

The localisation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda
Survey on the role of
local and regional governments' and their associations

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Name of your organisation (municipality, region, other local government, national association of local and regional governments, etc.):

Your name:

Your job title:

Name of department or unit within the organisation:

E-mail address:

Telephone and/or Skype address:

Please **complete it online by 31 March 2020** or, if necessary, send back the survey

to: nathalie.noupadja@ccre-cemr.org & gold@uclg.org

INTRODUCTION – Realising the decade of Action and delivery of the SDGs

Several major documents have been adopted over the past few years in the framework of the United Nations to lead global development policy (2030 Agenda, New Urban Agenda, Climate Change Agenda, etc). This survey specifically refers to the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level.

The survey aims to assist UCLG, and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments in the realisation of **the report** on local and regional governments' role in the localisation of the SDGs. This information will be shared at the forthcoming High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) – i.e. the United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – in July 2020, in New York. It will also be the basis for **CEMR-PLATFORMA third edition study** on the localisation of the SDGs and the role of national associations.

Many SDGs cover activities that are part of the daily work of local and regional governments (education, health, water and sanitation, waste management, public transport, housing, sustainable environment, among many others). While they may even be unaware of it, many local and regional governments have in fact been taking action to implement the SDGs for years. The aim of the survey is to **support local and regional governments and their associations** and networks to share knowledge, develop their own reporting methods and contribute to national debates.

The survey is especially important for the local and regional governments of those 51 countries that have already committed to submit their national reviews to the HLPF in 2020:

Africa (17): Benin, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Asia-Pacific (9): Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Micronesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands.

Eurasia (5): Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia Federation, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Europe (8): Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Moldova (Republic of), North Macedonia, Slovenia

Latin America and Caribbean (9): Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Peru

MEWA (1): Syrian Arab Republic

North America (2): Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago

This list, alongside that of the 142 countries that have already reported from 2016 to 2019, is available on the HLPF webpage: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.

The survey includes 30 compulsory closed questions, 4 open-question boxes, and one table divided in five sections:

1. Awareness within the organisation (2 questions)
2. National context for SDG implementation and monitoring (8 questions and 2 open-answers boxes)
3. Actions of local and regional governments and their associations to accelerate SDG implementation and monitoring processes (12 questions and 1 open-answers box)
4. From political to practical commitment (8 questions)
5. A table for additional best practices is added at the end

Instructions are provided for each question whenever necessary. There are mainly multiple choices questions: you can always **pick more than one option**. Should you need any support when answering the Survey, please contact our department at CEMR: nathalie.noupadja@ccre-cemr.org and/ or UCLG: gold@uclg.org

Responses from previous surveys are collected and analysed in the series of local and regional governments' reports, [Towards the localization of the SDGs](#). Results from previous surveys have also been analysed in the following 2 editions of CEMR-PLATFORMA studies:

- [How local and regional government associations bring the SDGs to life](#), 2019

- [Sustainable Development Goals, How Europe's towns and regions are taking the lead](#), 2018

I. Awareness in your organisation

1. How familiar with the SDGs would you say your organisation is?

- Very few individuals in the organisation are familiar with the SDGs
- Many have heard about the SDGs, but are not aware about their relevance
- The majority of our staff is aware and makes reference to the SDGs, but it is not high in our work priorities
- The SDGs are well known in our organisation and used as an important reference in our strategies

2. The coordination of SDG-related work is performed by:

- The international department
- The environment department
- The direction of the organisation
- An interdepartmental SDG team, working group or taskforce
- A coordinating officer in charge of SDGs
- Several or all departments deal with SDGs
- Other, please specify:

II. National context for SDG implementation and monitoring

II.A: What is your national (federal / regional if relevant) government doing for the implementation of the SDGs

3. Is there a national (/ regional if relevant) framework, strategy, national development plan or roadmap (any official, general, and national document) to implement the SDGs and the other global agendas in your country (even if your country has not reported/will not report to the UN)?

Yes No (if not, go to question 5)

3.1 If yes, please specify the year of adoption:

3.2 If relevant, please specify the year of last update:

3.3 If possible, please give the name or the link to this document(s):

3.4 Does it mention the need to support local and regional governments for SDG implementation at local levels?

Yes No Not clearly

4. Was your organisation consulted by your central/federal government for the design, implementation or monitoring of these national strategies?

- It has not been consulted at all
- In the preliminary / design phase of the strategy
- Throughout its implementation
- In the monitoring phase of the strategy
- Through ad-hoc consultations
- Other, please specify:.....

II.B: Reporting to the High-Level Political Forum and the involvement of local and regional governments

5. If your country reported to the HLPF in previous years (2016-2019) through a Voluntary National Review (VNR), was your organisation invited to contribute?

Yes No (if not, go to question 6)

5.1 If yes, was your organisation invited to contribute to the report:

- In the reporting unit appointed by the national government as well as in the drafting process (strong involvement)
- By presenting your own contribution to the report (e.g. about what local and regional governments are doing to implement the SDGs, etc.) (strong involvement)
- By attending bilateral meetings (e.g., between your organisation/elected officials and the reporting unit) (strong/moderate involvement)
- By participating in national/regional conferences or workshops to debate the report (moderate involvement)
- By answering a survey or questionnaire (moderate involvement)
- By participating in occasional informative workshops, with limited room to contribute to the actual report (weak involvement)
- By being invited to the presentation of the VNR once this was finalised (weak involvement)
- Other: _____

6. If your country is reporting to the HLPF in 2020, is your organisation involved in the national reporting process for 2020? (i.e., Voluntary National Reviews)

Yes No (if not, go to question 7)

6.1. If yes, how was your organisation invited to contribute?

- In the reporting unit appointed by the national government as well as in the drafting process (strong involvement)
- By presenting your own contribution to the report (e.g. about what local and regional governments are doing to implement the SDGs, etc.) (strong involvement)
- By attending bilateral meetings (e.g., between your organisation/elected officials and the reporting unit) (strong/moderate involvement)
- By participating in national/regional conferences or workshops to debate the report (moderate involvement)
- By answering a survey or questionnaire (moderate involvement)
- By participating in occasional informative workshops, with limited room to contribute to the actual report (weak involvement)
- By being invited to the presentation of the VNR once this was finalised (weak involvement)
- Other: _____

7. If your country does not report to the HLPF in 2020, is your government preparing any annual progress report on the implementation of the SDGs?

Yes No (if not, go to question 8)

7.1. If yes, has your organisation been invited to contribute to such report?

Yes No

7.2 If **yes**, how has your organisation contributed to the report?

- In the reporting unit appointed by the national government as well as in the drafting process (strong involvement)
- By presenting your own contribution to the report (e.g. about what local and regional governments are doing to implement the SDGs, etc.) (strong involvement)
- By attending bilateral meetings (e.g., between your organisation/elected officials and the reporting unit) (strong/moderate involvement)
- By participating in national/regional conferences or workshops to debate the report (moderate involvement)
- By answering a survey or questionnaire (moderate/ weak involvement)
- By participating in occasional informative workshops, with limited room to contribute to the actual report (weak involvement)
- By being invited to the presentation of the VNR once this was finalised (weak involvement)
- Other: _____

Box 1. General comments to section “National context for SDG implementation and monitoring”

Do you consider that your participation in the reporting process was adequate?

Were your contributions taken into consideration in the Voluntary National Review or in the national report?

Please add any other information you would like to share.

[use all the space you may need]

II.C: Involvement of local and regional governments in national coordination or follow-up mechanisms on the SDGs, and their impact on institutional context

In most countries, national governments have either **created specific institutional mechanisms** (e.g., high-level commissions, inter-ministerial/interagency committees, etc.) or **strengthened existing ones** (often including national councils for sustainable development or national planning institutions) to improve coordination and follow-up for the implementation of the SDGs.

In some cases, these units are also involved in the preparation of the reports to the HLPF. Between 2016 and 2019, local and regional governments have been invited – to a varying degree – to participate in these institutional mechanisms in 47 countries over a total 142 countries that reported to the UN (e.g., full or consultative status, participation in technical commissions, etc.).

8. Has your national government put in place any institutional mechanism to ensure coordination on and follow-up of SDG implementation?

Yes No (if not, go to question 11)

8.1. If yes, what kind of mechanisms exist? [reminder: you can select more than one]

- High level commission at inter-ministerial level or involving only national institutions and agencies
- High level commission with multi-stakeholder participation (e.g. National Council for Sustainable Development)
- National contact point on SDGs (such as a national ambassador for the SDGs, for example)
- Multi-stakeholders working group on SDGs
- Technical commissions with multi-stakeholder's involvement at consultative level (associated to national mechanisms)
- Regular consultations
- Ad-hoc consultations
- Informal meetings with national government
- No mechanism has been put in place
- Other (please specify):.....

9. How has your association or any representative of local and regional governments been invited or associated to such mechanism?

- Not at all
- Through ad-hoc consultations (in few or punctual meetings, but not as a permanent member)
- Regular participation, but at consultative level
- Regular participation, as equal partner
- Other: please specify:

10. In your opinion, have these coordination mechanisms had any impact on the dialogue or multilevel governance (cross-level governance / governance in partnership) ?

Yes No

(See box 2)

Box 2. Evolution of the cooperation between national and local and regional governments

Please provide more information – if available – on coordination mechanisms and the dialogue between national and subnational governments.

Did SDGs coordination mechanisms and policies have had any impact on the dialogue and cooperation between the national government and with local and regional governments? And between subnational governments themselves (regions, provinces and municipalities, and between municipalities)?

For countries where consultation mechanisms were already in place from year 1 – has there been any movement?

Please explain or give some examples:[use all the space you may need]

III. Actions by LRGs and their associations to accelerate SDG implementation and monitoring

III.A: Awareness-raising, commitments and actions developed by local and regional governments and their associations

11. Has your organisation adopted specific policy documents on the implementation of the SDGs or the other global agendas?

- None
- Political Statements or declarations (general / political commitment)
- Strategies, policy papers (advanced general commitment)
- Action plans or roadmaps (implementation / action stage)
- Other: please specify.....

12. Has your organisation promoted activities to support SDG implementation and dissemination among local and regional governments during the past year (2019-2020)?

- Not at all
- Awareness rising campaigns (long-term activities)
- Conferences (one-time event)
- Communication (share of information)
- Trainings and/or capacity building workshops
- Technical assistance to support the implementation of the SDGs (e.g. alignment of SDGs and local plans)
- Targeting peers in partner countries outside the EU
- Others: please specify

13. Do you collaborate with other organisations of local stakeholders for the promotion of the SDGs?

Yes No (if not, go to question 14)

13.1. If yes, please mention some of the following stakeholders:

- Civil society organisations / NGOs
- Private sector
- Schools, universities
- Professional or trade unions
- Others: please specify

14. Do you know about any other initiatives in your country to inform or support local governments about the SDGs and other global agendas?

Yes No (if not, go to question 15)

14.1. If yes, please provide more information about this initiative and/ or an online link.....

14.2 If yes, have these initiatives been promoted by:

- The national government
- International organisations or donors
- International, European or national local and regional governments' organisations or networks
- Private sector
- Academia
- NGOs or foundations
- I don't know
- Other: _____

III.B: Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs at local level

15. Do you know of any initiatives of local and regional governments to monitor and report on the implementation of the SDGs? E.g. some local and regional governments are developing Voluntary Local Reviews or specific reports (sustainable local or regional reports).

Yes No

If yes, please provide more information about this initiative and/ or an online link.....

16. Are you using national indicators to monitor the SDGs? Or have you defined local indicators?

Yes No

17. Is there any initiative in your country to develop local indicators to monitor the SDGs and/or disaggregate data collection?

Yes No

If yes, please provide more information about this initiative and/ or an online link.....

18. Is your organisation interested to work on specific indicators and/or initiatives to monitor the implementation of the SDGs at local level?

Yes No

19. Is your organisation working on indicators with international peers (outside the EU)?

Yes No

III.C: Moving towards accelerated action to achieve sustainable development

20. What do you think are the main challenges local and regional governments face in working towards the achievement of the SDGs and the other global agendas?

Please select 5 options and rank them by relevance from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important):

- Limited access to information
- Limited support from national governments (in terms of administrative and financial support, capacity building, human resources, ...)
- Limited coordination across levels of governments
- Limited local interest and/or awareness (e.g. local governments don't understand the SDGs or find them not relevant ; or they perceive the SDGs as a new burden, not adapted to the local priorities)
- Inadequate human resources or weak capacities
- Insufficient financial resources (other than national subsidies)
- Need for legal and institutional reforms to empower local and regional governments
- Other (such as lack of disaggregated and available data, etc...): _____

21. What do you think are the main opportunities local and regional governments enjoyed in working towards the achievement of the SDGs and the other global agendas?

Please select 5 options and rank them by relevance from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important):

- Wider access to information
- Additional support from national governments (in terms of administrative and financial support, capacity building, human resources, ...)
- Enhanced coordination across levels of governments
- Increased local interest and/or awareness (e.g. local governments better understand the SDGs or find them (more) relevant ; they don't perceive the SDGs as a burden (anymore), SDGs are adapted to the local priorities)
- More human resources or better capacities
- Additional financial resources (other than national subsidies)
- Legal and institutional reforms empowering local and regional governments
- Other (such as collection of disaggregated and availability of data, etc...): _____

22. Is there any initiative or project being developed to support either the alignment of local development plans with the SDGs or the local implementation of the SDGs?

Yes No

If yes, please describe the initiative in Box 3 below

Box 3. Actions to accelerate the localisation of the SDGs.

Please give some examples of **initiatives you are implementing or good practices of other local or regional governments in your country** (e.g. alignment of local plans with the SDGs, main programmes and projects that contribute to the implementation of any of the SDGs, new forms of cooperation between different levels of government to implement the SDGs).

Please mention:

1. the name of the project
2. the organisation in charge of the implementation
3. one or two sentences describing the action(s)
4. a link or a contact to collect more information

If necessary you can use the table annexed at the end of the survey.

IV: From political to practical commitment

23. How does your organisation deal with the interlinkages and the integrated approach of the SDGs?

- Inter-departmental working methods have been set up (e.g. collaboration with colleagues from other departments on thematic issues)
- Development of joint activities with external stakeholders (Civil Society Organisations, universities, think tanks, etc.)
- The association has chosen to focus the work on one/few SDG(s)
- No strategy has been put in place
- Other, please specify.....

24. How does your organisation deal with the international dimension of the SDGs?

- Development of international/city-to-city or region-to-region partnerships (decentralised cooperation activities)
- Involvement in European/international networks and fora (participation to international events, campaigns, etc.)
- Strengthening lobbying activities toward European/international organisations
- No strategy has been put in place
- I am not sure/I do not know
- Other, please specify.....

25. To what extent would you agree the SDG framework has helped your organisation develop/revitalise its partnerships?

- It helps to develop new international partnerships
- It helps to revitalise existing international partnerships
- It strengthens working with European and international networks
- It allows working with external stakeholders (Civil Society Organisations, universities, think tanks, etc.)
- It strengthens the collaboration with the national government
- It does not influence my organisation's partnerships
- Other, please specify.....

26. So far, your organisation has been working with the SDG framework to (for instance “raise awareness”, “give training”, etc.), with and/or for (for instance “citizens”, “your members”, “national government”, “international networks”, etc.):

Objectives/ Recipients	To raise awareness	To develop action plan framework on sustainability	To give training	To boost exchanges	To collect data and monitor strategies	To improve advocacy to other tiers of government	To report
Citizens							
Members (if you are from an association)							
National government							
Political leadership - presidency							
European networks							
EU institutions							
International networks							
With non-European local governments							

27. As association or local / regional government, are you setting-up dedicated activities to support your non-EU/ non-European partners in their efforts to localise the SDGs?

- None
- Peer reviews / monitoring each other’s progress
- Co-creating local SDG strategies together, around common objectives and common SDGs
- Providing training / capacity building activities for each other to learn from
- Study-visits and story-telling meetings for inspiration
- Other (please specify).....

28. On which SDGs are you focusing your work with your international peers (partner local and regional governments)?

- My organisation does not work with international peers (partner local and regional governments or associations/ networks of local and regional governments)
- All SDGs
- No specific SDGs, we just use the essence of the 2030 Agenda
- Specific SDGs (please specify which ones and if possible, why you chose these goals):

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29. If relevant, how would you assess the knowledge of your non-EU / non-European partner about the SDGs?

- They are not familiar with the SDGs
- They know the SDGs exist, but are unfamiliar with their details
- They use the SDGs as a reference, but they are not high in their work priorities
- They align their work priorities with the SDGs
- They are willing to work with you using the SDG framework
- Other, please specify.....

30. What support would you need from PLATFORMA, CEMR, and UCLG?

- Training
- Information and knowledge-sharing
- Information concerning European institutions
- Financial opportunities
- Indicator frameworks
- Methodologies with regards decentralised cooperation and exchange
- Other, please specify.....

See next page: please provide – if available – a list of local and regional governments in your country that are taking actions to support SDG implementation, in particular related to the SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, OR any other Goal(s). Please provide in particular any relevant sources or references.

Thank you!



Name of local or regional government/ association of local and regional governments	Briefly describe the policies and/or projects (one or two sentences)	Sources Whenever possible, mention any internet sources or references – either relevant or providing direct access to information