

Local and Regional Governments Forum 12.7. klo 10-13

Localization and Innovation exchange

Minna Karhunen, CEO, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities

Cities need each other to reach their full potential. Cities across the globe share some of the same obstacles, challenges, and solutions in their work towards reaching the goals of Agenda 2030.

SDG46 is an SDG network for six largest cities in Finland. It includes the cities of Helsinki, Espoo, Tampere, Vantaa, Turku, Oulu and is facilitated by the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities. The network acts in close cooperation with the Finnish SDG ecosystem, which includes the Prime Minister's Office, especially Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, Ministry for the Environment, the academic community, think tanks, projects on sustainable development etc.

The network promotes the national and international influence of the six cities in the context of SDG work and cooperation with the regional actors. To mention an example, the Mwanza Tampere VLR Twinning project 2022-2023, which was conducted in cooperation with UN Habitat, UNA Finland, UNA Tanzania and Association of Tanzanian Local and Regional Authorities. The main target of the network is to develop the strategic steering of the SDGs on local level: Mainstreaming the SDGs, localization and implementation.

The result of this cooperation is innovation in the form of cocreating SDG tools: SDG Analysis Process, which is an interactive workshop method to increase and deepen the knowledge on SDGs in organisations and SDG analysis canvas for municipal steering documents, developed for examining different programmes and plans from a sustainable development perspective. SDG analysis canvas is based on the SDG Impact Assessment Tool of the Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development.