The localization of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

Survey on the role of local and regional governments

and their associations

Please submit it by 10/03/2025 if you are a European LRGA, and by 01/04/2025 if you are a European LRG or an LRG/LRGA from outside Europe

We encourage you to submit the survey through the online form: <http://survey.uclg.org>. If this is not possible, please send the survey to: [gold@uclg.org](mailto:gold@uclg.org) or, for European LRGAs, to: [survey@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:survey@ccre-cemr.org).



| Name of your organization:  Country:  Your name:  Your job title:  Your gender : Woman Man Non-binary I prefer not to say  E-mail address: |
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Welcome to the survey on the role of local and regional governments and their associations in the localization of the SDGs!

The world remains significantly off track in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with only 15%-17% of targets showing positive trends. Incremental changes are insufficient; transformative actions are urgent if we are to realize the 2030 Agenda. The Summit of the Future, held in September 2024, marked a pivotal moment in global governance, culminating in the adoption of the Pact for the Future. However, we must intensify our efforts to advocate for a more supportive and transformative environment—one that empowers local and regional governments, fosters multi-level collaboration, and ensures adequate resources and policy frameworks to achieve the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda. The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF) has been instrumental in advocating for the inclusion of LRGs within the UN system, and aims to continue leading the way.

This survey aims to assess the progress made by LRGs in implementing the United Nations' [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf) and its 17 SDGs. The findings will contribute to the GTF’s joint report, "Towards the Localization of the SDGs," to be presented at the upcoming High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2025. Since 2017, [eight such reports](https://www.gold.uclg.org/report/localizing-sdgs-boost-monitoring-reporting) have been submitted at the global level, and [seven](https://local-sdgs.eu/en) at the European level, highlighting the ongoing commitment of LRGs to sustainable development and allowing us to move forward in this joint endeavor.

In 2025, the HLPF will focus on the theme: "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind." It will conduct in-depth reviews of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The survey targets all LRGs and their associations worldwide, with particular emphasis on the 39 countries committed to submitting their national reviews to the HLPF in 2025 (see the list [here](https://hlpf.un.org/countries?f%5B0%5D=year%3A2025)).

Your participation is crucial in showcasing the contributions of LRGs to the global sustainable development agenda and in reinforcing the collaborative efforts needed to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Should you need any support when answering the survey, please contact: [gold@uclg.org](mailto:gold@uclg.org) or, for European LRGAs, [survey@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:survey@ccre-cemr.org).

If you are a European LRGA, please complete this survey by 10 March 2025.

If you are a European LRG or a non-European member, you have time until 1 April 2025.

Acronyms and vocabulary explanation:

LRGA = local and regional government association

LRG = local and regional government

Organization = refers to LRGAs, LRGs, inter-municipal and supra-municipal institutions (e.g. metropolitan authorities)

VNR = Voluntary National Review

VLR = Voluntary Local Review

VSR = Voluntary Subnational Review

HLPF = High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the United Nations

Section I. Awareness raising, commitment to and activities for the SDGs

1. AWARENESS RAISING

Seven years after the adoption of the SDGs, how do you evaluate the progress made in the knowledge of the SDGs within your organization?

Please select only one option

⃝ Limited progress: Very few individuals in the organization are familiar with the SDGs or are aware of their relevance

⃝ Medium progress: The majority of our staff is aware of and refers to the SDGs, but they are not high in our work priorities

⃝ Important progress: The SDGs are well known in our organization and used as an important reference in our strategies

⃝ I don’t know

1. COMMITMENT

Has your organization made progress in its strategy or plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

Please select only one option

⃝ No commitment: The organization has not adopted any plan or strategy related to the implementation of the SDGs

⃝ Limited progress: The organization has adopted a strategy or an action plan but its implementation is still at an early stage

⃝ Important progress: The strategy or the action plan is in an advanced stage or has even been updated to expand its objectives

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. ACTIVITIES FOR SDG LOCALIZATION

For which of the following objectives has your organization promoted, or actively participated in, concrete activities for SDG localization during the past years?

You can select more than one option

⃝ Raise awareness and disseminate the SDGs among the population and local stakeholders (including your LRG members, if you are an LRGA), such as communications, conferences, events, joint declarations, festivals, awards, SDG champions, training

⃝ Prioritize the SDGs in your local plans and policies

⃝ Align your strategies and planning with the SDGs, by including some (or all) SDGs, targets and principles

⃝ Align your budgets with the SDGs, allocating specific resources to achieving the SDGs

⃝ Implement concrete programs and projects aligned with the SDGs

⃝ Develop indicators or a mechanism to monitor the progress made in the achievement of the different SDGs and their targets in your territory

⃝ Produce a VLR or VSR

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

| Box 1. Tell us more!   * *Please provide more information on the concrete SDG-related activities that you organized or in which you participated. You can include as many activities as you deem relevant concerning one or different bullet points of the above.* * *What was your role (organizer, funder, support…)?* * *Who were the main stakeholders involved (civil society, private sector, academia, trade unions, cooperatives and other institutions, your LRG members, international institutions – e.g. UN Global Compact, other UN or EU agencies, etc.)?* * *What results and impact have you achieved through these actions?* * *What are the lessons learnt?* |
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Section II. National context: involvement of your organization in national reporting and coordination mechanisms

Countries reporting to the 2025 HLPF through a Voluntary National Review:

ASPAC (11): Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Surinam, Thailand

Africa (10): Angola, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan

Eurasia (3): Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic

Europe (5): Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Malta

LATAM (4): Bahamas, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala

MEWA (5): Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, State of Palestine

NORAM (1): Saint Lucia

*If your country is not in this list of countries reporting in 2025, please skip Question 4, Question 5 and Box 2 and continue with Question 6.*

1. INVOLVEMENT IN THE REPORTING PROCESS IN 2025:

As your country is reporting to the HLPF, how is your organization being invited to contribute to the development of the Voluntary National Review (VNR)?

You can select more than one option

⃝ No participation at all

⃝ Very limited contribution: By participating in occasional meetings, with limited room to contribute to the actual report

⃝ Limited contribution: By answering a survey or questionnaire

⃝ Moderate contribution: By attending bilateral meetings with the reporting unit (in charge of the reporting) to discuss the report (e.g. between your organization, local elected officials and the reporting unit)

⃝ Active contribution: By presenting your own contribution to the report (e.g. about what local and regional governments are doing to implement the SDGs, etc.)

⃝ Very active contribution: Direct participation in the reporting unit appointed by the national government as well as in the drafting process

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. EVOLUTION OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE REPORTING PROCESS:

Has your organization experienced any change (progress, setback…) in the modality of participation in the production of the VNR compared to previous years?

Please select only one option

⃝ Same tasks as previous years

⃝ Stronger involvement: Please describe in Box 2, below

⃝ Weaker involvement: Please describe in Box 2, below

⃝ I don’t know

| Box 2. Tell us more!   * *Do you consider that your participation in the reporting process has been adequate?* * *Have your contributions been taken into consideration in the report?* * *If you feel there has been any progress (or setback), please explain why.* |
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1. INVOLVEMENT IN THE NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS FOR SDGs

Has your organization or any representative of LRGs been involved in the institutional mechanisms put in place by the national government to coordinate SDG implementation (high-level commissions, inter-ministerial committees, national councils for sustainable development, national planning institutions…)? How?

Please select only one option

⃝ No involvement at all

⃝ Through ad-hoc consultations, in few or punctual meetings, but not as a permanent member

⃝ Regular participation, but at consultative level (no decision-making power)

⃝ Regular participation in the decision-making process as an equal partner (right to vote, for instance)

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. EVOLUTION OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUR ORGANIZATION IN THE NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Has your organization experienced any change (progress, setback…) in its involvement in the national coordination mechanisms for the implementation and follow-up of the SDGs?

Please select only one option

⃝ We have never participated in the national coordination mechanisms

⃝ No evolution experienced; the involvement has not changed during the past years

⃝ We have been more involved: Please describe in Box 3, below

⃝ We have been less involved: Please describe in Box 3, below

⃝ I don’t know

| Box 3. Tell us more!   * *Is there a clear vertical cooperation between the national government and the LRGs? If yes, can you explain how it works? If not, why not?* * *Has your involvement (whether direct or indirect) in the national coordination institutions/mechanisms had any impact on the dialogue and cooperation between the national government and LRGs? If yes, how?* * *Has it had an influence on the horizontal cooperation between LRGs themselves (regions, provinces and municipalities)? If so, how?* |
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Section III. Inspiring practices on the five SDGs under review at the 2025 HLPF

The following boxes aim to raise inspiring practices related to the SDGs that are under review at the 2025 HLPF: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). We encourage you to submit one or two inspiring practices promoted by your organization, alone or with partners, to achieve the different SDGs and their targets.

| Box 4. LOCALIZING SDG 3 ON GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING  Which strategies, plans, projects, institutional arrangements, budgetary measures… is your organization undertaking to localize SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-Being?   * *Kindly share one strategy, plan, project, institutional arrangement, budgetary measure etc. that you would underline as having a transformational role in the achievement of SDG 3.* * *What is the greatest added value (in terms of leadership, multistakeholder collaborations, policy outputs and impact, goals, capacity to leave no one behind, cross-departmental work within the LRG/LRGA, process, results, impact, lessons learnt…)?* * *Please provide the name of the initiative, a short description (4-5 sentences) and website with additional information.* |
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| Box 5. LOCALIZING SDG 5 ON GENDER EQUALITY  Which strategies, plans, projects, institutional arrangements, budgetary measures… is your organization undertaking to localize SDG 5 on Gender Equality?   * *Kindly share one strategy, plan, project, institutional arrangement, budgetary measure etc. that you would underline as having a transformational role in the achievement of SDG 5.* * *What is the greatest added value (in terms of leadership, multistakeholder collaborations, policy outputs and impact, goals, capacity to leave no one behind, cross-departmental work within the LRG/LRGA, process, results, impact, lessons learnt…)?* * *Please provide the name of the initiative, a short description (4-5 sentences) and website with additional information.* |
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| Box 6. LOCALIZING SDG 8 ON DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  Which strategies, plans, projects, institutional arrangements, budgetary measures… is your organization undertaking to localize SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth?   * *Kindly share one strategy, plan, project, institutional arrangement, budgetary measure etc. that you would underline as having a transformational role in the achievement of SDG 8.* * *What is the greatest added value (in terms of leadership, multistakeholder collaborations, policy outputs and impact, goals, capacity to leave no one behind, cross-departmental work within the LRG/LRGA, process, results, impact, lessons learnt…)?* * *Please provide the name of the initiative, a short description (4-5 sentences) and website with additional information.* |
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| Box 7. LOCALIZING SDG 14 ON LIFE BELOW WATER  Which strategies, plans, projects, institutional arrangements, budgetary measures… is your organization undertaking to localize SDG 14 on Life Below Water?   * *Kindly share one strategy, plan, project, institutional arrangement, budgetary measure etc. that you would underline as having a transformational role in the achievement of SDG 14.* * *What is the greatest added value (in terms of leadership, multistakeholder collaborations, policy outputs and impact, goals, capacity to leave no one behind, cross-departmental work within the LRG/LRGA, process, results, impact, lessons learnt…)?* * *Please provide the name of the initiative, a short description (4-5 sentences) and website with additional information.* |
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| Box 8. LOCALIZING SDG 17 ON PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS  Which strategies, plans, projects, institutional arrangements, budgetary measures… is your organization undertaking to localize SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals?   * *Kindly share one strategy, plan, project, institutional arrangement, budgetary measure etc. that you would underline as having a transformational role in the achievement of SDG 17.* * *What is the greatest added value (in terms of leadership, multistakeholder collaborations, policy outputs and impact, goals, capacity to leave no one behind, cross-departmental work within the LRG/LRGA, process, results, impact, lessons learnt…)?* * *Please provide the name of the initiative, a short description (4-5 sentences) and website with additional information.* |
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*Section IV is only for European LRGAs. If you are not a European LRGA, please skip it: you can now submit your responses!*

Section IV. Additional questions for the European section

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) are under review at the 2025 HLPF. They are critical for advancing territorial cohesion within the European Union. Monitoring and evaluation has also become a cornerstone to make sure this progress is real and effective. CEMR is carrying out studies and research on these topics and your feedback will contribute to influencing the next 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework.

1. MONITORING AND INDICATORS: TRACKING PROGRESS

Has your organization developed indicators or a mechanism to monitor the progress made in the achievement of the different SDGs and their targets in your territory?

Please select only one option

⃝ Yes

⃝ No

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

| Box 9. Tell us more!     * *Have you created a new indicator system aligned with the SDGs? Have you adapted an existing one? Are you using sets of indicators such as the UN-Habitat Global Urban Monitoring Framework or the European Commission’s JRC Handbook for VLRs? How have you prioritized some indicators over others?* * *Are you working with other stakeholders (national government, academia, other LRGs/LRGAs, international partners…)? Who is in charge of what role and activity?* * *Concerning the data you use, who is in charge of generating, collecting and/or analysing it?* * *What is the most relevant/innovative aspect of your indicator system? What would you emphasize?* |
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1. EU TERRITORIAL COHESION

Territorial cohesion is an important priority in Europe. It aims to reduce economic, social and territorial inequalities between and within countries. However, the SDGs might be achieved at different paths depending on the different types of territories: rural/remote, peri-urban and urban.

Please assess the level of achievement of the 2030 Agenda as a whole in your country depending on the different types of territories on a scale from 1 to 5 (from 1 = significantly slow to 5 = significantly fast).

Please select only one option per row, you can leave rows blank

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Overall in your country |  |  |  |  |  |
| In urban areas |  |  |  |  |  |
| In peri-urban areas |  |  |  |  |  |
| In rural areas |  |  |  |  |  |

1. SDG 3 ON ENSURING GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensuring good health and well-being (SDG 3) is key for people wherever in the world they live. Europe also has its own vulnerabilities as was revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and is facing specific challenges of ageing and depopulation, particularly accentuated in rural areas. In Europe, measures towards achieving SDG 3 can be on inclusive health systems; improving reproductive, maternal and child health; ending major communicable disease epidemics; addressing mental disorders; lowering behavioural and environmental health risk factors, and ensuring the resilience of the healthcare system. See: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/762380/EPRS_BRI(2024)762380_EN.pdf>.

Please assess the level of achievement of the 2030 Agenda as a whole in your country depending on the different types of territories on a scale from 1 to 5 (from 1 = significantly slow to 5 = significantly fast).

Please select only one option per row, you can leave rows blank

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Overall in your country |  |  |  |  |  |
| In urban areas |  |  |  |  |  |
| In peri-urban areas |  |  |  |  |  |
| In rural areas |  |  |  |  |  |

1. SDG 5 ON GENDER EQUALITY

CEMR's recent study, *Women in Politics: Local and European Trends 2024*, continues to highlight the disproportionate challenges women face in public and political life, including harassment and online abuse, which discourage their participation in decision-making roles.

What initiatives have your member municipalities implemented to prevent and address gender-based violence, including harassment in public spaces, harassment at the workplace and online violence? Please share 1 or 2 inspiring practices.

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1. SDG 8 ON DECENT WORK AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

There are currently a lot of discussions on the importance of skills and skills development as part of the green and digital transition, and a focus on matching workforce capabilities with emerging market demands.

Can you present inspiring practices on how the local governments in your association support the creation of decent jobs (particularly for youth), promote skills development, including upskilling and reskilling (for young people and current employees) during the green and digital transition to ensure alignment with the evolving job market?

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1. SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Social dialogue is an essential tool for shaping inclusive and effective employment policies and workplace. Understanding its development and evolution, as well as the implication of social partners, provide valuable insights into collaborative governance practices.

Can you present inspiring practices on how social dialogue has evolved in your association’s local governments and to what extent are social partners involved in developing and implementing employment policies? Please share 1 or 2 ideas.

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# THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING!