



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Directorate B – Growth and Innovation
Territorial Development Unit

Tools for the localization of the SDGs

Training session organised by the Joint Research Centre
for the High Level Political Forum 2020

Within the framework of the 2020 SDGs Learning, Training and Practice - UN DESA/UNITAR

Date: 10 July 2020

Time: 2:00PM-3:30PM EDT

Venue: Virtual Meeting (Zoom) – see details in the last page.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2020/SDGsLearning>

Background

Local governments are key actors for the achievement of the SDGs, and not only because they deliver essential services, but also for their capacity to mobilise local energies and actors. Therefore, including and enabling local actors to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs is key for their achievement. Furthermore, local actors need to learn from frontrunners that are implementing innovative methods and tools to foster their actions for a more sustainable urban and peri-urban development, linking actions in different fields.

Despite the increasing targeted action taken at the local level, how cities and regions should contribute to the SDGs and how their contribution can be measured and assessed, is still uncertain. The [European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews](#) fills this gap, building upon the knowledge developed in the framework of the [Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies](#) and its Community of Practice – CITIES.

Objectives of the course

The training aims at building partnerships and improving capacities of representatives of different level of governments to implement transformative actions towards the achievement of the SDGs. In particular, the training presents tools that support the follow up and review of SDG implementation at local level. The training session focuses on one of the main tools developed by the JRC with a number of partners for the SDG localisation: the recently published "[European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews](#)", which describes the main steps for setting up a local SDG monitoring systems (indicators and review).



The *European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews*¹ was launched in February 2020 at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi. It has been downloaded more than 3.000 times since then. The Handbook is the main output of the URBAN2030 project, developed by the Joint Research Centre, with the support of DG REGIO, between 2018 and 2020.

The *Handbook* offers to policy makers, researchers and practitioners an inspirational framework to set up Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). VLRs are a fundamental instrument to monitor progress and sustain the transformative and inclusive action of local actors towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). VLRs are reviews of the implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda at local scale, based on the blueprint of the Voluntary National Reviews that Member States submit periodically to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Training Methodology

The proposed training session includes both presentations and discussion of case studies. JRC's speakers will illustrate the building blocks of the proposed method and tools for the SDG Voluntary Local Reviews. Invited speakers from a number of different institutions and different countries will contribute through the presentation of case studies that complement the proposed methods and tools with insights on the challenges and opportunities in the implementation, and lessons learned.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/european-handbook-sdg-voluntary-local-reviews>



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Agenda

5' Welcome remarks

Mr. Alessandro Rainoldi, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Presentations:

Ms. Alice Siragusa, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Introduction on the local monitoring of the SDGs and the European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

Ms. Paola Proietti, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Method and indicators for the local monitoring of the SDGs

Panel Discussion

Ms. Serena Foracchia, Reggio Children srl and former Counsellor for International City, City of Reggio Emilia

Shaping local strategies around the Sustainable Development Goals: the experience of Reggio Emilia

Ms. Norliza Hashim, CEO, Urbanice Malaysia

Malaysia SDG Cities Towards a Local Voluntary Reviews for Cities

Mr. Enric Fuster, Expert, SIRIS Academic

Identification of SDG-related science and innovation activities at the local and regional level for priority-setting and stakeholder mobilisation

Discussant: Mr. Alexander Heichlinger, international expert

15' Q&A and closing remarks

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