

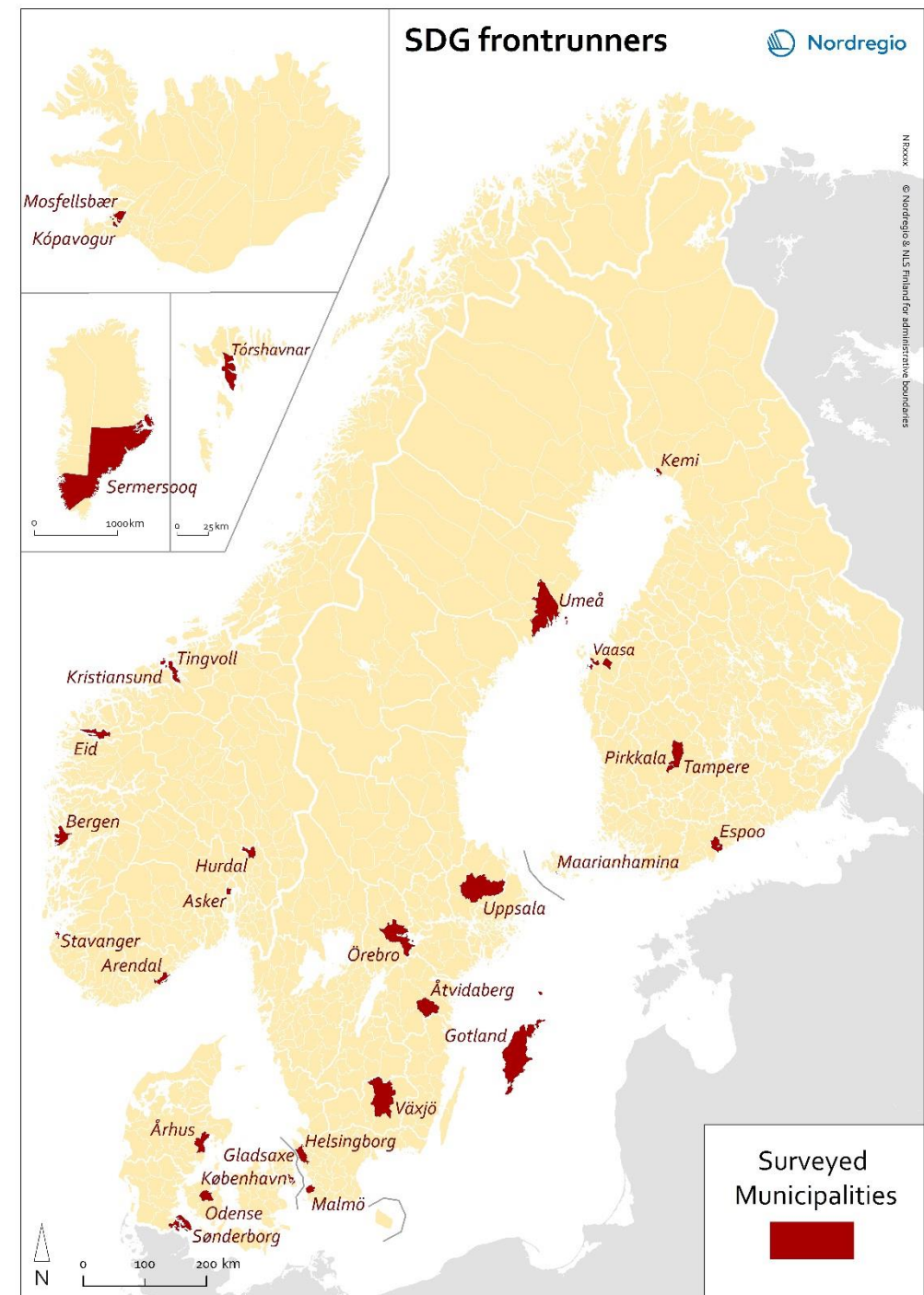
Success factors, challenges and rooms for improvement for implementing Agenda 2030 at local level

'The frontrunner' municipalities

31 municipalities interviewed,

(out of total 1211 municipalities in the Nordic countries and regions)

but many more have been mentioned as working on sustainable development



Common analysis of the 'front runner' municipalities

1. What are the challenges they face?
2. What are the factors they identify as the reasons to why they are successful in the work?
3. What are the possible remedies?

Analysis of the results from all interviews, to find common patterns and themes.

Challenges

in the work with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs at the local level

- Integrating the work internally.
- Integrating the work externally.
- To make the global relevant locally. Getting people to understand that the Agenda 2030 is for all. Not only to be implemented by someone else, somewhere else.
- Goals and priorities.
- Measuring progress. “Indicator-mismatch”

Success factors in the work with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs at the local level

- Get political support
- Get all sectors on board
- Get key persons involved, at the highest political and administrative levels
- Relate to ongoing work in the municipality
- Draw and tell the story of the future the municipality envision
- Start with local strategic discussions and workshop
- Smaller municipalities : their size is an advantage as it makes it easier to have personal relations

Possible remedies in the work with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs at the local level

- Communication on priorities from national level and Nordic council of ministers.
- Measure progress for comparisons with other municipalities, while not forgetting to analyse what the indicator means at the local level.
- Offer customized training.
- Increase funding for strategic and outreach activities.
- Relate national funding to performance of the SDGs.

Time for reflection

World café-discussions

Would like you to validate our results and to discuss any other aspects that have not come forth yet.

Group yourselves in to groups of 4-6 people.

Discuss in groups.

Come up with at least one point per question from your group.

Report back to all.

World café-discussion

1. What are the challenges to implement the Agenda 2030 at the local level?
2. What are the success factors to implement the Agenda 2030 at the local level?
3. What are the possible remedies in the further work? What help would you like?

Reporting from the 7 groups:

Challenges

1. Communication, behavioral change, some regulations/ and the bureaucracy can be a hinder to engage people in basis for decisions and for civil engagements more in general
2. Municipalities feel lonely; clearer signals and support from national governments could help. Also need to communicate what the municipalities are doing to support peoples everyday life (e.g. schools, waste, water, energy, transport, health care, parks). Engage citizens to change behaviour.
3. To work together cross sectors internal in the municipalities and btw municipalities (is also a solution). How to communicate the SDGs? Basically its about building opportunities for people to live better lives. Politicians have to stand by the commitments they make.
4. To convince people is the first step. To analyse the situation in the local government is the second step: What do we need to change? e.g. what do we have to do more off/less off/stop doing. The Agenda 2030 sounds so complex. It can scare of people to work with it. We need simple language and simple actions, it is already work ongoing, but we need to relate that to the Agenda 2030. In the next step it can be conflicts between goals and meausres, but it cannot scare us from doing it.
5. Scepticism, lack of knowledge colleagues and the public around the Agenda 2030. Should we work bottom up or top down. Both similtaneosly?
6. To change the mindset, this is a new way of think of sustainability. Funding: a new business model. Make citizens aware of why the work on Agenda 2030 is important.
7. Lack of human and financial resources. Measurement: lack of comparable data on local level for the whole globe. Lack of engagement from national governments.

Success factors

1. Formal arrangements can be needed for NGOs, spreading information across groups, cross generational interactions
2. Engage all stakeholders
3. Sustainable commitment, building sustainable structure (integrate in the municipal structure more long term)
4. Communication: simple and concrete
5. To have a common goal, across sectors
6. SDG-measurements: Can be a powerful tool to engage and show what its done on municipal level

Possible remedies

1. Knowledge exchange btw municipalities. Build on whats existing (associations for municipalities)
2. SDG: some needs economic support from national governments. E.g. shift to public transportations
3. Sharing knowledge (takes courage)
4. Funding, networks, good examples
5. Use web sites/social media for good examples
6. Better communication btw local and national governments
7. A tool for policy coherence (success factor)