

Ministerium für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft,  
Natur- und Verbraucherschutz  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



Mit Mitteln des



Bundesministerium für  
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit  
und Entwicklung

## **Localizing the SDGs 2.0. – Voluntary Local Reviews and the EU Voluntary Review**

**16 March 2023, 13:30 – 15:00**

**Hybrid event: European Committee of the Regions, Room JDE 52, Rue Belliard  
99-101, 1000 Brussels, and online**

**Interpretation EN/DE**

2023 will be a pivotal year for the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in the EU with the first ever EU Voluntary Review and nine Member States tabling Voluntary National Reviews. The EU Review will be fundamental to show whether the EU walks the talk and can encourage other UN countries to get back on track to implement the SDGs by 2030. Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) by EU municipalities will also be key to demonstrating the full extent of the EU mobilization on SDGs.

The project “Communities in One World” was first implemented in North Rhine-Westphalia and supports municipalities in implementing the SDGs. The project is an initiative of the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) within Engagement Global on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Supported by the project, the first municipalities in North Rhine-Westphalia – the Federal City of Bonn and the state capital Düsseldorf – have presented a VLR, with other municipalities to follow.

The event is co-organised by the European Committee of the Regions, the Ministry for Environment, Conservation and Transport of North Rhine-Westphalia and other partners. During the event, the Mayor of Bonn, Katja Dörner, and the Mayor of Ghent, Mathias De Clercq, will present their Voluntary Local Reviews. These two testimonials will be followed by an EU Panel debate on what to expect from the EU Voluntary Review and how to build bridges between the EU VR and VLRs.

## **Programme**

### **12:30 Registration and Light Lunch**

### **13:30 Welcome Address**

*Videomessage from Parasto NOSRATI, Chair to the Council Working Party on the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Sweden*

Markku MARKKULA, Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions, President of the Helsinki Region, Espoo local councillor, Finland

Viktor HAASE, State Secretary, Ministry for Environment, Conservation and Transport of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

### **13:45 Presentation of the project “Communities in One World”**

Daphne GROSS-JANSEN, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

### **13:50 Voluntary Local Reviews: Two testimonials**

Katja DÖRNER, Mayor of the Federal City of Bonn, Germany

Mathias DE CLERCQ, Mayor of Ghent, Belgium

### **14:15 Panel Discussion: What to expect from the EU Voluntary Review?**

*Moderator: Stefano MARTA, SDGs project coordinator, OECD*

Dr. Asa PERSSON, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Member of the Independent Group of Scientist (IGS) compiling the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (connected online)

Laia PINÓS MATARO, Deputy Head of Unit, Secretariat General, European Commission

Felipe AJAUJO, Vice-Mayor of Porto, Portugal (*connected online*)

Jochen KRAL, Head of Department for Environment and Mobility, Düsseldorf

### **15.00 Concluding remarks**

Viktor HAASE, State Secretary, Ministry for Environment, Conservation and Transport of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany