

# SDG localization in Finland

- Finland and Helsinki are pioneers in the implementation and reporting of sustainable development – First VNR was published in 2016 and first VLR in 2019
- SDG46 network of six largest cities in Finland > SDG46 promotes the national and international influence of the six cities in the context of SDG work and cooperation with the regional actors and the Finnish SDG ecosystem, including the Prime Minister's Office, especially Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, Ministry of the Environment, the scientific community, think tanks, projects on sustainable development etc.
- Multilevel dialogue and cooperation is active, VNR 2020 mentions VLRs and national Sustainable City Program has been also supporting concrete implementation of SDGS at the local level.

# Helsinki approaches sustainability through four main themes



## Environment

Cities play a key role in resolving environmental and climate-related challenges



## People

A socially sustainable city facilitates wellbeing for all



## Culture

Helsinki strives to provide its residents with conditions for good living



## Economy

A sustainable economy enables future generations to live sustainably

# Key results from the 2023 Review

## Assessment of the realisation of SDGs in Helsinki



**Green** = SDG achieved or close to being achieved



**Yellow** = Challenges in achieving the SDG



**Red** = Significant challenges in achieving the SDG

Helsinki



# Challenges



- The current climate actions will not achieve Helsinki's carbon neutrality targets, and there are challenges especially in the **reduction of transport emissions**.



- **Inequalities and segregation** are among the biggest challenges to social sustainability. Particular cause for concern is the segregation of children and young people on the basis of their ethnic background.



- **Mental wellbeing challenges and increased loneliness experienced** by children and young people, as well as psychological strain among the adult population, are more common in Helsinki than in Finland as a whole.



- Children and young people's **experiences of safety and radicalisation**, as well as domestic violence. Indicators show that the number of young people committing crimes and violence against women have increased a little.



- **Labor shortage challenges** the city's service production

# Successes



- **The sustainable development learning path** has been integrated into early childhood education.



- The production of **renewable energy** has increased, and **air quality** has improved.



- **The promotion of cultural equality** has been made an important priority throughout the cultural sector.



- **The suburban regeneration model** improves the comfort and attractiveness of residential areas and enables high-quality complementary construction.



- **Mental health service chains** and training have been developed, and investments have been made to support **physical activity and hobbies**.



# Conclusions

## What we need for the successful implementation of SDG goals?

- Long-term, science-based and measurable goals, indicators and robust follow-up
- Integrating SDG goals into core processes: strategic management, operational and financial planning, procurement and spatial planning and construction
- Not only reviewing and goal-setting → **Actions!**



# Helsinki VLR 2023



**Thank you!**



# From Agenda to Action

Implementation of the  
UN Sustainable Development Goals  
in Helsinki 2023

