacity to achieve the targets of SDGs 11, 12 and 13, with coordinated actions carried out by local authorities and civil society entities through micro-projects with a dual political and social impact. Specifically, it focuses on SDG 11 - Targets 11.3, 11.4 and 11.6; SDG 12 - Targets 12.2, 12.3 and 12.5; and SDG 13 - Targets 13.2 and 13.3. <https://www.accionadods.com/>

IMPULSA ODS: Encourage issuances of public declarations of support for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs from local governments. Once the declaration has been made, FAMSI provides visual support materials to announce it in a public space of the city council. Training actions are organised for municipal technical and policy teams. The next two planned training actions focus on how to translate the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs to local realities. There are also

thematic seminars held on SDGs as well as actions to support LGs' SDG localisation processes.

GloClima - Local Governments and Citizenship for Climate in Andalusia: Promotes and accelerates public policies stemming from climate commitments related to the SDG framework and the 2030 Agenda. <http://www.andaluciasolidaria.org/noticias/item/1802-novedades-famsi-ods-ahora-toca-accion-3-2-1?highlight=WyJnbG9jbGltYSIsIidnbG9jbGltYSJd>

Fons Mallorquí de Cooperació i Solidaritat: Assessment regarding SDG 6 in Tunisia and Burkina Faso as well as exchange of experiences and development of a baseline using the SDG 6 framework to measure their contribution to achieving the SDG. Exchanges of experience were held to learn how different municipalities respond to similar challenges with respect to water. An assessment was conducted following the WHO's Joint Monitoring Programme, involving the collecting of data on access to drinking water and sanitation in three sectors: education, health and households. Based on the results, an action plan with specific targets was drawn up. The municipalities of Tunis and Kairouan exchanged experiences and agreed that improving decentralisation processes and competencies at local level was key to improving water indicators.

Germany: Association of German Cities: SDG indicators are made available to municipalities to assist them in monitoring and assessing sustainability developments. www.sdg-portal.de

Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (www.rfsc.eu)

Within the [URBACT Global Goals for Cities Network](#), 19 partner cities used the RFSC self-assessment tool to carry out an SDG Priorities and Gaps analysis, following the indications of the first two steps for using the tool:

1. Rate the priority of each SDG in the local context (scoring from 1 to 4)
2. Assess how local actions contribute to the different SDGs and rate their estimated impact, from 1 to 4. Potential negative impacts can also be rated from -1 to -4, in consideration of trade-offs.

The results from this self-assessment provide initial feedback with respect to how the current priorities match (or do not) existing actions. In cases where the priority is high, but actions are not seen as impactful, there is a "gap." The tool also offers a monitoring function, which includes a useful library of indicators matched to the SDGs.

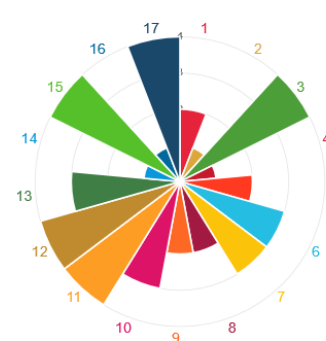


Figure 1 - RFSC tool profile

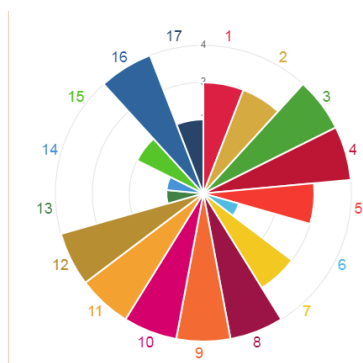
Veszprém, Hungary | In Veszprém, the local team developed a participatory approach to assess the level of relevance and importance of the SDGs to the local context. They invited local stakeholders to rate their perceived importance of the SDGs in a survey, assessing the following aspects:

1. Overall importance of the SDG according to the respondent
2. Local importance of the SDG according to the respondent
3. Capacity of the city of Veszprém to influence the goal and improve the current situation.

Based on the survey results, the SDGs were clustered according to the three aspect scores. The cluster with the highest score ranked a "4" in the RFSC assessment tool, the next group a "3" and so on. The 5 SDGs that scored highest in priority are the following:



The next step involved assessing ongoing actions by using the tool to identify the gaps that need to be addressed in the action plan. The results were presented to local stakeholders for discussion.



Manresa, Spain | At the start of the SDG localisation process in Manresa, the municipality took the decision to address all 17 Global Goals, even adding an 18th one: culture. The SDGs were rated according to their relevance and level of priority, and included direct and indirect competences of the municipality.

The criteria to rate goals and target priorities were:

1. The relevance of the SDG in current policies,
2. The prioritisation exercise conducted by local stakeholders and citizens during a participative process run by the city council in 2020-2021 for the localisation of SDGs and related targets.

As a result, the city was able to identify its strengths through the resulting RFSC assessment, namely that **less prioritized SDGs were the ones where Manresa had progressed the most**, as proved to be the case with regard to clean and affordable water and sanitation (SDG 6), life below water (SDG 14), life on land (SDG 15) and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

Learn more about the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities tool at www.rfsc.eu.

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