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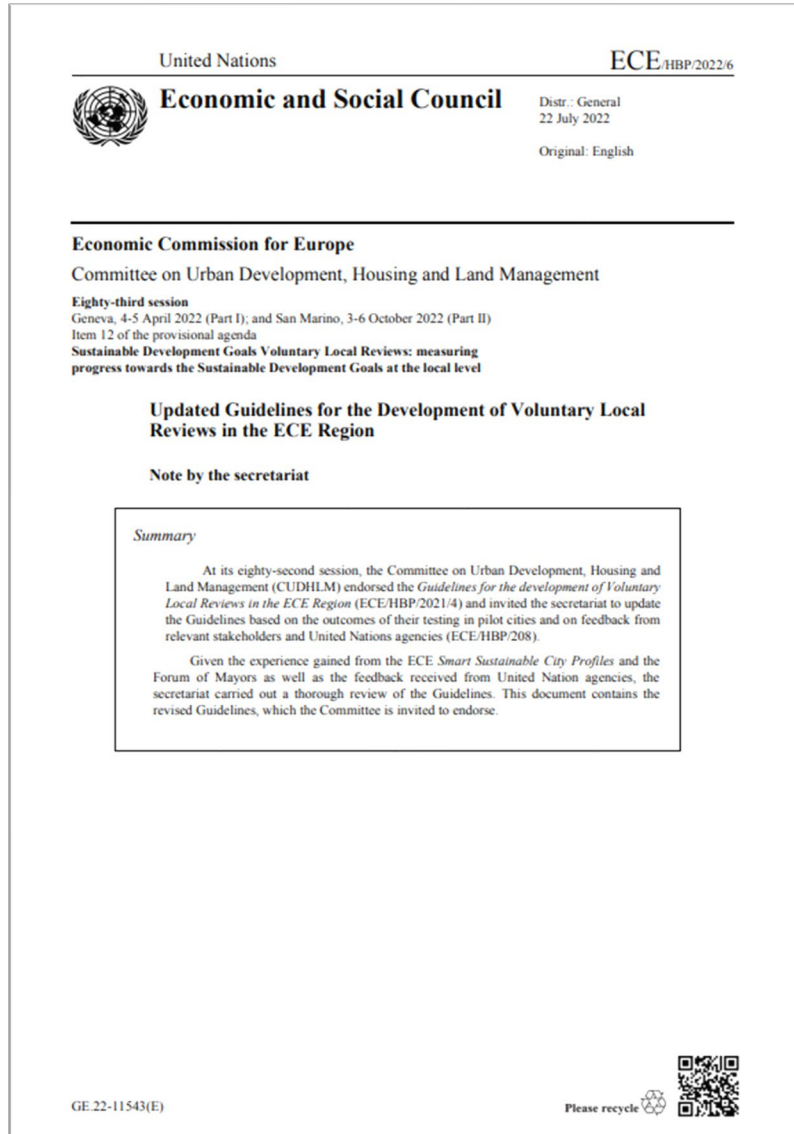
Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary Local Reviews: Measuring Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level

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Updated Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews in the ECE Region (2022)



The Updated Guidelines document:

- Sets out clear **principles and objectives** of the VLRs
- Provides **step-by-step guidance** as to the **process** of carrying out the reviews
- Promotes **the use of KPIs for Smart Sustainable Cities (KPIs4SSC)** as a standardized method for collecting data and measuring performance and progress towards the SDGs.
- Proposes an **outline** for the structure of the VLR documents

The Updated Guidelines aim:

- To provide an **evidence-based assessment** for tracking progress toward the SDGs.
- To **support LRGs** in their efforts to localize SDGs
- To adopt a coherent approach that **ensures policy coherence** that leaves no one behind.

Links between VLRs, SDGs and KPIs



**VOLUNTARY
LOCAL
REVIEWS**

VLRs are a tool for LRGs
towards the achievement
of the SDGs



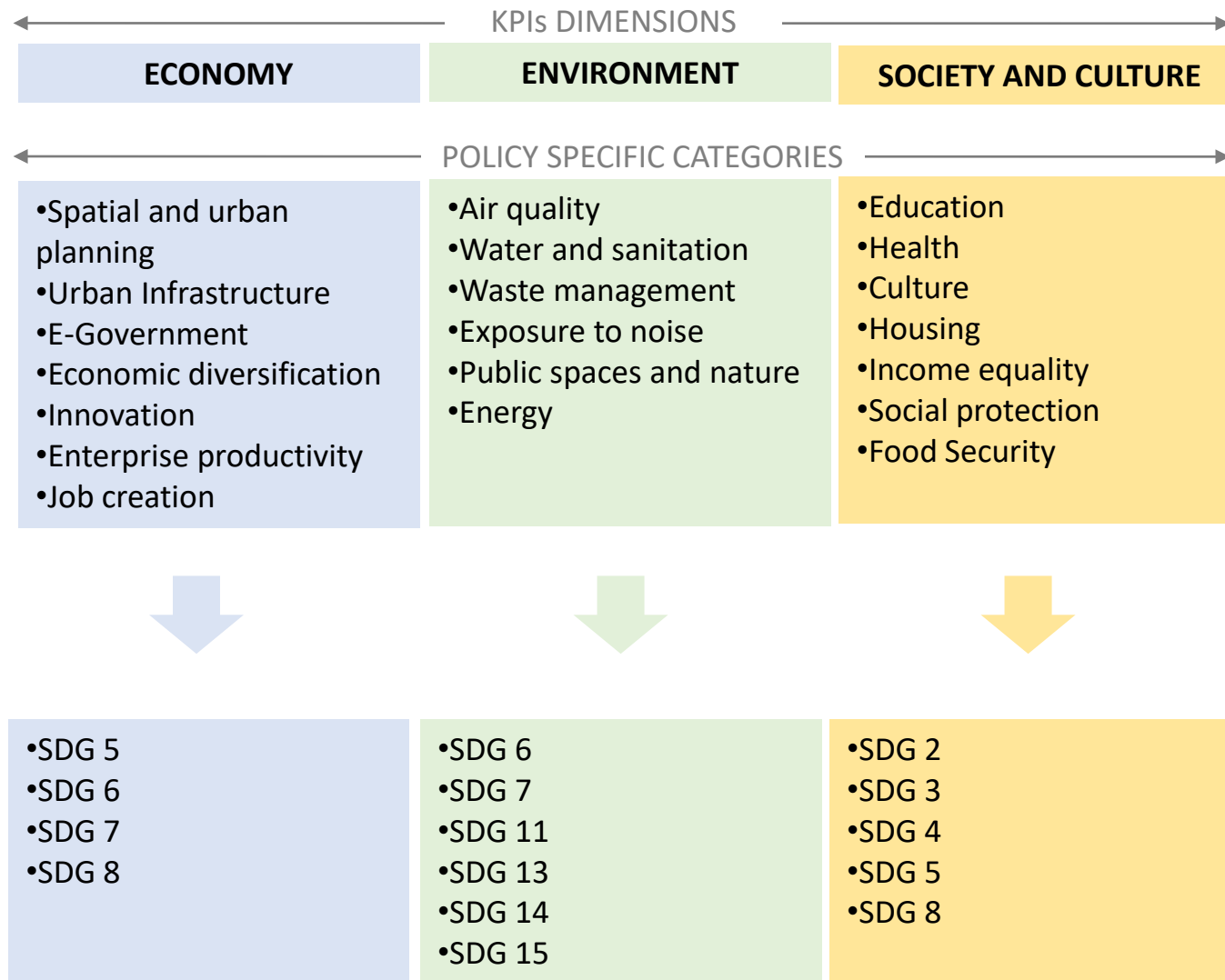
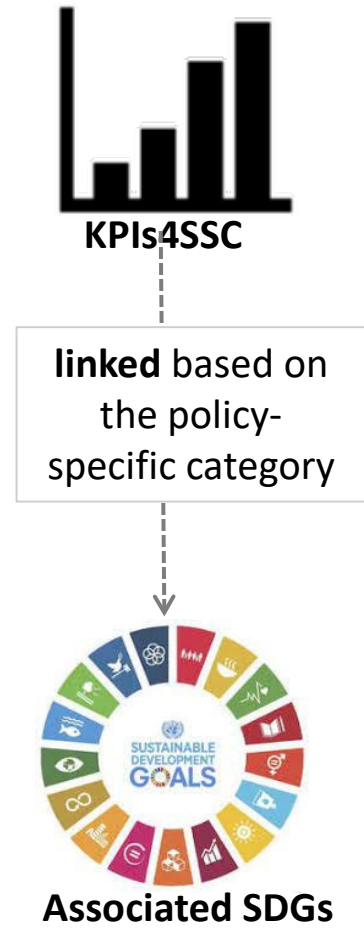
SDGs

KPIs are used in
VLRs as a tool for
evidence-based
policymaking.

Indirect link



Links between KPIs and SDGs explained in the Updated Guidelines



KPI4SSC

- Each **KPI dimension** is **divided into policy-specific categories** with corresponding indicators to complement the SDG indicators
- KPIs help **reflect national priorities** (through policy-specific indicator categories)
- KPIs provide a more **detailed and nuanced assessment** of the cities' transition toward small sustainable cities

Published VLRs in 2016-2022

Tables showing Number of LRGs that published VLRs in 2016-2022 (by country)

Europe	44
Northern Europe	18
Denmark	1
Finland	4
Norway	4
Sweden	5
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4
Southern Europe	14
Albania	1
Greece	1
Italy	1
Portugal	1
Spain	10
Western Europe	12
Belgium	2
France	6
Germany	4

Americas	30
Latin America and the Caribbean	23
Argentina	3
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1
Brazil	6
Mexico	9
Peru	3
Uruguay	1
North America	7
Canada	2
United States of America	5

Asia	23
Eastern Asia	16
China	8
Japan	6
Republic of Korea	2
South-eastern Asia	5
Indonesia	1
Malaysia	3
Philippines	1
Western Asia	2
Turkey	2

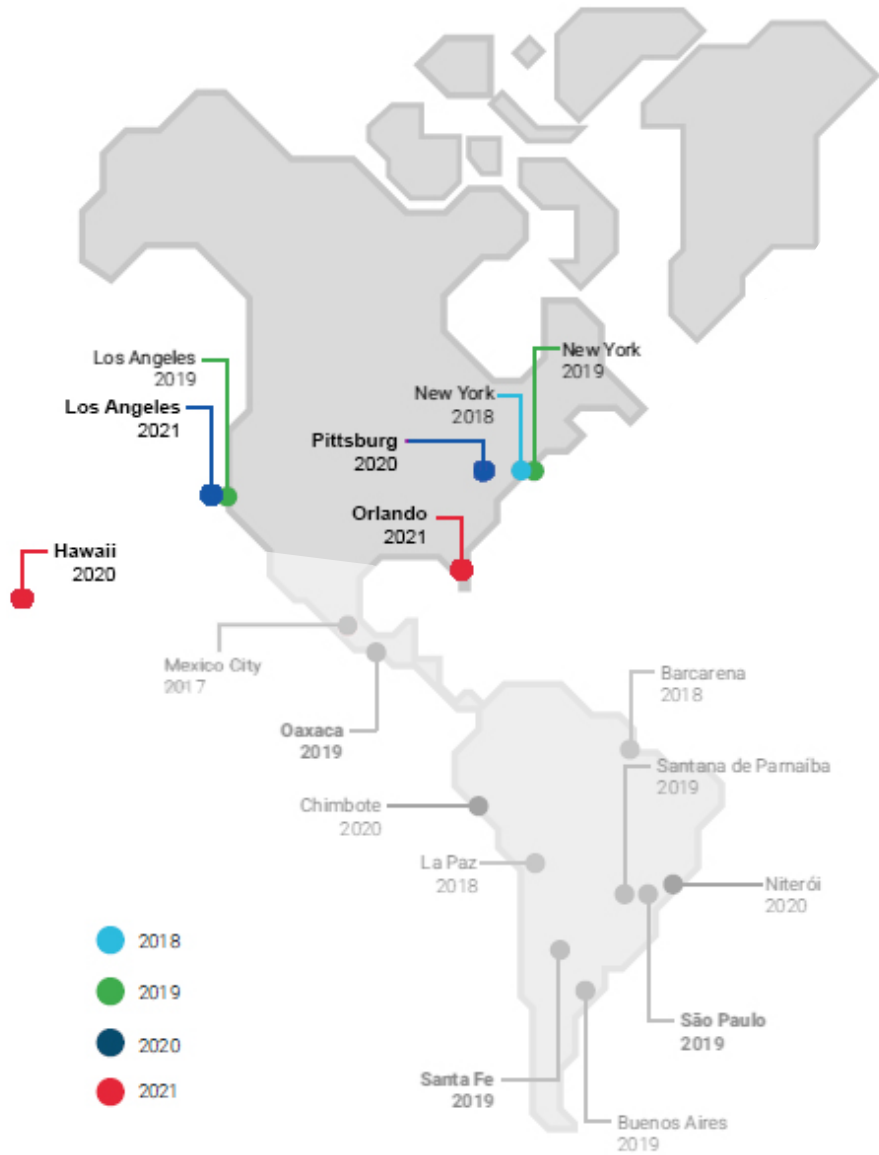
Africa	10
Sub-Saharan Africa	10
Kenya	4
South Africa	1
Zimbabwe	2
Ghana	1
Uganda	1
Cameroon	1



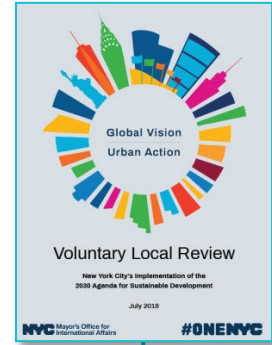
(source: European Commission, EUROPEAN HANDBOOK FOR SDG Voluntary Local Reviews, 2022 EDITION)

VLRs in the USA -Timeline

1. NEW YORK 2018, 2019
2. LOS ANGELES 2019, 2021
3. PITTSBURGH 2020
4. STATE OF HAWAII 2020
5. ORLANDO 2021

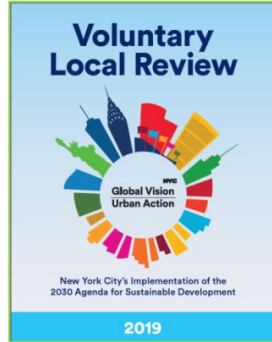


NEW YORK 2018



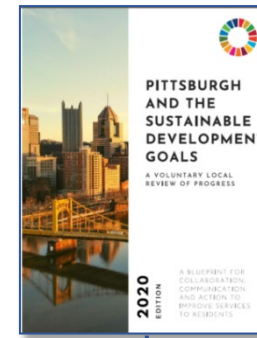
2018

NEW YORK 2019



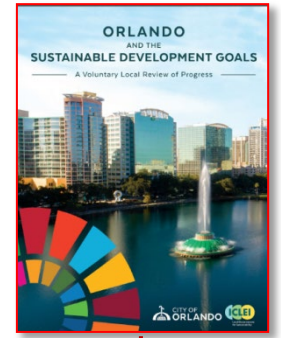
2019

PITTSBURGH 2020

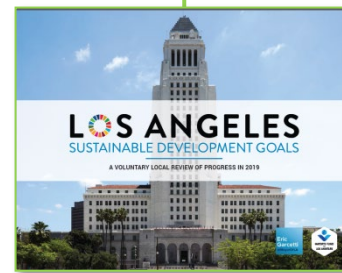


2020

ORLANDO 2021



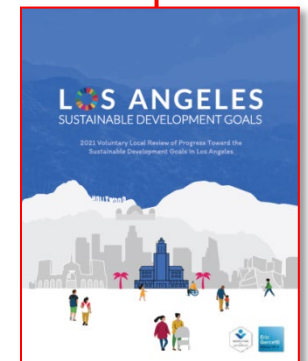
2021



LOS ANGELES 2019



STATE OF HAWAII 2020



LOS ANGELES 2021

VLRs in the USA - Overview

	Los Angeles		New York		Pittsburgh	Hawaii (State)	Orlando
Year of VLR	2019	2021	2018	2019	2020	2020	2021
Total No VLRs	2		2		1	1	1
Type of Local Government	Municipality		Metropolitan Municipality		Municipality	State (4 counties)	Municipality
No of SDGs reviewed	7 SDGs : SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 8 SDG 10 SDG 11 SDG 13 SDG 16	17 SDGs	5 SDGs SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 15	6 SDGs SDG 4 SDG 8 SDG 10 SDG 13 SDG 16 SDG 17	17 SDGs	17 SDGs Focus in 5 SDGs SDG 13 SDG 5 SDG 10 SDG 16 SDG 17	9 SDGs SDG 2 SDG 3 SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 10 SDG 12 SDG 13 SDG 15 SDG 17
quantitative / qualitative	both	both	both	qualitative	both	both	both
Coordination mechanism	designed by the Mayor's Office, in extensive collaboration with university researchers and institutions.		Mayor's Office's desk for International Relations, in collaboration with the Offices for Operations and Climate Policy and Programs, plus the involvement of several other municipal agencies		City of Pittsburgh with guidance from Carnegie Mellon University, the Brookings Institution, the City of L.A. and the City of Bristol.	led by the Governor, all four County Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and State Legislature with business and civil society	the City of Orlando in partnership with ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability
Indicators Framework used	Adaptation of Official global indicators to specifics of local context (open data platform)		Use of their own findicator system: The OneNYC 2050 metrics		No indicators used. Official global Targets are used as themes according to which city actions are evaluated	use of their own indicator System —the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)—(also uses open data platform)	Use of Los Angeles approach
SDG localization approach	reworking terminology, method and sources to make them accessible)		acknowledgement of the official IAEG-SDGs system but only occasional alignment is considered, whenever local and global indicators are comparable		Global targets are revised to be "themes" rather than concrete objectives. The VLR assesses the city's initiatives against the Global Targets	Measures only what matters to Hawai'i's communities, currently tracks six sustainability goals based on available data.	Use of L.A. approach based on Global Indicators for SDGs: 47 indicators applicable locally/data available 37 indicators applicable locally / data not available 13 indicators not applicable.

- **New York:** It was one of the pioneer cities in the VLR movement to present its first local review in 2018.
- **Los Angeles:** Its approach of localizing the SDGs and its open data platform serve as exemplary blueprints for other cities. LA has also worked on ensuring that other cities can replicate their portal
- **State of Hawaii :** It is the first local government to present a comprehensive statewide Voluntary Local Review in the United States – which includes all four counties
- **Pittsburg:** Its VLR included the **mapping** of municipal actions to the SDGs. This process helped in **increasing the level of engagement of city personnel with the SDGs**
- **Orlando:** The VLR is seen as an opportunity for the city to strengthen existing efforts to **increase coordination across city departments and in regional collaborations.**

Cities with more than one VLRs

New York and **Los Angeles** are amongst the few cities globally that have conducted **more than one VLRs**. (Until 2021, only 9 cities had produced more than one VLRs) (IGES Research Report, “State of the Voluntary Local Reviews 2022: Overcoming Barriers to Implementation “ June 2022)

Indicators systems used in the USA:

- New York and Hawaii are using their own set of indicators
- Los Angeles and Orlando’s are defining their own sets of indicators based on the Global Indicators for SDGs

Open data platforms:

- **Los Angeles** was the first city in the world to report SDG data at the indicator level using an open-source platform
- **Hawaii’s** [Aloha+Challenge Dashboard](#) is an online open-data platform that tracks progress and ensures transparency and accountability on Hawaii’s sustainability efforts.



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THANK YOU!

