

State of the Voluntary Local Reviews 2022:

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION

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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Ortiz-Moya**

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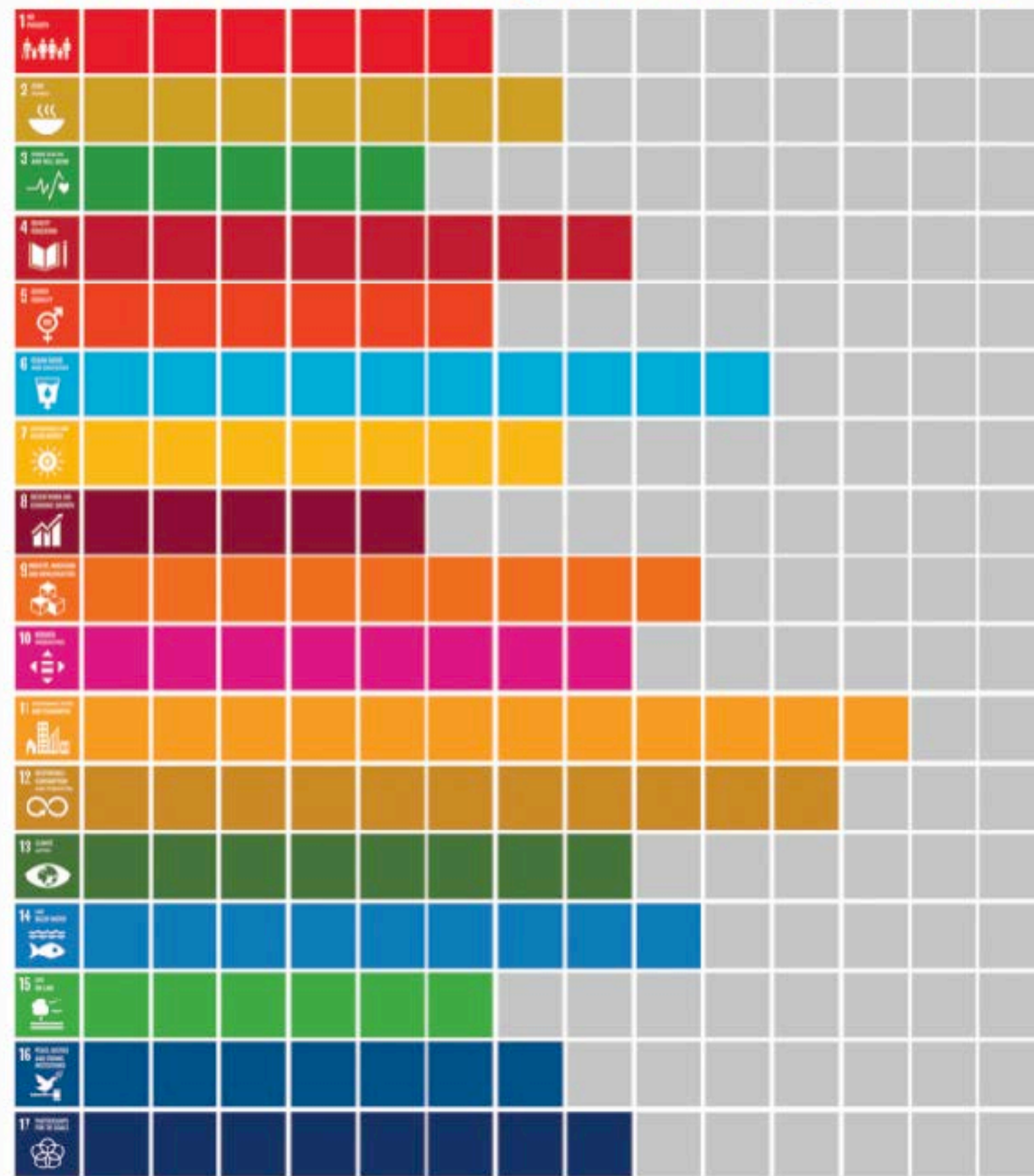
17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



1) Background: The 'State of the Voluntary Local Reviews' Series

STATE OF THE VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS 2020

—Local Action for Global Impact in Achieving the SDGs—



IGES
Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies

Fernando Ortiz-Moya | Hirotaka Koike | Junko Ota | Yatsuka Kataoka | Junichi Fujino

State of the Voluntary Local Reviews 2021: FROM REPORTING TO ACTION



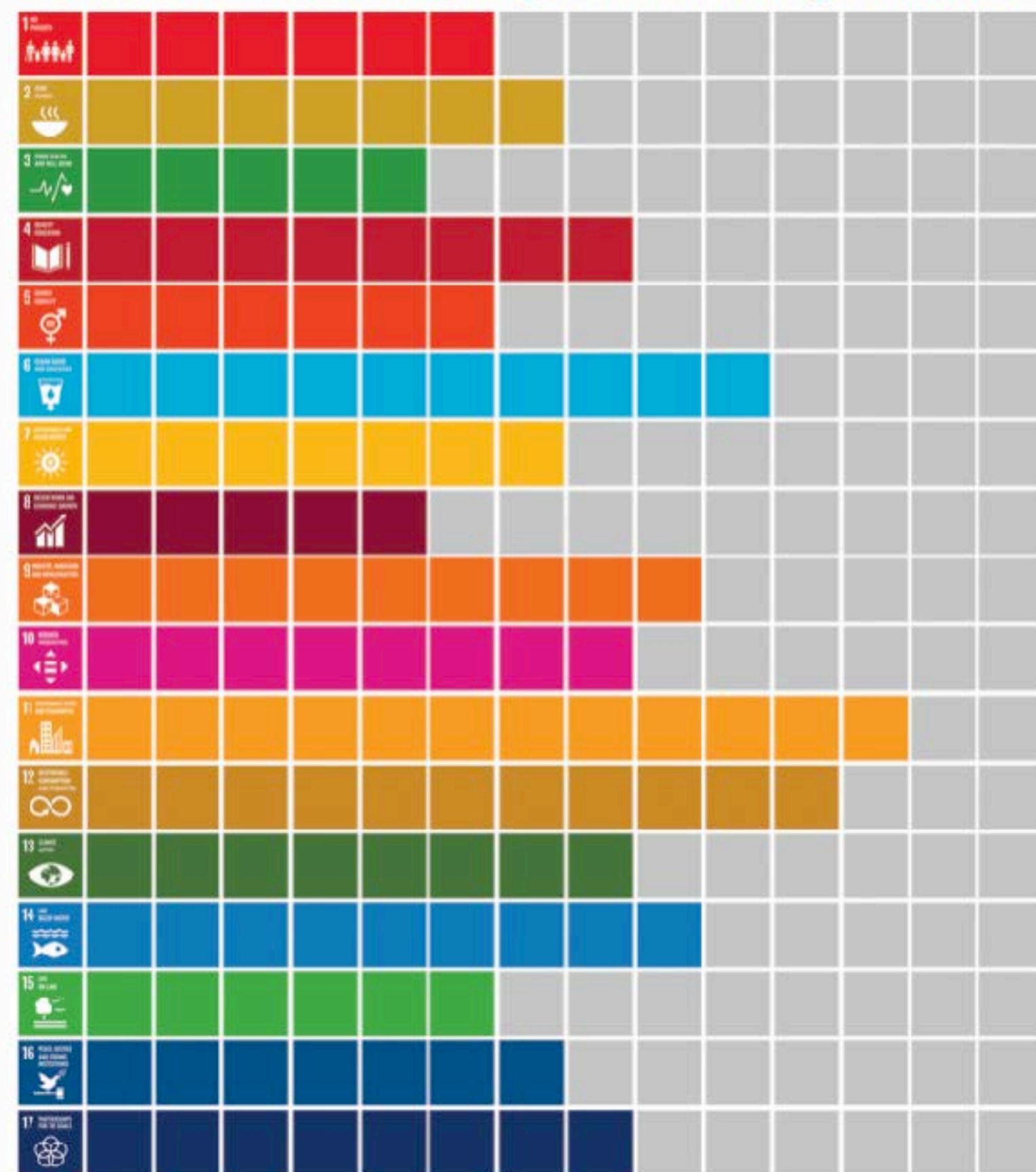
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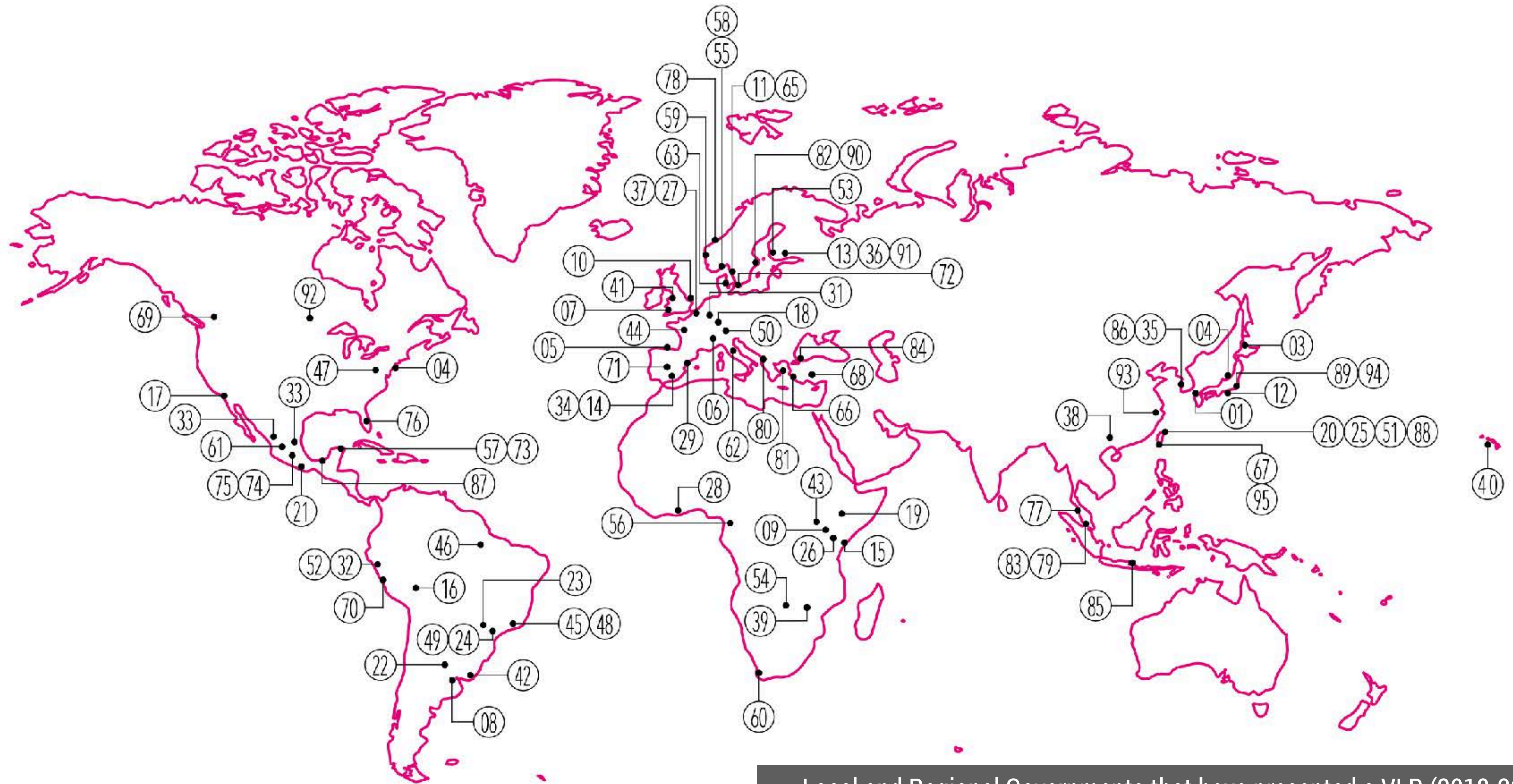
1) Background: Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), an Introduction

“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



1) Background: Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), an Introduction



Local and Regional Governments that have presented a VLR (2018-2021).

2) Key Findings: State of the Voluntary Local Reviews 2022

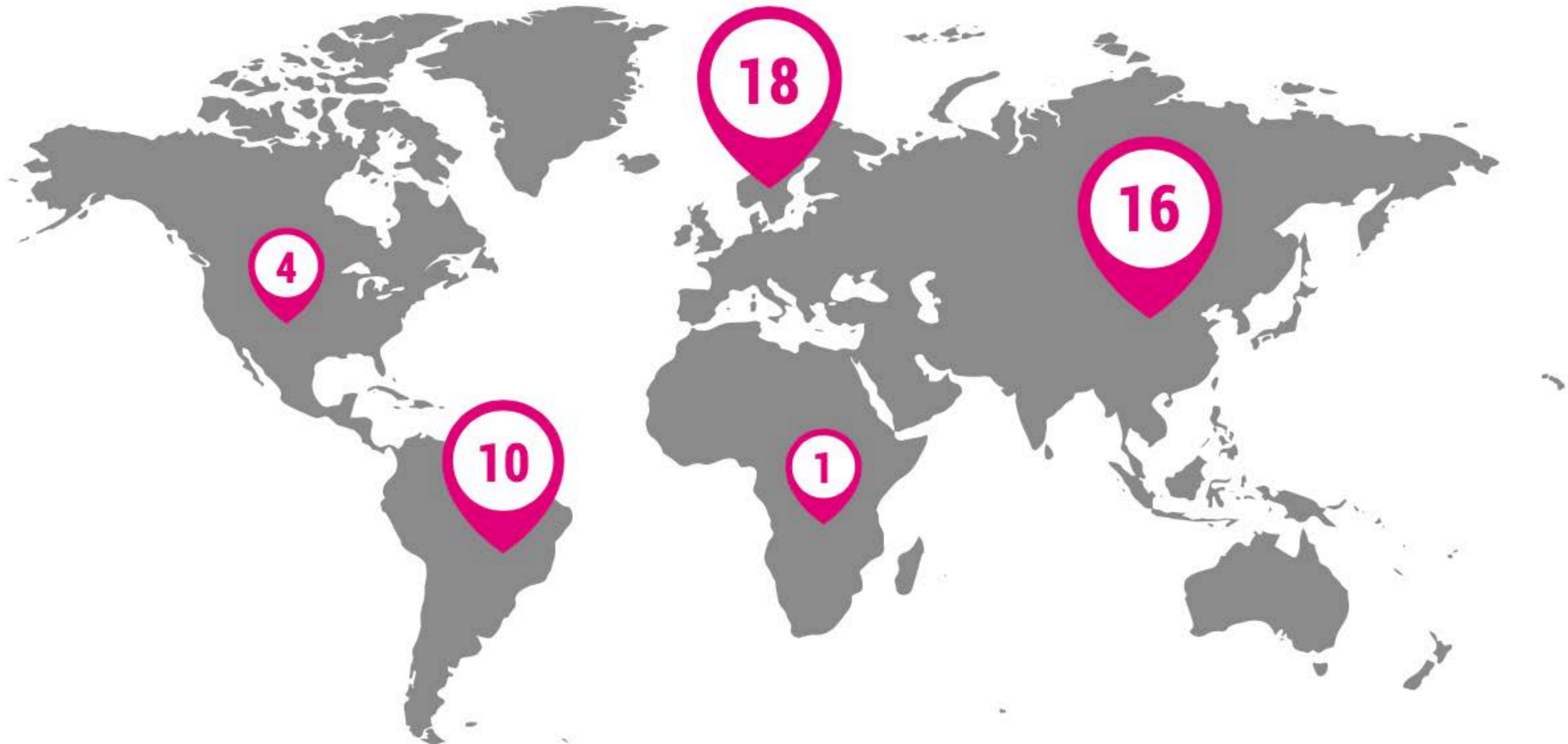
Key questions of the State of the Voluntary Local Reviews 2022:

- How are VLRs reflecting the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic?
- How VLRs accelerate the localisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
- How are cities conducting successive VLRs?
- Have different approaches developed since 2018?



2) Key Findings: The VLR Movement in 2021

VLRs by Region

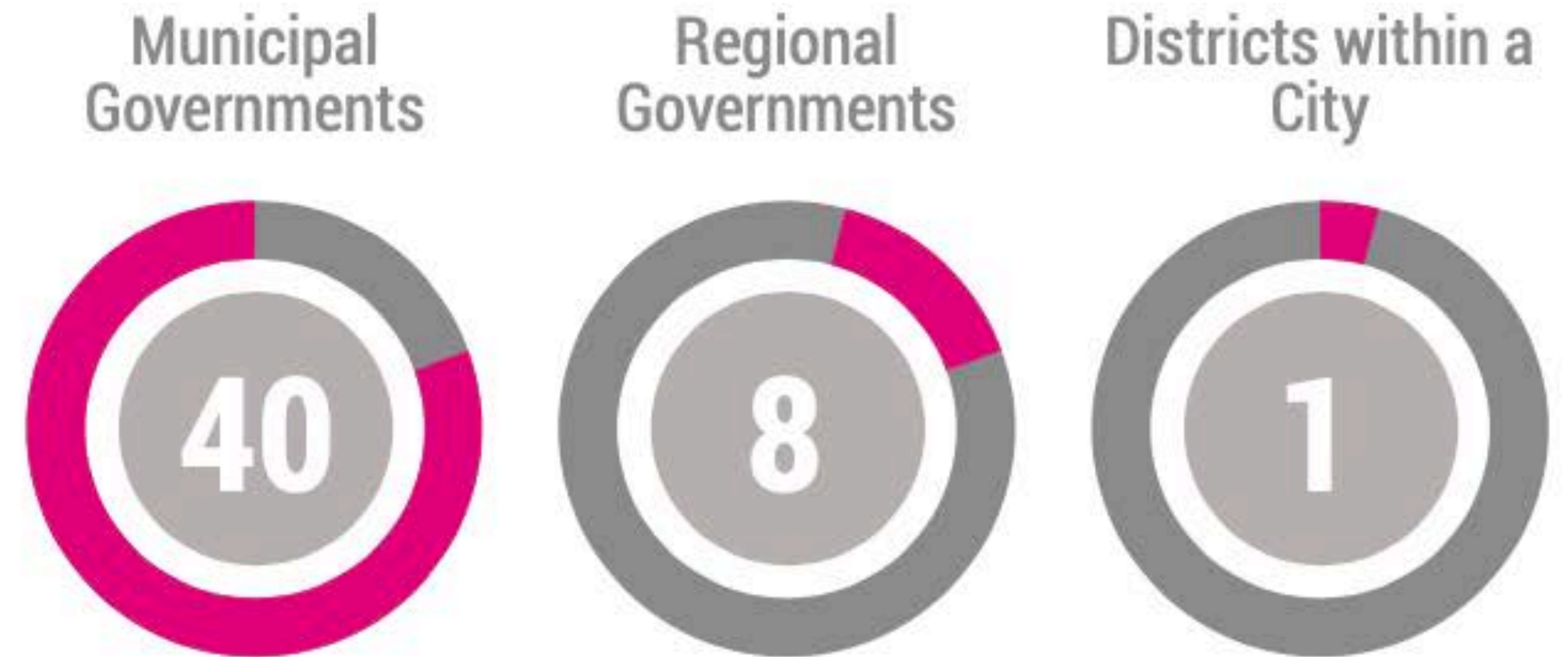


2) Key Findings: The VLR Movement in 2021

VLRs by Language of the Report

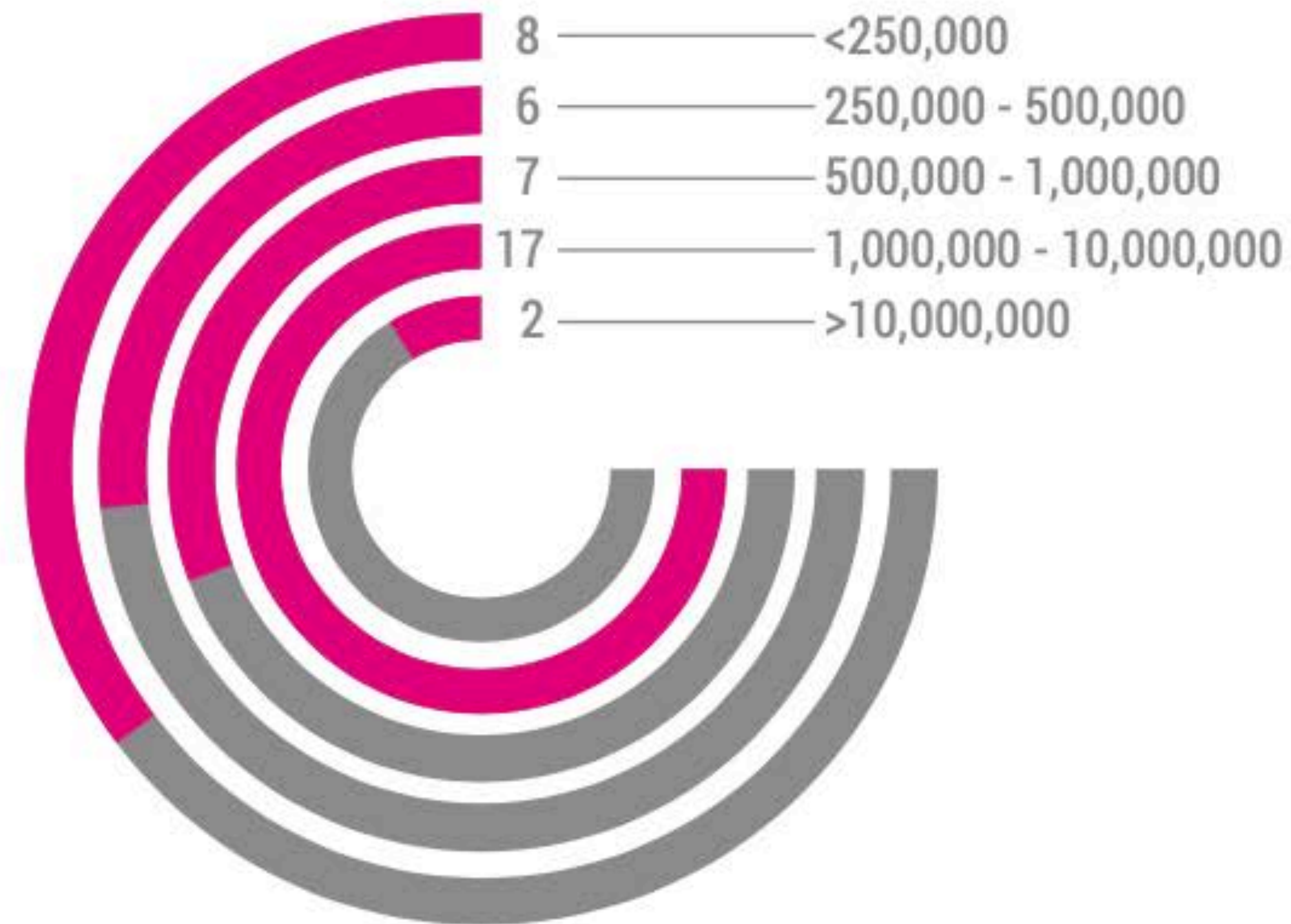


VLRs by Level of Government



2) Key Findings: The VLR Movement in 2021

VLRs by City's Population



VLRs by Largest and Smallest City

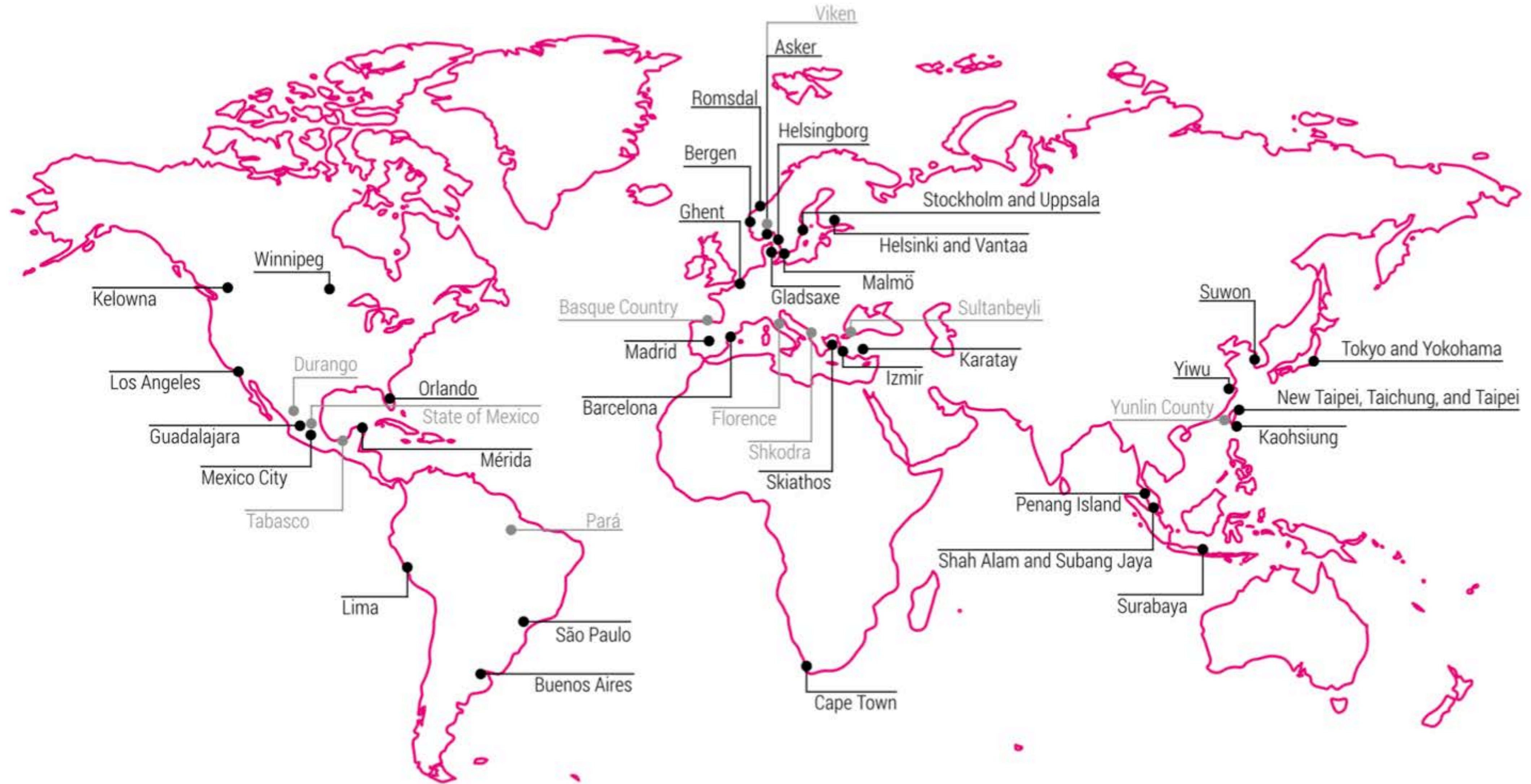
Skiathos
6
thousand inhabitants



Tokyo
14
million inhabitants



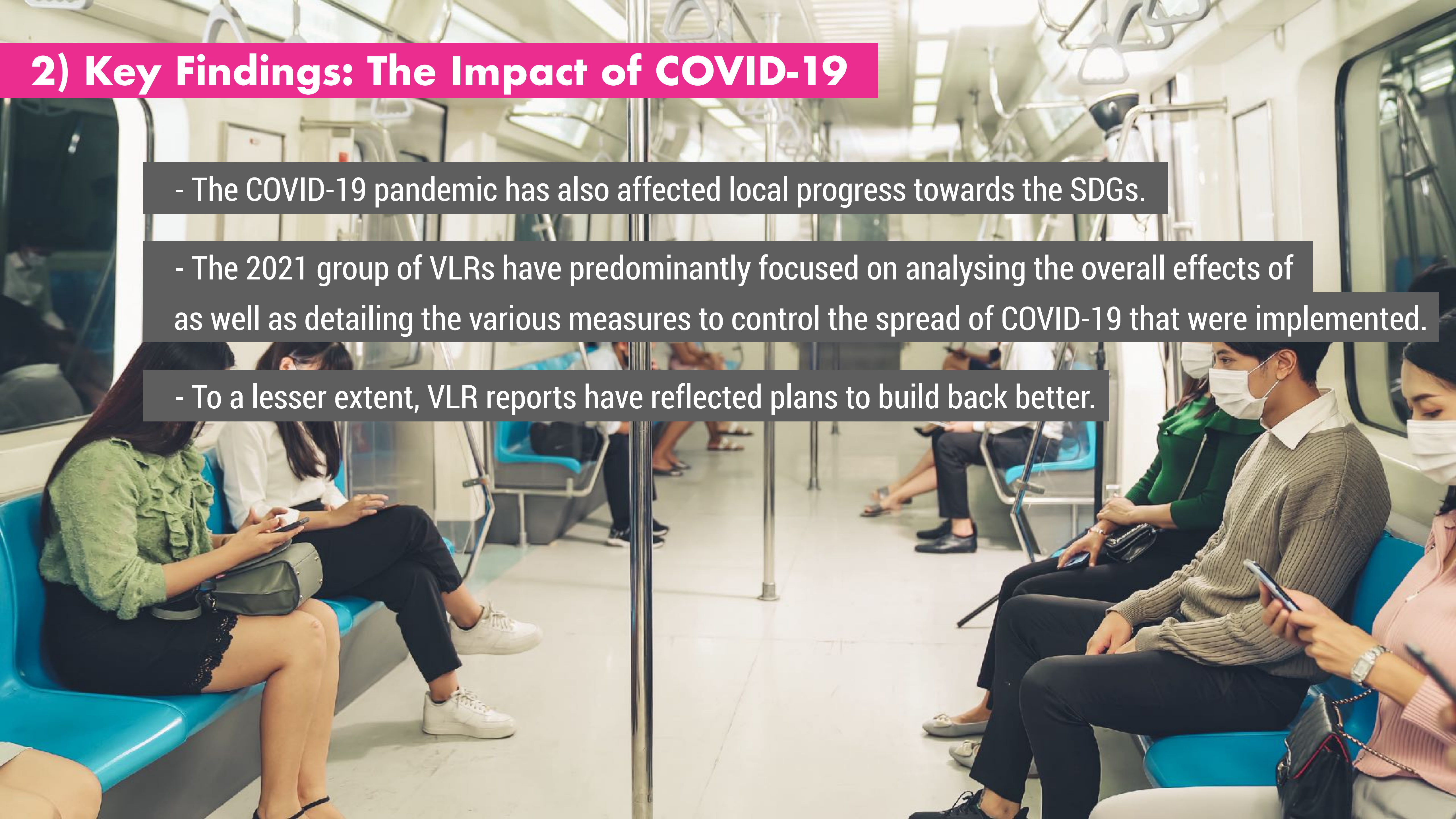
2) Key Findings: The VLR Movement in 2021



Map with all the identified VLRs published in 2021. ● Studied VLRs; ● non studied VLRs.

2) Key Findings: The Impact of COVID-19

- The COVID-19 pandemic has also affected local progress towards the SDGs.
- The 2021 group of VLRs have predominantly focused on analysing the overall effects of as well as detailing the various measures to control the spread of COVID-19 that were implemented.
- To a lesser extent, VLR reports have reflected plans to build back better.



2) Key Findings: Localising Global Agendas

The VLR process help to localise global agendas operationalising the steps to translate the SDGs to the city level.

Fundamental aspects of localisation:

- Motivation to conduct a VLR.
- Stakeholder engagement processes.
- SDG alignment.
- Monitoring, tracking progress, and indicators.

2) Key Findings: Localising Global Agendas

Example: Why are cities conducting a VLR?

(1) to increase engagement with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with global debates on sustainable development;

(2) to baseline current performance and ongoing SDG work to better direct future efforts;

(3) to enhance sustainable initiatives;

(4) to communicate with internal and external stakeholders, fostering peer- learning and sharing best practices.

2) Key Findings: Review Cycles

Regular reviews of progress are recommended to allow for a better integration of the 2030 Agenda in governance processes, ensuring that the SDGs framework is referenced in updated policies and providing the latest data on progress towards targets.

Between 2018 and 2021, nine cities have produced more than one VLR.

Barcelona (2020 and 2021), Buenos Aires (2019, 2020, 2021), Ghent (2020 and 2021), Helsinki (2019 and 2021), Los Angeles (2019 and 2021), New Taipei (2019 and 2021), New York (2018 and 2019), and São Paulo (2020 and 2021) and Taipei (2019, 2020, 2021).



2) Key Findings: Review Cycles

New Taipei

New Taipei City joined the VLR movement in 2019, and published its second review in 2021. Its first VLR followed the structure recommended for the VNR format, prioritising the city's action toward SDG 11 and offering a shorter overview of the remaining goals. New Taipei's 2021 VLR focuses on the city's response to COVID-19 and the progress of the city's strategies on sustainable development implemented since 2019. This second VLR adopts a unique approach to reviewing the SDGs. Each programme implementing the 2030 Agenda is analysed based on a core SDG, noting its synergies and trade-offs with other goals. This highlights interlinkages between the 17 SDGs and the need to carefully consider how to maximise co-benefits while minimising pernicious effects on other targets.

Taipei

Taipei has produced three consecutive VLRs in 2019, 2020 and 2021. The first VLR zooms in the city's main strategies and their alignment with the SDGs. The city develops a four-steps methodology for the VLR based on promoting the institutionalisation of the SDGs, choosing indicators, mapping policies with the SDGs, and disseminating the main findings. The VLR also reviews seven priority SDGs. The 2020 edition expands this work and adds four SDGs to the seven already under review in the 2019 edition. Moreover, the VLR explores the impact of COVID-19 and assess how it might disrupt work on localising the SDGs. The 2021 edition changes its approach and dedicates itself primarily to examining the city's climate action and the interlinkages with other SDGs.



Helsinki

Helsinki published its first VLR in 2019. The VLR aligns the city's 2017-2021 strategy with the SDG framework by using a two-steps process: first, it maps the strategy's themes with the SDGs; second, it maps the SDGs with the strategy's objectives. The VLR reviewed SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16. The second VLR, published in 2021, intends to further mainstream sustainability across the city's operations, and showcases various good practices. The city launched a companion website to its VLR,⁸⁴ summarising the 2021 VLR report and providing indicators for three aspects of sustainable development (people, economy and environment).

Ghent

Ghent launched its first VLR in 2020, exhaustively reviewing the 17 SDGs. The review identified those areas Ghent where is on track to meet the 2030 Agenda, as well as flagging those in need of further work. Ghent changed gears in 2021 and focused on one of the five "Ps" of the SDGs, namely People (the other four Ps are Planet, Prosperity, Partnerships and Peace). The five SDGs reviewed are SDGs 1 to 5. This second VLR thus emphasises stories and narratives of the city's actions on SDGs.

Barcelona

Barcelona's 2020 VLR served to localise the 2030 Agenda and to initiate the review and monitoring of progress. In its first VLR, the city determined that 139 of the targets contained in the SDGs were relevant to the local reality. These global targets were then localised into "Barcelona targets" to measure the city's efforts across the 17 SDGs. The 2021 VLR builds upon this work and reflects on the advancements made over the previous year since the publication of the first edition. It updates progress on indicators and updates the policies in place to localise the SDGs. To complement its second VLR, Barcelona launched a dedicated online platform to monitor progress.⁸⁵



2) Key Findings: Approaches to the VLR Process

Different approaches to the VLR Process:



**Aligning policies
to the SDGs**



**Choosing a
desired future**



**Engaging with
society**



**Monitoring
progress**



Setting baselines



Storytelling

2) Key Findings: Why Voluntary Local Reviews?



To kickstart sustainable development: For cities without a long tradition of sustainability policies, a VLR can support the creation of policies aligned with the SDGs that embeds the three pillars of sustainable development. It provides structure to design, implement, and monitor sustainable policies.



To think about the SDGs: A VLR brings a new way of thinking about sustainability streamlining the localisation of the SDGs. It helps to find synergies and trade-offs between different goals and targets, and therefore, streamlining efforts.



To advance horizontal integration: The silo approach of much local governance blinds opportunities to accelerate sustainable development. More often than not, there lacks coherence and integration between local actions. A VLR makes visible missed possibilities to leverage co-benefits and to minimise trade-offs.



To advance vertical cooperation: To advance vertical cooperation: The common language of the SDGs facilitates the dialogue between national and subnational levels of government. It enables better coordination of policies, reporting and monitoring, ultimately accelerating the delivery of the 2030 Agenda.



To communicate: VLRs are a powerful communication tool with both internal and external actors, mainstreaming the SDGs across municipal departments as well as with the general public.

Hello, this is a test

Final conclusions

3) IGES' VLR Lab



For more information visit:

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

VLR Lab

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!

If you want assistance with you VLR journey, please, contact me at:

cty-info@iges.or.jp