

# SDGs within the scope and mission of Kosovo Municipalities



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## Introduction

Although it may seem like the Sustainable Development Goals are a national level responsibility, local government has also an important role in meeting them. Actually, "Local governments are policy makers, catalysts of change and the level of government best-placed to link the global goals with local communities".<sup>1</sup>

In total, about 60% of the implementation of the SDGs falls under the scope of local government. Out of 169 defined Targets, 99 are relevant for the municipalities of Kosovo. A significant part of the Targets has been drafted in a generalized language and leave room for interpretation, but the vast majority are deliverable by the municipalities.

SDGs are related to multiple spheres of municipal business activities, such as the provision of public services, provision of adequate and affordable housing, environmental protection and waste reduction, promotion of agriculture and local economy, etc.


In the local aspect, Republic of Kosovo municipalities implement, through their daily activities, a considerable number of Targets foreseen for the fulfillment of the SDGs. What is missing is the process of localization of SDGs into municipal policies and the monitoring and reporting on their fulfillment. SDGs have been localized by only few municipalities, with the support of the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP).

When it comes to monitoring and reporting, to date only one municipality has undertaken the initiative of drafting the Voluntary Local Review, a mechanism adopted by the United Nations to facilitate voluntary reporting on the fulfillment of the SDGs. Most Kosovo municipalities may still be at an early stage to initiate the Voluntary Local Review process, as they have not yet performed the localization step. However, by incorporating SDG Targets in their work, municipalities can initiate the easy process of linking local strategies and plans with the SDGs and reporting on activities towards their fulfillment.

This report identifies the SDG Targets that are relevant to local government, and it also provides a review of the legislation and basic policies that regulate local government. It also links basic municipal powers with relevant SDGs. Also, the report provides examples of the incorporation of Targets into municipal directorates' business activities.

## Sustainable Development Goals' Targets relevant to Republic of Kosovo municipalities

As highlighted in the introduction, municipalities are responsible for fulfilling approximately 65% of the SDGs and related Targets. Out of a total of 169 Targets, 99 fall under the direct or indirect scope of municipal activities. Below are presented only those Targets that fall under the responsibility of the municipalities.

	Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
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<sup>1</sup> See [in English]:

[file:///C:/Users/Buton/Desktop/SDG%20Synims%20for%20Local%20Government/the\\_sdgs\\_what\\_localgov\\_need\\_to\\_know\\_0.pdf](file:///C:/Users/Buton/Desktop/SDG%20Synims%20for%20Local%20Government/the_sdgs_what_localgov_need_to_know_0.pdf)

1.2 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

1.b Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular LDCs, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:

1. Establish a list of families living in poverty within the municipality. Causes that lead to poverty, whether economic, social or medical, can also be investigated. Based on this data, plans to deal with the problem can be drafted.
2. Provide housing to poor families. This can be delivered through municipal funds or even through donors. The municipality can coordinate with potential donors to provide information about families most in need of housing.
3. Provide aid through social schemes. The municipality can distribute the aid and other donations based on the correct list identified under point 1.
4. Adopt measures that help reduce the cost of living for poor families. These include: exemption from the payment of municipal service charges, urban transportation services, support in reducing energy costs through renewable energy donations, such as solar panels, facilitation of issuance of municipal consents for solar panels, etc.
5. Report number of families to whom housing and assistance have been provided. It is essential for the municipalities to have accurate information on the number of poor families for whom houses have been built using municipal funds or by donors, or who have been housed through rental schemes. In such manner, the list of families that have solved the housing issue is updated and the degree of fulfillment of this Sustainable Development Goal is reported.



Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.


2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, Indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:

1. Award plots owned by the municipality to poor families for the purpose of cultivating crops. Through this measure, poor families can temporarily use a plot designated by the municipality to plant crops needed for sustenance.
2. Cooperate with food manufacturing and HoReCa companies. The municipality could establish a network with manufacturing companies that wish to donate a share of manufactured foods as part of their social responsibility. Also, with HoReCa companies, the collection of unconsumed and unsold food to be distributed to poor families can be organized.
3. Open and increase the number of soup kitchens. Municipalities that manage soup kitchens can increase their numbers in areas that have a larger number of poor families. Likewise, municipalities that do not engage in such a practice could launch such soup kitchens for poor families.
4. Provide grants for agricultural start-ups. This is a practice in many municipalities, but to better address the problem, the criteria for awarding grants can target poor families.
5. Awareness-raising campaigns for healthy and safe food and against food waste. The municipality should organize campaigns to inform citizens about the risks of unhealthy foods. Likewise, it should raise citizens' awareness of responsible and moderate consumption.
6. The municipality can increase land surfaces connected to the integrated irrigation system.

	<p>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p>
<p>3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.</p> <p>3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.</p>	

3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

3.4 By 2030 reduce by one-third pre-mature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and wellbeing.

3.5 Strengthen prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

3.6 By 2030, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:

1. Promote a healthy lifestyle. The municipality can deliver campaigns to increase citizens' awareness about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. It can also create conditions through a combination of infrastructural and environmental measures. This may also include awareness-building measures against the use of narcotics, alcohol and tobacco.
2. Provide free and mobile medical check-ups for pregnant women and newborn children. This measure can directly affect the addressing of Targets 3.1 and 3.2. In particular, the provision of mobile service in remote rural areas can save the lives of mothers and newborns.
3. Measures to reduce traffic accidents. In cooperation with the central level, the municipality can identify traffic *blackspots* where frequent accidents occur, and take appropriate measures to reduce accidents at these spots. Also, this should be accompanied by citizen awareness-raising activities on careful and safe driving in accordance with traffic rules.
4. Construct multiple areas for sports and recreational activities. Creating conditions for sports and educational activities would serve as an additional incentive for citizens to lead a healthier life. These areas would be associated with green spaces that would have a positive impact on the environment and health.
5. Proactive approach to increasing vaccination rates and coverage. In cooperation with the central level, plans should be made to achieve vaccination on a larger scale. In particular, the aim should be to expand the vaccination program with vaccines against HPV, meningitis, and others.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

#### Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:

1. Inclusive and non-discriminatory education. Municipalities can take steps to ensure equality in education. In particular, gender integration should be ensured and segregation should be avoided. Also, it is of great importance that children with disabilities and special needs are included in regular education. Hiring assistants for these children would greatly help these children to catch up with other children and would facilitate the work of teachers.
2. Organize activities for sustainable development. Municipalities can promote activities and visits for students to increase their awareness about healthy living, environmental protection, innovation, organic food cultivation, etc.
3. Identify market demand for labor. In cooperation with the central level, vocational schools should be profiled to meet market demands in the respective municipality. Curricula of vocational schools, at the request of municipalities, can be adapted to adapt to the demands of the labor market of a municipality or region.
4. All schools must provide access to people with disabilities. Most of the schools have built ramps that enable students and other citizens with disabilities to enter the school. But in the vast majority of schools, disabled people do not have access to the upper floors of schools because there are no elevators. Therefore, municipalities should ensure that newly built schools are equipped with elevators, and should initiate a program to install elevators in existing schools.
5. Construct sports infrastructure and provide musical instruments. All schools should prioritize the construction of outdoor and indoor sports facilities to establish the practice of sports and healthy life for students. Also, the municipalities should also provide conditions for the cultural, and especially musical development of the students. Municipalities can organize competitions in all sports to enhance sportsmanship and competitive spirit, as well as music concerts.



## Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.


5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

### Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:

1. The municipality should adopt and implement policies and action plans to ensure gender equality in the work of all departments. Likewise, the municipality must adopt all internal regulations that ensure full gender equality, combat gender discrimination and psychological/emotional violence against women. These regulations must ensure gender equality in decision-making positions within the municipality and municipal bodies and provide proportional sanctions for relevant violations.
2. Promote women's economic independence and entrepreneurship. The municipality should prioritize increasing the number of support grants for women entrepreneurs. Also, the launch of programs for women skills development.
3. Proactive cooperation with the central level, Kosovo Police, and non-governmental organizations and donors, to address domestic violence, provision of housing, and other negative phenomena.

4. Participation of women in decision-making. Ensure that women, especially those living in rural areas, are consulted during the drafting of municipal plans and budgets, in order to take into account their requests.
5. The municipality should initiate programs that facilitate parental care, especially in cases of single mothers.


	<p>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p>
<p>6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all;</p> <p>6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.</p> <p>6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.</p> <p>6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.</p> <p>6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.</p> <p>6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.</p> <p>6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.</p> <p>6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.</p>	

**Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:**

1. Prioritize expansion of water supply and sewerage network to all households. In such manner, the municipality makes life easier for citizens and offers better sanitary conditions, reducing the possibility of the spread of diseases.
2. Increased care for groundwater sources, rivers and artificial lakes. Municipalities should regularly monitor development and business projects that could potentially harm groundwater, rivers or lakes. Particular importance should be given to maintaining the purity of these waters to ensure a healthy life for citizens.
3. Increase awareness of careful water consumption. The municipality should promote the education and awareness of citizens to use water carefully, and not to waste it unnecessarily. In particular, high consumption businesses and large gardens should be checked to ensure


that they have their own source of irrigation and do not use potable water for garden irrigation or business purposes.

4. Build reservoirs. Municipalities should look into the possibility of building water reservoirs to activate them in case of water shortage.
5. Drinking water and toilets in public places. Municipalities should provide drinking water fountains in parks and high-use public places. Also, there should be public toilets in these areas.

	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services. 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.	


#### Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:

1. Prioritize renewable energy solutions in all business segments of the municipalities.
2. Provide tax breaks and relief from other municipal charges for households and businesses that install and consume renewable energy sources. Through this measure, municipalities can, for example, exempt from payment or reduce the cost of building permits for companies that build collective housing, with the condition of installing solar panels as a sustainable and environmentally friendly energy source. The same can be done with building permits for individual houses. Also, similar reliefs can be applied to existing facilities by exempting/reducing municipal taxes for a period of time after the installation of such energy sources.
3. Install renewable energy sources in all municipal facilities. It is essential that municipalities, and all public institutions as a whole, serve as an example by installing sustainable and environmentally friendly energy sources, such as solar panels. This measure would have multiple benefits for municipalities and would be a good example for citizens to follow.
4. Continuous outreach and citizen awareness-building about the benefits of installing sustainable and renewable energy sources. Municipalities must allocate an annual budget to promote these energy supply measures.
5. Undertake energy-saving measures. This could include subsidies for energy-saving measures, such as better insulation of homes and the like.
6. Construct central heating systems based on renewable resources or such that ensure high efficiency and increase the quality of life through access to central heating.

	<p>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>
<p>8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.</p> <p>8.4 Improve progressively through 2030 global resource efficiency in consumption and production, and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation in accordance with the 10-year framework of programs on sustainable consumption and production with developed countries taking the lead.</p> <p>8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.</p> <p>8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.</p> <p>8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.</p> <p>8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.</p> <p>8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.</p>	


### Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include

1. Continuous cooperation and dialogue with entrepreneurs and businesses in the municipality. Establish honest communication to listen to the problems and aim to fulfill the businesses' requests. Likewise, businesses' suggestions regarding the demand for workers in the labor market should be taken into account, so that the municipalities can cooperate with the central level for this purpose.
2. Support businesses for digitization and innovation and provide ongoing subsidies for start-ups and existing businesses. The municipality should follow global trends in digitization and innovation, and support such businesses.
3. Promote sustainable agri-tourism. Municipalities should support the development of agri-tourism in Kosovo, in particular those enterprises that are established and operate respecting sustainability criteria.
4. Draft plans to address the problem of child beggars in the respective municipalities as well as serious forms of child labor.
5. Ensure access to workplaces for persons with disabilities. Municipalities should make sure that all public and business facilities provide access for persons with disabilities on all floors. This would facilitate their employment.

	<p>Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</p>
<p>9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.</p> <p>9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and by 2030 raise significantly industry's share of employment and GDP in line with national circumstances, and double its share in LDCs.</p> <p>9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.</p> <p>9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.</p>	


Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:

1. The municipality should provide safe, sustainable and quality infrastructure. Set high standards for the construction of public infrastructure, housing, etc. Attention should be paid to making all building floor accessible to persons with disabilities.
2. Promote sustainable construction. The municipality should set requirements for the application of materials that meet environmental and health standards.
3. Promote the circular economy. The municipality should maintain close cooperation with businesses and encourage businesses to apply the circular economy concept, e.g. recycling of materials/waste, supply of renewable energy, careful and responsible use of water resources, preservation of social values and traditions, etc.
4. Transportation solutions for effective mobility. Provide solutions for traffic bottlenecks, promote the purchase of electric and hybrid cars, regulate traffic to reduce congestion at peak times.
5. Provide tax break and spatial incentives for sustainable industries. The municipality can promote the construction of sustainable and environmentally friendly plants by providing land for use, exempting companies from tax and licensing charges, etc.

	<p>Reduce inequality within and among countries</p>
<p>10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.</p> <p>10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.</p> <p>10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.</p> <p>10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.</p> <p>10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.</p>	

Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:

1. Partner with non-governmental organizations and donors to provide care, integration and reintegration of vulnerable groups.
2. Complete elimination of discrimination and segregation in education. Strict sanctions should be adopted for schools, teachers and students who discriminate, bully or who practice other negative phenomena.
3. Proactive approach to increase participation of youth, minorities and vulnerable groups. The municipality should take active and continuous steps to organize public consultations and other forms of involvement of different groups of citizens in policy-making. In particular, visits to remote rural areas should be conducted.
4. Fair budget allocations. Ensure fair budget allocations, avoiding discrimination on political, ethnic, or other grounds. Unfair budget allocation is considered a direct violation of equality and human rights.
5. Promote social cohesion. Ensure social cohesion by avoiding the creation of areas that can be divided based on a social group. This can be achieved through inclusive housing policies, spatial planning, integration and cultural diversity, etc.

	<p>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>
<p>11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.</p> <p>11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.</p>	

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.

11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:

1. Solve the housing problem of social categories. Build social housing apartments or offer rental programs for social cases in municipalities. Municipalities can consider the possibility of receiving social housing in lieu of building permit payments for large buildings or neighborhoods.
2. Preserve livelihood in depopulated villages and settlements. The municipality should make appropriate investments in infrastructure to prevent migration from villages to cities and to prevent the depopulation of certain areas. This may include the construction of roads, water supply and sanitation, schools, etc., creating optimal conditions for life in these areas.
3. Promote public transportation through the multimodal system. This means improving public transportation, creating lines and parking lots for cyclists and other electric vehicles.
4. Improving air quality in areas with heavy traffic. The municipality can consider the possibility of designating zones for limiting carbon emissions, setting variable parking fees depending on the used areas, e.g. in areas where there is heavy traffic, there will be higher parking costs.
5. Accessible and shared public areas. Municipalities should increase common areas such as sidewalks, parks, recreational areas, cultural and historical areas.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.



12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

#### Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:

1. Apply enhanced sustainable measures in constructions. Employ circular and non-toxic materials, and prevent dumping of construction and industrial waste during construction projects.
2. Inter-municipal and regional cooperation on circular economy. Municipalities should establish cooperation with other municipalities inside and outside the country, to look into the possibilities of sending and/or receiving materials that are recyclable.
3. Anti-dumping measures. Measures should be taken against the disposal of chemical waste as well as the prevention of the spread of contaminated soil.
4. Prevent food waste. Establish cooperation with HoReCa companies to distribute leftover food. Also, look at the possibility of food composting as fertilizer.
5. Awareness building. Undertake educational and awareness-building activities for sustainable consumption and production models.



#### Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts


13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:


1. Incorporate objectives against climate change in all municipal programs and budgets.
2. Afforestation. Protect forests from uncontrolled logging, and plant new trees.
3. Prevent constructions in flooding areas. Ban constructions in areas at risk of flooding. Also, look into the possibility of moving residential and business areas away from such areas where flooding causes financial and material damages.
4. Plant greenery in urban areas. Create as many parks, green roofs and other forms of greenery in urban areas as possible.
5. Raise awareness and educate citizens to prevent actions that accelerate climate change.

	<p>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>
<p>15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.</p> <p>15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.</p> <p>15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p> <p>15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p> <p>15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.</p> <p>15.a Mobilize and significantly increase from all sources financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> <p>15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.</p>	

Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:


1. Incorporate measures for the protection of nature and biodiversity in all municipal strategies and plans. This measure ensures that regulations or municipal policies which are insensitive to the environment, are not adopted.
2. Flora and fauna protection. Measures should be taken to protect the flora and fauna within each municipality, especially in cases where we are dealing with rare or site-specific flora and fauna, or even endangered species.

3. Preserve organic soil content. Take measures to ensure that the organic content of the soil is preserved, especially in agricultural lands. In sites where this content drops, adequate treatment must be provided to recover the satisfactory level of organic content.
4. Genuine nature conservation planning. Development and maintenance projects must take into account the preservation of natural values. Also, designate special areas for nature development.
5. Organic and circular agriculture. Promote the organic cultivation of agricultural produce and regional agriculture.

	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
<p>16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.</p> <p>16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.</p> <p>16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.</p> <p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.</p> <p>16.9 By 2030 provide legal identity for all including free birth registrations.</p> <p>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.</p> <p>16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacities at all levels, in particular in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime.</p>	

**Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:**

1. Municipal integrity. Emphasize municipal integrity through strict measures and sanctions against corruption and conflict of interest.
2. Municipal transparency. Municipalities should make public all relevant documents allowed for publication by law, and provide quick responses to citizen requests for access to official documents. In particular, there should be transparency in recruitments, and the allocation and execution of the budget.
3. Effective mechanisms for reporting violence. Municipalities should adopt procedures and task forces, together with relevant actors, to react quickly to reports of domestic violence and other forms of violence. Also, there should be cooperation with relevant organizations for providing care to victims.
4. Cooperate with law enforcement bodies. Citizens should be educated to report cases of crime. Also, the municipalities should establish efficient cooperation with the law and order bodies to address the cases of crime and corruption in the respective municipalities.
5. Street lighting to increase the safety of girls and boys. This measure would increase safety, especially in the winter months when it gets dark early. In particular, the streets around schools and going towards the respective neighborhoods, should be illuminated.

	<b>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</b>
<p>17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.</p> <p>17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.</p> <p>17.16 enhance the global partnership for sustainable development complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, particularly developing countries.</p> <p>17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.</p> <p>17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.</p>	

**Examples of Municipalities meeting these targets include:**


1. Inclusive governance. Take measures to involve citizens in decision-making, in particular, youth, vulnerable groups and the elderly.
2. Effective management. Ensure effective management and coordination between municipal bodies. There should be clarity in the division of tasks and responsibilities and a clear connection with the goals of the municipal leadership.
3. Continuous outreach campaigns. Citizens must be informed in time about all the actions and decisions made by the municipality, since they are directly affected by those actions and decisions. Therefore, all communication channels should be used to send accurate and clear information to citizens.
4. Participatory budgeting Hold regular consultations with citizens to ensure that their priorities are included in the municipal budget.
5. Cooperation. Municipalities must apply a constructive approach to cooperation with all other municipalities, the central level, as well as within the region and the world at large.

**Legislative and policy framework**

Kosovo has a decentralized local government system, which awards considerable governance powers to the local level. This decentralized legislative framework provides for a greater role of Republic of Kosovo municipalities in terms on integration and fulfillment of the SDGs and the Agenda 2030.

The main legislative act regulating the powers of local government in Kosovo, is the Law on Local Self-Government. In particular, it is Article 17 of this law that provides the specific local government powers.





The table below displays the linkages between the main powers of Republic of Kosovo municipalities and SDGs.

Municipal competencies	Sustainable Development Goals
Local economic development	

Urban and rural planning	
Land use and development	
Enforcement of building regulations and building control standards	
Protection of the local environment	
Provision and maintenance of public services and utilities, including water supply, sanitation and drainage, sewage treatment, waste management, local roads, local transport and local heating schemes;	
Provision of public preschool, primary and secondary education, including registration and licensing of educational institutions, employment, payment of salaries and training of education instructors and administrators	
Promotion and protection of human rights	
Provision of primary public health care	
Provision of family and other social welfare services, such as care for the vulnerable, foster homes, child care, care for the elderly, registration and licensing of these care centers, employment, payment of salaries and training of social welfare professionals	
Public housing	
Public health care	
Provision and maintenance of parks and public spaces	

In terms of strategic policies, the Ministry of Local Government Administration has adopted the Strategy for Local Self-Government 2016-2026, which provides for five Strategic Objectives for Republic of Kosovo municipalities.

These Strategic Objectives, directly or indirectly, cover the SDGs. The five Strategic Objectives incorporate action measures that more broadly affect the SDGs. In the table below, the Strategic Objectives are linked with the SDGs.

Local Self-Government Strategic Objectives <sup>2</sup>	Sustainable Development Goals
Enhance the economic and social sustainability of municipalities to ensure that development and financial policies affect local economic development	
Establish a framework for good governance to ensure democratic representation of citizens and efficient municipal administration	
Strengthen professional and institutional capacities of local self-government bodies to meet citizen requests and to achieve sustainable improvement in municipal services for citizens	
Strengthen partnerships between local government, civil society, and businesses, to create an active, inclusive and cohesive citizenry	
Promote heritage, and cultural, natural, and social diversity values for the purpose of affirmation and social, economic and cultural development in municipalities	

## Reporting

A very important segment in the fulfillment of the SDGs is the reporting on the measures taken towards their fulfillment. For a genuine process of reporting on the fulfillment of the SDGs, the indicators for measuring progress towards the SDGs must be localized. In total, the United Nations has issued 248 indicators, but there are actually 231 singular indicators, as 17 of them are repeated in two or more cases. The data collected from these indicators should then constitute the basis for the drafting of the Voluntary Local Review as a mechanism to reflect the state of a municipality or city in relation to the fulfillment of the SDGs. This year, for the first time in Kosovo, a municipality has initiated the drafting of a Voluntary Local Review (VLR).

It was emphasized above that municipalities directly or indirectly fulfill a number of SDGs, but this goes unnoticed due to their failure to report. Therefore, a reporting system on measures that partially or fully fulfill the Targets of the SDGs, should be installed. This should in no way replace the efforts to draft VLRs, but a report should be made so that Kosovo demonstrates internationally that it is working towards sustainable development as the member states of the United Nations do.

<sup>2</sup> See: [https://mapl.rks-gov.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Strategjia\\_liber\\_tri-gjuhe\\_finale-2016.pdf](https://mapl.rks-gov.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Strategjia_liber_tri-gjuhe_finale-2016.pdf)

Below are some examples of measures that Kosovo municipalities implement regularly but are not reported as measures towards the fulfillment of the SDGs.

- Agricultural subsidies directly fulfill Target 2.3
- Inclusive education and measures to address dropping out of primary schooling, fulfill Target 4.1.
- Investments in the expansion of drinking water supply networks fulfill Target 6.1
- Construction of houses/apartments for citizens in need fulfills Target 11.1
- Exemption from payment of public transportation fees for pensioners and other social categories, is a measure towards the fulfillment of Target 11.2
- Projects for the preservation and promotion of cultural and natural heritage, fulfill Target 11.4
- Increasing green spaces, planting saplings, and the like, fulfill Target 15.2
- Anti-corruption measures fulfill Target 16.5
- All activities and measures towards increasing transparency, fulfill Target 16.6

## Conclusions

Republic of Kosovo municipalities have much more to do more to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. It was underlined that the municipalities are responsible for about 60% of the SDGs, or 99 Targets (out of a total of 169). A significant number of these Targets are met directly or indirectly, but a coordinated process of incorporation and reporting is missing.

It would be ideal for all Kosovo municipalities to localize the SDGs and indicators, as well as to draft the Voluntary Local Review. But based on the current situation, it would be ambitious to expect localization and reporting through VLRs. Therefore, the municipalities should at least install a working dynamic through a process of inclusion and reporting of the SDGs in the manner described in this report.

The identified goals that fall under the responsibility of Republic of Kosovo municipalities must be integrated into the strategic planning and daily work of the municipalities. These Targets can also serve as guidelines for planning municipal projects.

For municipal directorates to understand the importance of the SDGs, it is necessary to engage in awareness-building and training of their staff on the planning of municipal projects in accordance with the SDGs and the respective Targets. At the same time, the capacities for reporting on the fulfillment of the SDGs must be enhanced. Each municipal directorate, within their respective powers, can fulfill the Targets that fall under their directorate's scope through the integration of the Targets during planning or implementation.

Thus, a process through which the municipal directorates take into account the SDGs in the planning and implementation phase of the projects, and compare the municipal projects against the SDGs and their respective Targets, must be put in place.

This process can be a transitional phase towards the full localization of the SDGs by Republic of Kosovo municipalities.





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