

# Ten Years to Go: the Role of Geospatial Information When Approaching 2030

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## SUMMARY

The Norwegian government has decided that the UN sustainable development goals (SDG) shall be the fundament for the governments national and international work. That implicates that Agenda 2030 with its 17 goals and 169 subgoals is to influence and shape government and development. But how to do it? We often see that Norway scores high on indicators such as healthcare, welfare, education and governance. Still, it would be a blunt mistake to imagine there is no need for improvement.

The UN underscores that two third of the SDGs can only be reached through local achievements. This paper presents some of the ways the Norwegian state, regions and municipalities work to achieve the SDGs. It includes generating knowledge, learning from the different local approaches, a white paper and a national action plan, and new use of geospatial information.

Spatial planning is one of Norways prime tools for sustainable development. The Norwegian planning system is set up to handle conflicts across sectors and provides a good fundament for understanding the wicked problems we are facing. The municipalities are spatial planning authorities, whilst the government provides legislation and guidelines on issues of regional and national interest. Sustainable development is underscored in the Planning and Building Act and in the National expectations regarding regional and municipal planning 2019-2023. Yet it is not until the public, local businesses, planners and politicians share the same knowledge, a good governance can be achieved.

The paper will explore some of the tools achieved, and some in progress, on the road to implemeting the SDGs in spatial planning. It involves a national statistical portal for the SDGs, its subgoals and its indicators, examples of new tools for municipal and regional planning such as

spatial profiles including built up land, safe approach to green areas and reallocation of cultivable land, seabed and land mapping, 3D-tools and forecasting-tools. The aim is to show how sustainable development depends on geospatial information in understanding our challenges (translating the SDGs to a local context) in the actual planning process (gathering a common knowledge base) and in the measuring of development (indicators). The final part will give some small examples on how the Covid-19 pandemic has boosted the use of digital tools, and how that can also prove beneficial in achieving the sustainable development goals.

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