

Webinar on Strengthening Follow-Up and Review of the SDGs at the Local Level

Strengthening Local-Level FUR: Challenges and Recommendations

2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



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17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



1) What is FUR? Understanding follow-up and review

+ Follow-up and Review (FUR) processes are key to measure and report on progress towards the SDGs, guarantee accountability to citizens, share best practices, and ensure that no one is left behind.

> **Follow-up:** Tracking progress, identifying trends, and monitoring implementation.

> **Review:** Evaluating effectiveness, learning from experience, and improving policies.

+ FUR ensures continuous learning and adaptation, helping local governments refine strategies for SDG implementation.

2) Why FUR Matters for Local Governments?

+ Local governments play a **key role** in implementing the SDGs.

+ Policies and actions need continuous tracking to stay relevant and effective.

+ FUR helps identify **challenges early** and improve decision-making.

+ Strengthening FUR at the local level ensures better alignment with national and global SDG processes.



3) Approaches to Follow-Up and Review

+ Local governments use a mix of quantitative and qualitative approaches for FUR:

+ Quantitative Approaches / Outcome-based Review.

> Indicators and data dashboards

> SDG progress reports with measurable targets

> GIS mapping for tracking trends

+ Qualitative Approaches / Action-based Review.

> Existing strategies

> Case studies and policy reviews

> Narrative reporting to capture local context

Key Message: A balanced approach—combining data and local knowledge—ensures a more comprehensive understanding of SDG progress.

4) Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) as the Gold Standard for FUR

“A Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is a process in which local and regional governments (LRGs) initiate **voluntarily** an assessment of their progress of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its **SDGs**. This makes it possible for LRGs to **share experiences**, challenges, and lessons learnt as well as to open their door for **new partnerships**, filling the gap of means of implementation for their **local vision**.”

— Ortiz-Moya et al. (2020), p. 2



4) Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) as the Gold Standard for FUR

A Voluntary Local Review (VLR) as a process:

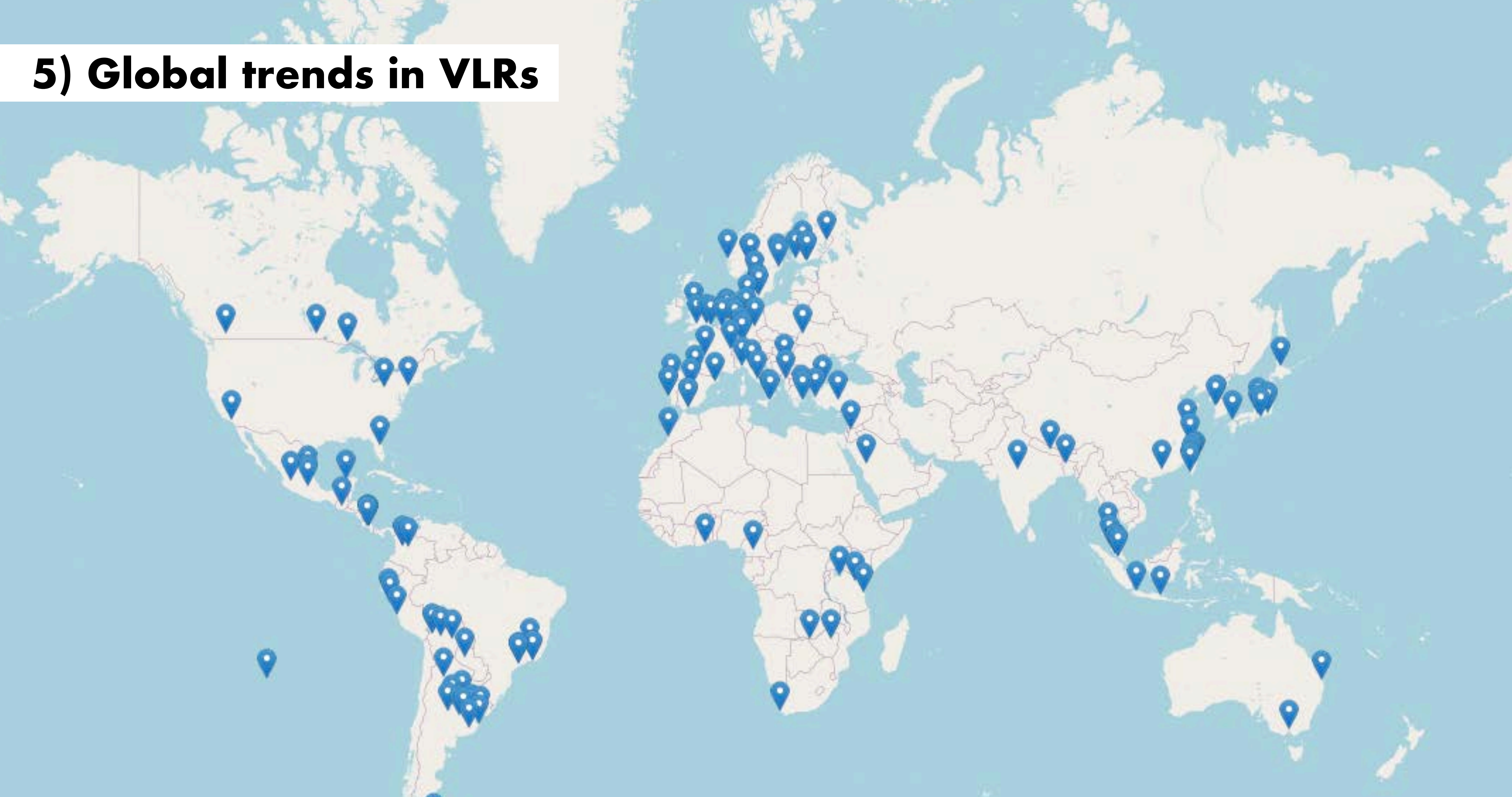
+ VLRs as a tool to Support Policy Integration.

+ VLRs and Policymaking.

VLRs are not a report, but a tool to structure your work on sustainable development.



5) Global trends in VLRs



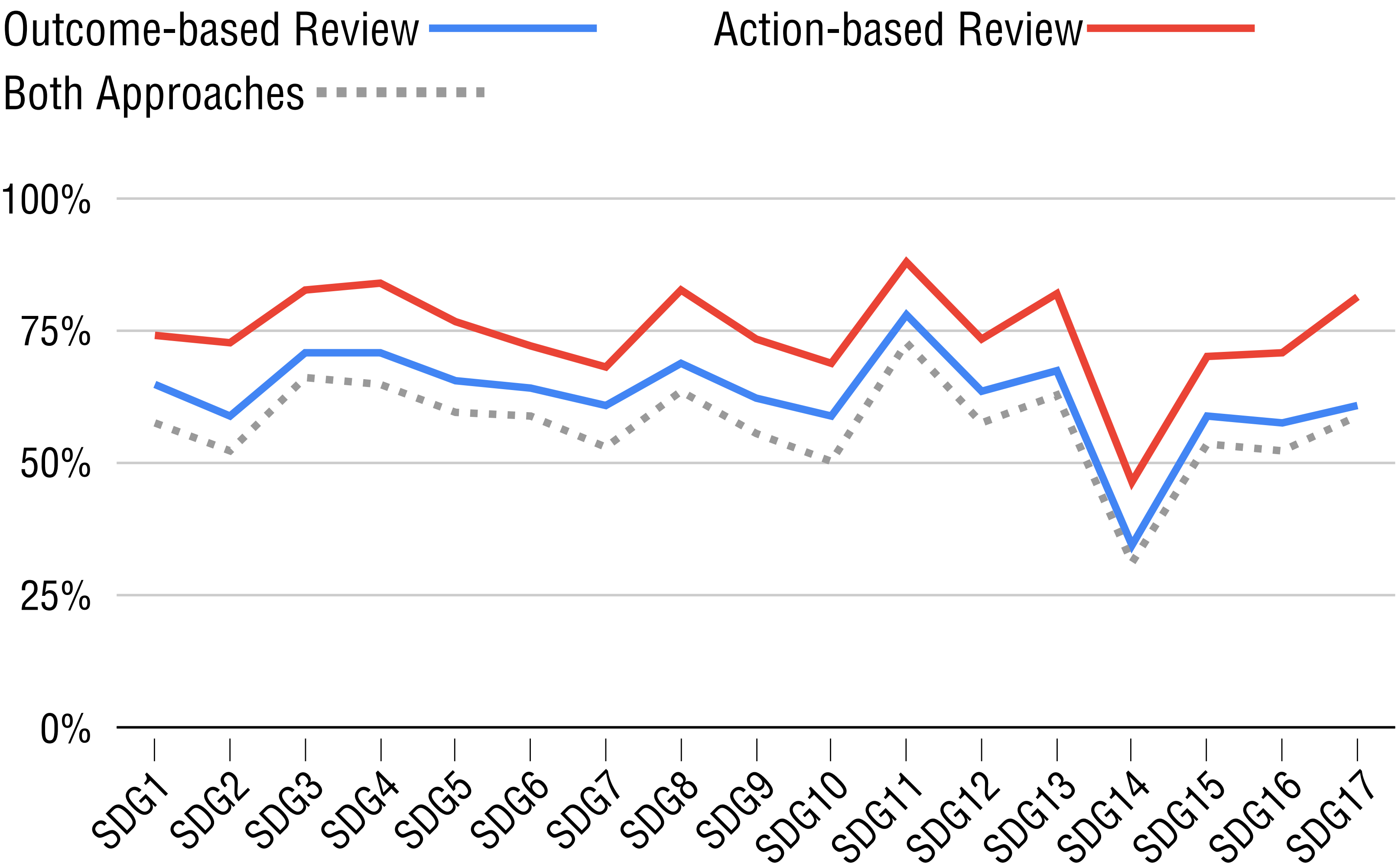
Identified VLRs (2018-2023) by municipal governments with at least 1 VLR.

5) Global trends in VLRs

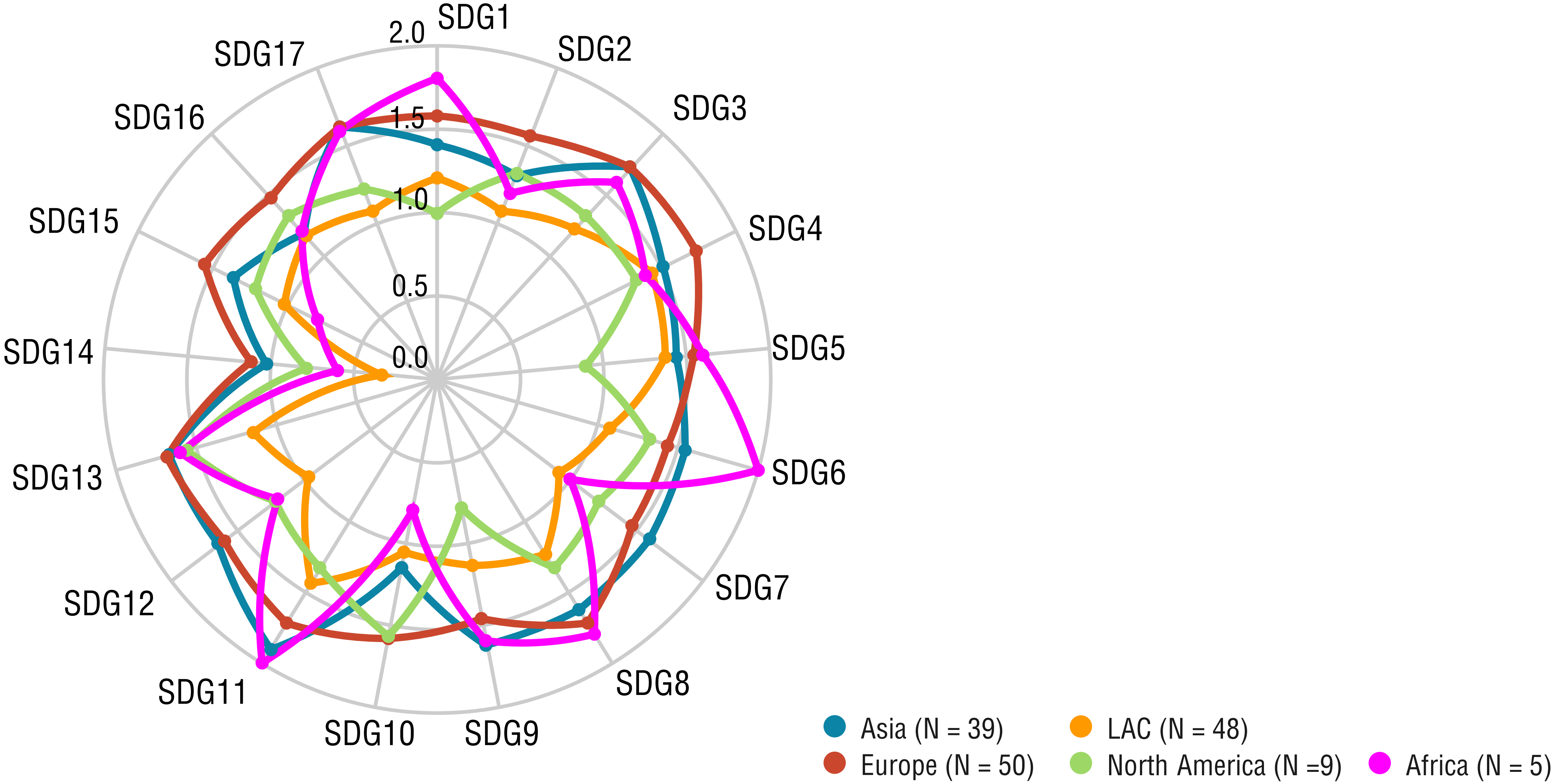


Identified VLRs (2018-2023) by other subnational governments with at least 1 VLR, including regional and provincial governments, districts, association of municipalities, and multi-level VLRs.

6) What are VLRs Following Up and Reviewing?



6) What are VLRs Following Up and Reviewing?



Total Review Score (TRS) per SDG by Geographic region, 2018-2022. Source Ortiz-Moya and Yang (forthcoming).

7) Six Policy Recommendations

1. Building Capacity and Resources

> Conduct capacity assessment.

> Seek out multi-stakeholder partnerships

2. Enhance Data Systems

> Improve data analysis capacity

3. Foster multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance

> Increase awareness of the benefits of increasing multi-level and multi-stakeholder participation in local-level FUR

> Explore novel mechanisms to increase the number of stakeholders taking part in FUR

7) Six Policy Recommendations

4. Promote Diverse Approaches to FUR

- > Experiment with complementary tools
- > Conduct VLRs to align with international best practices in local-level FUR

5. Embed FUR into Local Policymaking


- > Internalise FUR in core plans and budgets
- > Use iterative reviews, adjusting local policies in line with FUR results

6. Encourage Peer Learning and Collaboration

- > Regional FUR for small- and medium-sized local governments
- > Leverage collective expertise, bringing together local governments on common challenges

8) IGES' VLR Lab

<https://www.iges.or.jp/en/projects/vlr>



A world map with green location pins indicating various countries. The map is overlaid with a large QR code on the left side. Above the QR code, there are social media icons for email, Facebook, X, and LinkedIn. The map shows pins across North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Country names are written in Japanese.

VLR Lab Locally-led Transformation for SDGs

This online platform provides all you need to know about cities and regions taking a lead on “Voluntary Local Reviews.”

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Thank you so much!

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