

# Sustainable Development Goals at local level

A review of sustainable development indicators and their application at local level

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Organisers:



International Co-owners:



Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative  
Promoting Policies and Practices for Sustainability



# Previous (lack of) research

- Research on selection criteria
- Research on indicator development, but not on their use or impact
- No research on role of indicators
- No research on change of type of indicators

# Selection of indicator systems

- Indicator systems need to cover all aspects of sustainability
- Cover a wider audience
- Public domain indicators
- Broad scale indicators, not benchmarking



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# Overview of indicator systems

1990 2002 2014

UN

Housing indicator programme

Urban indicator programme

Global urban indicators database

CSD indicators for SD

Millennium Goal indicators

Sustainable Development Goal indicators

World Bank

Global City indicators

ISO 37 120

EU

Urban sustainability indicators

European Common indicators

Reference Framework for sustainable cities

OECD

Better Live index



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# Indicator analysis

Name of indicator system	SDG indicators	ISO 37120	Better Life index	CSD indicators of SD	UN Habitat Urban indicator guidelines	European Common Indicators (ECI)	Urban sustainability indicators
Year of introduction/ most recent version	2015	2014	2011	2007	2004	2004	1998
Number of indicators	239	94	24	49	38	10	15
Actual use in cities	No numbers available yet	30 cities have reported at least some indicators	Reporting mostly on country level	No information on use in cities	Different versions are used by 200+ cities	Tested by 42 cities	No information on use in cities

# Indicator analysis

SDG indicators



# Indicator analysis



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# Indicator analysis

— SDG indicator

— ISO37120

— UN Habitat Urban indicator guidelines

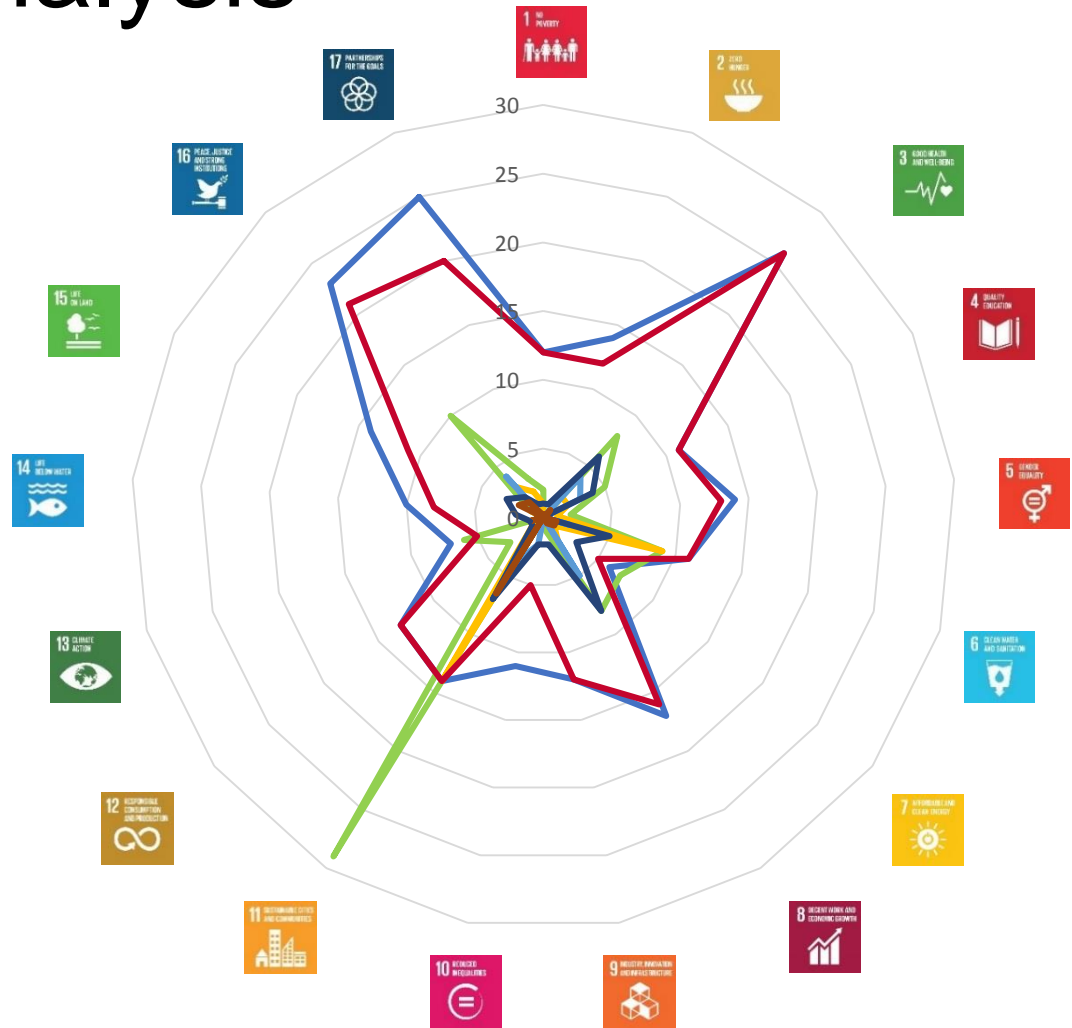
— ECI

— Better Life index

— CSD indicators of SD







— Urban sustainability indicators

— SDGs applicable to cities





# Most common indicators

- Air pollution 
- Waste management 
- Education 
- Safety and security 
- Sanitation services 
- Drinking water 



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# Least common indicators

- Opinion-based indicators (Do you feel...? Are you satisfied...?)
- Indicators that measure changes in values
- Ecosystem services or resilience
- Alternatives to GDP



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# Where does this take us?

- There is a lot of data gathered
- The use of indicators has been changing over time
- There is hardly any evidence on how indicators are being used and what their impact is
- Track changes over time or benchmark
- The role of SDGs at the local level

This is ongoing research on assessing the sustainability of cities, a review of indicators and their application at local level



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# Thank you



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