


FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONNECTING ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND PUBLIC POLICIES FOR SDG LOCALIZATION

Local2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network Meeting
“Leveraging Academic Research and data for Effective SDG Localization”

 **LOCATION:** University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain

 **DATE:** 23 October 2024

 **TIME:** 13:30 – 15:00 CET

CONTEXT

The Local2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network (KSN), an initiative launched by the Government of Italy in collaboration with UN-Habitat and CeSPI ETS and supported by the Local2030 Coalition, aims to connect experts and scholars from around the world to bridge the gap between academic research and policymaking for SDG localization at the local level.

By fostering collaboration between researchers/academicians, policymakers and practitioners, the network supports evidence-based strategies that promote sustainable development. The KSN is currently being piloted in Jordan and Tunisia, where a cluster of PhD students will participate in a yearly Academic Programme on SDG Localization and will also carry out research activities to inform the local policies and projects of the cities of Aqaba and Irbid in Jordan and Kerkennah and Sousse in Tunisia.

This upcoming meeting will create momentum for the KSN by providing an opportunity for proactive engagement among its international members. The meeting will facilitate open dialogue to understand members' needs and encourage the development of proposals to further advance KSN support for SDG localization.

LOCAL2030 KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENTIFIC NETWORK MEETING

The Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 'Connecting Academic Research and Policy Solutions for SDG Localization' will be co-organized by the University of Deusto and the Local2030 Coalition. It will take place on October 22-23 at the Bilbao Campus of the University of Deusto. The forum will gather representatives from the United Nations, local administrations, and leading

international researchers. Participants will discuss the challenges of localizing the SDG Agenda and explore how universities can play a stronger role in public policy-making.

In this context, the KSN will leverage its participation in the Forum by organizing a network meeting to build momentum and explore how academia and research can play a central role in addressing sustainable challenges while advancing SDG localization. The meeting will serve as an important platform for the network members to highlight the critical role of research in driving progress towards the SDGs, discuss how to bridge the gap between academic research and urban policymaking, and identify key next steps to maximize the network's impact. During the meeting, participants will also have the opportunity to provide inputs on the Policy Paper prepared to be presented during the meeting and the academic programme on SDG Localization developed for the cluster of grantees.

The meeting will also be the occasion for members to learn about the KSN national pilots and discuss how to best link the results achieved at the local level with the experience, knowledge and expertise of the global network.

OBJECTIVES

1. Emphasize the essential role of scientific research and academia in localizing the SDGs.
2. Introduce the Local2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network Academic Programme and the first Policy Paper produced and receive feedback from KSN members.
3. Define upcoming milestones for KSN's progress and explore opportunities for future engagement.
4. Address the gaps, opportunities, and needs of the KSN in the short, medium, and long term.
5. Present the KSN pilot component and explore opportunities for collaboration.
6. Explore innovative approaches and methodologies that academia can adopt to contribute more effectively to sustainable development.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Strengthen membership engagement within the Local2030 Coalition Network by fostering deeper collaboration on joint research and policy initiatives.
- Identification of key milestones and strategic actions needed to leverage the impact of the Local2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network
- Raise awareness of the need for evidence-based policies in urban planning and SDG implementation.
- Identification of best practices, tools, and successful models of collaboration between academia and local governments to advance SDG Localization and sustainable urban development.



AGENDA

Time (CET)	Agenda	Speaker
13:30-13:40	Welcome Remarks	Mr. Sebastien Vauzelle, Head of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat
Global Component		
13:40-13:50	Framing our collaboration	Mr. Marco Zupi, Scientific Coordinator, Local2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network
13:50-14:05	Inputs, questions and feedback from members	
14:05-14:15	Academic Programme for the year 2024/2025	Mr. Marco Zupi, Scientific Coordinator, Local2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network
14:15-14:30	Inputs, questions and feedback from members	
Local Component		
14:30-14:35	National pilots	Mr. Pietro Ceppi, Project Manager, Local2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network
14:40-14:50	Inputs, questions and feedback from members	
14:50 - 15:00	Conclusion and Next Steps	Mr. Sebastien Vauzelle, Head of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat