

## CONCEPT NOTE

# VENICE 2030

CITY SOLUTIONS

## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FLIPPING THE SCRIPT TO REIMAGINE THE CITY

28 AND 29 NOVEMBER 2022

VENICE 2030  
CITY SOLUTIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FLIPPING  
THE SCRIPT TO REIMAGINE THE CITY

28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022



### CO-ORGANIZED BY:



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# INTRO

Venice City Solutions 2030 is a yearly event that focuses on how cities and local governments are contributing to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for all. Venice is not only an event; it is all-year process that bring diverse partners together to provide concrete tools and narratives to advance on the local implementation of Agenda 2030.

This fifth edition develops the idea that we need to “Flip the Script” to achieve the SDGs. We need more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable cities and territories, and we need them now. After the 2 years pandemic and subsequent global turmoil, certain traditional government models are no longer working, and we need new ones.

That is why the organizers are asking local and regional governments to “Flip The Script”: to bring communities together and transform policy and local action to make our cities more inclusive, green, healthy and fair.

The SDG are also helping cities to innovate and transform, and we know that this is never an easy process. Venice wants to share specific solutions that other cities and their partners are already experimenting. Each year, we gather in Venice to share how cities are getting inspired by the SDGs, turning around old ways of doing things, and engaging citizens into renewed local action.

To get a better grasp of the Flip The Script concept, take a look to our videos:

[Video 1 Flip the Script](#)

[Video 2 Flip the Script](#)

This year, we want to find responses to some of the following questions:

- What is your city doing to “flip the script”?
- How is SDGs inspiring your local action?
- How are cities bringing along their communities and partners?
- Is Agenda 2030 helping cities to innovate? how and where?



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# BACKGROUND

Entering its fifth edition, Venice City Solutions 2030 has now become the only yearly event fully dedicated to the local implementation of SDGs. Venice focuses on the role of local and regional governments to implement SDGs. It also aims to bring traditional and non-traditional partners to our special vision on Agenda 2030 as an instrument to transform our cities, to trigger individual and collective action and to help municipalities to plan, deliver and communicate better.

Each year, the recommendations produced in Venice are presented during the High-Level Political Forum in New York, the official UN event that assess and monitors the Agenda 2030 progress. An occasion to interact with member states and raise attention on issues that cities, local governments and their partners believe to be essential to reach the full potential of the SDGs.

The past editions of Venice City Solutions 2030 have focused on:

- Year 2018 "Financing the SDGs at local level"
- Year 2019 "Creating Citizenship: The SDGs as an Opportunity for All"
- Year 2020 "Visualizing Agenda 2030 in the city"
- Year 2021 "SDG solutions to rethink the cities"


Venice City Solutions is the sum of efforts by its organizers. Our Italian host is AICCRE, who keeps the process alive and welcomes us every year in Venice. The event is also co-organized by United Cities and Local Governments, the major network of cities and two UN agencies: the United Nations Development Programme and UN-Habitat, together with the UN SDG Action Campaign, who promotes Agenda 2030 on behalf of the whole UN system.

Each year, we bring together a diversity of partners, local and international, representing traditional and non-traditional stakeholders from the private sector, academia and civil society.

Venice is also the meeting point for UCLG Local4Actions Hubs, an initiative aiming to foster an active global community of cities and regions contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda by creating a platform for visibility through peer exchanges, learning, advocacy and communications work. Venice City Solutions 2030 is the UCLG Hub of the Local4Action Hubs, where all the HuBs have the opportunity to meet, to exchange and disseminate their experience among the global community.



# STRUCTURE & THEMES



Using different and interactive methodologies, each session answers a series of questions to jointly produce key messages and recommendations. Each session will showcase specific local experiences that are contributing to #FlipTheScript, speakers are selected on the basis of geographic and gender balance, combining representatives from local and regional governments as well as the United Nations, private sector and civil society.

The agenda is constantly updated in our website [VeniceCitySolutions](https://venicecitysolutions2030.org).  
This year edition will structure around the following themes:



## Welcome plenary: Why we need to “Flip the script”

- Institutional welcome by AICCRES Venice, United Cities and Local Governments, UNDP, UN SDG Action Campaign and UN-Habitat.
- Introduction to this year theme and methodology.
- Presentation of existing communication tools: Global Week of Action, Videos, SDG City Tales and Trello Boards.



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# HOW DO WE FLIP THE SCRIPT IN PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

Cities keep innovating the way they deliver public services, one of the most visible thing that citizens can see benefit their daily lives. With increasing needs and diminishing resources, cities not only need to keep reinventing themselves, they also do so by “caring” about the quality of their services and how they transform the lives of the local population, specially the more vulnerable.

How can we “flip the script” in public service delivery? What is happening out there? What can we learn to move forward? What are the latest trends in public administration and how Agenda 2030 is providing inspiration to deliver in a more inclusive and effective way?

The session will bring experiences from 2-3 cities + 1 representative of the private sector and 1 expert in public administration innovation.

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION TO FLIP THE SCRIPT

*"Those who can imagine anything, can create the impossible."  
(Alan Mathison Turing)*

As citizens, voters, consumers, we all know that digital is transforming the world we live in. Digital innovation happens from the way we live the city, use public or private transport, feed our families, do our shopping, relate to our neighbors, or decide which goods we are going to buy and consume. The digital world is, in fact, “flipping the script” by itself.

How can we make sure that cities and local governments keep up with this continuous change? How, as citizens can we flip the script to ensure that the SDGs become the digital roadmap for the cities?

The session will bring experiences from 2-3 cities + 1 representative of civil society and 1 expert in digital innovation.

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## FINANCING LOCAL ACTION: HOW THE SDGS CAN HELP YOU

Access to reliable and flexible financing sources is still one of the main impediments to “Flip the Script” in local policy and keep implementing local SDG action. The first edition of Venice City Solutions 2030 focused on finance, and we are proposing to bring back this key issue this year, as demand of cities has only increased. The session wants to identify and share different financial mechanisms to make projects a reality.

The session will bring experiences from 2-3 cities + 1 representative of financial institutions and 1 expert in SDG finance.

## WORKSHOP – CO - CREATING LOCAL FLIP THE SCRIPT MESSAGES

The session will work as a “focus group” to design together the new set of messages for the Global “Flip the script” campaign focusing on local action. Guided by our advocacy experts, participants will have the opportunity to get familiar with existing communication tools to share more efficiently how cities and local governments are locally implementing the SDGs, focusing on elaborating specific messages to communicate internationally, vis-à-vis the central government and with their local community.

The outcome of the session will be transformed by the organizers in specific communication tools, and made available to the general public to inspire other cities to “Flip the Script”.

More resources are already available at [ACT4SDGs website](https://act4sdgs.org/)



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# RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2023

As in previous occasions, the recommendations from the event will be presented at the High-Level Political Forum, the formal mechanism to follow up on SDGs that gathers in New York in July of each year, giving the opportunity to transfer to member states and governments the new ideas and solutions identified during the event. The final session will gather the contribution of participants to next year HLPF, the formal session that, each year, revises the state of implementation of Agenda 2030 during a two-week period at the UN Headquarters in New York.

## LOCAL4ACTION HUBS BY UCLG

The Local4Action HUBs by UCLG initiative anchors the global agendas' localization on members' innovative practices, processes and initiatives, providing the platform to connect, synchronize and accelerate the delivery of the global agendas, setting cities and regions as main actors for global sustainability. It provides visibility and a UCLG label to local and regional government ambitious and transformative initiatives, setting local approaches to sustainability at the forefront of the global conversation.

In Venice all the HUBs have the opportunity to meet and exchange with other stakeholders as a community and to show how local and regional governments are showing that they want to accelerate, through the Hubs, strong actions that are catalysts for citizens and that guarantee sustainable development. This edition will be prodromal to the welcoming of the numerous Hubs that have joined the initiative.

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# FURTHER INFORMATION

This year, Venice will still be mostly an online event, with a small group of partners gathering in person. Remote connection is open to all, registration will be available online and through the [YouTube Channel](#).

Interpretation will be available in English, French, Spanish and Italian.

For more information on this year Venice City Solutions, please contact:  
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## PRE-REGISTER FOR THE EVENT

If you are interested in participating,  
please pre-register  
[here](#)

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