



Working with regional and local authorities to align priorities, is critical to ensure coordinated actions and enhance coherence across levels of governments for sustainable development

Austria

The liaison office of the Laender (Austria's regions) has been integrated in correspondence and working groups in preparation of the Three Year Programmes 2016-2018 and 2019-2021 is currently being finalised. Under the auspices of the MFA, annual meetings are organised between government representatives of the Laender, cities and municipalities for information exchange and, subsequently, to help align actions undertaken at different levels of government for achieving the SDGs. The MFA is also striving to reach the local population through multiple events organized as part of public relations efforts.

Belgium

The IMCSD invites representatives from provinces and local governments to participate in advocacy and awareness-raising events. Cities and municipalities were also involved in preparations for the first Belgian VNR. The actions undertaken in the provinces and local governments, as well as other actors, are collected on the website www.SDGs.be.

Czech Republic

Regions and municipalities have a key role in Czech Republic 2030. The Department of Sustainable Development organised 8 regional round tables/workshops in 2017 to gather input from regional and local stakeholders. The GCSD includes representatives from three important municipal associations and the Committee on Sustainable Municipalities, which represents all key municipal associations and organisations.

Denmark

Each year the government negotiates the following year's budget for municipalities and regions. The government and municipalities and regions agree to co-operate to achieve the SDGs and integrate sustainable development in policy making.

Estonia

Representatives of local governments are included in the Estonian Sustainable Development Commission, formed in 1996.

Finland

The Prime Minister's Office has conducted roadshows at sub-national level to increase awareness and commitment of cities and regions in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Cities and towns are represented in the NCSD and have been engaging actively in the operational commitments for sustainable development under the Society's Commitment framework.

Germany

Representatives of the Länder and municipalities are invited to SSC meetings when relevant. Thirteen out of sixteen Länder have drawn up or are currently working on their own Sustainable Development strategies. The Federal-Länder Experience Exchange on Sustainable Development offers space for regular communication between the federal and Länder level. The Sustainable Development Council supports vertical integration by a Sustainability Network of Lord Mayors and the creation of regional hubs. An inter-ministerial working group on sustainable urban development (IMA Stadt), including i.a. the Association of German Cities and the German Association of Towns and Municipalities promotes the 2030 Agenda at the municipal level. The Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) provides information on community-level development cooperation.

Greece

The GSG works closely with regions and municipalities to achieve the SDGs and PCSD, such as the Association of Greek Regions (ENPE) and the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE). In addition, representatives of local and regional governments have actively participated in a number of multi-stakeholder events on SDGs for peer learning and exchange of best practices. The inputs from local and regional government representatives feed into policy formulation

Ireland

Work is ongoing to align SDG relevant initiatives with the local government sector with the whole-of-government approach adopted at the national level. Increasing local government engagement is an important task of the SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020.

Italy

The government promotes local and regional authorities to be active and take part in the implementation process through the State and Regions Conference. The NSDS has been endorsed at regional and local level, through the adoption of the document in the State and Regions Conference. Italy's legal system allows for local authorities to be an integral part of Italian development cooperation and play an active role in its definition and implementation.

Japan

The national government encourages local governments to incorporate the SDGs into their strategies and policies. The Headquarters sets "vitalizing local areas through promoting the SDGs" as one of the three basic directions of Japan's SDG Model in the SDGs Action Plan 2018. The Headquarters plans to create a project "SDGs Models of Local Governments" through which the entire central government will provide extensive support to selected local governments in their SDGs implementation, and then expand to other local governments based on lessons learnt.

Latvia

All of Latvia's local governments have adopted sustainable development strategies, setting out local development priorities and a long-term development vision against the background of the national Sustainable Development Strategy Latvia2030. The local strategies identify problems on the ground, define instruments for tackling these problems and localise solutions for economic, social and environmental issues in the SDG context.



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Lithuania

Regions, cities and municipalities are closely involved in the implementation of SDGs. PCSD is especially important in heavily urbanised areas. For example, Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) ensure that environmental aspects are integrated into city planning activities of the five major cities.

Luxembourg

The PNDD will be implemented at the national as well as local level. In Luxembourg, many parliamentarians are also mayors, so that local concerns can be raised in parliament. The local level can also influence legislation via regular consultation processes.

Mexico

The National Council for the 2030 Agenda provides a platform for fostering dialogue and aligning efforts at the federal, state and municipal levels. The existing National Governors' Conference (CONAGO) has established an Executive Committee for Compliance with the 2030 Agenda. So far 21 states under the CONAGO have created state commissions to support SDG implementation at the regional and local levels. The existing National Conference of Municipalities of Mexico (INAFED), which brings together 2,456 municipalities, has also been used as a mechanism to engage local actors.

Netherlands

A representative of Dutch local authorities (VNG International: the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities) is present at the meetings of the interministerial working group of SDG focal points. Decentralised government bodies (municipalities, provinces and water authorities) have written their own chapter in the first SDG report to parliament. A separate statistical report on the SDG performance of all 388 municipalities will be included in the future.

Poland

Development projects (from the SRD and other strategies) are planned in consultation with local government units, social and economic partners, and the Joint Government and Territorial Self-Government Committee (KWRiST), a forum to identify common positions of the national and local governments. The task force for cohesion of the SRD with the 2030 Agenda (at CCDP) is composed of representatives of local governments, among others.

Portugal

Portugal's 2017 VNR recognises the importance of local authorities for implementing the 2030 Agenda within their territory through various initiatives with local autonomy. Portugal has set as one of its priorities the development of innovative partnerships with different actors, including local authorities (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Portugal, 2017).

Slovak Republic

The process of defining long-term national priorities is aligned with the preparation of a Regional Development Strategy.

Slovenia

The national organization of municipalities was involved in drafting the Vision 2050 and Slovenian Development Strategy 2030 and will be part of the Council for Development being established to foster an open and transparent dialogue with stakeholders. Local actors can currently take part in meetings/ briefings and through co-organizing events and conferences.

Sweden

The government appointed a Multi-stakeholder National Committee to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda throughout Swedish society. The Committee has put forward several reports, including a proposal for a comprehensive action plan. A survey of 206 municipalities and 19 county councils found that about half of respondents use the 2030 Agenda as a tool in their sustainable development work.

Switzerland

Switzerland's federal structure requires a high degree of engagement with sub-national and local authorities to ensure vertical coherence and effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy, as cantonal, regional and local authorities have considerable decision-making competencies. They participate in discussions on sustainable development in the framework of the Forum for Sustainable Development, devise their own development strategies, and co-operate and support each other in the sub-national implementation of development programmes and projects.