

# PILOT CITY and REGION SNAPSHOTS

Annex to the OECD Toolkit  
for a Territorial Approach to the SDGs





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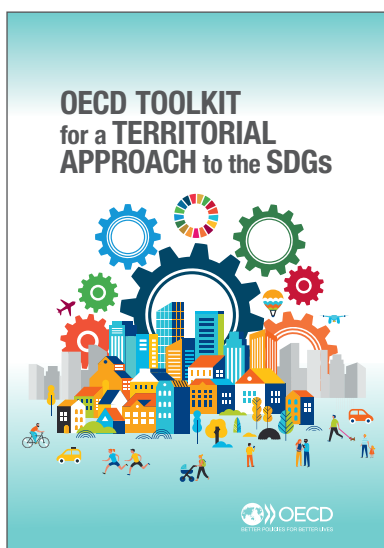
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You can find the OECD Toolkit for  
a Territorial Approach to the SDGs here:

<https://oe.cd/SDGsToolkit>

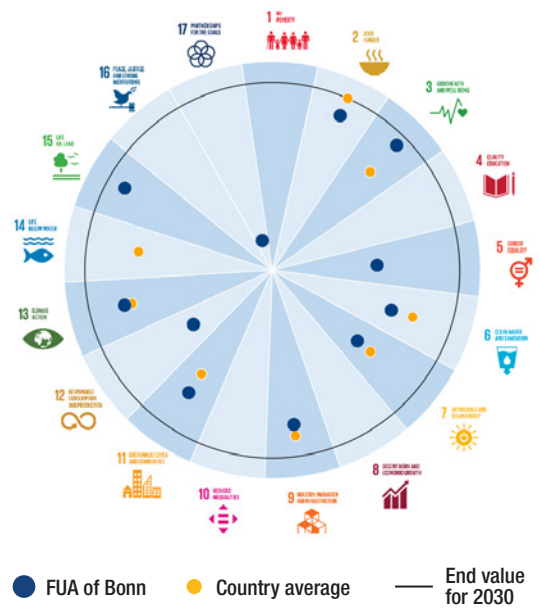
# CITY OF BONN, GERMANY

Area: 141 km<sup>2</sup> (2020)

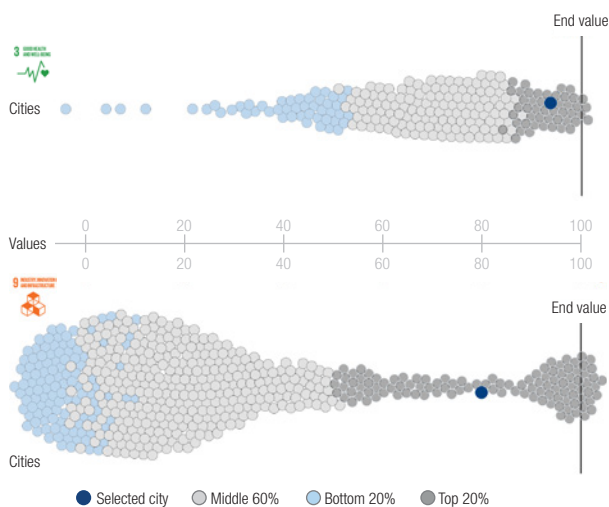
Population: 332 729 (2020) – City of Bonn  
925 000 (2019) – FUA of Bonn

GDP per capita: USD 54 948 (2018) – FUA Bonn

The city of Bonn is strong in economic performance and has the second highest GDP per employee in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state. Furthermore, the Bonn FUA<sup>1</sup> excels in healthcare (e.g., low infant mortality rates), research and development, and green amenities (e.g., accessibility of green areas). There is room for improvement in the FUA regarding transport, air pollution and energy (e.g., high reliance on fossil fuels).



## ► Strengths: Low infant mortality, high innovation and a large share of protected terrestrial area



Health is one of the main strengths of the Bonn FUA. Its infant mortality rate of 2.5 deaths among children aged 1 year or younger per 1 000 live births is lower than the OECD FUA average (3.3 per 1 000). Furthermore, over 90% of people in the FUA have access to at least one hospital within a 20-minute drive (SDG 3).

Bonn's FUA performs well in innovation. In 2014, it registered 654 patents per 1 million people, more than double the OECD FUA average (277 per 1 million) (SDG 9).

The FUA shows good results in biodiversity protection compared to most OECD FUAs, with more than 60% of its area having protected status, in comparison to the OECD FUA average of 17% (SDG 15).

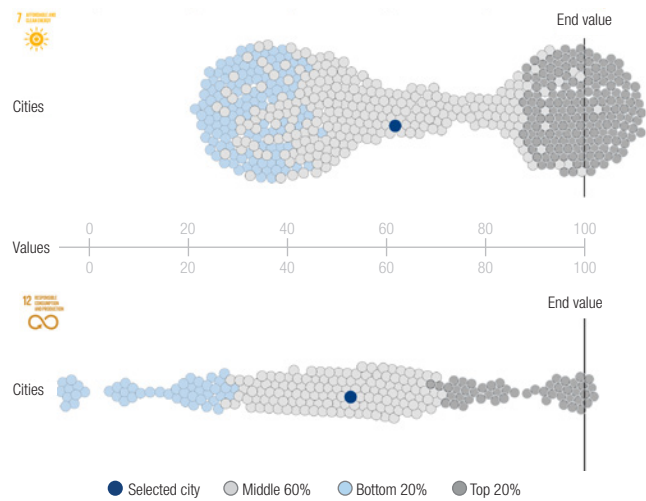
1. Using population density and travel-to-work flows, a functional urban area (FUA) consists of a densely inhabited city and its surrounding area (commuting zone), the labour market of which is highly integrated with the city.

## ► Challenges: Reliance on fossil fuels, air pollution and car usage

One-third of electricity production in the Bonn FUA comes from renewable resources. However, more than 64% of electricity production is based on fossil fuels like natural gas and oil. This is almost twice the OECD FUA average of 36% (SDG 7).

Bonn's FUA registered an average PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure of 11.5 in µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Around 87% of the population is exposed to over the 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> recommended by the WHO, compared to a 60% average in OECD regions (SDG 11).

In the FUA, the share of 49 motor road vehicles per 100 people is significantly higher than the end value of 36 suggested by the OECD. Nevertheless, its motor road vehicle rate was slightly below the German average of 50.0 (SDG 12).

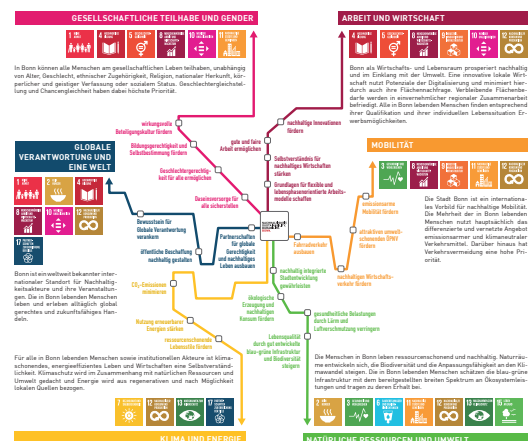


## ► In a national comparison, Bonn's FUA shows strong performance on health and climate action, but potential to catch up on clean and affordable energy

- The Bonn FUA performs better than the average of German FUAs in SDG 3, 'Good Health and Wellbeing'; SDG 11, 'Sustainable Cities and Communities'; and SDG 13, 'Climate Action', in which the FUA of Bonn emits less CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per gigawatt-hour in electricity production (319 tons vs the German FUA average of 381).
- Bonn's FUA performs similarly to the national average of FUAs for SDG 5, 'Gender Equality'; SDG 12, 'Responsible Consumption and Production'; SDG 15, 'Life on Land'; and SDG 17, 'Partnerships for the Goals'.
- The FUA lags slightly behind the national average of FUAs in SDG 2, 'Zero Hunger', with accessibility to food shops being marginally lower than in German FUAs on average. Other areas, where Bonn's FUA can catch up to the average of German FUAs are SDG 6, 'Clean Water and Sanitation', and SDG 7, 'Affordable and Clean Energy', with a lower percentage of electricity production from renewable sources (35.6% vs. the German FUA average of 47.5%).

## ► The sustainability strategy of the city of Bonn: Using the SDGs to identify local policy priorities

The Sustainability Strategy of the City of Bonn, adopted by the municipal council in February 2019, provides the city's overarching framework for localising the 2030 Agenda. It includes six priority areas, namely: (1) mobility; (2) climate action; (3) natural resources and the environment; (4) work and business; (5) social participation and gender; and (6) global responsibility. For each of the priority areas, the city set strategic goals for 2030 linked to the SDGs, and provides thematic guidelines and measures. The management of synergies and trade-offs between policy areas play a key role in Bonn's Sustainability Strategy, such as between sustainable mobility, climate action and inequalities.



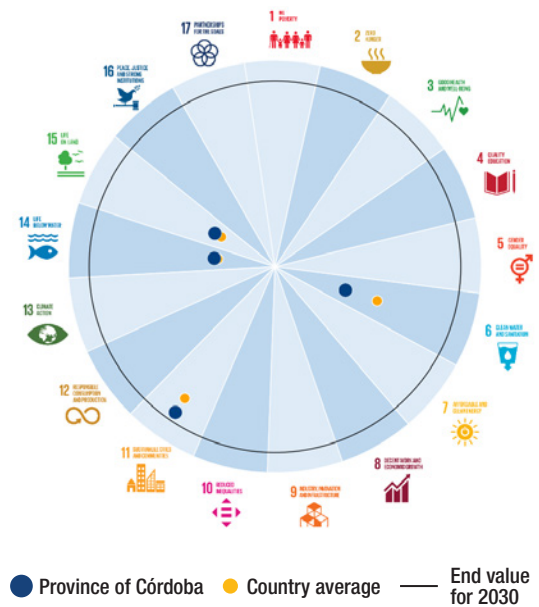
# PROVINCE OF CÓRDOBA, ARGENTINA

Area: 165 321 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 3.7 million (2018)

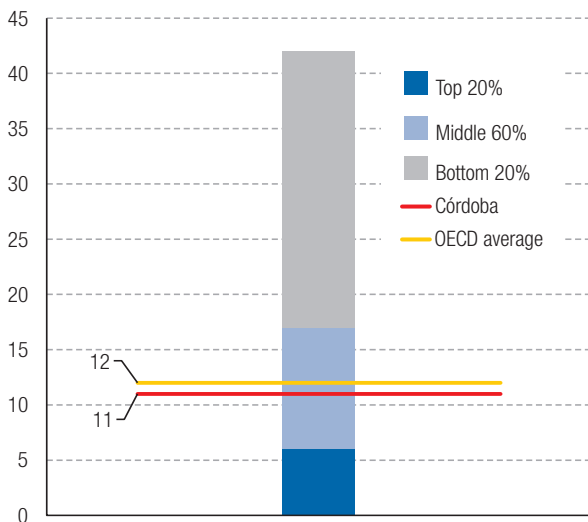
GDP per capita: USD 12 702 (2017)

Córdoba is strong in terms of low income-inequality, its share of cropland and some health indicators (e.g., low child mortality rates) compared to the average of OECD regions. However some challenges exist with regard to air pollution, housing, water and safety.



## ► Strengths: Vast areas of cropland, low child mortality and low income inequality

Deaths among 0-4-year-olds per 10 000 people, 2017  
Comparison across OECD regions

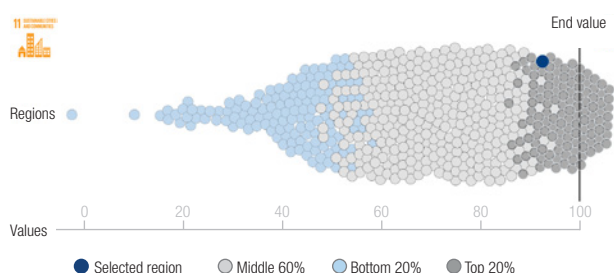


Agriculture accounts for more than 20% of Córdoba's GDP and Córdoba is one of the regions with the largest share of cropland, at 68% of total area compared to an average 32% in OECD regions (SDG 2).

Compared to Latin American regions, Córdoba has overall considerably higher achievements regarding health-related indicators. Its child-mortality rate in 2017 of 11 deaths per 10 000 people aged 0-4 was lower than the average 12 deaths in OECD regions (SDG 3).

Income inequality in Córdoba is lower than in 87% of OECD regions. Only around 24% of the population in Córdoba's four main agglomerations lived below the relative poverty line of 60% of regional median disposable income in 2018. Likewise, its regional Gini coefficient of 0.37 for gross household income was 10 Gini points below the 0.47 average in OECD regions (SDG 10).

## ► Challenges: Decrease in water bodies, high air pollution and low housing affordability



Between 1992 and 2019, Córdoba's volume of water bodies decreased by 0.8 percentage points – among the largest decreases relative to OECD and other Latin American regions (SDG 6).

In terms of air quality, in 2017, the population's annual mean exposure to particulate matter PM<sub>2.5</sub> was 15.1 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, thus five micrograms per cubic metre above the WHO air quality guidelines (SDG 11).

Residential rents in Córdoba's four main agglomerations accounted for around 30% of tenant households' gross income in 2018, compared to an average 20% in OECD regions (where housing expenditure also includes services). The figures suggest that housing is becoming unaffordable according to the UN SDG indicator framework (SDG 11).

## ► In a national comparison, Córdoba performs better on SDGs related to hunger and sustainable cities, but can improve on water and economic indicators

- Córdoba performs better than the average of Argentinian regions on SDG 2, 'Zero Hunger', in part due to a higher share of croplands (68%) than the national average (23.4%) in 2015; SDG 11, 'Sustainable Cities and Communities'; and SDG 14, 'Life Below Water'.
- Córdoba performs similarly to the average of Argentinian regions on SDG 5, 'Gender Equality', and SDG 15, 'Life on Land', with an average 8.8% of its land having the status of protected terrestrial area in 2017, compared to the 8.6% average of Argentinian regions.
- Córdoba performs below the average of Argentinian regions on SDG 1, 'No Poverty', and SDG 6, 'Clean Water and Sanitation'. SDG 8, 'Decent Work and Economic Growth', is another challenge, namely due to higher unemployment and youth unemployment compared to the average of Argentinian regions.

## ► Córdoba's participatory matrix for localising the SDGs

Córdoba developed a matrix to identify synergies across the SDGs to promote social inclusion and wellbeing. In 2019, the province brought together representatives of different territorial stakeholders to develop this matrix and identify the drivers of social inclusion. The matrix helped define concrete strategic lines of action to achieve the social SDGs in Córdoba and promote social inclusion by means of a participatory process.



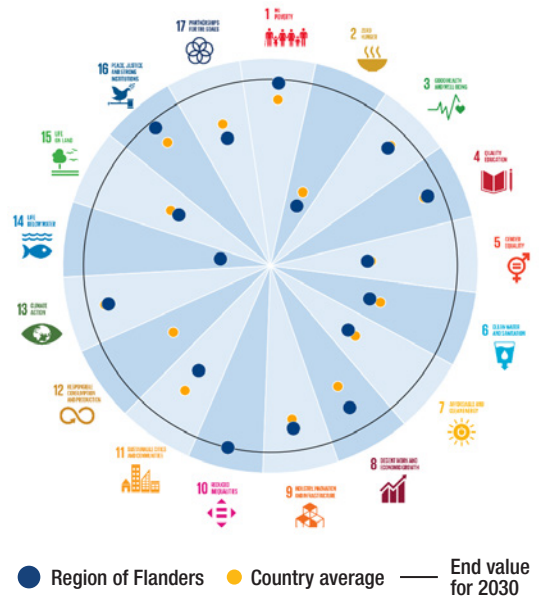
# REGION OF FLANDERS, BELGIUM

Area: 13 522 km<sup>2</sup>

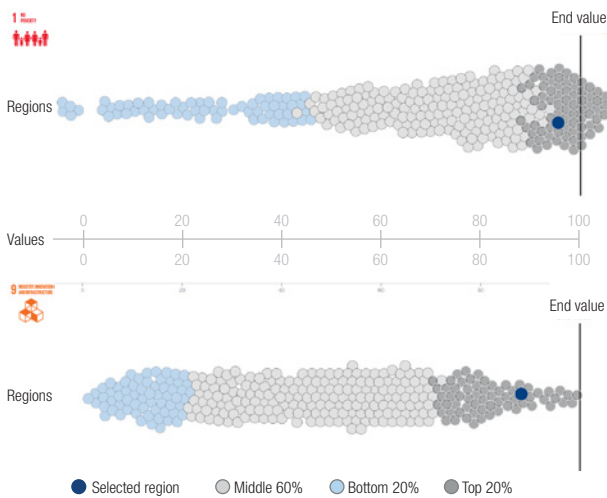
Population: 6.58 million (2019)

GDP per capita: USD 48 822 (2018)

Flanders performs well on most SDGs. The region is particularly strong in SDGs related to poverty (e.g., high median disposable income), health, research and development (e.g., a large number of per capita patent applications and R&D spending) and productivity. However, the SDGs on energy, and sustainable cities and communities challenge the region.



## ► Strengths: Low poverty, good healthcare and high productivity



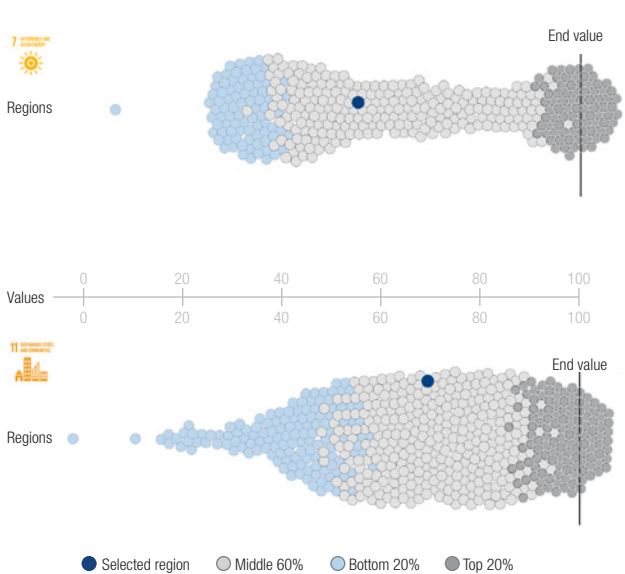
Only 13% of the population in Flanders have an income below 60% of the national median disposable income, significantly below the 20.4% OECD average (SDG 1).

Flanders has a 90% satisfaction rate with the availability and quality of healthcare. Further, Flanders is among the top 30% of OECD regions in the number of hospital beds and doctors per 10 000 people (SDG 3).

The 137 patent applications per 1 million people in Flanders is 60% higher than the average 84% in OECD regions. Further, Flanders spends 2.7% of GDP on research and development, this being among the top 20% of OECD regions with the highest share of R&D expenditure (SDG 9).



## ► Challenges: Reliance on fossil fuels, air pollution and energy emissions



In 2017, around 13% of Flanders' electricity production stemmed from renewable sources, compared to the average of 40% in OECD regions. The largest share (46%) of energy production in Flanders uses fossil fuels, while 37% comes from nuclear power (SDG 7).

Air quality in Flanders lags behind other OECD regions. The entire population is exposed to more than 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The average exposure of 13.5 µg/m<sup>3</sup> is higher than the WHO air quality guidelines (SDG 11).

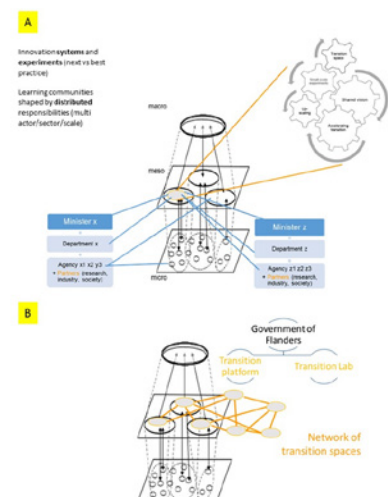
Emissions related to electricity production exceed 280 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per gigawatt-hour, compared to a suggested end value of under 90 tons, leaving significant potential to improve energy production efficiency. Almost half of OECD regions have lower emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per gigawatt-hour per electricity production (SDG 13).

## ► In a national comparison, Flanders excels on education, economic indicators and innovation, but lags behind on air pollution

- Flanders performs better than the average of Belgian regions on SDG 1, 'No Poverty', with a low share of people living below 60% of national median disposable income; on SDG 4, 'Quality Education'; SDG 8, 'Decent Work and Economic Growth'; SDG 9, 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure'; and SDG 16, 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions'.
- Flanders performs similarly to the average of Belgian regions on SDG 3, 'Good Health and Wellbeing'; SDG 5, 'Gender Equality'; and SDG 13, 'Climate Action'.
- Flanders performs below the average of Belgian regions on SDG 2, 'Zero Hunger'; SDG 6, 'Clean Water and Sanitation'; SDG 7, 'Affordable and Clean Energy'; and SDG 11, 'Sustainable Cities and Communities', with 100% of the population exposed to more than 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. SDG 15, 'Life on Land', and SDG 17, 'Partnerships for the Goals', also prove challenging when compared to Belgium's regional average.

## ► Flanders' new governance model to enhance horizontal co-operation between policy domains

Flanders' regional development strategy, Vision 2050, provides a new and innovative governance model to accelerate progress towards seven transition priorities and processes: (1) Circular economy; (2) Smart living; (3) Industry 4.0; (4) Lifelong learning; (5) Caring and living together in 2050; (6) Mobility; and (7) Energy. The governance model seeks to enhance horizontal co-operation between policy domains based on the involvement of territorial stakeholders. Through the new model, Flanders has experimented with several projects to implement the SDGs, such as a multi-stakeholder partnership that promotes the circular economy through Green Deal Circular Procurement, and the development of private financing mechanisms to increase the availability of affordable housing.



# CITY OF KITAKYUSHU, JAPAN

Area: 487.9 km<sup>2</sup>

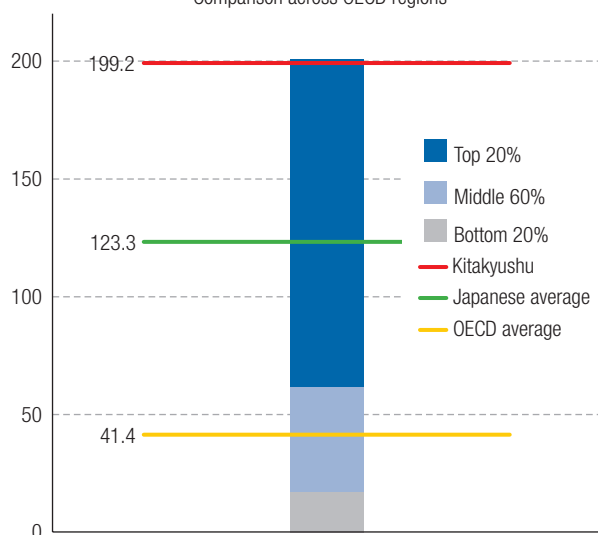
Population: 960 000 (2016)

GDP per capita: USD 35 607 (2016)

The City of Kitakyushu's performance towards the SDGs is strong in several areas, such as health (e.g., a high number of hospital beds and active physicians), employment and safety. It shows potential for improvement compared to other OECD regions when it comes to economic indicators (e.g., stagnating GDP growth) and recycling rates. Furthermore, CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels from electricity production in the FUA of Kitakyushu<sup>1</sup> are above the average of OECD cities.

## ► Strengths: Good healthcare, low unemployment, and safety

Hospital beds per 10 000 people, circa 2015  
Comparison across OECD regions

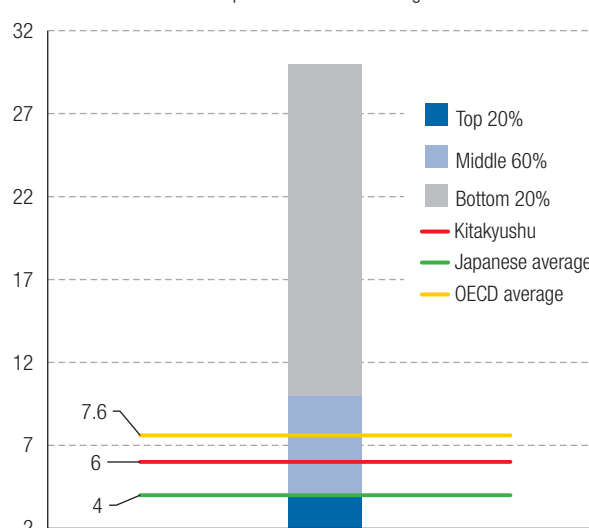


In 2015, unemployment in Kitakyushu was 5.5%, lower than the average 7.6% in OECD regions. Disposable income of USD 27 325 per equivalised household is higher than in most OECD regions and the OECD average of USD 23 051 (SDG 8).

The Fukuoka prefecture, where Kitakyushu is located, had a homicide rate of 0.7 murders per 100 000 people in 2019, well below the 5.3 per 100 000 average in OECD regions (SDG 16).

The City of Kitakyushu shows good results in health. Its child mortality rate of 7.1 deaths per 10 000 people aged 0-4 in 2017 was lower than the average 11.8 deaths in OECD regions. The city's ratio of 199 hospital beds per 10 000 people is among the top 1% of OECD regions. Its rate of 3.5 active physicians per 1 000 people is also higher than the 2.8 average in OECD regions (SDG 3).

Unemployment rate (%), 2017  
Comparison across OECD regions



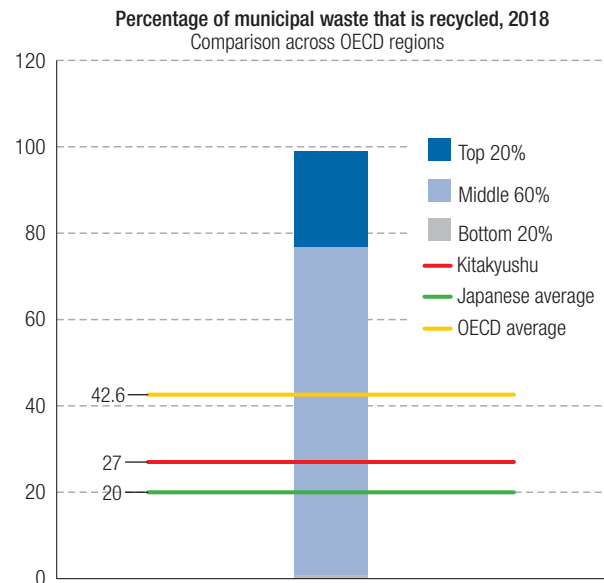
1. Using population density and travel-to-work flows, a functional urban area (FUA) consists of a densely inhabited city and its surrounding area (commuting zone), the labour market of which is highly integrated with the city.

## ► Challenges: Stagnating GDP, high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and low recycling rates

The annual growth rate of real GDP per capita between 2015 and 2016 (the latest years available) in the City of Kitakyushu was -0.8%, compared to the average of 0.9% in OECD regions. Overall, per capita GDP has been broadly flat since the mid-2000s (SDG 8).

The FUA of Kitakyushu faces challenges such as carbon-intensive electricity production and high levels of air pollution. Emissions reached close to 500 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per gigawatt-hour in 2017, compared to the OECD average of 340 tons (SDG 11).

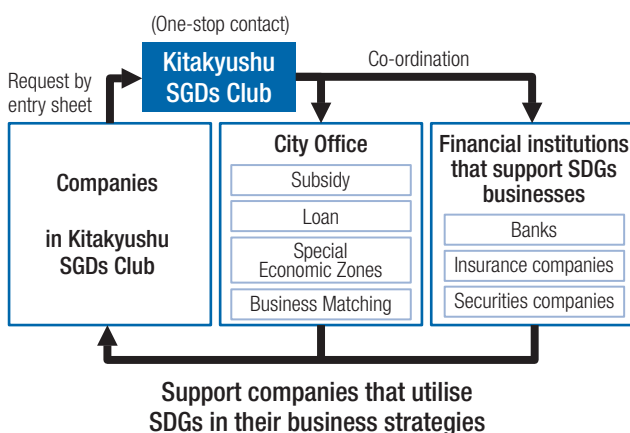
In 2018, the City of Kitakyushu recycled 27% of municipal waste, making it the best performer in Japan. Internationally, the city lags behind the 42.6% average rate of recycled municipal waste in OECD regions (SDG 12).



## ► In a national comparison, Kitakyushu outperforms Japanese regions on health but its FUA performs below average on sustainable cities and communities

- The City of Kitakyushu stands out in comparison to the average of Japanese regions on SDG 3, 'Good Health and Well Being', due to its high life expectancy and number of active physicians. The city also performs better than the average of Japanese regions on SDG 14, 'Life Below Water'.
- The City of Kitakyushu performs similarly to Japanese regions on SDG 8, 'Decent Work and Economic Growth', due to similar employment rates.
- The FUA of Kitakyushu faces challenges in SDG 11, 'Sustainable Cities and Communities', with air pollution and CO<sub>2</sub>-intensity of electricity production higher than the average of Japanese FUAs.

## ► Kitakyushu SDGs Club



Kitakyushu created the Kitakyushu SDGs Club, which plays an important role in the local governance scheme. It raises awareness of the 2030 Agenda by promoting SDG activities and collaboration among members. Access to the SDGs Club is free and open to everybody. Registered members include citizens, companies, and schools and universities. The club features project teams that work on region-specific issues through co-operation and collaboration with stakeholders and club members. For example, one project team is working on an action plan to improve the capabilities of regional disaster prevention in Kitakyushu, in collaboration with high schools in the city. Furthermore, the SDGs Club offers funding support for companies' SDG-related activities.

# MUNICIPALITY OF KÓPAVOGUR, ICELAND

Area: 80 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 37 959 (2020)

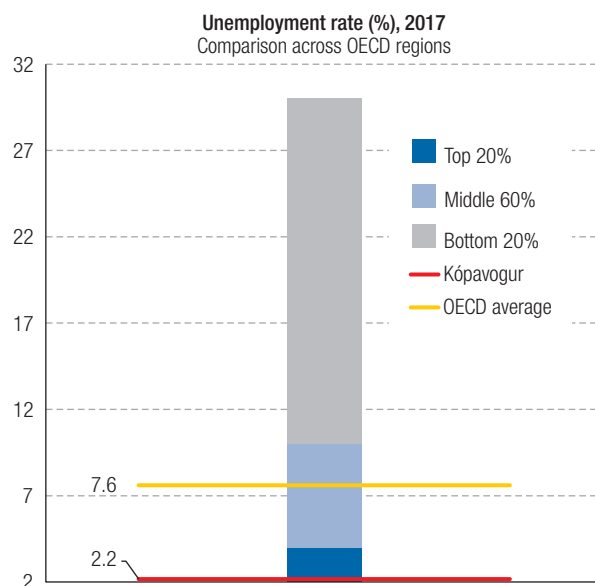
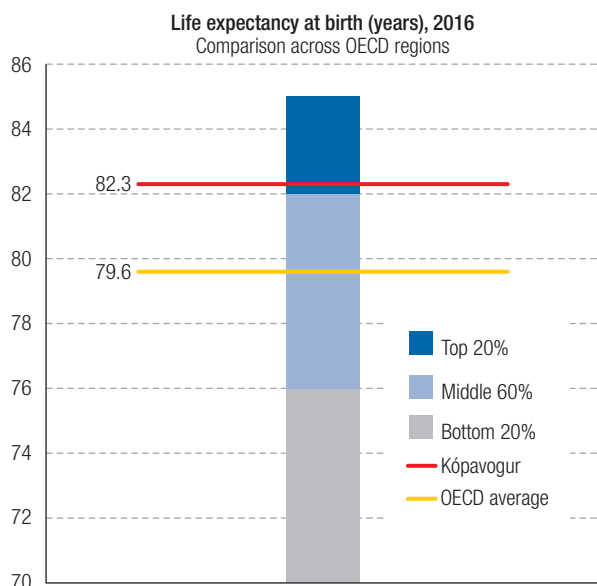
Kópavogur shows strong performance across many people-related SDGs, including socioeconomic indicators like low unemployment, health-related outcomes (e.g., low infant and child mortality rates), as well as air pollution. Yet, challenges remain to promote responsible consumption and production, for example, given the municipality's higher-than-average waste per capita and rate of private car ownership.

## ► Strengths: Health-related performance, low unemployment and low air pollution

Kópavogur performs well on most health indicators, with the lowest infant and child mortality rates of all OECD regions. In 2018, Kópavogur registered an infant mortality rate of 0 deaths of children under 1 year per 1 000 live births, compared to the 5.9 average in OECD regions. In 2017, the average life expectancy in the municipality was 82.3 years, exceeding the 79.6 years average in OECD regions (SDG 3).

Kópavogur ranks among the best-performing OECD regions regarding SDG 8, 'Decent Work and Economic Growth', with one of the lowest unemployment rates at 2.2%, compared to the 7.6% average in OECD regions in 2017. Youth unemployment is also very low at 1.3%, compared to the 16.7% average in OECD regions (SDG 8).

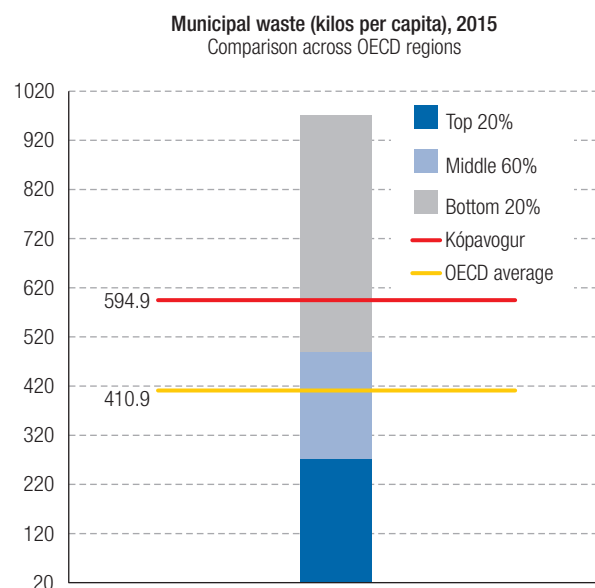
Exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Kópavogur is smaller than in most OECD regions, at 2.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup> compared to an 17.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup> average in 2017 (SDG 11).



## ► Challenges: High car dependency and waste production

In line with Kópavogur's high ratio of motor-vehicle ownership (nearly 57 per 100 inhabitants, compared to the average 40 in OECD regions), almost 80% of the population used a personal vehicle to commute to work in 2018. The annual number of public transport trips of 12.9 per capita underlines that public transport is used irregularly by residents (SDGs 11 and 12).

Kópavogur's annual municipal waste rate of 595 kg per capita exceeds both the OECD average of 411 kg and the suggested end value of 366 kg for SDG 12, 'Responsible Production and Consumption'.



## ► In a national comparison, Kópavogur performs well on health, safety and responsible consumption, while air pollution levels are higher than the average of Icelandic regions

- Kópavogur performs better than the average of Icelandic regions in SDG 3, 'Good Health and Well-being', and SDG 12, 'Responsible Consumption and Production' despite its high rate of 57 registered motor vehicles per 100 people. In terms of SDG 16, 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions', Kópavogur experiences less crime than the Icelandic regional average. In 2017, around 334 violent crimes were registered per 100 000 residents, compared to 480 on average in Iceland.
- Kópavogur performs similarly to the Icelandic average of regions on SDG 7, 'Affordable and Clean Energy'. Both Kópavogur and Icelandic regions generate 100% of their electricity from renewable sources.
- Kópavogur lags behind on SDG 11, 'Sustainable Cities and Communities', compared to the average of Icelandic regions, in part due to air pollution levels, which compare favorably to the OECD average but lie above national average of 1.8  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  of PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

## ► Kópavogur's data driven approach localising of the SDGs



The municipality of Kópavogur in Iceland has taken a data-driven approach to localising the SDGs. To make the data efforts of Kópavogur actionable, the IT office created Nightingale, an innovative management and information system which integrates all local databases into one warehouse. Nightingale can access all warehoused data in Kópavogur, and provides access to Kópavogur's composite

SDG index and other sustainability assessments, such as the Child-friendly City Index and ISO Platinum Sustainability and Smart Standards. The data is important for political decisions and prioritisation of thematic areas in Kópavogur's holistic local sustainable development strategy.

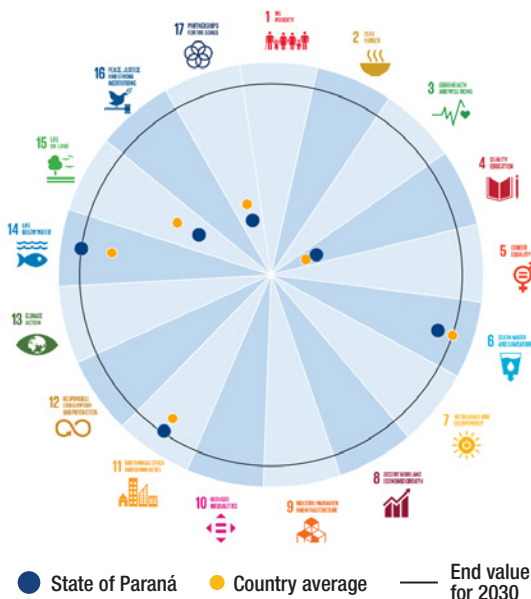
# STATE OF PARANÁ, BRAZIL

Area: 199 315 km<sup>2</sup>

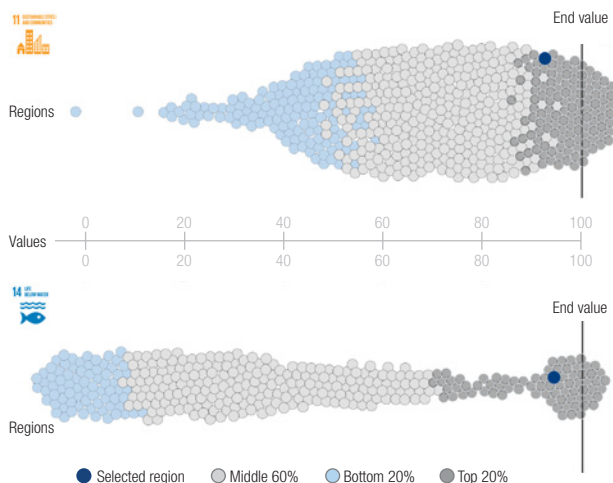
Population: 11.6 million (2021)

GDP per capita: USD 16 297 (2019)

Paraná's performance is above the average of OECD regions in various SDG indicators related to environmental metrics, including electricity generation from renewable sources, air pollution and coastal protection. Nonetheless, Paraná lags behind on SDGs regarding health, education and safety.



## ► Strengths: Renewable energy production, low air pollution and extensive coastal protection

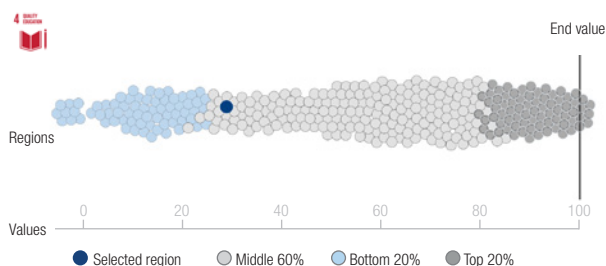


In 2017, 94% of electricity production in the state stemmed from renewable sources, more than twice the 41% average of OECD regions. Consequently, the share of electricity coming from fossil fuels (natural gas and oil (5.8%) and coal (0.2%)) was comparatively low and close to the suggested end value of 0% (SDG 7).

Although 14% of Paraná's population were exposed to a level of PM<sub>2.5</sub> above WHO air quality guidelines in 2017, this share is considerably below the average in both OECD regions (59%) and Brazilian states (68%) (SDG 11).

Water body volumes remained stable and slightly increased by about 0.2 percentage points between 1992 and 2015, while the share of protected coastal areas (51% in 2017) compares favourably to the average in OECD regions (20%) and Brazilian states (36%) (SDG 6 and SDG 14).

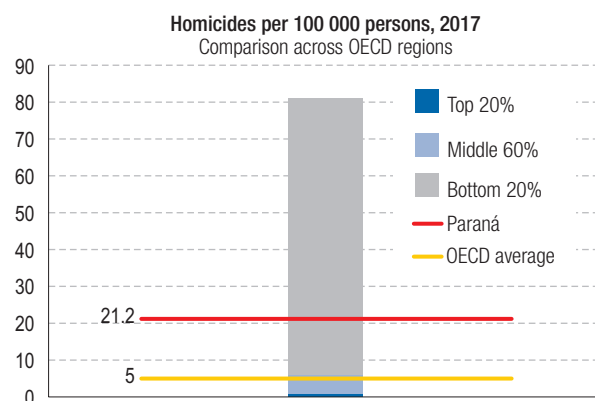
## ► Challenges: Health, education and safety



Infant mortality in 2018, at 10.3 deaths per 1 000 live births, and child mortality, at 24.7 deaths per 10 000 people age 0-4, are nearly twice the OECD average. The state had around 24 hospital beds per 10 000 people in 2019, lower than the average 41 hospital beds in OECD regions (SDG 3).

As of 2015, the 18% share of 25-64-year-olds with tertiary education was significantly below the 30% OECD average. Further, 30% of Paraná's 18-24-year-olds are early leavers from education and training. The 68% enrolment rate of 15-19-year-olds in educational institutions is below the OECD average 82% (SDG 4).

Safety is a concern in Paraná. In comparison to OECD regions, the state ranks among the 10% with the highest homicide rates, at 21.2 per 100 000 people in 2018 (SDG 16).

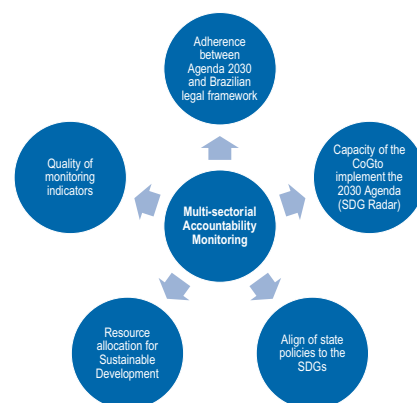


## ► In a national comparison, Paraná is strong on education and economy compared to the average of Brazilian regions, but lags on health and partnerships for the goals

- Paraná performs better than the average of Brazilian regions on SDG 4, 'Quality Education'; SDG 8, 'Decent Work and Economic Growth'; SDG 11, 'Sustainable Cities and Communities'; and SDG 14, 'Life below Water'. Paraná also exceeds the average of Brazilian regions on SDG 9, 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure', among the best-performing states in tertiary education degrees and patent applications.
- Paraná performs similarly to the average of Brazilian regions on SDG 5, 'Gender Equality', and SDG 16, 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions'. It registered 21.2 homicides per 100 000 people, which corresponds to the average of regions in Brazil.
- Paraná lags behind the average of Brazilian regions on SDG 3, 'Good Health and Well-being', and SDG 17, 'Partnerships for the Goals', notably due to a lower number of co-patent applications with foreign regions.

## ► Paraná mainstreaming the SDGs into budgetary monitoring

In Paraná, the State Audit Court contributes to monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs in budgetary planning. The court oversees the use of public funds by the state and its 399 municipalities by monitoring investments undertaken by state and local governments. The court developed a model to: (1) examine the link of ongoing public policies with SDG targets; (2) evaluate budget expenditures related to implementation of the SDGs; (3) generate evidence to improve decision-making processes related to the SDGs; and (4) analyse official indicators related to budget-planning instruments.



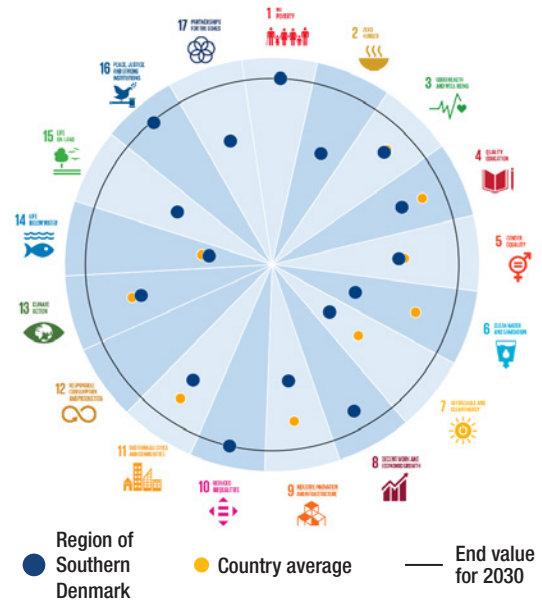
# REGION OF SOUTHERN DENMARK, DENMARK

Area: 12 256 km<sup>2</sup>

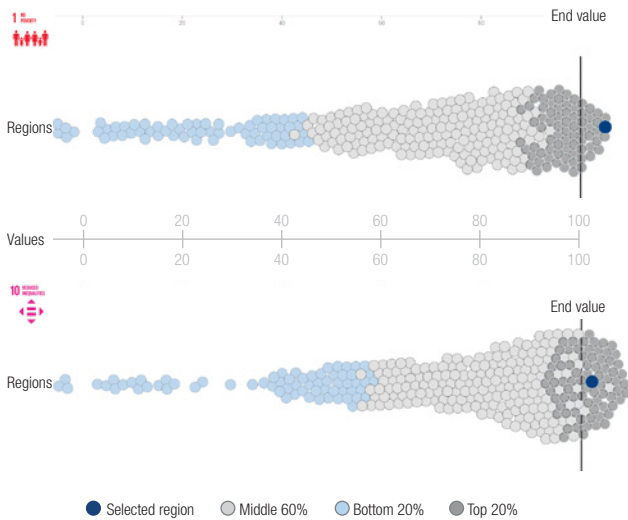
Population: 1.22 million (2020)

GDP per capita: USD 45 799 (2020)

Southern Denmark shows strong performance towards attaining most of the SDGs. It has low poverty and inequality, and signs of strong innovative potential, while challenges remain to address women's part-time employment and the spatial implications of ageing and population decline across rural and urban areas.



## ► Strengths: Low levels of relative poverty and income inequality, and a high rate of patent applications



Average disposable daily income of the first quintile of the population is around USD 38 – considerably higher than the USD 23 average of OECD regions (SDG 1).

The rate of 140 patent applications per 1 million people is in the top 20% of OECD regions and R&D expenditure was 1.8% of GDP, compared to the 1.6% OECD average (SDG 9).

Around 12% of Southern Denmark's population live below the relative poverty line of 60% of the national median disposable income, while the average of OECD regions exceeds 20%. Only 3% of OECD regions display lower inequality, as expressed by the Gini coefficient (SDG 10).

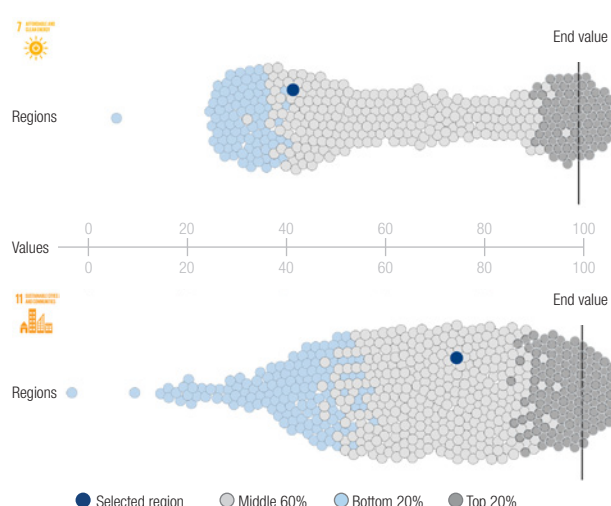


## ► Challenges: Reliance on fossil fuels, part-time employment and air pollution

While Southern Denmark significantly increased its use of renewables for electricity production – around 58% of the electricity produced in 2017 – fossil fuels and coal still contribute 40% (SDG7).

The part-time employment rate of 26% in 2019 is among the 20% of OECD regions with highest part-time employment rates. The gender gap of 21 percentage points in part-time employment exceeds the OECD average 18% (SDG 8).

Residents' annual mean exposure to air pollution of PM<sub>2.5</sub> 10.2 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2019 slightly exceeds the WHO guidelines of 10.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (SDG 11).



## ► In a national comparison, Southern Denmark is strong on economic indicators compared to the average of Danish regions, but lags on sustainable cities and communities

- Southern Denmark shows a slightly better performance than the average of Danish regions on SDG 2, 'No Poverty' and SDG 8, 'Decent Work and Economic Growth', notably due to relatively higher agricultural productivity and larger growth of real GVA over the past decade.
- Regarding SDG 1, 'No Poverty'; SDG 10, 'Reduced Inequalities'; and SDG 16, 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions', Southern Denmark equals the national average, which has already reached the suggested end values for 2030.
- Regarding the other SDGs, Southern Denmark lags slightly behind the national average of Danish regions in SDG 4, 'Quality Education'; SDG 7, 'Clean and Affordable Energy'; and SDG 11, 'Sustainable Cities and Communities', where the gap exceeds 10 points on a hundred-point scale where 100 is the suggested end value for 2030.

## ► Southern Denmark's regional development strategy with a focus on the SDGs

Southern Denmark of the Future 2020-2023 outlines the government's regional development strategy to address the SDGs through six strategic tracks – (1) green transition, (2) clean water and soil, (3) skills for the future, (4) healthy living conditions, (5) an attractive region, (6) mobility for all) – with respective priority SDGs and four cross-cutting themes. Progress reporting on implementation takes place on an annual basis referring to the goals set in the strategy.



# COUNTY OF VIKEN, NORWAY

Area: 24 500 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 1.2 million (2019)

GDP per capita: USD 42 682 (2018)

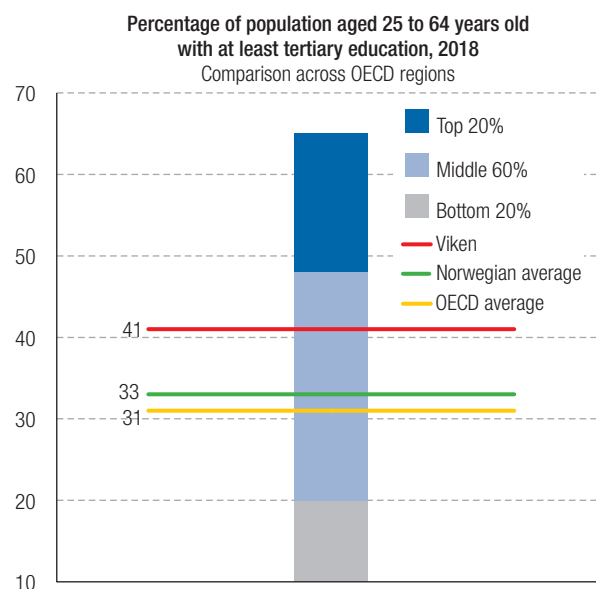
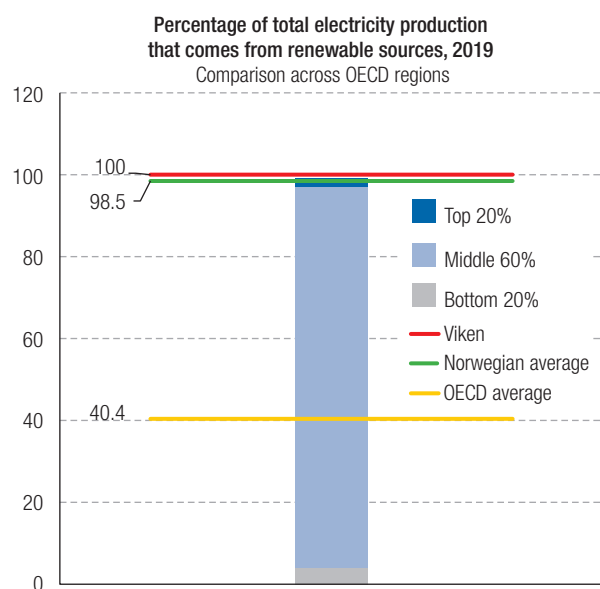
A well-educated population, good air quality and high levels of clean electricity production are among some of Viken's strengths with regards to the SDGs. Challenges include a low hospital bed rate, and high car dependency and waste production.

## ► Strengths: Education, high share of renewable energy and low air pollution

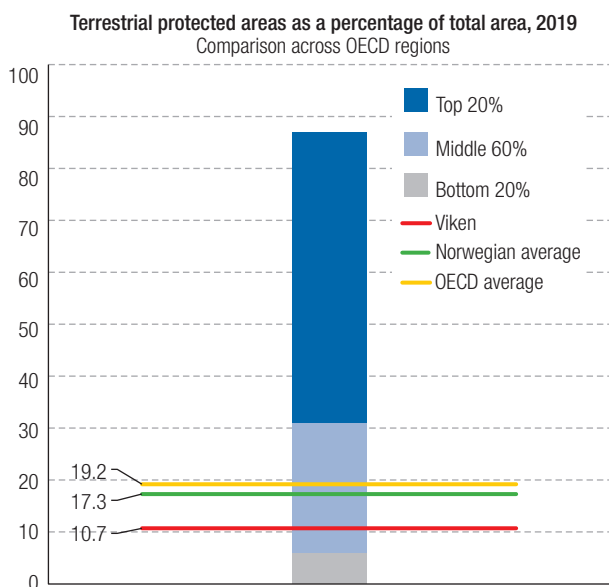
Around 41% of the county's population aged 25-66 had successfully completed tertiary education in 2018 (44% including vocational tertiary education), around 10 percentage points higher than the corresponding average of OECD regions (SDG 4).

In 2019, 100% of Viken's electricity production came from renewable sources (mainly hydropower), outperforming the 41% average of OECD regions (SDG 7).

In 2017, air pollution in Viken of 8.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> of PM<sub>2.5</sub> was lower than the WHO air quality guideline of 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> average annual exposure. Viken ranked among the 25% of OECD regions with the lowest PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure (SDG 11).



## ► Challenges: Low hospital bed rate, high car dependency and waste production



There were 32 hospital beds per 10 000 people in Viken in 2018, which is lower than the average of OECD regions (41 hospital beds per 10 000 people) (SDG 3).

Viken's 56 motor vehicles per 100 people in 2018 lie considerably above the 52 national average and 40 average of OECD regions. Additionally, waste production exceeded 470 kg per capita in 2010 - higher than the 411 kg average of OECD regions (SDG 12).

In 2019, around 10.7% of the area of Viken had protected status, such as national park or nature reserve. This is considerably lower than the 17.3% national average of regions and the 19.2% average of OECD regions (SDG 15).

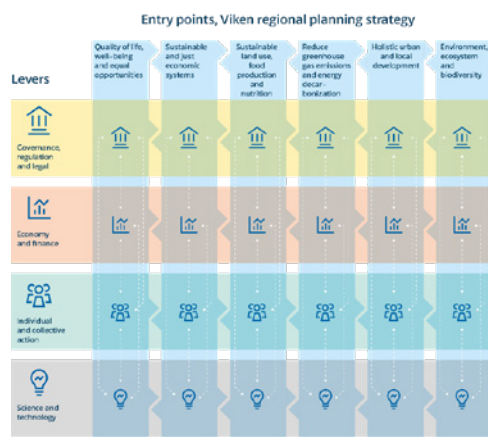
## ► In a national comparison, Viken is strong on health indicators, but waste reduction is a challenge

- Viken performs better than the average of Norway's regions on SDG 3, 'Good Health and Well-being', notably due to lower infant and child mortality rates.
- Viken performs similarly to the average of Norway's regions on SDG 4, 'Quality Education', and SDG 8, 'Decent Work and Economic Growth', with similar unemployment rates in Viken (4.6%) and Norwegian regions on average (4.3%). Regarding SDG 16, 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions', Viken's low homicide rate is in line with Norway's overall 0.5 homicides per 100 000 people.
- Viken lags behind the average of Norway's regions on SDG 9, 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure', in part due to a lower R&D employment of 1.6% of overall employment, compared to 2% for Norway. Viken also has potential to catch up to the average of Norway's regions in terms of SDG 11, 'Sustainable Cities and Communities', and SDG 12, 'Responsible Consumption and Production', where Viken's annual per capita waste rate is more than 50 kg higher than the average of Norway's regions.

## ► Viken's Regional Planning Strategy for a Sustainable Viken 2020-2024

Viken formed as a new county on 1 January 2020, merging the counties of Akershus, Buskerud and Østfold. The county government endorsed the SDGs as a holistic framework for implementing territorial reform.

The Regional Planning Strategy for a Sustainable Viken 2020-2024 serves as a leverage point to work with the SDGs holistically. It outlines Viken's efforts towards the 2030 Agenda along five long-term goals mapped in a matrix with six entry points and four levers. The focus is on identifying synergies between interventions in the areas of climate and environment, public health and collaboration.



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