

Guidelines for the Development of VLRs in the UNECE region

Step by step approaches to the development of VLRs

Regional Workshop CIS Countries

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1. Introduction. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

- The 2030 Agenda identifies 5 thematic areas: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. The 5 pillars of the SDG.
- Stress the local dimension of SDGs. The SDGs include targets related to the competencies and responsibilities of local and regional governments LRGs, particularly to their role in delivering basic services and promoting integrated, inclusive and sustainable territorial development.



1. Introduction. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

What does localizing the SDGs mean?

Localizing is the process of taking into account the subnational context in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress.

1. Introduction. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

What does localizing the SDGs mean?

Localization relates both to:

1. How local and regional governments can support the achievement of the SDGs at national level through action from the bottom up.
2. How the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy.

1. Introduction. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

What does localizing the SDGs mean?

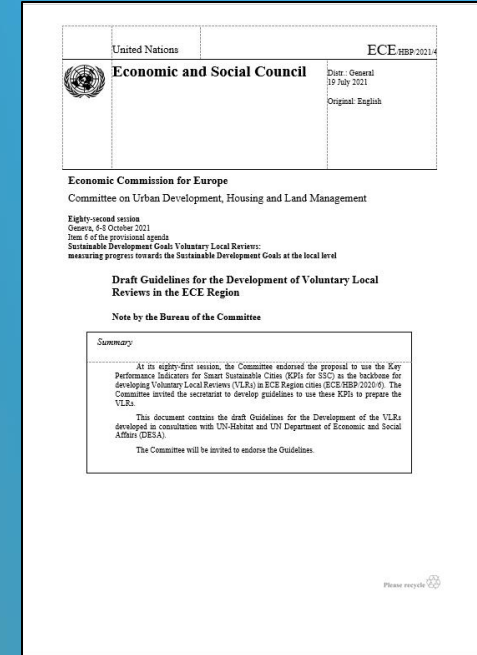
“Many of the investments to achieve the sustainable development goals will take place at the subnational level and be led by local authorities”
A/69/700 (para. 94).

Synthesis Report of the
UN Secretary General



2. Guidelines for the Development of VLRs in the UNECE region

- At the 82nd Session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management in October 2021 endorsed the Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews in the UNECE Region developed in collaboration with partners.
- More information is available in the following link https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/ECE_HBP_2021_4-2109985E.pdf

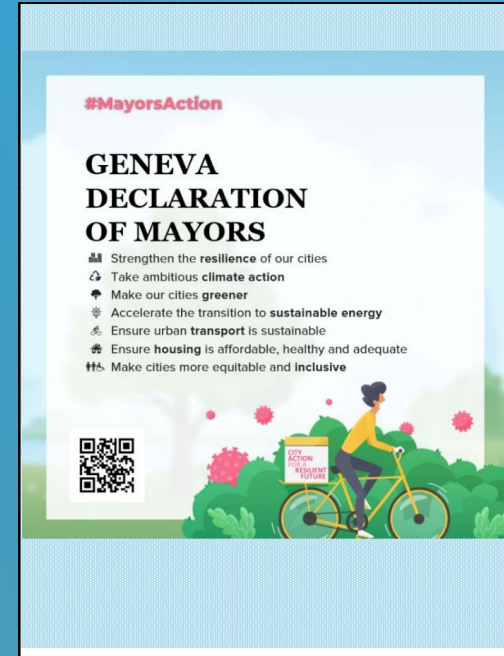




2. Guidelines for the Development of VLRs in the UNECE region.

Geneva Declaration of Mayors

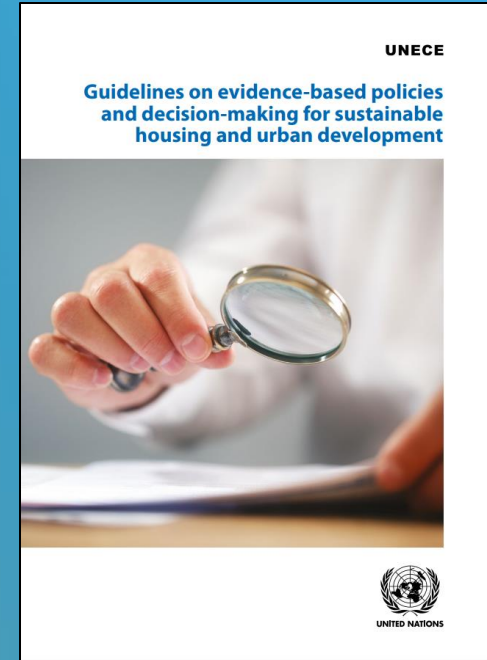
- The Guidelines support the implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Mayors agreed at the first UN Forum of Mayors in October 2020.
- More information is available in the following link <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/Mayors%20declaration%20booklet%20-%20ver.4.pdf>



2. Guidelines for the Development of VLRs in the UNECE region

Applying evidence-based approach to the development of VLRs

- These VLR Guidelines further build on the UNECE/UN-Habitat Guidelines on evidence-based policies and decision-making for sustainable housing and urban development (2020). These aim to assist cities in implementing evidence-based approaches at a local level.
- More information is available in the following link https://unece.org/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/2020_Guidelines_on_evidence-based_policies.pdf



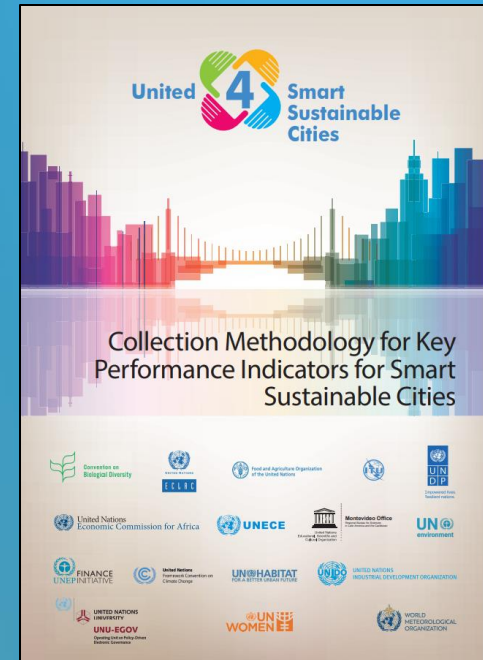


SDG VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

2. Guidelines for the Development of VLRs in the UNECE region

Applying evidence-based approach to the development of VLRs

- These VLR Guidelines build on knowledge gained in applying the UNECE/ITU Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities (KPIs for SSCs) to the analysis of sustainability and smartness of cities and the preparation of Smart Sustainable Cities Profiles (SSC Profiles).
- More information is available in the following link <https://unece.org/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/U4SSC-CollectionMethodologyforKPIfoSSC-2017.pdf>



2. Guidelines for the Development of VLRs in the UNECE region

General principles of the Guidelines of VLRs in the UNECE region

- 1) Develop practical action-oriented planning documents well-integrated with local or regional government planning and financing systems.
- 2) Include both long-term strategies and short-term plans for cities and regions to address key challenges in achieving SDGs and promoting urban resilience.
- 3) Are well-coordinated with national plans, including VNRs and concrete, actionable projects.
- 4) Promote sustainable development at the local level through the creation of shared value.
- 5) Promote a participatory approach.

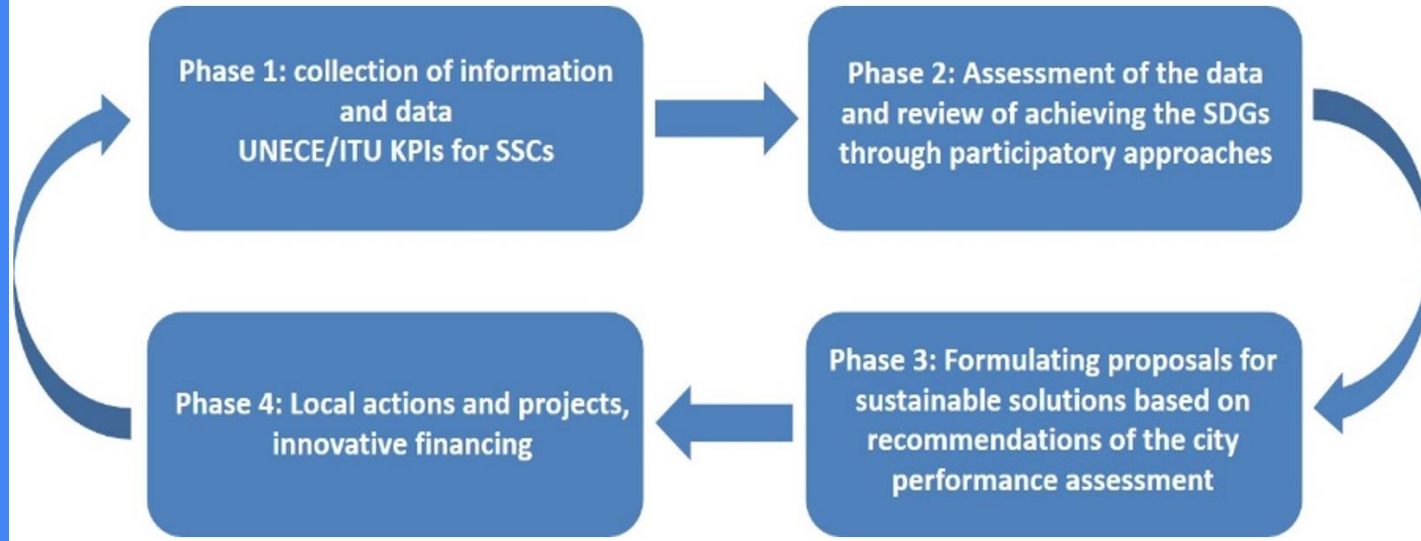
2. Guidelines for the Development of VLRs in the UNECE region

General principles of the Guidelines of VLRs in the UNECE region

- 6) Ensure no one is left behind.
- 7) Remain evidence-based.
- 8) Remain flexible and adaptable in response to COVID-19 emergency recovery plans at regional and local levels.
- 9) Maintain a strong focus on mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of VLR recommendations, including the use of innovative financing instruments.

3. The four phases of VLRs development in the UNECE region

The four phases of VLR development



3. The four phases of VLRs development in the UNECE region

Phase 1. Collection of information and data

- There is a need to collect evidence on urban challenges. These Guidelines aim to support the government's' efforts to improve evidence-based policy making on sustainable urban development and housing.
- Access to reliable data on cities and human settlements is one of the most critical challenges to developing VLRs. To support cities in their efforts to collect data and develop evidence-based policies, UNECE and ITU elaborated KPIs for SSCs as a public access, free-of-charge standard in 2015. The KPIs were endorsed by the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management in 2016, and were further amended to take into account SDGs in 2017.
- More information is available in the following link
https://unece.org/DAM/hlm/documents/2016/ECE_HBP_188.en.pdf

3. The four phases of VLRs development in the UNECE region

Phase 2. Preparedness assessment

- Participation and inclusion are not only relevant for reviewing data, but also to create qualitative data, raising awareness, ownership of SDGs, strengthening the social contract, and bringing minorities and vulnerable groups into the decision-making process.
- Phase 2 therefore consists of a structured assessment of the data collected in Phase 1 on how SDGs are to use the data to formulate recommendations for sustainable development.
- VLR assessment of achieving SDGs should form the foundation of COVID-19 recovery plans. Assessment of COVID19 recovery portfolio projects should be integrated into wide-reaching financial and economic strategies. Assessment should further consider financial vulnerabilities for individuals, businesses and sub-national governments in light of their risk-bearing capacities.

3. The four phases of VLRs development in the UNECE region

Phase 3. Opportunities for Sustainable Solutions

- **Based on the analysis and recommendations of the city performance assessment, proposals for projects and activities need to be formulated. During this stage, it is important to develop a clear institutional structure for the development and implementation of VLR recommendations.**
- The engagement of multiple stakeholders and community groups is crucial for localizing sustainable solution opportunities which focus on value creation. VLRs should therefore emphasize action-oriented objectives and value creation in local communities.
- VLRs enable sub-regional and local governments to become aware of local community needs and include them in local policymaking and action plans. Stakeholder engagement is a crucial part of the VLR process to understand the challenges and opportunities of local communities and businesses.

3. The four phases of VLRs development in the UNECE region

Phase 4. Local Actions and Projects

- **VLRs should devise tangible solutions to address the 2030 Agenda. Sub-national and local governments are significantly affected by the multidimensional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local governments are the local communities' front line; they understand the socioeconomic damage to the city brought on by the pandemic.**
- The VLR is a framework with a long-term vision to provide local actions and specific emergency projects to build back better in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial mechanisms are vital to this; sub-regional and local governments need financial and human resources to achieve VLR local actions and projects for sustainable development. Cities and municipalities need efficient financial tools to define objectives and monitor indicators.

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