Localisation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals in Gothenburg, Sweden

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Preamble

The research reported here is part of a comparative transdisciplinary co-production research project led by Mistra Urban Futures and called '[Implementing the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the Sustainable Development Goals: Comparative Urban Perspectives](#)'. The project commenced in mid-2017 and will be completed in the end of 2019. The project was designed to follow and support the understanding, engagement and implementation of two global agendas at the city level, the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). The project is a more comprehensive sequel of the 2015 pilot that Mistra Urban Futures undertook to test the then draft targets and indicators of what became SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

The project includes seven cities of small to medium size, Buenos Aires in Argentina, Cape Town in South Africa, Gothenburg and Malmö in Sweden, Kisumu in Kenya, and Sheffield in the UK. In each city, local researchers were appointed to co-produce research with city officials. The aims of the project were to analyse: 1) how the case study cities engage with the 2030 Agenda and the NUA, which included examining the interactions between the local, regional and national levels in the context of these agendas; 2) to what extent these agendas contribute to local sustainability and planning processes; and 3) how cities are evaluating progress towards achieving the SDGs and NUA ambitions, including looking at the indicators used for monitoring SDG target achievement.

This report is based on the research carried out in the city of Gothenburg. Given the limited engagement of the city with the New Urban Agenda (see section 3), the report focuses mostly on the 2030 Agenda.

1. Introduction of the City and the Co-production Process

Introduction to the city of Gothenburg:

Gothenburg is Sweden's second largest city with a population of over 570,000, and a metropolitan region of about 1 million inhabitants. About 27% of the people living in the city were born outside of Sweden (according to 2018 data) (SCB 2019a). The city is the main economic hub for the larger metropolitan region and the Region Västra Götaland, in which it is located. The city is growing rapidly, planning to make space for 150,000 new residents by 2035, with plans to build 80,000 new homes and workplaces. Large projects are taking place in the centre of the city, where current industrial land is planned to be transformed over the next 2 decades into 15,000 homes and 45,000

workplaces (Göteborgs Stad 2018a). The city is experiencing increasing socio-spatial segregation, income inequality, relative poverty since the 1990s as well as and housing shortages and air quality problems (Göteborgs stad 2017). Long-term unemployment rate for population between 25-64 years old is 3.6% (2018 data)[1], but it varies significantly between different parts of the city from 0,45 % in the well-off area of the Southern Archipelago (*Södra Skärgården*) to 9.6% in the low income area of Southern Angered (*Södra Angered)* (Göteborgs stad 2017, 163). Thus, the city is facing the challenge of building at a rapid pace a dense, yet green city while trying to overcome its segregation problems.

In Sweden, municipalities are responsible by law of several areas critical to welfare such as schools, childcare, social services, elderly care, targeted efforts for people with disabilities and healthcare (although parts of the healthcare system are the responsibility of the regional level), as well as issues crucial for the environment and a well-functioning city such as environmental protection, waste management, water supply and emergency services[2] (Göteborgs Stad 2018a).

The City[3] of Gothenburg is an organisation comprised of departments (or administrations) and municipal companies and employs more than 56,000 people. The City Council is the supreme decision-making body and its politicians are elected by the citizens. Under the City Council is the City Executive Board, which leads and co-ordinates operations. The operational arm of the City Executive Board is the City Executive (Göteborgs Stad 2018a).

Co-production process

Since mid-2017, an agreement was made between Mistra Urban Futures Gothenburg Platform leadership and the leadership at the City Executive Office that the City would participate in the comparative SDGs research project as co-production partners. The agreement consisted in giving me access to participate in the monthly meetings of a small internal group that was formed a few months before at the City Executive Office (*Stadsledningskontoret – SLK*) to work with the 2030 Agenda (here forth, the SLK A2030 team)[4]. The research co-production process has taken place mostly between me, as a researcher, and this team. No specific terms of reference were agreed

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[1] https://www.kolada.se/index.php?_p=jamforelse&unit_id=16699
[2] Some emergency services such as rescue services and preventive fire protection lie on the Greater Gothenburg Rescue Services – *Räddningstjänsten Storgöteborg* – which is a municipal association with six member municipalities: Gothenburg, Mölndal, Kungsbacka, Härryda, Partille and Lerum (http://www.rsgbg.se/om-oss/).
[3] In this report, 'City' (with upper-case 'C') denotes the municipal organisation as such, whereas 'city' (with lower-case 'c') denotes the physical urban settlement area plus its inhabitants and other constituent stakeholders (including the City).
[4] Special thanks to the members of the Agenda 2030 working group who welcomed me as a team member and contributed to making this work possible: Sara Pettersson, Fredrik Karlsson, Lena Risfelt, Helena Österlind, Katrin Olausson, Susanna Lauritzen. As well as former members of the group, the late Pia Borg (who was my first contact at the City of Gothenburg and was key in making the co-production partnership between Mistra Urban Futures and the City in the context of this project possible), Helen Arfvidsson and Anna Lagerquist.

upon, rather the collaborative work has developed throughout the meetings based on the needs and priorities of the SLK A2030 team and the expected outputs of the project.

The SLK A2030 team currently composed of six staff from the City Executive Office has a wide competence as together the team members cover the three dimensions of sustainability, the social, environmental and economic, with members' expertise addressing issues including environment, climate change, democracy, equality, city development, strategic analysis, public health and communications. The work of the team has focused mostly on the assignments that have been given by the City Executive Board related to analysing how the 2030 Agenda relates to the City's existing work and to make the Agenda known by the City departments and municipal companies' staff (these assignment will be further explained later in the report).

By having access to the monthly meetings of the SLK A2030 team, I have been able to better understand the internal procedures of localising an international agenda, particularly when the assignments by the City Executive Board have been limited in scope and no clear political mandate has yet been given to integrate the Agenda into the City's planning mechanisms, such as the City's annual budget or the City's governing documents, which are adopted by the City Council. In addition, I have been able to participate actively in the discussions on the work the group is doing relating the Agenda, provide comments on documentation prepared by the team when requested, participate in meetings with other staff of the city and co-organise a few 2030 Agenda-related events (e.g., the Mistra Urban Futures lunch time seminar on the 2030 Agenda in September 2019 and the City's communications day on the 2030 Agenda in October 2019). Another example of the working collaboration is that at the beginning of the project, I provided the SLK A2030 team with a suggested framework on how to map the City's work to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the form of an excel sheet database with guiding questions. The team used this framework to fulfil the first assignment received by the City Executive Board, which included mapping the City's activities to the SDGs. Similarly, the SLK A2030 team has provided guidance, comments and feedback on the work that I have done. One example is the work on synergies and conflicts between the City's main strategies and the SDGs (see section 4 below for more information) that I have been carrying out. The SLK team deemed that such an analysis would be relevant for their work and that having an external researcher would provide them with a valuable perspective. I had several discussions with a few members of the team to narrow down the strategies to analyse and to provide comments and feedback on parts of the analysis.

2. Main Actors and Activities in the Localisation of the SDGs in Gothenburg

Public Sector – City Executive Office

The City of Gothenburg is still on its early stages of the localisation or adaptation of the SDGs to the city. The localisation process has not been an organised or coordinated process following a

political statement or directive. In contrast to other cities in Sweden such as Malmö, Uppsala and Stockholm, where there has been a very explicit political commitment to using the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs as a planning and implementation framework for their sustainability work, such a political statement has not been given in Gothenburg by the City Council or City Executive Board.

The City Executive Board has provided a few concrete tasks to the City Executive Office (SLK). These tasks have been:

1) to analyse how the Agenda could be systematically integrated into the City's planning system (task given in November 2017 and to be completed by spring of 2018);

2) to make it clear in future annual reports how the city's work links with the SDGs (task given in April 2018); and

3) to carry out communication initiatives to make the SDGs better known within the City's operations (task given in April 2018).

The SLK A2030 team has been assigned with delivering most of the assignments (except for the annual reporting, which has been assigned to the group in charge of annual reports at the City Executive Office). The SLK A2030 team has also been the main point of contact for the City for any national or international requests regarding information about the 2030 Agenda.

It is important to highlight that all the tasks given by the City Executive Office regarding the 2030 Agenda were given by the previous political coalition (Social Democrats, Green and Left parties). The new political coalition (Moderates, Liberals, Centre and Christian Democrats) who took power after the elections in September 2018 did not dismiss the tasks but have also not provided new ones. It is also worth underscoring that the tasks have been aimed at the City administration and City staff and not to other actors outside of the City administration such as private sector and civil society, therefore the relation of the City Administration with other actors outside the municipality in 2030 Agenda matters has been limited. At the same time, the SLK A2030 team has participated in several meetings and networking events at the city and regional level.

The first and last tasks given to SLK by the City Executive Board have been carried out as follows:

➔ *City Executive Office's analysis of how the City could systematically integrate the SDGs into its planning system*

The first task was given by the City Executive Board in November 2017 and it has been one of the main initiatives regarding the 2030 Agenda that the City Executive Office has taken. The analysis was to be done by members of the SLK A2030 team in coordination with relevant City departments. A report written by members of the SLK A2030 team was submitted to the City

Executive Board in April 2018 as a response to the assignment. I participated in the discussions that the team had during the development of the report, but the actual report was written solely by City staff.

The report concludes that both the City's long-term governing documents and the goals in the budget for 2018 are in line with the SDGs. The report included an analysis of the City's 2018 budget with regards to the SDGs, which showed that the City's budget goals of that year were closely linked to the SDGs whereby all budget goals were correlated to at least one SDG and all SDGs had a link to at least one budget goal. An update of the analysis has been done using the City's 2019 budget and a similar conclusion was reached, that is, that together, the goals of the City's budget address all the SDGs (see Fig. 1).

The report also included an analysis of which SDG targets were relevant to the city. Of the 169 targets, 100 are considered relevant to Gothenburg[5]. The relevance was judged based on issues that concern the geographical area of the municipality as well as the extent to which the City has political mandates or jurisdiction over those issues. The analysis showed that the City of Gothenburg has mandates essentially over all the relevant targets. The City also has programmes and plans that address most areas specified in the relevant targets. At the same time, the report underscored that more coherent governance would be desirable in some issues, such as in climate change, especially climate change adaptation as a comprehensive adaptation plan for the city is lacking[6].

The report highlighted, however, that even if the City has mandate over a large number of issues addressed by the 2030 Agenda, the City alone cannot meet the SDGs and thus partnerships and collaboration outside the City government are crucial for achieving the SDGs. In addition, as part of the feedback sessions on the report, staff from different departments raised the issue that while the City has a mandate and thus potential influence over a wide range of SDG targets, the City is not fully taking advantage of that mandate in its programmes and plans. In other words, there are gaps between the mandate of the City, what is planned and what is implemented.

One of the report's main messages is that the City is already doing significant work related to sustainability, that the City has worked for several years in cross-sectoral work and in integrating the three dimensions of sustainability into the City's budget goals. Overall, there are few gaps when it comes to the city's intentions to address the issues contained in the 17 SDGs. However,

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[5] In contrast, in Malmö only 90 SDG targets were found to be relevant for the City. This can be explained by a different logic being used when analysing relevance, but both analyses can be justified (Göteborgs Stad 2018b).
[6] The City is currently revising its Comprehensive Plan (*översiktsplan)* (to be approved by the City Council in early 2020) and it includes a whole section (one of the appendices to the main plan) dedicated to climate change adaptation. An SDGs analysis done by the Environmental Administration (see table 1) also pointed out that the current Environmental Programme does not include adaptation.

another aspect raised by staff of different City departments[7] is that the City lacks an overarching sustainability strategy that provides clearer direction to all City departments, municipal companies on the vision the City as a whole has of sustainability and how to work jointly to achieve such a vision.
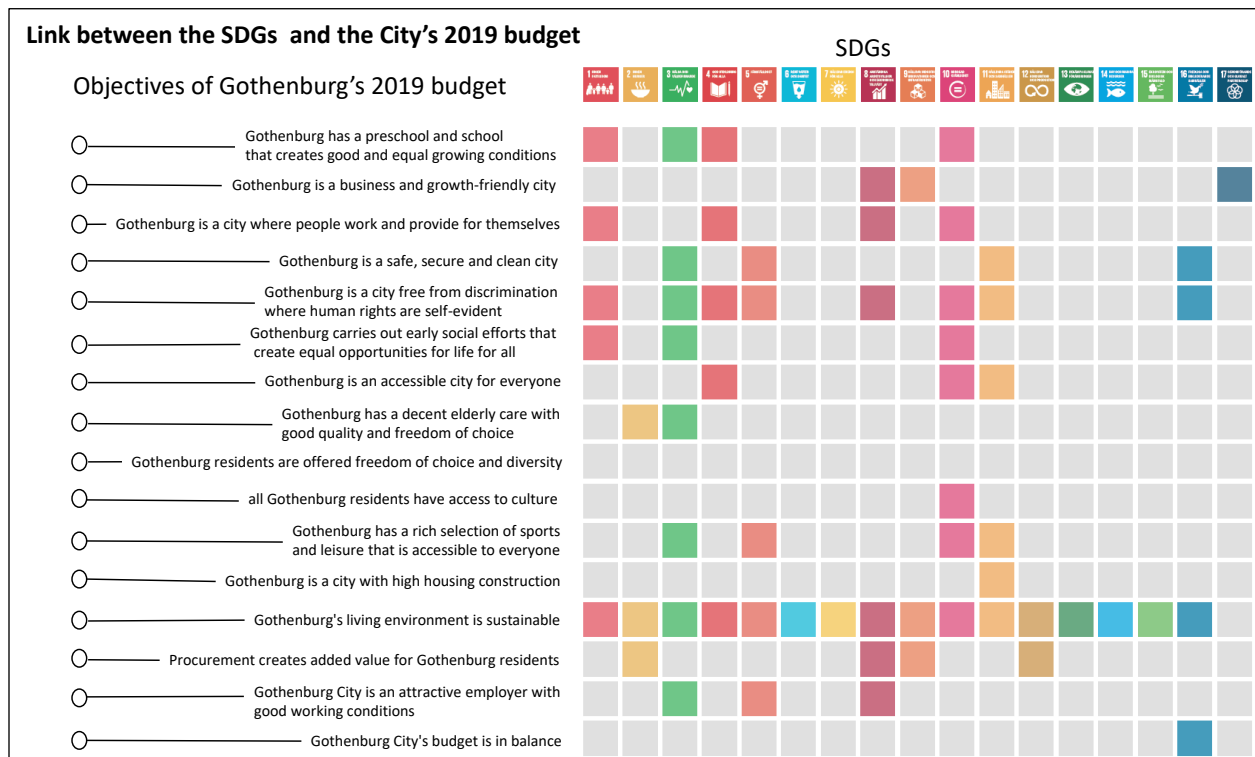

Figure 1. Mapping of Gothenburg City's 2019 budget to the SDGs
Source: SLK A2030 Team analysis. *Translated to English by author*

Another main message of the report is that the City's annual budget takes precedence over all other municipal planning instruments[8] (aside from each department's and thus if the City wants to integrate the SDGs into its steering and planning processes, it needs to do so through the budget. One challenge with this is that the budget's one-year timeframe makes it vulnerable to rapid political changes and limits the city's ability to undertake long-term planning to achieve the sustainability transformations aimed in the 2030 Agenda.

Even with the report's message about the importance of using the annual budget as a key instrument to integrate the SDGs into the City's work, in the budget proposals for 2019 that all parties submitted, only the environmental party based its budget on the SDGs. None of the other parties even mentioned them. It should be recognised, however, that in the past years the budgets

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[7] In the feedback sessions as well as in interviews I have conducted throughout the research project with staff from different departments.
[8] This does not include existing laws and the founding bylaws of each department and municipal company.

have been quite comprehensive and address the three dimensions of sustainability, even if the 2030 Agenda is not used as a guiding framework.

Even in the background document of the budget proposal for 2020 (*budgetunderlag)*, there is a short section dedicated to the 2030 Agenda, where the City states how it has been and plans to continue working with the three dimensions of sustainability. However, no budget lines are explicitly directed to the Agenda. In the budget proposals for 2020 that the different parties/party blocks submitted in mid-October 2019, only the proposal from the Left, Green and Feminist Initiative coalition, which is a small coalition and not the ruling one, mentions the aim to contribute to achieving the SDGs. While all other parties and party coalitions address sustainability in one way or another in their budget proposals, the 2030 Agenda is not mentioned. The 2020 budget proposal (presented at the end of October 2019) of the current ruling minority coalition (which is composed of the Moderates, Liberals, Centre and Christian Democratic parties) does not explicitly mention Agenda 2030 but a task is given to the Environmental and Climate Council to revise the City's environmental and climate programs so that the City's environmental and climate work is in line with the goals agreed by UN members.

The budget examples above show that there is no agreement between parties on how and to what extent the city should engage with the 2030 Agenda. Another example that shows this lack of agreement is the that a task was proposed in August to 2019 in the City Executive Board by the Green, Left and Social Democratic parties to the City Executive Office and the Environment and Climate Committee. The proposed task consisted in making a clear link to the 2030 Agenda, with the broader concept of sustainable development, as part of the current revision of the City's Environmental Programme as well as to consider the possibility of creating a 2030 Agenda advisory board as the City of Stockholm has done. The proposed task did not receive majority of favourable votes and thus it is not being implemented.

➔ *Communication initiatives to make the SDGs better known within the City's operations*

This task has been done by developing a communications plan with several activities and which was approved by SLK leadership in early 2019. As part of communications plan, the 2030 Agenda has been included in the City's introduction for new employees and the capacity building for politicians carried out in the second part of 2019. A workshop was also organised by the A2030 SLK team on October 24 where key personnel, i.e. staff dealing with sustainability issues, from all the departments, City Districts and municipal companies were invited. More than 70 persons attended the workshop, which gave an introduction of the 2030 Agenda, what has been doing regarding the Agenda at the European, national and city level, as well as examples from other Swedish municipalities. I was part of the working group of the A2030 SLK team which organised the workshop and I was invited to present on the topic of synergies and conflicts between the City's main strategies and the SDGs (see section 4 for additional information on the analysis). The

workshop ended with group discussions on different topics related to implementing the 2030 Agenda in Gothenburg, with a particular focus on synergies and conflicts.

Public Sector – City, Regional and National Initiatives

Despite the lack of a clear political mandate on the 2030 Agenda from the top political levels, i.e. the City Council or the City Executive Board (aside for the concrete tasks given by the City Executive Board to SLK in 2017 and 2018), the Agenda is slowly percolating throughout the City with increasing interest, particularly the last year, from different City departments and municipal companies to work with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. The first step that most have taken has been to map their organisations activities against the SDGs. Based on interviews and discussions I have had with different actors in the City, those that have started to engage with the Agenda consider it can provide a useful framework to work across the three dimensions of sustainability and promote cross-sectoral work. Some of the actors also see it a useful communication tool about their sustainability work both internally (within their organisations), externally (with other actors around the city) and internationally. Using it as a guiding framework and communications tool is also not considered to contradict their organisation's basic tasks and regulations but rather complement them. At the same time, while there is interest in working with the 2030 Agenda, the lack of clear political signals has limited the work. Several of the City departments and municipal companies have been expecting clear guidance and leadership from the City Council and the City Executive Office on how and to what extent to engage with this Agenda.

The lack of a political directive has made the work of the City Executive Office, particularly the SLK A2030 team, more challenging as they cannot provide guidance on using the 2030 Agenda without a clear political mandate. There has been a concern from staff at the City Executive Office that if Departments start using the SDGs as a framework for implementing and monitoring their sustainability work, that parallel processes will be created with the existing monitoring mechanisms of the City.

One of the departments that has been interested in integrating the 2030 Agenda into its work is the Social Resources Administration, particularly the group working with the 'Equal City' program. The group considers the 2030 Agenda as a useful framework that can be used to communicate and coordinate, as well as a coherent framework that paves way for collaboration with the academia, private sector and the civil society. The group organised an event in early 2019 with the four largest cities in Sweden (Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmö and Uppsala) to share experiences on how the other cities have integrated the SDGs into their steering and planning processes.

At the regional level, organisations such as the Västra Götaland Region and Gothenburg Region (a co-operative organisation uniting thirteen municipalities in western Sweden) have also organised meetings and events to share experiences around SDGs localisation between

municipalities in the region. At the national level, the government of Sweden has committed to achieving the SDGs and being a leader in their implementation. In several national level reports, including the National Action Plan for the work on the 2030 Agenda in the years 2018-2020, presented in June 2018, the government has highlighted the crucial role of regional and local governments in the implementation of the Agenda.

Most of the activities of the different city and regional actors have been limited, thus far, to mapping how their current activities contribute or relate to the SDGs but there is limited evidence of significant initiatives or changes in the status quo aimed at transformational sustainability outcomes linked to the 2030 Agenda.

Below is a non-exhaustive table with some of the more prominent actors –at the city, regional and national level– that have engaged in different extents with the 2030 Agenda (Table 1). The research has focused mostly on government actors and thus there is a bias over these actors in the table below. This means that there might be initiatives from civil society and the private sector that are not accounted for in this table.

Table 1. Examples of city, regional and national actors' engagement with the 2030 Agenda

Actor/Institution	Role in SDG localisation	SDGs in focus	Additional comments
Level at which it operates: City			
City Executive Office (*Stadsledningskontoret*)	The City Executive Office formed an internal working group on the 2030 Agenda in 2017. The activities of the group include: monitoring of SDGs-related work in the city, Sweden and Europe; contact point for the City on 2030 Agenda matters; responding to requests for reviews and information on the 2030 Agenda (e.g., reviewing the final report of the National-level Agenda 2030 delegation); main counterpart for Mistra Urban Futures SDGs project. See text above under section 2 for the official tasks given to the A2030 group by City Executive Council. The City Executive Office also coordinates the City's Innovation Programme. One of the programme's project GO:innovation uses the 2030 Agenda as a starting point.	All	The 2030 Agenda group has broad competence with staff working on topics including environment, democracy, equality, city development, strategic analysis, public health and communications. In 2017 and 2018 the team also had a member specialised in human rights but the person is no longer working at SLK.
City Planning Office (*Stadsbyggnadskontoret*)	The City's comprehensive plan is currently under revision, to be approved in early 2020. There were initial discussions to include the 2030 Agenda in the revision. 2030 Agenda is only mentioned briefly in the current draft, but it is not integrated explicitly in a significant way into the new plan. However, the staff leading the new plan state that the Agenda continues to be part of the discussions and increasingly so.	All	
Consumer and Citizen Services Administration (*Konsument och Medborgarservice - KoM*)	In 2017 KoM started an analysis of the relevance of the SDGs to their work. They further analysed the relevance of targets based on their relation to KoM's main tasks, the level of priority of those issues within their main tasks and their ability to influence the outcomes of the targets. For the relevant targets, they looked at the existing policies and activities of their Administration as a way to look for gaps between issues that are part of their mandate but may not have concrete policies and initiatives in place. In 2019, the Sustainable Development unit at KoM has started to map their activities and projects primarily against SDG 12 as well as other targets to explore their contributions (both positive and negative) to target achievement.	SDG 12 most relevant to their work.	The work started in 2017 was not completed or continued due to personnel changes at KoM. KoM is awaiting further orientation from the City Executive Office on what is expected from the Administration regarding the 2030 Agenda.

Actor/Institution	Role in SDG localisation	SDGs in focus	Additional comments
Environmental Administration	In 2017 the Administration did a mapping of relevant SDG targets to the City's environmental goals (which are part of the City's Environmental Programme). The analysis focused on the ecological dimension of the SDGs. The report where the analysis was presented concluded that the ecological dimension of the SDGs is well covered in the City's environmental goals. The work on climate adaptation, however, is not directly covered in the environmental goals, even though the City does work on adaptation. Invasive species is another issue not covered by the environmental goals. The Administration is currently (as of second half of 2019) developing a new environmental programme for the City and analysing how to use the SDGs as part of the guiding and monitoring framework.	2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16	In the budget for 2019 of the Environmental Committee (the political committee which assigns the budget and tasks to the Administration), an annex includes a table developed by the division of the Environmental Administration in charge of monitoring the implementation of the national environmental code. The table includes a list of indicators that the City uses to monitor the current Environmental Plan and the SDGs to which the different Environmental Goals contribute to. The listed SDGs are 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15.
Primary School Administration	The Administration has a project on 'Better public health through school success'. The project is about increasing attendance at primary school, which in the long run leads to better public health. The project's website states that the project supports SDGs 3, 4, 5, 9 and 10.	3, 4, 5, 9, 10	The partners in the project are: Institute for Future Studies, Sweden's municipalities and county councils, Linköping University, Karolinska Institutet, Gothenburg City's intraservice, Västra Götaland region's unit for social analysis, Ivbar Institute AB, University of Gothenburg, Sahlgrenska and Ping Pong AB.
Social Services Administration (*Social Resursförvaltning)*	The group coordinating the 'Equal City' programme has been exploring how to use the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as a framework, communication and monitoring tool for their work. 'Equal City' is one of the City's flagship programmes and cuts across several administrations with a focus on the social dimension of sustainability. The group has been exploring how to better integrate other dimensions of sustainability in their work using the 2030 Agenda as a framework. As part of the initiatives to work across other dimensions of sustainability, the group has had a couple of meetings in June and August 2019 with the Environmental Administration and the Business Region Göteborg municipal company to discuss the topic of synergies and conflicts. The discussions are ongoing.	Most relevant SDG 10. Also 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 16 and 17	They also organised a workshop with Sweden's 4 largest cities (Stockholm, Malmö, Uppsala and Gothenburg) to share experiences of how the different cities have attempted to integrate the 2030 Agenda into their steering systems.
Stadshus AB	The umbrella organisation of the City's public companies has organised a couple of meetings to discuss the 2030 Agenda. The public companies revised how to report on sustainability efforts, most use the Global Report Initiative (GRI) to monitor their sustainability work. Besides discussions, no concrete work yet with 2030 Agenda.	All SDGs, most relevant SDGs 8 and 9.	

Actor/Institution	Role in SDG localisation	SDGs in focus	Additional comments
Business Region Göteborg (BRG)	In May 14, 2019, BRG together with the City Council held a private sector dialogue with representatives of key companies that work in Gothenburg. The theme of the day was the 2030 Agenda.	All with focus on SDGs 8 and 9	BRG is responsible for business development in the City of Gothenburg and represents thirteen municipalities in the region. BRG AB is owned by Göteborgs Stadshus AB which is, in turn, owned by the City of Gothenburg.
Göteborg & Co.	As part of its 2018 sustainability report, the organisation made an analysis mapping their own priority areas to the City's Council goals and the SDGs. As part of this alignment exercise, they identified the SDGs Göteborg & Co primarily contributes to through its operations. The report states that looking at the company in relation to the SDGs and targets helps to understand the company's operations in a wider context and identify what must be done to contribute to a sustainability.	3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.	Göteborg & Co is a municipal company. The mission of Göteborg & Co is to get more people to discover and choose Gothenburg. Göteborg & Co is the parent company of the Tourism, Culture & Events cluster, which includes Liseberg, Got Event and Göteborgs Stadsteater.
Port of Gothenburg	In its 2018 Sustainability Report, the Port of Gothenburg expressed their interest in contributing to achieving the SDGs given their role as Sweden's largest freight hub. The organisation made an analysis mapping their own goals to the SDGs. The conclusion of the analysis was that 14 out of 17 goals are judged to be relevant for the organisation's business (except for SDGs 1, 2 and 9). The analysis also showed that 40 out of the 169 SDG targets are relevant for the organisation; the company already works with most of the relevant targets in one way or another. Through the various sections of the Sustainability Report, the SDGs that the organisation contributes to or affects through its work are highlighted.	Currently under revision	In the initial mapping exercise, SDG 9 was not included because while infrastructure and innovation are part of the Port's everyday work, the current goals of the Port's strategy do not specifically cover the topics under that SDG. A new sustainability report is being prepared and discussions are underway on carrying out a revised analysis of the relevance of the SDGs to the Port's work.
Level at which it operates: Regional			
Gothenburg Region	In the Gothenburg Region Strategic focus for 2020-2023, the report highlights six challenges that the Gothenburg region needs to focus on in the coming years, which are physical planning; education and skills provision; business development; digital transformation; social cohesion and security; and climate and environment. The six challenges are described and linked to the SDGs that they can contribute to. The report also suggests that the 2030 Agenda will be the common strategic platform, from global to local, in the coming decade.	1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16	The Gothenburg region is a co-operative organisation which covers Gothenburg's the larger metropolitan (it includes 13 municipalities including). The SDGs in focus are the SDGs linked to the six challenges of the region for 2020-2023. Not mentioned: SDGs 2, 5, 7, 14 and 17)
Västra Götaland Region	VGR has mapped out how their current goals (as set in their overall governance documents) relate to Agenda 2030. They identified some gaps but note that the priorities, goals, commitments and activities described in the governance	All	The Västra Götaland region is responsible for health care, growth and development and public transport in Västra Götaland, the

	documents are in good agreement with the SDGs. On their website they have a special section on the 2030 Agenda where they state that the SDGs have both direct and indirect relevance to the operations conducted within the Västra Götaland region. The 2030 Agenda has been integrated into the work on the current regional development strategy, VG2020. The 2030 Agenda is also considered a framework for the work on the upcoming regional development strategy and an important starting point in the development of the new cultural strategy. The website includes a description of how VGR contributes to each of the 17 SDGs with concrete examples from their work.		region in which Gothenburg is located. Additional information: https://www.vgregion.se/om-vgr/agenda2030/
Actor/Institution	**Role in SDG localisation**	**SDGs in focus**	**Additional comments**
SDSN Northern Europe	They developed The SDG Impact Assessment Tool, which is a free online tool for learning and strategic decision support that visualizes the results from a self-assessment of how an activity, organisation or innovation affects the SDGs. https://www.unsdsn-ne.org/our-actions/initiatives/sdg-impact-tool/	All	SDSN Northern Europé is the Nordic chapter of the global Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and consists of universities and knowledge institutions in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.
GAME – Agenda 2030 i Väst	GAME is a regional network that brings together business, academia and community actors in Western Sweden to stimulate collaboration and innovations in sustainable development. In 2018, GAME launched its new focus: the 2030 Agenda in the West (*Agenda 2030 I Väst)*. The purpose is to engage and stimulate partnerships between business, academia and community actors in Western Sweden, who together can and wish to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The network operates through forum meetings, workshops, support to project development, communication strategists, monitoring of activities by other actors and in-depth networking.	All SDGs (SDG 17 on partnerships considered to be the entrance work for the whole Agenda)	http://www.gamenetwork.se/om-game/
Level at which it operates: National			
Ministry of Environment	Sweden has expressed high ambitions for implementing the 2030 Agenda and meeting the SDGs, both internationally and nationally. In June 2018, an action plan was presented for the years 2018-2020. Initially, the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Environment were in charge of the national level implementation. After the elections in 2018, the responsibility of coordinating the national level implementation has been given only to the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Environment sent for comments to a wide range of actors in the country the Agenda 2030 delegation's final report, which was submitted in March 2019. The Minister received 170 answers, which are currently being revised.	All	Passing the whole responsibility of the national level implementation to the Ministry of Environment may risk having an environmental biased on the country's 2030 Agenda work and missing the overarching nature of the Agenda, which covers the three dimensions of sustainability.

Actor/Institution	Role in SDG localisation	SDGs in focus	Additional comments
National Government	The current national government (elected in September 2018) presented its budget proposal for 2020 in September 2019. The 2030 Agenda features throughout the proposal both in domestic and international initiatives. The proposal reinstates the government's commitment that Sweden will be a leader in the implementation of the Agenda and that the government intends to strengthen its coordination and follow-up. The proposal also states that the Government intends to return to Parliament in 2020 with a unified focus for the work on implementing and following up the Agenda.	All	
Agenda 2030 delegation	In 2017 the government appointed a delegation to support and stimulate the country's implementation of Agenda 2030. The Agenda 2030 delegation was an independent committee with external experts from academia, civil society and private sector. The delegation had a 2-year mandate, which concluded in March 2019. During their mandate they submitted a partial report with proposals for measures to promote information and knowledge dissemination; a current situation description and proposal for an action plan for the country's implementation of the Agenda; and a final report. In the proposed action plan, the delegation identified six priority areas. These are areas in which Sweden's challenges are greatest but where solutions for solutions have also been identified: 1. Social equality and gender equality 2. Sustainable cities 3. A socially beneficial and circular economy 4. Business with sustainable business models 5. Sustainable and healthy foods 6. Strengthened knowledge and innovation The action plan that the government adopted in 2018 followed the six priority areas. In the delegation's final report, the point of departure was that the Agenda should be implemented in the ordinary processes, as the power of these can contribute to the implementation of the agenda as quickly and efficiently as possible. Yet, the delegation emphasized the need to strengthen the capacity in ordinary processes so that the Agenda can be implemented addressing the three dimensions of sustainability. The delegation also underscored the crucial role of regional and local governments in the implementation of the Agenda since they are the main actors in several central activities mentioned in the Agenda, including care, school, care and community planning.	All	The final report of the delegation was sent for revision to a wide range of actors, from local and regional governments to universities and civil society. The City of Gothenburg responded to the request of comments agreeing with the delegation's suggestions but asking for further detailed guidance and commitment from the national government on how local governments should work with the Agenda and financial resources for its implementation.

Actor/Institution	Role in SDG localisation	SDGs in focus	Additional comments
Statistics Sweden (SCB)	In the government's Agenda 2030 Action Plan presented in 2018, Statistics Sweden was commissioned to produce statistics, indicators and report the country's statistical situation every year from 2019 to 2021. In March 2019, SCB submitted a partial report containing proposals for a national indicator list. The list integrates the globally agreed indicators with a number of national indicators developed to supplement the global indicators and to adapt them to a Swedish context. For each indicator there are suggestions on which authority should have national responsibility for the indicator. In September 2019, SCB submitted a statistical review of the implementation of the Agenda in Sweden. The report concludes that "Sweden's challenges in relation to the targets in the 2030 Agenda can be summarised in three overarching points. 1) Inequality in the economic area is not decreasing; the same applies to health, housing and exposure to violence. Inequality between groups is increasing in several areas. 2) It remains difficult to see that many of the national environmental targets can be reached. 3) Violence and violations are not decreasing. More young people are subjected to bullying." (SCB 2019b, 8)	All	Prior to the Agenda 2030 Action Plan, SCB had been commissioned by the government to analyse how Sweden is doing with respect to goal and target achievement. SCB presented two reports in 2017 as a result of the assignment. The first report shows that although Sweden often performs well in comparison with other countries, much remains to be done in achieving national goals and international commitments (SCB 2017b). The second report estimated that Sweden has good opportunities to produce about three-quarters of the SDG indicators just as they are defined or as national approximations (SCB 2017a).
The Swedish UN Association (*FN-förbundet*)	The Swedish UN Association is a non-profit organization. It has the 2030 Agenda as one of its priority issues. They work to communicate the UN's work and engage with the SDGs. In 2018, together with SALAR (Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions) started a project called 'Glokala Sverige' to educate and engage municipalities, county councils and regions on the 2030 Agenda. There were seven pilot municipalities in 2018 and in 2019 the project collaborated with 96 municipalities and regions.	All	https://fn.se/vi-gor/utveckling-och-fattigdomsbekampning/agenda-2030/glokala-sverige/
Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)	Sida is tasked with informing and engaging Swedish actors about the 2030 Agenda. The Government has allocated special funds for communication activities on the Agenda and Sida is tasked with distributing the money. The purpose of the communication activities is that everyone in Sweden should know about the SDGs and be able to engage and contribute to the three dimensions of sustainability. Sida is also in charge of supporting the implementation of the SDGs abroad through its development work.	All	
SALAR (SKL in Swedish – Swedish Association of Local	In all the national level reports as well as the national Agenda 2030 action plan, SALAR has been highlighted as a key actor for coordinating and supporting the regional and local-level implementation of the Agenda. SALAR has done a	All	The work of SALAR covers all of Sweden with a regional and municipal focus

Authorities and Regions)	number of analyses on how different regions and municipalities are implementing the Agenda. SALAR was also involved in the development of the local level indicators (see RKA below for more info) as well as on the Glokala Sverige communications project (see the Swedish UN Association above for more information).		
Actor/Institution	**Role in SDG localisation**	**SDGs in focus**	**Additional comments**
Council for the Promotion of Municipal Analyses (*RKA – Rådet för främjande av kommunala analyser)*	RKA published a selection of key indicators for the municipal and regional level in the Kolada database in support of the work on the 2030 Agenda. RKA selected about 50 indicators for the regional level, and 50 indicators for the municipal level, which are grouped under the various SDGs. The indicators, published March 25, 2019 in Kolada	All	The Action Plan for Agenda 2030 for the years 2018-2020 that the Government launched in June 2018 includes measures to support local implementation of the Agenda. One of these is to develop indicators for Agenda 2030 that can support the work in municipalities and regions. RKA was assigned the task of leading the work in consultation with Statistics Sweden, the Agenda 2030 delegation and a number of municipalities and county councils.

3. Engagement with the New Urban Agenda

At the city level, there has been no engagement or even awareness about the New Urban Agenda (NUA). At the national level, the Swedish government launched in April 2018 the 'Strategy for Living cities – policy for a sustainable urban development'. The strategy states that it contributes to achieving the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 11, as well as the New Urban Agenda and the Urban Agenda for the EU. This is the first national strategy for sustainable urban development. Developing a national urban strategy is one of the actions suggested by the New Urban Agenda.

The strategy is supposed to set out the direction of how new and existing cities in Sweden will become more sustainable and attractive for people. A special focus is on transport, green areas and construction. The strategy contains general goals for sustainable cities and new milestones to be included in the existing environmental target system. The strategy is focused on the environment, with most of the goals addressing environmental issues. However, the strategy engages insufficiently with social aspects, such as segregation. Also, the strategy does not consider connections in the form of synergies and conflicts between environmental, economic and social issues. Municipalities were not engaged or consulted in the development of this policy and its relevance has not yet percolated to the Gothenburg City Administration.

The fact that very little has been discussed at the national level regarding the NUA, besides for the 'Strategy for Living cities', may serve to explain the lack of engagement of municipal governments with the NUA. At the EU level, the European Commission launched the 'Urban Agenda for the EU' in May 2016 through the Pact of Amsterdam. The pact of Amsterdam is something that cities such as Gothenburg seem to be aware of, particularly through the work they do in European networks such as Eurocities. The Pact of Amsterdam and its Urban Agenda for the EU precedes the signing of the NUA, but the EU commission considers it as a key delivery instrument for the New Urban Agenda. It has 12 priority themes: Jobs and skills in the local economy; Urban poverty; Housing; Inclusion of migrants and refugees; Sustainable use of land and Nature-Based solutions; Circular economy; Climate adaptation; Energy transition; Urban mobility; Air quality; Digital transition; and Innovative and responsible public procurement. There are also cross-cutting themes such as small and medium-sized cities, urban-rural linkages or innovative approaches (https://ec.europa.eu/futurium).

4. Synergies and Conflicts between the City's Main Local Strategies and the Achievement of the SDGs

The City of Gothenburg has worked on sustainability issues for many decades and as the 2018 report of the SLK A2030 team showed (Göteborgs Stad 2018b), together the City's budget and programmes cover the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainability. In late

2018 and early 2019, The SLK A2030 team and I discussed what additional analyses would be useful for the team and the City to have and we agreed that I would carry out an analysis of the potential synergies and conflicts between the City's main programmes and the SDGs.

I used the 2030 Agenda as a framework to analyse the extent to which the City's different programmes address the three dimensions of sustainability. The analysis was done by looking at the goals within the City's key programmes and how these goals could contribute positively, negatively or neither to the achievement of a wide selection of SDG targets. For the analysis, I used a methodology adopted from Weitz et al. (2018) to look at how a programme's goals can interact with an SDG target by posing the question 'if progress is made on a City's programme's goal, how does this influence progress on SDG target 'x'. Seven programmes were selected in coordination with a few of the members of the SLK A2030 team. The programmes were selected as they cut across several sectors and cover the entire city. The selected programmes are:

1. [Programme for an Equal City](#) 2018–2026
2. [Public Health Programme](#) 2019-2020
3. [Environmental Programme](#) 2013-2020, updated 2018
4. [Climate Programme, including the Energy Plan](#), 2014
5. [RiverCity Vision](#), 2012 (approved), implementation 2019-2035
6. [Business Strategy Programme](#) 2018 – 2035
7. [Comprehensive Plan](#), 2009

92 of the 169 SDG targets were selected for the analysis. The selection followed SLK's report where 100 targets were deemed relevant to the city based particularly on the issues that concern the geographical area of the municipality as well as the City's mandates over the issues. I removed a few additional targets that were oriented mostly for national level implementation, focused on developing countries or were very narrow. It must be underscored that the analysis is based only on the main programme documents where the main objectives are set. The analysis does not include the action plans or monitoring reports of those programmes. In other words, the analysis can only reflect the interaction between the intentions of the City through the objectives of the different programmes and the SDG targets. It is outside the scope of the analysis to examine to what extent those objectives have been implemented and how the potential implications for the SDGs have been materialised.

The detailed results of the analysis will be published in an academic article (Valencia, *forthcoming).* A few findings can be highlighted here. The analysis confirms what several City staff have expressed in interviews and discussions, namely that while programmes with a social, environmental and economic focus address a broad range of issues in their particular dimensions, and may not necessarily hinder achievement of the SDGs in other dimensions, there is very limited explicit involvement of other dimensions in the programmes.

For example, the Programme for an Equal City, which focuses on addressing inequality, was the programme with the most positive interactions with SDG targets. The programme has strong positive interactions with targets in SDGs 1 (poverty), 4 (education), 10 (inequality) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). However, the programme shows no explicit contribution to several environmental and service provision targets covered in SDGs 6 (water), 7 (energy), 14 (marine resources) and 15 (terrestrial ecosystems). This reflects that while the programme has attempted to work across sectors, the cross-sectoral work is mostly limited to socially related sectors and to a certain extent economic. Not only is this a missed opportunity to find synergies with environmental issues, but it could also create a risk of the initiatives resulting in negative interactions with environmentally focused targets. This is particularly the case for the targets related to consumption (SDG 12) and terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15) where the initiatives under the programme can result in leading to increased consumption of resources and materials, as well as competition over land with natural habitats.

Another example is the Climate Programme, which focuses only on mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, missing the opportunity of integrating adaptation and mitigation and reaping the social, environmental and economic benefits of such an integration. Similarly, the Business Strategy Programme has a focus on increasing jobs (decreasing unemployment) and growth but there is not an explicit focus on lower-income or vulnerable populations; this could create a risk of missing to address social issues covered particularly in SDGs 1 and 10. The programme does have, however, a goal on strengthening competitiveness and some of the initiatives include strengthening the collaboration between the private sector and schools to increase participation on the labour market, which could help to reach those currently outside the labour market. There is very limited mention of health (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), water and sanitation (SDG 6) or energy (SDG 7) issues. The programme includes the objectives of providing an attractive working environment but, in contrast to the Public Health Programme, it is not explicitly mentioned that an attractive working environment also should ensure good working conditions, which supports balancing personal life and work. This may be considered to be implicit in the idea of an attractive working environment, but it risks becoming synonymous just with good salaries and easiness of small and medium-size companies to establish themselves.

Several of the programmes such as the RiverVision, Business Strategy Programme and Equal City have as objectives to increase the availability of housing, office spaces and public areas. This could lead to conflict over land uses. Most strategies focus on densification or increasing housing around the centre of the city, which could be considered an approach with less environmental impacts than if the strategies were conducive of increasing urban sprawl. However, densification can result in reduced green areas and particularly limited natural habitats. Densification can also present a challenge in the availability of space to complement the higher number of houses and offices with municipal services such as schools, elderly housing, housing with special services, sports facilities and culture such as libraries. It could also create a challenge for providing sufficient space where

children and young people can move, play and meet. City staff involved in these different programmes have the challenge, but also the opportunity, of dealing with competing interests by negotiating trade-offs and attempting to find complementary uses and synergies (Campbell 1996).

Overall, it is important to highlight that few clear conflicts were found between programmes and SDG targets. Most of the conflicts relate to the potential conflict over land uses (with potential negative impacts on SDG 15) and the increasing consumption of resources that is likely to result from programmes that will involve construction of new housing, offices and infrastructure (negatively impacting targets in SDG 12). At the same time, the City is involved in efforts to reduce the environmental impacts of construction. For example, the City is part of a partnership with the Swedish Transport Administration, Malmö and Stockholm that has produced a joint guide for requirements to be applied to contracts on infrastructure ordered by any of the three Cities by setting environmental requirements on e.g., fuels for machines and vehicles, chemical products, material and goods to name a few. The requirements were last updated in 2018 (Malmö stad et al. 2018).

Most of the programmes had no interaction (or no clear positive or negative interaction) with a large number of targets. It is arguably better for a programme to have no interaction with a target, rather than a negative interaction. It is also not expected that all programmes should tackle all issues. However, no interactions can also be a reflection of the City's sector-based programmes missing synergies between social, environmental and economic issues and a limited interaction between actors of different sectors.

5. Localisation of SDG Indicators

Given the focus of the research project on SDG localisation at the city level, the research team across the seven case study cities has been interested in looking at the relevance of the UN-recommended indicators for the city level. A particular focus has been on the indicators of the urban goal, SDG 11, following the Mistra Urban Futures pilot project on SDG indicators in 2015.

In Gothenburg, when the A2030 team at SLK started working on the SDGs in 2017, they decided to not focus on localising indicators since guidance was expected to be received from the national government. As mentioned in Table 1, RKA (Council for Municipal Analysis)[9] together with the Agenda 2030 delegation, SCB and a number of representatives from municipalities and counties proposed a number of voluntary indicators to monitor the SDGs at the municipal and regional

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[9] The Council for the Promotion of Municipal Analysis, RKA (http://rka.nu), is a non-profit organisation formed in 2006 in collaboration between the national government and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL). The mission is to facilitate the follow-up and analysis of various activities in municipalities and regions. RKA also promotes comparisons between municipalities and between regions. RKA operates the open and free database Kolada (www.kolada.se). The database contains over 5000 key indicators for municipalities and regions and for the activities they conduct. The indicators are updated annually.

levels. 50 indicators were proposed for the regional level and 50 for the municipal level. Suggested indicators are provided for each goal, rather than for the SDG targets and they were selected based on the issues where there are most challenges. The indicators were also selected for their relevance and availability to all the regions and municipalities. For example, in the document where the selected indicators are presented and justified, under SDG 4 on education, it is stated that safety is an important prerequisite for a good learning environment and that bullying is an issue that want to be monitored at the local level, but there is currently no comparable data at the municipal level. As an alternative, the closest indicator that could be found is about students' perceived security at school. The indicator is based on student surveys done as part of school inspections (RKA 2019, 11).

The set of proposed indicators and their respective data can be found at the Kolada database's website. According to RKA, the indicators include both existing data and new statistics; the environmental data, in particular, were not previously available in Kolada. Some indicator data are missing for a few locations. The data is collected from a number of sources including Statistics Sweden and from municipalities and regions self-reporting (RKA 2019).

The proposed municipal and regional indicators do not necessarily match the UN-recommended indicators, nor the suggested adaptation that Statistics Sweden had done for the national level (SCB 2017b, 2019c). For example, the RKA indicators on SDG 13 focus solely on mitigation-related issues, in the sense of monitoring emissions and reduction of greenhouse gases, by looking at indicators such as total of emissions, number of electric cars in municipal organizations. In contrast, the original SDG 13 targets and indicators focus mostly on climate adaptation.

Another example is the indicator under SDG 11 on dependency ratio (*demografisk försörjningskvot)*. This suggested indicator shows the number of people outside working age (i.e. ages 0-19 and 65+) that each person of working age (i.e. 20-64 years) must provide for. RKA justifies the inclusion of this indicator by arguing that the number of elderly people is increasing and that more than half of the expected population growth is expected to occur in the age group that has reached the current retirement age. According to RKA, an increasing number of elderly people are demanding different social functions and institutions, with increasing costs for regions and municipalities. Similarly, a high proportion of children and young people in the population require extensive activities in the school system. This indicator is important to monitor since problems may arise if the number of people of working age, who provide the necessary income in the form of taxes to be redistributed to population groups without income, does not develop in line with the other age groups (RKA 2019, 23). While this indicator measures an issue important for Swedish municipalities and regions, especially given the generous welfare state that provides health and education services to the population, the indicator is not clearly linked to any of the UN-suggested indicators under the SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities or SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth. Even at the target level, there is no target explicitly addressing

these issues, except potentially for target 11.3, which addresses among other things sustainable urbanisation.

Table 2 shows the suggested RKA indicators for the municipal level with data for the municipality of Gothenburg. The colours red, yellow and green are used to illustrate how the municipality is performing compared to all other municipalities in Sweden. Green represents best results (25% best percentile), red worst results (25% worst percentile), yellow the middle performance (mid 50%), and grey when there are no data. It is important to stress that the colour scheme does not say anything if the value is a positive or negative one, it only reflects the situation of the municipality in comparison to others. The analysis of trends (right column) was done by members of the SLK A2030 group. The logic behind the trend analysis was as follows. An arrow aiming upwards represents a positive trend (note that this is not necessarily a higher number but where the indicator indicates a positive change, whereby indicators where lower values are desirable, a positive trend is provided when the value is decreasing over the years). Arrows aiming downward represent a negative trend and straight arrows neither positive nor negative. A majority of the indicators have a clear year-on-year trend. In cases where there was no clear trend, the trend was assigned based on the comparison between the last value and the average of all available years. The data available from the Kolada database cover only the range 2014-2018, which is a short period for identifying long-term patterns. The A2030 SLK team is currently updating the 2030 Agenda report they prepared in 2018 and they are including the suggested RKA 2030 Agenda indicators and data from the Kolada database in the update.

Table 3 includes an analysis of the feasibility and localisation of SDG 11 indicators to the city of Gothenburg. Since the City of Gothenburg had not prioritised looking at indicators in the past 2 years preferring awaiting for national guidance (which has now be given through RKA and the Kolada database), the table below mostly reflects the analysis done by Statistics Sweden (SCB) to localise the SDG indicators to the national level (SCB 2017b, 2019c). In the more recent report presented by SCB with a 2030 Agenda national indicator list (SCB 2019c), some indicator issues are still unresolved or stated as needing further analysis and discussion both at the national and international level. One example is the definition of urban area. SCB notes under indicator 11.2.1, which is about the proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities, that the indicator is reported nationally for urban areas under SDG 11 and for the whole country under SDG 9. Yet, they note that the concept of 'urban' needs to be harmonised and potentially adjusted to fit a global definition. The indicator also still needs to be disaggregated by sex and persons with disabilities (SCB 2019c, 57).

It is also worth noting that even within Sweden there are disagreements about how to define indicators and which ones to use. Also, some of the local adaptations of the indicators prioritise available data over the most appropriate measure to monitor progress towards a particular SDG (or target). For example, SCB suggests using overcrowding as the indicator to monitor target 11.1

(which is about access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums). The UN recommends the following composite indicator, 'Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing'. In Sweden, slums are not considered a relevant concept, however inadequate housing is. Overcrowding is part of the aspects that the UN-suggested indicator considers as part of inadequate housing. However, there are other issues related to inadequate housing, such as affordability and security of tenure, which may also be relevant for Swedish cities, including Gothenburg.

In addition, there are different definitions of overcrowding used within Sweden. The most common way to measure overcrowding is the so-called Standard 3 that in 1986 replaced Standard 2 (which was defined in 1967). Standard 2 is defined as a maximum of two people per room; and in addition, there should be a kitchen and a living room. Standard 3 is fairly similar, but in the latter, all household members (including children) must have their own bedroom, except for spouses and partners who share; there should also be a kitchen and a living room. SCB suggests using Standard 3 (SCB, 2017b) to monitor the relevant target in SDG 11, while RKA suggests using Standard 2 (RKA, 2019).

The City of Gothenburg does not use the same overcrowding measurement that either SCB or RKA use. The overcrowding measurement of the City is about 'extreme overcrowding' and is calculated based on the relation between living area and family size. Instead, the indicator 'percentage (%) of people living in 'extremely' overcrowded households' is used by the City in its sustainability statistics[10]. According to the City of Gothenburg' sustainability statistics, the major weakness of norm 3 is that everyone living in a one room apartment (a studio) is overcrowded. In a report commissioned by the Tenant Association, extreme overcrowding was defined as 3, 4 or 5 persons live in an area less than 40 m^2, 4, 5 or more persons in an area between 41-60 m^2, 5 or more people live in an area of 61-80 m^2 (Hyresgästföreningen 2015, 9). This definition is considered to be closer to what is usually meant by overcrowding and is the City's adopted measurement.

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[10] https://public.tableau.com/profile/fredrik.karlsson#!/vizhome/Hllbarutveckling/Startsida

Table 2. RKA suggested municipal level indicators for monitoring the SDGs. Data and trends for the city of Gothenburg

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Trend
SDG 1 No poverty						
Residents 0-19 years in economically vulnerable households, share (%) Total	15,3	14,4	13,4	12,7		↗
Adult beneficiaries with long-term financial assistance, share (%) of the population Total	2,8	2,7	2,5	2,2		↗
SDG 2 Zero hunger						
Residents with obesity, percentage (%) Total	12	12	12		12	→
Organically cultivated arable land, percentage (%)	16	19	20	20	20	↗
SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being						
Life expectancy women, year	83,4	83,6	83,7	83,7	83,9	↗
Life expectancy men, year	79,2	79,4	79,5	79,8	80,1	↗
People on long-term sick leave with mental illnesses and syndromes and behavioral disorders, percentage (%)				55,1		→
Fall injuries among people 65+, during 3-year-period, number / 100,000 inh	3 273	3 063	2 926	2 805		↗
Antibiotic sales municipality, prescription / 1000 inh	323,6	307,7	302,2	290,4	272,8	↗
SDG 4 Quality Education						
Students in year 9 who are eligible for vocational programs, hometown, percentage (%)	84,7	82,8	84,5	81,7	81,9	↘
Students in year 9: I feel safe in school, positive answers, percentage (%)				82,9	81,5	↘
High school students with a degree within 4 years, hometown, percentage (%)		63,7	66,6	65,8	67,5	↗
Students at SFI (Swedish for immigrants) who have passed at least two courses, of beginners two years earlier, percentage (%)	41	36	39	34	32	↘
SDG 5 Gender equality						
Full-time monthly paid, municipality, percentage (%)	75	75	75	76	77	↗
Parental benefit days taken out by men, percentage of days (%)	25,8	26,5	26,8	28,4	29,6	↗
Women's median net income as a proportion of men's median net income, percentage (%)	82,0	82,4	82,8	83,0		↗
Women's median net income as a proportion of men's median net income, municipal employees, percentage (%)	97,3	98,1	99,2	99,3	99,6	↗
SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation						
Water resources with water protection area, percentage (%)				50,0	100,0	↗
Lakes with good ecological status, percentage (%)	40,0	40,0	40,0			→
Water streams with good ecological status, percentage (%)	9,5	9,5	9,5			→
Groundwater bodies with good chemical and quantitative status, percentage (%)	100,0	100,0	100,0			→
SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy						
Power outages, average downtime per customer (longer than 3 min), minutes / customer			29,0	29,6		↘
District heating production of renewable energy sources at heat plants in the geographical area, percentage (%)						
End-use of total energy in the geographical area, MWh / inh	35	32	33	30		↗
SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth						
Gross regional product (BRP), kr / inh	557 036	609 407	640 443			↗
Long-term unemployment 25-64 years, proportion (%) of pop.	4,1	4,0	3,9	3,7	3,6	↗
Residents 17-24 years who neither work nor study, share (%)	8,2	8,0	7,8	7,4		↗
SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure						
Broadband access of at least 100 Mbit/s, share (%)	78,2	89,5	92,1	94,0	95,1	↗
Business climate according to Open Comparisons (Insight) - Total, Satisfied Customer Index	67	68	69	69	67	↗
Population in location close to public transport, percentage (%)	94,5	94,5	94,5	94,5		→
SDG 10 Reduced Inequality						
Gini coefficient, index	0,449	0,440	0,431	0,427		↗
Residents 16-84 years with lack of trust in others, percentage (%)	30	29	29		30	↗
Left the establishment tasks and started working or studying (status after 90 days), percentage (%) (The establishment task includes newly arrived refugees of working age (20-64 years) and new arrivals aged 18-19 without parents in Sweden)		25	27	34	47	↗
User assessment of daily activities within LSS (Act on support and service for some disabilities) - The user may decide on things that are important, percentage (%)			75	56	72	→
SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities						
Dependency ratio (is calculated as the sum of the number of persons 0-19 years and the number of persons 65 years and older divided by the number of persons 20-64 years. Desirable is a low value)	0,579	0,583	0,586	0,589	0,593	↘
Overcrowding in apartment buildings, according to norm 2, percentage (%)	18,4	18,8	19,2	19,7		↘
Emissions to air of nitrogen oxides (NOx), total, kg / inh	11,9	12,0	10,9			↗
Emissions to air of PM2.5 (particles <2.5 micrometers), kg / inhabitant	0,71	0,71	0,68			↗
SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production						
Total household waste collected, kg / person	387	385	379	369		↗
Household waste collected for material recycling, incl. biological treatment, percentage (%)	36	36	36	36		→
Organic food in the municipality's operations, percentage (%)	33	45	47	46	46	↗
SDG 13 Climate Action						
Emissions to air of greenhouse gases total, tonnes CO2 eq / inh.	4,20	4,11	4,41			↘
Environmental cars in the municipal organisation, percentage (%)	79,3	79,4	78,9	78,3	74,9	↘
Environmental cars, percentage of total cars in the geographical area, (%)	25,7	28,3	24,9	21,3	19,2	↘
Average mileage with passenger car, km / inh	4 700,5	4 790,8	4 872,4	4 910,2	493,0	↘
SDG 14 Life Below Water						
no indicator for local level						
SDG 15 Life on Land						
Total protected nature, percentage (%)	12,2	12,2	12,9	12,9	12,9	↗
SDG 16 Peace and Justice Strong Institutions						
Election district with the lowest turnout in the last municipal elections, percentage (%)	37,4	37,4	37,4	37,4	41,2	↗
Residents 16-84 years who refrain from going out alone, percentage (%)	26		24		26	↘
Reported violent crimes, number / 100,000 inh	1 279	1 306	1 353	1 261	1 227	↘
Profit for the year as a share of tax & general government contributions to municipality, (%)	1,5	3,0	3,2	7,0	5,7	↗
SDG 17 Partnerships to achieve the Goal						
no indicator for local level						

Source: www.kolada.se. Trend analysis: SLK A2030 team. English translation of indicators by author.

Table 3. UN-recommended SDG 11 indicators and local adaptation

Target	Feasible to assess baseline and track progress?	Modifications of indicator to make it relevant and feasible to city	Baseline for Gothenburg and year of modified indicator[11]	Collection frequency of modified indicator	Level at which modified indicator is available	Additional comments
11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	Yes, but only for overcrowding, not for the full indicator (see main text above in section 5 and additional comments).	Overcrowding. SCB also suggests that homelessness and property rights to a home may be other options to investigate as part of this indicator (SCB 2019c).	19,7 % (2017) (according to Standard 2) (source: www.kolada.se) Extreme overcrowding: 6.2% (or 33,250 people lived in an extremely overcrowded household) (2015) (source: (https://tabsoft.co/2rzSmnp).	Data available from national survey conducted every 2 years (Living Conditions Survey).	City	The proportion of the population living in slum areas or informal settlements is considered in Sweden to be in practice 0%. Inadequate housing is a relevant issue but the statistics office has focused only on the aspect of overcrowding even though other issues related to inadequate housing (such as affordability and security of tenure may also be relevant for Gothenburg)
11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Yes. This indicator is already produced and/or reported nationally	No modification. Indicator defined as: Access to public transport stop within 500 meters of the residence with at least one departure per hour weekdays between 06:00 and 20:00.	94.9 % (2017) (https://bit.ly/2pcgcVs)	yearly	City	The national indicator makes a clear demarcation of population in urban areas, this is not clearly expressed in the metadata for the UN indicator. How to define the urban extent needs to be harmonised internationally. Disaggregation for persons with disabilities cannot be done.

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[11] Unless noted, source of data is SCB database: http://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/sv/ssd/

Target	Feasible to assess baseline and track progress?	Modifications of indicator to make it relevant and feasible to city	Baseline for Gothenburg and year of modified indicator	Collection frequency of modified indicator	Level at which modified indicator is available	Additional comments
11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate	Yes.	No modification.	The indicator has not been calculated for Gothenburg, but it might be possible to calculate from SCB population data and changes in urban area. The challenge might be the urban definition (see additional comments) National level data calculated for period 2006-2015.	Yearly	Currently at national level (but could be disaggregated to city level)	For the national level calculations, SCB notes that urban areas have been defined and delimited according to a methodology developed by UN HABITAT for global comparability. The boundaries are therefore not in accordance with the national statistics produced for land areas and population in urban areas.
11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically	No statistics are reported. The national level indicator can be assumed to be 100%.	The indicator is too broad or vague for Swedish conditions because participation is a requirement in the law and thus there might be a need to add a national complement (SCB 2019c).	N/A	N/A	N/A	The Plan and Building Act (PBL) requires participation of citizens and concerned actors in planning processes at the city level. In Gothenburg, the participation processes that are relevant for this indicator are led by City Districts and the Planning Department. City programmes and plans also have to include social and children consequence analyses. The participation requirements give those directly affected by the development of detailed land use plans (*detaljplan)* the right to comment in the process (through consultation and review) and it gives them a right to appeal the decisions made by the City.

Target	Feasible to assess baseline and track progress?	Modifications of indicator to make it relevant and feasible to city	Baseline for Gothenburg and year of modified indicator	Collection frequency of modified indicator	Level at which modified indicator is available	Additional comments
11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)	Most of the information required may be available but there is lack of clarity on the expected data. Some work required to produce data.	The indicator has not been localised to the city level.	N/A at City level	N/A	National	The responsible authority to report at the national level is the National Heritage Board (*Riksantikvarieämbetet* – RAÄ), which has overall World Heritage responsibility. In municipalities, for the culturally marked buildings, a balance between preservation, repair, rebuilding and demolition is part of the considerations the City needs to do in the detailed land use planning processes. The County Administrative Board also examines and can review the City's adoption of a detailed plan on the grounds that it may have a negative impact on cultural and environmental issues.
11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people	Yes, at national level. No data at City level and no authority that collects data at that level - the unit that would look at this issue would be the Security and Preparedness unit at the City Executive Office	In line with Sendai framework. Within the persons affected, countries are expected to report on the number of people who have had their livelihood disturbed or destroyed; such data are not available in Sweden.	No data found at city level (indicator data calculated by MSB and SCB for national level)	Yearly	National	The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is the national point of contact for the Sendai framework. Only serious and extensive events are included in the reporting at the national level, which means a few events. Many of the years, no such events have occurred (SCB 2019c).

Target	Feasible to assess baseline and track progress?	Modifications of indicator to make it relevant and feasible to city	Baseline for Gothenburg and year of modified indicator	Collection frequency of modified indicator	Level at which modified indicator is available	Additional comments
11.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services	Yes, at national level. No data at City level.	In line with Sendai framework.	No data found at city level (indicator data calculated by MSB for national level)	Yearly	National	The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is the national point of contact for the Sendai framework. Only serious and extensive events are included in the reporting at the national level, which means there are few events to report. Many of the years, no such events have occurred.
11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities	No data reported or collected at national or city level. % of waste collected assumed to be 100%.	Complementary indicator at national level: Total treated household waste and treated waste per capita	Data found for Gothenburg: household waste per capita: 385.3 kg/person (2016 data) (calculated based on sum of amount of household waste collected for recycling; household waste for central biological treatment, (including frying and food fats); food waste that is home-composted or delivered via waste mills to wastewater; household waste for incineration with energy recovery, excluding impregnated wood; household waste for landfill; hazardous waste collected) source: (Avfall Sverige 2017, 66).	At national level data available every 2 years for complementary indicator (collected by Environmental Protection Agency)	City and national	The City of Gothenburg collects some data on solid waste, including the type and amount of solid waste produced and the quality of recycling practices by residents (https://bit.ly/2rDmOwV) Statistics Sweden produces waste statistics on behalf of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and has assumed responsibility for reporting nationally on the complementary indicator as long as it is produced.

Target	Feasible to assess baseline and track progress?	Modifications of indicator to make it relevant and feasible to city	Baseline for Gothenburg and year of modified indicator	Collection frequency of modified indicator	Level at which modified indicator is available	Additional comments
11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)	Yes, data available for both PM2.5 and PM10, but with data gaps some years.	RKA proposed local indicators include monitoring NOx (emissions of nitrogen oxides, kg/inhabitant) and PM2.5 but not PM 10. Environmental Protection Agency collects data for both PM.	- Kolada.se: NOx: 11.9 kg/inh (2014) PM2.5: 0.71 kg/inh (2014) - Env. Protection Agency: PM10: 24.5 ug/m3 (2000) (source: https://bit.ly/350Eotf) PM2.5: 11.7 ug/m3 (2007) (source: https://bit.ly/33ORRUI)	Yearly	City	In Gothenburg, the Environmental Administration owns 2 stationary stations and 3 mobile stations. The stationary measure both PM 2.5 and 10. The mobile only measures PM 10. All also measure NOx. The Air Pollution Association in the Gothenburg Region has another measurement station in Gothenburg measuring PM 2.5 and 10
11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Yes.	SCB has proposed complementary indicator: Access to a green area within 200 meters of the home (% of population). SCB has also calculated the original indicator at the national level with the following: Land in urban areas, which is a public place as a proportion of the total land area; Green space in urban areas available to general population as a proportion of the total land area; Land in urban areas which is accessible to general population according to type of land	Percentage of population with access to a green area within 200 meters of the home: 96% (2010)	Every 5 years	City (for cities >30k inh)	Data of proposed proxy also available disaggregated by age and sex

Target	Feasible to assess baseline and track progress?	Modifications of indicator to make it relevant and feasible to city	Baseline for Gothenburg and year of modified indicator	Collection frequency of modified indicator	Level at which modified indicator is available	Additional comments
11.7.2 Proportion of persons who are victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months	Partly. No method has been established for the global indicator and thus SCB has proposed a proxy	Proxy proposed by SCB for national level: Percentage of population (16 years and older) who has been exposed to threats or violence in a public place, by sex and persons with disabilities	No data found at city level (data collected	N/A	Police regions (there are 7 police regions in Sweden)	The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (*Brottsförebyggande rådet – Brå*) is responsible for the official criminal statistics. Data for the original UN indicator is based on the National Security Survey (NTU) done by Brå; the proposed proxy is based on data from the Living Conditions Studies (ULF / SILC) done by SCB.
11.a.1 Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city	No. The indicator is regarded as fulfilled in Sweden and no data on the issue collected	Proposed alternative by SCB: proportion of adopted and / or up-to-date comprehensive plans. Gothenburg does yearly revisions of its comprehensive plan, which is coordinated with other levels (e.g. regional organisations)	N/A	Data available from Boverket (housing agency) yearly on status of comprehensive plans and related documents, but quality of answers not reliable (SCB 2017b)	National	
11.b.1 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*	Yes, at national level	N/A	N/A	N/A	National	In Gothenburg, there is a vulnerability analysis but not a comprehensive disaster risk management plan
Data will need to be collected to fulfil Sendai framework. MSB responsible for data collection.

Target	Feasible to assess baseline and track progress?	Modifications of indicator to make it relevant and feasible to city	Baseline for Gothenburg and year of modified indicator	Collection frequency of modified indicator	Level at which modified indicator is available	Additional comments
11.b.2 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies*	Yes, at national level	N/A	N/A	N/A	National	Sweden does not have a national disaster risk reduction strategy. Data will need to be collected to fulfil Sendai framework. MSB responsible for data collection.
11.c.1 Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials	No. No method is currently being developed to measure the indicator.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	The indicator may be relevant for Sida's international work but not relevant at the city level

6. The Role of Comparative Co-production in Localising the SDGs

The SLK A2030 team is explicit that being part of this international comparative co-production project has been beneficial. One of the benefits they have noted is the additional information, tools and inspiration that are provided both by the other cities and through my interactions with the team. The team has expressed that having me participate in their meetings has been a useful way to get an external perspective on their discussions, playing at times the role of 'sounding board', as well as bringing new insights, practical methods, information and results from initiatives taking place in Sweden and other parts of the world. A challenge for both sides has been to fully define our respective roles and expectations, thus setting a clear joint work plan from the beginning would have been useful. For example, there have been discussions about co-writing some of the documentation that has been produced by both sides (e.g. the reports from the team and some book chapters I have written), however co-writing would require a significant amount of time, which is hard to fit in given busy working schedules and tight deadlines.

The team has appreciated the international perspective that the project brings to their work and the increased awareness about SDGs work in other parts of the world. Despite the differences in contexts of the case study cities, many lessons can be learned from one another on the actual process of localising global agendas. One could argue that the project has provided access to an extended network, beyond Swedish and European municipalities, which would have been harder to reach without the project. The City is involved in several networks in the Gothenburg region and is used to exchanging experiences with other Swedish municipalities as well as Nordic and EU municipalities through networks such as Eurocities, but it is less common for the City actively to exchange information and share lessons with cities outside of Europe. The conferences in Cape Town (in 2018) and Sheffield (in 2019) as well as the city-to-city peer-review process that was set up for the project have given concrete opportunities for these exchanges. Beyond the other six case study cities, by being part of the project and of Mistra Urban Futures, the City has also gained access to a wide existing network of contacts, locally and internationally, where 2030 Agenda-related discussions can be raised.

The city-city peer-review process, for example, gave the team an opportunity to reflect on Gothenburg's own policies and define in a collaborative way what issues the team wanted to include, particularly what City programmes to raise, in the response to the peer-review requests they received from Cape Town and Buenos Aires. A joint review of the responses the team received from Gothenburg's peer-review request (which was focussed on the team's communication plan for the 2030 Agenda) also provided room for practical knowledge, inspiration and ideas on next steps the team could take if political interest in the Agenda increased.

7. Contribution of SDG localisation to Realising Just Cities

Mistra Urban Futures' collaborative framework of Realising Just Cities is about achieving cities that are fair, green and accessible as the core characteristics of sustainability (Simon 2016; Mistra Urban Futures 2015). The principles of the 2030 Agenda and the NUA are well-aligned with the characteristics of the Realising Just Cities framework. The 2030 Agenda is based on the vision of 'leaving no one behind' and both Agendas call for inclusive and participatory planning processes at multiple levels. The urban SDG (Goal 11) aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. If the principles of the Agendas are fully taken into consideration, they could contribute to sustainable transformations.

Thus far in Gothenburg, inclusiveness has been limited when it comes to involving actors outside of the City administration into discussions around how to work with the 2030 Agenda. However, in other processes the City undertakes, from issues including consumption and inequality, the city has in place well-established participatory processes with citizens and the private sector. If the 2030 Agenda and the NUA gain momentum in the City, it would be crucial to ensure that a wide range of actors are involved and part of the discussions on how to achieve a sustainable and inclusive city.

In addition, one challenge that Cities (and other actors outside city administrations) experience when working with the SDGs is how to find a balance between prioritising the issues that are most relevant to them without losing the holistic perspective and the principle of indivisibility of the SDGs that the Agenda brings. This is a challenge that the City of Gothenburg will have to address as it develops its work with the Agenda.

8. Conclusions

It has been stressed throughout this report that the engagement of the City of Gothenburg with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs is still at a relatively early stage. Therefore, the potential role of the Agenda in contributing to urban sustainability in Gothenburg is yet to be realised. There are signals from different directions of an increasing interest in engaging with the Agenda. Such signals include the initiatives that different departments and municipal companies have taken to map the SDGs against their activities, the specific tasks that the City Executive Board has given to the City Executive Office related to the Agenda and the private sector dialogue with politicians, which was framed around the Agenda, to name a few.

As the City deepens its engagement with the Agenda, it is important to maintain a critical stance towards it. The goals and targets need to be seen critically as they are, in the end, the result of an international political negotiation. It is important for the City to adapt these goals and targets to the local level to make them relevant to the city. At the same time, it is important that the

localisation of the Agenda does not turn into a performative 'SDGs washing' exercise whereby the City just highlights the work is already doing and uses the SDGs as a checklist for what is already done rather than as a tool for reflection of what is working, what is not working and the transformations needed for the city to achieve sustainability. The Agenda calls for transformations, rather than incremental changes. Planning systems, however, have a time inertia, hindering the rapid and significant transformations, which may be needed to reach the goals by 2030. The transformative and medium and long-term planning aspects embedded in the Agenda can also serve to question the limitations of the current planning system of the City where the annual budget takes precedence over other longer-term processes.

There is growing interest in using the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs as a framework to guide and communicate the City's sustainability work. One aspect that has been raised by several City staff is the potential of the Agenda to unite and provide a coherent overarching framework to the multiple sustainability initiatives the City is undertaking through its different departments and municipal companies. While the City is not yet fully committed to using this international Agenda as a guiding framework for its sustainability programme, the work the City has been doing on three dimensions of sustainability needs to be recognised. As was highlighted in the report the SLK A2030 team presented in 2018, the City's programmes and budget already cover basically all issues addressed in the goals (at least at the goal level) within the scope of the political mandates and power the City has as a municipality. The City has several initiatives covering social, economic, environmental and innovation aspects. The City has also attempted to work in a cross-sectoral manner through some of its flagship programmes. For example, the 'Equal City' programme works across several administrations.

The City does not, however, have a comprehensive sustainability strategy. Most of the City's work is still organised in sectoral silos through the city's sector-based political committees and the departments that operate under them. The 2030 Agenda with its principle of the SDGs being indivisible has the potential of raising the importance of cross-sectoral work. The synergies and conflicts analysis (presented in section 4) showed that the City still needs to work more coherently across the three dimensions to avoid conflicts, explicitly reflect on trade-offs and exploit synergies between the different strategic programmes. The analysis also showed that the 2030 Agenda can be a useful framework to analyse these issues. A sustainability strategy or vision, whether it uses the 2030 Agenda as a framework or not, can also serve to highlight how different issues are connected with one another.

The SLK A2030's 2018 report on the 2030 Agenda (Göteborgs Stad 2018b) highlighted that while the City has a significant influence over the progress of the relevant targets, the City administration alone cannot achieve the SDGs. Instead, the achievement of the SDGs is highly dependent on other actors outside the City administration, such as civil society and private sector. The 2030 Agenda has the potential of serving as an umbrella under which multiple actors can come together to

discuss how to tackle the sustainability challenges the city is facing, including how to address trade-offs and conflicts and exploit synergies.

There are several aspects where the Agenda has the potential to guide the sustainability transformation required in the city. Realising that potential is dependent on clear political leadership both from the national and local levels. In the case of Sweden and Gothenburg, leadership on the Agenda is still at an incipient stage. In the response that the City of Gothenburg submitted to the review of the Swedish Agenda 2030 Delegation's final report, the issue of leadership was highlighted as something still missing from the national level. The response stressed the need for the national level to lead the way in the implementation of the Agenda, starting with co-ordinating action, clear guidance and incentives for the municipalities to engage with the Agenda; all issues which have been missing so far. The same can be translated to the city level. While the City Council and the City Executive Office may be expecting leadership from the national level, the City departments and municipal companies are expecting clear leadership and guidance on how to work with the Agenda. Finally, it is important to highlight that leadership and an inclusive planning process are just part of the recipe. The critical ingredient lies on the implementation, where the vision of the 2030 Agenda of 'leaving no one behind' and the goal of creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities will either fail or be realised.

City of Gothenburg SDGs project co-production team, which includes the members of the SLK Agenda 2030 team and Mistra Urban Futures researcher. From left to right: Fredrik Karlsson, Katrin Olausson, Sara Pettersson, Sandra Valencia, Helena Österlind and Lena Risfelt (missing from picture: Susanna Lauritzen)

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