

The localisation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

Survey on the role of local and regional governments and their associations

Please complete this survey online before **01/03/2022**. Click [HERE](https://forms.gle/gGcF3iK4yqFuEWvbA).
(<https://forms.gle/gGcF3iK4yqFuEWvbA>).

For any questions, please contact: survey@ccre-cemr.org



Name of your organisation (national association of local and regional governments, municipality, region, other local government, etc., country):

Country:

Your name:

Your job title:

Name of department or unit within the organisation:

E-mail address:

Telephone and/or Skype address:

Welcome to the survey on the role of local and regional governments and their associations in the localization of the SDGs!

Realising the Decade of Action and delivery of the SDGs

This survey refers to the progress made by local and regional governments in the implementation of the United Nations' [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the subnational level. Its aim is to help local and regional governments, their associations and their networks, both regional and global (UCLG and the Global Taskforce), develop and present the joint report 'Towards the localisation of the SDGs' to the United Nations in the forthcoming High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2022. Since 2017, five reports by the Global Taskforce have been presented to the HLPF, the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (you can find them [here](#)).

In 2022, the HLPF is asking us to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDGs and what kind of measures have been taken to “build back better” so that recovery and development are really sustainable. This survey will also help identify to what extent the 2030 Agenda has supported local and regional governments, and their associations in their recovery and resilience plans. Indeed, many local and regional governments are already taking the lead in the implementation of the SDGs in their territories, that is to say the localisation of the SDGs, and are on the frontlines in the COVID-19 crisis. Even when local governments are not aware, in fact, they have been taking action to implement the SDGs for years because a majority of the 17 SDGs and 169 targets cover activities that refer to the daily work of local and regional governments (education, health, water and **sanitation**, **waste** management, public transport, energy, housing, sustainable environmental protection and climate change, among many others). Indeed, 65% of these target need engagement and coordination **with local** and regional governments to be achieved.

The survey is addressed to all local and regional governments (LRGs) and their associations (LGAs) across all countries of the world and, especially, in those 45 countries that have committed to submit their national reviews to the HLPF in 2022. The list, alongside that of the other 176 countries that have already reported from 2016 to 2021, is available on the [HLPF webpage](#).

The survey this year includes questions to analyse the evolution of the SDGs' implementation since 2015 and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Concretely, there are **25** closed questions and 6 open-question boxes, divided in six sections and two annexes (to list the main local programmes or projects to localise SDGs and actions developed to face the COVID-19 pandemic). The last two sections are added for [European LRGs or LGAs](#) (CEMR members, European local and regional governments, and PLATFORMA members) with additional questions regarding VSR (section VI) and decentralised cooperation (section VI).

Should you need any support when answering the survey, please contact: studies@ccre-cemr.org or nathalie.noupadja@ccre-cemr.org

Please complete this survey online before 01/03/2022.

Acronyms and vocabulary explanation:

LGA = Local government association

LRG = Local and regional government.

Organisation = refers to LGAs, LRGs, inter-municipal and supra-municipal institutions (e.g. metropolitan authorities).

VNR = Voluntary National Reviews

VLR = Voluntary Local Reviews

VSR = Voluntary Subnational Reviews

HLPF = High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations

UNDP = United Nations Development Programme

Section I. Commitment, awareness raising and coordination within your organisation

1. AWARENESS RAISING: How familiar with the SDGs would you say your organisation is?

Please select only one option

- Very few individuals in the organisation are familiar with the SDGs
- Many have heard about the SDGs but are not aware about their relevance
- The majority of our staff is aware and makes reference to the SDGs, but it is not high in our work priorities
- The SDGs are well known in our organisation and used as an important reference in our strategies
- I don't know

1.1 If you answered the survey last year, could you detail any changes experimented in your organisation during the last year:

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2. COMMITMENT: Has your organisation adopted or developed a formal commitment, policy resolution or strategy on the 2030 Agenda and/or on the implementation of the SDGs?

You can pick more than one option

- None
- Political statement or declaration adopted by the Mayor or the Council (general statement)
- Strategy, policy paper, action plan or roadmap, adopted by the Mayor or the Council (concrete commitment)
- Report on the localisation of the SDGs in my territory (Voluntary Local Review, Voluntary Subnational Review or any other sustainability report addressed at the population, the national government, the Parliament, with other purposes...).
- I don't know
- Others: please specify

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2.1 If possible, please mention the name, the year of adoption and a reference to the documents adopted (title of the documents, website reference or links):

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2.2 If you answered the survey last year, could you detail any changes experimented in your organisation during the last year:

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3. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION: within your organisation, who is in charge of the coordination of the SDG-related work?

Please select only one option

- A specific department or area (e.g. the international department, the environment department, etc.)
- Several or all departments deal with the SDGs in a scattered and non-coordinated way
- A coordinated interdepartmental SDG team, working group or taskforce or a coordinating officer is in charge of **the** SDGs
- The highest level of decision of the organisation (e.g. Cabinet of the Mayor, Secretary General, etc.) **ensures the coordination**
- I don't know
- Other, please specify:

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3.1 If possible, please explain if your LGA's/LRG's institutional coordination mechanisms have changed since they were first implemented, and compared to last year, and whether this evolution has been mostly positive or mostly negative, and why:

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Section II. National context: involvement of your organisation in national reporting and coordination mechanisms

Six CEMR countries are reporting to the High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations (HLPF) of the United Nations through a Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2022: Greece*, Italy*, Latvia, Luxemburg*, Montenegro*, the Netherlands*.

* indicates that the country is presenting its VNR for the 2nd time.

If your country is not in this list of countries reporting in 2022, please skip Questions 4 and 5 and continue with Box 1.

4. INVOLVEMENT IN THE REPORTING PROCESS IN 2022: As your country is reporting to the HLPF, how is your organisation being invited to contribute to the development of the Voluntary National Review (VNR)?

You can pick more than one option

- No participation at all
- By being invited to the presentation of the VNR once this was finalised
- By participating in occasional meetings, with limited room to contribute to the actual report
- By answering a survey or questionnaire
- By attending bilateral meetings with the reporting unit (in charge of the reporting) to discuss the report (e.g. between your organisation, local elected officials and the reporting unit)
- By presenting your own contribution to the report (e.g. about what local and regional governments are doing to implement the SDGs, etc.)
- Direct participation in the reporting unit appointed by the national government as well as in the drafting process
- I don't know
- Other, please specify:

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Look in the list below the countries that already reported to the HLPF in previous years (since 2016). If your country is on the list, please answer Question 5. If not, continue with Box 1.

Greece, Italy, Luxemburg, Montenegro, the Netherlands.

5. EVOLUTION OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE REPORTING PROCESS COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS: If your country already reported to the HLPF in previous years (since 2016), has your organisation experienced any change (progress, setback...) in the participation modality to prepare the VNR?

Please select only one option

- Contributing with the same tasks as previous years
- Stronger involvement: please describe in Box 1, below
- Weaker involvement: please describe in Box 1, below
- I don't know

Box 1. General feedback regarding your involvement in the national reporting process (whether VNR or any report of your national government on the progress made towards the SDG implementation) and on the evolution of the participation of your organisation in this progress.

- *If your country is reporting this year, or has reported in previous years (through a VNR or national report), do you consider that your participation in the reporting process has been adequate?*
- *Have your contributions been taken into consideration in the report, whether this year or in previous years?*
- *If you feel there has been any progress (or setback) in your involvement in this process, please explain why [use all the space you may need].*

6. INVOLVEMENT IN THE NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS FOR SDGs: Has your organisation or any representative of LRGs been somehow involved in the institutional mechanisms put in place by the national government to coordinate SDG implementation? How?

In most countries, national governments have either created specific institutional mechanisms (e.g., high-level commissions, inter-ministerial/interagency committees, etc.) or strengthened existing ones (often including national councils for sustainable development or national planning institutions) to improve coordination and follow-up for the implementation of the SDGs. Many of these mechanisms have a multi-stakeholder composition.

Please select only one option

- No involvement at all
- Through ad-hoc consultations, in few or punctual meetings, but not as a permanent member
- Regular participation, but at consultative level (no decision-making power)
- Regular participation in the decision-making process as an equal partner (right to vote, for instance)
- I don't know
- Other, please specify:

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7. EVOLUTION OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUR LGA/LRG IN THE NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS: has your organisation experienced any change (progress, setback...) in its involvement in the national coordination mechanisms for the implementation and follow-up of the SDGs?

Please select only one option

- We have never participated in the national coordination mechanisms
- No evolution experienced, the involvement has not changed during the past years
- We have been more involved: please describe in Box 2, below
- We have been less involved: please describe in Box 2, below
- I don't know

Box 2. Evolution of the involvement of your LGA/LRG in the national SDG coordination mechanisms
Please provide more information based on the guiding questions below and use all examples you deem necessary [use all the space you may need].

- ***Is there a clear link (vertical cooperation) between the national governments and the LRGs? If yes, can you explain how it works? If not, why not?***
- *Has your involvement (whether direct or indirect) in the national coordination institutions/mechanisms had any impact on the dialogue and cooperation between the national government and LRGs? If yes, how?*
- *Has it had an influence on the horizontal cooperation between LRGs themselves (regions, provinces and municipalities)? If so, how?*

Section III. Local actions for SDG localisation and COVID-19 response

8. GENERAL AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES FOR SDGs: Has your organisation promoted or actively participated in concrete activities to raise awareness and disseminate the SDGs among the population and local stakeholders (including your LRG members, if you are an LGA) during the past years?

Please select only one option

- We have not promoted or participated in such activities at all
- Limited actions: e.g. we organised or participated in punctual public communication activities, conferences or events aimed at mobilising the population and/or local stakeholders - and in case you are an LGA, your LRG members (one or two events during the past year)
- Increased mobilisation in partnerships: e.g. we participated in public outreach activities organised by other stakeholders in the framework of different partnerships, e.g. supported communication calling for action, signed national declarations or charters, contributed to different events (conferences, festivals, etc.)
- Strong and intensive actions to mobilise **inhabitants** and local stakeholders - and in case you are an LGA, your LRG members: e.g. we organised and led several awareness raising actions (e.g. awareness-raising campaigns, broad partnerships, awards, promotion of local government or civil society champions and organisation of training/workshops for different stakeholders)
- I don't know
- Other: please specify

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Box 3. Description of the main initiatives to raise awareness on the SDGs

Please provide more information on these awareness-raising actions and the role played by your LGA/LRG, whether they have been developed by other stakeholders or by your organisation.

Try to identify the main stakeholders involved (civil society, private sector, academia, trade unions, cooperatives and other institutions, your LRG members, international institutions – e.g. UN Global Compact, other UN or EU agencies, etc.).

If you are an LGA, please continue with Questions 9 and Box 4. If you are an LRG, please skip these and go to Questions 10, 11 and Box 5. Questions 12 to 15 should be answered by both LGAs and LRGs.

9. RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 CRISIS: What are the main actions that your organisation has implemented or is planning to implement in order to promote “building back better” in the recovery from the crisis? The next HLPF will assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDGs and the kind of measures undertaken to “build back better” so that recovery is more sustainable, just and greener.

You can pick more than one option

- Provide LRGs with information and facilitate access to informational resources
- Collect and compile LRG initiatives
- Advocate to rally financial support for LRGs
- Advocate for LRGs’ participation in national consultations
- Promotion of LRGs’ initiatives
- Capacity building of LRG members, support through peer learning, provision of partnerships and awards, provision of technical assistance, distribution of resources (e.g. technological equipment, face masks, etc.)
- Represent the views and interests of LRGs within the national coordination mechanism for the COVID-19 pandemic response or through other formal or informal channels (e.g. through direct involvement in the coordination committee, collaboration, consultations, interpersonal relations, etc.)
- Direct role in the provision of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic at national level (e.g. operating as an emergency body, distribution of national funds amongst LRGs, distribution of centrally-bought equipment amongst LRGs, vaccination processes in place...)
- International collaboration and/or participation in international events for the exchange of experiences, development of joint advocacy actions, etc.
- I don’t know
- Other areas, please specify:

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Please go to Annex 2 to detail your main actions.

Box 4. LGAs and the national policies to build back better and promote a just, green and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

Please provide information about how the main initiatives developed by national governments ~~during~~ to respond to the COVID-19 crisis involve or not LGAs.

- Has your LGA been consulted or is consulted for the elaboration and implementation of national recovery and resilience packages?
- Did you seek or are you seeking to influence the priorities, modalities and resources mobilised by the national governments? If yes, how?
- How are LRGs involved and responding to the crisis in your country?

Thank you for your answers! If you are an LGA, please go to Question 12 to continue the survey.

The following two questions are addressed only to LRGs.

10. MOVING TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs: Has your LRG made progress in integrating the SDGs in local plans, strategies and policies?

You can select more than one option

- No progress at all
- Prioritisation: SDGs were analysed and compared with local plans and policies
- Planning and policy alignment: some (or all) SDGs and targets have been integrated in local plans and policies with concrete results to be achieved
- Budget alignment: some (or all) SDGs and targets have been integrated in local budgets, with concrete allocation of resources for implementation
- There are concrete programs and projects defined and currently implemented to move toward the achievement of the SDGs. [If you tick this point please complete Annex 1.](#)
- I don't know
- Other: please specify

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10.1 If some SDGs and specific targets have been prioritised, (if you ticked answer 2 of the previous question) please mention which ones:

- SDG1 End Poverty
- SDG 2 End Hunger
- SDG 3 Health
- SDG 4 Education
- SDG 5 Gender Equality

- SDG 6 Water and sanitation
- SDG 7 Energy
- SDG 8 Economic Growth
- SDG 9 Infrastructure
- SDG 10 Inequalities
- SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities
 - 11.1. Housing
 - 11.2 Transport and Mobility
 - 11.3. Urban planning
 - 11.4. Cultural heritage
 - 11.5. Urban resilience
 - 11.6. Air quality & waste management
 - 11.7. Public space
 - 11.a. Urban and peri-urban linkages
- SDG 12 Sustainable consumption and production
- SDG 13 Climate change
- SDG 14 Life at sea
- SDG 15 Territorial ecosystems
- SDG 16 Peaceful and inclusive societies, accountable and participatory institutions
- SDG 17: Means of implementation, partnerships (e.g. cooperation with third countries)

10.2 If possible, please put a reference to the website where these actions are described:

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11. COVID-19 CRISIS: What are the main priorities that your LRG has decided to focus on in the recovery from the crisis?

You can select up to three options

- Health care and prevention (including mental health)
- Housing
- Transportation and mobility
- Local economic development and employment
- Education
- Urban planning (public spaces, neighbourhood improvement, etc.)
- Water and sanitation
- Digitalisation (of education, public services, reducing the digital divide, etc.)
- Food and agriculture
- Social inclusion
- Gender equality
- Climate action, resilience and ecological transition
- Other areas: please specify.....
- I don't know

11.1 Please provide more details on the specific policies, programmes, goals and targets corresponding to the three policy areas you have prioritised for the recovery:

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Please go to Annex 2 to detail your main actions.

Box 5. LRGs and the national policies to build back better and promote a just, green and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

Please provide information about how the main initiatives developed by national governments to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis and promote a just, green and sustainable recovery involve or not LRGs.

- What are the priorities, modalities and resources mobilised by the national governments?
- How are LRGs involved in the definition and implementation of the national policies and recovery packages?

The following questions are to be answered both by LGAs and LRGs.

12. MONITORING AND INDICATORS: Has your organisation developed indicators or a mechanism to monitor the progress made in the achievement of the different SDGs and their targets in your territory?

You can select more than one option

- Not at all
- We are using our regular mechanisms and/or previously available indicators for follow-up and assessment (e.g. budget implementation, objectives included in the local plan) – there is no or just few changes or adaptation for the moment
- We have worked (or are working) with the national or regional statistics office to adapt local indicators to the national monitoring system
- We have revised (or are revising) the indicators to adapt to the local level specific SDG-related indicators based on the official set of SDG indicators (independent from the national monitoring system)
- We are using an existing set of indicators (such as the UN Global Urban Monitoring Framework, UN-Habitat’s City Prosperity Index, the OECD’s ‘A territorial approach to Sustainable Development Goals’ or the European Commission’s JRC Handbook for Voluntary Local Reviews on SDGs)
- We are collaborating with other institutions (academia, CSOs, think tanks, international peers) in the development of localised indicators for SDG achievement and/or **mechanism**/dashboard to **monitor** achievements
- I don’t know
- Other, please specify:

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BOX 6. Please provide more information on your monitoring system and background information describing the indicators and/or monitoring system.

- *Concerning the data you use, who is in charge of generating, collecting and/or analysing it?*
- *If you are working with other stakeholders (national government, academia, other LRGs/LGAs, international partners...), could you tell us more about the experience, in terms of support offered, methodologies, goals..., or indicate a webpage where this information can be found?*
- *Do you know of any other SDG monitoring system at/for the local level in your country? Are you using it? Could you give us more details?*

Section IV. Main challenges and opportunities to move towards accelerated actions for sustainable development

13. What do you think are the main challenges LRGs face in working towards the achievement of the SDGs and other global agendas?

Please select up to 3 options (no more) that you consider are the most relevant

- Limited access to information
- Limited support from national governments (in terms of administrative and financial support, capacity building, human resources...)
- Limited coordination across levels of governments (e.g. overlapping of responsibilities, difficult coordination between national and local plans, etc.)
- Limited local interest and/or awareness (e.g. local governments do not understand the SDGs or do not find them relevant, or they perceive the SDGs to be a new burden, not well adapted to the local priorities)
- Inadequate human resources or weak capacities (e.g. for planning, data collection and management, project design, etc.)
- Insufficient financial resources (other than national subsidies) in general
- Limited participation of local non-governmental stakeholders
- Difficulties to develop an SDG monitoring system due to lack of available local data or capacities
- SDGs overshadowed by COVID-19 crisis recovery
- I don't know
- Other:

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14. What do you think are the main benefits for LRGs from working towards the achievement of the SDGs and other global agendas?

Please select up to 3 options that you consider are the most relevant

- Wider access to information

- Mobilising additional support from national governments (in terms of administrative and financial support, capacity building, human resources...)
- Enhanced multi-level coordination
- Enhanced involvement of the national/central government in SDG coordination
- Increased local interest and/or awareness: e.g. local governments better understand the SDGs or find them (more) relevant; they do not perceive the SDGs as a burden (anymore), SDGs are adapted to the local priorities
- More human resources or better capacities
- Additional financial resources (e.g. to support investments in basic services and local development)
- Legal and institutional reforms to empower local and regional governments (e.g. for the localisation of the SDGs and the recovery from the pandemic)
- Improved planning mechanisms at local level to integrate the SDGs and promote recovery
- Enhanced participation of local non-governmental stakeholders
- Improved SDG monitoring systems and/or reporting mechanisms thanks to available local data
- Use of the SDGs as the roadmap to respond to the COVID-19 crisis
- Increase visibility of local actions
- I don't know
- Other, please specify:

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Section V. Voluntary Subnational Reviews

Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) are tools with which **Associations** of LRGs can report on their overall progress, setbacks, opportunities and challenges associated with achieving the subnational government level SDGs in a given country. Although they could potentially complement each other, they are different from Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), which are produced by local or regional governments, on an individual basis, and circumscribed to a specific city or region.

15. Voluntary Subnational Reviews: are you aware of this tool?

- Yes**
- No**
- I don't know

16. Voluntary Subnational Reviews: has your organisation been involved in the development of a VSR?

- Yes**
- No**
- I don't know

16.1 And yes how?

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17. MONITORING AND INDICATORS: Are you involved in drafting a Voluntary Subnational Review?

- Yes**
- No**
- I don't know

17.1 If yes, please describe the drafting process:

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17.2 If yes, what is the most interesting in this process?

- The inclusive approach when drafting it
- The influence it triggers to the national reporting process
- The visibility at the international level
- The cooperation with European and international LRGs and/ or other European LRGAs
- Other, please specify:

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Section VI. International cooperation to achieve the 2030 Agenda at local and regional levels

18. How does your organisation deal with the interlinkages, the synergies and the integrated approach promoted by the SDGs?

You can select more than one option

- Inter-departmental working methods have been set up (e.g. collaboration with colleagues from other departments on thematic issues)
- Development of joint activities with external stakeholders (Civil Society Organisations, universities, think tanks, etc.)
- The association has chosen to focus the work on one/few SDG(s)
- No action has been put in place
- I don't know
- Other, please specify

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19. How does your organisation deal with the international dimension of the SDGs?

You can select more than one option

- Development of international/city-to-city or region-to-region partnerships (decentralised cooperation activities)
- Involvement in European/international networks and fora (participation to international events, campaigns, etc.)
- Strengthening lobbying activities toward European/international organisations
- No action has been put in place
- I do not know
- Other, please specify

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20. To what extent would you agree the SDG framework has helped your organisation develop/revitalise its partnerships?

You can select more than one option

- It helps to develop new international partnerships
 - It helps to revitalise existing international partnerships
 - It strengthens working with European and international networks
 - It enables collaboration with external stakeholders (Civil Society Organisations, universities, think tanks, etc.)
 - It strengthens the collaboration with the national government
 - It does not influence my organisation's partnerships
 - I do not know
 - Other, please specify
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21. As an association or local / regional government, are you setting-up dedicated activities to support your non-EU partners in their efforts to localise the SDGs?

You can select more than one option

- None
 - Peer reviews / monitoring each other's progress
 - Co-creating local SDG strategies together, around common objectives and common SDGs
 - Supporting each other's drafting of a Voluntary Subnational Review
 - Providing training / capacity building activities for each other to learn from
 - Study-visits and story-telling meetings for inspiration
 - I don't know
 - Other (please specify)
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22. On which SDGs are you focusing your work with your international peers (partner local and regional governments)?

Please select only one option

- My organisation does not work with international peers (partner local and regional governments or associations/ networks of local and regional governments)
 - All SDGs
 - No specific SDGs, we follow the spirit of the 2030 Agenda
 - I don't know
 - Specific SDGs (please specify which ones and if possible, why you chose these goals):
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23. If relevant, how would you assess the knowledge of your non-EU / non-European partner about

the SDGs?

Please select only one option

- They are not familiar with the SDGs
- They know the SDGs exist, but are unfamiliar with their details
- They use the SDGs as a reference, but they are not high in their work priorities
- They align their work priorities with the SDGs
- They are willing to work with you using the SDG framework
- I don't know
- Other, please specify

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24. Would you be interested in training to become a “trainer” on how to integrate the SDGs into international cooperation/decentralised cooperation?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- Any Comment?.....

25. Would you be interested to become a trainer on one or several of the following modules:
PLATFORMA and CEMR collaborate with UCLG to develop learning and capacity-building platforms to deal with the contemporary challenges faced by cities and regions and promote decentralised cooperation to boost sustainable development (More information in [this link](#)).

- [Module 1](#) – Introduction: Localising the SDGs
- [Module 2](#) – Planning: Localising the SDGs
- [Module 3](#) – Monitoring: Localising the SDGs
- [Module 4](#) - Localizing the SDGs through Decentralised Cooperation

THANK YOU!

Please go to the annexes and help us collect more detailed information on LRG/LGA action for SDG localisation and the recovery from COVID-19 pandemic.

For any questions, please contact: nathalie.noupadja@ccre-cemr.org

