



World's first VLR online platform

VLR Lab

<https://www.iges.or.jp/en/sdgs/vlr/>

VLR = Voluntary Local Review

• • • aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, **among local and regional governments** with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Review is expected to show what steps **a local (regional) government** has taken to implement the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs, and provide an assessment of the results on the ground.

Local Reporting's Positive Impacts



As all SDGs have targets that are directly or indirectly linked to the daily work of local administrations, LRGs play a significant role in achieving SDGs. Conducting VLRs can provide a space for self-assessment, policy integration, accountability and peer-learning.

While it is relatively simple to set a grand plan for SDGs and Paris Agreement, it is not so easy to commit to report on their own local/regional progress on SDGs by following the standards which require them to do honest self-assessments, to share their successes and struggles, and to provide forward-looking commitments, addressing their shortcomings and challenges.

However, we think that such practice is useful for cities to grasp where they are located in the big picture, by providing opportunities to discuss these issues internally and externally. The format which we have set asks for details of stakeholder engagement, which encourages LRGs to involve citizens in a positive way. In order to monitor, assess, and compare LRGs' efforts towards decarbonisation and sustainability, experiences should be shared with other LRGs outlining what they have done, achieved, and what they have struggled to overcome in a coherent manner.

To this end, the IGES has published three VLR reports with, respectively, Toyama City, Kitakyushu City, and Shimokawa Town. Our standardised report was significant and paved a way for many LRGs to follow.

Trends of LRGs' Reporting



As "Voluntary Local (Regional) Reviews" is gaining popularity, many cities are planning to do the VLRs in 2019. NYC, who was also the one of first cities to present VLRs, was planning the 2nd round of VLRs too. Moreover, EU is currently working on the development of the guideline. The field of VLRs is getting more and more actors involved and shows that VLRs might be a bigger momentum globally to demonstrate LRGs capacity and commitments.

Cities already conducted VLRs

- Kitakyushu City, Japan
- Toyama City, Japan
- Shimokawa Town, Japan
- New York City, USA

Second Round of VLRs? (TBD)

- Kitakyushu City
- Toyama City
- Shimokawa Town
- New York City

Cities and Regions planning to conduct VLRs (TBC)

- Madrid City, Spain
- Basque Country, Spain
- Wales Region, UK
- Campeche, Mexico
- Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan
- Hamamatsu City, Japan (UCLG)
- Nagano Prefecture, Japan

IGES' planned 2019 VLRs

- Nagano Prefecture
- Kanagawa Prefecture
- Hamamatsu City

IGES' role to contribute to Local Sustainability



VLR Lab



»IGES Website

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This online platform provides all you need to know about cities and regions taking a lead on "Voluntary Local Reviews."



Locally-led Transformation for SDGs



Our Strategy to Contribute to the Local Sustainability?

How: VLR Lab, Guideline & Workshop = Ecosystem



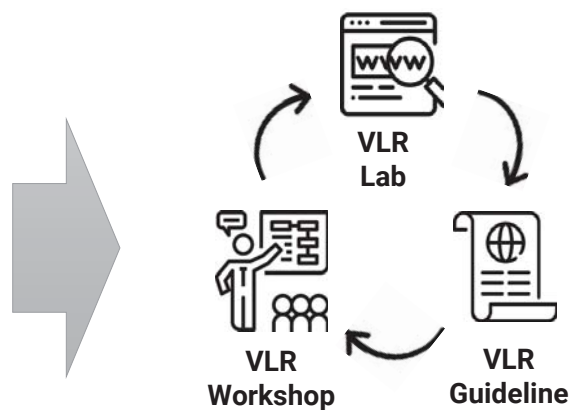
(Online and Offline) VLR Lab is where all experiences are collected. Online VLR lab is a website containing cities who have done VLRs and plan to conduct VLRs.



VLR Guideline is to set the VLR formats and standards for the purpose of comparison and monitoring, drafted by the panel comprised of international partners.



VLR Workshop is a capacity-development package for cities seeking to conduct the VLRs.



1 Online VLR Lab



The launch of “Online VLR Lab”

@ the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (28 March 2019)



- To list cities who conducted VLRs with links to their reports;
- To provide background information of the Agenda 2030 (SDGs) and potentially a guidance to initiate the VLR process;
- To list all cities planning to conduct VLRs.

2 VLR Guideline



1. Present Three VLRs and three 2nd VLRs at HLPF and SDGs summit in 2019 (Kanagawa Prefecture, Nagano Prefecture, and Hamamatsu City)
2. Host the Offline VLR Lab at the HLPF-ECOSOC in July
- (3.) Establish or Be part of a Working Group for VLR Guideline

3 VLR Workshops



Ideas of Modules

IGES Assistance

What is our Support?

VLR Workshop Package

- Consultation
- Facilitation of the stakeholder consultation process
- Technical assistance for localizing SDGs.
- Support to promotion Activities at various fora.

Introduction to preparation of budget and schedule for conducting VLR

Detailed sessions for each segment of VLRs report

Discussion on why and how to feed into VNRs

Using VLRs and learning from peers for better policy integration

VLR ECOSYSTEM

Voluntary Local Review (VLR), led by local and regional governments (LRGs) and authorities, can;

1. **Enhance the inclusiveness of stakeholder engagement of the VNR process** by getting inputs from VLRs, creating a multi-level stakeholder engagement. This supports local government efforts to integrate national priorities into local planning, establish a long-term vision, and identify areas needing partnerships to fill gaps where local governments alone cannot bring about all of the necessary transformation.
2. **Provide a reporting framework** that ensures integration of the three dimensions, in addition to making certain that no one is left behind, identifying priorities, and planning ways forward. VLR Lab will assist in facilitating this process, and in the dissemination of VLR reports. Since they follow the standardised format of VNRs, it becomes much more manageable for national governments to integrate feedback from the local level. It also means that **the VLR reports are comparable** with each other, thereby **promoting effective and practical peer-learning**.
3. **Accurately capture local progress, especially through collection of standardised and/or proxy data.** This helps national governments **avoid under-reporting** their total national achievements.



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