



HAROKOPIO UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY & APPLIED ECONOMICS
Department of Economics and Sustainable Development

ERASMUS COURSE: **THEMES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Course Supervisor: Roido Mitoula, Professor, Harokopio University of Athens

11th Lecture:

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities

Roido Mitoula

Professor "Sustainable Local and Regional Development - Urban Reconstruction"

Department of Economics and Sustainable Development,

School of Environment, Geography and Applied Economics

HAROKOPIO UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

mitoula@hua.gr

The purpose of our topic is:

- the presentation is of Global Goal 11 which concerns "Sustainable Cities and Communities"
- the assessment of the contribution of authorities and citizens to its achievement
- the existing situation
- the actions of the EU
- the actions of Greece and the local authorities
- the individual actions are proposed that can be developed at an individual level by each citizen separately

Throughout history, the role of cities has been very important

Cities were created all over the world and developed within different environmental, economic etc. conditions

Some of them became centres of economic, historical and cultural interest

From the 20th century, urbanization intensified even more and the internationalization of the economy contributed to an even greater expansion of many central cities





Which is the current situation;

The population living in cities: 3.5 billion, i.e. 50% of the total world population

- Το **95% της αστικής επέκτασης** που θα συντελεστεί κατά τις επόμενες δεκαετίες θα αφορά στον **αναπτυσσόμενο κόσμο** !

- **828 εκατομμύρια άνθρωποι σήμερα ζουν σε παραγκουπόλεις** ενώ ο αριθμός τους συνεχίζει να αυξάνεται !

- Η ταχεία αστικοποίηση ασκεί **πίεση στα αποθέματα γλυκού νερού, στα λύματα, στο περιβάλλον** όπου ζούμε αλλά και στη **δημόσια υγεία** !

By 2030, it is estimated that at least 60% will live in urban areas

In Europe: about 75% of citizens live in cities and urban areas

In Greece: 60% of Greeks live in an urban environment

Forecasts:

The year 2050: 70% of the world's population will live in cities

The year 1950: was only 30%

Globally cities:

- occupy a percentage of the order of 3% of the Earth's surface
- consume energy 60-80%
- produce 75% of carbon gas emissions
- face environmental problems
- consume 75% of resources



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals



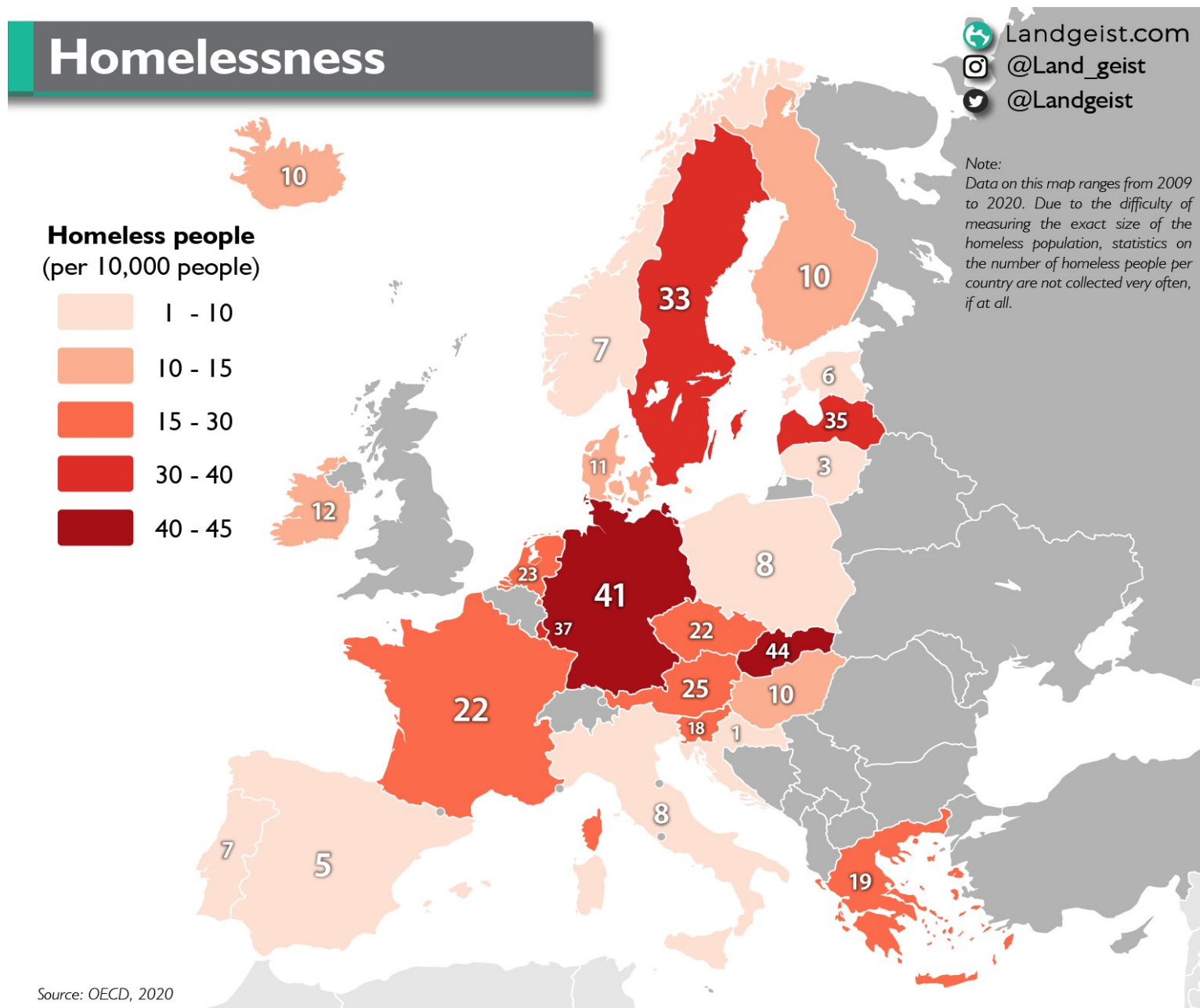
Sustainable Development Goal 11:

"Sustainable Cities and Communities"



Sub-goal 11.1

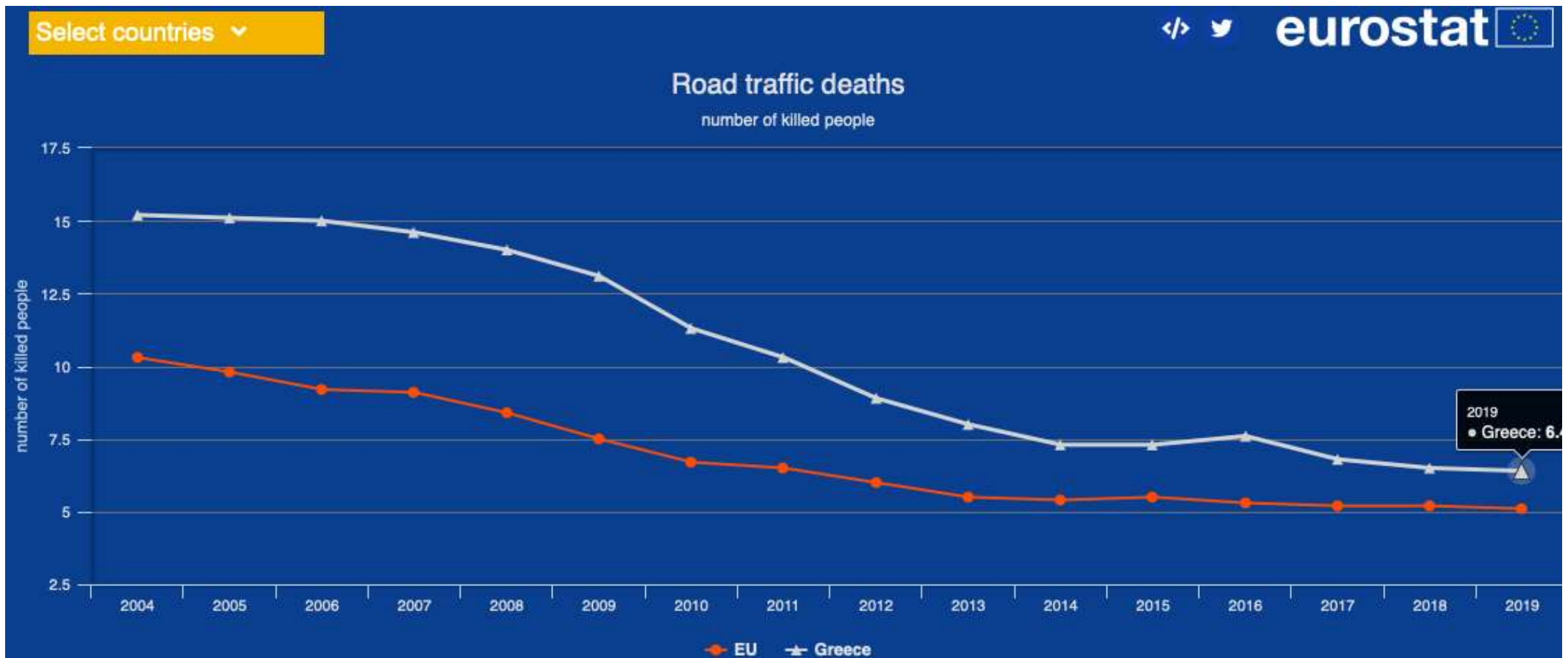
Ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, including slum upgrading



Sub-goal 11.2

Providing access to a safe, cost-effective, affordable and sustainable transport system for all, improving driving safety, especially by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, disabled individuals and the elderly

- **Ευρώπη:** 46% έχει ως πρώτη επιλογή τη χρήση ΜΜΕ για τις μετακινήσεις του
- **Ελλάδα:** Μείωση των θανάτων τα τελευταία χρόνια (βελτίωση των μεταφορικών υποδομών)



Sub-goal 11.3

Strengthening resilient sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable planning and management of human settlement in all countries



Sub-goal 11.4

Strengthening the effort to protect the world's cultural and natural heritage



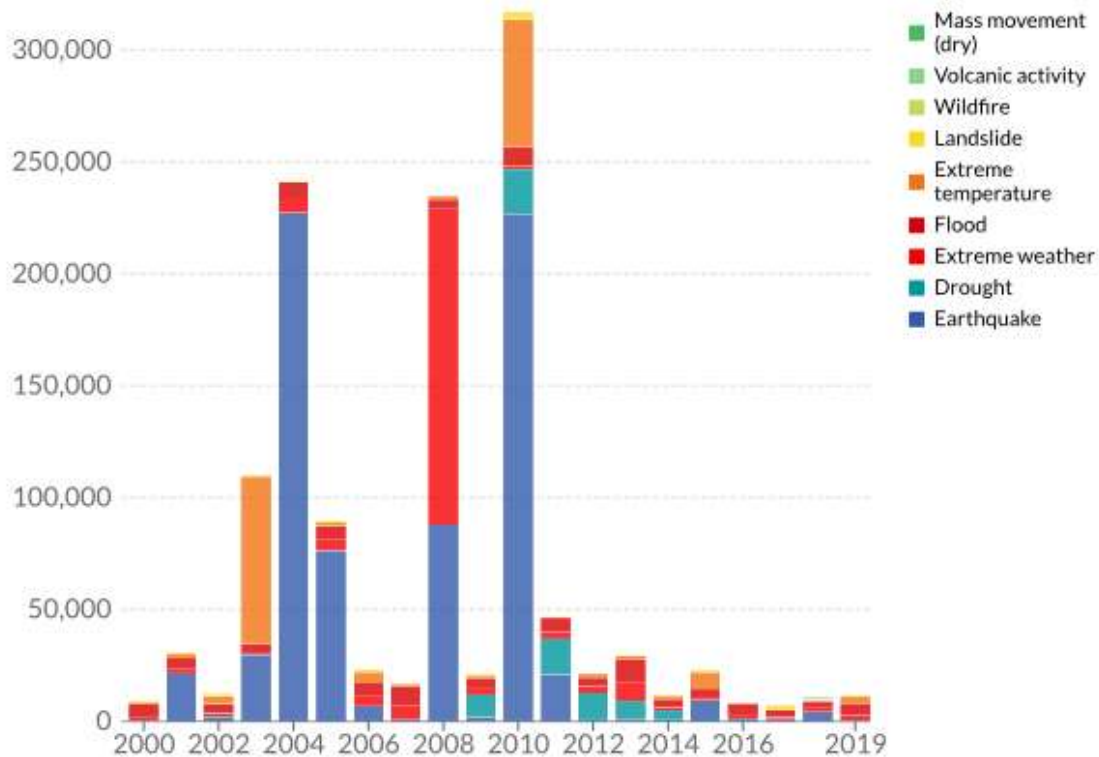
Sub-goal 11.5

A significant reduction in the number of deaths and people affected by natural disasters and a significant reduction in direct economic losses, relative to global gross domestic product, related to natural disasters, including water disasters, with a focus on protection of the poor and vulnerable social groups

Number of deaths from natural disasters by type, 2000 to 2019

Our World
in Data

Global estimates of the number of deaths from natural disasters, differentiated by disaster type.

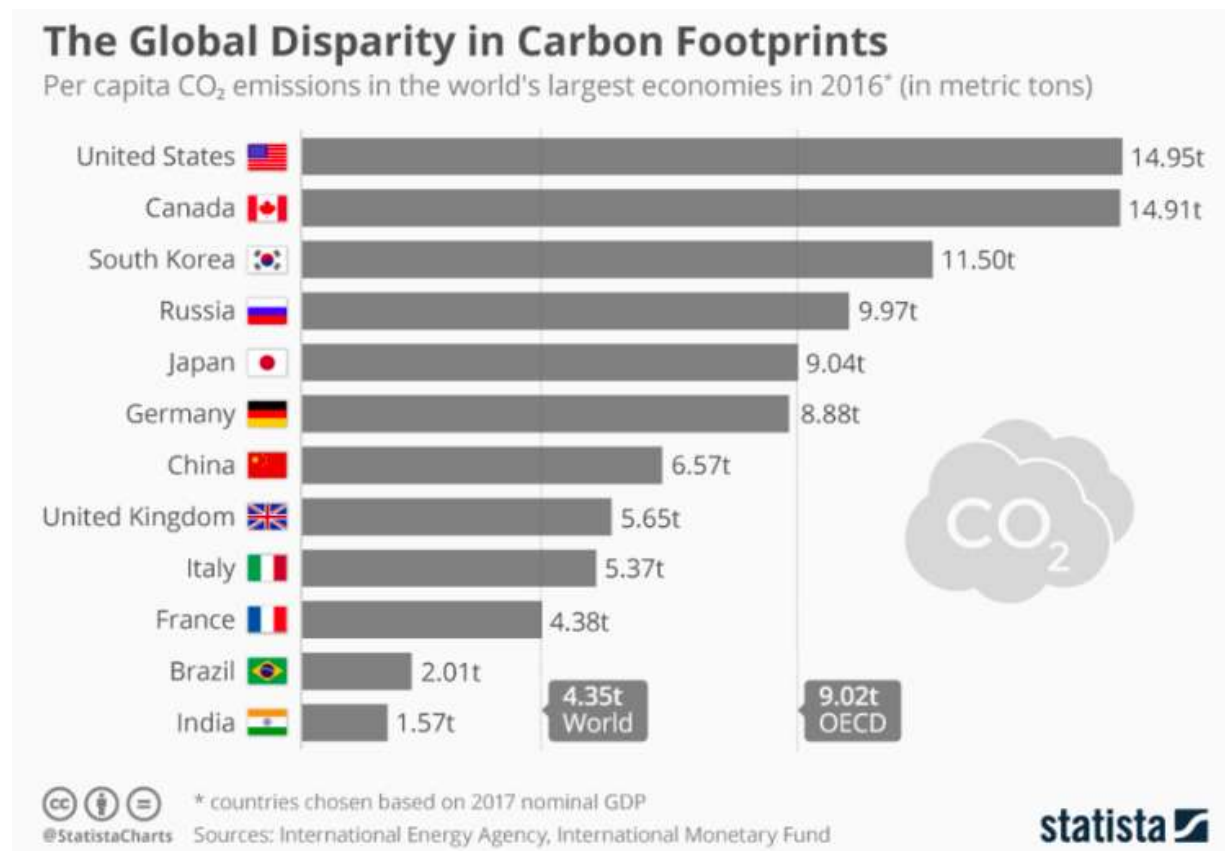


Source: EMDAT (2020): OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, Université catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium
OurWorldinData.org/natural-disasters • CC BY



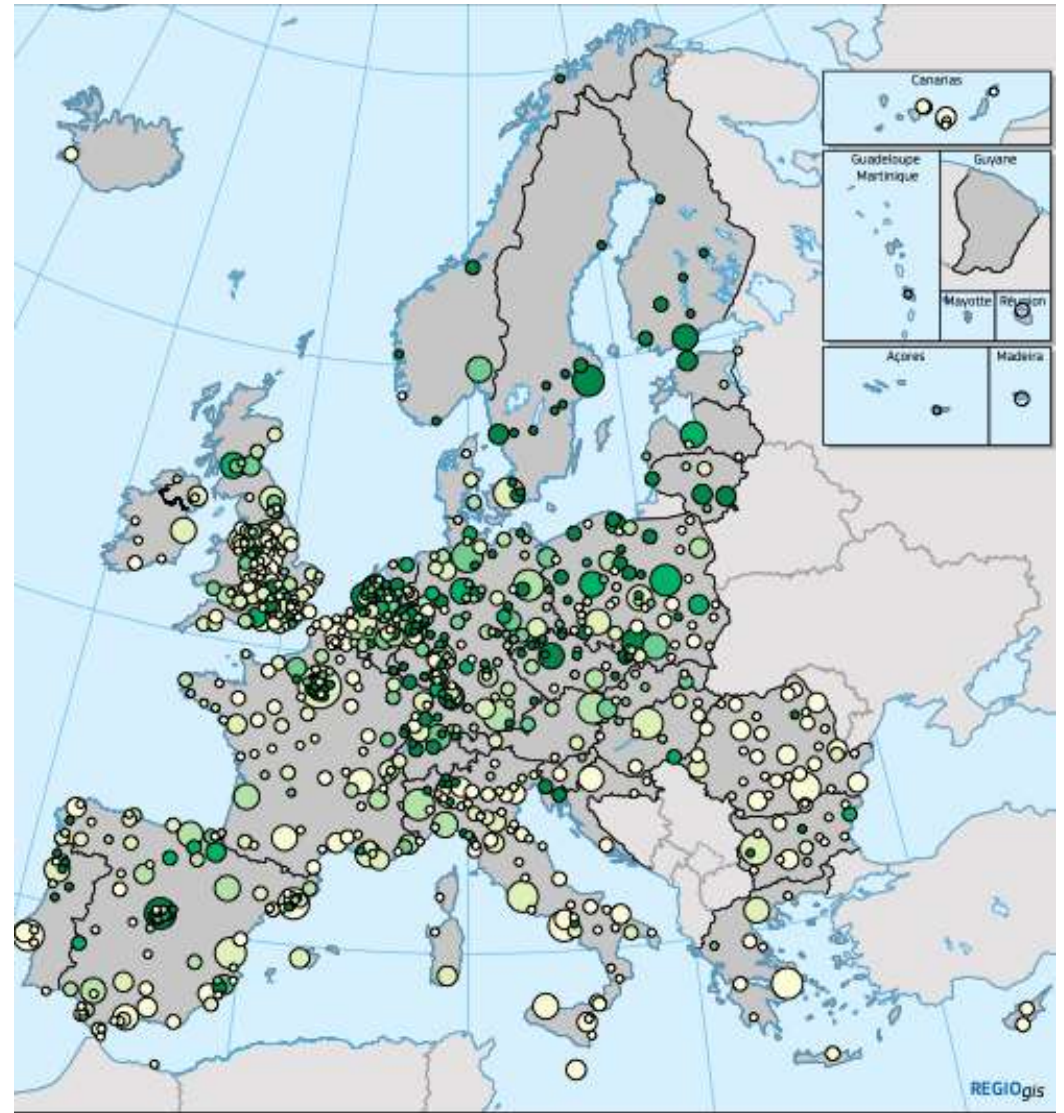
Sub-goal 11.6

Reducing the negative per capita impact of cities, including the importance of air quality and the management of municipal and other waste



Sub-goal 11.7

The provision of international access to safe, resilient and accessible green and public spaces, and in particular by women and children, the elderly and people with disabilities



Which is the E.U.
policy for SDG 11 ?



The European Union:

- historically links its development with the development of cities
- considers them to play a decisive role in achieving sustainability

Within the framework of goal 11, the EU promoted policies, actions and funding such as:

- the European Green Capital Award
- the Urbact III
- the European Mobility Week
- the European Green Deal

Which is the Greece policy for SDG 11 ?



Greece:

- has adapted its policies and actions in order to serve the global goal 11 concerning sustainable cities and communities
- It aims at the balance between the economic, social and environmental objectives

The main source of funding for Greece's sustainable development actions came from the NSRF (National Strategic Reference Framework).

Areas linked to Goal 11 are:

- environmentally friendly economy
- modernization of infrastructure with the aim of economic and social development
- development of sustainable and ecological urban transport, with an emphasis on fixed-track urban means
- Public Sector reforms, incorporating the use of modern means and technology to create smart sustainable cities
- the action of the NSRF "Save at home"
- Law 4472/2017 (Government Gazette A' 74/19-5-2017), which provided for, among other things, social support measures
- The "National Waste Management Plan 2020 - 2030"
- The "Antonis Tritsis" program, which aims to support local governments
- The citizen education program "Meducation"

The role played by **local authorities** in achieving the goal of "sustainable cities and communities" is pivotal.

The good practices of the Municipalities concern various sectors:

- the sustainable development and quality of life
- the continuous upgrading of the quality of life of citizens at the level of:
 - spatial planning
 - urban planning
 - greenery
 - waste management
 - etc.
- the awareness of the citizen in issues related to sustainability

Which role of local authorities for SDG 11 ?



The city and the sensitized citizen

The central goal of most central and local administrations is to raise awareness and change the mindset of society and citizens on issues concerning the city and its environment:



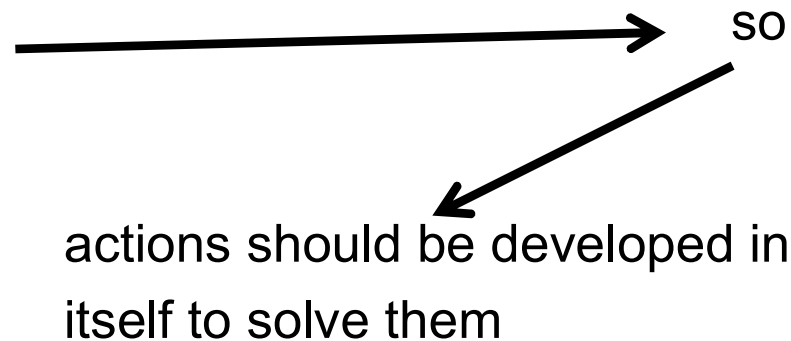
- through incentives
- with informative actions
- through the promotion of volunteering
- through taking actions for society, the city and the environment
- through the formation of ecological consciousness
- through the education and training



Cities are a problem or a solution
for the success of sustainability ?



the city itself is a major cause
of environmental problems



The overconcentration of population in cities is not only a problem, but also a possible solution:

- Population density results in proximity of daily activities and the existence of dense networks for more efficient management of natural resources:
- the city dweller enjoys the goods much more economically
- the impact of the city dweller on the environment is smaller than the corresponding rural dweller

Therefore, the very conditions of the city, in many cases, enable the promotion of sustainable development

Many citizens today, residents of urban areas, are developing actions, for sustainable development

Public bodies are also active in this direction



Some individual actions to achieve goal 11

- ➔ Moving around the city in an environmentally friendly way
- ➔ Actions for reforestation and strengthening of urban greenery
- ➔ Creation of green roofs and vertical gardens
- ➔ Composting at home
- ➔ Creation of environmentally friendly households
- ➔ Use renewable energy sources
- ➔ Allocating unused properties
- ➔ Attending Civil Protection seminars for first aid in cases of natural disasters

etc.

Conclusions

- Cities today face many problems related to the environment, economy and society, and these problems affect the quality of life of citizens.
- The global community, realizing that these issues should be resolved, set the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
- The 11th goal of sustainable development refers to sustainable cities and communities, and based on it, the solution of many key problems of cities is promoted at the global level.
- Today, many countries, having integrated the main directives of Global Goal 11 for the Sustainable Development of Cities and Communities in their domestic law and policies



The E.U. has included policies and actions almost all the areas covered by Goal 11.



It was seen that the awareness in society and the active participation of citizens are necessary conditions to deal with the problems that cities are facing today.



As far as the Greek state is concerned, it was found that it implements a comprehensive policy to achieve goal 11.



As far as Local Government Organizations today are very successfully orienting their actions with the aim of achieving sustainability

But, everyone's participation is necessary and the individual effort of every citizen is also very important!

The sum of individual actions will lead to collective action and this to the solution of global problems and therefore to the final success of the 11th Goal concerning the sustainable development of cities and communities.

Because, as Mother Teresa said, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can throw a stone into the waters to create many ripples."





Joseph Stefanou



Roido Mitoula
mitoula@hua.gr