



VLR/VSR
JULY 13-17-18
DAYS 2023
2ND EDITION - HLPF

VLR and VSR cocreation from the bottom-up: Stakeholder engagement and citizen knowledges

18 July 2023, 15h15 - 17h15 CEST

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Background:

Local reporting on the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has revolutionized the interaction between local and regional governments (LRGs), their associations (LGAs), and stakeholders within their territories. Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) conducted by an increasing number of LRGs and LGAs, respectively, have successfully raised awareness of the SDGs among their constituents. This has empowered individuals and communities to actively participate in local processes, fostering a shared agenda of justice and sustainability in the promotion of gender equality, housing and basic services for all, fair employment and renaturing practices, amongst others. VLRs and VSRs have also enhanced transparency and accountability in local actions. Forward-thinking LRGs and LGAs have taken the lead by engaging grassroots organizations, academia, the private sector, civil society, and marginalized communities in co-constructing the future of their cities and regions. They are committed to leaving no one behind, thereby galvanizing the Right to the City through their VLR and VSR processes. These initiatives are instrumental in facilitating the necessary transformations that lead to a renewed social contract.

Despite the emergence of participatory VLR and VSR processes worldwide, several challenges persist. How can we further institutionalize and democratize these processes to promote equality and genuine co-creation of our cities and territories? In what ways can VLRs and VSRs contribute to fostering social inclusion and justice for all? Which channels, technologies, languages, and information criteria should be employed to ensure that VLR and VSR processes are accessible to everyone? How can we ensure that informal practices of city-making and citizen knowledge are recognized, valued, and integrated into VLR and VSR processes? Furthermore, how does the reframing of the commons contribute to leveraging VLR and VSR processes towards collective action? How can we increase dialogue between civil society and local and regional governments?

Addressing these questions will help strengthen and expand participatory approaches within VLR and VSR processes, enabling greater inclusivity, social justice, and collective action in the development of our cities and territories.

Objective of the session:

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The objective of this session is to facilitate meaningful dialogue, co-creation and knowledge-sharing around the most valuable participatory practices implemented within the framework of VLRs and VSRs. LRGs, LGAs, international organizations, civil society networks and other partners will jointly identify key levers that can help overcome the persisting challenges surrounding participation, co-creation, social inclusion, and justice within VLR and VSR processes. By engaging in this discussion, the aim is to enhance understanding of effective participatory approaches and collectively address the existing barriers to inclusive and just VLRs and VSRs.

Agenda:

(15h15 - 15h25) Introductory words:

- Sergio Arredondo (Secretary General, FLACMA)

(15h25 - 15h55) Block 1: VLR and VSR participatory processes and the importance of multi-stakeholder dialogue

- Moderator: Ainara Fernández (Research Officer, UCLG)
- Asier Aranbarri (Director of Social Innovation, Basque Country)
- Melisa Gorondy-Novak (General Director for Institutional Articulation and Affairs of the Ministry of Coordination, Córdoba Province)
- Adrià Duarte (Coordinator, International Observatory on Participatory Democracy)

(15h55 - 16h35) Block 2: Social inclusion and justice for all through VLRs and VSRs

- Moderator: Sophia Torres (Advocacy Officer, HIC)
- Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha (Mayor, Dhulikhel Council)
- Arnau Queralt (Director of the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development, Generalitat de Catalunya)
- Amanda Fléty (Coordinator, CSIPDHR)

Open floor

(16h35 - 17h00) Block 3: Ways forward

- Moderator: Yehia Ibrahim (Policy Officer, UCLG MEWA)
- Omar Siddique (Head of Unit, Sustainable Urban Development, UNESCAP)
- Fernando Ortiz-Moya (Policy Researcher, IGES)
- Felipe Ochoa Mogrovejo (General Director of International Relations and Cooperation, Cuenca)

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(17h00 - 17h15) Concluding remarks:

- Osman Çorumlu (International Relations Coordinator, UCLG MEWA)
- Eugenia de Grazia (Program Officer of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat)
- Amson Sibanda (Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, UNDESA)

- Martino Miraglia (Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat)
- Anna Calvete Moreno (Research Officer, UCLG)

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