

## CONCEPT NOTE

# SDGs SOLUTIONS TO RETHINK THE CITY

2 AND 3 DECEMBER 2021

# VENICE 2030

CITY SOLUTIONS



## CO-ORGANIZED BY:



ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA  
PER IL CONSIGLIO DEI COMUNI  
E DELLE REGIONI D'EUROPA



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# INTRO

Venice City Solutions 2030 is a yearly event that focuses on how cities and local governments are contributing to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for all.

Venice is not only an event; it is all-year process that bring partners together to develop narratives on how local governments can better contribute to Agenda 2030.

In this fourth edition, we want to gather innovative solutions that local governments and their partners are already experimenting and bringing into our streets. How cities are getting inspired by the SDGs, turning around old ways of doing things, and engaging citizens into local action.

This year's concept wants to "go to the point", by offering a platform to share with us what our partners are doing differently, how they are using SDGs as a tool to transform the city.

The COVID 19 crisis has given us many reasons to RETHINK. And we need to RETHINK the city, as a place in constant transformation, because innovation happens in cities.

This year, we want to find responses to some of these questions:

- How are the SDGs guiding the action of Mayors and city practitioners?
- How is Agenda 2030 influencing city planning and budgeting?
- How are SDGs changing the way local government plan and deliver services?
- Is Agenda 2030 helping cities to innovate, how and where?

# BACKGROUND

Entering its fourth year, Venice City Solutions 2030 has now become the only permanent event fully dedicated to the local implementation of SDGs. Venice focuses on the role of local and regional governments to implement SDGs, it also wants to bring traditional and non-traditional partners to our special vision on Agenda 2030 as an instrument to transform our cities, to trigger individual and collective action and to help municipalities to plan, deliver and communicate better what they do on a daily basis.

Each year, the recommendations and narratives produced in Venice are presented during the High-Level Political Forum, the official UN event that assess the state of implementation of Agenda 2030. An occasion to interact with member states and raise attention on issues that cities, local governments and their partners believe to be essential to reach the full potential of the SDGs.

The past editions of Venice City Solutions 2030 have focused on:

- Year 2018 "Financing the SDGs at local level"
- Year 2019 "Creating Citizenship: The SDGs as an Opportunity for All"
- Year 2020 "Visualizing Agenda 2030 in the city"

Venice City Solutions is the sum of efforts by its organizers. Our Italian host is AICCRE, who also keeps the event alive and bring together all our partners in Venice. The event is also co-organized by United Cities and Local Governments, the major network of cities and two UN agencies: the United Nations Development Programme and UN-Habitat, together with the UN SDG Action Campaign, who promotes Agenda 2030 on behalf of the whole UN system.

Each year, we count with different partners, local and international.

Venice is also the meeting point for UCLG Local4Actions Hubs, entering its second round, this new initiative aims to foster an active global community of cities and regions contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda by creating a platform for visibility through peer exchanges, learning, advocacy and communications work. Venice City Solutions 2030 is the UCLG Hub of the Local4Action Hubs, where all the HuBs have the opportunity to meet, to exchange and disseminate their experience among the global community.

# STRUCTURE & THEMES

Using different and interactive methodologies, each session will answer a series of questions and set the debate where the participants will jointly elaborate key messages and recommendations. Each session will showcase specific local experiences that are contributing to implement SDGs at local level, but also showing how SDGs are also transforming the way we think and rethink the city.

Taking stock from the 2020 edition, organizers will combine pre-recorded and live sessions, with a programme fully accessible through the [YouTube Channel](#)

Please CONTACT US if you are interested in organizing a session in Venice: we are opened to contributions as long as they follow these criteria:

1. Include a focus on the role of local governments
2. Showcase specific cases of innovative SDG implementation in cities
3. Respect regional and gender representation (with special focus on the global South).
4. Have a maximum duration of 50 minutes.

The full programme will be soon available at: [VeniceCitySolutions.com](https://VeniceCitySolutions.com)



## Welcome plenary: How are SDGs helping us to rethink the city?

PLANNING - SHARING - TRANSFORMING - INCLUDING

**WHEN?** City planning requires certain time and clear objectives, and 2030 is a deadline.

**WHY?** To have an effective change you need to have an inclusive approach, you need to communicate the SDGs

**WHAT?** In an urban world, we need to transform, to readapt to our urban context. The SDGs are a tool to do that.

**HOW?** The transformation must respond to the needs of the community that lives in the territory, therefore the city must become inclusive and accessible, targeting inequality

## GREEN TRAIL – PLANNING: USING SDGS TO PLAN CITIES

More and more cities are starting to include SDGs in their management systems. Mayors are creating SDG offices as programmatic focal point to coordinate their plan of actions, linking Agenda 2030 to the political mandate and beyond. As SDGs start to be integrated as local deliverables, they infiltrate the administration, making the criteria linked to sustainability more difficult to eliminate when a political change happens. This session will bring two cities that have already establish a “SDG Delivery Office” to tell us the details about how they are doing it.

## RED TRAIL – SHARING IDEALS: THE ROLE OF CULTURE TO LOCALIZE THE SDGS

Culture is directed linked to all aspects of our everyday lives, be it art, literature, science, politics, lifestyle, etc. Our culture reflects our traditions and beliefs, impacting not only our ways of interacting, but also of coexisting. However, at the same time that cultural aspects can connect people and communities, it can lead to conflicts and increase social exclusion. That is why development policies guided by a cultural component can create a sense of belonging, drive participation, and promote inclusion. In this sense, culture goes hand in hand with the SDG localization process. It can act as a vehicle to build social cohesion by reinforcing the SDG localization narrative on how to shape public policies based on the 2030 Agenda principles. Culture can help cities to raise awareness, nurture dialogues and facilitate mutual understanding, as well as provide access to knowledge and capacity building. This can generate a common understanding and place people's priorities and needs at the center of sustainable development, so that the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda can be translated into reality at the local level. Moreover, it can lead to the implementation of public policies and services that are sensitive to participatory processes, and at the same time, ensure that no one is left behind, by integrating and empowering minorities and excluded groups.



## YELLOW TRAIL – TRANSFORMING: A NEW SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

The industry of electric vehicles is suffering an authentic revolution. We are used to hear about electric cars, but in developing contexts, e-bikes and electric tuk-tuks are taking the place of cars as an affordable alternative for many workers. We want to share the innovations coming from the developing world, where the future is increasingly electric. Also, many cities have grown around a river. Water is a very important part of Agenda 2030 and we feel we have not sufficiently brought the importance of water in municipal action. This session wants to see how cities are using their waterways to promote a more sustainable and inclusive urban mobility. In a city like Venice, where all transport happens via water, they have a millennial experience, what is happening in other contexts and how can our city rivers contribute to Agenda 2030?

## BLUE TRAIL – INCLUDING: ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES IN THE CITY

Keynes and Co. used to talk about the role of the state to intervene in situations where the market was not working properly. The city is also an economic market where goods and services are exchanged within territorial borders. How are municipalities around the world are playing a role in this market? And how specifically are they using their action to promote equal opportunities. Many cities intervene providing social services to those who are unable to pay for those services, but also gives an added value to the collectivity, by taking individual actions and creating value out of acting together.

VENICE  
CITY SOLUTIONS  
2030





# RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2022

As in previous occasions, the recommendations from the event will be presented at the High-Level Political Forum, the formal mechanism to follow up on SDGs that gathers in New York in July of each year, giving the opportunity to transfer to member states and governments the new ideas and solutions identified during the event. The final session will gather the contribution of participants to next year HLPF, the formal session that, each year, revises the state of implementation of Agenda 2030 during a two-week period at the UN Headquarters in New York.

## LOCAL4ACTION HUBS BY UCLG

The Local4Action HUBs by UCLG initiative anchors the global agendas' localization on members' innovative practices, processes and initiatives, providing the platform to connect, synchronize and accelerate the delivery of the global agendas, setting cities and regions as main actors for global sustainability. It provides visibility and a UCLG label to local and regional government ambitious and transformative initiatives, setting local approaches to sustainability at the forefront of the global conversation.

In Venice all the HUBs have the opportunity to meet and exchange with other stakeholders as a community and to show how local and regional governments are showing that they want to accelerate, through the Hubs, strong actions that are catalysts for citizens and that guarantee sustainable development. This edition will be prodromal to the welcoming of the numerous Hubs that have joined the initiative.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

This edition will be online.

Interpretation will be available in English, French, Spanish and Italian.

For more information on this year Venice City Solutions, please contact:

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## PRE-REGISTER FOR THE EVENT

If you are interested in participating, please pre-register [here](#)