Global goals for Cities - Manresa - 1. den

Postřehy

Na chodbě postery o SDG projektech, všude logo úřadu v Manrese, takže se tu o SDGs ví, evidentně se nějak implementují

Úvodní slova

Starosta

Manresa je jediné URBACT město ve Španělsku

Multisektorový přístup k rozvoji města je důležitý

Zástupkyně Barcelona provincial council

Podporují Urbact

Jon Aguirre Such

URBACT Spain national point

Citizen participation in the localization of global agendas and the SDGs

Pablo Jose Martinez Oses, Colectivo La Mundial

Je chyba, že participace občanů na Agendě 2030 není větším tématem

Široký, obecný teoretický úvod

* Jason Hickel (2020) - Measuring the ecological efficiency of human development in the anthropocene
* Donutová ekonomika
* Interdependencies - výzvy pro decision makery, Wu-Han a šíření Covidu --> něco se stalo lokálně a rozšířilo se to globálně
  + Invisible interdependencies - e.g. finance, taxes, transnational processes

How to talk with citizens about these interdependencies?

OECD Better Life Index - trying to question the dominant GDP-growth-mantra

Transitions have a political nature - society configuration is a result of power relationships at that time/context, see the 2015 Paris conference/agreement

The fundamental conflit between life and (transnational) capital --> democracy (institutions, principles) is under pressure

Huge lack of people's trust to governments and their ability to curb the transnational pressures

--> that is why we need citizen participation! To help overcome these problems.

Colloquium: Do we really count on citizens to decide the sustainable future of our cities?

*Moderator: Karma Peiró, journalist|Céline Ethuin - project manager Urbact | Julian Schahl, secretary of Eurotowns | Sara Hoeflich - UCLG learning manager | Ana Tapia, A2030 and SDGs Unit, Barcelona Provincial Council*

CE - smysl urbactu: města se učí od sebe nazvájem

JS - task teams for different topics <-- our work is based on SDGs, new task team specialised on localising SDGs - raising the awareness etc. Political support is key for our work. How to translate the SDGs to the "local languages/policies" and how to inform citizens? - jaká byla odpověď?

SH - SDGs need to be understood and known. Small cities, not only bigger ones! Implementation of the SDG policies are usually faster in smaller cities. Cities are listening, cities are very good articulators if they have the capacity. Many issues are only possible with the participation.

AT - celkem 300 municipalities, working with different strategies. Different economic and capacity barriers. Děláme věci, pokračujeme v cestě. Manresa a další dvě toho dělají nejvíc. Evidentně je ta SDG implementace různá v různých obcích. Je důležité, aby regionální vlády zahrnuly A2030 do svých politik. Máme service catalog - tool for economic support, also budget for SDG localization activities - A2030 group of active actors (incl. Manresa).

*Activities with SDGs*

JS - trend - cultural festivals integrating SDGs. Events - local producers, farmers.

SH - People who form a group easily - a very rich tradition in Catalonia. It is easier to do things when people are already active --> then people can connect to the SDGs more easily. SDG cannot only be based solely on a municipal budget, because these are limited. But you can support people's ideals. SDG is agenda for everybody - big enterprises, universities. Training the staff is very efficient.

AT - it is hard to manage / to have enough public participation. Our target are not enterprises but municipalities. In our unit we work on innovative participatory methods to improve the localization processes. Playful paradigm  - participatory game!

*We had pandemic and now war in Ukraine - these things were not happening when SDGs were introduced. How about the SDG implementation in this context?*

AT - we have a limited time to stabilise everyting to 2030. Local governments are often away from these big geopolitical things, they are often more concerned about local issues. We have tools to build another discourse which includes people --> we have to transform the current systém - if we dont do this, we cannot advance. In some ways they all try to make some transformation. We need to have capacity to generate discourse which encourages citizens to act.

SH - the SDGs are a reflection of the UN. UN as a place for dialogue. UN has little power to insist on the implementation of its agendas in general. We have big inequalities! But if we dont have SDGs, we cannot measure the inequalites. VLR are good because VNR often dont go that deep (to the local level).

JS - I witnessed a lot of awareness in our association of cities; at the moment it is a lot about energy security. It is really not that easy to replace the Russian gas, it will take years. We need a plan and a financial support from our government in order to continue with localising the SDGs.

*Dotaz z publika - SDGs are sometimes like a shopping The strategic plan is important - the city tells where it wants to be in 10 years. But the cities are using this energy to develop sectoral and dispersed strategies.*

*Dotaz z publika - how honest can we be to say that we are not reaching some SDGs in 2030 (e.g. the poverty). Goals give us a direction.*

AT - we should establish a deadline - I am aware that we cannot achieved fully, but we can achieve it partly. Holistic approach / global vision (podruhe zmineno).

SH - the strategy must change constantly! The SDGs cannot only be about government acting - it must go down to services. We can learn a lot from VLRs.

JS - SDGs are our working language. If you measure and monitor what you are doing, you can then progress.

Indicators and SDGs

Mon Cullere, City of Manresa (!)

Understanding the reality is difficult. Pop. outside the EU / total population: Manresa: 16,7 % (not incl. ppl without official residence permit). Indicators are different - some are 100 years old (Dow Jones Index), some are decades old. SDG indicators are rather young. There are some excellent indicators such as GISTEMP v4 Annual trend (1979-2019). There is a clear "message" from the indicator. But some SDGs have lots of indicators and it is hard to compile them. Indicators should be clear, easy and obtainable from existing reliable sources. If your neighbour has defined a good indicator, just copy them.

Should we base sustainable urban development on science or intuition? Round table

*Moderator: Karma Peiró, journalist | Alice Siragusa, SDG localization team leader at the JRC EC| Angela Pizarro, Coordinator A2030, provincional council of Badajoz | Ramón Canal, Director of the technical office of A2030, Barcelona City Council*

AS - VLR are not simple, they should:

a) be incremental, one municipality starts, other is inspired and develops better indicators, the first one does a revision etc.

b) be self generative, including self-feeding process (!)

c) should involve citizens and communities

Public actors dont always make decisions based on data (!). Data and information are nothing on its own, they have meaning when we put them in context with other data and information.

RC - Barcelona is a city about continuity and transformation. There were two people in charge of SDGs, we prepared a paper. Our city is fragmented, not a clear majority in a government and the A2030 is in hands in the junior party that doesnt have a mayor. We are limited in responding to all the goals. Some indicators we use are clear and quantifiable, but in other cases we had to do a lot of activities to get to know what we should do. We can ask questions to large samples of people. We are working on how to measure things, e.g. social enterprise. There is a 2020 report showing the graph where we are and where we should be. We published a second report including a traffic light and budgetary analysis. Lots of indicators are focused on impact. This year we published all the indicators online, english webpage, where other cities publish their indicators. We will publish a third report this year.

AP - developing budgetary allignments. Budget is not the only tool. Human resources are important! Own methodology - the situation of a regional rural municipality is different from Barcelona. Software that can be included to local government system. We have to take as much as possible from the local territories and to adapt it to our system. Local employees were doing activities as a part of their duty and this was going beyond the budget. --> Common sense.

*What are the quality criteria of data collection?*

AS - it depends. SDGs are connected to a myriad of sectors. Data, collection, updating, publising, maintaining, evaluation are expensive. We have (the possibility of) tons of information, but we must manage them well. Replicability. Land consumption and internet connectivity are crucial for us.

RC - data are one of the pieces of policy making. Human beings dont manage uncertainties very well. Data interpretation is key. We have an annuan HH survey, the published data are given to the local politicians (the opposition tries to interpret the data in their interest).

AP - smaller cities - this is a sci-fi for us. We are using centralised data from bigger institutions, we cannot ask our colleagues to send us data immediately. The regional government has some social services that work in local and small municipalities (so they should have data). It is very hard for us to receive all the information. The mayor of a small village clearly knows what his village needs, he can ask his neighbors - its a different method of participation. So the measurement/indicator systems are limited.

*KP - we are advancing, raising awareness. But what happens if the year 2030 comes and we dont reach the goals?*

RC - 2030 will clearly not be accomplished in some goals/indicators, because there are sabotaging contradictions. We must keep fighting --> find new ways how to present the issues.

AS - countries with very different levels of development - leaving no-one behind. SDGs are not only for the rich, but we must protect the most vulnerable. If all countries are recognizing the agreement, thats already an improvement despite the contradictions. MDGs were not ambitious enough.

AP - we have a ministry of A2030, there is a unit dealing with these issues as in Barcelona. There has been an important step forward - political commitment. We have logos. Children in secondary schools are having programs. Much greater commitment than before.

*Question from the audience - a man from strategic department from Pamplona. Reality in the townhalls in smaller cities. We have difficulties (capacity problems) in producing the materials monitoring the SDGs etc. There are good strategic things which could have high impact at the local level, but they are not planned (implemented?) fully.*

*Question from the audience - we know that we should plan things to achieve the goals, but the politicians dont dare to implement them. Health goals - if you know that something have an impact on your health, you know about it.*

*Question from the audience - we need to contextualise information and passing on them. That is useful for implementing the decisions.*

AS - btw not all indicators have to reach citizens (?). Important - we dont act just for our interests.

RC - what are people collective interesed in? I totally agree that information needs to be contextualized.

AP - you need to learn from what people are doing already, some people/CSOs are already active for a long time (V: these ppl dont have to be explicitly connected to the SDGs). The reports neet do be comprehensive for the people.

URBACT pilot network on localising SDGs

*Céline Ethuin, URBACT project manager | Stina Heikkila, URBACT GG4C network lead expert | Sonia Puyol, Manresa City Council | Moeva Dejuan*

CE - presentation.

Every partner sets up URBACT Local group with different city stakeholders --> intergrated action plan using action plan tools.

Integrated urban development - cooperating between neighbouring municipalities; between all levels of governments and local actors; across different policy areas and departments of a municipality; balance between "hard" physical and "soft" social investment

19 EU countries - 19 Cities, Jihlava! They support each other to develop tools to localise the SDGs,  using the URBACT method. At the end of the project, all partners will have produced an Integrated  Action Plan for localising SDGs. March 21 to Dec 22

MD - The RFSC tool (reference framework for sustainable cities) - select framework --> assess your strategy or plan --> check your actions --> monitor progress --> the tool reveals the sustainability profile of your strategy or action plan --> visualises potential gaps to improve your actions.

SP - Manresa's urbact Jorney.

Started in 2019.

1. First alignment of municipal plans with the SDGs, by a technical motor group
2. Municipal cross-cutting network
3. Raising awareness campaigns
   * E.g. online workshops for students during the pandemic
4. Participatory process open to local stakeholders and citizens
   * 100 surveys of local entities. Prioritizing the targets. Big process.
5. Analysis and report of first results: 175 local targets and 400+ actions

--> Manresa set up Urbact local group in 2021.

175 local targets and final 643 (!!) proposed actions both from previous processes and the ULG

Establishing a shared vision of a sustainable future city

Agree on 8 missions to make it a reality

Prioritizing the 30 transformative actions by 2030

Mission: By 2030, we will have a competitive and sustainable local economy, thanks to technological innovation, the use of clean energy, circular production systems and a better articulation of the territory.

Next steps: setting smart indicators of the 30 actions; by the end of 2022 approve IAP, the Urban Agenda of Manresa 2030; by 2023 - starting the implementation and assessment of progress; transforming the ULG in the future Citizen's Alliance for the Sustainability (wow, pokud se to podaří).

SH - fixing indicators

The integrated action plan canvas. Vision --> missions (broader) --> locally adapted sdg targets --> actions (v prezentaci kauzalita obráceně).

A core set of 56+ local SDG indicators.

Global goals for Cities - Manresa - 2. den

Úvod - Jon

We should address differences between local agenda - Spain vs. Estonia, Czechia

Effective urban sustainability strategies for cities

*María Sisternas, CEO Mediaurban*

Inequalities in legislation

UK and US literature talks about suburbs as an opposition to cities (see the space between New York and Washington)

Vs. Europe - lots of cities

Southern Europe (in general) was urbanised later than e.g. the UK (Barcelona - ~1970's, London - ~1920's)

Zonification (Barcelona region)

* Shopping malls and company areas - lack of continuity when going from the living area to the shoping malls
* New residential buildings - lack of life in/around them
* Vs. Mallorca - litttle cute square

Urban areas and specific strategies should be able to last in time

Vs. backyards in Barcelona blocks which were planned to be green but they were privatised and now there are occupied by low buildings (prostě zastavěné dvorky)

*Question from the audience - Barcelona city council guy (department of international relations). How to distinguish whether city is medium sized?*

Medium sized cities have grown in Catalonia, people went to live there instead of Barcelona.

Are we strategists or firefighters? Round table

*Moderator: Jon Aguirre, Urbact spain national point | Pilar Cervantes, Urban planning service Barcelona Provincial Council | Sonia Hernandez, general secretary of urban policies of the ministry of transport| Gonzalo Lacurcia, technical consultant for UN-Habitat in Spain*

*Do you think that we are stuck in the short-time approach (curbing fires/putting out fires)?*

GL - relevant question. We permanently work on this kind of issue - there are people who need immediate attention but at the same time we need to set some longer time limits on actions. Political reponses are often short term, we have a different crises and urgent issues. There is an institutional gap. We need to be acting constantly. Municipal level - multisectoral problems and respones involving whole range of actors and people. We need to deal with urgency (e.g. climate change, cities are the main contaminants), we need to act with a strategic way but also with aspects that havent ben seen before.

SH - we have been putting out fires for such a long time. And this is super difficult on the state level. Most of medium sized cities - day to day problems (people calling the mayor) but also fundamental strategic problems (urban planning, construction). Circumstances have not always allowed us to comply with the objectives we have established. We have international documents that legimitise and support new urban agendas incl. tackling the global challenges. At all levels, we can face the lack of financial resources. We are living a happy planning moment, we need to carry on with our enthusiasm, it will surely help to solve at least some problems.

JA - difference between urban planning nad urban differentiation. Urban agendas are a really good tool to feed the processes (of finding balance between the strategy vs. immediate problems (?))

PC - we have been supporting planning projects, especially housing and urban regeneration, planning from a cross-cutting perspective. (The New) Urban agenda helps these planing processes - these planing needs to be more participatory.

*JA - how are you working towards the localisation of SDGs?*

GL - The new urba agenda is still the most effective tool for implementing SDGs in settlements and urban areas. It became the most discursive element. Around 2/3 of SDGs (targets) come from local realities. They need to be originated and designed in the urban settlement context. Covid pandemic, energy crisis - the need to redesign the urban agenda. In the spanish case - thanks to the collaboration with the ministry, we are making visible what happens in the Spanish context. The idea that action in urban areas doesnt depend only on urban planning lies at the core of the Spanish urban agenda.

*JA - There is a great confusion about the urban agenda, A2030, two ministries are purusing their agendas... How could we shed some light on helping municipalities to better understand the different agendas and alligning with them (and with the SDGs)?*

SH - Its not about choosing A or B. The SDGs can only be accomplished where problems exist thus creating the need to act. It is good when the strategy/action plan is in the simple and understandable manner. We try to do urban planning with the terminology from the UN, we try to make it cohesive. Lets simplify things, the new urb agenda needs to be the instrument that helps us implement the UN agenda, the EU agenda etc. The idea needs to be materialized into action. How do we achieve the 2030 agenda goals? Bringing them down, localising them at the urban and regional level. You need a tidy and cohesive agenda. The 2030 agenda is not only urban agenda ofc. We have to "choose and give coherence" - without concrete policies we cannot reach our goals.

*JA - how are you approaching the localising of the transformative policy in your provincial council vis a vis medium-term strategies?*

PC - We introduce different ways of working. We develop the catalan urban agenda in towns and villages of catalonia. Systematic methodology and consensus. Transformative project in 2020, principially based on transforming the ways we work in management. The different departments of the provintional council form the pormotional group, we have also a plenary including different members of different towns. Tnis internal and cross-cutting process gives support the local town hall to implement the urban agendas. We support to write the local and super local agendas. One type of support is of an individualised kind, the other is participation network. The provintional concuil has aliances with other bodies and that is fundamental. We signed a project proposal with the spanish ministry, aiming at development action plan etc.

We hepled 5 local bodies, one of them is supra local, iun the second phase we will deal with more local agendas. We will include town halls that will do their own local agendas. We hope to create a practice that spreads to other places. It is an integral strategic plan which we think is necessary for practices elsewhere.

*JA to the ministry - can you explain how you will keep up the work?*

SH - not all agenda continued forward because of covid. The plan of responding to agenda 2030 was planned before the crises that hit us, we need to be able to improvise, to carefully think what we need to, we need to move quickly. We started working with smaller municipalities, we dont apply punishments. We set up strategic priorities - what you can do and what objectives you need to do in the future? These issues cannot be decided in the office - the urban agenda needs to be thought with the relevant actors. That needs commitments. We need to explain the people who participated if we comply with the promises we made.  We are now working with 155 town halls. Each plan should be tailored to the local needs, but with the same language. Indicators - we need to monitor progress! We can se what problems emerged, if these instruments are really working. If the town hall says they need help, we need to know why. We have monitoring commissions. The recovery plans and finding actions helps implementing the local plans. We have identifiend which things went well and which havent. The new urban agenda is maybe not the best but it is really used by the local governments. If they dont have their own agenda that doesnt mean they cant get money, but we value strategic plans in this process.

--- *Evidetnně právě skončil nějaký program a teď se řeší, co bude dál* ---

*Question from the audience - a guy from some city - thanks the panelists for their support - "that you are there wihle we are drafting our urban agenda". It was a great help on a daily basis. We are worried to keep ut with the enthusiasm and keep working. Having all the agendas approved by all (by the city council) is very fundamental because there will be new local elecitons next year and the things can change. (If their agenda is ready, than they can access funds later - probably from the ministry).*

*Question from the audience - A strategic activity director from Pamplona town hall - thanks for support and financial aid. If he havent been recognized as a pilot project we could reach the results. How to use all the effort that has been done? What to expect in the future?*

JA - it has been a good mechanism and the ministry should take it into consideration.

PC - we created three working groups - a methodology group (how to design agendas), a participation group (in the proces of designing), and a evaluation group (agendas already designed). We will foster synergies. We cooperate with the ministry. We want to make it a show window of good practices. We wanted to recover a series of project we have left behind temporarily. We have began a series of works which could be of help. We wnat to understand rural areals with low density so we can cooperate them in these agendas. We want to explore what resources we have are in line with the urban agenda and which things are lacking thus preventing more help.

SH - we insist on the fact that the continuation should be agreed by all political parties. Exchange of knowledge, keep in touch - important tool for the follow up commission. The policies will try to be very well cooridnated - we are working with other ministries to solve tender issues. What issues that have been identifiend on the local level can be dealt on the state level? We need to talk closely otherwise we cannot define good policies. We want to keep going and thank you for your support, we hope we will not be frustrated given the changing circumstances.

Exhibition of good practices. Municipal Urban Agendas.

*Moderator: Jon Aguirre, Urbact spain national point | Marina Jarque, oficina del futur de la ciutat | Jose Costero, Director of the strategic office, Pamplona City Council | Beatriz García-Moncó, Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council*

MJ - toolkit on urban stakeholders mapping. Lets participate in useful networks. Its important to update the urban agenda.

JC - the most important thing is to have dialogue with everyone and to respond to the questions the people have. Urban strategic plan that we began implementing in 2018 (Agenda Urbana Pamplona 2030). We set a decade as a deadline. It comes from the UN (SDG) framework - the A2030. We are going against the current. From the beginning we paid attention also to the new urban agenda. The opposition was part of the working group. There was an opportunity for the municipal grovernment to the project and make it its own. Core point - participation not only by asking citizens what they want, but also emphasizing co-responsibility - explaning what people need to do in order the project is meaningful. Unanymous consensus! Diagnosis connected to the strategic framework was part of the process. Participatory projects, people and actors could propose them, the proposals were evaluated through the SDGs. We created the local pact for the regeneration of Pamplona, 16 organisations, neighbouring governments, provincial council, CSOs.

BG - we used methods that we developed ourselves. I will also present mistakes which me made and how this was reacted upon. Počátek - Agenda 21. We deleloped methods based on the UN methods, but then came the Spain Urban Agenda. We had a split in a town hall, we had to moderate it. We had to do a lot of effort, to educate them and explain what these (seemingly different) agendas mean. Diffiulty of not confusing citizens. Basic language that people can understand --> t r a n s l a t i o n  to the local "language". Internal and external participatory processes. Disseminatory documents for citizens. Simple language, few words. The word "equity" in the objective six - we realized it is not adequate and we changed it to "equality". Positive aspect of time - establish a date, it gets people mobilised. Negative aspect - we would like to have a few more months but thats how things are. Participation - we all must rething these participatory processes. We are not reaching the youth, the peoples profiles are always the same. We cannot define city strategies without the participation of citizens!

*JA - how this incorporation and aligning process of the SDGs looked like?*

VI (a man speaking for Viladecans city) - in the beginning - isolated sets of indicators, e.g. reaching the same goal but from different starting point (e.g. bike paths length vs. number of bikes). We managed four groups of indicators to be aligned together - from 260 to 171 indicators - unyfying them, converging them.

JC - we wanted to localize the SDGs. We need to contextualize things to the urban area like Pamplona. We read european urban agenda, then spanish urban agenda, it went in parallel, it coincided almost 100 %. The City we want in 2030 is completely aligned with the SDGs and spanish urban agenda.

BG - we wanted to include the items which some people didnt feel identified with. You want everyone to feel identified to "own" the process.

*JA - Which difficulties have you faced when working of cross-cutting project?*

JC - we created a strategic office. Cross-cutting challenges need to be incorporated by everyone. We wanted to be more dynamic to count on everybodys help when defining the agenda. We need projects that dont come from just one specific department.

VI - we created "an office of the future". From the urban agenda we identified a set of 131 actions, these actions have been alocated in different working units, it was connected to the everyday townhall work. The working groups were also cross-cutting

*JA - different political situations in these three cities. How the goverments work on the daily basis?*

BG (coalition) - we shared the draft documents and then changing, rephrasing some words in order to reach consensus. Prioritization of actions and projects - at least something is approved when the government is changed.

JC - it was based on agreement between the parties --> we gonna see what we can agree on and based on that we can have a city strategy, rather than drafting the city strategy first and then discussing/arguing about different parts of it. If you know what you agree on, then you can develop it and dynamise it. Identify together as much as possible.

VI - the local government team is 13 out of 25 elected ppl. Working groups incl the opposition - the whole process was involving the opposition 100 %.

*Question from the audience - Soyna Puyol from Manresa town hall. We identified SDG 18 - cultural activities in municipalities. Can you elaborate more on the internal participation?*

*Question from the audience - a woman from local provincial participation agency. How do you coordinate the strategic commissions beyond the territory?*

BG - our city has 62 minor authorities and they were part of our agenda, + basque country government + other actors.

VI - we have always worked with other municipalities (e.g. shared bikes rn). Sustainable construction hub - building reuse (some former big factory).

JC - There is no provincial council - we have the government of Navarra and town councils. We are interdependent on each other (with different municipalities incl rural areas). We need to advance together with rural areas and forget the battle between rural and urban areas. During the diagnosis phase, firstly identify critical issues. SDG 18 - I found a unesco document talking about culture and its link to the SDG agenda.

Workshops results

Localization of global agendas

The square and advice to José - the training toolkit is available to everyone on their website (UCLG)

Localization and monitoring - voluntary local reviews methodology

Organized by JRC using their methodology - learning to work with the methodology (available for everyone on their website)

Awareness-raising and citizen participation in Localization

Public administration has a very specific language that people dont understand - we need to change language! Participation should be much more open from the beginning.

Participation should start with a blank sheet, not with options offered to citizens.

Indicators and budget alignment

Badajoz provincial council, Barcelona City Council.

Talking about different methodologies of work. Methodology replication depends on the context. Went through the specific budget calculations. Which data and indicator they used, how they created the results. The methods used are avilable on the internet.

Closing the Conference

*Valentí Junyent, Councilor of the Presidency of the Manresa City Council*

Thanked the provincial council for providing money for this event.

Thanked the participants incl. Czech republic :))

Thanked Jon - "If I would reincarnate, I would be the president of Jon's fanclub"

After years as a policy maker, I am tired of acronyms and sophisticated jargon - people need to hear a clear simple language.