SULTANBEYLI
2030 AGENDA

ON LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

A VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW
2021

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*This report will be
replaced by the full report,
available in October 2021 at the
official website
of Sultanbeyli Municipality.*

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Sultanbeyli
Municipality

OUR MOTIVATION

Our main motivation for writing this report is that VLR reporting provides an opportunity to evaluate our district from a holistic perspective in terms of SDGs.

As the District Municipality, Sultanbeyli monitors its performance targets in relation to SDGs on annual and five-yearly based strategic plans, performance programmes and activity reports. Services for the development of the district, which are provided by other stakeholders such as the central administration, local administration and NGOs are monitored and reported individually by parties. What is desired for is to incorporate every monitoring outcome and conduct an integrated study at the district level.

As Sultanbeyli Municipality, creating the Voluntary Local Review report, with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals allowed us to establish a comprehensive approach on evaluating our district.

The 2021 Sultanbeyli VLR report provides an assessment of the local area with a sustainable development perspective; It will be an important tool for localizing the global agenda.

ABOUT SULTANBEYLI

ISTANBUL

SULTANBEYLI

History

The history of Sultanbeyli dates back to ancient times. The region is located at the crossing points of the Silk Road between Izmit and Istanbul. Sultanbeyli, whose borders include the historical Aydos Castle and the Sultanbeyliği Plain, was in terms of military and civil transportation located on a focal point between the periods 11th century-13th century. Due to these features, the region where Sultanbeyli is located has maintained its strategic importance for many years in the ancient, medieval and later periods.

Sultanbeyli was legally announced a village in 1957, as a legal local administration within the borders of today's Sultanbeyli region. An influx of internal migration and rapid construction process resulted in Sultanbeyli becoming a town district in 1987 and later on 3rd June 1992 Sultanbeyli became one of Istanbul's districts.

Geography

Sultanbeyli, with an area of 29 km² is located on the Anatolian side of Istanbul and is geographically located between the Aydos Mountain, which is the highest hillside of Istanbul, with an altitude of 537, and the Teferrüç Mountain. The district lies 130 meters above the sea level and has an important location in terms of logistics, as it is located at the highway exit of Istanbul leading to Anatolia.

The Trans-European North-South Highway (TEM) passes through the middle of the district, which separates Sultanbeyli's 15 neighbourhoods located in the north and south of the highway.

Demographic Structure

The current population of the district is 343,318. Children between the ages of 0-14 make up 28.8% of the population, and 26.6% are young people between the ages of 15 and 29. This shows that Sultanbeyli has a young and dynamic population. To have support a well-educated group of adults in the future, it is of great importance to increase investments on education, nutrition, health and culture. However, the ratio of 0-4 age group is significantly lower than 5-9 age group, which is an indicator to a decreasing trend in childbirth.

Socio-Economic Structure

The district population was formed by internal migration from cities and rural areas all over Anatolia. As a region that receives citizens from all over Turkey, the district has a cosmopolitan social structure with the influence of different cultures and subcultures. And since 2014, an intense migration influx of Syrian Refugees made Sultanbeyli more diverse, as of 2020 the number of Syrian refugees living in Sultanbeyli is 25,000.

The district has been home to families who migrated from their villages to Istanbul for many years, especially with the effect of increasing urbanization throughout Turkey in the 1980s. A high percentage of people live in crowded households due to the effects of financial struggles and also family traditions. With an average of 4.13 people per household, Sultanbeyli lies above the average of Istanbul and Turkey.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The border of Sultanbeyli are formed by two forests by the Teferrüç state forest in the northeast and the Aydos Mountain Forest in the southwest. The entire Aydos Mountain Forest is a 1st degree natural protected area.

Atop one of the hills of the Aydos Forest lies the Aydos Castle, which is a later period Byzantine Castle, dated between the 11th and 13th centuries. The area where the castle is located is registered as a first degree archaeological site.
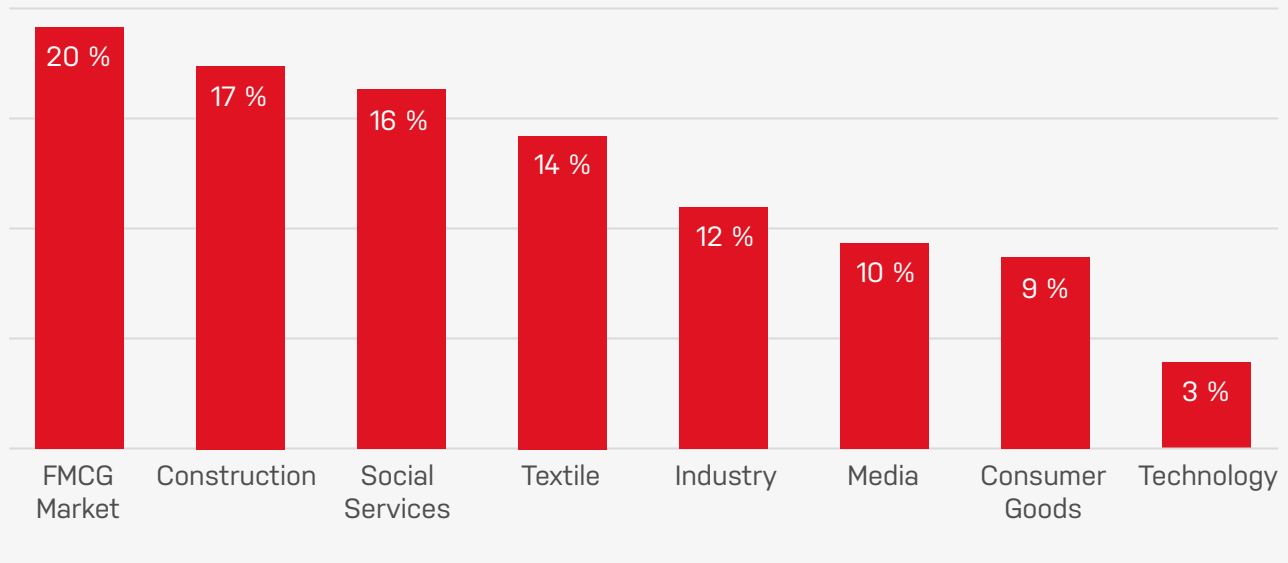
A view from Aydos Castle

Job Market

While workplaces in the district are concentrated in FMCG (Fast Moving Consuming Goods), construction, social services, textile and industry sectors, small and medium-sized enterprises create the majority. Industrial development in the district is very low.

Sector Dissemination:

Chart showing sector percentages:
- FMCG Market: 20 %
- Construction: 17 %
- Social Services: 16 %
- Textile: 14 %
- Industry: 12 %
- Media: 10 %
- Consumer Goods: 9 %
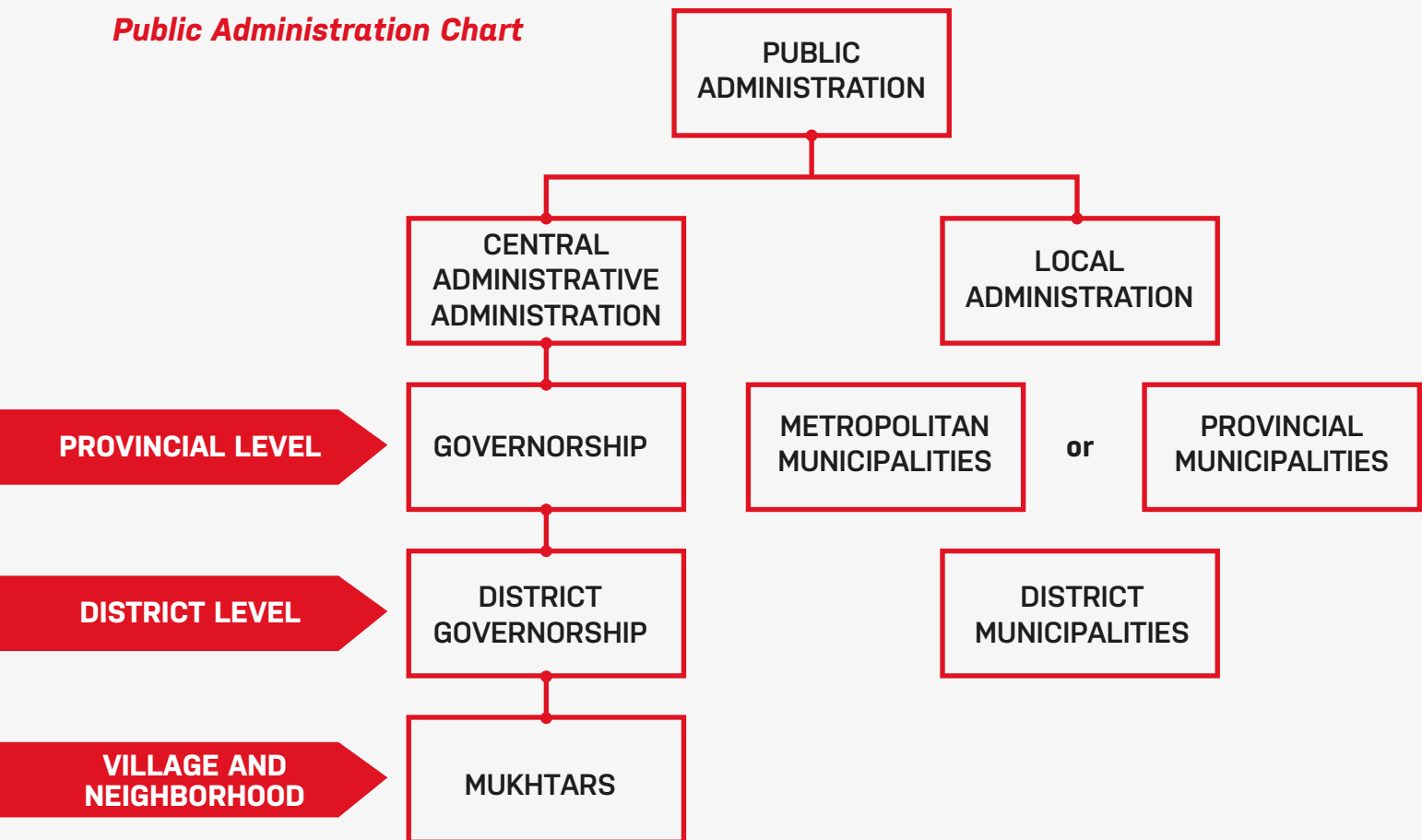- Technology: 3 %

Source: Sultanbeyli Municipality, 2020

District Management

Public administration in Turkey is structured on the level of provinces, districts, villages and neighbourhoods. Altogether at provincial level governorates serve as central administrative administration, metropolitan or provincial municipalities as local administration, district governorships as central administrative administration unit at district level and municipalities as local administrative administration unit.

Municipalities: Are public legal entities that have administrative and financial autonomy within their borders, fulfil the duties and responsibilities given by laws, exercise their autonomy, and are elected by the voters as the decision-making body. Municipalities serve as metropolitan, provincial and district bodies categorized by the criteria determined by the service limit, the population to be served etc.

Central Administrative Administrations: Serve with the administrative level determined by appointment as the provincial organizations of the central administrative administration in the settlements determined as provincial or district borders. Provinces are managed by governorships, districts by district governorships, and villages and neighbourhoods by mukhtars affiliated to district governorships.

Public Administration Chart

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                          PUBLIC
                      ADMINISTRATION
                            |
            ┌───────────────┴───────────────┐
            |                               |
       CENTRAL                            LOCAL
    ADMINISTRATIVE                    ADMINISTRATION
    ADMINISTRATION
            |                    ┌──────────────┬──────────────┐
PROVINCIAL LEVEL ▶  GOVERNORSHIP   METROPOLITAN    or    PROVINCIAL
                                  MUNICIPALITIES        MUNICIPALITIES
            |
DISTRICT LEVEL ▶    DISTRICT                    DISTRICT
                  GOVERNORSHIP                MUNICIPALITIES
            |
VILLAGE AND ▶        MUKHTARS
NEIGHBORHOOD
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Sultanbeyli is a district-level settlement located in Istanbul. Services at the district level are provided by the Sultanbeyli District Governorate as the central administrative administration, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Sultanbeyli Municipality as local governments.

THE ORIGIN STORY OF THE VLR ADVENTURE

Sultanbeyli's VLR adventure begins with the preparation process of Sultanbeyli Municipality's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.[1]

While the plan was being prepared, it was frequently encountered in the top policies that local governments are an important actor in achieving the "Sustainable Development Goals" and that responsibilities were attributed to municipalities, so it was necessary to study the issue in detail and to include it into all planning processes.

Table: Sultanbeyli Municipality 2020-2024 Strategic Plan Areas in alignment with the SDG Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS / STRATEGIC PLAN AREAS	Institutional Development and Resource Management	Sustainable City and Living Spaces	Environmental Services Management	Social Support Services	Culture, Art and Education Services	Urban and Social Order
1. No Poverty				●	●	
2. Zero Hunger				●		
3. Good Health and Well-being				●		
4. Quality Education	●			●	●	
5. Gender Equality	●			●	●	
6. Clean Water and Sanitation		●	●			
7. Affordable and Clean Energy		●				
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	●			●		
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	●	●				
10. Reduced Inequality	●			●		
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities		●	●		●	●
12. Responsible Consumption and Production	●		●			●
13. Climate Action	●	●				
14. Life Below Water						
15. Life on Land			●			
16. Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	●			●	●	●
17. Partnerships to achieve the Goal	●				●	

Source: Sultanbeyli Municipality, 2020

[1] In accordance with the "Public Financial Management and Control Law" numbered 5018;
Local governments in Turkey are responsible for preparing their 5-year strategic plans after local elections.

In this context, a Sustainable Office structure was established within the institution in order to carry out studies for the localization of SDGs and to increase corporate awareness. Experts from different professions such as industrial engineers, architects, statistics specialists, sociologists, public administration specialists and translators came together and created a team.

Accordingly, this diversity has supported the development of a multidimensional approach to the sustainable development goals.

The working team drew attention to SDG targets by taking an active role in the workshops for the determination of local strategic goals and objectives, held with the participation of stakeholders. After local targets were determined, alignment studies were carried out between local targets and SDG targets.

In -house studies initiated at the technical level for the implementation and monitoring of SDGs in Sultanbeyli Municipality were carried to the international level at the UCLG Congress held in Durban in 2019 with the participation of local and regional leaders. The working meeting of the VLR Practice Community (Community of Practice-CoP), an initiative of UCLG, held at the aforementioned Congress was the turning point of the process. The Mayor of Sultanbeyli, who was present at the UCLG Congress, was informed about the VLR process planned to be followed by the Implementation Community, the background and the nature of the reports. The President's declaration of intent to take part in the Implementation Community as the Municipality of Sultanbeyli has been an important motivation for the work carried out with UCLG-MEWA in the future.

A series of preparatory meetings were held between the Sustainable Office team and UCLG-MEWA and a roadmap for the Sultanbeyli VLR preparation process was drawn up. The process was initiated with the joint decision of both institutions.

VLR PROCESS

The VLR process consists of 4 stages.
The activities carried out in these stages are summarized below:

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURING	DETERMINING THE METHODOLOGY	DATA MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING	ANNOUNCEMENT
Sustainable Office	Establishment of the Advisory Board	Conducting internal meetings and data exchange	Submission of VLR Report on HLPF
Matching local areatargets with SDGs in the Strategic Plan	Holding Workshops with the Advisory Board	Conducting stake-holder surveys	Publication of the report on the official website of the Municipality
Top management's putting VLR writing on the agenda	Deciding on the VLR Methodology	Conducting meet-ings with stakehold-ers and exchanging data	Publication of the report on the official website of the UN
Collaboration with UCLG-MEWA		Setting local targets	Dissemination and Information Sharing
Literature Review Matching activities and budget with SDGs		Determination of indicators	
Conducting Awareness Studies			

Methodology

The methodology of the report was created as a result of the workshops held with the advisory board of experts. The general methodological approach of the report is described as follows:

- In this report all SGDs except the SDG 14[2] were evaluated considering that determining only focal SDG areas may create a deficiency in terms of a holistic view of the city as an inclusive social space and living space. In addition, since the report is the first VLR of the district, it was considered important to reveal the current situation in each area. Each SDG has been studied under the titles of Current Situation, District Perception, What Are We Doing?, Model Practice and from the aspect of Leaving No One Behind.

- Due to the nature of the district administration in Turkey, since the institutions provide complementary or overlapping services in some areas and the VLR report includes an evaluation at the district level, service information is presented without specifying the name of the institution. However, institutions relevant with the SDGs are collectively specified in the related SDG topics.

1 NO POVERTY

SDG 1
No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Related Institutions

Sultanbeyli District Governorate, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Sultanbeyli Municipality, Refugees Association, Turkish Red Crescent, İHH - Humanitarian Relief Foundation, IBC - International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation.

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[2] The objective titled "SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER" was not taken into consideration because Sultanbeyli is not bordered to the sea or the ocean.

- In the titles given in the SDG Current Situation Analysis section, a general portrait of the district has been drawn by making use of qualitative and quantitative data to analyse the local level reflection of SDGs. Since the report is the first VLR of the district, both historical data and 2020 data were used while describing the current situation.

- Monitoring indicators are determined for each sub-target that can be localized. SDG monitoring-evaluations will be made over these indicators in the progress reports to be prepared in the following years. In addition, public institutions and citizens' perceptions about the district were also evaluated in terms of determining and monitoring the level of sustainable development as an important reference source. Research conducted for this purpose has increased the level of participation of the report.

Table: SDG 12 perceptions on statements

STATEMENTS: "Garbage is collected regularly." "Recycling is ensured effectively."	What Do **Citizens** Say?	What Do **Institutions** Say?
TOTAL SCORE (out of 100)	**73** POINTS DEVELOPED	**78** POINTS DEVELOPED

● In the localization of SDGs, some of the UN targets were revised in line with the current situation, services and needs, and some were rewritten considering national targets since most of the UN targets and indicators do not have a full correspondence at the district level. Since the sub-targets of the different SDGs are related to each other; nested sub-goals are explained under a single sub-goal title.SDGs are collectively specified in the related SDG topics.

Table:Example Indicator (SDG 2.1)

Indicator	The rate of workplaces in the district that are not found to comply with food safety standards
Definition	The ratio of the number of businesses that fail the food inspection in the district to the number of businesses operating in the food sector in the district
Source	Sultanbeyli Municipality
Current Value	_
Target Value	_

Table: Example Indicator (SDG 4.3)

Indicator	University graduates aged 25-29
Definition	The ratio of university graduates to population aged 25-29
Source	Turkish Statistical Institute
Current Value	_
Target Value	_

As a contribution to the literature, the distinguishing features of the report from other VRL reports are as follows:

- In the report, in each sub-goal title, the relevant UN target, Turkey target[3] and Sultanbeyli local target were matched to emphasize the harmony at the local-national-international level.

UN Target 2.1
By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

Turkey VNR 2019 SDG 2 Targets
Enhancing coordination and cooperation on food-healthcare nutrition Policies.

Sultanbeyli Local Target 2.1

To ensure that the people of the district have accessto affordable, reliable and nutritious food through regular inspection activities.

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[3] *These targets are taken from the 2019 Volunteer National Review Report, Turkey.*

Sultanbeyli is a district that stands out with its inclusive activities for the refugee population, thus title "Leaving No One Behind" is given as a sub-title in each SDG area.

SDG 3 (GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEİNG)

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

General Health Services

The Migrant Health Centre provides free services to approximately 500 patients a day with its paediatrics, internal medicine, family medicine, x-ray and emergency room departments for refugees in the region.
Health service access support is provided such as logistical support to refugees who have limited access to the hospital due to financial or physical reasons.

Physical Therapy Services

A significant part of the refugees who migrated to the district needed physical therapy due to the physical damage they have received as a result of the war. These individuals are evaluated extensively by social workers, psychologists and physiotherapists; According to the situation, regular physical therapy and rehabilitation services are provided in fully equipped PSS therapy rooms within the scope of online or home care services. Medical support devices are provided to refugees with disabilities by prosthetic and orthotic support, assistive device support and battery powered/wheelchair.

Mental Health Services

People who had to leave their country due to war, migration, poverty, political reasons and settled in Sultanbeyli may need psychological support due to their experiences before, during and after migration or war. Individual therapy (adult, child, adolescent) or group therapy (couple and family) services are provided to people who need psychological support, in line with the guidance of social workers. Medication support is provided by psychiatrists for psychiatric diseases and problems.

Health Protection

The most important problem affecting the accessibility of refugees in the field of health, as in every other field, is the language barrier. In order to solve this problem, hospital interpreting service are offered providing interpreter and consultancy support to patients who want to make an appointment from any hospital.
It is aimed to protect the physical and mental health of the refugee population by organizing preventive, protective and informative seminar programs. In this context, heart health, sexual health, reproductive health/family planning, Information on diseases such as COPD, cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's, pregnancy control and vaccination follow-up process, anger and coping methods, violence and the cycle of violence, psychological first aid, psychological resilience and stress management, maternal and child health, and hygiene are provided.

CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPED SOLUTIONS

Data Management

Data management is the most basic element of monitoring the sustainable development level of the district. During the VLR writing process, inter-institutional data exchange was prioritized to carry out a healthy monitoring-evaluation study. Although there are rapid transformations in data infrastructure development, data storage and data-based decision-making processes in institutions are open for development.

Sultanbeyli Municipality has started a programme to create a database in which all district-level data will be kept to solve the problems on data management. Within the scope of these studies, a data inventory of the district has been prepared and accessible data is integrated into the system. In the upcoming period, it is planned to sign protocols on regular data exchange with relevant institutions. Our main aim is to contribute to the transformation of data into information to make data available to the public trough open data platform.

Apart from this, in-house and external training and workshops will be organized to support the establishment of a culture on data retention in institutions and the activation of data-based decision-making processes.

Localization of SDGs

Although it is explained that the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals are created with the perspective that development starts from the local level, not the national level, the sub-targets and indicators do not address the district level. It was observed that while the determined targets and indicators are relatively suitable for the adaptation of big cities to the local level, at district level the SDGs have low response rates. According to the report titled "Assessment of the Human Development Index-Districts Model in terms of UN Sustainable Development Goals" prepared in cooperation with UCLG-MEWA and INGEV (Human Development Foundation) , only 20% of SDG indicators and targets can be associated with district level.[4]

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[4] UCLG-MEWA & INGEV, 2019, "Human Development Index in terms of UN Sustainable Development Goals – Evaluation of District Model", Istanbul.

This is a factor that makes it difficult for institutions providing services at district level to make service plans in line with SDG targets and to demonstrate their contributions in this area. During the writing process of this report, localization of targets and indicators has been one of the areas where the most time and effort has been spent. For the localization of SDGs, solutions can be considered such as the relevant institutions coming together to determine a procedure or the UN updating the indicators to be compatible with district level.

In order to adapt the SDGs to Sultanbeyli, support was received from the experts in the Advisory Board and local indicator sets created by other cities were also used.

Inter-Institutional Coordination

The absence of a clear format for the VLR report and the fact that it is a district-level report create the need for inter-agency coordination.

Guidance from expert organizations was needed to determine the methodology of the report and to progress the process systematically; however, there is no holistic mechanism for the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Other than UCLG-ME-WA, it has not been possible to work with a regular interlocutor organization. In addition, support was received from experts from various fields working in different institutions while preparing the report. The accumulation gained in this process will form the basis for a future structuring. In conclusion, a structure that will increase awareness of the SDG objectives, encourage local governments and monitor local practices will support the achievements of the objectives.

The fact that an inter-institutional open dialogue is existence in Sultanbeyli was still not enough for the participation of other stakeholders, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. A more active participation process is planned to be carried out during the preparation period of the next report.

Gains

When we look back and see what this process has gained us, we can say that we have made progress in the issues mentioned below. Our gains are:

- a more holistic overview on monitoring and evaluation mechanism in the region,
- capacity development on internal monitoring and evaluating,
- offering institutions at all levels, as well as citizens, the opportunity to see the current situation of the district, the activities of the institutions serving the district, and the future vision for the district in a transparent manner,
- to be able to provide all institutions serving the district with tools to analyse the effects of their services on the basis of SDGs,
- Increase in inter-institutional communication and more active use of participation tools,
- the development of the practice of a coordinated planning and implementation of institutions,
- a progress on awareness on the 2030 agenda and the SDGs,
- increased national and international networking,
- increased compliance at all levels with the inclusion of SDGs in the institutional framework.

Future Vision

With the experience gained in the VLR writing process, the following activities and programs are planned to be implemented in order to ensure the development of the district in line with the determined targets:

- Dissemination of awareness activities (for institutions, citizens and private sector)
- Making protocols for a systematic structure of data exchange between institutions, developing the digital infrastructure and following the indicators
- Establishment of the Sustainable Development Monitoring and Evaluation General Assembly at district level

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in cooperation with UCLG-MEWA.
The full report will be available in
October 2021 at the
[official website of](#)
Sultanbeyli Municipality.

Sultanbeyli
Municipality