



**European Committee
of the Regions**



ANNEX

Survey Results:

The key contribution of regions and cities to sustainable development

From 13 December 2018 to 1 March 2019, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) carried out an online survey on "***The key contribution of regions and cities to sustainable development***".

The survey was aimed towards representatives of local and regional authorities as well as other stakeholders at local and regional level, and concerned their work on sustainable development (SD) and in particular in relation to their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The key results of the survey are summarised in the separate Results Note while the present ANNEX gathers the detailed figures.

The results of the survey will also feed the final report of the OECD Programme on [A Territorial Approach to SDGs. A Role for cities and regions to leave no one behind](#).

The note was drafted by CoR and OECD staff. It does not necessarily reflect the views of these organisations.

The CoR authors would like to thank nrg4SD, whose own 2018 survey on "[Localizing the SDGs: regional governments paving the way](#)" was a useful reference for this work.

Please note: The distribution of respondents among countries and levels of government is unbalanced and the respondents do not form a statistically representative sample. The aim of this survey is rather to offer a useful snapshot of the views expressed by local and regional stakeholders regarding the SDGs and their implementation.

1. You are responding to this survey on behalf of

	Answers	Ratio ¹
A region (region, province, Land, federated state, NUTS1 and NUTS2 level or equivalent)	69	17%
An intermediary entity (in countries with three levels of sub-national government, department, province, county, etc.)	34	9%
A municipality with under 50 000 inhabitants	71	18%
A municipality with between 50 000 and 500 000 inhabitants	60	15%
A municipality with more than 500 000 inhabitants	23	6%
Other local or regional body (e.g., inter-municipal or inter-regional cooperation structure)	38	10%
Other (academia, private person, business, association)	105	26%
No Answer	0	0%

2. Country

	Answers	Ratio
Austria	37	9%
Belgium	21	5%
Bulgaria	2	1%
Croatia	2	1%
Cyprus	1	0%
Czech Republic	16	4%
Denmark	11	3%
Estonia	4	1%
Finland	7	2%
France	28	7%
Germany	36	9%
Greece	9	2%
Hungary	3	1%

¹ The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding. This is also applicable to subsequent questions.

Ireland	1	0%
Italy	43	11%
Latvia	16	4%
Lithuania	9	2%
Luxembourg	0	0%
Malta	2	1%
Netherlands	13	3%
Poland	9	2%
Portugal	14	4%
Romania	25	6%
Slovak Republic	3	1%
Slovenia	4	1%
Spain	35	9%
Sweden	14	4%
Non-EU country	32	8%
United-Kingdom	3	1%
No Answer	0	0%

3. How familiar are you with the framework and processes of implementation of the 17 SDGs?

	Answers	Ratio
Never heard of them before	14	4%
Heard of them, but unfamiliar with what they represent	56	14%
Familiar with them, but not working on implementing them	93	23%
Familiar with them and in early stages of implementation	156	39%
Familiar with them and in advanced stages of implementation	80	20%
No Answer	1	0%

4. Which of these policies and actions have your organisation adopted for the implementation of the SDGs? You may select multiple answers

	Answers	Ratio
--	---------	-------

Dedicated Strategy or Action plan for the SDGs implementation	101	25%
Establishment of new or existing indicators or measurement system to follow-up on the implementation of the SDGs	77	19%
Establishment of an internal committee, task force, working group or similar working across services and horizontally	87	22%
Sustainable development council or similar attached to an high level decision maker: mayor, governor, etc.	43	11%
Raising awareness campaigns, either internal (among employees and departments) or external (targeted at citizens, civil society, business and/or schools)	143	36%
Other	42	11%
Don't know	3	1%
No Answer	168	42%

5. Which of the following dimensions of the SDGs do you work with? You may select multiple answers

	Answers	Ratio
Environment, green infrastructure, sustainable management of forests (SDGs 6, 15)	171	43%
Renewable energy (excluding incineration, and using waste-to-energy process as a last resort for residuals which cannot be recycled), local energy (SDGs 7, 13)	155	39%
Clean/soft mobility, air pollution (SDGs 13, 11)	146	37%
Agriculture, integrating environmental and health dimensions, sustainable food production, resilient agricultural practices (SDGs 3, 15)	109	27%
Sustainable food, healthy diets (SDGs 2, 3)	106	27%
Marine pollution, coastal cleaning, sustainable tourism and fishing practices, ocean conservation (SDG 14)	47	12%
Social policies, poverty, malnutrition, well-being for all at all ages, healthy living (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10)	126	32%
Development cooperation, to help cities and regions from developing countries (all SDGs)	97	24%
Economic policies (bioeconomy, economic action integrating another dimension of SDGs) (SDGs 8, 9, 10, 15)	91	23%
Sustainable consumption, food waste, behaviour change (SDGs 2, 12)	130	33%
Participative projects, budget (SDGs 10, 11, 16, 17)	126	32%

Other	32	8%
Don't know	1	0%
No Answer	166	42%

6. Why are you involved in the implementation of the SDGs? You may select multiple answers

	Answers	Ratio
As a political commitment during election campaign	27	7%
At the request of a higher-level authority	65	16%
In response to requests from citizens	45	11%
In response to adverse climate events (droughts, fires, flooding, etc.)	64	16%
As a strategy to fight unemployment	19	5%
As a strategy to address social inequalities	51	13%
As you see SDGs as a transformative agenda	167	42%
As you see the value of the SDGs as a local development planning and budgeting tool	155	39%
Other	26	7%
No Answer	166	42%

7. What are the challenges you have faced, or are currently facing, when implementing the SDGs? You may select multiple answers

	Answers	Ratio
Lack of information	112	28%
Difficulty to prioritise the SDGs over other agendas	197	49%
Difficulty to work across departments and/or line ministries	123	31%
Difficulty to work across levels of government due to a lack of coordination	125	31%
Lack of awareness, support, capacities or trained staff	199	50%
Insufficient financial resources	176	44%
Other	34	9%
No Answer	15	4%

8. How do you work with different levels of government? You may select multiple answers

	Answers	Ratio
I have joint projects with the national level on the implementation of the SDGs	93	23%
I am a regional or intermediary authority and I have developed joint projects to build capacity and to support local governments	85	21%
I am a local authority and I cooperate with my regional level to implement the SDGs	142	36%
I cooperate with other regional/intermediary/local authorities in my own country	185	46%
I cooperate with other regional/intermediary/local authorities in other EU countries	98	25%
No Answer	56	14%

9. Are you conducting dialogues/projects to implement the SDGs? You may select multiple answers

	Answers	Ratio
Not currently, and not planning to	48	12%
Not currently, but planning to	105	26%
Yes, with civil society/NGOs	157	39%
Yes, with universities	123	31%
Yes, with schools	93	23%
Yes, with the private sector	110	28%
Yes, with citizens	122	31%
Yes, with other stakeholders	94	24%
No Answer	14	4%

10. Have you established any formal partnerships (e.g. MoU, PPP) with other public, civil society and/or private sector actors to support the achievement of the SDGs? You may select multiple answers

	Answers	Ratio
Yes, within my own region or city	101	25%
Yes, with another region or city in my own country	34	9%

Yes, with a region or city in an EU or OECD country	37	9%
yes, with a region or city outside the EU/OECD	26	7%
No	239	60%
No Answer	16	4%

11. Have you identified and/or defined local indicators to measure progress towards the SDGs in your region or municipality? You may select multiple answers

	Answers	Ratio
Yes, using the official UN indicators for reference	45	11%
Yes, using EU level indicators for reference	52	13%
Yes, using national indicators for reference	77	19%
Yes, using existing local sustainability indicators for reference	103	26%
No, we do not track progress towards the SDGs	110	28%
No, we have not been able to find suitable indicators	59	15%
Other	61	15%
No Answer	22	6%

12. Do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion	No Answer
The EU should have an overarching long-term strategy to mainstream the SDGs within all policies and ensure efficient coordination across policy areas	64%	30%	0%	0%	3%	3%
A framework for policy coherence will be one of the essential objectives and aspects of an EU strategy on the SDGs	46%	39%	2%	1%	9%	4%
All of the EU institutions should break silo-thinking and mainstream the SDGs internally across all structures, and ensure policy coherence	54%	36%	1%	0%	6%	4%

The EU -- through the European Commission -- should strongly promote sustainable public spending and finance more sustainability-proof projects	57%	35%	2%	0%	4%	3%
The EU should promote sustainable fiscal reform, and consider an EU-wide tax that would influence behaviour change and create incentives towards more sustainable practices and policies	39%	27%	14%	4%	11%	4%
The EU should have a financial mechanism dedicated to finance sustainable projects	48%	36%	6%	1%	8%	3%
The European Semester, as an EU economic policy coordination tool, should enhance the SDGs and be used to plan, monitor and evaluate SDGs implementation throughout the EU	30%	42%	4%	0%	20%	4%
The Better Regulation Agenda -- or its successor as guidelines for EU policy-making -- should be used to mainstream the SDGs in all of their dimensions within all EU policies	30%	42%	5%	0%	19%	4%

13. In your opinion, to what extent should the European Committee of the Regions get involved in the following :

	To a large extent	To a medium extent	To little or no extent	Don't know	No Answer
Helping cities/regions to connect with organisations that provide capacity-building support and financial information	55%	31%	5%	4%	5%
Supporting peer-learning, exchange of best practices and experience between regions and cities	60%	30%	3%	4%	3%
Partnering with territorial organisations at EU level, to avoid confusion and duplication of work advocating for a territorial approach to the SDGs (CEMR, Eurocities, CPMR...)	54%	29%	4%	8%	5%
Increasing the visibility of the work of regions and cities on SDGs implementation, towards EU institutions, through political recommendations and participation in the EU multi-stakeholders platform on the SDGs	53%	31%	4%	5%	7%
Increasing the visibility of the work of regions and cities on SDGs implementation, towards United Nations institutions	49%	30%	9%	7%	5%

14. Which of the following priority themes should the EU focus on? Please select 3 priorities maximum

	Answers	Ratio
Poverty	130	33%
Unhealthy environments	98	25%
Mobility/transport	125	31%
Unemployment	83	21%
Housing	36	9%
Education	126	32%
Climate change	257	64%
Business development	51	13%
Investing in sustainable projects	153	38%

Creating ownership for sustainable development among citizens and businesses	130	33%
Rule of Law	45	11%
Other	23	6%
No Answer	7	2%

15. Every year, United Nations Member States review the progress achieved on the implementation of the SDGs, notably through the presentation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by some countries. Have you contributed to your national government VNR?

	Answers	Ratio
Yes, upon invitation by the national government	58	15%
Yes, upon our own initiative	26	7%
No, and not interested in doing so	77	19%
No, and would be interested in doing so	215	54%
No Answer	24	6%

16. In what ways did you share your input with the national level?

	Answers	Ratio
Through regular meetings on the implementation of the SDGs	16	4%
Through a multi-stakeholders platform of dialogue	27	7%
Through structured mechanisms of coordination of the local and regional level with the national level	37	9%
Other	14	4%
No Answer	320	80%