

Date: April 23, 2021 Time: 10.30 - 12.00 CET Online (Zoom platform)

Background

Volunteering is a way of being actively engaged in development processes hence the efforts and contributions of volunteers activities are to be taken into consideration when evaluating countries' inputs in reaching the SDGs. Inclusiveness and solidarity are volunteering key aspects that foster communities resilience and sustainability through being involved in activities aimed at leaving no one behind. On account of this, Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) which are presented every year at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), contribute to monitor, follow up and accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. In substantive terms, VNRs enable members of civil society to participate in SDGs accountability processes at the national level and allow countries to be accountable to their citizens for the implementation of SDGs. VNRs provide countries with a set of information on the progress towards a more effective implementation of the Agenda 2030 and contain information about successes, challenges, gaps and suggestions. They can therefore be a useful tool for other countries to compare progress and be inspired. Including data on volunteering impact in the VNRs is aligned with the aim of reaching inclusiveness and completion of information on the contribution to the SDGs. Therefore, it is important that volunteering is measured, recognised and supported in order to have a greater and more meaningful understanding of its contribution to the SDGs.

Key discussion areas and questions

The objective of this webinar is to:

- Discuss the contribution of volunteers in reaching the SDGs;
- Analyse how to better measure the efforts and the impact of volunteers in the contribution to the SDGs and how this measurement can be included in the VNRs;
- Discuss how VNRs can be influenced through advocacy strategies and what is the role of CSOs in the VNRs;
- Share current practices at national and local level and report individual experiences on data collection and SDGs awareness-raising among volunteers, academia and local authorities.

Expected outcomes

The aim of the webinar is to:

- Provide an opportunity to discuss the current status of volunteering inclusion in the VNRs;
- Disseminate successful examples, address challenges and exchange observations;
- Inspire and support advocacy efforts in other countries to ensure a volunteering component in the VNRs;
- Create a community of practice in Europe on this topic as a source of ongoing support and inspiration.