



## BELARUSIAN-GEORGIAN EXPERT REVIEW:

# “Strengthening SDGs localization on the subnational level in Georgia and Belarus with the consideration of German experience and expertise”

**Authors:** Nanuka Kruashvili, Siarhei Tarasiuk, Gvantsa Akiashvili, Dzmitry Karpiyevich, Alexander Liampert, Anna Sidorovich

## OBJECTIVES:

Support the localization of SDGs in Georgia and Belarus by incorporating best practices and expertise from Germany.

Focus on establishing institutional frameworks for SDG localization at the local level, integrating SDGs into local policy documents, and promoting inclusiveness and stakeholder participation.

## OUTCOMES OF THE COOPERATION:

- 1 The Belarusian-Georgian expert team enriched the mutual experience with the support of German partners.
- 2 The team initiated concept notes for testing recommendations and multiplying the best review practices in Georgia and other European Eastern Partnership countries.

## BACKGROUND

In 2015, 193 UN member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes

### 17 GLOBAL GOALS (SDGS)

to be achieved by 2030.



### THE YEAR 2023 MARKS HALFWAY

towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Local authorities, businesses and initiative groups play a crucial role in achieving the SDGs due to the practice activities implemented by communities in urban and rural areas.

### “THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY”

**People have to consider the health of the entire planet and take action in their communities and cities**

While progress has been made, many challenges slow the localization of SDGs in local communities in Belarus and Georgia. Both countries have a unique experience for mutual learning to strengthen the localization of the SDGs in each of them.

### Full text of the review:



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## PROCESS OF THE BELARUSIAN AND GEORGIAN COOPERATION:



- In April 2022, experts from Belarus and Georgia met for the first time to exchange experiences on the progress of SDG localization in their countries.
- Following meetings of experts from the two countries, familiarization with the experience of localizing the SDGs in the regions of Georgia and the best practices in Belarus, a discussion platform and the experience of localizing the SDGs in the Dusheti municipality demonstrated mutual interest in the in-depth study of the experience of the two countries and finding solutions to strengthen the localization of the SDGs as a way to increase the sustainability of local development.
- Exchanges of experience on SDG localization in Germany in 2022-2023 have enriched the experts of the two countries with best practices in German municipalities on SDG localization.
- In November 2022, experts initiated developing a review, summarizing the experience of the two countries, as well as developing recommendations for the authorities, non-profit organizations and donor organizations to strengthen the localization of the SDGs in each of the countries. These recommendations can be also useful in other European Eastern Partnership countries that had a common history in the recent past, and now have been developing as independent states for more than 30 years: Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan.

## KEY FINDINGS



### BELARUS

- Belarus has actively pursued sustainable development since 1997, with the adoption of local agendas for 21 regions.
- All 17 SDGs are considered important but some, like SDG 14 (Life Below Water), are often overlooked.
- Local sustainable development strategies are not always fully aligned with the SDGs and the implementation of intersectoral priorities remains a challenge.
- The competence of development participants and the absence of a unified methodology for developing strategies pose difficulties.
- The localization of SDGs requires context-driven approaches, innovative development tools, and participatory and intersectoral approaches.



### GEORGIA

- Georgia has a history of commitment to the Millennium Development Goals but the efforts to advance the SDGs have been insufficient.
- The localization plan for SDGs in Georgia aims to manage the localization process in all 64 municipalities by 2025.
- Institutionalization and a strong national decentralization strategy are crucial for the effective SDG implementation.
- The institutional framework for the SDG implementation needs improvements at both national and local levels.



## → RECOMMENDATIONS:



Develop sustainable development strategies systematically at all levels of territorial administration.



Establish a unified methodology for developing strategies and ensure integration with other public administration documents.



Implement a system of clear and accessible verified development indicators for monitoring and evaluation.



Empower SDG governance structures to influence decisions at all levels of development.



Introduce public reports on the localization of SDGs to raise awareness and enhance accountability.