Using Key Performance Indicators project for Smart Sustainable Cities to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The **United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC)** initiative has developed the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities (SSC) to support city worldwide in evaluating the role and contribution of ICTs in smart sustainable cities, and to provide cities with the tools for self-assessments in order to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These indicators are developed based on an international standard - Recommendation ITU-T Y.4903/L.1603 "Key performance indicators for smart sustainable cities to assess the achievement of sustainable development goals".

These indicators have been developed to provide cities with a consistent and standardized method to collect the necessary data to measure performance and progress in regard to:

- Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Becoming a smarter city; and
- Becoming a more sustainable city.

The KPIs for SSC consist of 91 indicators. Each indicator forms part of a holistic view of a city's performance in three dimensions: **Economy**, **Environment** and **Society and Culture**. Each of these dimensions provides a separate view of progress and when report together, they provide a holistic view of a smart sustainable city. Find out more…

By providing a common set of metrics to benchmark a city's performance, the indicators will also enable cities to compare their performance to other cities, allowing for the dissemination of best practices and setting the standards for progression in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the city level.

The list of all the KPIs for SSC along with its collection methodology are contained in:

Flipbook on "Collection Methodology for Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities".

United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC)

U4SSC is a UN initiative coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and supported by 14 other UN Agencies and Programmes (CBD, ECLAC, FAO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNECA, UNECE, UN-Women, UN Environment, UNEP-FI, UNFCCC, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNU EGOV and WMO).

U4SSC is the global platform to advocate for public policies to encourage the use of ICTs to facilitate and ease the transition to smart sustainable cities. Find out more…

Over 100 cities worldwide are already implementing these KPIs. All cities are invited to participate in this project and pilot these KPIs.

To find out more, contact the U4SSC secretariat at: u4ssc@itu.int

How can a city participate in the KPIs for SSC pilot project?

To initiate the KPIs for SSC pilot project, the prospective city should submit a letter of interest. A simple template of the letter of interest can also be found in **Annex 2.** The Terms and Conditions that apply to the prospective city can be found in **Annex 1**.

The U4SSC has created the **U4SSC Implementation Programme (U4SSC-IP),** which is coordinated by the Organization for International Economic Relations (OiER), to support prospective cities in implementing the KPIs for SSC. In addition, the U4SSC Secretariat, provided by ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat, would also provide secretarial supports to cities in collecting the necessary data.

The KPIs for SSC pilot project consists of 2 phases:

Each phase has the following steps:

1

Assessment and Verification of the progress towards SSC

2

Establishment of the Global Smart Sustainable Cities Index.

U4SSC IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

The U4SSC IP supports the implementation of the U4SSC KPIs in cities, carries out projects and builds partnerships, which aim to build smarter and more sustainable cities worldwide.

The U4SSC IP is open to all cities, projects, stakeholders and activities related to Smart and Sustainable Cities, that can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and especially SDG 11.

The U4SSC IP is led by OiER.

Phase 1: Assessment and Verification of the progress towards SSC

This phase includes the following activities:

▪ U4SSC Secretariat will provide the city with an excel template which contains all the KPIs to be assessed;

▪ The city will fill in the template with the information received from the different corresponding entities in their city;

▪ Once the information is provided to one of the responsible organizations, the verifier will verify the data provided by the city; and

▪ Once the verification process has been completed, the verifier will provide a verification report, which includes the following information:

- Audit results;
- Some policy recommendations; and
- Some suggestions for improvement opportunities.

In case the city requires any assistance during the data collection process, the responsible organization will provide any clarification on the KPIs. Additionally, conference calls could be organized if needed with the Verifier and U4SSC Secretariat.

Verification process

In order to ensure transparency in the process, an external verifier will be hired to perform this work. In this regard, the city can decide on either of the following two options, namely:

- **Onsite verification.** For onsite verification the city needs to pay the verifier an amount of this verification + travel expenses (flight ticket, accommodation + per diem); or

- **Remote verification.** For remote verification the city needs to pay the verifier an amount for this process.

To learn more about the associated costs and expenses of this project please contact the U4SSC Secretariat at: u4ssc@itu.int.

The Development of a City Factsheet

Cities can request U4SSC secretariat's assistance to develop a city factsheet. A city factsheet is an electronic document that contains the outcomes and achievements from implementing the KPIs for SSC for the participating city. It would highlight the city's smart initiatives and how they have helped the city in achieving the different targets set in the SDGs. A city factsheet is the ideal tool to promote a city's smart strategy and to demonstrate its progress in reaching the SDGs at the international level.

To learn more about the associated costs and expenses of the development of the city factsheet please contact the U4SSC Secretariat at: u4ssc@itu.int.

U4SSC Certificate

Each participating city will receive an attestation from ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat upon completion, testifying that they were successfully evaluated based on a UN standard.

Phase 2: Establishment of the Global Smart Sustainable Cities Index.

All the cities involved in the project are participating in the establishment of the Global Smart Sustainable Cities Index led by ITU.

Annex 1

Terms and Conditions apply to the participating city:

Qualifying attributes of the participating city

- The concerned city should have a keen interest in transitioning into a smart and sustainable city;

- The participating city should commit to contribute their inputs and lessons learnt from the project for the establishment of the Global Smart Sustainable City Index.

Responsibilities of each participating city

- The participating city is required to collect and record the required information in the excel template provided by the U4SSC secretariat and to initiate the verification process by the verifier. Each city will be given 3-6 months to gather the data, if necessary, with the assistance of a qualified third party consultant. The final date for submission of the data will be decided in agreement with the city, ITU/UNECE/UN-Habitat and the verifier;

- Each city may decide whether they wish to have the verification conducted onsite or remotely;

- Participating in the project is self-funded by the city; and

- The participating city is required to provide the travel and accommodation expenses for the mission to the site for 1 verifier (designated by the U4SSC secretariat). These expenses are not included in the overall cost of the project for the city.

Responsibilities assumed by U4SSC Secretariat

- U4SSC secretariat is tasked with ensuring that each participating city is well informed about the processes conducted during the project;

- U4SSC secretariat is responsible for appointing a competent and accomplished verifier who can carry out the verification process; and

- U4SSC secretariat is responsible for deciding on a suitable staff member who can supervise the verification work carried out by the verifier.

Associated Cost(s)

- To ensure transparency in the process U4SSC secretariat will designate an external verifier;

- To learn more about the associated costs and expenses of this project please contact the U4SSC Secretariat at: u4ssc@itu.int ; and

- As part of the verification process, the verifier will conduct a series of interviews and will produce a final verification report.

Additional Information

- The verification report of each city will only be published at the discretion of the participating city;

- Verifiers and U4SSC secretariat involved in the projects are required to keep all the information associated with the project confidential;

- All the material published based on the projects will be the intellectual property of the participating city and ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat.

Annex 2

Letter template to request participation in the KPIs for SSC project

Subject: Participation in the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities Project

Dear U4SSC Secretariat,

It is our pleasure to inform you that (CITY NAME) is interested in participating in the KPIs for Smart Sustainable Cities Project within the United for Smart Sustainable Cities Initiative (U4SSC).

(Please include a short paragraph on the city's vision of/current work on smart sustainable cities.)

We have carefully reviewed the U4SSC objectives and the collection methodology of the project. We are ready to collect data in accordance with the requirements of the KPIs, undergo a verification of our data with an U4SSC approved verifier and submit the data to the U4SSC secretariat.

We are pleased to inform you that the focal point for this activity is Mr/Ms XXX.

We look forward to our participation in the project.

Kind regards,

(Name and signature of city leader / representative)

_____