

**Cities for
Sustainability
Governance**



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URBACT



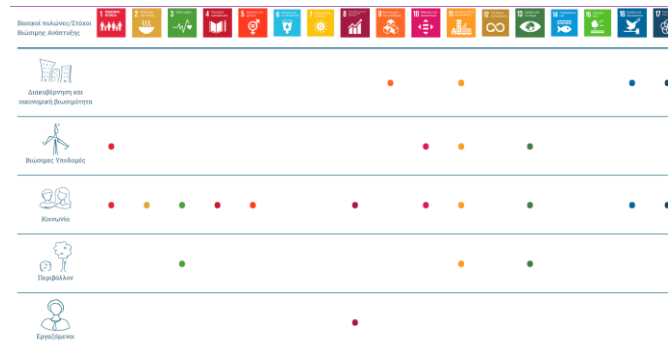
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Our why

- **Agios Dimitrios** is the first city in Greece to adopt **UN's SDGs 2030 vision** since 2016 and only the second Greek City to proceed with **Local Voluntary Report** (published 2024).
- Our commitment to sustainability reporting is an integral part of our governance model, enabling us to monitor and communicate our progress in addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges.
- **SDGs** offer the most practical and effective pathway to tackle the causes of violent conflict, human rights abuses, climate change and environmental degradation and aim to ensure that no one will be left behind.
- Increase transparency and create a shared value for stakeholders and community.
- **SDGs** are our compass, guiding us towards a future of our City where technology is harnessed to serve our community, foster innovation, and drive sustainable progress. By aligning our strategies with the SDGs, we not only enhance the quality of life for our citizens but also contribute to a world where every individual and every community thrives in harmony with our planet.



Area	
• Municipality	4.949 km ² (1.911 sq mi)
Elevation	60 m (200 ft)
Population (2021)^[2]	
• Municipality	71,664
• Density	14,000/km ² (38,000/sq mi)



How we do it

- Utilize URBACT program and its Cities network to learn and evolve our thought process and ways of working. **“No need to reinvent the wheel!”**
- Further grow and enhance our local SDG working group, with diverse people from local community and various local organizations and groups (i.e. environmental, cultural & societal, etc.).
 - Define and document local **SDG Data Collection & Reporting Process**, while creating and fostering the appropriate culture within the municipality colleagues and various services/departments, as well as to the local community.
- Identify and secure relevant funding from EU programs and Greek Government programs & financial tools.
- Create synergies & networks with neighbouring cities (and NGOs, local groups, etc.) to address common issues, problems, etc. and most importantly “empower our reach & influence towards central government” to pursue and leverage existing opportunities (i.e. Pikrodaphne streak, etc.).
- Focus initially on **Digital Transformation**, since digital solutions that are already demonstrating how technology can directly benefit (at least) 119 of the 169 SDG targets, or about 70 per cent, including in areas such as climate action, education, hunger and poverty
- *“Digital public infrastructure represents the 'roads and bridges' of our new era on which countries can 'transport' a range of vital services to citizens, from e-health and e-government services to online education and social protection”*

Challenges / future outlook

Challenges

- Overcome the existing societal/cultural barriers and challenge the status quo.
- **Maintain an active and energetic local working group**, committed towards SDGs and our City's vision.
- **Secure required funding**, as for example digital transformation alone requires a considerable investment in connectivity infrastructure, building up digital skills, and creating the conditions for job retraining and new opportunities.
- One of the primary challenges in achieving the SDGs is the **persistence of inequality within and between countries**. Economic disparities, conflict, unequal access to education and healthcare, discrimination based on gender, race, and socioeconomic status hinder progress towards many of the goals.
- The **weakness of statistical systems and scarcity of relevant data** for compiling indicators is a major challenge for monitoring of SDGs.
- A low level of human assets and a relatively high vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks.
- Lack of awareness, guidance, resources and/or stakeholder engagement at all levels.

Future Outlook

- Execute our pre-election program strategy (i.e. Asyrmatos Park, Pikrodaphne streak, Energy Sustainable public infrastructure, etc.) and overall vision for our City combined with SDGs and showcase the progress made in our City on a yearly basis.
- Communicate, create awareness and gradually inspire and transform our local community to become **SDGs Change Advocators**, focusing especially on young generations.

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Thank you!

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