



A TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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WHY A TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO THE SDGS



Why were the MDGs not fully achieved?

- **Focused on the national level** without considering subnational disparities and regional specificities
- In terms of monitoring, **concentrated on tracking progress only at the national level**
- The **lack of public awareness** about the goals
- Only relevant to developing countries
- There were **no consultations with all the stakeholders**
- Many of the **MDG related targets** presented **poor progress**



Innovative Aspects of the 2030 Agenda

- A breakthrough in the post 2030 agenda is the explicit acknowledgement that **SDGs are universal**:
 - Apply both developing and developed countries
 - **Cities and regions** were involved in the consultation even if the SDGs weren't design by LRGs or for LRGs.
- Leaving no one behind is a **shared responsibility** across national, regional and local governments.
- SDGs should guide better policies at all levels to foster **policy coherence** and **place-based solutions** to complex problems.
- **Policy coherence is key**: all goals are interconnected and their implementation will depend on the progress made by the other SDGs
- A Territorial Approach to SDGs allows to **prioritize SDGs** according to territorial needs



Rationale for a territorial approach to SDGs

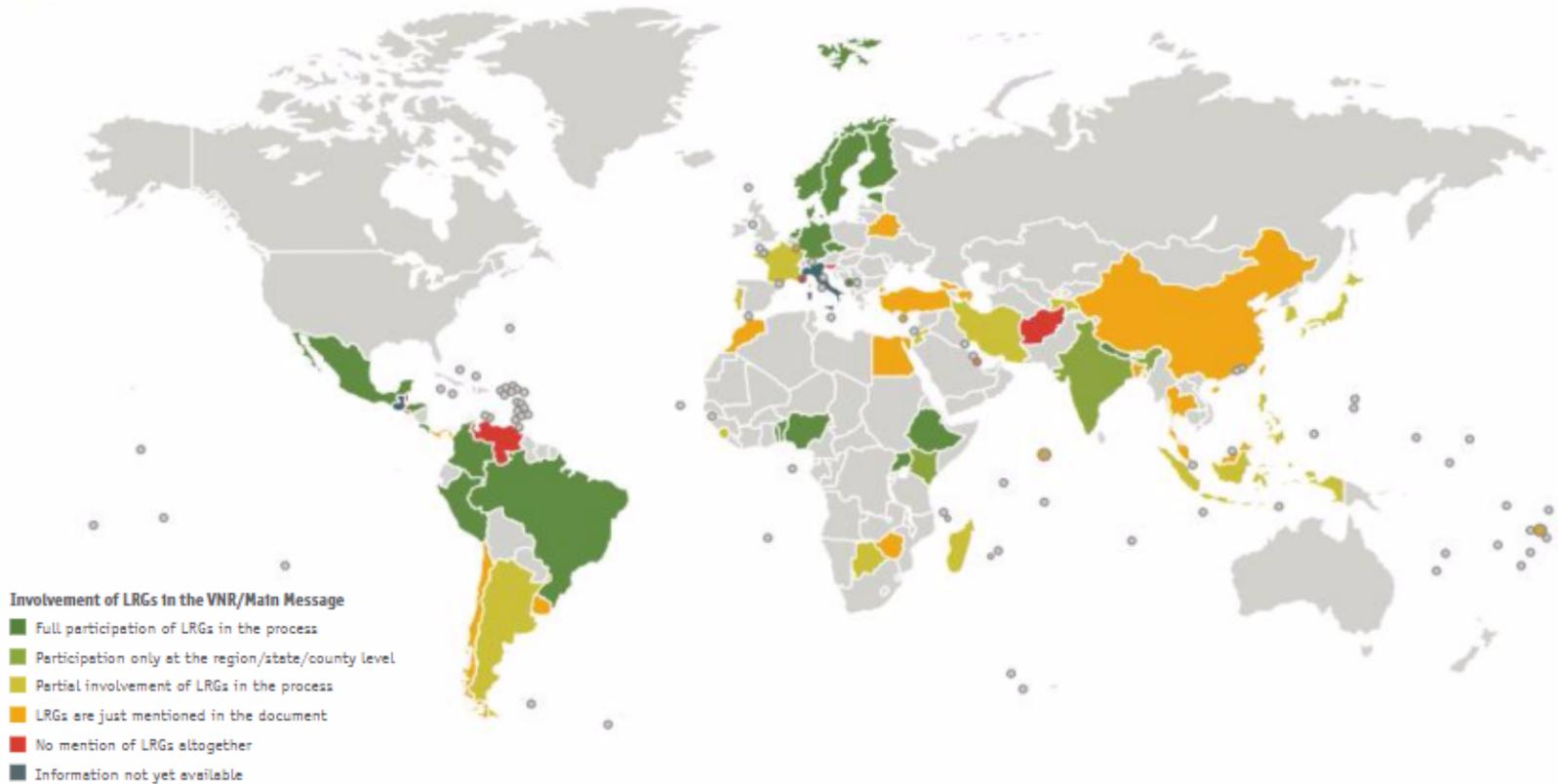
- Cities are **key players in the achievement of the SDGs**: it is estimated that **65% of the 169 targets underlying the 17 SDGs** will not be reached without engagement of LRGs;
- Subnational governments responsible for **59.3% of total public investment** in 2015 in the OECD area and for almost **40%** worldwide;
- While SDG11 on cities is central, most of the other goals are also **inter-connected** and **hold implications for cities** (e.g. SDG6 on Water, SDG12 on responsible consumption/production or SDG15 on Land and terrestrial ecosystem).
- So, rather than selecting only the most relevant SDGs for cities, **we need an urgent city/territorial lens in each SDG.**



SDGs go local: Creating ownership among the LRGs



Figure 1. Map of LRG participation in the consultation processes for the VNRs/Main Messages*.



* Countries in gray have not reported or committed to report in 2016 or 2017.

Source: UCLG, 2017 National and sub-national governments on the way towards localization, Barcelona.



OECD PROGRAMME ON A TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO SDGS



Key questions for “localising” SDGs

- **Who can do what to achieve SDGs and at which scale?**
 - A shared responsibility across levels of government
 - 65% targets require LRGs involvement
 - SDGs as a powerful framework for multi-level dialogue
- **Where do cities stand?**
 - What is relevant to measure, where and how?
 - Beyond SDG 11 ... most SDGs have a local/regional relevance
 - OECD metropolitan, well-being and regional datasets provide data
- **Where to start? What to prioritise?**
 - More than « top-down » implementation of global/national commitments
 - SDG mainstreaming in local/regional planning, investment & policymaking
 - A tool for systemic, coherent and coordinated policies and decisions
- **What works? What does not work?**
 - Need to identify, learn from, and upscale ongoing best practices
 - From window dressing / repackaging to a real change of paradigm !



Initial steps : taking stock of what already exists within & outside OECD (2017)

- Mapping of OECD relevant sub-national datasets to document local/regional disparities
- Mapping of IOs, donors', UN, LRGs & umbrella organisations' ongoing work and initiatives
- Participation in and organisation of a series of related workshops/events/conferences
- SDGs lessons from the OECD/EU project on “Decentralised Development Cooperation”
- Preparation of background notes, papers and terms of reference for the project



3 Objectives for the Programme

- **Measuring**
 - A tailored, consensual and localised indicator framework
 - Harmonised and comparable OECD territorial statistics
 - Common OECD/EU definition of « city » and « region »
 - Link to ongoing efforts (EC/Eurostat, UN Habitat, UNDP...)
- **Learning**
 - Analyse & discuss local SDGs stories/evolving practices
 - Draw lessons in terms of incentives, processes, outcomes
 - Tailor policy recommendations to needs of the 10-12 pilot
- **Sharing**
 - Peer-to-peer dialogue between cities and regions
 - Dialogue between sub-national AND national governments
 - Engagement of umbrella networks and stakeholder groups



Timeline, methodology and outputs (2018-2019)

- 18 months, to be started Q2 2018.
 - Launch of the programme at the 2018 HLPF (July 2018)
 - Contribution to OECD Ministerial Conf. (2019)
 - Other major milestone in national/global agendas
- A localised / tailored indicator framework
 - Data against OECD databases
 - Comparisons with national average
- 10-12 case studies at local, regional, national level
 - Voluntary approach
 - Field trips and dialogues
 - Consensus building
- Multi-stakeholder workshops & Seminars
- Synthesis report, online database and standalone case studies