

Visualizing SDGs in the city

High Level Political Forum 2021

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VENICE CITY SOLUTIONS 2030 RECOMMENDATIONS TO 2021 HLPF

Venice City Solutions 2030, in its third edition, proves to be the global platform for exchange between central and local governments, the private sector, universities, the third sector and civil society which produce common reflections and objectives based on concrete experiences.

In the latest edition, which focused on the different facets of the “Visualizing the 2030 Agenda in the cities”, the recommendations to the HLPF can be summarized in 7 findings:



1. Visualizing the 2030 Agenda to RECOGNIZE the Localizing SDG

In fact, localizing does not just mean transposing global goals into local actions, but ensuring that local actions shape the transformation to change the world. The current challenge is to accelerate and synchronize the actions of different stakeholders, learning and working together, and recognizing local initiatives for their impact on international policy development. In an interconnected world, local issues become global and the global ones require local collective commitments and actions.

2. Visualizing the 2030 Agenda to better understand the local dimension of the SDGs

Cities and territories have a unique position to identify vital needs and gaps to improve the delivery of public services and to involve all stakeholders in the design of development strategies. The experience and commitment of local authorities must be displayed and recognized for its key potential to drive transformation at all levels and for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs.

3. Visualizing the 2030 Agenda as a common language between LRG and other urban stakeholders

There are differences in language between different urban actors. It is necessary to find common elements among urban actors to promote understanding and alignment to speak globally. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs can provide a common language that connects the different territorial actors that have an impact both in the lives of citizens and in the global debate. Setting the SDGs as a common language will allow different stakeholders to understand each other, to connect the dots to go beyond silos, and make sure that individual policies impact collective policies and that the local reaches the global.

4. Visualizing the 2030 Agenda as a framework for functional partnerships

To achieve good local governance and to advance on the transformative changes outlined by the 2030 Agenda, functional horizontal and vertical partnerships, and between different territories, must be promoted as a way to identify new correlations and new ways of working. The very nature of Venice City Solutions 2030 is showing how the relationship between the various stakeholders is fundamental to trigger the transformation we want: we need inclusive and participatory processes that involve all the society sectors.

5. Visualizing the 2030 Agenda to identify individual actions with collective and global impact

The multiplier effect of actions based on the SDGs is not only valid for public action, but for individual actions in the local community that contribute to the achievement of global sustainability. The challenge now is to move from collective impact to global: a false dichotomy has been identified between nature sustainability and people well-being. Platforms and spaces such as Venice City Solutions 2030 and UCLG's Local4Action HUBs can be unique catalysts, as leaders from all sectors work collaboratively, to define how to restart greener economies, how to redesign resilient societies and redefine democracy.

6. Visualizing the 2030 Agenda as an opportunity even in times of crisis

The 2030 Agenda must be seen as a local tool within a post-COVID 19 crisis scenario, to show how the SDGs are essential for rebuilding cities and rebuilding them better, with the aim of a more sustainable future. The SDGs offer visions and policies for resilient, fair local development, to combat the structural urban inequalities that have been more exposed than ever by the Covid-19 pandemic, and to build a new social contract.

7. Visualizing the 2030 Agenda to build a community based on shared values

In cities and territories it is easy to identify the dimension of space and people, but often the immaterial aspect of the community, that connects them, is not even considered: in this perspective, it is urgent to redefine new models of consumption and production, to pay attention to the way in which efficiency and growth are defined, to truly understand the intangible and immaterial sense of the community, careful to leave nobody or no one behind. The community expresses key values such as social justice, cooperation, decentralization, gender equality, self-government and accountability, which are shared values of the 2030 Agenda, to co-create a sustainable future for cities and territories.