

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Cyprus is a unitary republic which has a single-tier local government system, comprising two categories of local government: urban municipalities and rural communities. In the Northern part of the island there are 9 municipalities and 137 communities. In the rest of the island there are 30 municipalities and 350 communities. Cyprus belongs to the group of EU members that have a centralized governance. There is government supervision over the exercise of the regulatory powers of local authorities.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **Action Plan for Growth** and the **National Reform Programme** prepared in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy are aligned with all three dimensions of sustainable development. With the National Reform Programme, key horizontal and sector-specific policy actions are being promoted aiming to address key economic challenges in order to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Commitments towards the implementation of the SDGs will also be addressed within the **Long-Term Economic Strategy** currently being under preparation.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The institutional mechanism for the coordination and implementation of the 2030 Agenda is composed of ministries and other governmental services, such as the Statistical Service, under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A relevant line ministry has been assigned as coordinator for each one of the 17 Goals. The Council of Ministers (CoM) appointed in 2018 the **Ministry of Finance**, through its Development Service (the **Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (DG EPCD)**) as the national coordinator for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The National Coordinator's competency comprises the effective incorporation of the SDGs in the national policy framework, the regular monitoring of progress and awareness raising events.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A consultation between all government departments, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has identified certain SDGs priorities for the 2017 VNR process. In 2021, each SDG has been allocated to the most pertinent ministry to prepare the input in cooperation with other Ministries involved and by also securing the input of the non-governmental stakeholders that are related to its area of activity. The DG EPCD initiated a mapping exercise in cooperation with line ministries in terms of national policies, strategies and action plans relevant to the SDGs.

1.3 MONITORING

The National Coordinator's competency comprises the effective incorporation of the SDGs into the national policy framework, the regular monitoring of progress and awareness raising events. A new project named "Implementation and mainstreaming of the SDGs in the national policy framework in Cyprus" was launched in December 2020, in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). It is a Governance and Monitoring Mechanism for the effective integration of SDGs into national policies and for their successful implementation.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15886Cyprus.pdf> (2017);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282512021_VNR_Report_Cyprus.pdf (2021)

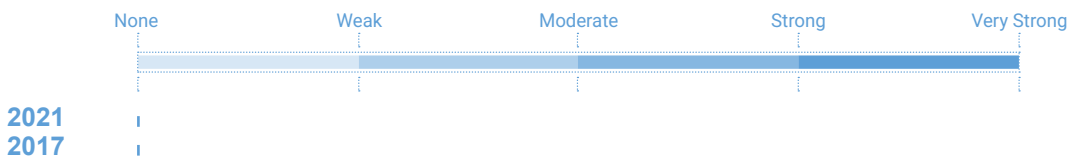
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The VNR presented in 2017 established that reaching out to local authorities was a necessary step for SDGs awareness and action. Engagement of the local authorities in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation is indeed targeted, as a necessary step towards creating ownership and involvement of the totality of the Cypriot society.

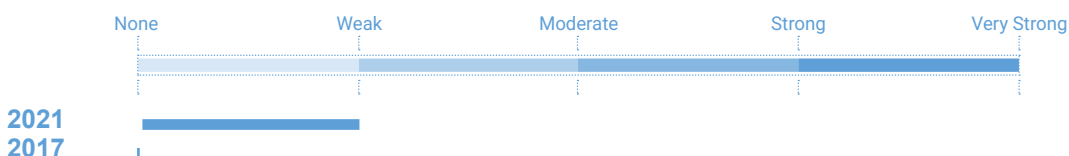
The 2021 VNR highlights that the public consultation process involves local authorities, social partners, businesses and other stakeholders in the formulation of most policy measures and initiatives at departmental and ministerial level.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is no specific subsection referring to the LRGs. Their role is mentioned through the document in a dispersed manner.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The Envision project that was aiming at social inclusion included LRGs and civil society from Greece and Cyprus. The project didn't explicitly mention SDG16 but it was within its spectrum.³ The project was implemented in collaboration with the [Union of Cyprus Municipalities \(UCM\)](#).⁴ A new project named "Implementation and mainstreaming of the SDGs in the national policy framework in Cyprus" was launched in December 2020, in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

► Many municipalities (e.g. [Strovolos](#), [Ypsonas](#), [Latsia](#), [Ayia Napa](#), [Athienou](#)) and local communities (e.g. [Louvara](#), [Mazotos](#), [Ayios Theodoros](#)) have conducted environmental evaluation studies to help them adapt to climate change.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2017 VNR stated that government grant schemes were under revision for better targeting on needs, and that new grant schemes need to be developed in order to boost the main components of the SDGs. The funds provided to Cyprus through the Multi-Annual Financial Mechanism of the EU offer significant support in implementing the Sustainability Agenda up until 2030. Additionally, through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)'s holistic approach and support of sustainable development in all its dimensions – economic, social and environmental – the implementation of the measures under the NRRP is expected to contribute to the improvement of the country's performance on the SDGs. Overall, a total amount of €1.2 billion (~6% of annual GDP) has been budgeted to promote 135 investments/reforms in total in all sectors of the economy. During the 2017-2020 period, urban local authorities were allocated €115 million to implement projects for the main historic centres of the four urban municipalities.

3. See: <https://www.project-envision.eu/site/en/project/about>

4. Answer of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities to the GTF Survey in 2021

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2017 VNR specified that due to the continued illegal occupation of 36.2% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish military forces since 1974, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control over all of its national territory. Consequently, all information and data included in the Voluntary National Review concerned the government-controlled areas.

An extensive local government reform will reduce the number of municipalities, leading to economies of scale and better services to citizens. It also aims at ensuring viability, creating community clusters for the provision of centralized services, introducing a new model of administration, transferring new competences from central government and its decentralized units to the municipalities to increase the range of services at a lower cost where possible, and improving the efficiency of water supply, sewerage and solid waste management by creating district organizations to undertake this task.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In the 2021 VNR, there is no reference regarding women participation in the decision making processes at the local level. The VNR highlights the advancements made with the Protection of Maternity Legislation which improved the level of protection afforded to pregnant women.

3.2 COVID 19

The government has adopted a support package for employees, the self-employed, vulnerable groups and businesses, which in 2020 amounted to €2.6 bln or 12.5% of GDP. Cyprus' pioneering mobilization of its volunteer network, under the coordination of the Office of the Commissioner for Volunteerism and NGOs, received EU wide recognition for its prompt and effective support of vulnerable groups following prescribed security protocols.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

| | | |
|---|-------|-------------|
| 5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments | | 16 (2019) |
| 6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%) | Urban | - |
| | Rural | - |
| 6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%) | Urban | 86 (2020) |
| | Rural | - |
| 11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%) | | - |
| 11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%) | | - |
| 11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted) | | 14.7 (2016) |
| 11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%) | | - |

5. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/cyp>