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# Report: Survey on Local Voluntary Social Organisations' Knowledge of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Its Relevance to the Micropolis Project

## 1. Background of the Survey

As part of the ongoing development of the Micropolis project, we conducted a survey among local voluntary social organisations to better understand their knowledge of, experience with, and interest in the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Although the SDGs play an increasingly central role in public policy, municipal strategies, and funding priorities, it is not guaranteed that local associations perceive them as relevant or accessible in their everyday work.

The survey was therefore designed to explore:

- the organisations' **awareness** of the SDGs
- their **practical experience** with SDG-related activities
- their **interest** in integrating the SDGs more actively
- their **needs** for support, knowledge, and collaboration

The results show that while the organisations generally have **limited formal knowledge** of the SDGs, many of them already work with SDG-related themes—such as *Good Health and Well-Being*, *Reduced Inequalities*, and *Sustainable Cities and Communities*—without explicitly framing their activities within the SDG framework.

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## 2. Why the Survey Is Important for the Micropolis Project

Micropolis aims to strengthen **inclusive, sustainable, and engaged local communities** by supporting collaboration between residents, associations, and institutions. The SDGs offer a strong conceptual framework for this work—but *only if local actors can see themselves reflected in it*.

The survey provides three essential insights that directly strengthen the Micropolis project:

### 2.1. It gives us a realistic starting point for capacity-building

The organisations express a need for:

- simple introductions to the SDGs
- concrete examples of how the goals can be translated into local activities
- tools to communicate their social and sustainable impact

This aligns perfectly with Micropolis' ambition to develop **training methods, workshops, and learning materials** that support local actors in building stronger communities.

## **2.2. It allows us to tailor Micropolis methods to real needs**

Micropolis CEO focuses on:

- inclusion
- sustainability
- active citizenship
- co-creation

The survey shows that local organisations already work with these values, but lack a shared language and structure. The SDGs can provide that shared language, while Micropolis offers the **practical framework** that makes the goals tangible and actionable.

## **2.3. It strengthens the project's relevance to EU priorities**

Erasmus+ emphasises:

- **Inclusion and diversity**
- **Democratic participation**
- **Environment and climate action**

The survey documents that local organisations are already engaged in these areas, but need support to systematise and expand their efforts. Micropolis can provide this support and thereby create a stronger link between local needs and EU policy goals.

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# **3. How the Survey Will Be Integrated into the Micropolis Project**

The survey will play a central role in the project's development phase and will be used in three key ways:

## **3.1. As a knowledge base for the partnership**

The results will inform:

- the design of Micropolis workshops
- the development of training methodologies

- the selection of cases and examples
- the partners' shared understanding of local challenges

### 3.2. As documentation for communication and reporting

The survey provides:

- concrete data on needs and barriers
- examples of local practices
- strong arguments for the project's relevance

This strengthens the project's **communication**, **EPALE<sup>1</sup> materials**, **social media content**, and **final reporting**.

### 3.3. As a foundation for local Micropolis activities

The organisations can be involved in:

- testing workshop formats
- participating in pilot activities
- co-creation processes
- building sustainable local communities

The survey ensures that their involvement is meaningful and aligned with their actual needs.

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## 4. Conclusion

The survey on voluntary social organisations' knowledge of the SDGs is not an isolated activity—it is a **strategic and essential component** of the Micropolis project. It provides:

- a clear understanding of local actors' needs
- strong justification for the project's relevance
- a practical foundation for developing effective methods
- a direct link between local community work and EU priorities

In short, the survey ensures that Micropolis becomes a **grounded, inclusive, and sustainable development initiative**, rooted in the realities of the organisations and communities it aims to support.

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<sup>1</sup> EPALE is **the European Commission's online platform for adult learning professionals**. The name stands for **Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe**.