

Call to the Eurocities on Strengthening Cooperation and Cocreation with European cities in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals and Voluntary Local Reviews

Cities across Europe are leaders and active makers of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), since 65 per cent of the goals require cities' active involvement. Cooperative urban networks both within and across borders are deepening and strengthening their work on SDGs on local, regional, national, and global level. SDGs are indeed a great step forward and a major attempt to overcome interconnected challenges in the social, economic, environmental, and administrative sectors by adopting a holistic approach.

Ultimately, it is fundamental to rethink the way urban strategies and policies are designed and implemented. Networks such as URBACT Global Goals for Cities, Nordregio SDG work and the network Strategic Management of SDGs in Cities (SDG46) of the Cities of Espoo, Helsinki, Oulu, Tampere, Turku, and Vantaa show how implementing a strategy on SDGs requires cooperation, platforms for knowledge sharing and mutual learning as well as coherent support to succeed.

However, in this context, European cities are presently lacking the support and leverage from the European Union. There is a great need for EU level coordination as well as financial and policy instruments aimed at fostering innovation and boosting investments, which support SDG implementation and recognise the central role of the cities.

Hence, we, URBACT Global Goals For Cities, Nordregio SDG work and SDG46, call for revitalisation of the SDG work within the Eurocities.

More explicitly, we propose that Eurocities

- provides a platform to facilitate exchange of experience
- joins forces to contribute and influence the implementation
- validates the recognition of the SDGs on EU level

Join us in building a better Europe in a sustainable, thriving world for the future generations!

