A TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO THE SDGS

Capacity building workshop on “Improved Local and National Government Capacities for Localizing SDGs and Agenda 2063 Through Voluntary Local Reviews in Ghana”
14 November, 2023

Stefano Marta, Head of Unit, Smart and Sustainable Cities, OECD
A Territorial Approach to the SDGs - Key objectives of the programme

Learn
- SDGs as a means to reshape policies from the ground up
- SDGs can help manage trade-offs, prioritise investment & allocate budget
- SDGs to strengthen multi-level governance and coordination

Measure
- Where cities & regions stand against national averages
- How cities & regions compare against peers (standardised, comparable framework)

Share & guide
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue across 11 pilot regions and cities
- OECD Roundtable on Cities and Regions for the SDGs
- Checklist for public action to localise the SDGs

Province of Córdoba | Argentina
Region of Flanders | Belgium
State of Paraná | Brazil
Region of Southern Denmark | Denmark
City of Bonn | Germany
Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region | Germany
Municipality of Kópavogur | Iceland
City of Kitakyushu | Japan
County of Viken | Norway
Autonomous Province of Bolzano-Bozen | Italy
Basque Country | Spain

https://www.oecd.org/cfe/territorial-approach-sdgs.htm
Cities and regions matter to achieve the SDGs

SDGs are a shared responsibility across levels of government

- 100+ out of 169 targets cannot be achieved without LRGs
- 60% of public investment comes from cities/regions
- SDGs can improve multi-level governance (e.g. Japan, Germany)

Need to measure progress beyond national averages: granular data

- Strong territorial disparities in distance to the SDG targets (80% regions and 70% cities not on track)

Need to go beyond the compliance agenda

- SDGs as a tool for policy making for cities
CITIES AND REGIONS ARE NOT ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS
OECD localised indicator framework for measuring distance to the SDGs & visualisation

Highlights from OECD cities and regions

- Majority of cities & regions have not achieved the end values in any of the SDGs
- Regions lag behind in terms of climate, energy, coastal protection, biodiversity, industry/innovation
- Cities lag particularly behind in terms of climate, biodiversity, health
- Both cities and regions lag behind on gender-related targets

https://www.oecd-local-sdgs.org/index.html
Where do cities stand?

At least 70% of cities have not yet achieved the end values for 2030 in 15 out of the 17 SDGs.
Focus on SDG11 Sustainable cities and communities

Mobility

- The transport sector, mainly road transport, is the second-largest contributor to GHG emissions (24% in 2018) in OECD countries after the energy sector (OECD, 2022)
- Only 51.6% of the world’s urban population has convenient access to public transport (UN-Habitat, 2023)

Housing

- Real house prices rose by 77% between 1996 and 2022, compared to GDP per capita growth of only 29% (OECD, 2022).
- Nearly 1.1 billion people lived in slums or slum-like conditions in urban areas (UN-Habitat, 2023)

Air Pollution

- 59% of people in OECD regions and 60% in OECD cities are exposed to air pollution levels above than 10 µg/m³ of PM 2.5 annual mean – compared to the WHO guideline of less than 5 µg/m³ (OECD, 2023)

49% of cities and regions consider improving multi-modal transport – such as active and clean urban mobility – their top priority for sustainable mobility and accessibility (OECD, 2022)

Cities are projected to house 55% of the global population by 2050 – 81% of young people who moved within the same country between 2006 and 2016 settled in an urban or intermediate region (OECD, 2022)

55% of local and regional governments consider raising citizens’ awareness of the urgency of climate action their main priority to achieve climate objectives in an inclusive way – contributing to SDGs 10 and 13 (OECD, 2022)
FIVE ENABLING FACTORS TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS: THE OECD CHECKLIST
Five enabling factors to achieve the SDGs: the OECD Checklist
Mainstreaming the SDGs in cities and regions’ policies and strategies

---

**Bonn, Germany**

The SDGs help promote sustainable **mobility** and reduce air **pollution**, while striving to reduce **inequalities**

---

**Kitakyushu, Japan**

The SDGs help combine urban **green growth** and **inclusiveness**

---

**Southern Denmark**

The SDGs help **regional development** strategies

---

**Kópavogur, Iceland**

The SDGs support a **functional approach** for sustainable urban development

---

**Córdoba, Argentina**

The SDGs help promote **social inclusion** in a **holistic** way
Strengthening multi-level governance

Germany
- The SDGs provide an opportunity to strengthen multi-level governance

Norway
- Co-ordinating Voluntary National and Local Reviews to improve multi-level governance for sustainability

Japan
- The SDGs require coherence in policy implementation across levels of government (Future Cities Programme)

Voluntary National Review 2021 Norway
Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Mobilising financing and budgeting for the SDGs

Mannheim, Germany
Cities and regions mainstream the SDGs into budgeting processes to ensure adequate resources for the 2030 Agenda

Strasbourg, France
Cities and regions map their budget against the SDGs

Flanders, Belgium
Cities and regions mainstream sustainability criteria into public procurement to achieve outcomes aligned with the SDGs
Measuring cities and regions’ progress on the SDGs

Examples:
- Kópavogur, Iceland
  - The SDG Index & the “Nightingale” Information System
- Los Angeles, US
  - Open SDG monitoring platform
- Paraná, Brazil
  - Regional SDG measurement framework
Engaging public and private stakeholders

Southern Denmark
Private sector

Los Angeles, US

Bristol, UK
 Universities

Flanders, Belgium

Viken, Norway
 Kitakyushu, Japan
 Youth & Civil society
Thank you!