



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

UNDP ART Initiative

Territorial Partnerships for Implementing the
SDGs at Local Level

2017 Review (Report to the Board)

January 2018

List of acronyms

ANMCV	Association of Municipalities of Cabo Verde
DAECT	Delegation for the External Action of Local Authorities
DC	Decentralized Cooperation
CNM	National Confederation of Municipalities of Brazil
COs	UNDP Country Offices
CoR	Committee of the Regions
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EU	European Union
FAMSI	Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity
GTF	Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 Development Agenda towards HABITAT III
ILO	International Labour Organization
LD	Local Development
LED	Local Economic Development
LGLD	Local Governance and Local Development
LRGs	Local and Regional Governments
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
ORU-FOGAR	Organization of Regions United
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SSTC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments

Table of Contents

1. THE UNDP ART INITIATIVE: 2017 IN REVIEW. INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY	4
2. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS IN 2017	5
Output 1 - UNDP's partnership with LRGs and DC partners expanded to support the implementation of the 2030 agenda at the local level.....	5
Output 2: Knowledge and expertise systematized and exchanged to strengthen developmental capacities of LRGs and local governance institutions	13
Output 3: A strategic exchange between UNDP and LRGs facilitated and operationalized.....	21
Output 4. UNDP ART framework programmes/territorial platforms strengthened and linked to regional and global processes.....	27
3. SUMMARY OF ART EXPENDITURES IN 2017	32

1. THE UNDP ART INITIATIVE: 2017 IN REVIEW. INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY.

In 2017, the global community has continued to engage towards the achievement of the Agenda for Sustainable Development. The universal nature of this Agenda and the role that the UN -and UNDP in particular- plays in it, is inspiring many partners to act and join forces with the multilateral system towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UNDP ART Initiative, officially launched in 2005 and hosted since 2014 by UNDP Brussels, has continued to promote and support the localization of the SDGs, ensuring that the richness of partnerships and experiences effectively contributed to UNDP's overall corporate commitment on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Throughout the year, the Initiative has strengthened and expanded linkages with Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) and their main associations as well as with Decentralized Cooperation (DC) actors, orienting their support towards the localization of the SDGs through the signature of new partnerships' agreements and the formulation and implementation of joint projects. Learning and capacity building at local level have also been key focuses of ART during 2017. The [Virtual Platform on Localizing the SDGs](#), the leading knowledge and information sharing platform on this field, created jointly with UN Habitat and the Global Taskforce of LRGs, has engaged nearly 15,000 users to this day, who have contributed with over 380 documents and tools and 145 stories. Also with these two partners, ART has produced a learning module on localizing the SDGs and co-organized over 10 training sessions across different countries, which have been later on extensively replicated by LRG associations.

Another major work stream of the year has been the promotion of Local Economic Development (LED). Jointly with UN Agencies, LRG associations and the host countries' governments, ART co-organized the [2nd Regional Forum of LED](#) (June 2017, Cochabamba, Bolivia), with more than 1,000 participants coming from 25 countries in the LAC region and beyond; and the [4th World Forum of LED](#) (October 2017, Praia, Cape Verde), with more than 2,800 participants from 85 countries from around the world. Both forums offered an excellent platform to compare the perspectives of national, regional and local governments, entrepreneurs, academia, and CSO on how to achieve a more equitable and sustainable development starting from the territories. ART has also been engaged in other important global development discussions, supporting local governance actors in their efforts to have a voice in these processes.

During 2017, ART has also supported Country Offices in the formulation, launching and implementation of integrated LGLD programmes across continents – Mauritania, Algeria, Cabo Verde, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Myanmar... - including through technical assistance, missions and facilitation of partnership agreements with DC actors.

In a year full of challenges, ART has continued to position UNDP as a global reference with regards to the localization of the SDGs, thanks to more than one decade of work on territorial development, the partnership agreements with multiple LRGs associations and DC actors, and the production of specific

tools and instruments to advance the implementation of SDGs at local level who have been very welcome by local governance stakeholders.

2017 has also been the last year of implementation of the most recent ART's PRODOC (2014-2017). The last Board meeting (February 2017) envisioned 2017 as the year where the ART Initiative would promote internal dialogue and identify an optimal trajectory for the consolidation and integration of the ART Initiative within UNDP corporate objectives and work-streams. This ambitious objective has been partly achieved. The dialogue was initiated, a final evaluation carried out, and policy options have been identified. However, a conclusive proposal could not be discussed and implemented as UNDP's new Strategic Plan was only approved end November 2017. A final evaluation of the ART Initiative has been implemented (specifically tasked in providing inputs on how best to consolidate ART's mainstreaming within corporate UNDP strategies and work streams) and its findings will be presented to the Board in January 2018.

2. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS IN 2017

The key activities and related results of the year 2017 are presented below, following the four outputs of the UNDP ART Initiative Project Document.

Output 1 - UNDP's partnership with LRGs and DC partners expanded to support the implementation of the 2030 agenda at the local level

Throughout the year, the Initiative has strengthened and expanded linkages with key LRGs and DC actors and oriented their support towards the localization of the SDGs. The Initiative has also supported UNDP COs in the formulation and implementation of country programmes or projects to integrate local development processes and the SDGs into local and national agendas.

Activity Result 1.1. A HUB for Territorial Partnerships for Local Development operated within UNDP Brussels

The Hub for Territorial Partnerships for Local Development within the UNDP ART Initiative has acted as a corporate platform to promote new and already-existing cooperation with LRGs, their networks and associations and other DC partners. Besides expanding UNDP's local development partnership base, it has supported the creation of territorial partnerships between partners and facilitated links between local processes and international dialogues, as described in the following pages.

Activity Result 1.2. Decentralized Cooperation actors' expertise (LED, service delivery, etc.) harmonized and aligned with UNDP's LGLD programmes

The universal nature of the 2030 Agenda and the role that the UN, and UNDP in particular plays in it, is inspiring many DC partners to work with the multilateral system. UNDP ART has become a global reference with regards to the localization of the SDGs, thanks to more than one decade of work on territorial development, the successful Virtual Platform on Localizing the SDGs, and the partnership agreements

with a number of LRGs, DC partners and other institutions that have materialized in the last years in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at local level. These agreements are in most cases twofold in nature - they include an accompanying component to guide the respective LRGs in implementing the SDGs in their own territory, at the same time that applying the same SDG logic to development partnerships in other countries.

During 2017, **long-standing DC partners** have continued to join efforts with ART to support LGLD initiatives, particularly the ones focusing on SDGs localization. Moreover, 2017 has been a remarkable year to reactivate and strengthen partnerships with DC actors that for several years were heavily affected by a financial crisis. This is the case of a good number of **Spanish DC actors**; for instance, UNDP ART and the municipality of **Madrid** have signed an agreement around a joint project on sustainable urbanization and LED in the framework of the Localization of the SDGs that will be implemented also in La Paz, Sucre Montevideo, and Praia. The programme includes the development of a new tool on citizen participation based on an open software model linking with the SDGs. The Regional Government of **Baleares** and ART have also concretized their collaboration in 2017, through a LED project aimed at supporting small farmers in the municipalities of Sacaba and Tiquipaya, Bolivia. A joint research project on the role of regions in the implementation of SDGs has also been identified with the **Catalan** Agency for International Cooperation; after the negotiation and signature of the agreement in December 2017, the study will be conducted in the first six months of 2018. In addition to the support provided in channelling financial and technical expertise, ART has also facilitated the deployment of human resources to several COs, through and agreement with the **Andalusian Fund of Municipalities** who has covered the costs of 8 young professionals working for 7 months in the UNDP offices of Ecuador, Bolivia, Cuba, Paraguay, Tunisia, Cabo Verde and Brussels. Finally, conversations are on-going with the region of **Valencia** around the support to LED and SDG localization processes in Mauritania and Tunisia; with the region of **Andalucía** for cooperation with Cabo Verde, Mauritania and Algeria; and with the region of **Extremadura**.

The **Innovation in Sustainable Territorial Partnerships project** (I-STEPS), a multi-partner initiative that includes the municipalities of Milan, Bilbao, Barcelona and the Region of the Basque Country, achieved significant progresses in 2017. After the impossibility of continue pursuing the definition of a national model of watershed-based management in Lebanon due to to the complex scenario in the country, added to the internal changes in the Ministries that were engaged in the project, it was decided by the partners to allocate the totality of the funds to Ecuador, country that was also participating in the ISTEPs initiative. In this context, the project is reinforcing the transformation of the country's productive matrix, by applying two successful methodologies (*En Marcha* and *Creciendo con su negocio*) aimed at supporting small businesses' development in both urban and rural contexts. Both methodologies have been applied in the past in other Ecuadorian territories by UNDP in collaboration with local and regional governments, and the national government is now considering transforming them into public policies.

2017 was an important year to strengthen partnerships with **Italian actors**. With an SDG lens, UNDP ART has accompanied the **Tuscany Region** in the review and analysis of their most relevant local development policies and initiatives in its territory and worldwide. The process has culminated in the report "*Localizing*

the SDGs: Experiences and Lessons Learned from Tuscany”, which was launched at an event that gathered Italian and European cooperation partners in Florence. This event focused on the SDG localization and enhanced cooperation among the two shores of the Mediterranean. It counted with the participation of the Tunisian UNDP CO, whose presence and side meetings were facilitated by UNDP ART, resulting in the relaunch of the cooperation with the Tuscany Region and ANCI Toscana. ART is currently accompanying the Tuscany Region in the second phase of the process that has the potential to lead a complete review and alignment of the Region’s policies with the SDGs.

Similarly, the partnership between ART and **FELCOS Umbria** continued in 2017 through the European Commission-funded project *“Mediterranean CooBEEration: a network for beekeeping, biodiversity and food security”* (2014-2017). The project, concluded in July 2017, supported beekeeping in the Mediterranean region as a local economic development activity by facilitating exchanges between local producers from the participating countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Italy, Morocco, State of Palestine and Tunisia) and strengthening their national associations. On behalf of the CooBEEration partners, UNDP ART organized the project’s final event, the *“Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue of Beekeepers”* in partnership with the European Parliament within the framework of the BeeWeek - the main European forum on beekeeping held at the European Parliament. This event gathered delegations coming from 9 different countries, representing partners and Mediterranean beekeepers, in order to facilitate exchange and enhance cooperation. The session was hosted by the MEP Maryia Gabriel, who has been recently appointed as Commissioner for digital economy and society. In addition, through ART’s facilitation, UNDP’s Director in Brussels, Barbara Pesce Monteiro, participated in the opening session of the High-Level Debates of the BeeWeek together with MEP Maryia Gabriel and Thomas Magnusson, the President of Copa Cogeca, the main association of farmers and their cooperatives of the EU.

Building on the already existing partnership with **Friuli Venezia Giulia Region** further cooperation was strengthened in two different ways: (i) facilitating articulation of Friuli Venezia Giulia expertise towards UNDP LGLD projects; (ii) cooperating with the European CoR and influencing EU policies on SDG implementation. In this regard, UNDP ART facilitated the exchange of expertise between Friuli Venezia Giulia, UNDP Cuba and UNDP Cabo Verde in the framework of the project *“Local Platforms for achieving the SDGs in Cabo Verde”*, in the field of agriculture, fishery and waste management.

In line with UNDP ART’s partnership facilitator role, ART has also supported the definition of a decentralized cooperation initiative between the **Municipality of Como**, Italy, and the Municipality of Chefchaouen, Morocco. This initiative aims to strengthen the skills of artisans of Chefchaouen and the access of their products to the European market through the creation of an ad-hoc e-commerce platform. Particularly, two missions were facilitated. First, an institutional mission to create political momentum and, second, a technical mission to start building the capacities of Chefchaouen artisans.

2017 was also an important year for the partnership with **French actors**. The alliance between UNDP ART and the **Delegation of External Action of Territorial communities (DAECT)** of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been supporting advancements of French DC actors towards the SDG localization. For instance, the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Region is currently defining a strategy to integrate the SDGs on

its regional plan for international cooperation, while the Nouvelle Aquitaine Region is evaluating its public policies regarding the SDGs indicators. ART has been accompanying these and other processes, by participating and facilitating several meetings. This is the case of the dialogues between UNDP ART, DAECT and the French Outermost Regions (Martinique, Guyane, Réunion, Mayotte and Guadeloupe) to support the integration of the SDGs on its regional strategy for regional cooperation. Additionally, the agreement between ART and DAECT has been successfully raising awareness of key French DC actors about the SDG localization process and facilitating their articulation with LGLD initiatives. This has been done through the presentation of LED and the SDG localization process, including the Localizing the SDGs platform, at several national and local events organized by French DC actors. For instance, Training sessions on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs localization process were held at the Assembly of French Departments, in April 2017, and with the French Outermost Regions, in October 2017. Furthermore, the localizing the SDGs approach and the results of the 4th World Forum of LED were presented at the International meeting for the External Action of Local Authorities, in October 2017, where more than 1800 elected representatives from 30 countries have participated. Similarly, UNDP's approach on LED and the 2030 Agenda were shared with more than 600 French and Haitian DC partners at the French-Haitian Assises of Decentralized Cooperation, in December 2017, and ART has supported the inclusion of the SDG localization perspective at the *Assises régionales de la coopération et de la solidarité internationale* held in Dijon, in December 2017. This has allowed to build a common vision between DAECT and UNDP on the implementation of the SDGs at the local level and facilitated the involvement of French DC partners into UNDP LGLD programmes. For example, the Mulhouse and the Agency for Development Cooperation of the Grand Est Region (IRCOD) have engaged with the programme CAPDEL to support economic insertion and employment of women and young people in Algeria.

The **Assembly of French Departments** (ADF) also remains a key partner in the Localizing the SDGs scenario. Particularly, within the context of the TERRINCLUS Project, UNDP ART has been continuously working with ADF to systematize tools and good practices developed by French departments. This process culminated with the integration of the project's methodological guide on the Localizing the SDGs Platform. ART has also participated and shared UNDP's approach to localize the SDGs at the TERRINCLUS event celebrated in Paris, in March 2017. Moreover, within the context of the Assises of Decentralized Cooperation in Brussels, and together with ADF, UNDP ART successfully organized at the event a session on localizing the SDGs.

The engagement with French partners continued in several international development forums and events, in order to advance joint advocacy efforts on the SDG localization. Cooperation with French actors was especially strengthened in 2017 through LED global processes and centred around the 4th World Forum of LED held in Cabo Verde, in October. Many French DC actors actively participated of the event including different French Regions, ADF, the Aude Department and the International Organization Francophonie, which was particularly engaged in the organization of one session and in the mobilization of relevant partners. As side activities, UNDP ART facilitated meetings between French Regions and the Mauritanian Delegation, within the context of the PAGURDEL project, and with the Municipality of São Salvador do

Mundo, within the context of the project “*Local Platforms for achieving the SDGs in Cabo Verde*”. Such meetings were followed by field visits in Cabo Verde and an initial agreement for continued cooperation was established. Moreover, engagement with French partners continued during the European Development Days where UNDP ART co-organized a session on LED with the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), counting with the presence of speakers from OECD and EURADA.

Finally, the second phase of the project for strengthening the capacities and role of Brazilian municipalities in the localization of SDGs has been formulated jointly with the **National Confederation of Municipalities of Brazil** (CNM) during 2017, and will be launched in January 2018.

[Activity Result 1.3: Financial and technical resources mobilized in support of implementing the integrated LGLD draft strategy](#)

In 2018, the UNDP ART Initiative has effectively mobilized financial and technical resources through the Initiative’s already well-established partnership and fundraising basis. Besides, ART has engaged with other potential partners in donor and partner countries to identify areas where there was scope to find synergies and explore new opportunities towards the implementation of LGLD and the SDGs at local level strategies. As the key technical partnerships have been already reported under Activity Result 1.2, this section will focus on the mobilization of financial resources.

A joint project between UNDP ART Initiative and the **municipality of Madrid** for the promotion of LED and sustainable urbanization under the umbrella of the localization of the SDGs was signed in December 2017. The financial agreement with a total budget of 500,000 Euros will cover not only the activities of the project, but also the development of participatory tool that will be associated with the SDGs. Likewise, a joint project with the **Catalan Agency for International Cooperation** to investigate the role of regions in implementing the 2030 Agenda was signed in December 2017, for an amount of 60,000 euros. ART has also signed an agreement of 52,700 euros with the **Regional Government of Baleares** in 2017, in order to support small farmers from municipalities of Bolivia through LED. The Region of Valencia has already reserved 500.000 USD of its cooperation budget to jointly work with UNDP ART in 2018.

UNDP ART facilitated the signature of a cooperation agreement during the celebration of the 4th World Forum of LED, in October 2017, between the **Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI)** and the **Association of Municipalities of Cabo Verde (ANMCV)**. The agreement will be implemented within the ongoing UN-UNDP framework program in support to SDGs localization in Cabo Verde. Among several objectives, the agreement intends to support institutional strengthening, capacity building actions, sharing of experiences and implementation of projects in several areas. In addition, it will co-finance some of the activities of the Annual Working Plan of UNDP Cabo Verde Government program. The project will start its activities in 2018 with a budget of 100,000 euros.

Additionally, the CapDeL Local Governance and Local Development Program in Algeria, which ART in coordination with RBAS Regional Service Center in Amman has supported the formulation and the preparation of its implementation, is negotiating an amendment to the funding agreement with the **EU**.

This could lead to a 7 million euros top-up in 2018 for the implementation of a comprehensive LED component. Moreover, similar negotiations are on-going with the region of **Andalucía** for cooperation with Cabo Verde, and with the region of **Extremadura**.

The partnerships agreement with DC partners beforehand mentioned total USD 825,000, while the Project document that is being finalized with Generalitat Valenciana totals USD 500,000. The reported financial contributions are relatively modest in comparison to the overall TF-IP funding envelope; however it is through these partnerships network that we achieve access to knowledge, innovation and network expansion for local development.

Activity Result 1.4: The formulation, launching and implementation of integrated LGLD programmes in line with UNDP's integrated LGLD Strategy supported

2017 has witnessed a major support of UNDP ART Initiative to COs in the formulation and implementation of innovative LGLD programmes or components. Intensive technical assistance has been provided, including through several ART-supported formulation missions. Contacts and partnerships with development cooperation actors have been also facilitated, resulting in the successful involvement of DC partners in a number of countries' initiatives.

In **Mauritania**, as result of the extensive support provided in 2016 during a full-fledged formulation, the Pagourdel program was signed by UNDP and the Mauritanian government, in February 2017. In the course of the year, further punctual support was dedicated to the program's inception and partnership building processes. This included specifically: the elaboration of a strategy and roadmap for funds mobilization and partnership building; the participation and input in a program national launching workshop; production of information and promotional material on the program; support to the participation of a large Mauritanian delegation, including UNDP CO management and high level central and regional/local government representatives, to the IV World Forum on LED in Praia Cabo Verde; continued dialogue with potential decentralized cooperation and other technical partners in the framework of program implementation.

In **Algeria**, support was provided in the initial implementation steps of the CapDel programme, as well as further programming; in particular, two technical missions in support to COs were carried out, respectively focused on: (i) preparatory support (methodological review and induction of a consultants' team) to a comprehensive study on LED, complementing the information collected and the orientations provided through participatory launching workshops and territorial diagnostic exercises, and including an analysis of the overall institutional and legal environment for LED as well as specific LED-related diagnostic studies in the ten pilot municipalities; and (ii) a preliminary strategic programming exercise, based on contexts analysis and consultation with some key actors, for the possible additional funding of LED related activities in the framework of the program.

In **Cabo Verde**, support to the program Local Platforms for achieving the SDGs was mainly directed at promoting and facilitating partnership opportunities in the framework / and taking advantage of the World LED Forum process. This included outreach and dialogue with key potential partners among the

different entities engaged in the Forum, as well as taking part in some specific promotional and preparatory activities (i.e. workshops with municipalities and DC actors and workshop on SSE), based on a previously conducted assessment of the LED context in the country and the main needs and opportunities for enhancing it.

In **Tunisia**, support to the program was focused on the participation and provision of specific LED inputs in a capacity building session as part of a training for trainers' activity on urban planning, jointly run with Medcités.

In **Bolivia**, besides supporting the CO in joint formulations (i.e. the PRODOC for *Localizing the SDGs* in the country, described in Output 4.3.), UNDP ART has also contributed to channel development cooperation partners towards projects in the country. For instance, ART has facilitated the signature of an agreement with the Region of Balears, Spain, to implement a LED project aimed at strengthening the capacities of small farmers in the municipalities of Sacaba and Tiquipaya. ART has also facilitated the partnership between the CO and FELCOS Umbria, which has led to the approval of a project to promote solidarity and inclusive local economy in the same two municipalities, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. The agreement with the city of Madrid mentioned in Activity Result 1.2. has been negotiated by ART and the related project will be carried out in several cities, including La Paz and Sucre.

Building on previous work, continued support has also been provided this year to **Myanmar CO**. Discussions on how to move forward the localization of the SDGs by applying specific tools (the Local and Urban governance diagnostic), mapping and addressing LED opportunities, and strengthening capacities of the subnational è to do so have been carried out. A joint mission by the Italian Cooperation, the CO and UNDP ART to the country is planned for February 2018.

And finally, further support was provided to **Cuba CO** in terms of partnerships and resource mobilization by securing the support of the Italian cooperation for the next phase of the PADIT programme (within the framework of a three-year contribution) and facilitating the engagement of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in the programme; and secondly, with regards to capacity development, through the exchange of experiences and lessons learned with Bolivia in the framework of the Regional LED Forum held in June 2017. Advisory services have also been provided to other COs upon their request, like for instance Haiti CO (facilitation of representatives from the Government of Haiti in the LED Forum process and in the SDG localization training sessions).

Activity Result 1.5: Support the implementation of UNDP's new urban strategy

UNDP's urban strategy was launched during HABITAT III, but not very actively pursued. this was probably due to the changes in management and the elaboration of the new Strategic Plan. As the urban issues are prominently displayed within the SP UNDP's work on the urban agenda will probably gain a new momentum. I first possibility for positioning will be the WUF, celebrated 7 - 13 February in Kuala Lumpur. As ART Initiative, we have meanwhile consolidated the relationship with a possible major counterpart, the EU DG REGIO. This DG is taking the lead on the new European urban agenda that is fully inscribed in the overall urban agenda as agreed upon in Quito. As a concrete result, the Commissioner of DG REGIO

has written to the new Administrator requesting a meeting for discussing possible future cooperation around the urban agenda.

Output 1

UNDP's partnership with LRGs and DC partners expanded to support the implementation of the 2030 agenda at local level

Baseline

No decentralized development cooperation partner (from the partner and donor countries) is aligning its development initiatives with UNDP LGLD programmes in partner countries

Indicators

of agreements signed between UNDP and DC partners

of partnerships aligned towards UNDP LGLD programmes

2017 Targets

30 decentralized development partners (from partner and donor countries) aligning their development initiatives with UNDP LGLD programmes in partner countries

10 decentralized development partners (from partner and donor countries) signed agreements with UNDP

Indicators Output 1:

Indicator 1: # of agreements signed between UNDP and DC partners

5 new agreements signed; and 3 agreements in final stage of negotiation

New agreements signed with: city of Madrid (Spain), the Region of Balears (Spain); Catalan Agency for International Cooperation (Spain), FAMSÍ (Spain) on the Hercules Programme for young fellows and with the Cabo Verdean ANMCV; CNM (Brazil).

Agreements in final stage of negotiation: the region of Valencia (Spain); the region of Andalucía (Spain); Region of Extremadura (Spain).

Indicator 2: # of partnerships aligned towards UNDP LGLD programmes

51 partnerships aligned towards UNDP LGLD programmes

Partnerships with the following DC actors were facilitated (in brackets the partner country): Alsace, France (Cameroun); ANCI Toscana (Tunisia); ANCI Umbria (Cabo Verde); Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (Cabo Verde, Mauritania; Tunisia; Bolivia); Agency for Development Cooperation of the Grand Est Region (IRCOD), France (Algeria); Balearic Island, Spain (Bolivia); Basque Country, Spain (El Salvador, Ecuador, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Bolivia); Brazilian Service Support to Micro and Small Enterprises (Cabo Verde); Canary Islands, Spain (Cabo Verde); Champagne Ardennes, France (Madagascar, Morocco); Cities Alliance (Tunisia); City of Como, Italy (Morocco); City of Malaga, Spain (Cameroon); City of Medellin, Colombia (Ecuador); City of Milan, Italy (Ecuador); City of Mulhouse, France (Algeria); City of Pavia, Italy (Ecuador; Occupied Palestinian Territory); City of Turin, Italy (Lebanon); city of Madrid (Bolivia; Uruguay; Cabo Verde) Commonwealth Local Government Forum; National Confederation of Municipalities, Brazil (Uruguay; Cabo Verde); Cuba cooperation, France (Cuba); ERVET, Italy (Ecuador); Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada (Cuba; Algeria); FELCOS Umbria, Italy (Cuba, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Tunisia, Bolivia, Cabo Verde); Luxembourg's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg (Cabo Verde); Régions de France (Cabo Verde; Mauretania); Région Nouvelle Aquitaine (Cabo Verde; Mauritania) Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia,

Italy (Cuba, Cabo Verde); Region of Trentino Alto Adige, Italy (Cuba); Region of Tuscany (Tunisia; Lebanon); Region of Valencia (Cuba, Mauretania) Trento, Italy (Cuba).

Output 2: Knowledge and expertise systematized and exchanged to strengthen developmental capacities of LRGs and local governance institutions

One major work stream of the Initiative was the promotion of learning around key issues of the SDGs with LRGs, their associations and other local governance stakeholders. ***Learning and capacity building for local actors and around the localization of the SDGs is one of the main focuses of ART with regards to strengthening capacities of LRGs.*** Such learning activities will always include relevant COs and RCs. ART will also continue to facilitate documentation and systematization experiences relevant to SDG localization.

The Platform for localizing the SDGs and its respective toolkits have been successfully launched in October 2016 during the UCLG World summit in Bogota and HABITAT III in Quito. This process is geared at strengthening the Alliance of relevant local and national partners and at building political commitment towards LRGs and their central role in implementing the 2030 agenda. Based on the initial positive feedback received, in 2017 the partners concentrated on ***consolidating and promoting the Platform and making it as interactive and solution oriented as possible.*** Hence, the ART Initiative, in collaboration with its partners, has made a strong effort to identify and promote useful tools, instruments and experiences in order to inform the localizing community and all its stakeholders about this important phase of initializing the SDG implementation. In parallel ART also stimulated the systematization of relevant UNDP practices, the development of appropriate tools within house, and supported cooperation between actors interested in exploring key issues around the localizing theme. The main objective of the platform remains the provision of information on relevant events, experiences and initiatives, as well as - most importantly – disseminate concrete tools and instruments geared at facilitating the implementation of the SDGs at the local level to all partners and stakeholders.

A second major work stream in 2017 was also SDG oriented. In 2017, the Initiative has co-organized the ***IV World Forum on Local Economic Development (LED) in Praia, Cabo Verde (October 2017)***, as well as the ***II Regional Forum on LED in Cochabamba, Bolivia (March 2017)***. These major events are positioning LED, understood as a set of tools and practices promoting an inclusive socio-economic development, as key mechanisms to localize the 2030 Agenda. They allowed to advance key policies on LED and the SDGs, as well as positioned UNDP as the facilitator of these important and internationally recognized events.

Activity Result 2.1: Developmental capacities of LRGs, associations thereof and local governance institutions in partner countries to deliver basic services enhanced

Considering the crucial role of LRGs and local stakeholders for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it is fundamental for the ART Initiative to support their capacity development. This allows the creation and implementation of sustainable development actions, while also taking into consideration the SDGs.

Therefore, efforts of the Initiative to enhance local capacities is demonstrated in several activities that were developed throughout the year, especially with partnerships to support capacity development processes, production of tools and organization of trainings, webinars and learning modules.

The [Localizing the SDGs platform](#) have been providing local actors with material to strengthen and maintain their capabilities to set and achieve their development goals in coherence with the 2030 Agenda. In addition to these material, new tools, guidelines and instruments developed in 2017 were integrated to the platform. For instance, ART in partnership with GTF and UN-Habitat, has launched the Training Modules for capacity building on SDGs localization. The modules aim to equip local and regional governments and their organizations, as well as other local actors, with a series of strategies, skills and knowledge that will support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in their territories. The first module was released in April 2017, as an introductory module to raise awareness on key issues around the localization of the SDGs. This module is available in [English, Spanish and Portuguese](#), allowing a wider range of actors benefit from this tool. Its success can be attested since the tool is the most accessed of the platform, with 790 visualizations.

Moreover, the first learning module material is being used in the framework of several learning sessions that are encouraging participation and group work and the exchange of ideas and experiences among participants. These sessions are being organized through partnerships between the organizations that have developed the training and associations of local governments of the country where the training is taking place. Sessions were held all over the year in different locations, such as Madrid, Brussels, Barcelona, Bolivia and Cabo Verde. The *Learning Module 2* is being concluded and should be released at the beginning of 2018. This module will focus on local development planning and SDGs.

Besides, as part of the localizing the SDGs capacity building efforts, the Initiative has contributed to the elaboration of the tool developed by UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub in partnership with Microsoft Innovation Center, the [UNDP Local and Urban Governance Dashboard](#). This tool provides ways and means to mainstream local SDG priorities into municipal plans and budgets, at the same time that provides evidence to LRGs prioritize most critical needs, vulnerabilities, resources, build partnerships and track and compare SDGs implementation at the local level. Other concrete examples of new tools and systematization can be found on Output 2.4.

In close coordination with the other partners, ART has participated in trainings and webinars, not only to strengthen capacity, but also to promote the exchange and transfer of relevant competencies and expertise between participants on UNDP's localization approach and programs. In February 2017, the Initiative facilitated the webinar "[UN SDGs: challenges and debates for its implementation in Latin America with emphasis on the perspective of local development](#)" organized by Ibero-American Network of Development Studies (RIED), Clae Research Center and the National Development Agency of Uruguay. Likewise, ART has facilitated in July 2017, the Webinar "[Delivering the SDGs at the subnational level: opportunities and best-practices for regional governments](#)" in partnership with *nrg4SD* and *ORU Fogar*. The focus of this webinar was to emphasize the opportunities and roles foreseen for the regional governments in the 2030 Agenda, as well as to share information and practical experiences coming from

regions in localizing the SDGs. With both webinars, ART able to further disseminate the localizing approach and mobilize a larger group of actors around it. Additionally, in August 2017, the Initiative contributed to the [2017 UN Summer Academy](#) under the theme "Localizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" organized by the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), which focused on showing how to implement the 2030 Agenda at national, regional and local level, at the same time of highlighting the role of cities and local authorities in the process.

ART has been also participating as part of the jury of international contests. In October 2017, the Initiative was present at the [II Regional Good Practices Award](#), the competition organized by ORU Fogar, awarding the best practices implemented by regional governments that have had positive effects in their public management. The contest presented very rich exchange between regions worldwide and allowed the systematization of practices that have an enormous potential of being replicated. The Initiative will also be present at the [PLATFORMAward](#), which will take place in March 2018 and is being promoted by PLATFORMA. The contest will bring a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the cooperation between European regions and other regions from all over the world, as well as what are the tools being used by local and regional governments to contribute to the mutual development of regions, allowing its repetition elsewhere.

[Activity Result 2.2: Support UNDP's SS cooperation initiatives with regards to territorial SSTC](#)

ART has contributed to UNDP efforts on the promotion of South-South and Triangular cooperation among its partners' network and through concrete projects and actions. It is worth highlighting the Regional and World LED Forums, where ART acted and as enabler of such processes and as connector between a myriad of partners, including not only national and LRGs but also universities and civil society organizations. For instance, ART facilitated the consolidation of a partnership agreement between the Brazilian CNM and the Cape Verdean ANMCV; as well as the connection between the national Governments of Bolivia and Cape Verde, respective hosting countries of the Forums. The Initiative has also assisted COs in concretizing triangular cooperation projects, like the sustainable local tourism project between Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador where ART managed to facilitate the approval of Italian Cooperation financing.

[Activity Result 2.3: Promote and administer the virtual Platform/Toolbox for the implementation of the SDGs at local level](#)

After its successful launching during the UCLG World summit in Bogota and HABITAT III in Quito in October 2016, the [Platform for localizing the SDGs](#) is currently being recognized as the leading knowledge and information sharing platform on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level. Efforts were made to further engage partners as well as to expand the range of actors that could benefit and contribute to the website. This allowed the platform to become strongly positioned and widely promoted among several partners and important local actors, who are informed about its important functionalities and are contributing and making use of the relevant tools and documents published. The platform is also allowing users to interact and engage with others by offering a space to them post related *events* and share *stories* from their ongoing efforts to implement and achieve the SDGs at the local and regional levels.

To this date, the platform has engaged more than 14,840 users (out of which 1,000 registered to the platform), from 1,932 different cities or territories; users have viewed more than 100,000 pages, with an average session duration of 5 min and contributed with the submission of more than 380 documents, 145 stories and 180 events. Of all traffic, returning visitors constitute 53,4%.

The platform evolved in order to include new features and facilitate the contribution of interested local governance actors. In particular, some networks expressed interest in joining the platform and building synergies with other already existent initiatives. This includes the Policy Transfer Platform, managed by Metropolis through the City of Berlin, whose search function for innovative solutions and experiences has been integrated to the SDG localizing platform, and the PANORAMA solutions platform, managed by the IUCN and GIZ, which was linked to the SDG localizing platform.

[Activity Result 2.4. Organise the World Forum on Local Economic Development in Cabo Verde and the Regional Forum on LED in Bolivia](#)

As part of the continuous World Forum of LED's process, support was provided to the Government of Bolivia and a set of partners in the organisation of the [2nd Regional Forum of Local Economic Development](#). The event was celebrated from 27 to 30 of June 2017, in the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia, counting on the presence of more than 1,000 participants coming from 25 countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region and beyond. The Forum provided the opportunity to compare the perspectives of national, regional and local governments, associations, entrepreneurs, academics, researchers and members of civil society on how to achieve a more just, equitable and sustainable development. The [final declaration](#) of the Forum identified the specific challenges facing the Latin American and Caribbean region and summarized how LED today constitutes a consolidated set of diverse and widely applied practices and tools aimed at broadening equality of opportunity. The Forum allowed to consolidate a global alliance to enhance a political debate and a shared vision of LED, to build a regional position that was brought forward to the following World Forum, and to consolidate partnerships for concrete local actions on SDG localization and LED in Latin America.

The Regional Forum was followed by the celebration of the [4th World Forum of Local Economic Development](#), which took place from 17 to 20 of October 2017, in the city of Praia, Cabo Verde. With more than 2,800 participants coming from 85 countries from around the world, the Praia's Forum offered a platform to compare the perspectives of national, regional and local governments, their associations, entrepreneurs, academics, researchers and members of civil society on how to achieve a more just, equitable and sustainable development starting from the territories. The Forum's [final declaration](#) reaffirmed the distinct role of local economic development in turning the global dialogue into concrete development opportunities at the local level, driving an alternative economic development model from, and through, territories as a means to achieve the SDGs. The event offered an out of the ordinary space of dialogue and an occasion to harness the potential of the local economic development approach, tools and partnerships for the local implementation of the SDGs. UNDP showcased its set of diverse and widely applied experiences on local economic development and contributed to build a common vision for the implementation of the SDGs at local level. Its recognition as trusted partner for LED and SDG localization

was reinforced and led to the definition of several agreements for joint action in selected countries. Various national, local, private sector and multilateral actors (including several UN agencies - e.g. FAO, UNCDF, ILO, UNRISD, as well as OIF, ECOWAS etc.) acknowledged UNDP's leading role in promoting and bringing an added value to Local Economic Development and SDG localization.

Further information on the Forums and their outcomes can be found on the [resources page](#) of the World Forum of LED website and in the videos posted on the YouTube channel of ART ([watch the playlist](#)).

[Activity Result 2.5. Innovative territorial development experiences and practices systematized and documented](#)

Communication and Outreach:

In 2017, the web-platforms used by the ART Initiative have reached an outstanding number of users. Until 2017, the publications shared on the [open/digital library](#) had reached more than 818,985 impressions, 72,725 reads, with a floating average of 400 impressions per publication. Likewise, ART had reached over 1,650 followers on Twitter and 1,500 likes on Facebook. The facebook page on the World Forum of LED, also managed by UNDP ART, reached more than 6,500 likes. Finally, through the UNDP ART newsletter partners were kept abreast on the latest activities, including with regards to the World Forum of LED's process and the SDG localizing platform.

In 2017, at least 15 publications (including brochures, annual reports, systematizations and others) have been developed to create better resonance with key partners and provide clarity on the territorial approach and related tools' contribution to international development processes.

As in previous years, the annual review newest edition [UNDP ART – 2015 and 2016 in Review](#) was produced, published and widely disseminated. The report presents the contribution of this UNDP's global initiative to international development processes and it describes the activities implemented in various countries around the world to facilitate innovative partnerships and to support local governance and local development processes. Through the description of the results achieved over the past two years, the first efforts to support the localization of the SDGs and the ongoing strives to develop and reinforce integrated local development systems that aim at making sustainable development, in all its facets, a reality for all communities were presented.

Furthermore, UNDP ART contributed to the Governance and Peacebuilding cluster channels of communication by sharing stories and pieces for the cluster's newsletter (see [#1 newsletter of the cluster](#)), distributed to thousands of actors within and outside UNDP, and for the monthly SDG 16 Info Digest, developed and managed by the UNDP Oslo Governance Center ([available here](#)).

Lastly, UNDP ART collaborated with UN-Habitat to set-up an internal newsletter that aims at building a community of practice of UN personnel working on SDG localization theme.

Policy Positioning:

In 2017, UNDP ART has developed and contributed to several meaningful policy documents. For instance, in preparation of the 2nd Regional Forum of LED in LAC and the 4th World Forum of LED, two concept notes on “*Local Economic Development as a framework to localize the SDGs. Addressing rising inequalities*” have been developed. Following the celebration of the events, a complete “[Compendium of the 2nd Regional Forum](#)” sessions was elaborated, as well as a synthetic “[Final Report](#)”, and the “*Final report of the 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development*” is currently being finalised. As part of the forum’s process, UNDP contributed to the elaboration of two Think pieces on “*From a paradigm of socio-economic cohesion to territorial cohesion*” and on “*Putting the “Local” in Economic Development: The Role of the Social and Solidarity Economy*”.

Similarly, UNDP ART contributed with one think piece on the main conceptual pillars of SDG localization to the publication produced by FAMSÍ on “[Localizar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Gobiernos y actores locales y provinciales en la implementación de la Agenda 2030. Una mirada desde Andalucía](#)”.

Over the past year, UNDP ART has taken an active role in the Inter-Agency Task Force of Social and Solidarity Economy, which gathers 18 UN Agencies and the OECD. The Task force contributes to advancing a common vision on Social and Solidarity Economy for advocacy, policy and programming activities. In this context, several case studies and policy papers have been produced, and members of the task force have joined the World Forum of LED’s process that UNDP and ILO are promoting together with partner local and regional governments associations.

The Initiative provided support to the MP Carlos Edward Osorio (*Parlandino*), mandated to present a [working document on the role of Regional Parliaments in the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda](#), in its elaboration and presentation to the Commission for Sustainable Development, Environment, Energy Policy, Research, Innovation and Technology of the EUROLAT .

Moreover, UNDP ART participated of the stakeholders’ consultation and contributed to the elaboration process of the Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions on the (2016) Communication of the European Commission on the “Next steps for a sustainable European future - European action for sustainability”. The Opinion, adopted in the plenary session of the CIVEX Commission in July 2017, recognizes UNDP as knowledge broker for SDG implementation.

UNDP ART has also been recognised as a key global programme to advance SDG localization in a report produced by the European Parliament Research Service on “[Decentralised Cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda](#)” report by the European Parliament Research Service (2017).

Systematization of experiences and tools:

In the framework of the CNM-UNDP ART project to support the SDG localization in Brazilian municipalities, a second tool was launched, the “[Guide to the Integration of Sustainable Development Goals in Brazilian Municipalities](#)”. This guide aims to assist municipal managers in integrating the SDGs into Brazilian Municipal Plans for the 2018-2021 period, by outlining the inter-linkages between the goals and their interconnectivity to the planning of municipal management. Additionally, the project has supported the

production of the “[Municipal Performance Mandala for local indicators](#)”, a tool that shows the degree of development Brazilian municipalities according to 4 dimensions: economic, social, environmental and institutional. Through the twenty-seven indicators, it aims to strengthen the role of municipalities on localizing the SDGs, especially regarding monitoring and accountability systems.

As part of the effort to accompany local and regional governments in SDG localization process, UNDP supported the Tuscany Region (2017) in the systematization of its experiences on decentralised cooperation projects. The Tuscany Region considers UNDP ART as the global partner of reference to define and share on a broader scale the relevant tools, mechanisms and methodologies developed at the territorial level. The final document “[Localization of the SDGs: Experiences and Lessons Learned](#)”, analyses key components of initiatives through a SDG perspective and highlights the relevance of Tuscany’s development knowledge and practices and its potential contribution to an integrated localization of the SDGs. The document is structured on the presentation of the Tuscany Regions’ most interesting policies and practices on 1) Citizens’ participation in the identification of public policies; 2) Youth Policies; 3) Organization and management of local public services.

ART also supported COs in the production of specific policy documents and knowledge products. the Initiative has provided support to the elaboration of the “[Recommendations from local actors for the implementation of CapDel](#)”, developed by UNDP Algeria. The document features the recommendations of local actors on the implementation of the program CapDeL.

In addition, the production of the collection of Good practices in local development in Cabo Verde were in handy to position further the new program with relevant partners during the celebration of the 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development.

Similarly, ART has supported other UN Agencies in developing their knowledge production materials. Accordingly, ART was part of the Steering Committee of experts in migration and development and DC created by the UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), which supported the publication of the “*Guidelines on Integrating Migration into Decentralised Cooperation*”, a tool that helps local and regional authorities with necessary steps to establish migration-related decentralised cooperation relationships.

Furthermore, ART has performed other interesting efforts regarding knowledge production by supporting the knowledge production of its partners. For instance, the ART has assisted ADF to produce the guide “[TERRINCLUS - Methodological guide for international cooperation in the field of sustainable and inclusive local development](#)”. Based on the experiences of TERRINCLUS, the guide presents best practices that can facilitate the implementation of the SDGs at the local level in different territories. The ART team has also provided inputs to the OECD report, “Decentralised Development Cooperation: Financial Flows, Emerging Trends, and Innovative Paradigms” (to be launched in March 2018). Among best practices and different issues concerning DDC, the report highlights the window of opportunity for DDC to support the localization of the global agendas. Another example, it is the technical contribution ART provided to the production of a relevant tool developed by UCLG in the framework of the Localizing the SDGs platform

partnership. [“The Sustainable Development Goals -SDGs in the municipal map”](#) is the outcome of a workshop held in Chefchaouen, Morocco, on 3-6 March, which developed a methodology for the localization of the SDGs based on the Communal Action Plan of the city. This tool will guide LRGs to create awareness, localize and align the SDGs, territorialize and map the SDGs and implement and monitor the 2030 in their territories.

UNDP ART has also actively promoted the dissemination of experiences and tools elaborated by partners through the Virtual Platform for localizing the SDGs, which contains over 380 documents and 145 stories of initiatives and best practices.

Output 2

Knowledge and expertise systematized and exchanged to strengthen developmental capacities of LRGs and local governance institutions

Baseline

Few territorial experiences included in UNDP platform for SSTC

Indicators

Territorial experiences of SSTC well positioned within the corporate UNDP SSCT strategy and mechanisms

of territorial SSTC cooperation between sub national development partners established

of territorial development experiences and practices documented

2017 Targets

15 SSTC cooperation between sub national development partners established

10 territorial development experiences and practices documented

Indicators Output 2:

Indicator 1: Territorial experiences of SSTC well positioned within the corporate UNDP SSCT strategy and mechanisms

This includes SSTC at local level between: Cape Verde- Brazil, Bolivia -Brazil, Bolivia-Peru-Ecuador. However, many of the 51 initiatives reported under output 1, indicator 2, are also relevant SSTC initiatives

Indicator 2: # of territorial SSTC cooperation between sub national development partners established

This includes SSTC at local level between: Bolivia-Cabo Verde, Cabo Verde- Brazil, UIM-Brazil, Mauritania-Morocco, etc. However, many of the 51 initiatives reported under output 1, indicator 2, are also relevant SSTC initiatives. As the SS concept gets more and more obsolete many of the territorial partnership initiatives promoted by ART are network based, i.e. involve different actors, from different levels, different nature, and different locations around a common goal and within a joint operating framework. Moreover, 2017 has witnessed the celebration of the 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development and of the 2nd Regional Forum of LAC where many partners from the globe came together to exchange and create partnerships. UNDP, through ART, has been working as facilitator and enabler of such process, thereby facilitating the building of several territorial partnerships.

Indicator 3: # of territorial development experiences and practices documented

10 territorial development experiences and practices documented

1) Guide to the integration of Sustainable Development Goals in Brazilian Municipalities, National Conference of Municipalities of Brazil; 2) Localization of the SDGs: Experiences and Lessons Learned from Tuscany, Region of Tuscany; 3) Recommendations from local actors for the implementation of CapDel; 4) TERRINCLUS - Methodological guide for international cooperation in the field of sustainable and inclusive local development; 5) JMDI Guidelines on Integrating Migration into Decentralized Cooperation; 6) Catalogue of Good Practices of local development in Cabo Verde; 6) Bolivia LED Regional forum report; 7) Bolivia LED Regional Forum policy paper; 8) II Regional Good Practices Award ORU FOGAR best practices; 9) The Sustainable Development Goals -SDGs in the municipal map, produced by UCLG in the framework of the Virtual platform; 10) Tunisia regional plans and SDGs.

Output 3: A strategic exchange between UNDP and LRGs facilitated and operationalized

The ART Initiative has engaged in a strategic partnership process with LRGs and their associations in view of informing international policy debates about the importance of the territorial dimension of sustainable development and, at the same time, to promote joint country-based LGLD initiatives.

Activity Result 3.1: LRG Advisory Committee to UNDP established

2016 as well as 2017 Annual Work Plans stated that this output depends on a final corporate decision to implement the LRG Advisory Committee, as approved by the PAC meeting in 2015. This remains also valid for 2018. Today's new SP includes working at the sub-national and local levels in many outputs. The launch of the LRG AC could well become the strategic instrument to facilitate and discuss these local level action with key LRGs partners. The establishment and operationalisation of the LRG AC to senior UNDP management is not only key in transferring ART partnership arrangements to UNDP, but can also be considered a crucial input for strengthening UNDP's future role of a facilitator and convener of strategic integrated LGLD processes. If a strategic decision is taken by new UNDP senior management on the establishment of the AC, UNDP ART stands ready to move this forward as progress has preparatory work has been conducted in the previous years towards engaging main LRGs and their associations in this process, by informally discussing the overall concept and specific aims of the AC.

Activity Result 3.2: A Secretariat to the UNDP LRG Advisory Committee established and operated

As explained above, the establishment of the AC Secretariat will be carried out as soon as there is a senior management decision on the Advisory Committee.

Activity Result 3.3: Systematic exchange and interaction between UNDP and key LRGs and their associations promoted

UNDP ART has continued strengthening systematic channels of mutual learning and experience sharing between UNDP and LRGs throughout the year. The Initiative worked in different complementary directions to keep emphasizing UNDP's positioning on LGLD/localizing the SDGs support and to boost UNDP's image as a global reliable partner. To this end, ART has encouraged the sharing of knowledge and expertise by organizing roundtables, technical meetings and events, enabling operational mechanisms, and breeding available knowledge networks to UNDP and their LRGs partners.

The Initiative was particularly successful in further strengthening UNDP's partnerships with major **global associations** of LRGs. Building up on the already consolidated relations with United Cities and Local Governments (**UCLG**) and the Global Task Force of Local Governments (**GTF**), the organizations have jointly launched with UNDP and UN-Habitat the *Learning Modules for Localizing the SDGs*. The series of modules will support LRGs to localize the SDGs in their territories by providing knowledge and building skills on the key issues of the localization process. The first module is already being used in the framework of several events, such as forums, workshops and meetings organized by the developers of the module in partnership with LRGs associations. These trainings are encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences among LRGs, and other local stakeholders from around the world. Moreover UNDP, through ART, has been chosen again by the United Regions (**ORU FOGAR**) to be part of the jury of the "*II Regional Best Practices Award*", aimed at identifying successful territorial development practices. Also, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (**CLGF**) invited UNDP, through ART, to actively participate of the *CLGF's Biennial Conference* held in Valletta (Malta), in November 2017. During the event, ART has hosted together with Platforma and UN-Habitat a roundtable on the localization of the SDGs. This allowed the share of knowledge and experiences of the processes being undertaken by several countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Relations have been also reinforced with **Latin-American regional associations**, as it is the case of the Union of Iberoamerican Capital Cities (**UCCI**), who has invited UNDP, through ART, to participate of its *Thematic Vice-Presidency on Economic Development*. The event held in Mexico City has allowed the sharing of experiences with several international partners and Iberoamerican cities. Likewise, **Mercociudades** has invited UNDP ART to participate of the *XII Cumbre of Mercociudades* held in Cordoba (Argentina). On the occasion, ART collaborated with UCLG and UN-Habitat to present and conduct the piloting workshop of the second Learning Module on Localizing of the SDGs. Furthermore, UNDP, through ART, and the Federation of Latin America Cities, Municipalities and municipal Associations (**FLACMA**) have signed an agreement (January 2018) aimed at promoting learning and articulation of platforms for the localization of the SDGs among LAC municipalities.

At **European level**, UNDP ART has been able to continue developing the strong alliance matured within the EU counterparts. In particular, ART has strengthened its partnership with the Committee of the Regions (**CoR**) through the 5th Assises of Decentralized Cooperation. The biannual event co-organized by CoR and the EC took place in Brussels, in July 2017 and brought together many DC partners to exchange knowledge, policy perspectives and best practices on DC. In this context, ART was actively involved in the event, jointly working and organizing different round table sessions with key LRGs partners. Such strong presence helped UNDP to reinforce its approach on LGLD/localizing the SDGs and reinforce its role on supporting EU institutions and partners towards the Localization of the 2030 Agenda. UNDP ART has also worked in partnership with **PLATFORMA** and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (**CEMR**), in the framework of the event "*UN Global Goals - Triggering a wave of local actions in Europe and beyond*". This opportunity allowed UNDP to contribute with insights on the role of LRGs in implementing the SDGs and with the facilitation of a Learning Session on localizing the SDGs. Additionally, UNDP has been invited

by PLATFORM to be jury of the *PLATFORM Award in 2018*, which represents an important opportunity to exchange tools and learn the best practices of regions for sustainable development.

In light of the above, collaboration was strengthened with a number of LRGs national **associations**. Such as the Brazilian National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM), the Association of French Departments (ADF), the Association of Municipalities of Cabo Verde (ANMCV), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Federation of Spanish Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP). Alliances with key individual LRGs were also built and further reinforced by UNDP ART Initiative in 2017. Among others, important ties have been established with the City of Madrid, the Generalitat Valenciana and the Basque Country in Spain, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Region in France, Tuscany, Umbria. This has helped to consolidated partnerships as well as lead the way to build others, enabling to promote further exchange and interaction between UNDP and key LRGs and their associations. It is also worth highlighting that a number of national associations have actively participated in the different training sessions jointly organized with UCLG – for instance the Ecuadorian AME and CONGOPE, the Costa Rican Unión Nacional de Gobiernos Locales, the Dominican Federación de Municipios, or the Cape Verdean ANMCV.

Activity Result 3.4: Development debates and international policy processes - in alliance with LRG partners - informed

UNDP ART has been actively engaged in development debates and international policy process to jointly promote, together with sub-national authorities and their associations, the importance of the local dimension of development, Territorial Partnerships and the Localization of the SDGs.

A global partnership for localizing the SDGs: The elaboration of the <http://localizingthesdgs.org/> virtual platform and the related tools represent a key effort for advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at local level. This has only been possible thanks to the partnerships built over the years with major LRGs and their associations as well as with other UN Agencies around the importance of the local dimension of sustainable development. The Platform provides a unique space where multiple partners are already engaging and contributing with their experiences and best practices.

The Localization Platform in particular and the related promotion of a global alliance of actors for the localization of the SDGs have informed a number of global debates.

For instance, in line with the continuous engagement within the ***European Development Days***, the main European forum on development, UNDP ART, together with the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), coordinated the organization of a Lab-debate session to discuss how inclusive partnership within a Local Economic Development framework can foster sustainable territorial development and therefore contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. Entitled “Towards a Territorial Approach to Economic Development: How to foster inclusive partnerships that can support the implementation of the SDGs”, the session counted on the presence of speakers from Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (on behalf of the CoR), the OECD, the French Agency of Development, CIRAD and EURADA, the European Association of Economic Development Agencies. The Lab Debate provided an opportunity to address the role of LRGs in fostering territorial

inclusive partnerships and in implementing the SDGs and the main elements needed in order to transform the global partnership into local inclusive alliances.

Continuing on the Brussels-based events, 2017 has witnessed the celebration of the **5th Assises of Decentralized Cooperation**, a biannual forum co-organized by European Commission and EU CoR gathering DC partners from all over the globe to exchange policy perspectives and concrete experiences and with the ultimate objective of influencing EU's policy developments towards LGLD and DC. Building on the long-standing partnership with the CoR, UNDP ART was one of the main partners involved in the forum, jointly working with some key LRG partners. Besides a strategic stand promoting the Localization platform and the Cabo Verde's LED Forum, UNDP, through ART, co-organized (i) the Round Table session on Territorial Development together with the Basque Country Government, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions and ALDA, the European Association of Local Democracy Agency; (ii) the workshop on Localizing the SDGs together with ADF, CNM/FLACMA and Climate Alliance; (iii) and was invited to speak at the Round Table on the SDGs organized by the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia. Such strong presence helped UNDP to reinforce its joint positioning with LRGs and their associations towards the strengthening of the Global Partnership and the Localization of the 2030 Agenda globally as well as vis-a-vis the EU institutions.

In line with the established partnership with the EU and joint engagement with LRGs, UNDP, through ART, was invited by the European Commission (DG REGIO) to participate to the **3rd Cities Forum**, the main EU forum on urban development, to co-moderate, together with UCLG, the workshop on localizing the SDGs. The results of the workshop would then directly feed into an outcome document guiding EU's intervention on promoting the implementation of the Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

Also in Brussels, UNDP ART worked in partnership with PLATFORMA and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), an EU sponsored coalition of European LRGs to work internationally through DC, in the context of the **UN Global Goals - Triggering a wave of local actions in Europe and beyond** event, providing insights on the role of LRGs in implementing the Global Goals and giving a short-adapted version of the training on Localizing the SDGs.

In November 2017, UNDP, through ART, led the co-organization together with UNICEF and UNCDF of the Brussels-based **DeLoG learning** event aimed at providing insights on the nexus between local governance and sustaining peace in fragile and conflict-affected settings by sharing experience in local governance programming with a multidisciplinary issues-based approach.

Moving to Latin America, and building on the long-standing partnerships and positioning developed in the last 10 years of activities in support of LGLD processes in the continent, UNDP ART participated in the annual gathering of the **Thematic Vice-Presidency on Economic Development of the Union of Iberoamerican capital cities (UCCI)** in Mexico City to share relevant experiences from international partners while presenting the World Forum of LED process and the Cabo Verde event. Following the same approach, UNDP ART participated in the 20th edition of the **March to Brasilia in Defense of the Municipalities**. Held since 1998, the March is a democratic mobilization that has gained strength and has become the largest Brazilian political event for municipalities. Together with the Latin American

Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Local Governments Associations (FLACMA), and as a side event of the March, the CNM organizes the Municipalist International Congress; UNDP's ART Initiative participated in the discussion regarding the municipal action for the localization of the SDGs as part of the conjoint project with the CNM to support the localization of SDGs in Brazilian municipalities. Moreover, UNDP, through ART, participated to two meetings of the **Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly** to contribute to the elaboration of a policy document on the role of regional parliaments in the territorialisation of the SDGs.

UNDP ART's alliance with LRGs on the 2030 Agenda and its localization was strengthened throughout 2017 through the extended work with LRGs' networks, particularly by providing support and joint engagement in regional events. In the framework of the **XII Cumbre of Mercociudades** held in Cordoba (Argentina) and gathering important cities of Mercosur, UNDP ART collaborated with UCLG and UN-Habitat to present and conduct the piloting workshop of the second learning module on localizing the SDGs centered around how to mainstream the SDGs in local planning. In Colombia, the UNDP ART supported the Iberoamerican Union of Municipalities in the organization of the **XXI Iberoamerican Congress of Municipalist**, bringing the 2030 Agenda and the SDG localization perspective to the table, and facilitating the participation of UNDP Colombia in the event.

Moving to the international scene, and building on a longstanding partnership with the the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) on the SDGs and LED, UNDP ART took actively part in the **CLGF Conference** in Valletta (Malta), a biennial event that gathers local governments, their associations and ministries in charge of local government and decentralization from the Commonwealth of Nations, together with external partners. Taking advantage of the presence of different delegates from the Commonwealth, the CLGF together with Platforma, UN-Habitat and UNDP, through ART, hosted a roundtable on the SDG localization. The political gathering provided an excellent occasion to share perspectives and experiences on the process undertaken by several countries in Africa, Asia and Europe to transform the Global Goals into a reality for communities, households and individuals. Ministers and Mayors, as well as Secretary Generals of Local Governments' Associations from Belgium, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Rwanda presented concrete case studies that allowed to debate further and make an in-depth analysis on the best way forward.

In line with the current advancements in localizing the SDGs, UNDP ART has been partnering with some key European local champions to support their efforts in localizing the 2030 Agenda and in bringing their reflections and experience to the international level and development debates by diffusing information, knowledge and opportunities for participation. That is the case of the **Region of Tuscany** that UNDP ART has supported in the elaboration of a report reviewing their local development experiences under the SDG lens and in the organization of a related event in Florence, including the facilitation of the participation of the Tunisian UNDP CO and other European DC partners. Among the latter, the **Region of Valencia** is probably the actor that has most advanced in building and enabling local framework for the SDG to be achieved. Besides a consolidated partnership and a continuous accompanying process, UNDP ART has been working with Valencia in organizing the event "A Territorial Agenda for the Sustainable

Development Goals: Learning between Regions”, a key milestone of an innovative partnership-based process aimed at facilitating contacts and experience-sharing among Regions on localizing the SDGs. A similar process was developed with the **Generalitat of Catalonia** and its Development Cooperation Agency within the framework of the event entitled “*Connecting the Dots: New Partnerships Towards a Common Development Agenda*” where UNDP ART, based on the localizing the SDGs platform experience, provided an overview on best practices developed by relevant DC actors on localizing the SDGs. Also in Spain, UNDP ART participated in the **First Global Forum of Local Governments** organized by the Municipality of Sevilla where in collaboration with **FAMSI** and the Spanish Network for Sustainable Development it organized a workshop on localizing the SDGs. In preparation of the 4th World Forum of LED in Cabo Verde, UNDP ART supported the organization of the **International Seminar on Decentralization and Local Economic Development in Santo Domingo** (Dominican Rep.) promoted by FAMIS together with several institutions of Dominican Republic. Such efforts are at the very heart of UNDP ART’s mandate and mission as, in line with the universal principle of the 2030 Agenda, they substantially reinforce the Global Partnership for development by building sustained dialogue among engaged partners.

Output 3

A strategic exchange between UNDP and LRGs facilitated and operationalized

Baseline

No LRG Advisory Committee and Secretariat to UNDP established

Indicators

A LRG Advisory Committee to UNDP established

A LRG Advisory Committee Secretariat established and operational

of advisory Committee meetings held per year

of UNDP policies informed through the AC mechanism

*# of global and national LRG associations and key LRGs with whom specific development initiatives have been carried out in the framework of systematic exchange and interaction at global level**

*# of development debates and international policy processes informed **

2017 Targets

Two Advisory Committee meetings held

At least three UNDP policies/strategies informed through the Advisory Committee mechanism

*Note: *These two last indicators were not originally included in the ART PRODOC. However, they have been added here to better reflect actions and results under Output 3.*

Indicators Output 3:

Indicator 1: A LRG Advisory Committee to UNDP established

A LRG Advisory Committee to UNDP was not established.

UNDP ART AWP 2017 stated that the launch of the initiative would depend on a final corporate decision to implement the LRG Advisory. Consequently, the ART Initiative continued in engaging in the necessary preparatory work, including all the full set of documents – concept note; pager; list of member institutions; CV and details of individual members; first meeting thematic focus and tentative agenda. ART also made strides towards engaging main LRGs and their associations in the process, by informally discussing the overall concept and specific aims of the AC. This preparatory work finally led to the approval of the LRG AC by Senior Management already in 2016. Nevertheless, discussions with UNDP Senior Management about the internal changes within UNDP (new strategic plan; new administrator; UN reform etc.) led to postpone the launch and operationalization of the AC to 2018.

Indicator 2: A LRG Advisory Committee Secretariat established and operational

A LRG Advisory Committee Secretariat was not established and operationalized.

Indicator 3: # of advisory Committee meetings held per year

No Advisory Committee meeting was held.

Indicator 4: # of UNDP policies informed through the AC mechanism

UNDP policies were not informed through the AC mechanism.

However, a number of policies were informed through other mechanisms (see AR 3.4. above)

Indicator 5: # of global and national LRG associations and key LRGs with whom specific development initiatives have been carried out in the framework of systematic exchange and interaction at global level

A systematic exchange has been established with at least 20 global and national LRG associations and key LRGs

This includes: global and regional LRGs associations like UCLG, ORU FOGAR, FMDV, CLGF, Platforma, CEMR, FLACMA, UCCI, UIM, Mercociudades; national associations like ANMCV, CNM, ADF, FEMP, AME, ACHM; and key individual LRGs like Generalitat Valenciana, Madrid, Famsi, Generalitat of Catalonia, Tuscany. In addition to these exchanges around initiatives at global level, there are a number of agreements and projects and local level that have been carried out with LRGs and DC actors, that are reported under Output 1.

Indicator 6: # of development debates and international policy processes informed

13 development debates / international policy processes informed

European Development Days with the EC; Assises of Decentralized Cooperation with CoR; 3rd Cities Forum with DG REGIO; Triggering a wave of local actions in Europe and beyond with PLATFORMA and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR); participation in the Thematic Vice-Presidency on Economic Development with the Union of Iberoamerican capital cities (UCCI); March to Brasilia in defense of the Municipalities with CNM; elaboration of a policy document on the role of regional parliaments with Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly; XII Cumbre of Mercociudades; XXI Iberoamerican Congress of Municipalists with UIM; localizing dialogue during the CLGF Conference in Valletta, Malta; discussion on the "Territorial Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals: Learning between Regions", with Generalitat of Valencia; discussion on "New Partnerships Towards a Common Development Agenda", with Generalitat of Catalonia and its Development Cooperation Agency; First Global Forum of Local Governments organized by the Municipality of Sevilla; International Seminar on Decentralization and Local Economic Development in Santo Domingo (Dominican Rep.); Regional and World Forums on LED.

Output 4. UNDP ART framework programmes/territorial platforms strengthened and linked to regional and global processes

The UNDP ART Initiative in 2017 continued its support to LG/LD programmes and territorial platforms through the provision of expertise, participation in technical missions, and facilitation of linkages to international events and policy debates.

Activity Result 4.1: Ownership and scaling up of processes of existing and new UNDP ART framework programmes supported

Since its launching in 2005, the Initiative has promoted ART Framework Programmes (FPs) in several countries, upon request from the respective national governments. FPs provide the instruments that allow implementing development actions in response to the organized and prioritized demands of territories, therefore facilitating articulation of development partners in support of existing local development processes. In the last years, ART's methodology and FPs have been progressively mainstreamed to support the implementation of UNDP's corporate local governance and local development (LGLD) strategies and actions. Many of ART FPs are now nationally owned. In 2016, ART supported various FPs and UNDP LG/LD Programmes in Latin America (e.g. the PADIT platform in Cuba, the Territorial Development Programme in Ecuador, Bolivia and Uruguay, Colombia); Asia (Myanmar), Arab States (Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria) and Africa (Mauritania).

Activity Result 4.2: Local governance stakeholders and national authorities linked with international partners and relevant international policy processes

The strategic alliance forged over the years between UNDP and national and local authorities was further strengthened in 2017. Aware of the need to link global development debates to local practices, for more than ten years now UNDP ART has joined forces with LRGs, their associations, and other local governance actors in their efforts to have a voice in global development discussion. These actors have been actively supported to feed into and influence international development policy processes, especially with regards to the key role of the local level in development and in particular in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals different in events.

For instance, ART has contributed to the World Forum on Urban Violence, organized by the City of Madrid, held in April 2017, in Madrid. On this occasion, the Initiative was part of the organising committee with the aim of advancing the dialogue on the interlinkages between Goal 11 and Goal 16. Likewise, UNDP ART organized a debate session in collaboration with the European CoR and CIRAD, during the European Development Days - event organized by European Commission in Brussels, in June 2017. Entitled "*Towards a Territorial Approach to Economic Development: How to foster inclusive partnerships that can support the implementation of the SDGs*", the session counted on the presence of speakers from Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (on behalf of the CoR), the OECD, the French Agency of Development, and EURADA. Additionally, UNDP ART was actively involved on the Assises of Decentralized Cooperation, organized by European Commission and European CoR in Brussels, in July 2017. ART was actively involved in the event,

which represents the main European biannual event on DC, by facilitating the Round Tables on Territorial Development and the SDGs, as well as the workshop on localizing the SDGs, including the mobilization of partners from Cape Verde and Brazil.

ART has also facilitated a workshop in the framework of the UN High Level Political Forum held in New York, in July 2017. The workshop session bringing together experiences from Flanders, Catalonia, Argentina, Kenya and New York with the aim of highlighting special practices that facilitate an integrated approach to implementing the SDGs, both substantively and institutionally.

As part of the preparation for the 4th edition of the World Forum of Local Economic Development, UNDP ART has organized, contributed and participated in different events throughout 2017. Such events were held with the intention of discussing the LED approach during several local, national and global meetings, serving also as a roadmap towards the celebration of the Forum. This is the case of the International Seminar on Decentralization and Local Economic Development, celebrated in Santo Domingo, in March 2017, the II Regional Forum of Local Economic Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Tiquipaya, Bolivia, in June 2017 and the preparatory event “The 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development of Cabo Verde: LED as a means to implement the SDGs. A Global Platform for Partnership and Knowledge Sharing”, organized in Brussels, in October 2017. These events have strengthened the process of the World Forum of LED, contributing to the successful realization of the 4th edition of the event in Praia, Cabo Verde, in October 2017.

Of particular relevance, in light of the strategic positioning of UNDP ART in Brussels and as part of its mission to enhance LRGs role and link them to the international development scene, the initiative has been facilitating partners’ mission in Europe and specifically to Belgium. This is the case of Cabo Verdean Delegation, including members from the national and local governments, that UNDP ART supported in its participation to the Assises of DC and in planning meetings with relevant EU counterparts and with Luxembourg’s Minister of Foreign and European Affairs. The mission resulted in the opening of new opportunities for cooperation with European LRGs (Friuli Venezia Giulia etc.) and for funding with the EU as well as in the consolidation of the alliance with Luxembourg in promoting the localization of the SDGs in Cabo Verde.

Activity Result 4.3: UNDP Country Offices and Governments supported in the formulation and establishment of programmes (or components thereof) based on specific expertise such as Decentralized Cooperation systems, territorial approach, LED, etc. (with and through Regional Hubs)

In **Mauritania**, ART assured continued liaison and dialogue with key potential DC partners and technical bodies, including some that had been involved in the technical mission to Spain and Morocco during the program formulation phase, in order to define and finalize the terms of their possible support to the implementation of the program in relation to specific components and/or activities. This includes in particular the Spanish region of Valencia that is about to finalize an agreement with UNDP with specific provisions for financial and technical cooperation with Mauritania in the SDGs localization and LED area; the Spanish region of Andalusia (Andalusian Cooperation Agency and FAMSÍ) on regional development

and LED; the French Association of Regions on capacity building activities for LRGs; EURADA (EU Association of Regional Economic Development Agencies) and EBN (European Business Network), on specific activities in the framework of the Pagourdel LED component.

In **Algeria**, punctual technical support was provided in the LED area – both at preparatory/initial implementation (LED diagnostic) and at programmatic levels (concept note for a contract amendment and funding top-up). Support was also provided to the CO in reaching out to potential technical partners during the tendering process for two technical assistance services in support to (i) municipal capacity building and (ii) strategic planning processes.

In **Cabo Verde**, specific support was provided to the CO and the government in ‘landing’ and connecting the whole Forum preparation process with specific partnership and action through and in the framework of the UNDP ‘Platforms for SDGs’ program; this included (i) support in reaching out to decentralized partners involved in the Forum process of dialogue and alliance for enabling technical partnership in the framework of the program; and (ii) participation in two preparatory and thematic workshops, held in Praia in the month of July respectively on ‘Local power and sustainable development: on the way to the IV WFLED’, with specific focus on the role and engagement of Cabo Verdean municipalities in the Forum process, and ‘The role the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in LED processes and SDGs implementation’.

In **Bolivia**, besides contributing to channelling bilateral and decentralized cooperation funds to different local development projects (see Output 1.4.), ART and the CO have jointly formulated an SDG localization programme, that is currently being implemented with the National Association of Municipalities and in coordination with the national government. The project includes raising awareness actions, trainings for local actors, and implementation of specific LED initiatives following local priorities.

Activity Result 4.4: Capacity of Regional Hubs with regards to Decentralized Cooperation and in building regional DC and territorial SSTC networks reinforced

In 2017, the ART Initiative has continued to coordinate efforts with the Regional Hubs, in particular through the following actions:

Regional Bureau and Hub for Arab States: UNDP ART and the Regional Hub in Amman worked together in preparing the implementation of the CapDeL in Algeria. Preparations included also a formulation in December 2017 of an additional project component (7 million EUR) on LED that was discussed with the EU delegation in Algeria. The Initiative has also guided a local team of consultants in conducting a territorial LED review in the municipalities the programme is active in. ART was also disseminating the procurement requests of CapDel with relevant partner networks, which resulted in the programme selecting a Canadian as well as an Italian consortium for two project components.

The ART Initiative also organised a consortium for a regional project on on Social and Solidarity Economy that was submitted to the EU in the third quarter. The consortium incorporated RBAS, respective COs, ILO, RIPPSS (major stakeholder in SSE) and various NGOs. Unfortunately, the proposal was not selected for financing.

Regional Bureau and Hub for Africa: The Hub contributed to the LED World Forum process by sharing relevant knowledge products, disseminating information with the countries, and linking ongoing programmes and initiatives (like the Semauel Initiative and the YouthConnekt) that fed the forum process. A second area of joint work was the formulation of a Programme on Migration and Local Development in West Africa, in partnership with IOM, that aims at building the capacity of migration prone territories of West Africa through the establishment of local migration and development platforms, connecting local needs with diaspora engagement and decentralized cooperation actors within the EU.

Regional Bureau and Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean: The collaboration with the regional hub was operationalized through its direct involvement in the Regional LED Forum process in Bolivia, where the Hub disseminated information with relevant stakeholders, suggesting relevant regional experiences that could further position UNDP as leading agency in LED. The Gender Cluster led the overall organization of a session on LED and women empowerment through the DELGEN initiative.

Regional Bureau and Hub for Asia and the Pacific: UNDP ART has continued its support to the Regional Hub in Bangkok in rolling out the Local and Urban Governance Diagnostic Tool, that has been tested in Indonesia, Philippines and Pakistan, contributing to implementing the SDGs at the subnational level in the region and to creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the SDGs.

Output 4

UNDP ART framework programmes / territorial platforms strengthened and linked to regional and global processes

Baseline

13 ART CO level framework programmes/ UNDP LGLD programmes actively supported

5 ART framework programmes with full national ownership

Indicators

of framework programmes with full national ownership

of relevant international events with participation of local governance stakeholders from ART framework programmes

of UNDP Country Office/ Governments supported in formulating programmes (or components) based on specific ART expertise

2017 Targets

10 ART framework programmes /UNDP LGLD programmes actively supported (or the locally owned mechanisms/ processes where applicable)

15 ART framework programmes with full national ownership

Local Governance stakeholders from 30 countries participated in relevant international events

5 UNDP Country Offices/ Governments supported in formulating programmes (or components) based on specific ART expertise

Indicators Output 4:

Indicator 1: # of framework programmes with full national ownership

7 ART framework programmes with full national ownership

Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Lebanon, Morocco and Uruguay have to a considerable part moved towards appropriating key elements of the FPs.

Indicator 2: # of relevant international events with participation of local governance stakeholders from ART framework programmes

7 relevant international events with participation of local governance stakeholders from more 85 countries

II Regional Forum of Local Economic Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Tiquipaya, Cochabamba, Bolivia, June 2017; 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development, Praia, Cabo Verde, October 2017. These 2 events gather the majority of participants mobilized these years: only the Cabo Verde's World Forum attract participants from 85 countries, while the Regional Forum in Bolivia mobilized actors from 35 countries. Additionally, it is worth including here other events like: the 5th Assises of Decentralized Cooperation, organized by European Commission and Committee of the Regions, Brussels, Belgium, July 2017, which saw the active participation of stakeholders from Cabo Verde (national and local govts) and Brazil (CNM); the LED Seminar in Dominican Republic; the Urban Forum in Madrid; the Regions and SDG Seminar in Valencia; the SDG localization training in Bonn in collaboration with UNSSC.

Indicator 3: # of UNDP Country Office/ Governments supported in formulating programmes (or components) based on specific ART expertise

7 UNDP Country Office/ Governments supported in formulating programmes (or components) based on specific ART expertise

Upon the request of the UNDP COs and/or Governments it was supported the formulation of programmes based on ART expertise in: Algeria; Cape Verde; Mauritania; Bolivia; Tunisia; Uruguay; Myanmar plus, RBA countries for the formulation of a Regional Programme on Migration and Local Development in West Africa; and RBAS countries for the formulation of a project proposal on Social and Solidarity Economy.

3. SUMMARY OF ART EXPENDITURES IN 2017

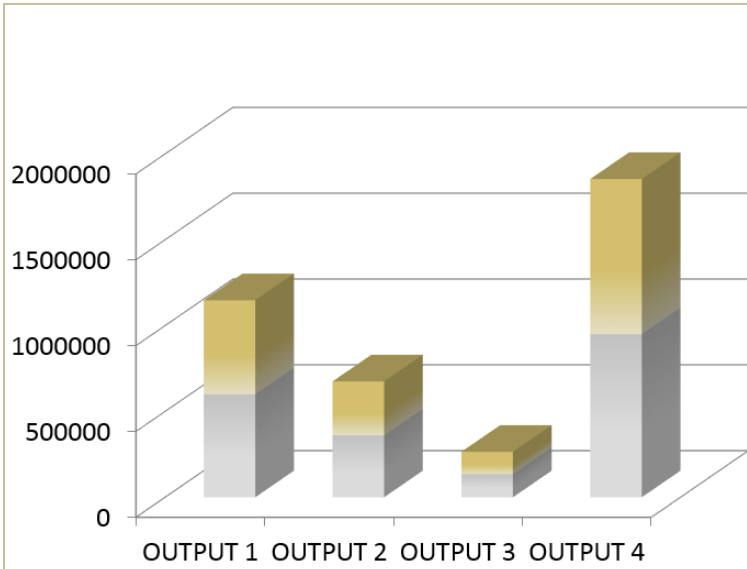
The TF as a vehicle has been providing coordinated finances while fostering a dynamic process among partners, joint learning and adjusting, continuous communication and interaction building that resulted in achieving a shared sense of responsibility that has brought together coherence between partners which otherwise would be considered piecemeal contribution. Furthermore, the created operational structure offered the approach into the partnership role on the global level where it was possible to scale up the synergies towards joint value creation and capturing opportunities this network of partners had to offer.

The Trust Fund -Innovative Partnerships' liquidity sustained through multiple year financing agreements have assisted programmes and projects in COs to continue to pursue global and countries' development priorities and to ensure on generating internal conditions for mobilizing of new project funding, technical cooperation and knowledge innovation.

Most of AWP 2017 - financed resources were directed towards Output 4, as shown in the graph below, with the remainder financing internal knowledge products such as LGLD solutions and toolkits, good

practice case studies, promoting a network of local integration actors between partners' regions to exchange knowledge and experiences, and local development and partnership building activities.

	AWP 2017	Allocation	Expenditures by Outputs	Implementation rate
Output 1	UNDP's partnership with LRGs and DC partners expanded to support the implementation of the 2030 agenda at local level	600,000	547,836	91%
Output 2	Knowledge and expertise systematized and exchanged to strengthen developmental capacities of LRGs and local governance institutions	360,000	315,000	87.5%
Output 3	A strategic exchange between UNDP and LRGs facilitated and operationalized	135,000	130000	96%
Output 4	UNDP ART framework programmes/territorial platforms strengthened and linked to regional and global processes	950,000	903,836	95%
	Total in US Dollars	2,045,000	1,896,671.71	93%



1 The total delivery rate for 2017 is 93%

2 Performance targets and delivery of outputs have been fully achieved with cost saving of 7%