



**Agència Catalana
de Cooperació
al Desenvolupament**



Generalitat
de Catalunya



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



**European Week of Regions and Cities
UNDP-ACCD session**

Tuesday, October 9, 2018
Square, Brussels (1000)
16.30-18.00, Silver Room

1. **Title:** Over to Regions! Regional Government's action for SDG Localization

Session Code: 9WS70URB

Organizers: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD)

Languages: English, Spanish and French

2. **Short session description:**

How can the SDGs be localized? What is the specific role and potential of regional governments? With the aim of sharing knowledge and stimulating constructive discussion, the debate will review what European Regions and their counterparts from around the globe are doing in this regard, paying particular attention to institutional frameworks, specific mechanisms and public policies to support the achievement of the Global Goals from a regional perspective. This session will also build on the preliminary results of the study promoted by UNDP and ACCD on the role of regional governments in localizing the SDGs. .

3. **Concept Note:**

The achievement of the SDGs will greatly depend, worldwide as well as in Europe, on the capacity of subnational governments to promote inclusive and sustainable development. Territorial leadership, multi-level governance

and horizontal cooperation between public and private stakeholders with an empowered civil society lie at the basis of this process.

Regional governments are very well positioned to facilitate harmonization of national frameworks and territories' development priorities, thereby taking the lead in promoting vertical policy coherence and in the localization of the SDGs.

It is widely acknowledged that if the 2030 Agenda wants to respect its commitments, it must be fully realized at local level. To make this happen, and to transform the SDGs into local realities, specific enabling conditions need to be put in place: multi-level vertical and horizontal coordination and cooperation, inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, and overall political leadership and commitment – at all levels. In this sense, localizing the SDGs refers to the process of defining, implementing and monitoring development strategies at local level, in coordination with national frameworks, in order to achieve the global goals. It is a twofold process where the global and the local meet to improve the effectiveness of development.

Sub-national governments lie at the very heart of this process as all of the SDGs have targets related to their responsibilities. At the same time, they are not mere implementers of the agenda, but policy makers in their own right, and important catalysts of change.

Regional governments in particular are the most resourceful and best positioned governance level to facilitate harmonization of national frameworks and territories' development priorities. This means the possibility to promote coherent policy revision – in line with the SDGs – while providing institutional reference for building dialogue and cooperation.

The discussion will build on the presentation of the results of the study promoted by UNDP and the Directorate General of Development cooperation of the Government of Catalonia, Spain / Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, and conducted by a specialized research institute.

Participants will get acquainted with what European Regions and their counterparts from the globe are doing to localize the SDGs. With the aim of sharing knowledge and experiences, the debate will shade light on the specific institutional frameworks, mechanisms and regional public policies that can advance the achievement of the Global Goals.

Moderated by UNDP, the session will count on the presence of representatives from local governments, academia and European Institutions. Moreover, the discussion will be articulated with the session proposed by the ECON Commission of the European CoR with the aim of stimulating a joint reflection on how to advance the SDGs within European territories.