

**Case study for Road Map on Statistics for SDGs 2.0**  
***EU: Using official and experimental indicators to monitor SDGs in European cities***

<b>Description</b>	<p>The European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews offers to policy makers, researchers and practitioners an inspirational framework to set up Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).</p> <p>The European Handbook provides 71 key examples of official and experimental indicators useful to set up an effective SDG local monitoring system specifically targeted for European cities. Per each Goal, the European Handbook highlights examples of harmonised and locally collected indicators so that cities can both benchmark themselves with other cities and monitor their own specific needs and challenges.</p> <p>The European Handbook offers a method that encourages the comparability of cities' performance, but, compared to methodological exercises conducted in the last year by other international institutions on the local monitoring of the SDGs, it also takes into account the limitations in the exclusive use of harmonized official indicators.</p>
<b>Advantages</b>	<p>The European Handbook was launched in February 2020 at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi. It has been downloaded more than 13,000 times since then.</p> <p>The European Handbook has become a global reference and it has been quoted in policy documents by international partners and organisations.</p> <p>The use of the European Handbook has been tested with pilot cities in Europe: the overall set of indicators proved to be a good reference for identifying potential proxies or complementary indicators.</p>
<b>Challenges</b>	<p>The approach and criteria proposed for the selection and identification of local indicators in the first edition of the <i>European Handbook</i> are reasonably applicable in European cities. However, fine-tuning of the method is possible, in particular for addressing thematic issues and local statistical capacities. These aspects will be addressed in the second edition.</p>
<b>Future steps</b>	<p>The second edition of the <i>European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews</i> will be published in June 2022.</p>
<b>More information</b>	<p>Website of the project: <a href="https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sdgs/en/">https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sdgs/en/</a></p> <p>Contact point: Dr. Alice Siragusa Team Leader, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Urban and Territorial Development Unit <a href="mailto:alice.siragusa@ec.europa.eu">alice.siragusa@ec.europa.eu</a></p>

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