The European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

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SMARTER CONFERENCE

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Content of the presentation

- Link between the SDG monitoring and the quality of life

- The European Handbook for the SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

- Examples of common indicators

Link between the SDG monitoring and the quality of life

The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs

- Universal agenda

- Adopted by all UN countries in 2015

- Defines targets and indicators

- Address all the dimensions of sustainability

- SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Example: A Safe And Inclusive City (chapter 2)

Feeling safe walking alone at night in the city	Public space Target 11.7	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
Stolen money or property in the household in the previous 12 months	Reduce violence of any form Target 16.1	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
The city is a good place for immigrants from other countries to live	Safe and inclusive migration Target 10.7	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

European Commission

The SDG Reporting system (1/2)

Global Indicator Framework for the SDGs

- Designed for the country level

- 17 goals -- 169 measureable targets -- 231 unique indicators

- NSOs report yearly to UN custodian agency → annual global report

The Sustainable Development Goals Report
2020

United Nations

European Commission

The SDG Reporting system (2/2)

- Every MS committed to **report periodically** on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to High Level Political Forum

- In 2020, the **47 countries**: 26 first time presenters, 20 second time presenters and 1 third time presenter

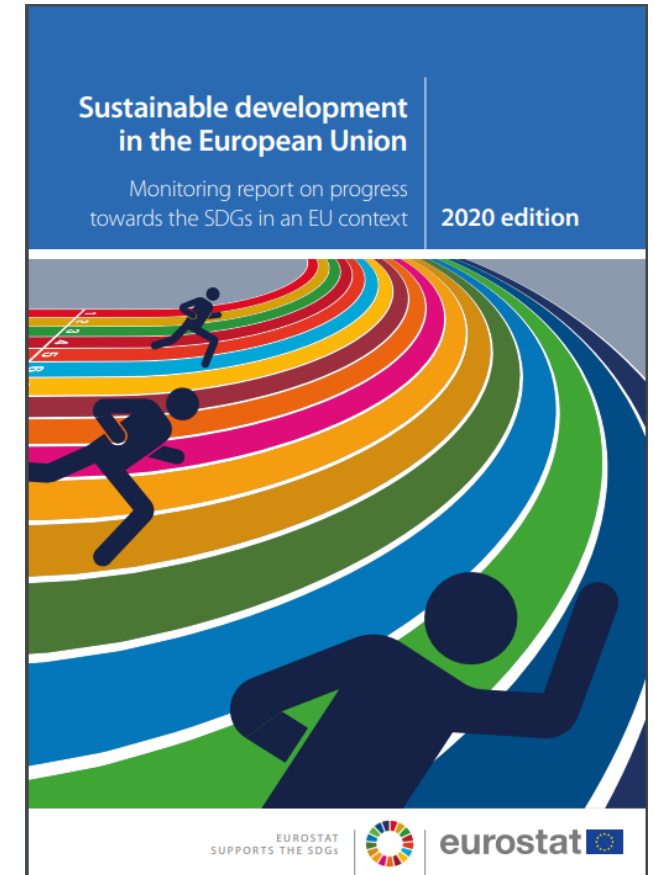- In 2021: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Spain, and Sweden

Estonia (2020)

Finland (2020)

Source: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/
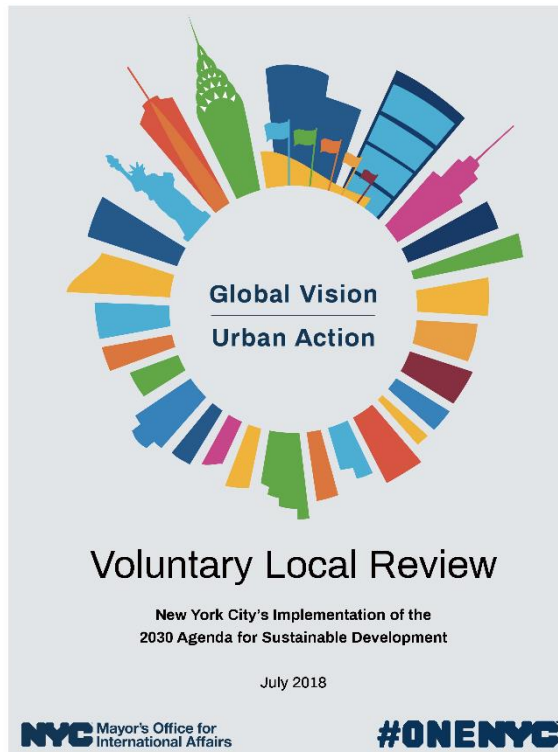
European Commission

How the EU adapt the monitoring system

- Adapt the targets and indicators to the European context

- 100 indicators that covers the 17 goals

- The 2020 edition also includes for the first time a chapter on the status and progress of EU Member States towards the SDGs

Sustainable development in the European Union

Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context

2020 edition

EUROSTAT SUPPORTS THE SDGs

eurostat

European Commission

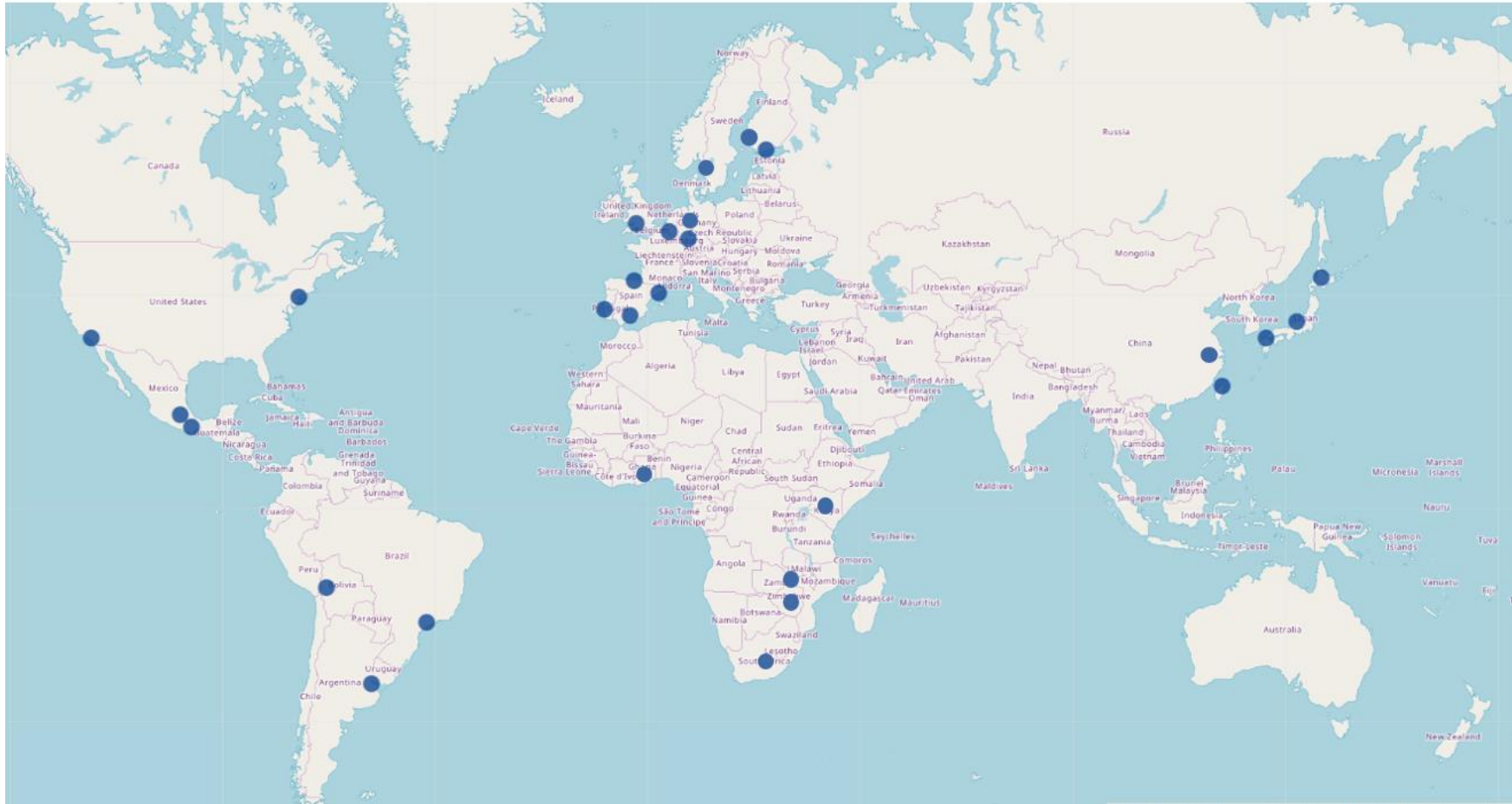# The first Voluntary Local Reviews

New York City (USA) - 2018

Basque County (Spain) - 2017

SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

- First 4 African Cities will present their VLRs to the HLPF 2020

- Europe is the region with most cities. New ones in 2020 (i.e. Germany, Finland, Spain)

From national to local systems - challenges

- Adapt to the regional and national context

- Designed to address the local level (subnational and urban)

- Limited number of indicators

- The goal is to illustrate the local actions and achievements

European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

Authors: Alice Siragusa, Pilar Vizcaino, Paola Proietti, Carlo Lavalle
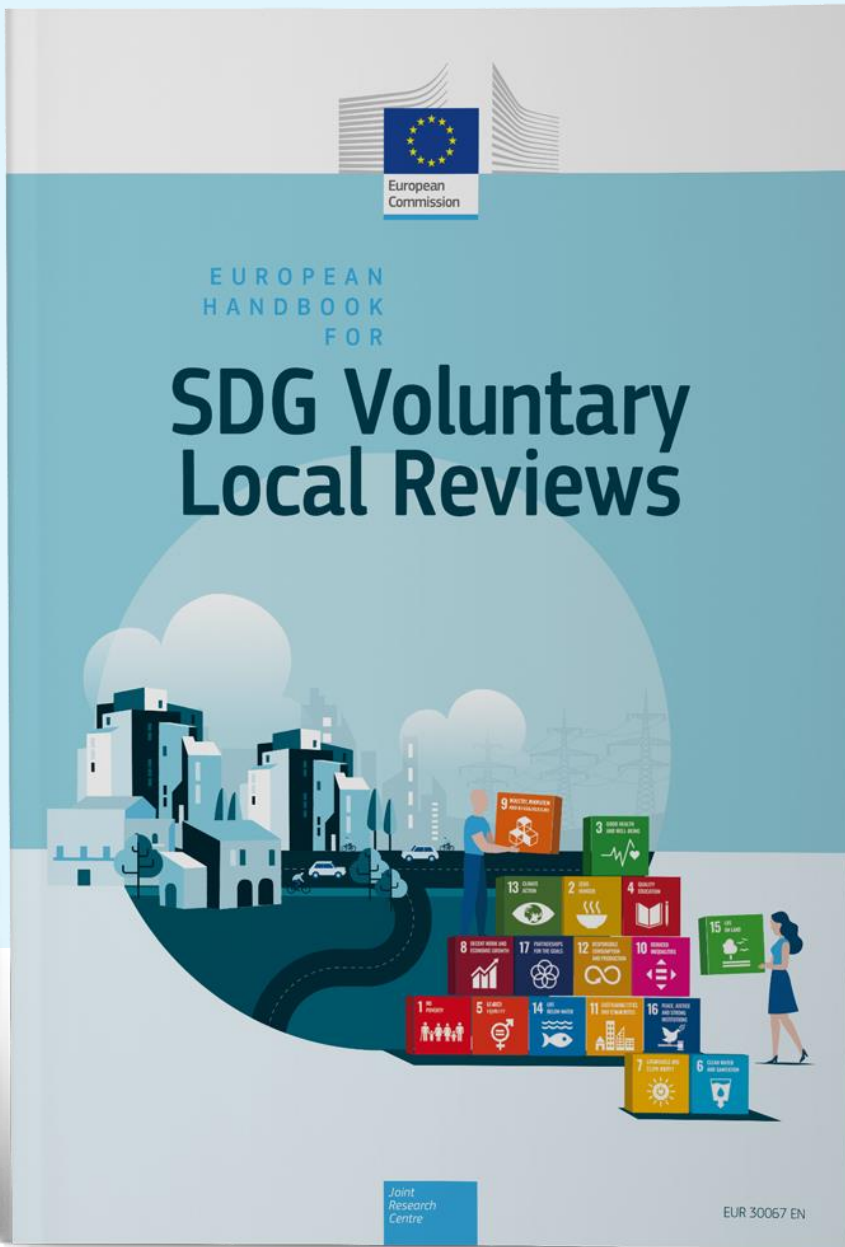
2020

European Commission
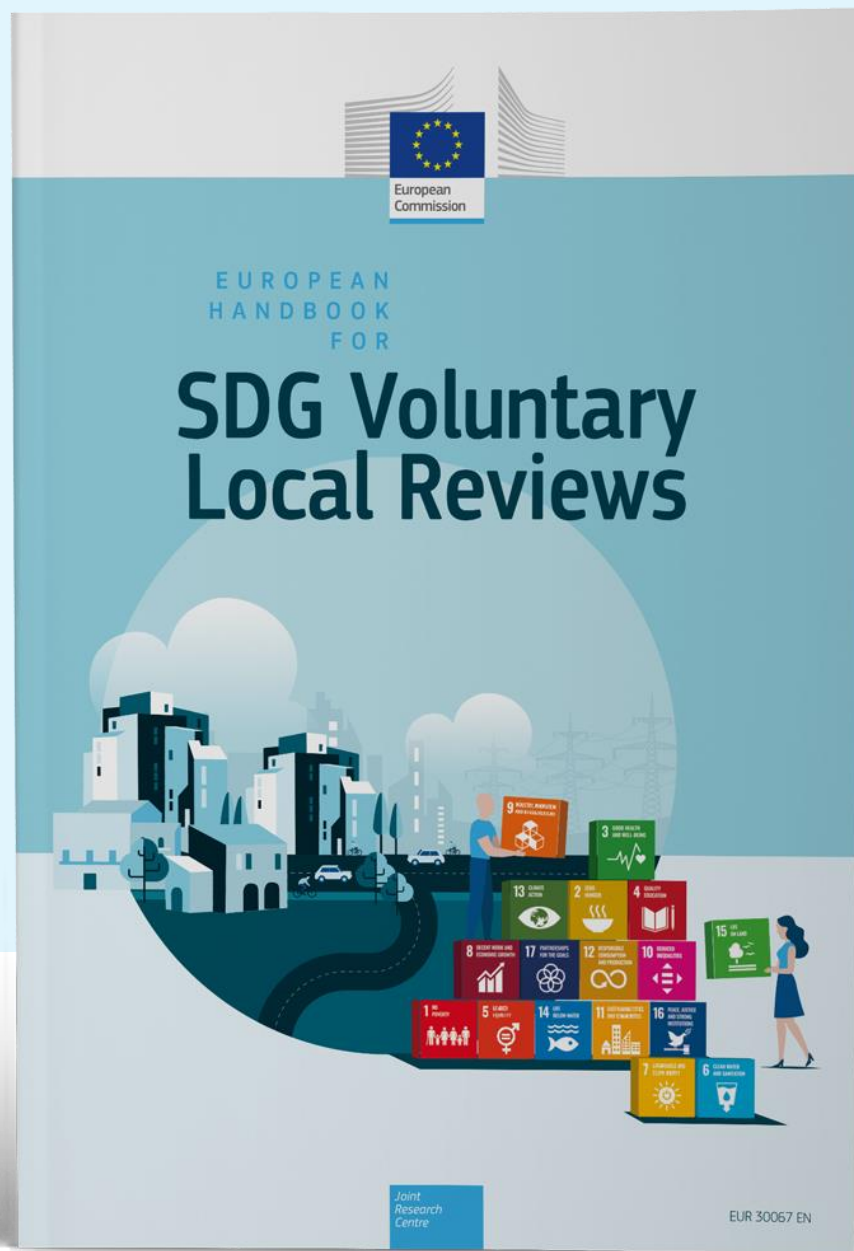
It was launched in **February 2020** at the **WUF10**

Downloads:
More than 9,000 times

It supports to European cities willing to prepare their **SDG Local Voluntary Reviews**

It offers a framework for the selection of appropriate indicators to tailor the reviews to local context and to ensure comparability among cities.

Content and target audience

CONTENT

Overview of methods and INDICATORS

TARGET

European Local and sub-national authorities

Part 1

MONITORING THE SDGs AT LOCAL SCALE

1

Part 1

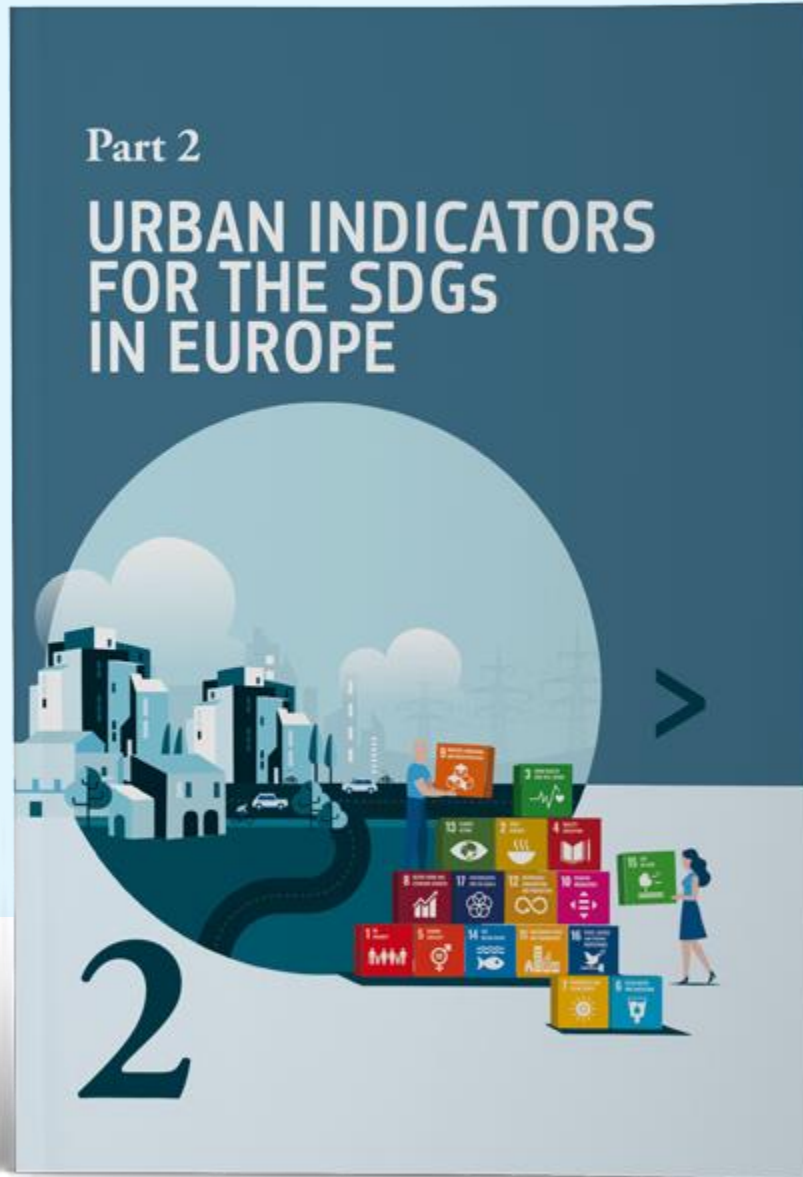The **Voluntary Local Reviews**

Navigating the **SDG monitoring systems**

Data challenges for local authorities

Main components of the VLRs

Methodology for the selection of the indicators

European Commission

INDICATORS

Part 2

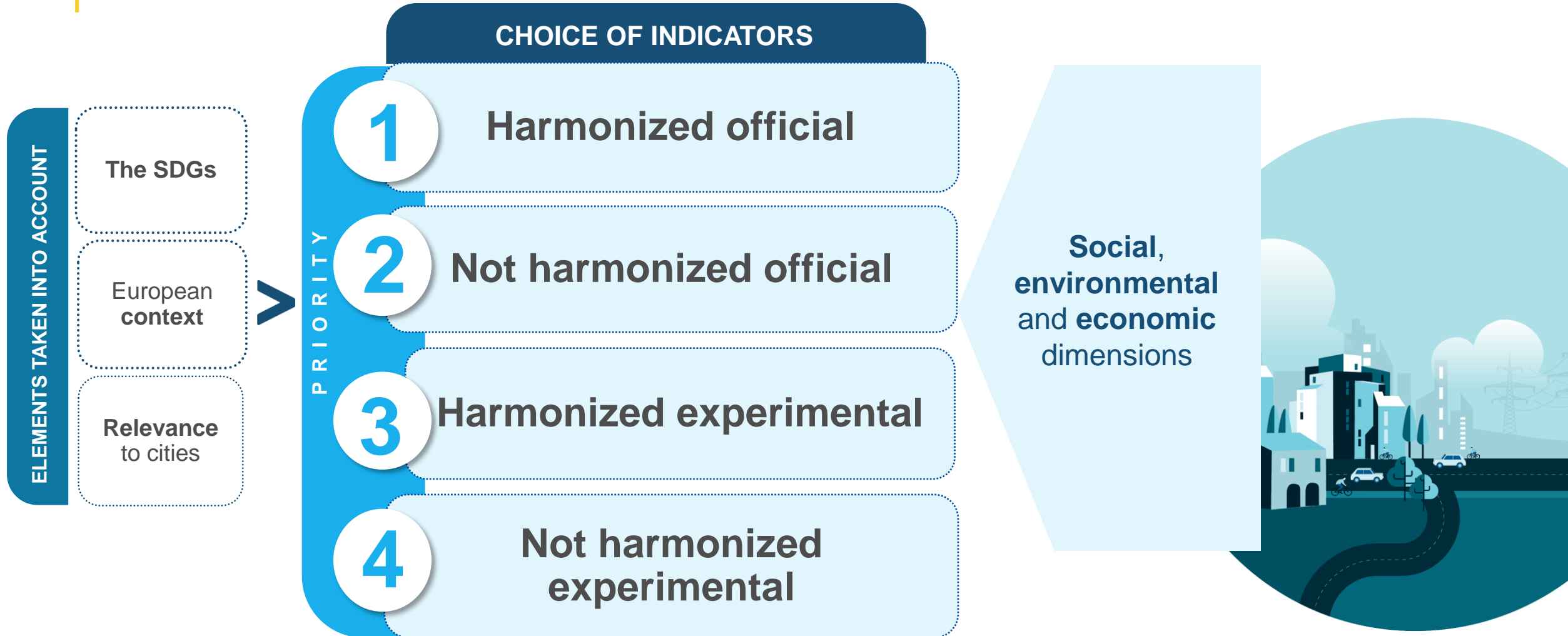## URBAN INDICATORS FOR THE SDGs IN EUROPE

Example of indicators for all 17 SDGs

An inspirational framework to prepare the data backbone of the VLRs for

- City officials
- Researchers
- Professionals

European Commission

The rationale for the selection

ELEMENTS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

- The SDGs
- European **context**
- **Relevance** to cities

CHOICE OF INDICATORS

PRIORITY

1. **Harmonized official**
2. **Not harmonized official**
3. **Harmonized experimental**
4. **Not harmonized experimental**

Social, **environmental** and **economic** dimensions

European Commission

71 INDICATORS

Part 2

URBAN INDICATORS FOR THE SDGs IN EUROPE

TYPE OF INDICATORS
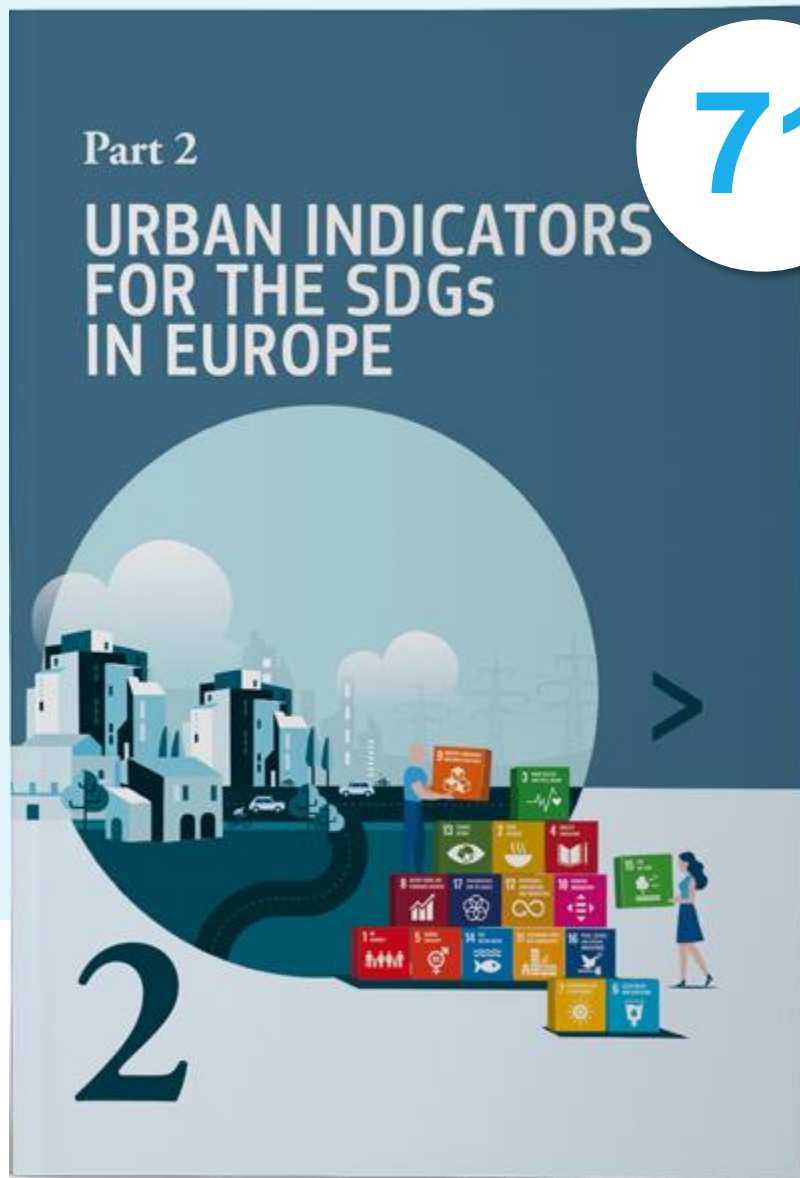
45 official

26 experimental

ALIGNMENT

6 indicators match both the EU set and the UN Global Framework

4 indicators match the UN's Global Indicator Framework

10 indicators match the EU SDGs Indicator Set 2019

European Commission

71 INDICATORS

MAIN SOURCES

11 indicators from the JRC

10 indicators from Eurostat

3 indicators from OECD

3 indicators from EEA

2 indicators from DG REGIO

OTHER SOURCES

National Statistical Systems (NSS), Local administrations, NGOs, Universities

European Commission

GOAL 1

1 NO POVERTY

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

>
Description of the Goal

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is recognised as the greatest challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. For instance, poverty limits people's opportunities to achieve their full potential, with consequences both in terms of social cohesion and sustainable growth. Poverty is a multidimensional concept and relates to economic, social, environmental, cultural and political aspects.

Targets of this goal focus on: eradicating extreme poverty, eventually counteracting the existence of poverty traps *(Kraay and McKenzie 2014; Duflo and Banerjee 2011)*; halving poverty in all its forms; ensuring all people enjoy a basic standard of living and social protection benefits; and building the resilience of the poor, also in the face of natural disasters *(Hallenatte et al. 2017)*.

European Dimension

Although extreme poverty is less relevant in the EU context than in other world regions, one of the five headline targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy is to reduce poverty by lifting at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2020 (compared with the 2008). This includes people affected by at least one of the following forms of poverty: income poverty, low work intensity and material deprivation.

The 2020 target remains an important challenge although, after the 2012 peak in poverty, there has been a continuous downward trend. For instance, in 2018 about 22% of the EU population was still at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

To tackle these challenges the Urban Agenda for the EU Partnership on Urban Poverty *(EC 2018)* has established four priorities of action: child poverty, deprived neighbourhoods and urban regeneration, homelessness, and vulnerability of Roma people *(Urban Poverty Partnership (UPP) 2018)*, whereas the European pillar of social rights focuses, among other priorities, on the prevention of the misuse of precarious employment relationships.

Local dimension

Local authorities are the most appropriate actors to identify vulnerable groups, especially for what concerns hard-to-measure populations like homeless *(James D. Wright 1992)*. For this reason, the municipal level could also be the most informed to alleviate the condition of poverty experienced by individuals, with the coordination and support of higher governance levels.

In particular, local authorities can counteract poverty acting on two typologies of constraints to the development of individuals: external constraints like institutional or governmental failures *(Bardhan 1997)*, and internal constraints, such as behavioural and aspirational biases *(Dalton, Ghosal, & Mani, 2016; Walto, 2004)*.

Municipalities can target both these determinants of poverty avoiding that people remain poor for much or all of their lives in which case their children also become more likely to experience poverty.

European Commission

Every **indicator fiche** is compose by **3 main parts**:

A

Side bookmark

B

Main information on the indicator and potential use and interpretation

C

Key Metadata

OVERVIEW

A **B** **C**

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1 NO POVERTY

TYPE

Links to other SDGs

2 · 3 · 5

ALIGNMENT

UN list
EU list

COVERAGE

EU 28

AGGREGATION

CITIES AND GREATER CITIES

AVAILABILITY

100
CITIES AND GREATER CITIES

SOURCE
Eurostat, City statistics database

GOAL 1

NO POVERTY

PEOPLE AT RISK OF INCOME POVERTY AFTER SOCIAL TRANSFERS

Description of the indicator

This indicator is defined as the share of people with an equalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers). The total disposable household income is calculated by adding together the personal income received by all of the household members. The more complex household level diminished by regular taxes on wealth and inter-household cash transfer paid and the tax in money social insurance contributions. To take into account the differences in household size and composition the total disposable household income must be 'equivalised'. The equivalised income attributed to each member of the household is calculated by dividing the total disposable income of the household by its equivalisation factor. Equivalisation factors can be determined in various ways. More details are available in Eurostat 2015. This indicator measures one of the dimensions of the AROPE and is the headline composite indicator to measure poverty within the Europe 2020 Strategy together with indicators measuring work intensity and material deprivation (more details below). This indicator addresses aspects of Targets 1.2 (reduce poverty) and 1.3 (social protection) of UN SDGs. This indicator had no indicator proposed in the EU SDGs indicator set.

European context

Income poverty is the most prevalent form of poverty in the EU and it has been increasing in the last years, with 94 million people at risk of poverty after social transfer in EU-28 in 2017, and in 2018. However, not all countries registered an increase in this figure. For example, the number of people at risk of poverty after social transfers has been decreasing in Greece, Croatia over the same period (source: Eurostat data code ilc_li02). Disaggregating the evidence across and within countries is useful to target the areas that are lagging behind in the fight against income poverty.

Comments / Limitations

› More realistic estimates of urban inequalities should be developed by establishing the risk of poverty threshold with the median equivalised disposable income calculated at city level. This would take more into account the (possibly) different costs of living with respect to the national average.

› Data should include both rates and absolute values. Furthermore, it is necessary to look at trends, to better understand how figures change over time.

› It would be informative to look at the number of people at risk of poverty before and after social transfers to understand the impact of social transfers in alleviating poverty.

› The income poverty indicator is a measure of income inequality in comparison to other residents of the territory, as it measures the share of people with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income. Therefore, it does not necessarily imply a low standard of living.

Meta data

Source: Eurostat, City Statistics database (data collected from national statistics), table urb_clivcon, variable EC3065V.

Availability and geographical coverage: more than 100 European cities and greater cities in 2016.

Unit of measurement: Share (% of total population).

Level of aggregation: Cities and greater cities.

Time coverage and frequency: 2008-2018. Data is collected every year.

GOAL 1

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

TYPE

Links to other SDGs

1 NO POVERTY
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

ALIGNMENT

UN list ☑
EU list ☐

COVERAGE

EU-28

AGGREGATION

CITIES AND GREATER CITIES

AVAILABILITY

300
CITIES AND GREATER CITIES >

SOURCE **Eurostat, City statistics database**

ADOLESCENT BIRTHS

Description of the indicator

The adolescent birth rate is the number of live births per women aged 10-19.

This indicator addresses aspects of Target 3.7 of the UN SDGs (family planning).

European context

In the EU-28 the fertility rate by mother's age group, for the under 20 age group, has been continuously decreasing in the 2001-2017 period, contrarily to the fertility rate in the 30-34, 35-39 and over 40 cohort groups, that have been increasing over the same period (*EUROSTAT, Fertility statistics*).

Reducing adolescent pregnancies and adolescent birth rates is an important priority for many governments (*UNDESA 2013; United Nations 1995*) because adolescent childbearing is associated with a wide range of risks for young mothers and their newborns.

Apart from health risks, adolescent pregnancy might obstacle the socio-economic development of girls, because of the interruption of their education path, at least temporarily, a more difficult inclusion in the labour market, and possible social and political exclusion (*UNDESA 2013*).

Comments / Limitations

> Adolescent birth rates can decline for several reasons: a reduction in the number of sexually active adolescents, an increase in the use of contraception, or an increase in abortions (voluntary or not). This suggests that relying solely on tracking adolescent birth rates is not sufficient for a complete assessment of the issue.

> The disaggregation of adolescent birth rates by neighbourhood might be useful for targeted policy making.

Metadata

Data source: Eurostat, City Statistics Database (data collected from national statistics), table urb_cfermor, variable, SA2010V

Availability and geographical coverage: more than 300 European cities and greater cities in 2017.

Unit of measurement: Number of adolescent births. Calculating the variation over time is recommended.

Level of aggregation: Cities and greater cities

Time coverage and frequency: 2011-2018. Data is collected every year.

European Commission

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

TYPE

Links to other SDGs

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH   10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

NON-NATIVE-SPEAKING STUDENTS GRADUATING FROM UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

ALIGNMENT

UN list ☐
EU list ☐

COVERAGE

HELSINKI

AGGREGATION

MUNICIPALITIES

AVAILABILITY

1   >

SOURCE   **Helsinki Region Infoshare**

Description of the indicator

This indicator gives the share of non-native-speaking students who graduate from upper secondary school over the total number of graduates. Since no consistent data is available Europe-wide at the local level, the case of Helsinki is illustrated here as an example.

This indicator is highly relevant for the city, where the Education Division approved the Development Plan for Immigrant Education 2018-2021.

Education is one of the main tools to promote integration and support disadvantaged groups in improving their economic situation: ad-hoc programs to improve it should be a key element of city strategies.

This indicator addresses aspects of Target 4.5 (access to education) of the UN SDGs.

European context

Young people with a migrant background – those born either outside the country or with foreign-born parents – face more difficulties in schooling than native students, as demonstrated by the Early Leavers from Education and Training Statistics (ELET).

In 2018, the share of early school leavers at EU level was twice as high for people born outside the EU than for people studying in their country of birth. Foreign-born men are the most at risk, with an ELET rate of 22.8% in 2018.

Young people from a migrant background also have a higher risk of underperforming at school.

In almost all EU Member States, the difference in the share of low achievers between first-generation immigrant students and their non-immigrant counterparts was substantial in 2015 – amounting to as much as 25 to 33 percentage points in some countries (EU-ROSTAT 2019).

Comments / Limitations

> There are constraints regarding of comparability with other cities and the limited availability of data over time. It is recommended to collect time series of at least 10 years and compare data according to the increment of non-native-speaking students enrolled in the school system.

Metadata

Source: Helsinki Region Infoshare, local data *https://hri.fi/data/en_GB/dataset/helsinki-koulutus*

Availability and geographical coverage: city of Helsinki

Unit of Measurement: Share (% of total graduates)

Level of aggregation: Municipal

Time series and frequency: Available for 2017 and 2018

European Commission

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

TYPE

Links to other SDGs

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

15 LIFE ON LAND

ALIGNMENT

UN list ☐
EU list ☐

COVERAGE
EU-28 PLUS OTHER

AGGREGATION
CITIES AND GREATER CITIES

AVAILABILITY
800
CITIES AND GREATER CITIES >

SOURCE DG REGIO

POPULATION WITHOUT GREEN URBAN AREAS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Description of the indicator

This indicator describes the share of total population of a city who does not have green urban areas in its neighbourhood. It is calculated by analysing the surface of green urban areas within walking distance, from people and the served population. This indicator is calculated considering an area of easy walking distance considering approximately 10 minutes of walking time.

For this indicator, the most recent updated working paper (*Poelman 2018*) presents a methodology that takes into account the spatial distribution of both population and green areas throughout the cities' territory, and produces also indicators about the proximity of the green areas to the urban population. To obtain comparable results for all cities, harmonised EU-wide data sources were used, such as the complete set of Copernicus Urban Atlas land use data and census-based population figures at the highest spatial resolution available. This indicator addresses aspects of Target 11.7 (public space) of the UN SDGs.

European context

Green areas in cities, like parks, public gardens and nearby forests fulfil a variety of functions, ranging from ecological value to recreational functions. They also provide aesthetic value and they play a role in promoting public health. In general, these areas contribute to a better quality of life of the inhabitants.

Based on the available data, covering almost all cities in the EU and in the EFTA countries, substantial variation in green urban areas' proximity can be observed, both in bigger and smaller cities. There is almost no relationship between this value and the city size. Amongst the capital cities with more than 1 million inhabitants, values vary between less than 12 hectares in cities such as Lisbon, Bucharest, Athens, Dublin, Paris, Budapest and Rome, to more than 50 hectares in Prague and Stockholm. Moreover, green urban areas also need to be spatially distributed in a suitable way to fulfil relevant functions.

The differences in the share of population having no green areas in their neighbourhood shed some light on the spatial distribution of these areas. In almost a quarter of the cities under review, less than 2% of population has no green areas within walking distance. Some of the outstanding bigger cities in this group are Madrid, Vienna, Torino, Stockholm, Prague and Glasgow.

On the other hand, in about 10% of cities, this percentage is higher than 20% (e.g. in several cities in Romania and Italy (*see Poelman 2018*)).

Comments / Limitations

> This indicator is calculated using data from 2012, but it could be updated using most recent input data.

> For more information on official UN SDG indicator on public space "Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities", see (*UN-Habitat 2018c*).

Metadata

Source: European Commission, DG REGIO (*DG REGIO 2018*)
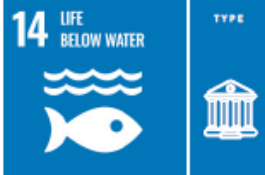
Availability and geographical coverage: 830 EU-28 cities and greater cities and 800 urban centres for 2018.

Unit of measurement: share

Level of aggregation: cities and greater cities, urban centres and countries.

Time coverage and frequency: 2018

European Commission

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

TYPE

Links to other SDGs

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

ALIGNMENT

UN list ☐
EU list ☑

COVERAGE
EU-28 PLUS OTHER

AGGREGATION
MUNICIPALITIES

AVAILABILITY
22,000 COASTAL BEACHES AND INLAND SITES >

SOURCE **European Environmental Agency**

BATHING SITES WITH EXCELLENT WATER QUALITY

Description of the indicator

This indicator gives the total number of bathing sites classified as having 'excellent' water quality. Local authorities collect water samples at officially identified bathing sites (e.g. coastal, transitional, river and lake water bodies) throughout the bathing season (e.g. May - September). The samples are then analysed for two types of bacteria that indicate contamination from sewage or livestock according with EEA Methodological prescriptions. Depending on the levels of bacteria detected, the bathing water quality is classified as 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' or 'poor'.

This indicator matches with the indicator "Bathing water with excellent water quality" proposed in the EU SDGs indicator set.

European context

The EU "Bathing Waters Directive" *(EC 2006)* requires Member States to identify popular bathing places in fresh and coastal waters and monitor them for microbiological contamination (amongst other substances) throughout the bathing season.

Every year, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency (EEA) publish a summary report on the quality of bathing water, based on the information provided by the Member States. The report tracks the water quality at more than 22,000 bathing sites across the EU, Switzerland and Albania.

In this way, the public can have access to high-quality information regarding bathing water quality. Bathing water information is made available to the public through the EEA website: users can access information regarding bathing water quality for more than 22 000 coastal beaches and inland sites across Europe. Users can check bathing water quality on an interactive map, download data and individual country reports and compare the water quality over time *(EEA 2015a)*.

Comments / Limitations

> It is recommended to consider also the share of bathing sites with excellent quality over the total number of bathing sites.

> It is recommended to consider also the number and share of bathing sites classified with 'good', 'sufficient' or 'poor' quality and their trends over time.

> Countries run national or local websites with detailed information on each bathing water site. These websites usually include a map search function and allow the public to monitor the water status, both in real time and for previous seasons.

Metadata

Source: European Environmental Agency - EEA *https://www.eea.europa.eu/ data-and-maps/data/bathing-water-directive-status-of-bathing-water-11/ bathing-water-directive-status/excel-format-zip*

Availability and geographical coverage: 22,000 coastal beaches and inland sites across Europe. Data has to be aggregated per municipality.

Unit of Measurement: Absolute value.

Level of aggregation: single coastal sites

Time coverage and frequency: 2008 - 2018. Data is collected every year.

European Commission

Part 3

STATE OF ART AND WAYS FORWARD

3

Part 3

Local governments measuring the SDGs

How to **integrate** the SDG **monitoring** and the **strategic plans**

Some considerations on VLR **methods** and **comparability**

Ways forward

Examples of common indicators

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

TYPE

PERCEPTION ABOUT THE LOCAL LABOUR MARKET

Links to other SDGs

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

ALIGNMENT

UN list ◻
EU list ◻

COVERAGE

EU-28

AGGREGATION

CITIES

AVAILABILITY

83
CITIES

>

SOURCE DG REGIO and EUROSTAT, Eurobarometer

Description of the indicator

This indicator measures the share of people with a negative perception of their city labour market. It refers to the survey question: "In this city is it easy to find a good job?" which was included in the Flash Eurobarometer, 'Quality of life in European cities' *(DG REGIO 2016)*. Possible answers to this question are: "do not know", "strongly disagree", "somewhat disagree", "somewhat agree", "strongly agree". The indicator is calculated as the share of respondents that answered "strongly disagree" and "somewhat disagree" over the total respondents.

This indicator addresses aspects of Target 8.5 (productive employment) of the UN SDGs. It also relates to the indicators "Employment rate" and "Long-term unemployment rate" proposed in the EU SDGs indicator set.

European context

In most cities, a majority of respondents thinks that it is not easy to find a job. However, there are significant differences among cities, ranging from Praha (Czech Republic) where 72% of respondents agree that it is easy to find a job, to Palermo (Italy) where just 3% share this view.

Compared to 2012, the proportion of respondents agreeing that it is easy to find a job in their city has increased in several Irish cities and decreased in cities like Helsinki, Oslo and Lille *(DG REGIO 2016)*.

Comments / Limitations

> The survey was conducted in more than 79 European cities. This survey included all capital cities of the countries concerned (except for Switzerland), together with between one and six more cities in the larger countries. In each city, around 500 citizens were interviewed. The TNS Political & Social network carried out this survey in the 28 Member States of the European Union, as well as Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. In June 2015, around 41,000 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed.

> The number of surveyed cities varies over time for the Eurobarometer. The year for which the information is available for most of the cities is 2015 (more than 100 cities and greater cities).

> The framework developed by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) identifies 68 indicators to define employment quality from the perspective of the employed person *(UNECE, 2015)*.

> From the point of view of an unemployed person, a pessimistic view of the labour market lowers the perceived bargaining power and reservation wage *(Cardoso, Loviglio, & Piemontese, 2016)*. The 'bargaining power' is the power that someone has to reach an agreement with somebody else, that is to their own advantage. The 'reservation wage' is the lowest wage at which an individual is willing to work.

Metadata

Source: DG REGIO and EUROSTAT, Eurobarometer, Perception survey results (Variables: PS2012V– PS2016V), *https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/cities/data/database*

Availability and geographical coverage: 83 cities

Unit of Measurement: Share (% of total population).

Level of aggregation: Cities.

Time coverage and frequency: 2004, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015.

European Commission

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

TYPE

Links to other SDGs

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

ALIGNMENT

UN list ☐
EU list ☐

COVERAGE
EU-28

AGGREGATION
CITIES

AVAILABILITY
83
CITIES   >

SOURCE   DG REGIO and EUROSTAT, Eurobarometer

LEVEL OF TRUST TOWARD OTHER PEOPLE

Description of the indicator

This indicator measures the share of people with a positive level of trust toward other people. It is based on the survey question: "can most of the people in your city be trusted?", which was included in the Flash Eurobarometer, 'Quality of life in European cities' (DG REGIO 2016). Possible responses included "do not know", "strongly disagree", "somewhat disagree", "somewhat agree", and "strongly agree". The indicator is calculated as the share of respondents that answered "strongly disagree" and "somewhat disagree" over the total respondents.

European context

In 2015, trust in people living in the same city was high in more than 75% of cities. Levels of trust tended to be lower in EU capitals than in other cities (DG REGIO 2016). Oulu (Finland) and Aalborg (Denmark) were the laces with the highest shares of people feeling that they could trust most people in their cities (more than 90%) (Eurostat 2016).

Comments / Limitations

> The number of surveyed cities varies over time for the Eurobarometer. The year for which the information is available for most of the cities is 2015 (more than 100 cities and greater).

> The survey was conducted in more than 79 European cities. This survey included all capital cities of the countries concerned (except for Switzerland), together with between one and six more cities in the larger countries. In each city, around 500 citizens were interviewed. The TNS Political & Social network carried out this survey in the 28 Member States of the European Union, as well as Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. In June 2015, around 41,000 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed.

> This indicator proxies perception towards trust, which might differ from trusting behaviour (Guerra and John Zizzo 2004).

> Trust is a key component of social capital (Glaeser, Scheinkman, and Soutter 1999; S. Knack 2001). The literature suggests that social capital influences a wide range of economic and political outcomes (Akcomak and ter Weel 2012; Akçomak and ter Weel 2009; Boschma 2005; Guiso, L., Sapienza, P., & Zingales 2004; Nannicini et al. 2013; Portes 1998; Woolcock 2001; P. J. Z. and S. Knack 2001). However, the literature also suggests that the generalised level of trust varies greatly depending on degree of urbanisation (Węziak-Białowolska and Dijkstra 2015), the composition of communities (e.g. more or less homogeneous in terms of income, ethnicity, etc., see Alesina & La Ferrara, 2002) and the people to trust (Fratesi, Percoco, and Proietti 2019; Helliwell 2001).

Metadata

Source: DG REGIO and EUROSTAT, Eurobarometer, Perception survey results (Variables: PS3092V-PS3096V), (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/cities/data/database)

Availability and geographical coverage: 83 EU cities

Unit of Measurement: share

Level of aggregation: Cities.

Time coverage and frequency: 2009, 2012, 2015.

European Commission

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

TYPE

Links to other SDGs

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

ALIGNMENT

UN list ☑
EU list ☑

COVERAGE
EU-28

AGGREGATION
CITIES

AVAILABILITY
83
CITIES

SOURCE DG REGIO and EUROSTAT, Eurobarometer

LEVEL OF SATISFACTION CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN THE CITY

Description of the indicator

This indicator measures the share of people with a positive level of satisfaction concerning administrative services in the city. It is based on the survey question: "When you contact administrative services of this city, do they help you efficiently?", which was included in the Flash Eurobarometer, 'Quality of life in European cities' (No 419) *(DG REGIO 2016)*. Possible responses included "do not know", "strongly disagree", "somewhat disagree", "somewhat agree", and "strongly agree". The indicator is calculated as the share of respondents that answered "strongly disagree" and "somewhat disagree" over the total respondents.

This indicator addresses aspects of Target 16.6 (efficient and transparent institutions) of the UN SDGs and relates to the indicator 'Population with confidence in EU institutions' proposed in the EU SDGs indicator set.

European context

The European Quality of Government Index (EQI) is the most used survey to assess the quality of governance at regional level within the EU. Data from this survey focuses on both perceptions and experiences with public sector corruption, as well as the extent to which citizens believe various public sector services are impartially allocated and of good quality *(Charron, Dijkstra, and Lapuente 2015; Rothstein, Bo, Nicholas Charron 2013)*. The EQI is derived from 16 questions, the responses to which are aggregated from the individual to the regional level and combined into a single number for each region in the study. The questions are in large part framed around the central concepts of quality, impartiality and corruption, and enquire about both respondents' experiences and their perceptions.

Since the EQI is not available at the city level, the reference used is the perception survey database, that provides information about the level of satisfaction with administrative services in cities. Normally, satisfaction with the administration is positively correlated with the EQI. In 50 of the 83 cities for which data is available, most of the respondents consider that services provided by the local administration help people efficiently. EU capitals usually register lower ratings than other cities *(DG REGIO 2016)*.

Comments / Limitations

> The indicator provides information only about perceived satisfaction, and does not include any reference to objective measures of service quality.

> The number of surveyed cities varies over time for the Eurobarometer. The year for which the information is available for most of the cities is 2015 (more than 100 cities and greater).

> The survey was conducted in more than 79 European cities. This survey included all capital cities of the countries concerned (except for Switzerland), together with between one and six more cities in the larger countries. In each city, around 500 citizens were interviewed. The TNS Political & Social network carried out this survey in the 28 Member States of the European Union, as well as Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. In June 2015, around 41,000 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed.

Metadata

Source: DG REGIO and EUROSTAT, Eurobarometer, Perception survey results (Variables PS2042V-PS2046V) *(https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/cities/data/database)*

Availability and geographical coverage: 83 EU cities

Unit of Measurement: Categorical variable

Level of aggregation: Cities.

Time coverage and frequency: 2004, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015

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Ongoing activities

- **Work with cities** (Trainings, peer-to-peer learning)

- Organise/participate **expert group meetings and trainings**

- **Cooperate with external partners** (CEMR, UCLG, UNDESA, UNDP, OECD)

2nd European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews (2022 edition)

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Thank you

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