Gothenburg, Sweden

City basics *(2016)*
- *Population*: 556 640 inhabitants
- *Area*: 447.76 km^2
- *Avg. density*: 1 242.8 inhabitants/km^2
- *% of constructed space of total area*: 29.52%
- *Relation of city with its metropolitan region*:
The Municipality of Gothenburg is located in the Västra Götaland county. It is the biggest in terms of population and economic activity of the 49 municipalities of the county.
- *% of population with respect to Västra Götaland*: 33%
- *Contribution of city to Gross Regional Product (2015): 46%*

City priorities in contrast to its biggest SDG challenges

The City Council's yearly budget for 2018 consists of 19 goals that address the mutually dependent dimensions of sustainability: social, ecological and economic. The goals are framed under the slogan "A Sustainable City – Open to the World", which includes making the city of Gothenburg inclusive and open to people's differences and needs. The 19 goals are well linked to Agenda 2030. While they were not planned with Agenda 2030 in mind, all city budget goals can be linked to the SDGs; and vice versa, all SDGs can be connected to at least one budget goal. Fulfillment of 16 of the 19 City Council's goals is considered certain. However, the housing goal will not be fulfilled. Despite major efforts, they have not been sufficient to meet an increased need for housing.

An analysis made by a group at the City Hall on the relevance of the SDGs for the city showed that all goals are relevant. For the following goals, all targets were assessed as relevant: SDG 4 (education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (water and sanitation), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 8 (decent work and growth), and SDG 11 (cities). A few gaps have been identified in different analyses: Addressing the vulnerability of vulnerable groups to climate-related events is lacking in the city's work. The city has 12 environmental goals, which address well the ecological dimension of the SDGs. Yet, the work on climate change (SDG 13), particularly adaptation, needs further development and strengthening.

While Sweden and Gothenburg have a well-developed welfare system and a high standard of living, relative poverty, rather than absolute poverty, poses an increasing challenge. Income inequality and relative poverty have been steadily increasing since the 1990s between different groups and locations in Gothenburg reinforcing existing segregation. Reducing inequalities is therefore a central priority for the city. Consequently one of the biggest initiatives of the city is the program "Equal Gothenburg" (*Jämlikt Göteborg*). One of the priorities of the program is giving all children a good start in life and good conditions through school years. The program also focuses on creating conditions for work and structures for equal work; as well as health promotion and sustainable living environments.

City's mandate over the biggest SDG challenges

The city has, in theory, mandate over all relevant targets. Certain areas of work have a clear mandate through legislation, such as basic education and skill training. While recent yearly budgets have been comprehensive in nature, some gaps can be found with respect to operations and goal fulfillment, raising the need for more coordinated and effective management. Some example areas where additional direction and work is needed include climate change and migration. A key identified challenge for Gothenburg is to achieve sustainable consumption and production, an issue which is not fully under the control of the municipality and requires strong collaboration with the private sector and civil society.

National guidance on the SDGs and the NUA

The government of Sweden was early to declare the ambition that Sweden should be a leader in the implementation of Agenda 2030 - both at home and abroad. In March 2016 an independent national delegation was appointed for 3 years with the task of supporting Sweden's implementation of Agenda 2030. The delegation intends to cooperate with Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions on how Agenda 2030 can influence municipal work and reach citizens. A proposal for implementation at the local level may not be put forward until 2019. In July 2017 the government produced its first voluntary report to the UN HLPF where it recognized that the country is at a favorable starting point for implementing the SDGs as it has been working on the 3 dimensions of sustainability both at the national and local level for a long time. The New Urban Agenda is basically not discussed at the national or local level. Sweden has not developed a National Urban Policy, which could support the implementation of the NUA and the SDGs. Overall, concrete guidance to local governments

has not yet been given by the national government, with the exception of a review of how the Planning and Building Act can include Agenda 2030 in the municipal comprehensive plans.

The Statistics Bureau (SCB) has also prepared 2 analyses. The analyses found that approximately 75% of the UN-recommended indicators could be produced nationally just as they are defined or with national approximations. 20% of the indicators have already been met by Sweden. SCB has also suggested a set of national indicators relevant in a national context. No guidance on local indicators has yet been provided.

What is the city doing regarding the SDGs and NUA

Staff in several organizations of the city have started to explore the relevance of Agenda 2030 for the city (these organizations include City Hall, Environmental Department, Consumer and Citizen Services). However, awareness about Agenda 2030 varies significantly between different public sector actors in the city as well as between civil society and private sector. The Västra Götaland county commissioned a report on the gaps of the county related to sustainability, which includes an analysis of the gaps related to the SDGs. In Nov. 2017 the City Council gave a clear mandate to the City Hall to, in collaboration with relevant committees and companies, return with suggestions by early 2018 on how the city can systematically integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into regular work and follow-up systems. As part of this work, a group at the City Hall is preparing a summary analysis of how and which of the SDGs targets are relevant to the city and the influence the city has over the work necessary to achieve the relevant targets. The analysis shows that all seventeen global goals are at least in part relevant to the city and that of the 169 targets, around 100 are considered of relevance.

Indicators - SDG 11 Tier 1 Indicators (*as of April 2017*)

	11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	**11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted**)
Relevance of indicator for city	Slums or informal settlements deemed not relevant for Sweden by SCB. Overcrowding suggested as nationally appropriate and available indicator.	Highly relevant
Availability of data and source of data	Data available for outdated overcrowding norm (Norm 2 from 1967; most recent Norm 3 from 1986), Source: National Board of Housing, Building and Planning report (2016)	Gaps in yearly average records. Source: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Baseline	*2012*: 15.6%	PM2.5 (*2012*): 7.6 ug/m^3 PM10 (*2015*): 21.4 ug/m^3
Current	*2014*: 16.2%	PM2.5 (*2016*): 6.1 ug/m^3 PM10 (*2016*): 22.1 ug/m^3
Notes/comments on indicator	Overcrowding in Sweden measures how many people have a poorer housing situation in accordance with a defined living standard. The threshold for overcrowding is max. 2 people per room, in addition to a kitchen and living room.	One sensor for each; sensors located in different places. PM2.5: Haga. PM10: Gårda, Haga is a mostly pedestrian neighborhood and thus data may underestimate PM2.5 concentrations in the city.

Sources of information and useful resources:
- Sweden's Agenda 2030 delegation
- City Council's budget; Gothenburg's environmental goals; Equal Gothenburg program
- Sustainability indicators for Gothenburg
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