

## #2 Training Academy on the localisation of SDGs

### Using the RFSC tool to make the 2030 Agenda a reality

#### BACKGROUND

Halfway point towards 2030, the [Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report](#) shows that just 12 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets are on track. Progress on 50 per cent is weak and insufficient. Worst of all, we have stalled or gone into reverse on more than 30 per cent of the SDGs.

With around 65% of the SDGs targets related with competences at local and regional level, we need to tailor SDG implementation to local context and priorities. It is important to continue raising awareness on the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#), provide adequate capacity building support, involve stakeholders and mobilize sufficient financial resources.

To support cities accelerating the implementation of the SDGs, the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC) offers a training academy seeking to support interested cities in “localising” the SDGs. This means tailoring the SDGs to place-based contexts and understanding how they translate in their territorial specificities and realities, providing guidance to mainstream the SDG lens into territorial planning, strategy setting and policymaking, and monitoring progress against SDG targets.

This training academy aims to reinforce the work that contributes to supporting cities in effectively localising the SDGs based on an integrated and participatory approach, promoting capacity-building and peer-to-peer exchange between cities.

#### 1.1. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a new agenda for achieving global sustainable development by 2030, the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). The 2030 Agenda sets 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which cover different dimensions of sustainability and provide 169 related targets with a total of 232 individual indicators to assess progress in meeting the goals. The 17 SDGs are very comprehensive in their scope and are also strongly interconnected, requiring coherence in policy design and implementation, as well as multi-stakeholder engagement. The implementation of SDGs should therefore be considered in a systemic way and rely on a whole-of-society approach for citizens to fully reap the expected benefits.



Implementing the 2030 Agenda is a global multi-stakeholder process, and all levels of government are responsible for achieving the SDGs. Local and regional governments played an important role in influencing the definition of the SDGs, successfully campaigning for a stand-alone goal on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements (SDG 11) and for international recognition of the pivotal role of local and regional

government in sustainable development. SDG 11 marks a major step forward in the recognition of the transformative power of urbanisation for development and of the role of city leaders in driving global change from the bottom up.

## 1.2. The localisation of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda emphasizes the need for an inclusive and localised approach to the SDGs. Localisation is described as the process of defining, implementing, and monitoring strategies at the local level for achieving global, national, and subnational sustainable development goals and targets.

"Localisation" of SDGs refers both to how local and regional governments and other local governance actors can critically contribute to the overall achievement of the SDGs through action from the bottom up and to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local sustainable development policies.

Through policy, advocacy and project related work, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and PLATFORMA (a pan-European coalition of towns and regions – and their national, EU and global associations – active in city-to-city and region-to-region development cooperation) have been working to help local and regional authorities progressing on the SDG implementation. On an annual basis, PLATFORMA is publishing a report on the localisation of SDGs in Europe.

Furthermore, CEMR has worked in close collaboration with URBACT as part of the Global Goals for Cities (GG4C) pilot network to support 19 cities in the process of localising the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in their respective local contexts.

## 1.3. The Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC)

The Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC), promoted by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) with the support of the French Ministry for Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, is an open online tool to assist cities designing and/or improving integrated and sustainable urban development plans and strategies.

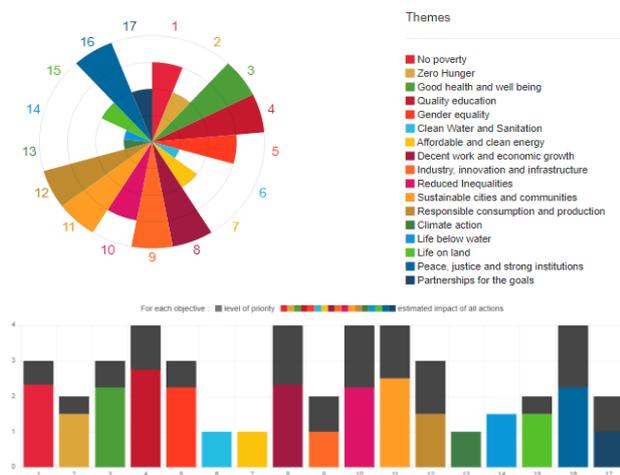
The tool offers the possibility of assessing the alignment and performance of local plans and strategies using different sustainability frameworks:

- A European Framework for Sustainable Cities, encompassing 30 specific objectives, and
- The UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

When using the RFSC tool to localise the SDGs, cities and other partners involved are guided through a step-by-step process helping them to:

1. Translate the SDGs to local context, visualise and discuss strategic priorities through an easy-to-read radar map.
2. Map local actions contributing to each (or several) SDG, identifying areas for improvement, and reflecting on what can be done to ensure a holistic and integrated approach.
3. Implement an SDG monitoring system based on a portfolio of indicators.

The tool can be applied to urban strategies, plans or projects at various scales, by cities of all sizes, offering a simple, structured, and informative self-evaluation process for the design of integrated strategies as well as to support processes of peer-to-peer review and communication purposes.



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## TRAINING ACADEMY ON THE LOCALISATION OF SDGs

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### OBJECTIVES

This training will provide support to selected cities in assessing how their local strategies are integrating the SDGs and what could be improved to ensure good interlinkages between SDGs and local actions, by using the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities tool.

By completing this training, participating cities will:

- Translate Global Goals to their local context,
- Identify local actions contributing to each or several of the SDGs and
- Learn about monitoring and indicators and measuring progress

The training will prioritise a space for peer learning and exchange, allowing participants to benefit from others' experience on policy alignment and priorities, concrete actions being implemented and contributing to the SDGs.

Through different communication channels, cities will get promotion for the work they are conducting which will be presented in a final online event and compiled in a report which will be promoted and disseminated to a large audience.

### FORMAT

- This training academy consists of 4 online sessions with a duration of 60min each.
- Each session will include an introductory part and a guided peer learning moment. The final session will be a moment to present the progress achieved.
- In each module, participants will receive guidance on how to use the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities tool to progress on each of the steps.
- Materials will be shared with participant cities after each training session.

### TIMELINE

11.07.2024 | 10.00 - 11.00 CET | Session 1: Translating Global Goals to the local context  
18.07.2024 | 10.00 - 11.00 CET | Session 2: Local policies and actions to achieve the SDGs  
20.09.2024 | 10.00 - 11.00 CET | Session 3: Monitoring the progress of the SDGs  
27.09.2024 | 10.00 - 11.00 CET | Session 4: Presenting the local SDG strategy

### APPLICATIONS

The training targets technical staff in the municipalities responsible for the SDG implementation.

**Applications are open until 30 June 2024 and can be done through this link:**

<https://forms.office.com/e/UtUdc1syTC>

### SELECTION CRITERIA

10 cities will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Relevance and motivation
- Geographical balance
- Level of awareness on SDGs (we will seek a mix in terms of awareness to benefit peer learning)
- Population size (we will seek a mix of participant cities with different sizes)

For any queries of additional information please contact [rfsc@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:rfsc@ccre-cemr.org)