

# From Agenda to Action

## The Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Helsinki

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# Helsinki's First Voluntary Local Review, VLR 2019

- **Mappaing I ja II**

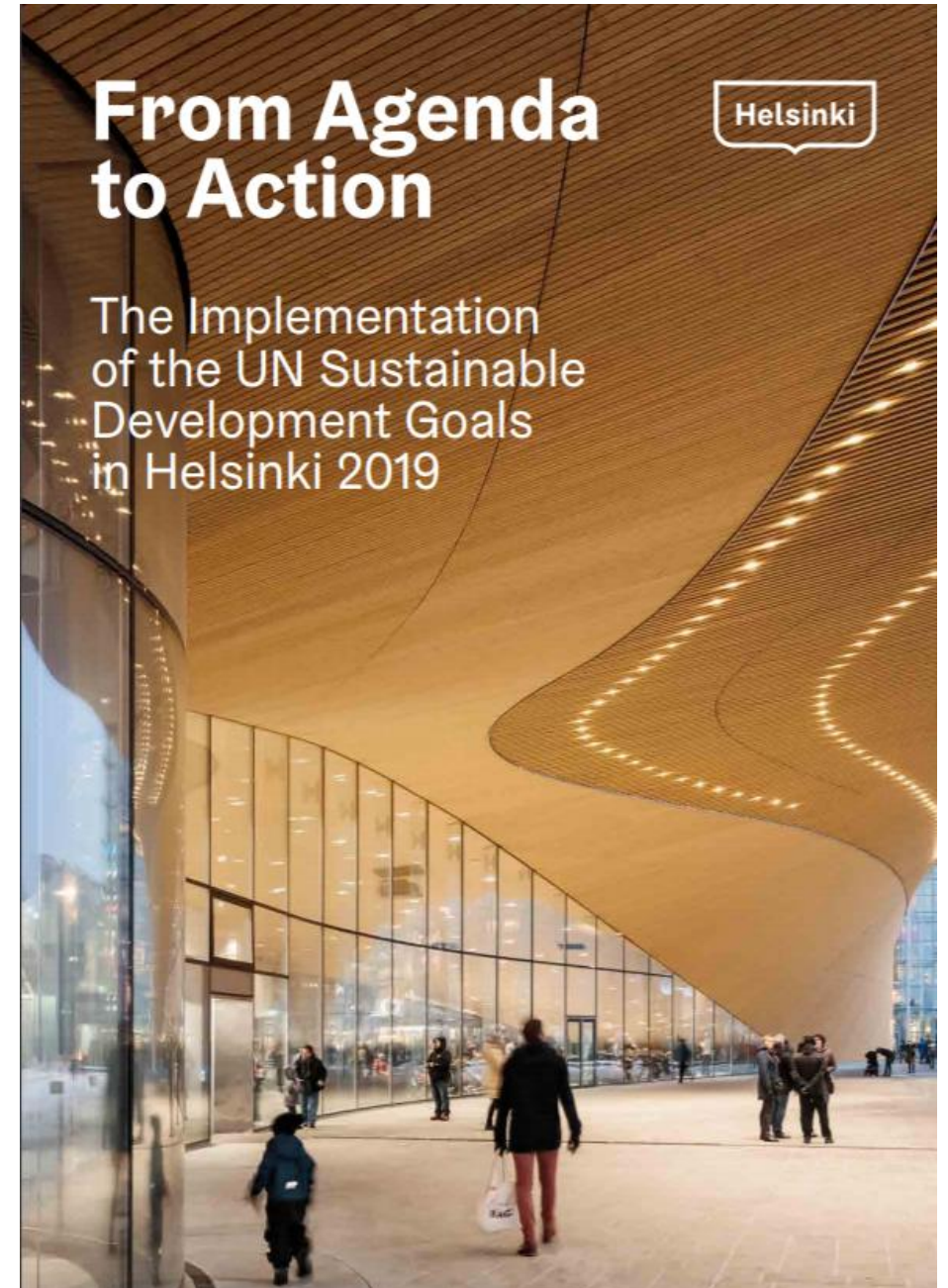
An image of the Helsinki City Strategy and its links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals was created.

- **Separate VLR report**

The Helsinki review focused on the UN goals for 2019 (SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 13, SDG 16)

<https://kestavahelsinki.hel.fi/en>

Helsinki



# The Most Functional City in the World

## Helsinki City Strategy 2017–2021

### Helsinki and The Sustainable Development Goals

#### Securing sustainable growth



#### Developing services



#### Responsible financial management





### **Pleasant and safe**

We will make Helsinki safer and more pleasant.



### **Sound and healthy**

Well-being and health for all Helsinki residents.



### **Minds the wellbeing of children and young people**

We will take care of the well-being of children and youth, as well as prevent marginalization.



### **Athletic and active**

The physical activity of residents will be promoted.



### **Functional urban structure**

The development of the City structure will take accessibility and functionality into account.



### **Vital**

The appeal and vitality of Helsinki will be increased.



### **Diverse nature**

We will secure the diversity of urban nature and sea nature.



### **Carbon neutral**

We will develop Helsinki to become an ecologically sustainable and carbon-neutral city.



### **Resident-oriented and engaging**

Helsinki will be developed in a resident-focused and open manner.



### **Digital**

We will take advantage of digitalization opportunities.



### **Learning**

We will enable lifelong learning.



### **Business-friendly**

Helsinki's focus on business will be developed.



### **Responsible leadership**

Helsinki will be managed responsibly, and the well-being of staff will be looked after.



### **Financially sustainable**

The economy of Helsinki will be managed responsibly, sustainably and profitably.

# What did we learn?

## About the City Strategy and the actions

**Helsinki's City Strategy is an ambitious and comprehensive document and it corresponds with the UN Sustainable Development Goals very well.**

Helsinki has already implemented or is in the process of implementing many actions that promote the UN goals at city level.

UN targets have many references to international development cooperation; in Finland, these goals are managed primarily at Government level.

## About the coverage of the review

The review was mainly focused on the City Strategy, on key projects and on the Carbon Neutral Helsinki 2035 plan of action.

The review does not cover all of the City's basic services or operations.

**Expanding the review to cover the entire organization would provide a more in-depth understanding of the links between City operations and sustainable development goals.**

# What did we learn?

## About the set of indicators

**Indicators suitable for city-level monitoring of the UN goals should be developed further.**

The challenge is to develop a comparable set of indicators. That is why we have, at this review, selected ready-made indicators primarily from the set of monitoring meters of the Helsinki City Strategy.

## About Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation

It would be useful to analyze the links between the UN targets and City operations in more detail. That would help to identify the goals that require more input from Helsinki.

Likewise, it would be beneficial to identify the UN targets that are not relevant from a city-level perspective.

The review should also include an economic angle to enable an assessment of the allocation of resources.

**Experts from all of City Divisions should be involved in identifying these links in the future.**

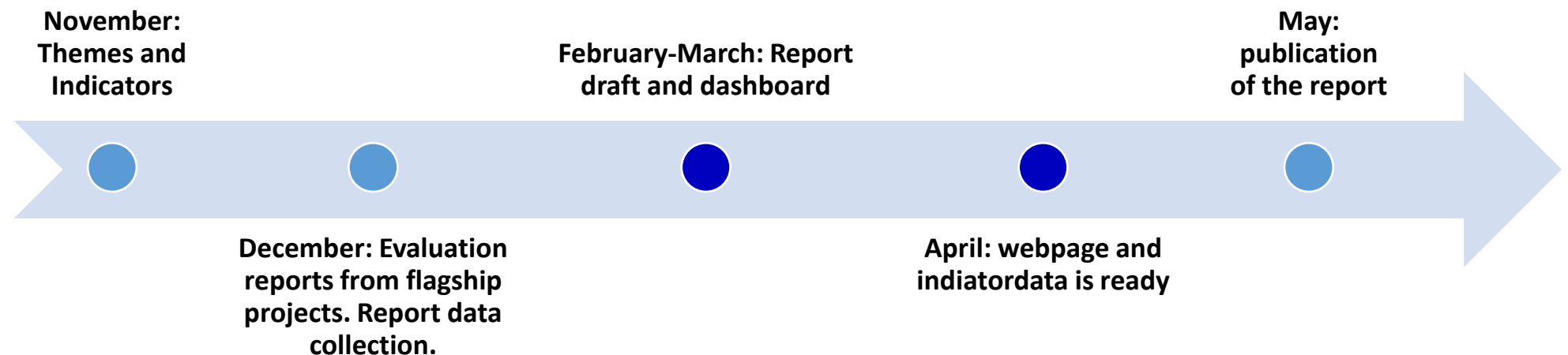
# Review goals 2021

- Utilizing the goals of the UN Agenda 2030 to accelerate Helsinki's pioneering role as a responsible actor
- Linking sustainability to city strategy objectives, measures and impact assessment
- Linking reporting to the core activities of the city's industries and businesses
- More transparent presentation of development points
- Ensuring a sustainability perspective as part of the city's corona recovery measures
- Promoting the involvement of citizens and stakeholders
- Strengthening cooperation and networks internationally and locally
- Taking global responsibility into account



# How we lead and organize the VLR work?

- Working group covering all divisions started in summer 2020 (meeting once a month)
- Strengthening internal cooperation and participation > management board and working group visits
- Staff training and stakeholder cooperation





# VLR 2021 themes and indicators

## Identified:

- 32 sub-themes
- 86 indicators
- 20 programmes or plans

> Framing and delimiting



# More than reporting - benefits of VLR reporting

- Increased understanding of sustainable development and Helsinki's strengths and weaknesses
- Co-operation between other cities, UN and other organizations
- Co-operation at national level
- Launched wider development:
  - Phenomenon-based budgeting and SDGs
  - SDG tool for strategic planning
  - SDG training (virtual platform)

# THANK YOU!

**Helsinki and the sustainable development goals web page:**

<https://www.hel.fi/helsinki/en/administration/strategy/sustainability/>

**VLR publication of Helsinki:**

<https://www.hel.fi/static/helsinki/julkaisut/SDG-VLR-Helsinki-2019-en.pdf>

**Mapping 1 and 2 publications of Helsinki:**

<https://www.hel.fi/static/helsinki/julkaisut/helsinki-sdg-reporting-part-1.pdf>

<https://www.hel.fi/static/helsinki/julkaisut/helsinki-sdg-reporting-part-2.pdf>

