

The key contribution of regions and cities to sustainable development

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



**European Committee
of the Regions**



With feedback from local and regional authorities on their work on SDGs, the European Committee of the Regions wants to showcase how you are implementing the SDGs. This information will be used to influence a future EU strategy on the SDGs, to better advocate for a territorial approach in the European and national policy-making process and to boost actions of implementation. Your views on what the EU should do on the SDGs and on its priorities to act on the SDGs, will also feed in our Opinion on a Sustainable Europe by 2030, to be drafted in 2019.

This survey will also contribute to the broader OECD Programme on [*A territorial approach to SDGs: a role for cities and regions to leave no one behind*](#), which seeks to support cities and regions in fostering a territorial approach to the SDGs through:

- measuring where they stand vis-à-vis the national average and their peers;
- engaging a multi-level dialogue with their lower and upper levels of government to build consensus on who can do what; and
- sharing best practice and lessons from international experience

This survey is based on a previous survey carried out by the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4sd). The European Committee of the Regions wishes to thank these partners for their excellent collaboration.

The survey is available in all EU languages; to select your preferred language, click on the drop-down menu on the right of the screen.

The survey is open until Friday 22 February 2019 midnight.

All responses will be kept confidential.

For more information, please contact econ-survey-cor@cor.europa.eu

* First name

Dorota

* Last name

Sienkiewicz

* Email

d.sienkiewicz@eurohealthnet.eu

* Function/Position

Policy Coordinator

* Organisation

EuroHealthNet

* You are responding to this survey on behalf of

- A region (region, province, Land, federated state, NUTS1 and NUTS2 level or equivalent)
- An intermediary entity (in countries with three levels of sub-national government, department, province, county, etc.)
- A municipality with under 50 000 inhabitants
- A municipality with between 50 000 and 500 000 inhabitants
- A municipality with more than 500 000 inhabitants
- Other local or regional body (e.g., inter-municipal or inter-regional cooperation structure)
- Other (academia, private person, business, association)

* Country

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Austria | <input type="radio"/> Finland | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania | <input type="radio"/> Slovenia |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Belgium | <input type="radio"/> France | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg | <input type="radio"/> Spain |
| <input type="radio"/> Bulgaria | <input type="radio"/> Germany | <input type="radio"/> Malta | <input type="radio"/> Sweden |
| <input type="radio"/> Croatia | <input type="radio"/> Greece | <input type="radio"/> Netherlands | <input type="radio"/> United-Kingdom |
| <input type="radio"/> Cyprus | <input type="radio"/> Hungary | <input type="radio"/> Poland | <input type="radio"/> non-EU country |
| <input type="radio"/> Czech Republic | <input type="radio"/> Ireland | <input type="radio"/> Portugal | |
| <input type="radio"/> Denmark | <input type="radio"/> Italy | <input type="radio"/> Romania | |
| <input type="radio"/> Estonia | <input type="radio"/> Latvia | <input type="radio"/> Slovak Republic | |

* Are you a member of the European Committee of the Regions?

- Yes
- No

You and the SDGs

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

- Never heard of them before
- Heard of them, but unfamiliar with what they represent
- Familiar with them, but not working on implementing them
- Familiar with them and in early stages of implementation
- Familiar with them and in advanced stages of implementation

What are the challenges you have faced, or are currently facing, when implementing the SDGs?

You may select multiple answers

- Lack of information
- Difficulty to prioritise the SDGs over other agendas
- Difficulty to work across departments and/or line ministries
- Difficulty to work across levels of government due to a lack of coordination
- Lack of awareness, support, capacities or trained staff
- Insufficient financial resources
- Other

Multi-level and multi-stakeholder cooperation in implementing the SDGs

How do you work with different levels of government?

You may select multiple answers

- I have joint projects with the national level on the implementation of the SDGs
- I am a regional or intermediary authority and I have developed joint projects to build capacity and to support local governments
- I am a local authority and I cooperate with my regional level to implement the SDGs
- I cooperate with other regional/intermediary/local authorities in my own country
- I cooperate with other regional/intermediary/local authorities in other EU countries

Which department is responsible for SDGs at your regional or local level?

Which ministry is responsible for SDGs in your country?

Are you conducting dialogues/projects to implement the SDGs?

You may select multiple answers

- Not currently, and not planning to
- Not currently, but planning to
- Yes, with civil society/NGOs
- Yes, with universities
- Yes, with schools
- Yes, with the private sector
- Yes, with citizens
- Yes, with other stakeholders

Please specify which stakeholders

EuroHealthNet leads a consortium of a EU-funded project INHERIT (INter-sectoral Health and Environment Research for InnovaTION), which is about stimulating effective policies, practices and innovations that address key environmental stressors of health and the underlying causes of health inequity. This Horizon 2020 research project aims to encourage us to modify our current lifestyles, characterized by a 'take, make, consume, dispose' models of growth, to formulate scenarios for a more sustainable future, and to design, implement and test inter-sectoral initiatives to achieve the desired change.

The consortium consists of 18 partners across 12 European countries, ranging from universities, research institutes, city councils and municipalities, as well as media and private industry partners. See: <https://inherit.eu/about/consortium/partners/>

In the context of supporting policy developments at European and (sub-)national level on issues related to sustainability, regular dialogues and exchanges are held with diverse civil society and NGOs, as well as citizens to a lesser degree.

The EC sees the SDGs as a "guide and a compass", so new policy and legislative initiatives are very much subject to further discussion on the basis of subsidiarity and in the context of the Future of Europe initiatives launched by the EC in 2017. EuroHealthNet discussed that with its Partnership and contributed via, for example, to the introduction of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the implementation of the EU Semester, and planning of the Multi Annual Financial Framework 2021-27, including towards sustainable and healthy EU Food Policies. Now it can contribute to the better implementation of all SDGs in timely, integrated ways. The Reflection Paper specifically praises stakeholder inputs and foresees multi- agency working and new forms of cross-sectoral governance and investments as being crucial to transformations needed. This is what EuroHealthNet has long advocated through health in All EU Policies, social investment and wider determinants of health evidence-based approaches.

Individual and community actions will play vital parts: people need to be aware how excess demands for cheap fuel, energy and resources are costing the earth. They also cite (in Eurobarometers etc) that health, equity, environmental sustainability and wellbeing are priorities. INHERIT is identifying achievable solutions to support sustainable, healthy and equitable behaviours by people, private and public sectors in policies, practices and innovations: The Triple Wins.

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

You may select multiple answers

- Yes, within my own region or city
- Yes, with another region or city in my own country
- Yes, with a region or city in an EU or OECD country
- yes, with a region or city outside the EU/OECD
- No

Please indicate the type of partnerships (public, civil society or private sector)

Yes, as per above. The research project that EuroHealthNet coordinates is delivered on behalf of a wider consortium of various stakeholders who are formally committed to support the achievements of the SDGs.

Have you identified and/or defined local indicators to measure progress towards the SDGs in your region or municipality?

You may select multiple answers

- Yes, using the official UN indicators for reference
- Yes, using EU level indicators for reference
- Yes, using national indicators for reference
- Yes, using existing local sustainability indicators for reference
- No, we do not track progress towards the SDGs
- No, we have not been able to find suitable indicators
- Other

If other, please specify

While the SDGs are global, their achievement will depend on our ability to make them a reality in our cities and regions. All of the SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local and regional governments, particularly to their role in delivering basic services, such as health enhancing services. While the 11 EU SDG indicators listed under SDG 3 are a good start to monitor progress towards ensuring good health and wellbeing, they are not illustrative of health inequalities between various socio-economic groups, nor are they able capture progress towards healthy life expectancy or disability-free adjusted life years (DALYs).

The INHERIT project developed its own Common Analytical Framework (CAF) - <https://inherit.eu/project/caf/> The CAF will include (1) an integrated conceptual framework, including an analytical model, a governance model and an action and evaluation model (2) a set of qualitative and quantitative indicators and (3) a set of health, environment and social impact assessment tools and cost-effectiveness methods.

Already in 2010, EuroHealthNet published a report *Can we build on existing information systems to monitor health inequities and the social determinants of health in the EU?* The objective of this paper was to provide a brief overview of the data collected and indicators that are available at national and EU level, to monitor health inequalities and socio-economic determinants of health. It specifically looked at data and indicators with relevance to health inequities and their determinants. See: <http://eurohealthnet.eu/research/other-reports-and-documents>

One way to look for further inspiration could be the 2016 EC-adopted Regulation to promote better integration of data collected through seven social surveys, creating a comprehensive data set and more timely publication of results. They include data on inequalities, social determinants of health such as employment, social welfare and housing, access to healthcare services (e.g. European Social Survey, European Health Interview Survey or EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions).

In 2017 the European Commission developed the EU indicator set for measuring progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda2030. For Goal 3 on health and well-being, six indicators were selected (life expectancy by educational level, self-perceived health, death rate, suicide, smoking, unmet need for medical care). Many other SDG targets and indicators are also relevant for measuring health equity. We describe it in EuroHealthNet's Policy Precipis on Making the link: Using Health and Social Data to monitor Health Inequalities where we also call to integrate monitoring of social progress in macro-economic systems, like the Social Progress Index and include health equity indicators, as well as to further integrate equity indicators into the recommendations concerning fiscal, investment, and sectoral policy in the European Semester process, the least the European Pillar of Social Rights' Social Scoreboard. https://eurohealthnet.eu/sites/eurohealthnet.eu/files/publications/PP_%20Health_Inequalities_07_WEB.pdf

With a particular focus put on healthcare systems, in order to further expand on sustainability and resilience of healthcare systems, available trends in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 could be looked into. UN Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out indicators for SDG 3.8 ('Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all'): coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population), and proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income (which could be seen as equivalent to the out-of-pocket expenditure indicators mentioned earlier). The EU SDGs indicator set (updated in 2018) proposed the following indicators on SDG 3 ('Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages') for the EU region that could aptly capture inequalities in health between and within EU Member States: life expectancy at birth, share of people with good or very good perceived health (to replace biased 'self-perceived health'), death rate due to chronic diseases, self-reported unmet need for medical care. It is worth noting that an indicator for healthy life years at 65 disaggregated by sex has been explicitly removed from the set in the 2018 revision.

What do you expect from the EU?

Do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
The EU should have an overarching long-term strategy to mainstream the SDGs within all policies and ensure efficient coordination across policy areas	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A framework for policy coherence will be one of the essential objectives and aspects of an EU strategy on the SDGs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All of the EU institutions should break silo-thinking and mainstream the SDGs internally across all structures, and ensure policy coherence	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The EU -- through the European Commission -- should strongly promote sustainable public spending and finance more sustainability-proof projects	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The EU should promote sustainable fiscal reform, and consider an EU-wide tax that would influence behavior change and create incentives towards more sustainable practices and policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The EU should have a financial mechanism dedicated to finance sustainable projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The European Semester, as an EU economic policy coordination tool, should enhance the SDGs and be used to plan, monitor and evaluate SDGs implementation throughout the EU	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Better Regulation Agenda -- or its successor as guidelines for EU policy-making -- should be used to mainstream the SDGs in all of their dimensions within all EU policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

	To a large extent	To a medium extent	To little or no extent	Don't know
Helping cities/regions to connect with organisations that provide capacity-building support and financial information	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting peer-learning, exchange of best practices and experience between regions and cities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Partnering with territorial organisations at EU level, to avoid confusion and duplication of work advocating for a territorial approach to the SDGs (CEMR, Eurocities, CPMR...)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing the visibility of the work of regions and cities on SDGs implementation, towards EU institutions, through political recommendations and participation in the EU multi-stakeholders platform on the SDGs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing the visibility of the work of regions and cities on SDGs implementation, towards United Nations institutions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please select the best option, then specify in the box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the following priority themes should the EU focus on?

Please select 3 priorities maximum

- Poverty
- Unhealthy environments
- Mobility/transport
- Unemployment
- Housing
- Education
- Climate change
- Business development
- Investing in sustainable projects
- Creating ownership for sustainable development among citizens and businesses
- Rule of Law
- Other

If other, please specify

poverty and inequality (social and health), unhealthy environments and air pollution; living and working conditions; actually, it is too difficult to choose 'just' three, as there are currently too many urgent and competing challenges ahead. Many – if not all – are closely linked, and therefore a silo-thinking/approaches should be discouraged. We recommend a comprehensive SDGs mainstreaming strategy to ensure all policies and initiatives at EU and (sub-)national level contribute to a coherent progress towards a Social, Inclusive and Sustainable Europe. Bottom-up and cross-sector collaboration to this end is key.

Regions/cities and the United Nations level

Every year, United Nations Member States review the progress achieved on the implementation of the SDGs, notably through the presentation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by some countries.

Have you contributed to your national government VNR?

- Yes, upon invitation by the national government
- Yes, upon our own initiative
- No, and not interested in doing so
- No, and would be interested in doing so

Best practices

Do you have best practice examples / success stories of how the SDGs have been implemented at your level?

Please include the following elements, as relevant: key motivation for implementing the SDGs locally; strategies and plans; governance mechanisms (including multi-level and cross-sectoral); monitoring and reporting of results; and stakeholder and citizen engagement.

INHERIT project identifies several good practices that have now been tested for transferability and implemented across Europe.

<https://inherit.eu/ideas-2/>

These 15 'triple-win' case studies emanate from the INHERIT database of over 100 European examples of sustainable practices and were selected for their inclusive approaches to improving health, increasing health equity and integrating the environment into all planning and decision-making processes. See: <https://inherit.eu/triple-win-cases/>

Privacy statement

By filling out and submitting your answers to this survey, you consent to the Committee of the Regions of the EU processing and collecting the data for the purpose of informing an Opinion delivering recommendations for a Sustainable Europe by 2030 (adoption in June 2019) as well as to the OECD for the preparation of the report of the Territorial Approach to the SDGs Programme.

This data is collected and processed according to Regulation (EC) 2018/1725. This data will not be made public or transferred to any third parties without your prior written consent. The follow-up to this survey application requires that your personal data and answers be processed in a file, which will be kept for a period of 5 years. You have the right to access your personal data, and the right to correct any inaccurate or incomplete personal data or to request its deletion by sending an email to econ-survey-cor@cor.europa.eu.

The requests will be processed without undue delay and in any event within one month of receipt of the request. Any queries concerning the processing of the personal data can be addressed to the same email, which is the first level contact for complaints and irregularities. The Data Protection Officer of the Committee of the Regions can be contacted at data.protection@cor.europa.eu. You have the right to have recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor: edps@edps.europa.eu.

* I have read the privacy statement.

Contact

econ-survey-cor@cor.europa.eu
