



Galway City Community Network
Líonra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Galway City Community Network

The Public Participation Network in Galway City

Localising the SDGs: Supporting SDG implementation at the sub-national level

Submission on the draft SDG National Implementation Plan

About Galway City Community Network

Galway City Community Network (GCCN) is the Public Participation Network in Galway City, representing 130 groups and organisations in the community, voluntary and environmental sectors. GCCN is the main link through which Galway City Council connects with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors. GCCN member organisations represent the network on a variety of bodies including the Council's Strategic Policy Committees. The twin objectives that GCCN pursues are to

- Advance the values of sustainability, equality, culture, community, empowerment and inclusivity and embed these in the policies, programmes and practice of local government, state organisations, national government and civil society;
- Develop and implement progressive models of and approaches to representation, participation and engagement for civil society in informing and shaping policy development and implementation.



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Localising the SDGs: Supporting SDG implementation at the sub-national level

“Most critical objectives and challenges of the Post-2015 Development Agenda will certainly depend on local action, community buy-in and local leadership, well-coordinated at and with all levels of governance...

Accountable local governments can promote strong local partnerships with all local stakeholders – civil society, private sector, etc...

Integrated and inclusive local development planning that involves all stakeholders is a key instrument to promoting ownership and the integration of the three dimensions of development –social, economic and environment.”

- **Helen Clark,**

Chair of the United Nations Development Group¹

In this short Submission, the Galway City Community Network wishes to:

1. Highlight the need for the National Implementation Plan to set out the approach for sub-national implementation of the SDGs at Local Authority level;
2. Offer some practical suggestions for the localisation of the SDGs in Ireland.

¹ UNDP (2015) *Localising the Post-2015 agenda: dialogues on implementation*. UNDP: New York. Available here: <http://localizingthesdgs.org/library/37/Dialogues-on-Localizing-the-Post-2015-Development-Agenda.pdf>

The importance of localising the SDGs

Localising the SDGs means setting out the role of sub-national government, governance and development structures in the implementation and monitoring of the post 2015 development agenda².

Regional Assemblies, Local Authorities, Local Development Companies, Public Participation Networks, Family Resource Centres and other rural and community development structures are important actors which can catalyse the realisation of the SDGs at a sub-national level in Ireland. In particular, these structures can:

- Monitor progress through the provision of disaggregated data that takes into account local and regional socio-economic and spatial differences;
- Support the targeting of resources to ensure SDG implementation in areas of disadvantage and amongst groups and communities facing discrimination;
- Engage with local civil society to support awareness, participation and the active involvement of communities in the realisation of the SDGs.

Localisation is recognised internationally as a key strategy for the implementation of the SDGs³. Local implementation can ensure the inclusion of a diversity of local stakeholders and create broad-based ownership of the SDGs.

How could this be achieved in the National Implementation Plan (NIP)?

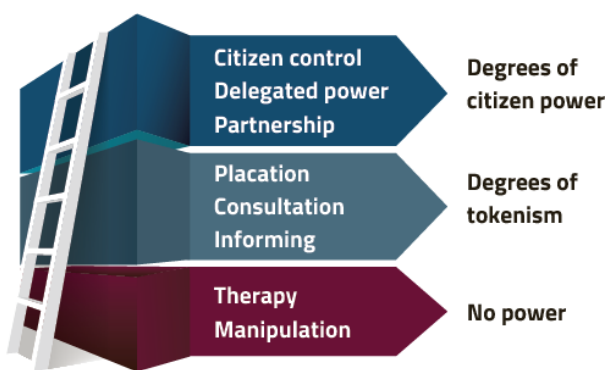
Page	Element of the NIP	Comment/ Proposal to enhance localisation
11	'Mainstreaming the SDGs'	GCCN welcomes the acknowledgement of the role of local authorities here. The role of local authorities and other local bodies should be further specified in section 3 (Governance). GCCN urges this policy mapping exercise to take cognisance of the policy architecture at local authority level, including the City & County Development Plans and Local Economic & Community Plans . The role of sub-national policy in the realisation of the SDGs is crucial. Government is in a position to play a positive enabling role to support local authorities to achieve policy coherence and drive SDG implementation locally.
12	'Budgeting'	GCCN recommends that Government, through the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and the Local Government Management Agency issue guidance to local authorities on the aligning of local authority budgets to SDG implementation priorities .
14	'SDG vision and priorities'	GCCN considers that the Government's (2015) Framework Policy for Local and Community Development is a crucial pillar of domestic SDG implementation which should be included in this list of strategies.
15	'Governance arrangements'	GCCN suggests that the three 'key element' of effective governance arrangements be amended as follows (additions in bold):

² Lucci, P. (2015) *'Localising' the Post-2015 agenda: What does it mean in practice?* ODI: London.

Available here: http://www.delog.org/cms/upload/teaser/ODI_Localising_Post-2015_What_does_it_mean_in_practice.pdf

³ A large number of resources on SDG localisation have been collated by the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance, of which Irish Aid is a member:

<http://delog.org/web/knowledge/topics/post-2015-2030-agenda/>




		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High levels of political engagement at all levels, including central, regional and local government ▪ Clear assignment of responsibilities for the SDGs across government and at regional and local authority levels ▪ ‘Whole of government’ co-ordination ▪ Effective co-ordination and collaboration between central, regional and local government’
15	‘Political engagement’	<p>High-level political engagement will indeed be essential to the implementation of the SDGs. GCCN believes that “high-level” political engagement will also be required from local authorities and suggests the inclusion of the following:</p> <p>“Furthermore, the Government is committed to supporting engagement and ownership of the SDGs amongst regional assemblies and local authorities and other local governance structures such as the Local Community Development Committees”</p>
15	‘Ministerial responsibilities’	<p>GCCN recommends that this section should outline the role of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in supporting the local authorities to implement the SDGs at sub-national level. This could include developing a matrix of responsibilities for leading and supporting SDG implementation at local level, and supporting local authorities to map their responsibilities into it⁴.</p>
16	Interdepartmental co-ordination	<p>GCCN recommends that consideration be given as to how best local authorities can be included in these co-ordination mechanisms, e.g. through representation by the Local Government Management Association.</p>
18	‘Stakeholder engagement’	<p>GCCN proposes “Arnstein’s ladder” as a framework for assessing the effectiveness of public participation in SDG implementation. The governance arrangements for stakeholder engagement should seek to empower communities and move towards the highest rungs of the ladder.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ARNSTEIN (1969) LADDER OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">In engaging all stakeholders, GCCN considers that the NIP should make reference to community development is an essential</p>

⁴ See below, “Mapping the goals to local authority competencies and concerns”




		<p>approach to supporting better and more inclusive public participation in decision making. As stated above, the NIP should reference and complement the Government’s (2015) Framework Policy for Local and Community Development. In designing stakeholder participation processes, particular attention must be paid to communities that are marginalised such a Travellers, women, lone parents, asylum seekers, migrants, the LGBTQI community, etc. Pobal, Local Development Companies, SICAP implementers all have a role to play in supporting broad and inclusive stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>We invite the SDG Interdepartmental Working Group to consider our <i>Guidelines for Successful Community Engagement</i>⁵ when designing stakeholder engagement mechanisms. In particular we urge Government to move towards a model of partnership and collaboration</p>
19	‘SDG Stakeholder forum’	<p>GCCN welcomes the inclusion of local government as member of the SDG Stakeholder Forum. We consider that membership of this forum should be expanded to include representatives of Local Community Development Committees, Local Development Companies, Public Participation Networks.</p> <p>Furthermore, NGO representation should be balanced between those NGOs working at a national level and community development organisations working at a sub-national level.</p> <p>GCCN further recommends that this Stakeholder Forum be chaired by an independent representative from civil society and that the Forum’s terms of reference provide for a level of democratic autonomy.</p>
21	‘Communications and Awareness Raising’	<p>Public Participation Networks (PPNs) have been established in each local authority are and provide a unique mechanism for the engagement of local civil society. The NIP should give due consideration to the role of PPNs in supporting public engagement with the SDGs.</p>


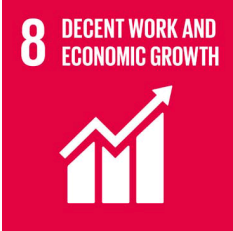

⁵ Available here: <http://galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/GCCN-Guidelines-for-Successful-Community-Engagement.pdf>

Localising the SDGs: Mapping the goals to local authority competencies and concerns⁶

Sustainable Development Goal	Description	Relevant issues for local authorities
 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basic service provision, including water, sanitation and housing/accommodation for all. ▪ Job creation, income generation and economic development. ▪ Building community resilience to social, environmental and economic “shocks”.
 <p>2 NO HUNGER</p>	<p>End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Address poverty barriers to safe, healthy and nutritious food for all. ▪ Achieve food sovereignty through local & food chains and sustainable food production systems. ▪ Supporting urban agriculture on both public and private land. ▪ Addressing food waste through urban planning for food transport and storage.
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use urban planning and public transport to reduce air pollution and congestion. ▪ Foster healthy lifestyles through access to green space, amenities and sporting opportunities for all. ▪ Prevent road traffic deaths through urban planning which prioritises pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

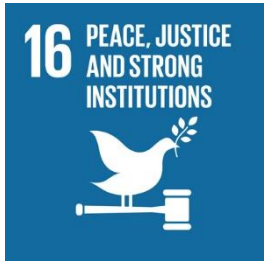
⁶ This section is a summary of UCLG (2016) *The SDGs: what local governments need to know*, available here: https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/the_sdgs_what_localgov_need_to_know_0.pdf

 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education. ▪ Integrate technical and vocational training programmes into local economic development strategies. ▪ Support marginalised communities to achieve equality of outcome in education and training provision. ▪ Provide opportunities for education for sustainable development including on issues of human rights, equality and culture’s contribution to sustainable development.
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure the local authority acts as a model for gender equality through non-discriminatory service provision and fair employment practices. ▪ Tackle sexual and gender based violence through local policing strategies and urban planning of public spaces. ▪ Supporting gender equality in the public sphere including in formal representative politics ▪ Mainstreaming gender equality across all areas of the council’s work.
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>Ensure availability and sustainable management for water and sanitation for all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protecting the right to safe drinking water for all. ▪ Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all with special attention to the needs of women and girls. ▪ Ensure water quality through environmental protection and sustainable solid waste management. ▪ Improve water-use efficiency across all sectors and integrated water resources management between local authorities. ▪ Protect and restore water related eco-systems. ▪ Support and strengthen the participation of communities in water and sanitation management.

 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify gaps in access to affordable energy for marginalised groups. ▪ Contribute to directly to energy efficiency by investing in energy efficient buildings and green energy sources in public buildings and public housing stock. ▪ Introduce sustainability criteria into procurement practices. ▪ Support integrated public transport solutions and promote the use of public transport over private vehicle use. ▪ Explore the use of smart city technologies to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support the development of resilient local economies and generate locally and culturally appropriate decent jobs that harness the unique resources and opportunities of the west. ▪ Support entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation through the local economic and community plan and other policies and initiatives. ▪ Assess the benefits and cost of tourism and support the sustainable development of the tourism sector which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products.
 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and maintaining sustainable, low carbon infrastructure to serve urban areas and link them with suburbs and environs. ▪ Promote small-scale industry and start-ups in local economic development planning. ▪ Identify and address gaps in access to ICT and the internet and take steps to bridge them through provision in public spaces such as libraries.

 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>Reduce inequalities within and among countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement best practice in terms of equality and non-discrimination in local government and local bodies including through the implementation of the public-sector duty. ▪ Support the political inclusion of minority and traditionally underrepresented groups through the design of participatory and inclusive public consultation processes. ▪ Maintain a focus on addressing poverty and inequality in economic planning. ▪ Poverty and equality proof local policies and plans including housing, arts and culture and sport to ensure equal access for all.
 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support access to adequate, safe and affordable housing as a human right. ▪ Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable public transport with special attention to the needs of older people and people with disabilities. ▪ Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, particularly for children, older people, people with disabilities and women. ▪ Protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage. ▪ Reduce the environmental impact of cities paying special attention to air quality and waste management. ▪ Promote positive social, environmental and economic links between urban peri-urban and rural areas through integrated planning. ▪
 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION</p>	<p>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support short supply chains which reduce transport and carbon emissions through local economic development policy, land management, infrastructure and urban planning. ▪ Support the sustainable production and consumption of energy and water through urban planning, industry regulation and taxation and public information and education. ▪ Establish procurement criteria that take waste and carbon emissions from potential providers into account. ▪ Ensure the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes through their life cycle and in accordance with agreed national and international frameworks. ▪ Support public awareness of the importance of sustainable production and consumption and equip the public with knowledge and tools to reduce their environmental impact.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support sustainable tourism that promotes local culture and products while reducing waste and carbon emissions.
	<p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into urban planning to reduce emissions and increase resilience to environmental shocks. ▪ Develop a comprehensive climate change strategy that considers the need for the rapid decarbonisation of the local economy including transport infrastructure, energy efficiency, retrofitting in public and private buildings and the promotion of renewable energy with a focus on community owned renewables.
	<p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure the safe management and discharge of sewage, industrial effluent and other wastewater. ▪ Protect oceans from other forms of pollution such as marine debris and nutrient pollution. ▪ Ensure planning and building regulations to prevent construction in unsuitable coastal areas. ▪ Sustainably manage and protect coastal ecosystems. ▪ Support small scale and artisanal fishers by facilitating access to marine resources and markets.
	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure the safe management and discharge of sewage, industrial effluent and other wastewater. ▪ Ensure conservation and sustainable use of freshwater ecosystems in line with international obligations. ▪ Promote the implementation of sustainable forest management, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation. ▪ Incentivise behavioural change for ecosystem protection through public events and grants such as Local Agenda 21. ▪ Integrate biodiversity conservation as an integral element of urban planning and development. ▪ Support community based participation and management of ecosystems.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- Address urban safety issues including sexual and gender based violence.
- Support participatory decision making and work to ensure responsiveness to communities, particularly those traditionally excluded.
- Ensure effective, accountable and transparent institutions and bodies
- Ensure public access to information



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

- Ensure local tax and revenue generated plays a role in supporting sustainable development.
- Ensure all policies developed at a local level are coherent with the need to address poverty reduction, equality and sustainable development
- Contribute to the global partnership through participation in multi-level and multi-stakeholder fora locally, nationally and globally
- Contribute to monitoring and evaluation locally through the collection of reliable local data and supporting participatory local evaluation.