FRANCE

EUROPE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

France is a unitary republic with a three-tiered subnational government system. The country is divided into 18 regions, 101 departments and 35,357 municipalities.[1]

Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).[2]

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

In order to achieve the SDGs, France decided to follow a **Roadmap**, which was adopted in 2019. This aims at defining priority issues and the national trajectory for the implementation of sustainable development, while mobilizing concrete levers of action and engaging all stakeholders.[3]

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Sustainable Development Delegation** coordinates the national aspect of the implementation of the SDGs, in close consultation with all the ministries. The **Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs** is responsible for coordinating efforts towards achieving the SDGs at the international level. In order to ensure the transversality and consistency of France's action plan, an inter-ministerial steering committee has been set up in 2018: the **High-Level Steering Committee for the SDGs**. In addition, the Senior Sustainable Development Officials in each ministry constitute a network on which the Sustainable Development Delegation can rely to implement the coordination of public policies.[4]

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Interministerial Representative for Sustainable Development** and **General Commissioner for Sustainable Development** steered the drafting of the 2016 VNR. Workshops were organized by the Minister of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, in charge of Sustainable Development, and the Minister of State for Development and Francophonie, with participants from the international solidarity sector, the environment, education and social sectors, among others. National representative civil society bodies such as the National Council for Ecological Transition, the National Council for Development and International Solidarity and the National Advisory Commission on Human Rights were also consulted in the preparation of the report.

1.3 MONITORING

The **National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE)** ensures, in line with the different ministries and statistical services, the coordination of statistical work on indicators to allow the monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs. To define indicators adapted to France's specific and local priorities, a working group has been set up within the **National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS)**. Associations (such as ATD Fourth World, France Nature Environnement, Secours Catholique, etc.), research institutes (such as the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations), government institutions (such as the National Poverty and Social Exclusion Observatory) were thus invited to join the statistical services.[5]

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10729Rapport%20ODD%20France.pdf (2016)
3. See: https://www.agenda-2030.fr/feuille-de-route-de-la-france-pour-l-agenda-2030/ and https://www.agenda-2030.fr/agenda-2030/en-france/article/situation-et-organisation-de-la-mise-en-oeuvre-en-france#scrollNav-2-4
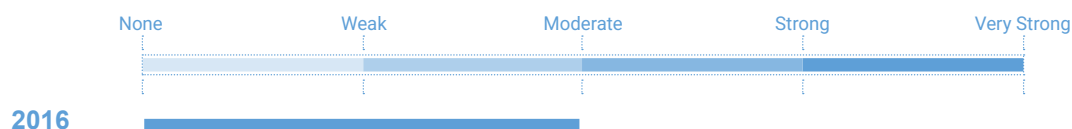4. See: https://www.agenda-2030.fr/agenda-2030/en-france/article/mobilisation-des-acteurs#scrollNav-1
5. See: https://www.agenda-2030.fr/agenda-2030/en-france/article/situation-et-organisation-de-la-mise-en-oeuvre-en-france#scrollNav-2-3
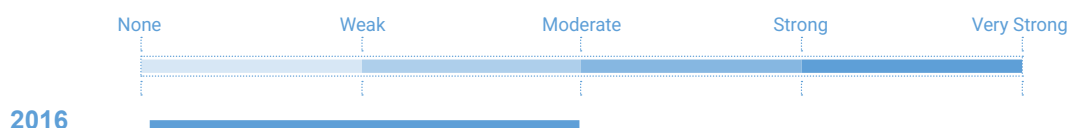
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Association of Mayors of France (AMF)**, the French section of CEMR (AFCCRE) and United Cities France (CUF), as well as the Assembly of Departments and the French Associations of Regions (RdF), were invited to the **High-Level Steering Committee for the SDGs**. A number of them created a working group on the SDGs and decentralized cooperation bringing together various French cities and regions. Consequently, cities and regions began to align their plans with the SDGs.[6]

The 2016 VNR stated that regional consultative workshops could be held for local actors to take up the SDGs and contribute to the elaboration of a national action plan. Shared local diagnoses could be conducted to identify the assets and challenges of the French mainland and overseas regions with respect to the SDGs. The regional economic, social and environmental councils could be usefully associated with these diagnoses.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

▶ **In the VNR process**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2016

▶ **In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2016

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

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2016 VNR contains very few references to LRGs, and no specific example of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

▶ France has 19 eco-cities, 39 eco-neighborhoods and nearly 400 positive energy territories for green growth which roll out exemplary practical, innovative and effective solutions for a new way of shaping the urban fabric. 16 consortia of businesses and regions have been awarded the title "Industrial Demonstrators for Sustainable Cities" in order to develop exemplary and innovative urban projects, benefiting from technical assistance from the government for five years and support from the Investment in the Future programme. The key features of these demonstrators are a small carbon footprint, energy self-sufficiency, the circular economy, water protection, the restoration of biodiversity, functional and social diversity and community involvement.

▶ With a specific focus on the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs, the city of **Besançon** has put forward a comprehensive set of actions to steer sustainable development in its territory, structured along the five axes of sustainability adopted after the Rio 1992 Earth Summit. These are: the fight against climate change; the preservation of biodiversity; the promotion of social cohesion; the protection of human life conditions; and the shift towards responsible production and consumption modes. The city council has developed initiatives along these lines, engaging a broad scope of local stakeholders, including a broad strategy to enhance energy efficiency (urban renewal, renewable energies), while reducing the ecological impact and improving environmental protection. Moreover, the city seeks to embed cohesiveness combining actions based on the promotion of culture and the inclusion of vulnerable populations with the elaboration of local development action plans via citizen participation.

▶ To advance gender equality in the **Île-de-France** region, a vast communication campaign across the public transport network was carried out in cooperation with Ile-de-France Mobilités, the Paris urban transit agency (RATP) and train company (SNCF Transilien): 'Never minimize sexual harassment: Victim or witness, speak up!'.

▶ During the COVID-19 pandemic, the city of **Bordeaux** created an orientation platform for workers in the cultural sector.[7]

6. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
7. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf

► **Bordeaux Métropole** created a territorial observatory on the contribution to SDG implementation, as well as a food governance council, implemented a reforestation program ('1 million trees'), and established a support system for reducing energy consumption. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it also drew up a plan to support the local economy.[8]

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

The city of **Besançon** prepared VLRs in 2018 and 2019.[9] **Niort** also presented a VLR in 2020.[10]

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2016 VNR mentions that under the "Breathable Cities in Five Years" initiative, France is helping 20 local authorities for a five-year period with funding of up to €1 million per action and grants for the purchase of clean vehicles.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: France's multifaceted local government reform in 2010 included several measures, such as the reform of the local taxation system (reduction of local taxing power) and equalization mechanisms; a streamlining of inter-municipal cooperation; and the creation of a new status of metropole. Important parts of the 2010 legislation were later revoked and the 2013-2015 Act III of Decentralization resulted in new territorial and decentralization reforms, including the law on metropoles (2014), regional mergers (2014) and the NOTRe law (2015). The latter modifies the allocation of responsibilities across different SNG levels, strengthening the responsibilities of regions (on economic development, territorial planning, environment protection and vocational training). Reforms since 2010 have been incremental, addressing metropolitan governance, reform of regional boundaries, subnational responsibilities and inter-municipal cooperation; greater powers are also envisaged for the French regions.[11]

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Local authorities are essential in the territorialization of the national recovery plan called "France Relance". Through contractualization, in particular with the regions within the framework of state-region contracts, but also through collaboration between the prefects and local authorities, local governments are a key player in the concrete and local implementation of the national recovery objectives. The plan covers four types of measures: allocations in the hands of regional prefects, measures which give rise to contracts with local authorities, national measures whose implementation will depend on local elected officials, measures passing through operators. In **Hérault**, for example, nearly 11 M € in the first endowment has been allocated by the state to support concrete projects around three main areas: ecological transition, sovereignty and economic competitiveness, social and territorial cohesion.[12]

The local government association **United Cities France** (CUF) advocated the national government not to forget its support for African countries and Haiti's local governments in the fight against the pandemic. It also held several meetings on the management of the pandemic by the African, Haitian and French LRGs. A capitalization document was drafted on these issues as well as an advocacy video.[13]

8. See: https://ccgad.bordeaux-metropole.fr/ and http://fondsurgencebordeauxmetropole.fr/FondsDeSoutienCOVID19.
Answer of Bordeaux Métropole to the GTF Survey in 2021.
9. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Besanc%CC%A7on%20(2018)_0.pdf and https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/besancon_2019.pdf
10. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/niort_2020.pdf
11. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
12. Answer of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole to the GTF Survey in 2021.
13. Answer of United Cities France (Cités Unies France) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

4. SDG INDICATORS[14]

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		40.0 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	**Urban**	100 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	**Urban**	-
	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 (%)		100 (2015, Paris)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		11.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2018)