PRACTICAL HANDBOOK FOR THE LOCALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AUTHORS:

TEONA TURASHVILI GVANTSA NIKURADZE



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WHAT ARE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

In recent years, within the framework of the United Nations, a number of important and ambitious instruments to tackle global issues have been adopted, among them Transforming Our World: A 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement adopted under the framework of the Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the New Urban Agenda. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted with the UN General Assembly in September 2015 with the A/RES/70/1 resolution, which is a unified effort of countries to eradicate poverty, injustice, and inequality, to ensure universal well-being, and to protect the environment, and its goals (hereinafter referred to as SDGs) are universal and all countries are equally involved in achieving them.

Local and regional governments fully realized the urgent nature of the issues raised by the Agenda and expressed their full readiness to be involved in the implementation of the Goals. Member countries agreed **that achieving the goals of sustainable development at the local government level will help eradicate poverty, tackle injustice and inequality, ensure universal well-being, bring the issues of climate change and environmental issues to the forefront, and so on. The COVID-19 pandemic made addressing these issues all the more urgent. Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, inequality has increased, extreme poverty has deepened, and the process of achieving SDGs has been significantly hampered.**

To address these challenges, the 2030 Agenda sets out 17 goals, 169 targets, and 232 unique indicators² that are interrelated and address economic, social, and environmental issues in equal measure. They were agreed upon by the UN Member States, local governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders through two-year intensive public consultation and cooperation with the aim of achieving a better and more sustainable future. As former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon puts it, the Sustainable Development Goals represent the "People's Agenda".

¹ Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. United Nations. Available at: https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf

² Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Available at: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%20refinement_Eng.pdf

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were put as follows:



GOAL 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

GOAL 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



GOAL 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



GOAL 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



GOAL 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



GOAL 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



GOAL 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



GOAL 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries



GOAL 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



GOAL 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



GOAL 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



GOAL 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



GOAL 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



GOAL 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



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GOAL 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

GEORGIA AND THE NATIONALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Georgia was one of the first countries to express its readiness to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and began to include them in its national policy agenda – the so-called **nationalization.**



The Administration of the Government of Georgia has been designated as the coordinating body for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the beginning stage, the Administration of the Government, in cooperation with experts from various ministries, set up a technical working group tasked with defining the goals and objectives that represented the priorities of the country at that moment. Against the challenges facing the country and in the national context, all **17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and 93 targets** were identified as national priorities. **201 indicators** were identified as a result of the nationalization process. Additionally, a national document—the SDG **Matrix**—was developed. The UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Agencies Group in Georgia were actively involved in and supported this process.



An **Interagency Council for Sustainable Development Goals** was established to effectively implement, monitor, and guide the process. The Council is accountable to the Prime Minister of Georgia. Representatives of government agencies and non-governmental and international organizations constitute the member of the Counil. The meetings are held at least once annually.

The Strategic Planning and Coordination Division of the Policy Planning and Government Coordination Department of the Government of Georgia constitutes the **Secreteriat of the Council**. The purpose of the Secretariat is to provide analytical and organizational support for the activities of the Council.

There are **four thematic working groups** under the mandate of the Council:

- Democratic Governance Working Group
- Social Engagement Working Group
- Economic Development Working Group
- Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection Working Group

The working groups, based on their respective thematic areas, coordinate the activities of participating agencies, collection of data, and integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national policy documents.

The working groups include a wide range of representatives of both governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and academia, as well as international organizations. Any interested person/organization that fulfills the registration criteria³ may become a member of a working group.

The **Social Engagement Working Group** covers the widest range of issues and includes the following areas: Eradicating hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture; Ensuring healthy life and wellbeing for people of all ages; Ensuring inclusive and equitable education and creating opportunities for uninterrupted learning for all; Universal provision of sustainable water management and compliance with sanitary norms; Promoting stable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all; Reducing inequality in and between countries; Promoting global partnership for sustainable development.

³As a rule, a person wishing to become a member must have at least 5 years of experience working in at least one field and relevant resources for stable participation in the activities of the working group.



The **Economic Development Working** Group oversees the following directions under its mandate: Eradicating all forms of poverty; Promoting stable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all; Creating sustainable infrastructure, promoting inclusive and developed industrialization and innovation; Reducing inequality in and between countries; Promoting global partnership for sustainable development.



The following directions constitute the purview of the **Democratic Governance Working** Group: Achieving gender equality and improving the opportunities for all women and girls; Reducing inequality in and between countries; Promoting a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, access to justice for all; Building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.



As for the **Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection Working** Group, it oversees the following wide range of issues: Universal provision of sustainable water management and compliance with sanitary norms; Universal access to affordable, reliable, stable, and modern energy; Inclusive, safe, and sustainable development of cities and settlements; Ensuring sustainable consumption and production; Adopting emergency measures against climate change and its

impact; Conservation and prudent use of ocean and marine resources for sustainable development; Reasonable forest management, combating desertification, stopping and reversing soil degradation, preserving biodiversity; Promoting Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Each year, at the global level, implementation of SDGs is assessed within the framework of the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The Country Voluntary National Review (VNR) report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is submitted to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) at regular intervals. Georgia submits the report once every 4 years.

In 2016, Georgia became one of the first UN member states to submit a report reflecting its Voluntary National Review (VNR). The country submitted the second such report in 2020, in an online format this time due to the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴

For the purposes of effective coordination of the monitoring process in Georgia, the Government of Georgia, with the active support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), has developed an electronic system integrating the SDG Tracker ⁵, through which monitoring is carried out. The monitoring is carried out once anually, in early February of each year. Agencies involved in the online monitoring system have a 1-month period to report to the Secretariat through the system.

⁴The reports are available at: https://sdg.gov.ge/text-page/46

⁵ The Administration of the Government of Georgia launched the electronic system SDG Tracker in 2019 within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals. More than two hundred indicators for the implementation of SDGs can be monitored through the system



MM SDG.GOV.GE

WWW.SDG.GUV.GE

The annual report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through the electronic system is assessed through assigning one of the following potential statuses:

- Not initiated 0%
- Ongoing Partially implemented 1-50%
- Ongoing Mostly implemented 51-99%
- Implemented 100%
- Implemented with a delay 100%
- Canceled 0-99%
- Suspended 0-99%

WHY IS THE LOCALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IMPORTANT?

Due to the universal nature of Sustainable Development Goals, they need to be adapted to the local context and specific needs, enabling their implementation to have a real, actionable impact on the local population.

The process through which the local context is taken into consideration in the 2030 Agenda is called the **Localization of Sustainable Development Goals.** The role of local self-government is crucial in this process. In addition to being directly involved in the localization process, self-governing units themselves set the local agenda, develop priority programs, and are involved in achieving goals and monitoring their implementation. Local and regional governments have played a critical role in defining SDGs, successfully launching the campaign for inclusive, safe, and sustainable development of cities and settlements (SDG 11), and highlighting the role of local and regional government in achieving and implementing national consensus on SDGs.

In addition to local government, the involvement of all other local parties – the civil society, local leaders, the private sector, the media, academia, as well as religious organizations and others - is of equal importance.

The abovementioned **SDG 11 (inclusive, safe, and sustainable development of cities and settlements) is directly related to local self-governments,** while the other 16 Goals have significant connections with local government activities. International practice shows that it is virtually impossible to fully implement about 65% of the goals of the 2030 Agenda without the involvement of regional and local governments.⁶ Poverty, lack of access to health



services and education, social and gender inequality - this is just a short list of challenges facing

⁶ Prorok T., T. Todorović A., Pichler D., Ivanović M., Rücker L., Pejčić M. (2019) Agenda 2030 in my municipality: A handbook for practitioners for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Available at: https://social-rights-balkan.org/wp-content/uploads/Handbook_2030-Agenda-in-my-Municipality-4.pdf

the population dwelling in the regions. It is precisely the municipalities that have the ability to make the broad and seemingly abstract 2030 Agenda more tangible and concrete for the general public, to adapt it to the local context, and to contribute to the improvement of the economic and social situations of each citizen.

Leave No One Behind – is the main message behind the SDGs. It is therefore important that the benefits generated by the implementation of SDGs are evenly distributed between regions and among different demographic groups. At the same time, it should be noted that a specific region or municipality may have differing needs and priorities. As such, when planning and implementing activities, localization should be based on a bottom-up approach, in which significant initiatives should come from local stakeholders. This gives rise to results-oriented policies that can have a real impact on the living standards of each individual, family, community, as well as vulnerable groups.

Additionally, **local governments are able to consolidate** civil society, the private sector, academia, and other stakeholders in the implementation process of existing goals. It should also be noted that each stakeholder in the localization process, given their specific activity, experiences, and interests, can make a significant contribution to the successful implementation of the objectives.

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Most importantly, leaders elected at the level of self-governing units have the proper **democratic mandate and legitimacy** to manage local sustainable development processes. At the same time, **local governments are responsible for providing important municipal services**, the quality of which directly affects the well-being and standard of living of local citizens.

Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals simultaneously **represents a new, unique opportunity to strengthen the decentralization agenda.** It can even be said that the sequences of processes for the implementation of decentralization and Sustainable Development Goals are interlinked.

WHAT ADDITIONAL BENEFITS WILL ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE 2030 AGENDA BRING TO MUNICIPALITIES?

- Achieving the SDGs means **increasing general prosperity, building an inclusive society,** tackling climate change, and ensuring the sustainability of natural resources. These priorities are on the agenda of each local government.

- The 2030 Agenda can serve as a **practical guide** for local self-governments to help them set long-term priorities tailored to local needs. This will contribute to the successful implementation of medium- and long-term strategic plans at the local level.

- With the 2030 Agenda, municipalities are given the opportunity to **evaluate their own strategies and later update them** while taking into account global goals, challenges, and trends. It is an opportunity for municipalities to keep up with global trends, innovate, and learn from successful examples from other countries.

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- By actively engaging in the process of achieving these global goals, municipalities will have the opportunity to **establish new connections and cooperation** with representatives of other countries and to increase international awareness of their achievements. This may pave the way for new regional or global initiatives, engagement in which will enable municipalities to attract international funding and support to achieve specific goals.



- The listed activities will have a positive impact on the **image of the municipality at the international as well as regional and national levels.** Consequently, the municipality will become more attractive for people seeking to live there as well as for investment purposes.

STAGES OF LOCALIZATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Each country and local government chooses its own ways of becoming involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Based on best international practice, the following stages of localization of the SDGs and characteristics of these stages can be identified:

I. RAISING AWARENESS REGARDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	II. INTEGRATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE LOCAL AGENDA AND STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS	IIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOALS	IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION
 ALL LOCAL STAKEHOLD- ERS MUST BE INFORMED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS MUST BE PLANNED WITH THE CONSIDERATION OF THE NEEDS AND SPECIFICS OF TARGET AUDIENCES RAISING AWARENESS REGARDING SGDS ENSURES THE INCLUSIVI- TY OF THE PROCESS AND SUPPORT FROM THE PUBLIC 	 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MUST DEFINE RELEVANT GOALS AND TARGETS TAILORED TO THE LOCAL CONTEXT WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE POPULATION SELECTED GOALS SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO THE PROGRAM BUDGET AS WELL AS LOCAL STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS IN THE PROCESS OF DEFINING POLICIES, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES MUST BE BALANCED AGAINST EACH OTHER IN ADDITION TO POTENTIAL CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION. CONSIDERING THE LOCAL CONTEXT ENSURES THAT POLICIES WILL BE TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION 	 IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS, MUNICIPALITIES MAY UTILIZE INTERNA- TIONAL BEST PRACTICE AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES DURING THE IMPLEMEN- TATION, IT IS CRUCIAL TO STORE RELEVANT DATA THE COOPERATION OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS IS CRUCIAL IN IMPLEMENT- ING THE DEFINED ACTIVITIES INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOALS WILL ENSURE MAXIMUM ACHIEVEMENT 	 A MONITORING FRAMEWORK/METHOD- OLOGY MUST EXIST AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO ASSESS RESULTS THE MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES SHOULD ASSES THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT ON THE WELLBEING OF THE LOCAL POPULATION. CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE TO INITIAL PLANS IF NEEDED AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION WILL LEAD TO IMPROVED PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

FIRST STAGE: AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

Awareness-raising campaigns are important both at the central and local levels in the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, as such activities will mobilize different stakeholders in the future, raise their interest in the 2030 Agenda, build partnerships between different sectors, and increase their participation/involvement. Awareness-raising campaigns should aim, on the one hand, to increase the competency of public servants for achieving the goals, and, on the other hand, to increase the interest of citizens and local communities in order to ensure their engagement. Accordingly, awareness-raising activities should focus not only on global or nationalized goals, but also on the importance of the impact achieving these goals can have in meeting local needs.

At the same time, these kinds of campaigns should pave the way for the introduction of participatory mechanisms necessary for the localization process. At this stage, it is necessary to conduct **stakeholder analysis**, on the basis of which formal or informal mechanisms for cooperation between the interested parties will be introduced at a later point.



A) INFORMING POLITICAL OFFICIALS AND PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC SERVANTS REGARDING SDGS

Raising the awareness of local officials and public servants about the importance of the SDGs and their localization is crucial for ensuring political and institutional support. At the initial stage, special attention should be paid to raising the awareness among senior managers. As an introduction, it is necessary to plan seminars/trainings, with the help of which, in addition to general information about SDGs, employees in managerial positions will be able to assess the long-term practical significance and benefits of achieving the goals. Along with these issues, additional information on the stages of the localization process, implementation mechanisms, and specifics should be provided to other public servants of the municipality, as the achievement of the set goals without their involvement will be impossible.



When conducting awareness-raising campaigns, it is important to correctly identify the target structural units, services, and legal entities under the municipality, as well as their respective officials/public servants, in order to ensure the proper coordination of the process in the future.

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES:

- Keep the employees regularly informed about the 2030 Agenda, nationalized goals, and plans for their localization via email, news sharing, information boards, information booklets, or other communication channels. Public servants should also be constantly updated on SDG-related municipal strategies, action plans, and progress.
- Provide opportunities focused on sharing theoretical and practical experience for improving the qualifications of employees in relation to SDGs.
- In collaboration and coordination with various international or local donors and organizations, provide practical examples to public servants of sharing and implementing good practices in localizing SDGs.
- Encourage participation/attendance of public servants in special events related to SDGs (e.g. seminars, trainings, international conferences) and share information about such opportunities.



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B) INFORMING THE WIDER PUBLIC REGARDING SDGS

To run an effective awareness-raising campaign, stakeholders must first be identified and gathered/grouped while taking into consideration their goals, interests, and experiences. This may be carried out through the coordination from various parties - municipalities, the non-governmental sector, business sector, activists, etc. Often, representatives of different sectors at the local level may not realize that they are already involved in the implementation of one of the SDGs through their own activities and have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the localization awareness-raising process. Large-scale campaigns on the 2030 Agenda and the nationalized goals of Georgia are therefore needed. These campaigns should be designed with the interests and work of the target audience/stakeholders in mind.



STAKEHOLDERS	POTENTIAL ROLE IN THE LOCALIZATION PROCESS		
Civil society and the non-governmental sector	Based on different experiences, sharing new visions of development, problems seen from the perspective of civil society, and ways to solve them.		
Private sector	Cooperation with the government in various areas and implementation of joint initiatives to increase economic prosperity. Collaborate on achieving specific goals.		
Schools	Planning general awareness raising campaigns, involving students in various volunteering activities, etc.		
Universities	Providing technical support during localization, including data analysis and current situation analysis. Encouraging professional discussions in academia about common activities and local development plans.		
Representatives of specific/technical professions	Sharing technical and practical experience in individual sectors, providing expertise, and sharing intellectual knowledge in the localization process.		
Local offices/representatives of international organizations	Providing technical, financial, and expert experience. Sharing international contacts and experiences.		
National Association of Local Governments	Inter-municipal coordination, identifying and sharing good practices between municipalities.		

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES:

- → **Use of symbols** related to Sustainable Development Goals **in various means of communication:** Posting the SDG logo on an institution's website, on information boards in official buildings, in the signatures of public servants as well as an institution's general communication e-mails. For additional visibility, the logo may be used in municipal documents, on the headlines of strategy documents, which would once again underscore the municipality's commitment to Sustainable Development Goals.
- To raise awareness about SDGs, the municipality can give away various products branded with SDG symbols to both partners and professional public servants. For example, badges, stickers on electronic devices, bags, pens, brochures, etc.
- A brief video review or visualization-laden presentation can be prepared and disseminated among stakeholders to introduce them to Sustainable Development Goals, concisely outlining SDGs, the importance of their localization, and the role of local stakeholders in the process.
- For effective communication, it is possible to use public spaces for campaigns and meetings aimed at raising awareness on Sustainable Development Goals. SDG banners and posters as well as flags may be used during large-scale public events, including festivals, marathons, and concerts.
- → It is also important to **disseminate information** on the 2030 agenda and national goals **through a variety of means:** for example, all relevant information on SDGs could be gathered in an additional section of the municipality's website, where information on planned and implemented activities would be grouped thematically and constantly updated. Information brochures and other visually enriched material may be placed in the same section. Additionally, useful links may be added to the Sustainable Development Goals section, from which the interested person will receive additional information about the activities carried out in the country to achieve the goals (including the link to the Sustainable Development Goals portal of ther Administration of the Government: https://sdg.gov.ge/main).
- To increase the scale of awareness-raising campaigns, municipalities may seek to collaborate with various local stakeholders and work together to organize events. Examples of such campaigns/activities are: organizing concerts and fairs, spreading success stories, contests, awards ceremonies, and collaborating with celebrities⁷ (e.g., actors, musicians,

⁷ The so-called SDG Champions - The group includes heads of state and government, business representatives, political leaders, academics, as well as artists who are popular with the public.

athletes, writers, photographers, etc.) - nominating them as SDG Ambassadors. Additionally, in cooperation with media organizations, educational institutions and the private sector, organizing information sessions, programs, seminars, and meetings.

→ In the future, municipalities may cooperate with educational institutions interested in SDG-related issues. Practical experience/examples of municipalities and local context will be of additional benefit, especially for higher education institutions. Municipalities can also be involved in and support the organization of conferences and other academic events, raising awarenessamong teachers, involving students and young people in achieving specific Sustainable Development Goals, and collaborating with parent-teacher associations/organizations in these and other activities.



It is recommended that the needs of people with disabilities be taken into account when carrying out awareness-raising activities about SDGs. To this purpose, information on SDGs should be accessible to all types of people with disabilities. Additionally, the information should be conveyed in sign language, printed in large print for the visually impaired, and simplified (using illustrations) printed material should be issued for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

C) INTENSE AND WIDE-RANGING DIALOGUE

The next step in identifying stakeholders and raising their awareness of the 2030 Agenda is to conduct an intensive, transparent, and inclusive public dialogue. It is essential that all relevant local stakeholders have the necessary information about their role in the possible cooperation in the localization process. To this purpose, the representatives of the municipality can hold both individual and sectoral meetings with various organizations to determine the avenues of their involvement in the process. The involvement of the civil society. local business, academia, and other stakeholders, by considering their views, knowledge, local needs, and priorities, will lend the localization process a higher degree of legitimacy.



SECOND STAGE: INTEGRATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INTO THE LOCAL AGENDA AND STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS



This stage confers particular responsibility, because its proper implementation will determine how effectively both local self-governing units and other stakeholders will be able to make a proper contribution to the realization of nationalized goals. For the inclusive management of the process, it is important that the stakeholder awareness-raising efforts initiated at the previous stage be transformed into formal and/or informal mechanisms for cooperation. Through their utilization, by integrating SDGs into the local political agenda and strategies, the representatives of the municipality will be able to adequately reflect the needs of the local population.

At this stage, the activities to be implemented by the municipalities may be defined as follows:

a) Establishment of working/initiative groups and linking/considering the activities of existing deliberative bodies (councils, commissions, working groips) with issues of sustainable development

In order to involve local stakeholders in the localization process and take into account their views/experiences, municipal bodies can create thematic/initiatives groups/other kinds of deliberative bodies. At the same time, due to the specifics of the activities of existing deliberative bodies, including working groups, and the nature of the issues, it is necessary to consider/link SDGs to their activities. This primarily refers to the deliberative bodies/working groups established for the preparation of the document defining the priorities, as well as various sectoral strategic documents.

In general, such groups/deliberative bodies may address the following directions: economic development, social welfare, gender equality, environmental protection, etc. The working groups will ideally include members of the private, public, and civil sectors, as well as experts in the field, local media, educational institutions, local councils, and other stakeholders.

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Such working groups may be set up as "advisory bodies/instruments" for municipal institutions, which will, with the active involvement of stakeholders, create a sustainable development agenda tailored to local needs. Additionally, similar groups may help establish new collaborations to achieve the goals, as well as seek financial and technical support.

At the same time, sustainable development issues can be integrated into councils already existing at the municipal level.

B) ANALYZING/REVIEWING MUNICIPAL POLICY DOCUMENTS AND LINKING THEM TO SDGS

At this stage, it is necessary to analyze local policy documents (document defining priorities, municipal strategies, and action plans) and determine their relationship with Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, it is necessary to identify the same connection with the programs and sub-programs implemented by the municipality within the scopes of the program budget.



A detailed analysis of policy documents and program budgets will help municipalities identify potential links between strategy-specific goals and SDGs. Additionally, through consistent action, municipalities will avoid duplication of effort.

The analysis of the strategic documents of the municipality may reveal issues that are not properly reflected in the plans. This requires additional local situational/contextual analysis, for which municipalities can use the strategic planning method – classic SWOT⁸ analysis, or GAP Analysis, which will help self-governing units better understand existing situation.

C) DEFINING MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES AND GOALS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATING THEM IN EXISTING POLICY DOCUMENTS AND BUDGET

At this stage, municipalities need to identify relevant and priority Sustainable Development Goals based on their local needs and context. Active involvement of working/initiative groups in the process is important, as it will ensure that the interests and needs of the population and various stakeholders are properly reflected.

⁸ SWOT refers to the state of an organization in terms of the following elements: S - strengths; W - weaknesses (weakness of the organization); O - opportunities (organizational capabilities); T - threats. SWOT analysis considers the strengths and weaknesses of the organization, as well as the opportunities and challenges facing the organization.



Additionally, municipalities need to match their goals with the competencies of local governments. They also need to define the areas of action, implementation deadlines, and entities/structural units responsible for them.

Municipalities are responsible for setting ambitious, yet realistic tasks, the achievement of which will be assessed through measurable indicators. In defining strategic goals, self-governing units may rely on a national matrix to set priorities/objectives appropriate to their local context. For example, appendix #1 lists nationalized goals that may be relevant to municipalities.

After priority targets have been selected, it is important to identify target indicators, which may be formulated differently from nationalized indicators. A good target indicator is considered to meet the following three criteria:

RELEVANCE - The indicator should be responding to the local context

FEASIBILITY – With the mobilization of adequate resources, it should be possible to achieve the goal

POTENTIAL TO TRANSFORM POLICY - Achieving the goal may become the basis for implementing systemic reform

In the context of local self-government, it is considered that the indicator must first meet the criterion of feasibility.

When developing indicators, it is important to define ways of measuring them, in particular data sources. The municipality may use data/registers produced by it as well as those produced at the central level, including data produced and surveys conducted by the National Statistics Office, as well as surveys, indexes, estimates, and databases of international organizations.

In order for the selected tasks to actually be achieved, they need to be integrated into both policy documents/strategies and the budget. At this time, the municipality may be guided by the methodology and practical guidance for Sustainable Development Goals developed with the support of GIZ.⁹

For the integration of goals, it is crucial to identify specific activities/programs and necessary resources, which should be reflected in the corresponding action plans and the municipal budget. In case of consistent implementation of the process, the municipality will identify projects/programs that are in line with one or more SDGs - be it urban planning, poverty alleviation, gender policy, environmental protection, or others. It is essential that municipalities ensure that SDGs are reflected in both the planning process as well as implementation reports of the budget.

During the planning of activities, it is especially important to use formal/informal participation mechanisms to ensure the involvement of local stakeholders. To this purpose, the municipality may hold workshops and/or consultations. It is important to ensure the involvement of specialists in the field in such meetings, as it will make it easier to identify the measures needed to perform specific tasks within the defined priority areas. The following table can help participants identify relevant activities:

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⁹ Natia Gulua and Papuna Petriashvili. A Practical Guide to Budgeting for Sustainable Development Goals. German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), 2021

¹⁰The diagram developed by KDZ was used, accessed and adapted from Prorok T., T. Todorović A., Pichler D., Ivanović M., Rücker L., Pejčić M. (2019). p. 59 For practical examples, see: Localizing the 2030 Agenda - Effective Steps and Good Practice. Janine Guntzelmann is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). 2022. pp. 59-62

GOAL 11: INCLUSIVE, SAFE, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES AND SETTLEMENTS	
WHAT ACTIVITIES IS THE MUNICIPALITY IMPLEMENTING?	RELEVANT TARGETS
	 Ensuring safe living conditions for IDPs in Georgia Reducing negative impacts on the environment per person in large cities by 2030, including by paying special attention to issues related to the impact on air quality and municipal and other waste management

A **participatory budgeting program can** be considered as one of the most accessible tools for involving the local population in the planning process of activities during localization. Such a program involves allocating financial resources to civic initiatives in the municipal budget and then implementing the best ideas of citizens aimed at solving local problems. Along with involvement in the localization process, the introduction of this participation mechanism helps the country achieve the objectives of the 16th goal (Promoting the establishment of a peaceful and inclusive society). In recent years, participatory budgeting programs have been gradually introduced in various self-governing units of Georgia.

D) COMMUNICATING THE UPDATED/NEW STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS TO THE PUBLIC

Once the goals, objectives, and activities have been identified, it is recommended that the updated/**adopted** strategic documents and action plans be made available to the general public. The representatives of municipalities should announce the planned activities and expected results and offer the citizens ways to become involved in their implementation through various means of communication.

THIRD STAGE: IMPLEMENTATION

At this stage, municipalities should implement planned activities in accordance with their goals and objectives. It should be noted that certain types of measures and activities may have been implemented by the municipality before and only the topic of their expansion may be on the agenda. In some cases, they may also not have needed additional efforts in terms of planning and mobilization of the necessary resources, as their implementation was already written into different strategies or plans.

In any case, municipalities can take into account the practices of other countries and examples of success and adapt them to local needs in order to achieve innovations.



At the same time, data production should be conducted properly at this stage. It is important to determine in advance what type of information processing will be needed to evaluate the results of the activities and to assess target indicators. Data should be collected by detailed breakdown and categorization (e.g. age, gender, region, settlement, city, status, etc.) in order to later analyze results in different contexts/ according to different variables.

At this stage, it is also important to use inclusive approaches. The municipality can carry out certain activities with the help of local actors, thus saving while at the same time attracting financial or human resources.

For inspiration, based on the context of Georgian municipalities and on international examples, the following are some possible activities for specific purposes: ¹¹

¹¹ The following was used for the examples: Prorok T., T. Todorović A., Pichler D., Ivanović M., Rücker L., Pejčić M. (2019) Agenda 2030 in My Municipality: A Handbook for Practitioners for Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Available at: https://social-rights-balkan.org/wp-content/uploads/Handbook_2030-Agenda-in-my-Municipality-4.pdf. pp. 53-55 and adapted to the Georgian context.



ACHIEVING SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Fighting child poverty with the help of persons holding single parent and multiple-children status (based on income - providing education, rent, rest, medical expenses, and other material guarantees);
- Active support of parents by improving childcare services, which, among other measures, includes organizing parenting seminars, funding sports activities, and more;
- Improving home care services for the elderly and people with heavy disabilities which includes, among other things, training home care professionals, improving the delivery of individual services (e.g., food, cleaning, medical services), etc.;
- Finding/allocating funding, as well as organizing computer courses, for adolescents/adults/IDPs/etc. who have problems with access to education;
- Encourage the involvement of marginalized groups in social and cultural life, as well as in the labor market, and organize appropriate activities.





- Encourage economic activity by the youth;
- Promoting the development of broadband Internet infrastructure and providing Internet access to vulnerable groups;
- Promoting the development of domestic tourism Develop a new marketing strategy to raise awareness about tourism destinations.



SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

- Organize projects aimed at promoting inclusive, barrier-free communities and disseminate information on relevant activities;
- Support for community and local organizations working with vulnerable groups and, through their involvement, the introduction of innovative services;
 - Planning various activities, trainings for the prevention of violence;
 - Arranging barrier-free public spaces tailored to the comfort of each citizen.



GUARANTEEING GENDER EQUALITY

Review the issue of gender quotas in municipal councils;

- Facilitate the work of Gender Equality Councils and Gender Officers in municipalities by raising awareness and providing information on assistance programs/mechanisms; High-lighting and addressing links with SDGs in gender equality strategies and action plans;
 - Increase sensitivity to issues of domestic violence, gender discrimination, economic empowerment of women, etc.;
- Encourage economic activities by women (in the context of post-COVID-19 economic rehabilitation), support startups, eliminate gender pay gaps in municipal institutions, and increase their qualifications with the aim of increasing the number of women in managerial positions;
 - Promoting municipal childcare programs (introducing an extended learning format in schools) and adapting weekly working hours to parents;

Promoting the activities of women's shelters, psycho-social rehabilitation and self-help groups, their popularization.

FOURTH STAGE: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In order to evaluate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to ensure accountability, it is necessary to establish a monitoring and evaluation system. Otherwise, the effectiveness of developed policies and achieved results will not be properly evaluated.

Local governments can monitor the direct impact of the Global Agenda on citizens, as well as evaluate the results achieved at the local level. The results of monitoring at the municipal level may also be reflected in



Municipalities can use the data and reports from international organizations, civil society organizations, universities, and think tanks along with the data produced by the municipalities themselves to evaluate how effectively activities are being implemented.

MONITORING

It is important to monitor the implementation of tasks and activities defined with the aim of achieving specific goals. The monitoring framework/system assumes that relevant indicators through which progress is assessed will be defined. To this purpose, it is possible to create a monitoring plan, defining the stages of data collection and analysis, the structural units/agencies responsible for them, and specific deadlines.

For the success of the SDG monitoring and reporting process, it is important to:

- Clearly describe the service and/or department responsible for monitoring and reporting. A working group composed of relevant services may also be responsible for this. At the same time, responsibilities should be shared among public servants involved in the process. It is important that the public servants responsible for data collection and monitoring have relevant skills, for which it is necessary to gradually improve their qualifications with some frequency.
- It is important to ensure close coordination between representatives of the local and central governments. Municipalities need to work particularly effectively with the National Statistics Office and the Administration of the Government, as well as with the leading agency/agencies designated for the goals adapted to Georgia.
- In order to measure the results and effectively monitor them, it is important to modernize the statistics production process and introduce unified data management system/standards. In this process, it is possible to develop/implement a special computer program that will automate data analysis.

Central to the monitoring process is the **effective management of data.** Due to its importance, the following circumstances should be considered:

- In some cases, it may be necessary to mobilize appropriate financial resources (for example, to improve the skills of employees, to provide an automated data processing program, etc.).
- There should be a common standard and agreed forms for data collection. Among other things, they should include data classification, update frequency, data source, data collection methods, measures to ensure data accuracy, structural unit responsible for updating the data, etc.
- When developing a unified standard for data collection, maximum data categorization should be considered - breakdown of data by region, municipality, location, age, sex, social status/income amount, or other relevant characteristics.
- It is important for the abovementioned standards and forms of statistics production to be agreed at the central level (including with the National Statistics Office).
- Public servants should be properly informed about the agreed standards and forms and, if necessary, trained in the relevant issues.

In some cases, when collecting individual types of data, the municipality may cooperate with other stakeholders, both locally, nationally, and internationally, including: local CSOs, the private sector, higher education institutions, research organizations, the National Statistics Office of Georgia, individual ministries and others public institutions, international organizations and donors.

Introducing an effective data management system requires **adequate statistics-producing capa-bilities.** To this purpose, based on the above circumstances, several **prerequisites** can be defined:

- Human resources that possess all the necessary practical and technical skills.
- Information technologies that include both the necessary equipment and the necessary software support.
- Statistical and other types of methods used to produce statistics data.
- Processes that are developed and implemented to produce statistics and achieve standards, and are implemented by those involved in the process.
- Standards and frameworks/forms that include definitions, classifications, systems used, common approaches (statistical and non-statistical), etc.
- Institutional arrangement that includes the existing legal framework in terms of data and policies as well as the distribution of responsibilities among structural units.
 - TECHNOLOGY TECHNOLOGY METHODS METHODS METHODS METHODS METHODS PROCESS PROCESS STANDARDS AND FRAMEWORKS STATUTIONAL SETTING

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Basic details/information on the produced data.¹²

12 UNECE Statistical capacity development strategy. Available at: https://bit.ly/3MLuO4n

Central to the monitoring process is the effective management of data. Due to its importance, the following circumstances should be considered:

- Conducting surveys;
- Census
- Production of administrative data this method is common for public institutions, as they are able to collect the necessary data at a lower cost. In this case, it will be necessary to take into account the systematic production of relevant data in traditional administrative procedures. For example, the production of a database of beneficiaries of social programs, which collects data on beneficiaries with maximum categorization.
- Use of data and databases produced by other institutions in this case, it is important for the municipality to have access to relevant databases or registries and for it not to have to request/verify information as needed.
- Use of data from other organizations or institutions when using unofficial data, it is important for the municipality to be confident in its accuracy and quality. Such data may include surveys, rankings, evaluations, etc. produced by NGOs, think tanks, and universities.

EVALUATION

While the implementation of planned monitoring activities and their immediate results are measured, the evaluation provides a measurement/analysis of the obtained results and impact of the implemented policies. In this case, the municipality analyzes how the measures/policies affected the current situation/citizens' lives, what has changed and in what direction (positive, negative). Such an analysis also assesses the effectiveness of the policies that were actually implemented.

The following instruments may be used for evaluation:

Voluntary Local Review (VLR) - In addition to nationally prepared documents, municipalities can prepare this kind of review themselves, assessing the results achieved and their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The report may also include key achievements, changes, and identified good practices. Municipalities can work with local stakeholders to prepare this document.

Voluntary Local Re	aviow (VLP) docu	mont may contain	tha fallawi	ng sub-chantors
voluntary Local Re	eview (vLit) uocu	ment may contain	the lottowi	ing sub chapters.

- Letter of greeting (from the Mayor)
- Short summary
- Introduction
- Organizational arrangement and institutional process (of localization)
- Structural issues and challenges (of localization)
- Methodology: matrix and data
- Developed/implemented policies and facilitating circumstances
- Overview of the results achieved in the context of SDGs
- Conclusions and recommendations¹³
- → Shadow Reports Civil society representatives can also prepare an alternative report assessing the government's performance in achieving SDGs. Such reports may also be prepared on specific goals. The report prepared by outsiders is also useful for municipalities as it offers an evaluation from an external/independent observer. The municipality can encourage the preparation of similar types of reports by collaborating with stakeholders and providing the necessary information.

Additional resources/tools to assist the municipality in assessing its objectives:

Reports prepared by the State Audit Office - The reports of the State Audit Office, on the one hand, may assess the level of fulfillment of the goals and, on the other hand, the transparency and accountability of the government in achieving the goals, and how efficiently and effectively resources were utilized.

¹³ The following was used and adapted for these examples: Siragusa, A., Vizcaino, M.P., Proietti, P. and Lavalle, C., European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews, EUR 30067 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-76-15402-0, doi:10.2760/257092, JRC118682. p. 18

ADDITIONAL FACILITATING CIRCUMSTANCES

DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE

Sustainable development and proper management of the localization process depend significantly on the actual decentralization, the correct distribution of responsibilities and competencies among the central governance and the regions. The degree of decentralization determines the extent to which the municipality can mobilize the necessary resources and make decisions tailored to local needs. The key importance of fiscal decentralization should be highlighted separately. Without it, the results envisioned by the localization of the goals will be difficult to achieve.

No less important is strengthening the capacity of local officials and public servants and learning from good practices related to governance systems.

TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY OF THE PROCESS

Municipalities should lead the localization process with inclusive approaches that consider the interests and experiences of all stakeholders. The establishment of the abovementioned deliberative bodies or working/initiative groups or the use of existing deliberative bodies/working groups serves this very purpose. It is important for all relevant target groups to be able to participate in them. Stakeholders should also have the leverage to make a real impact on the decision-making process. At the same time, information should be constantly published on the measures taken to achieve the goals of relevant services or structural units of the municipalities as well as the working/initiative groups.

PUBLICITY OF DOCUMENTS

It is important for all documents that are created and/or form the basis of the process of nationalization and localization of Sustainable Development Goals to be public and accessible. It is also recommended to make all policy documents, strategies, or action plans that will facilitate the implementation of specific SDGs publicly available.

PROCESSING/MANAGING DATABASES ACCORDING TO A COMMON STANDARD

It is important to describe the databases and information resources processed at the municipal level in order to identify the data that already exists and is being collected for the assessment of progress during the process. At the same time, a common standard for data management (processing, updating, storage) should be developed and agreed upon in addition to an effective mechanism/system for information exchange. It is also important to ensure active cooperation between the agencies and/or subordinate structural units responsible for the production of statistics at both the national and local levels and the Public Register, and to ensure access to relevant databases. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the production of municipal statistics and provide the necessary financial and human resources. No less important is the training of public servants of municipal bodies in the production of statistical data.

"SUSTAINABEL CITY" – CITIES WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

In the face of limited political, human, or financial resources, developing their own SDG agenda (framework) is an additional burden for municipalities. Nevertheless, many cities around the world have already developed their own agendas for sustainable development, driven by the political will of high-ranking officials and a strong desire for sustainable urban development. In this process, sharing experiences and successful examples, as well as cooperation between municipalities, was especially useful. For example, the mayors of 30 German cities joined forces to work together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.¹⁴ Mayors share their own policy-making approaches in the format of an ongoing dialogue.

Within the framework of a "Sustainable City", the municipalities themselves may be the authors of various initiatives, including activities that will help the country achieve the goals set in the national matrix and, at the same time, are relevant to a particular municipality or region.

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14 "Sustainable City" dialogue – mayors for sustainable development in municipalities. Available at: https://www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/en/projects/sustainable-city-dialogue/?cn-reloaded=1

FOREIGN EXAMPLES OF THE LOCALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In order to achieve SDGs, municipalities, cities, communities, etc. adopt tasks adapted to their specific needs in the process of localization. The following is an example of several activities carried out to achieve a specific task within the framework of localization of all 17 Goals.

The local government of the city of Bristol in the UK is fully aware that the list of activities to be implemented under **SDG 1**, which is to alleviate poverty, is quite extensive. As part of the first and second targets under this goal, which are to reduce the number of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty and to provide social security systems for them, Bristol has set up a special Baby Bank Network¹⁵ with the aim of providing free primary childcare items to families, so said families may direct financial resources to address other needs. Additionally, there is a special community transport scheme that offers relatively cheap transport fares for the elderly as well as citizens with disabilities.

To tackle the issue of hunger and ensure food security **(Sustainable Development Goal 2), the Mexican state of Yucatan** has implemented the following programs in its localization process: the "Breakfast at School" program, the Food Support Program, the Agriculture and Fisheries Support Credit Fund, and others.¹⁶ The aim of each of these programs is to support the vulnerable part of the population that does not have access to sufficient food resources.

In order to ensure healthy life and wellbeing **(Goal 3)**, **in the Finnish city of Turku**¹⁷, in the process of localization, maternal and child welfare services were introduced in clinics, offering free services to expectant mothers as well as school-age children, including free universal vaccinations as mandated by the national program. Said measures address the objectives set for this Goal - the provision of basic health services, the fight against infectious diseases, and the integration of reproductive health.

To ensure inclusive and equitable education **(Goal 4)**, a special school support program¹⁸ has been set up in **Mannheim, Germany,** offering students an additional 20 hours of school space and additional study programs in areas/districts where students' socioeconomic status and learning engagement are low.

15 Voluntary Local Review, Bristol. 2019. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/bristol-uk-vlr-2019.pdf

¹⁶ Voluntary Local Review, Yucatan. 2020. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/yucatan-2020-min.pdf

¹⁷ Voluntary Local Review, Turku. 2020. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/vlr-city-of-turku-finland-2020.pdf

¹⁸ Voluntary Local Review, Mannheim, 2020. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/mannheim-vlr-2020.pdf

Achieving gender equality is an important aspect of Sustainable Development Goals **(Goal 5).** Following the example of good practice from Finland, in the process of managing public finances, municipalities take due account of gender perspectives and the principle of equality are introduced in the process of delivery of services. Specifically, the **Helsinki City Council** has adjusted its priorities for public finance and socio-economic management policies to promote gender equality through the introduction of gender-based budgeting¹⁹

As part of the Sustainable Development **Goal 6** – within the framework of ensuring compliance with water sanitation standards, the local government of the **Chinese city of Taipei** is conducting a river conservation process with the aims of raising public awareness and encouraging involvement of the public. To this end, up to 20 special patrol groups of the water environment have been established, the members of which clean the river water in different sections with the involvement of the local population.

One of the global objectives set in the context of **Goal 7** is to provide affordable energy. Due to the fact that, in the case of the abovementioned Bristol, a significant challenge is poverty related to natural resources, the local government has developed a so-called home energy efficiency assessment system, which provides free diagnostics to families wishing to save on heating taxes, which makes energy service more efficient while allowing families to enjoy relatively low tariffs.

To achieve a high level of economic productivity, which is one of the taks set under **Goal 8**, campaigns²⁰ to support the employment of the elderly, people with disabilities, and foreign nationals have been developed in the **Japanese city of Hamamatsu**. Through special programs implemented with the involvement of various business entities, after identifying the experience level, skills, and knowledge of the above target groups, it becomes possible to find a decent job for them. At the same time, at the initiative of the local government of the city, needs are researched, career support trainings are held, etc.

¹⁹ Voluntary Local Review, Helsinki. 2019. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/helsinki-city-2019.pdf

²⁰ Voluntary Local Review, Hamamatsu. 2019. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/hamamatsu-city.pdf

As part of localizing the **9th Sustainable Development Goal** (building sustainable infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation), the industrial city of **Toyama**²¹ in Japan seeks to reduce the number of young people leaving the city for the purposes of seeking higher education or work elsewhere. In order to create stable jobs, the local government has developed a strategy that promotes the emergence of new markets and attracts business entities in the field of technology as well as investments.

As a result of internal and external migration, 38% of the population living in the **Argentine capital Buenos Aires** are migrants. Within the framework of **Goal 10** (reduction of inequality in and between countries) a so-called Migrant Program was established in Buenos Aires. The program aims to promote the economic, social, and political inclusion of migrants through cooperation with civil society.²² The program is additionally developing new strategies and policies aimed at integrating new groups of migrants into society. In addition to the above, one of the main goals of the program is to raise public awareness on these issues and make cultural diversity more visible.

Among the SDGs, **Goal 11** is the most relevant in the context of local self-government, as it concerns inclusive, safe, and sustainable development of cities and settlements. Within its framework, local governments can develop a variety of strategies/tasks²³ to achieve the goal, including:

- Creating a platform consisting of neutral stakeholders in various areas, within the framework of which the functionality, sustainability, development paths of the city/village/settlement will be analyzed and future plans will be developed.
- Measuring the energy efficiency of various buildings and dwellings through the use of innovative technologies.
- Collaboration with cities/municipalities in order to increase the safety and accessibility of the transport system and reduce its environmental impact.
- To support sustainable urban development, reforms of cooperation with the private sector, support for agriculture, as well as investment strategies.

²¹ Voluntary Local Review, Toyama. 2018. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/english-vlr-toyama-city-japan-2018.pdf

²² Voluntary Local Review, Buenos Aires. 2019. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/buenos-aires-argentina-vlr-2019.pdf

²³ SDG Compass. Available at: https://sdgcompass.org/sdgs/sdg-11/

Sustainable consumption and action against climate change is one of the top priorities on the modern global agenda. **SDG 12** addressed precisely these important challenges. In the city of **Taipei**, through cooperation between the government and the private sector, the so-called "Circular City" project was developed, which, on the one hand, meant banning disposable plastic containers and polyethylene bags, leading to an increase in the use of multiple shopping bags among the population and, on the other hand, encouraged the creation of so-called "food funds" in different parts of the city, where food establishments, markets, and agricultural markets place unused food from the day and deliver it to people in need.²⁴ Additionally, the initiative serves to raise public awareness of sustainable consumption and production.

Sustainable Development **Goal 13** is linked to its predecessor and calls for urgent action against climate change and its impact. Given the context of Georgia, the example of the **city of Turku** is especially relevant at this stage. There, with the involvement of the national government, major manufacturers, universities, think tanks, experts, and non-governmental organizations working on this issue, identified climate change risks were identified, vulnerabilities and expected impacts were assessed, and a long-term plan to tackle climate change was developed as a result.

Within the framework of **Goal 14** (conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development,) the **Finnish city of Espoo**²⁵ has developed a river and lake conservation plan that aims to cleanse them through local population/community involvement and raise public awareness on the fish dwelling in specific rivers and lakes, which serves to eliminate harmful fishing practices.

The example of **Hawaii**²⁶ can be cited in the localization of **Goal 15** (protection, restoration, and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable management of forests, combating desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss). In order to maintain a diverse agricultural ecosystem and to double local food production, local governments has been providing local produce, primarily for school cafeterias, and has developed "Farmer Education Programs" to help create jobs in agriculture and train qualified personnel.

²⁶ Voluntary Local Review, Hawaii. 2020. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/aloha2020.pdf



²⁴ Voluntary Local Review, Taipei. 2020. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/tapei-voluntary-local-review-2020.pdf

²⁵ Voluntary Local Review, Espoo. 2020. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/EspooVLR2020Web.pdf

The **16th Sustainable Development Goal** is quite broad in scope and aims to promote the establishment of a peaceful and inclusive society, access to justice, and the building of effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions. An excellent example of the localization of this goal comes from **Los Angeles (USA)**, where a Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) model was developed specifically for this purpose. The comprehensive strategy includes community engagement, prevention of juvenile delinquency, reducing so-called gang crime, etc. The model has helped reduce gang-related violence by 10% ²⁷

The final SDG, **Goal 17,** is based on partnership, and involves strengthening the means of achieving the SDGs. In the process of localizing this goal, of relevance is not only the close cooperation between the government and the private sector at the local level, but also involvement in international networks and the establishment of agreements. For example, in **Kitakyushu, Japan,** the following activities were carried out under Goal 17: up to 200 experts were sent to 25 countries around the world to share expertise in sustainable development of waste and water. Additionally, more than 9,000 people visited the city from 165 countries to participate in various trainings.

27 Voluntary Local Review, Los Angeles. 2019. Available at: https://www.local2030.org/pdf/vlr/las-voluntary-local-review-of-sdgs-2019.pdf

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