

Voluntary Local Review

- a bridge between global
goals and local reality

A growing interest in VLRs in the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Partnership countries

Experiences

- **Guidance:** several guiding documents for *what* to do but now *how* to do
- **Language:** sometimes complex language of the 2030 Agenda can create barriers between the local government and citizens
- **Indicators & monitoring systems:** need for qualitative and quantitative measures and data

Opportunities

- **Engagement:** shared insight of the SDGs and joint vision of the city's future
- **Partnership & collaboration:** an international arena for mutual learning
- **License to act:** enables the whole organization to come together to accelerate sustainable development by defining how different departments can work together

Priorities

- Cooperation between cities
- Monitoring system and measuring the SDG progress

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GLADSAXE

DENMARK

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW

The Municipality of Gladsaxe submitted its first Voluntary Local Review in 2021. The purpose of their VLR was to describe their main approach to the SDGs and present examples of how they have worked towards achieving the global goals within the city administration. Gladsaxe conducts a review of the municipality's goals and targets every year. The VLR acted as a summary of important aspects and conclusions - with both quantitative and qualitative examples - from the two most recent municipal reviews.

The VLR is structured so that the first part covers the municipality's strategic approach to the SDGs and the progress within sustainable development in Gladsaxe. In the subsequent part, guidance on their continued work with the 2030 Agenda framework is presented. Lastly, the municipal strategy is incorporated as well as the municipal goals and targets.

The Municipality of Gladsaxe is now in the process of conducting their second VLR and are planning to submit it in the summer of 2022.

A TOOL TO FUEL

Gladsaxe has used the 2030 Agenda framework to fuel their sustainability work. By incorporating the SDGs into the city strategy and other steering documents, they have raised the bar in their work towards achieving sustainable development.

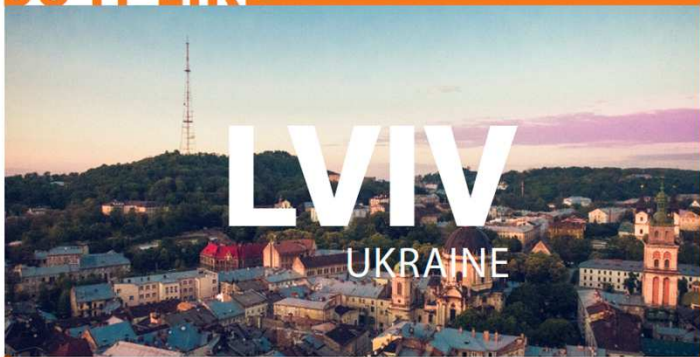
The SDGs and the strategy have provided a shared frame of reference for initiatives and actions in practice within the city organization, as well as a platform for ideas and initiatives in the local environment through partnerships and action at all levels. The cases and the development in Gladsaxe more generally shows a strategy growing within the organization and beyond as the mutual ambition of the city council and across the organization. Both political and administrative leaders highlight the importance of working together to achieve sustainable development. Gladsaxe has identified how the SDGs constitute a source of inspiration to leaders as well as employees in Gladsaxe: they get new ideas on activities and projects - and they offer incentives to work together with other local actors in a bottom-up approach.

Because of the fact that the SDGs offer new ideas on how to work with sustainable development in a systematic way, the Municipality of Gladsaxe is ready to incorporate more of the goals in the city strategy. The VLR presents opportunities to evaluate these ideas and activities and Gladsaxe aims to make it into a part of their follow-up for the city.



Good examples

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VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW

The City of Lviv started the process of conducting its first Voluntary Local Review in 2021, and planned to submit it in March 2022. However, due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, this process has been delayed. Despite the war, the process of finalizing its first VLR continues.

The City of Lviv identified that a first challenge in the process of conducting a VLR was how to raise awareness about sustainable development within the city administration. Based on discussions with other cities, where methods and ideas were exchanged for how to bring the SDGs closer to the city administration, the City of Lviv developed a City Booklet to respond to this challenge.

In a second step, the City of Lviv developed a roadmap for how to conduct the VLR. To bring the SDGs closer to the city administration, they decided to translate the SDGs and categorize them into different topics to make them relevant to the local context. Thereafter, the City of Lviv conducted interviews with city officials to investigate how the different departments' work responded to the SDGs. The City of Lviv collected information on the departments' strategies, goals and principles. These were then compiled and presented in a table where the strategies were connected to different SDGs to evaluate which goals they deliver on as well as where they need to improve.

THE CITY BOOKLET

The lack of knowledge about the SDGs in general and the VLR in particular within city departments made the City of Lviv develop a booklet to bring the 2030 Agenda closer to the city administration. The booklet explains all the 17 SDGs and the 169 targets, and presents examples of how localized goals have been incorporated into VLRs as well as good practices from VLR processes.

The City Booklet was spread to all city departments. It was followed up with interviews with 30 city officials, where they were asked about each SDG and what their department is doing in terms of achieving that specific goal. This proved to be a good way to acknowledge in what ways the different departments were already contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. It also acted as an educational tool for the officials, because they were equipped with more knowledge about the SDGs.

Using the City Booklet as a tool to facilitate the dialogue about sustainable development within the city administration, and illustrating how the different departments are working with the 2030 Agenda, the colleagues within the city administration could better understand how their work is interconnected and how they are all working to achieve the global goals.



Good examples