

Voluntary Local Review Case Examples

Karatay, Türkiye

Shkodra, Serbia

Module 1: Overview

Enhancing VLRs for Sustainable, Green, and
Resilient Recovery & Transitions



UNITED NATIONS
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UCLG

United Cities
and Local Governments

COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY ANALYSIS OF SDG LOCALIZATION

TURKEY

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Turkey is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational government. The first, at regional level, comprises 51 special provincial administrations and 30 provincial metropolitan municipalities. The second, at the municipal level, is made up of 973 provincial and district municipalities, 386 towns and 30 metropolitan municipalities.

Turkey also comprises 18 195 villages. Even if they are not fully-functional municipalities because of their small size, they are local self-governments recognised in the Constitution and do not depend on a municipality.¹



1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Turkey has reflected the SDGs into its **10th and 11th National Development Plans (NDPs) 2014-2018** and **2019-2023 and Annual Programmes**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Presidency of Strategy and Budget (PSB)** under the President's Office is the focal point for sustainable development. Different ministries ensure coordination for each SDG.³

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Turkey was the first MEWA country to submit a VNR in 2016 and again in 2019. Turkey's first VNR laid down a roadmap elaborating the planned steps to achieve SDGs. Its 2019 VNR focuses on the status of progress towards the SDGs. The 2019 VNR process was coordinated by the **Presidency of Strategy and Budget (PSB)**. A total of 2,962 representatives were consulted directly from government entities, 312 NGOs, 2,000 companies and 50 municipalities. A **National SDG Best Practices database** was developed as a continuous application. With the system, 400 practices by public and private sectors, academia, NGOs and municipalities were collected in the first phase. The VNR highlights examples selected from these practices.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

The municipalities of **Karatay, Izmir** and **Sultanbeyli** have been developing a VLR in 2021.¹¹ Other VLRs are currently being prepared in the **Greater Amman Municipality** and in the **Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul**, as well as in the municipalities of **Faith** and **Avclar**, in the district of Istanbul.

Karatay

Name of VLR Report: Karatay Sustainability Report 2021 Voluntary Local Review

Population: 363,177



Overview of the VLR Report

Given the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in advancing a more sustainable future, Karatay Municipality has begun to restructure its operations to better meet and achieve the SDGs, forming new directorates to support its work on localising the SDGs and reflecting their spirit at the local level.

An important component of Karatay's VLR is capacity building. United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA) conducted a training session in Karatay on April 2021,¹²⁰ where the key principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of VLRs in accelerating its implementation were presented. The session highlighted the key role of local actors in helping to achieve the objectives of global agendas and how cities are responsible for delivering on many of the promises set out in the SDGs. Interactive discussions during the session helped to operationalise different aspects of the VLR process, such as cross-departmental work and the alignment of policies with the SDGs.

Spotlight on: Monitoring Progress

Karatay's first VLR sets a baseline for tracking future progress. The VLR reviews the 17 SDGs, providing historical data on selected indicators, and outlines concrete goals to meet by 2030, as well as strategies that are currently being implemented. Overall, the VLR lays out a wide range of actions for advancing all 17 SDGs with a roadmap to localise the 2030 Agenda in Karatay.





COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY ANALYSIS OF SDG LOCALIZATION

ALBANIA

EUROPE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Albania is a unitary republic with a two-tier subnational government structure, made up of 12 regions and 61 municipalities.¹



1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The [National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020 \(NSDI II\)](#) is closely aligned with the SDGs. As of 2018, drafting an SDG Roadmap was considered to help in identifying roles and responsibilities of the key institutions and other stakeholders in SDG implementation. It is worth noting that Albania has established links between the SDGs and the EU integration goals, including reference to the Albanian National Plan for European Integration (NPEI) 2014–2020 and the EU *acquis* chapters of EU accession negotiations.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The coordination and leadership of SDG implementation is provided by the [Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs](#), chaired by the deputy prime minister of Albania and comprising key government institutions, as well as other stakeholders from the business community, civil society, academia and international organizations. It also counts with the technical support provided by the [Department of Development and Good Governance \(DDGG\)](#) in the Prime Minister's Office, the [SDG Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group](#) and the contribution of the UN agencies. The Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group includes technical level representatives from all Albanian institutions participating in implementation of Agenda 2030.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR is based on the inputs received from the main government institutions leading the reforms in each priority area under the coordination of the [SDG Technical Working Group](#), and the contribution of UN agencies. A consultation process, seeking the cooperation and engagement of all stakeholders, including local governments, academia, civil society and the business community in the country, was held to discuss and validate the main findings and recommendations of the report.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

The municipality of [Shkodër](#) published its VLR in 2021.⁴

Voluntary Local Review for Shkodra 2020

The publication on the Voluntary Local Review of Shkodra municipality for 2020 has the following sessions:

Opening remarks

Mayor Voltana Ademi expresses the municipality commitment on the preparation of the Review and willingness to continue with monitoring and evaluation.

Presentation of the Municipality

The session covers information about key data from the municipality, competing advantages, main plans and strategies. It also provides information about the Local Plan on the Implementation of Agenda 2030 in the municipality of Shkodra.

Evaluation of SDGS

Not all SDGs were included in the review. A preselection was made and the final SDGs reviewed are”

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3: Good health and well-being

Goal 4: Quality education

Goal 5: Gender equality

Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

Goal 17: Partnership for the goals

Implementation, monitoring and review

The implementation of Agenda 2030 in the Municipality of Shkodra can be monitored through monitoring indicators. Unfortunately, globally monitored national CSD monitoring indicators are not available in detail at the municipal level by INSTAT, so as mentioned above, the most efficient way to build a CSD monitoring system - would be based on the use of indicators included in the General Local Plan, accompanied by the link mechanism between these indicators and the objectives or goals of the CDS.

Based on the progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as the possible change of the strategic priorities, the commitments of the Municipality of Shkodra within the Agenda 2030 can be reviewed to adapt to the dynamics of the process.

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<https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews>