The European Commission’s science and knowledge service

Joint Research Centre
Towards the European Handbook for the preparation of Voluntary Local Reviews on SDGs

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The SDGs and the urban context

Cannot be achieved without cities

Opportunity for cities to expand new and existing sustainability initiatives

Help cities to identify priority actions

Part of the policy agenda
Cities in the implementation of SDGs

Monitor the achievement and progress on the SDG at local scale

Quantify cities’ contribution to the achievement of the SDGs at country and European level

Assess the impact of urban strategies on sustainable development
Our work on cities

https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/

My Place

Thanks to our Territorial Dashboard, you can visit any place (city, metropolitan area, region) and discover how it performs in different areas - comparison with other places from the same region or country is also offered.

Trends

Get an overview of trends at various territorial scales for a wealth of indicators grouped by thematic or SDG domains, allowing comparison and benchmarking of places in Europe.

Strategies

Our tool STRAT-Board offers a unique knowledge base on the integrated approach to urban and territorial development as supported by EU provisions and tools in 2014-2020. You can explore Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) and Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) strategies implemented in Europe by location, spatial focus, thematic concentration, size of population, funding arrangements and implementation mechanisms.

The future of cities

This report highlights drivers shaping the urban future, identifying key challenges and strengths to build the future of cities.
Background work on SDGs

• Mapping of published VLRs
• National initiatives to support the localization of the SDGs: Flanders, Germany
• Support to one European city to prepare an initial assessment (Madrid)
• Review of the composite indexes

Lack of relevance, completeness and comparability of results across European cities
URBAN 2030 project

Twin project developed with UN-Habitat and DG REGIO

Supporting local and regional authorities in measuring the SDGs in a comparable way

Developing and improving existing methodologies for some selected urban indicators

European Handbook for the preparation of Voluntary Local Reviews on SDGs

World Urban Forum 10
February 2020
The Handbook
A work in progress
European Handbook for the preparation of Voluntary Local Reviews on SDGs

Overview of methods and data

European Local and Regional authorities

World Urban Forum 10 February 2020
Structure of the Handbook

1. Need for Voluntary Local Reviews
2. Urban indicators for SDGs
3. State of art and way forward
SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

1. WHAT
   What is a Voluntary Local Review?

2. WHY
   Why a city should spend time and resources in producing a VLR?

3. HOW
   Building blocks of existing Voluntary Local Reviews
Urban indicators for SDGs - Rationale

Adaptation of goal to European context
Selection of aspects relevant for cities
Identification of indicators

Available indicators

Definition of new indicators

Metadata

Official data & Experimental data

Balance between the social, environmental and economic dimensions
Targets of Goal 10 are focused on promoting economic, social and political inclusion of all. The Goal addresses inequalities within and among countries, and calls for the facilitation of safe migration and the mobility of people.

In recent years, inequality of income and wealth and inequality of opportunities have risen within the majority of MS while social mobility has decreased. These phenomena are fostered by factors such as the surge of migration, unemployment and a weak redistributive effect of taxes and benefits. The EC provides to MS with policy guidance and financial support in order to scale up the fight against inequalities.

Cities are places where ethnic, political, economic and professional differentiation might become more evident than considering territories of wider extension. Local governments have limited power to influence labour markets, they can significantly reduce inequalities through policies targeting education and vocational training, housing, medical and social services and political participation.
SDG10: REDUCE INEQUALITY

Official
- Low income households growth (EUROSTAT)
- Non-Native early leavers from education and training (EUROSTAT)
- Gini coefficient (OECD)

Unconventional/proxy
- Distribution of hosted asylum seekers in European cities (OECD – 6 COUNTRIES)
- Number of hate crimes (Italy)
SDG10: REDUCE INEQUALITY

Gini coefficient (Official)

This indicator addresses aspects of Target 10.4 of UN SDGs
Link to other SDGs: 1 & 8

Description: Gini Coefficient (Gini, 1912) measures the extent to which the distribution of disposable income after social transfers deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. Its value ranges 0-100 (complete equality) to 100 (complete inequality)

EU framework: The Gini coefficient has not yet been included in the EU SDGs list of indicators concerning the Goal 10

Data source: OECD. Administrative data.
Availability: Data is available and free to download
Level of aggregation: Metropolitan areas (FUAs)
Time coverage and frequency: 2015 and 2016

Comments / Limitations
• Data covers only 25 European metropolitan areas and a limited period.
• Some studies compute Gini over the total household gross income
• This indicator is one of the most referred to inequalities in the literature (inter alia Alesina and La Ferrara 2000)
This indicator addresses aspects of Target 10.7.2 of UN SDGs
Link to other SDGs: 11 & 16

**Description:** AS are all individuals who have requested international protection from persecution or serious harm in their home country and whose claim for the protection status has not yet been determined. The term “hosted” refers to the stock of AS that is receiving material reception, Directive 2013/33/EU

**EU framework:** The European Agenda on Migration expressed the importance of considering the distribution of the responsibility to host asylum seekers both across and within countries to inform about challenges as well as opportunities. This indicator relates with the n of Asylum applications included in the EU SDGs indicator set.

**Data availability:** Data available from the authors or from the cited official sources. Administrative data.

**Level of aggregation:** 18 countries (NUTS3 level) and 6 countries (LAUs level)

**Time coverage and frequency:** 2010-2017, but most of the statistical sources continue to disseminate data yearly

**Comments / Limitations:** this is a first attempt to harmonize data but there have been further methodological developments by EGRIS and Eurostat
Target of this goal focus on strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters, integrate climate change measures into national policies and strategies, improve education, awareness raising and institutional capacity on climate change, and mobilize funds and mechanisms to facilitate climate change planning.

Climate change is continuing globally and in Europe Address it is one of the priorities of the EU. In November 2018, the EC presented its draft Long Term Climate Strategy, making the case for a transition towards a net zero greenhouse gas emissions economy by 2050 (COM, 2018). TEU has put into place policies and funds to support climate and energy initiatives.

Urban areas account for most of global energy consumption and CO2 emissions. Therefore, cities in coordination with national authorities and their surrounding regions, can play a central role to tackle climate change (European Parliament 2018) based on urban planning, mobility, public transport and infrastructure development, energy efficiency of buildings, education campaigns, smart cities and smart grid.
Official data
- Number of people affected by disasters (NatCatSERVICE)
- Local disaster risk reduction strategies (UNDRR)
- Greenhouse gas emissions (GCoM)

Unconventional (modelled)
- Modelled greenhouse gas emissions (Global Gridded Model of Carbon Footprints (GGMCF))
- Urban Flood Risk (JRC)
This indicator addresses aspects of Target 13.1 of UN SDGs
Link to other SDGs: 5 & 10

Description: It measures the total number of people who died, have been missing since the date of the disaster, or have been directly affected by it, including experiencing health problems, being displaced, or have suffered direct damages to their livelihoods, economic, physical, social cultural and environmental assets. This indicator follows the UNSD handbook of indicators.

EU framework: this indicator not included in the EU SDGs indicator set

Data source: Municipalities and civil protection agencies. International disaster and natural loss events databases: EM-DAT, NatCatSERVICE. Administrative data.

Level of aggregation: microdata at municipal or higher level, disaggregated by number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected people

Data availability: Databases are publicly available

Time coverage and frequency: Data collected every year (since 1990s for EM-DAT, and 1980s for NatCatSERVICE).

Constrains / Limitations
Information from databases is sometimes difficult to disaggregate at city level. NatCatSERVICE only provides number of deaths per relevant event.
This indicator addresses aspects of Target 13.1 of UN SDGs
Link to other SDGs: 11

**Description:** this is composite indicator reflecting the relative flood risk within urban areas by taking into account the natural exposure (predicted flooded area and mean depth), and the sensitivity of the city to flooding (population and infrastructure affected)

**EU framework:** this indicator not included in the EU SDGs indicator set

**Data source:** Urban Data Platform JRC

**Level of aggregation:** cities (urban LAUs)

**Data availability:** Data available online for 800 cities

**Time series and frequency:** Data modelled for 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050.

**Comments / Limitations:** (Kompil et al. 2015)

• Larger cities tend to have higher average flood risk, especially due to the higher sensitivity in terms of potential human and physical losses.

• The overall index shows some notable changes over time, due both to climate variability and to growth or de-population

• The indicator has been computed taking into account only river flooding
SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION
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Indicators – Criteria for the selection

- Completeness of coverage
- Availability of time series
- Comparability of cities
- Relevance at local scale
- Local actions and investments
- Affordability
State of art and way forward

- BENEFITS
- EXAMPLES
- MULTI-PURPOSE
VLRs – some considerations

- Dissemination
- Accountability
- Hot topics
- Affordability
- Externalities
- Trade-offs
Final considerations

• **Data** is needed

• Harmonized data and benchmarking are relevant

• Cities should **tailor the set of indicators** according to the local situations

• The **assessment** of the every goal should take into account **several factors**
Thank You

Any questions?

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Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies
https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/territorial_en

Urban Data Platform +
http://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu