



Harnessing the potential of Voluntary Local Reviews to accelerate SDG Localization in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

VNR-VLR studio “Evidence-based approaches to the development of the Voluntary Local
Reviews: experiences and best practices”
2023 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region



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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



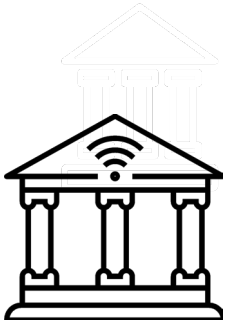
UNDA14

VLRs in numbers



207

VLRs HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED
SINCE 2016



168

LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS

44

COUNTRIES HAVE PRODUCED AT
LEAST ONE VLR



Africa: 11 VLRs (7%)

Asia: 41 VLRs (22%)

Europe: 71 VLRs (41%)

Latin America & the Caribbean: 71 VLRs (22%)

North America: 11 VLRs (7%)

Oceania: 2 VLRs from (1%)

[UN-Habitat
VLR Platform](#)

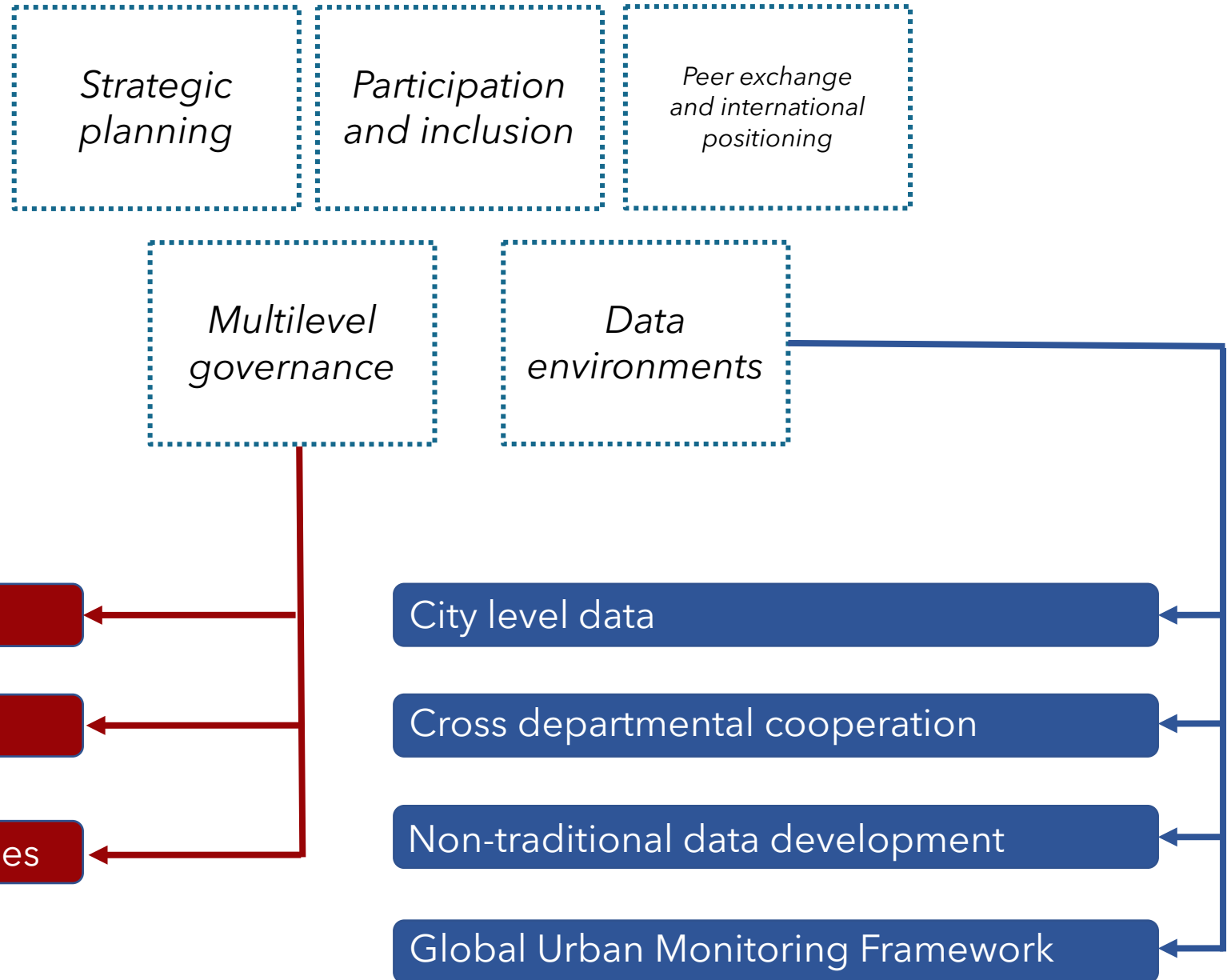


VLRs in practice

No universal definition or format

Common understanding: VLR aims to assess SDG progress within a given territory with a locally developed narrative.

Potential: VLRs are a powerful process for accelerating the localization of the SDGs in all of its dimensions



Strategic planning

Participation and inclusion

Peer exchange and international positioning

Multilevel governance

Data environments

VLR-VNR connection

Policy coherence

Enhancing delivering national capacities

City level data

Cross departmental cooperation

Non-traditional data development

Global Urban Monitoring Framework



What is SDG Localization?

SDG localization is the process of transforming the SDGs into reality at the local level. It means placing territories and communities at the center of decision and policy making and of long-term planning for sustainable development.

Why SDG Localization?

The implementation process of the 2030 Agenda shows that local action and local leadership, as well as the role of local and regional governments, are essential to achieve the SDGs.

UN-Habitat Mandate

UN-Habitat, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. The priorities of UN-Habitat for 2022-23 are Adequate Housing, Cities and Climate Change and Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals

Our Principles

- Multistakeholder partnerships
- Multilevel governance
- Inclusion and participation
- Policy coherence
- Development effectiveness

Our Comprehensive Approach

UN-Habitat offers the most comprehensive approach to localize the SDGs, providing assistance throughout all stages of planning, financing, policymaking, project development and monitoring.



Data innovation



Monitoring and Reporting



Long-term planning and Financing



Multilevel Governance



UN-wide initiative on localizing the SDGs

Our workstreams



Technical cooperation: Applying UN-Habitat's unique expertise to guide and support local and national governments worldwide to accelerate the localization of the SDGs



Strategic partnership: working across the UN system, spheres of governments and sectors to guarantee that no one and no place is left behind



Knowledge development and research:

Developing normative guidance and cutting-edge resources on SDG localization and multilevel governance

[Global VLR Guidelines V.I](#)

[Global VLR Guidelines V.II](#)

[Africa VLR Guidelines](#)

[Multilevel Governance for SDG Localization](#)



Learning and capacity building: Offering a complete capacity building programme on SDG localization, including online courses and other resources

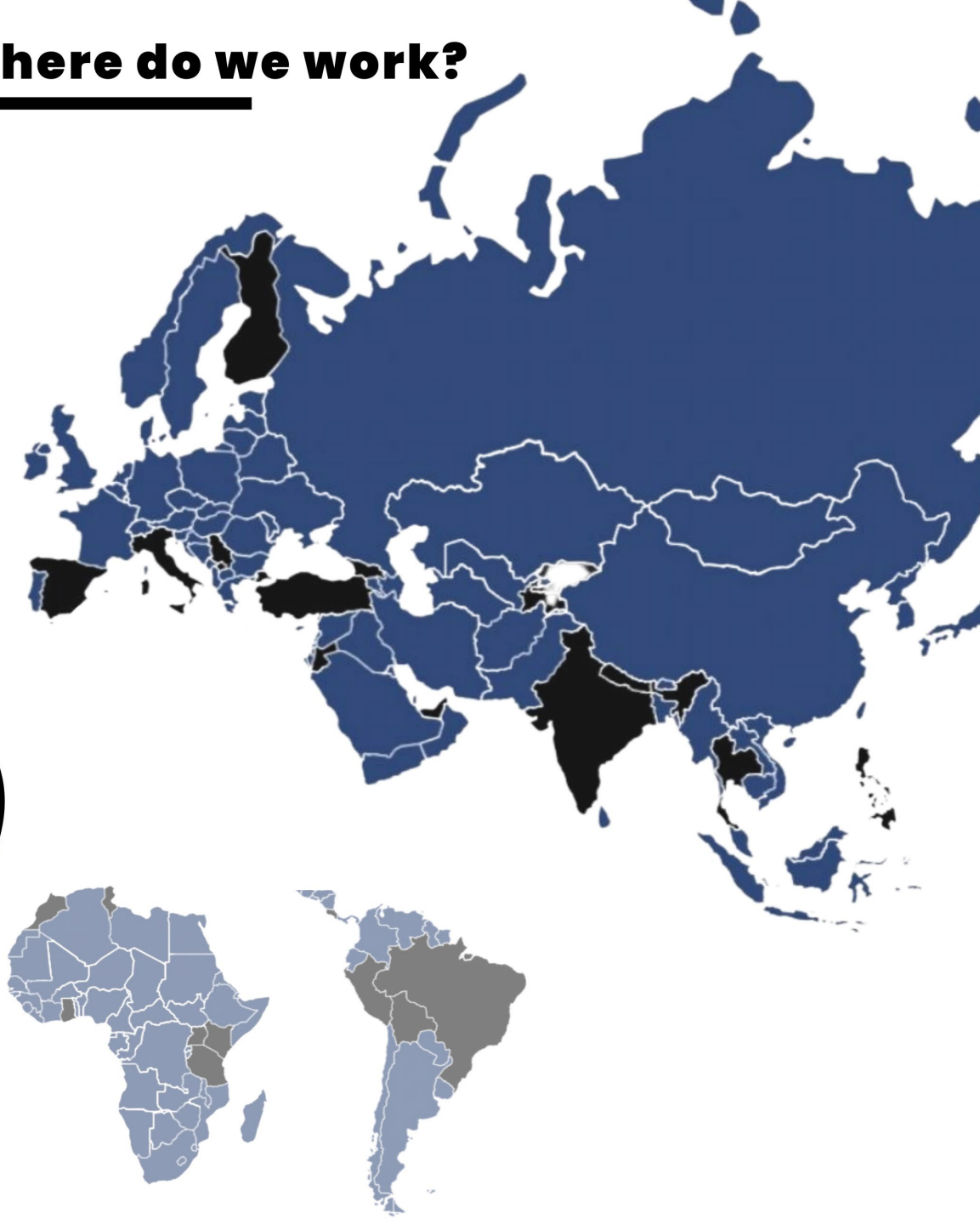
[SDG Localization Modules](#)

[VLR MOOC](#)



Advocacy and visibility: Bringing local action and SDG Localization to the centre of international and UN-led processes, global and regional processes and enhancing the voice of local governments' constituencies

Where do we work?



Project Overview

UNDA14

Voluntary Local Reviews: evidence for greener, resilient and sustainable urban recovery in Eastern European and Central Asian countries in transition

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Georgia
Kyrgyzstan
Serbia
Tajikistan

What's next ? *VLR Development*

Georgia **Tbilisi**



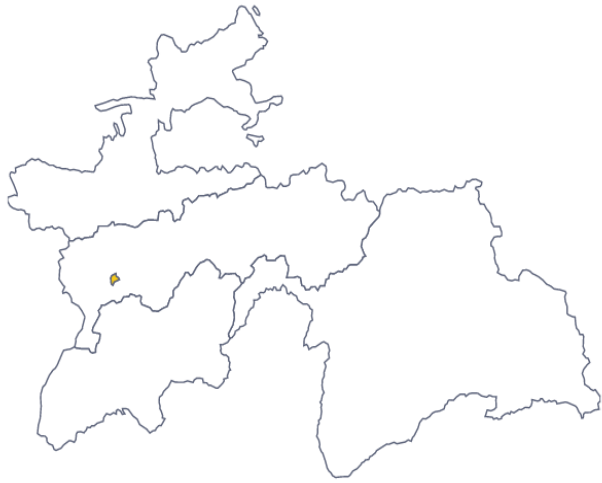
Kyrgyz Republic **Bishkek**



Serbia **Nis**



Tajikistan **Dushanbe**



Kickstart VLR development

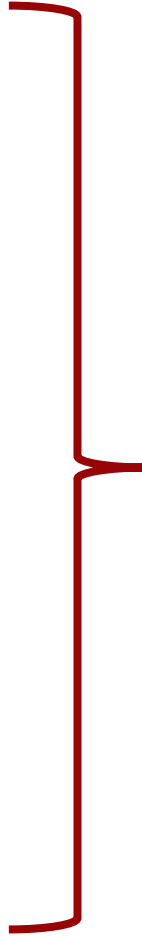
Consolidation local teams

Collection and analysis of data

Stakeholders' consultation

Drafting of the VLRs

Launch (end 2023 - mid 2024)



**Multilevel
Coordination
Approach**

What's next ? *Key Events*



29-30 March RFSD for the UNECE region

VNR-VLR studio
Meeting with
implementing partners

5-9 June UN-Habitat Assembly Nairobi

SDG Localization and MLG track
World Assembly of LRGs



19-20 September SDG Summit New York



2024 World Urban Forum Egypt



10-20 July High-Level Political Forum

New York
VLR/VSR days
Local and Regional Gvts Forum
World Assembly LRGs
SDG11 Session
Transformation from the bottom-up



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

October

Urban October

World Habitat Day
World Cities Day



31 DAYS OF PROMOTING
A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Forum of Mayors



FORUM OF
MAYORS



Thank you!

