



Online workshop

How will your city look in 2030?- Localizing the SDGs and the role of SDG Voluntary Local Reviews in CIS countries

Date: 20 December 2021
Time: 9:00 – 11:20 CET
Platform: Zoom
Language: English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

Rationale

The first UN Forum of Mayors was convened by UNECE in October 2020. The participating mayors expressed their commitment to work on localizing the SDGs and requested UNECE to provide support in facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices as well as peer-learning. To provide such support to the cities, UNECE elaborated the Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in the UNECE Region which were endorsed by the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management in October 2021.

UNECE is also working on the development of an online training module to support cities in the localization of the SDGs and preparation of VLRs, in cooperation with its centres of excellence, hosted by University of Geneva, Switzerland; Trondheim Commune in Norway; and with Zofnass Programme at Harvard University, USA.

The workshop aims to discuss existing experiences of developing VLRs in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The workshop will contribute to updating the regional Guidelines and fine-tuning of the online training module on the VLRs.

Please register to participate using the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zmU1VWUiSueLs_slro05Dw

Following registration, you will receive the online connection link.

For questions regarding the workshop, please contact Gulnara Roll, Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, at email: Gulnara.Roll@un.org.

Draft programme

Moderator: Matteo Tarantino, Assistant Professor, Catholic University of Milan; Lecturer, University of Geneva.

9:00 **Doris Andoni**, Chair, Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, UNECE - Opening and welcome

09:05-09:30 Session 1. Regional and subregional approaches to the localization of the SDGs in the UNECE region

- 09:05-09:10 **Alexandre Hedjazi**, Director, Global Environmental Policy Programme, University of Geneva - Outcomes of the First workshop on VLRs
- 09:10-09:25 **Juan Valle Robles**, Regional Urban Consultant, UNECE – Approaches to localization of the SDGs in the UNECE region and presentation of the “Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews in the UNECE Region”
- 09:25-09:30 Questions and answers

09:30-10:00 Roundtable 1. Discussion on opportunities for developing VLRs in Russia and CIS

Moderator: **Alexandre Hedjazi**, University of Geneva

Questions to presenters:

- How could VLRs, if developed for your city, contribute to the economic and social development and urban resilience building at city level?
- What are the needs of cities in your region in the development of the VLRs?
- How could the UNECE regional guidelines be updated to support better improving quality of life in cities?

- 09:30-09:40 **Emil Petrosyan**, Deputy Head of the Department of Investment and Industrial Policy, City Government of Moscow, Russian Federation
- 09:40-09:50 **Vanuhi Bareghamyan**, Responsible Officer for Economic Development, City Government of Hrazdan, Armenia
- 09:50-10:00 **Kubanychbek Kudabayev**, Deputy Director of the Department of Economy and Investments, City Government of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- 10:00-10:05 Questions and answers

10:05-10:35 Roundtable 2. Main Challenges for the development of VLRs in Russia and CIS

Moderator: **Matteo Tarantino**, University of Geneva

Questions to presenters:

- What are the key challenges of assessing SDG progress at the local level in your context?
- What are your experiences with data sharing among institutions and scales?
- How can Voluntary National Reviews and Voluntary Local Reviews reinforce each other and advance sustainability agendas?

- 10:05-10:15 **Irina Ilina**, Director, Department of Urban and Regional Development, Institute of Regional Studies and Urban Planning, Higher School of Economics

10:15-10:25 **Aigul Zharkynbaeva**, Head of Department of Regional Statistics, National Statistics Committee of Kyrgyzstan

10:25-10:35 Questions and answers, discussion.

10:35-10:55 Roundtable 3. Ways forward for the development of VLRs

Moderator: **Alexandre Hedjazi**, University of Geneva

Questions to presenters:

- What activities your organization is implementing to support VLRs
- How VLRs can contribute to the economic and social development and urban resilience building at city level?
- How could the UNECE regional guidelines be updated to support better improving quality of life in cities?

10:35-10:45 **Stefano Marta**, Coordinator, A Territorial Approach to the SDGs, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD - OECD approaches in the localization of the SDGs

10:45-10:55 **Martino Miraglia**, Project Coordinator of a new project on “Voluntary local reviews: evidence for greener, resilient and sustainable urban recovery in Eastern European and Central Asian countries in transition”

11:55-11:10 Questions and answers, discussion.

11:10-11:20 Conclusions by the Moderators. Closing.