

Local Government Associations and their role in localising the SDGs

Connective Cities

1 September 2020





**PLATFORMA is the pan-European coalition
of European local and regional governments
(and their national, European and global associations)
engaged in international development cooperation.**

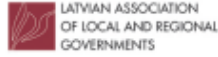


- Is a **hub of expertise** on international action of local and regional governments
- **Follows and influences EU policy-making** in international sustainable development and neighbourhood (East and South) policies and programs
- **Raises awareness and strengthens capacities** of local elected representatives, public officials and EU citizens on decentralised cooperation and sustainable development

European and global networks



National associations



Subnational associations or governments

PLATFORMA Publications



<http://platforma-dev.eu/publications/>



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals



The 2030 Agenda through the eyes of local and regional governments' associations

14 July 2020 (HLPF)

About the study

- 34 associations from 28 European countries
- Overview of state of play
- Illustrative examples
- Challenges and opportunities

By CEMR, PLATFORMA and UCLG



Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals

The SDG process

- Raising awareness
- Diagnosis
- Strategies and plans
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Reporting

Partnerships

- Multi-level governance
- Territorial approach
- Accountability
- Development cooperation

Capacity-building

- Local and regional governments
- Local and regional government associations

Main findings: Awareness

- **Increasing awareness** of the SDGs: Out of 33 respondents, 82% are aware of and make reference to SDGs, compared to 31% in 2019
- **Reference** in local and/or regional development strategies: 30%
- **Activities with external partner organisations** to foster sense of partnership and cooperation: 30%
- **Political statements**, as very important trigger for action on the SDGs
- **Alignment of local development plans** with SDGs (with support from national associations) : 23 respondents

Main findings: Governance

- **Official national strategy:** over 79%, compared to 69% last year
- Recognition of need to **support local and regional action:** 58% (of above)
- **Coordination mechanisms** vary from country to country, and depend strongly on the relationship with national governments (opportunity to improve advocacy with national governments)
- Participation and engagement in **national HLPF reports:** 58% in 2019 and 54% in 2020 (depends on reporting countries)
 - 9 European countries reporting in 2020, 5 for the first time: Austria, Bulgaria (not in the survey), Moldova, North of Macedonia and Ukraine (working with the 2030 Agenda is still a young concept)

Main findings:

Decentralised Cooperation

- **Reach out to peers** beyond European borders and to develop or enhance international partnerships: 16 associations
- **Entry point** for local and regional governments **to connect**, by working together towards common objectives
- Reflection on the **impact of own policies on partner countries**
- Strengthening of advocacy activities that enhance the **role of LRGs in international and national institutions**: 15 respondents
- **Strengthening of partnerships** and collaboration (18 associations) and development of **new partnerships** (16 associations)

Main findings: Decentralised Cooperation

- Work on **all SDGS** with international peers (39%) or **focused cooperation** around certain goals (19%)
 - gender equality (SDG 5)
 - inequalities (SDG 10)
 - sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11)
 - climate action (SDG 13)
 - peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)
- **Training and capacity building** (15 associations) as **core activities** to support international peers
 - study visits and exchange stories related to LRG competences (8 associations)
 - peer-reviewing and monitoring of the SDGs progress (4 associations)

Persisting challenges

1. **Support** from national governments
2. Need for increased **coordination** between levels of governance
3. Lack of human **resources and capacities**
4. Lack of **awareness** / interest at local level
5. Lack of access to **information and data**

More information:

www.platforma-dev.eu

@Platforma4Dev



This project is co-funded by the European Union

