

Pla Estratègic
Metropolità
de Barcelona

SDG local indicators

FINAL REPORT OF THE WORKING PROCESS

METROPOLITAN STRATEGIC PLAN OF BARCELONA AND A COLLABORATIVE
WORKING GROUP



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Presentation

This is the final report that documents the participatory process for setting up a SDGs Local Indicators battery. The purpose of this battery is to measure the progression of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of the UN 2030 Agenda, by administrations, entities and companies in the local world in a standardized way.

From the coordination office of the PEMB we want to reiterate the public appreciation to the whole group of people who participated collaboratively in the development of this compilation of indicators, they are the cooperative authors. You will find who they are in the Appendix 1 of this report.

The report sets out both the project commissioned, as well as the process designed by the PEMB and its variations according to the evolution of the work, the result of the selected indicators and other reflections of interest and recommendations that arose from the collaboration with the working group.

The result of the SDGs Local Indicators battery is in another document (an MSEXcel file), available in Catalan at the [PEMB Website](#), and subject to a Creative Commons Attribution-No Derivative Works 4.0 license.

Coordination Office of the Metropolitan Strategic Plan of Barcelona, November 2019

The project

WHAT	<p>Identify a list of indicators (battery) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they could be found in different available on-line DDBB, - they were equivalents to the UN Agenda 2030 indicators to carry out the global monitoring of the SDGs, - they had local scale data.
WHY	<p>To promote the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda at local level, and especially to promote the localization processes and the alliances and implementation collaborations requested by the 2030 Agenda.</p>
FOR WHAT	<p>The local scale organizations could carry out the monitoring of the SDGs in its own territory in a standardized and comparable way.</p>
CONTEXT	<p>Reactivation of the issue at the state level with the creation of the <i>High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda</i>, in May 2018. We also saw, in the close context, a strong commitment with the agenda by the <i>Generalitat de Catalunya</i> (via the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development, CADS), by the <i>Diputació de Barcelona</i> and by the Barcelona City Council, which had begun different public programs since 2016. Or by the AMB, which in its Metropolitan Action Plan 2019-2020 has also begun its immersion in the global agenda. Therefore, the environment was clearly favourable to work on the 2030 agenda and on an issue as delicate as the evaluation in the progression of the SDGs.</p>
FITTING THE PROJECT WITH THE PEMB	<p>It is a basic principle of action of the PEMB to work for the fulfilment of the SDGs, as well as to collaborate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the metropolitan region. Besides, the PEMB collaborates in many projects that facilitate the generation or availability of data, information systems and evidence for the development of public policies.</p>
PEMB'S CONTRIBUTION	<p>Preparation of the project through a collaborative working process, planned in sessions facilitated by the PEMB team, with representation of entities of the quadruple helix (administrations, academia, 3rd sector and companies), located in the RMB.</p>

The objectives

1. To obtain a group of **indicators** that could be used for the evaluation of the SDGs specifically at local level, both by administrations, entities and companies.

2. To share **knowledge about the 2030 Agenda**, its implementation and evaluation (identify common difficulties and share adopted solutions).

3. To create a **collaborative working group** on data and 2030 Agenda and facilitate networking among them.

The process

The organization of work

Given the collaborative nature of the 2030 Agenda and the sheer volume of work to do (finding existing indicators that are equivalent to the 238 required by the 2030 Agenda), it was considered essential to design a work process make it collaborative. That is why it was outlined the following points:

1. Creation of a **group of collaborators**, with knowledge on:
 - The subjects covered by the 17 SDGs, and
 - The existing and available databases in the territory, with data related to the local level.

And that they made up a group of people from organizations that met a series of criteria (see section on Group Profile). From the outset, the task was to set up a large working group, representing the diversity of agents that could use it, and finally it was 55 people.

2. Definition of the **scope and typology of the work**

Scope: Identify indicators in our territory that were equivalent to the **244 general indicators**¹ from the UN 2030 Agenda official list, prepared by the UN group of experts (December 2018 release).

Typology: For this broad scope, the typology of the work required had to be an individual work of each of the collaborators, in order to identify and propose the most appropriate equivalent indicators, as well as a collaborative work with spaces for deliberation within the group on those indicators in which there was no agreement in their selection.

In addition, we understood that interaction at work could bring benefits to participants, in terms of networking, new knowledge, deliberative experience, etc., and at meetings we sought to make it in this way.

3. **Design** of the process:

Definition of **3 subgroups** distributing the SDGs by subject matter, but also with a balance of the number of indicators in the list of 2030 Agenda that had to be worked on in each:

	SG. PEOPLE	SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	74 indicators
	SG. PLANET	SDG 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15	77 indicators
	SG. PROSPERITY	SDG 8, 9, 10, 16, 17	87 indicators

¹ 244 indicators remaining in 238, if the repetitions in different SDG were not considered.

In addition to the subgroups, the process was planned in 3 phases:



Phase 1. Common framework definition jointly with the group.

It allowed us to put together the proposal for the work process, which included a collaborative part based on the suggestions and agreements made in the group at the first meeting. The co-decided aspects were the scope of the work (238 indicators, without any pre-selection) and the pace of the rounds and meetings (monthly), as well as the rest of the process designed by the PEMB's team.

Phase 2. Proposal of indicators. Phase that was organized in 3 turns to distribute the work of each subgroup. Each turn, limited in time, included:

- Individual work, with the online platform Loomio, where the indicators available in the territory databases that could be included in the battery were proposed. In each batch each subgroup worked the indicators of 1 or 2 ODS from which they corresponded.
- An in-person session, facilitated by the PEMB team, for joint deliberation and collaborative selection of the most appropriate indicators from those proposed on the platform.
- A return of the work done, to provide other comments and information. In addition to the corresponding evaluation of the work done by the PEMB office in order to make improvements in the rest of the process.

Phase 3. Elaboration of Conclusions and open debates.

In addition to the work related to the preparation of the battery, from the PEMB office we wanted to have a last session where expose:

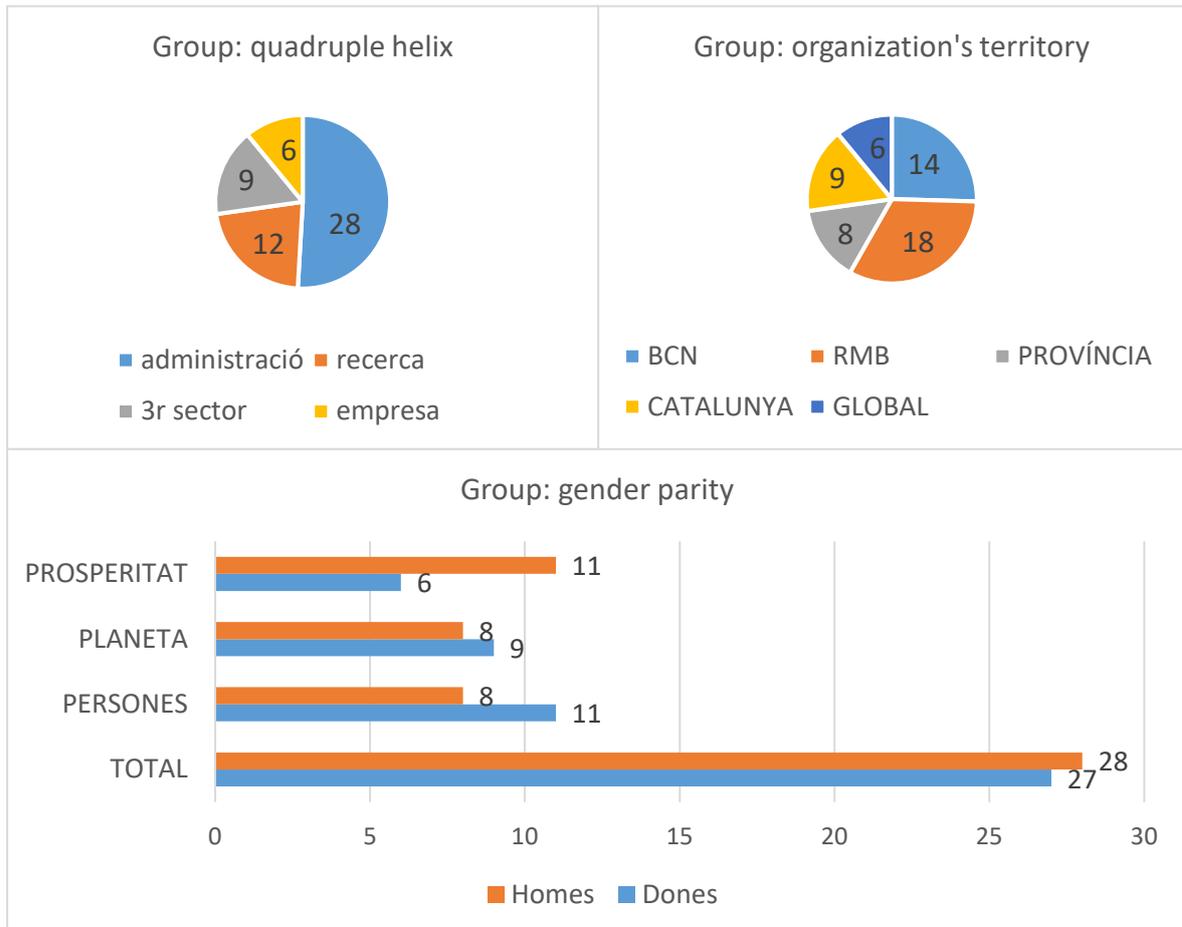
- Reflections and conclusions on the work sessions, on the whole process experience, and which were the lessons for other work processes related to the 2030 Agenda.
- Open discussions, that is, retrieve and reflect on aspects related to the global agenda that had appeared in work sessions and which we had put on hold as they were not the focus of the work.

Both topics, despite moving away from the main task (the indicators), generated dialogue and allowed knowledge to be shared on actions around the 2030 Agenda, which is an important added value.

The profile of the group

As in all those projects of the PEMB that allow it, in the invitation to the collaborators we considered the following criteria:

- representativity of the quadruple helix,
- representativity of different geographical scales (specially of the RMB),
- gender parity.



Quadruple helix, with a clear majority of local administration

Regarding the proportion of the quadruple helix, despite seeking a balance of proportions, the 28 participants from the public administration (51%) stand out. The case is that the interest between the councils in the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the SDGs led to more of them being added during the project, increasing the proportion of public administration. Likewise, since the beginning it was more difficult

for companies to participate, but those who showed interest, were firmly committed to both assistance and contributions.

Moreover, it was mentioned during the process that the participation of large data-producing institutions would have been very appropriate, which could have provided much information about their own databases and others, or on the adequacy of certain indicators. In this regard, it should be mentioned that Idescat (Catalan institute of official statistics) and the Advisory

Council for Sustainable Development (CADS) had been invited to participate but were unable to do so due to lack of technical availability at that moment.

Representació territorial variada, amb majoria metropolitana

In relation to the geographical scales present, there were a certain majority of institutions operating in the territorial scope of the Barcelona Metropolitan Region (RMB), which are part of the network of collaborating entities of the PEMB, thus such as other local entities and others of higher scope. It is important to highlight the role of entities of global and international relations during all the process, for their knowledge of the 2030 Agenda and for the interpretations needed to be made at various targets of the 17 SDG.

Gender parity

In relation to gender representativity, parity was always sought and was achieved for the group, although in some subgroups of work it could not be maintained.

The facilitation methodology

Given the size of the working group (55 people) and the volume of work to be done, a methodological approach was made based on 3 tools that facilitate the work and allow coordination of all participants. Basically, they were:

- ➔ **An online platform for individual work** of each participant on indicators proposal. The chosen platform was **Loomio**.
- ➔ **Face-to-face sessions for joint discussion** on indicator proposals presented on the individual online work platform.
- ➔ **Continuous evaluation of the process**, in order to adapt it to the needs expressed by participants and shared by the group.

Loomio platform

The Loomio platform was chosen based on the following 5 **requisites**:

1. **Online workspace**.
2. With a **space to display the starting information** easily and clearly.
 - This starting information was the description of the 238 "conceptual" indicators requested by the 2030 Agenda to evaluate the progression of the SDGs in a territory, with their assignment to the corresponding target and goal.
 - We also wanted to include the specific indicators chosen in other territories which its institutions had already done the work, with the corresponding source (institution and database).
3. With a space which allowed to **introduce the proposed indicators** to cover the 238 indicators requested by the 2030 Agenda. In this sense, it was necessary to establish a structure of information that for each indicator in the agenda the participants could introduce "n" different proposals of equivalent indicators, with no limitation.
4. Allow the proposed indicators to be **easily commented on and evaluated** with at least 3 different categories. In this way, the work of the subsequent deliberation in the meetings could be advanced.

5. Have a **low or no economic cost** for the PEMB.

From these requirements and from the applications for discussion and online deliberation, we selected 2 for comparison, which were Loomio and *Decidim*. And between the two, at that time we opted for Loomio because it required little configuration and allowed us to start using it immediately. However, the performance and adequacy of the *Decidim* platform of the Barcelona City Council were fully confirmed and we look forward to using it in other PEMB projects.

The Loomio platform allowed to introduce the structure of information on indicators (the requested and the proposed) that had been raised and also met the other requirements, with the only exception that it did have a monthly cost of \$24.50 (about 22€) during the 5 months that it was used during the project, from March to July 2019. A total amount that was certainly acceptable for the PEMB.

*Loomio's
platform
evaluation*

Regarding the platform configuration, we found a clear way to enter relevant information for the indicators requested by the 2030 Agenda and batteries from other scales (European, Spanish, other provinces, etc.), which helped to do the job of identifying equivalent indicators, one by one. As well as the introduction of valuable comments on this supplementary information. However, the available mechanism for introducing indicator proposals that could be part of the battery was not as intuitive, and at the proposal of the working group we had to enter numbers that would allow the link between each indicator requested by the UN and the proposals for equivalent, since the relationship was not immediately apparent.

To facilitate the understanding and usability of the platform, from the PEMB office we developed a manual for using the Loomio platform for the process, which is available to anyone who wants to consult it and evaluate the possibility of using Loomio in other similar projects.

*Participants
evaluation of
the platform*

On the other hand, the platform evaluations made regularly by the project participants revealed a certain lack of intuitive usability of the platform. It must be said that the requirements for the presentation and introduction of information were highly demanding, as this was a complicated and detailed job.

The facilitated work meetings

From the outset, we considered the face-to-face meeting to be one of the basic elements of the process. Basically, for two reasons:

First, to generate contacts and knowledge among the people who formed the working group, since they were all working on the 2030 Agenda and the subjects covered by the SDGs, and face-to-face knowledge always favours networking.

And **secondly**, because the intention was that the work be deliberate and collaborative, beyond the sum of individual contributions.

In this sense, the techniques of process facilitation, acquired by the PEMB team in various training courses and previous experiences, were essential to be able to direct the work productively and without neglecting the time spent by the participants.

Thus, each of the 3 phases had a facilitated face-to-face meeting. The design of each session included:

- An **active welcome** with some dynamics to ubicate in the moment of the process we were in and, at the same time, to facilitate the networking between the participants.
- A **deliberation on each of the indicators proposed** on the platform in that phase of work and which was carried out by groups, each with a PEMB facilitator (who introduced the work to do during the session, address the needs of the group and its members, make sure that the debate does not get stuck, and moderate turns when necessary). The result of the deliberation was the selection of the indicator proposals that would become part of the battery, according to the defined criteria and with the agreement of the group.
- A **moment of final plenary**, with a dynamic related to the 2030 Agenda, to relax after work, and wanted to be a care for participants.

The process evaluation

The whole work process was evaluated using online questionnaires that we sent on the same day of the face-to-face meeting, with questions on different aspects (clarity and adequacy of the project, tool and use of the platform, design and realization of the process, the professionalism of the facilitators, the results they were getting, the knowledge they were gaining, and the overall satisfaction), as well as open questions for suggestions for improvement².

Preparation and project

In the 4 sessions over 90% stated that the goals were clear from the beginning. Also, more than 90% said that the methodology and approach were explained clearly (only 75% indicated this in the first session). Regarding adhesion to this methodology, the percentage during the sessions increased from 70 to 85% of those who thought it was the right one. And they all agreed that the information had been given with enough time to prepare for the participation.

Online working platform

More than 85% thought that the information for working with the platform had been sent in advance. About their usability and ease of understanding, after the first phase only 55% thought that it had been easy to understand and work, but with explanations and their use this consideration increased to 80%³. About the usefulness of working on the platform, 70% of the group considered that it was. It was understood that the remaining 30% preferred only face-to-face work. And in relation to the time taken to work on the platform (15 days), 70 to 80% thought that was enough, while the other participants did not agree very much.

PRINCIPALS RESULTATS

² The evaluation questionnaire can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

³ It should be said that the requirements of clarity and usability for a type of information as complex as the one in the project (the different list of SDG evaluation indicators and the proposals of real indicators to be introduced and voted), would have required the availability of a specifically programmed online platform, which was not possible due to the high cost. And that Loomio managed to meet the requirements, despite the cost of time to get to know and use it well, a time which not all participants naturally had.

Sessions

Concerning the development of the sessions, more than 90% of the participants said that the information had been sent well in advance, and between 85% and 100% (in increasing direction as the sessions progressed) indicated that the purpose and objectives of the session had been clearly exposed. Between 55% and 85% (in an increasing direction) said that the dynamics chosen for the facilitated work were adequate, and 100% in the last session, which had different goals and dynamics. The whole process was a challenge in terms of its facilitation, due to the significant amount of work to be carried out, its non-deliberate nature and the number of participants mobilized. However, it was considered that determining a standard set of indicators to evaluate the progression of SDGs at the local level should be a consensual task between a representation of the diversity of agents that could use it and that is why it was chosen this method of collaborative work.

In relation to the timetable and physical space of the sessions, it had to be adjusted after the 1st one, and the location of the 2nd was already suitable for more than 85% participants. In relation to the professionalism of the facilitation team to encourage the development of the work to be done, and with a possible conjunction with the level of participation of the participants, the evaluation showed that in the first session there was a low level of intervention by the facilitation team, which prevented the completion of the intended work in one of the groups, but it was recovered in subsequent sessions, in which satisfaction with the team and participation exceeded 90%.

Results and experience

In relation to the experience of the participants in the process, more than 85% said they thought they had been able to contribute their knowledge and opinion, and that this had been heard. In three of the 4 sessions, more than 90% of participants said they had learned things they did not know, while in the first session, only 60%. And in relation to one of the secondary goals posed, such as the generation of knowledge and the possibility of other options for bilateral collaboration between participants, the evaluation shows that it was not considered as successful as it could have been, since less than the On average, 70% said they had strengthened links with other participants. But the interest shown to continue participating in the project was 100%, except for some doubts in the first session.

And lastly, more than 80% said they were satisfied with their participation in the project, and that the suggested changes during the process had been listened to and applied as far as possible. While over 90% said the work was helpful and could be meaningful.

The set of indicators

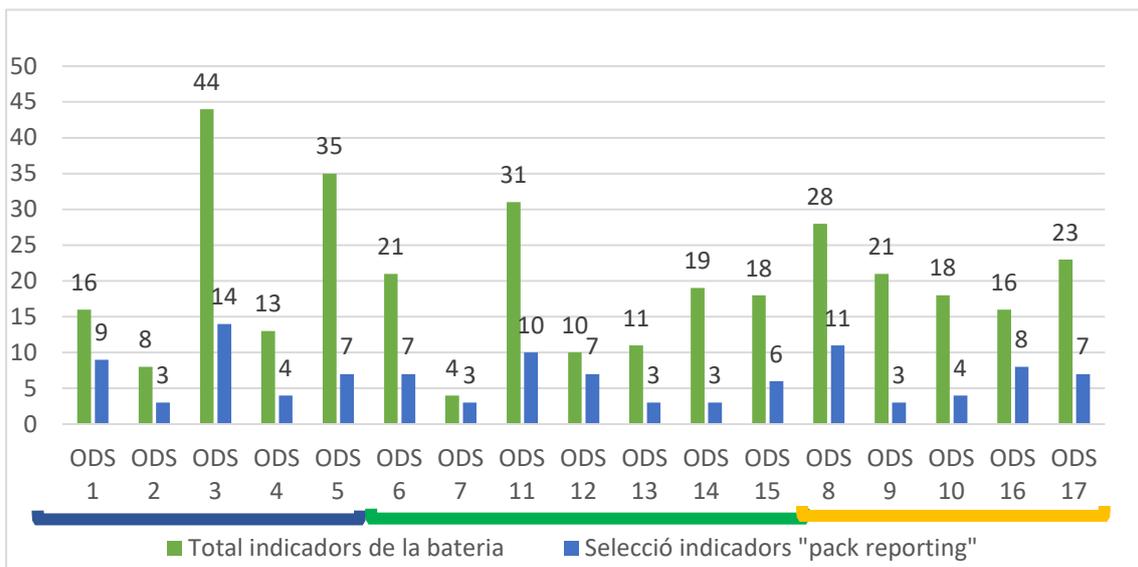
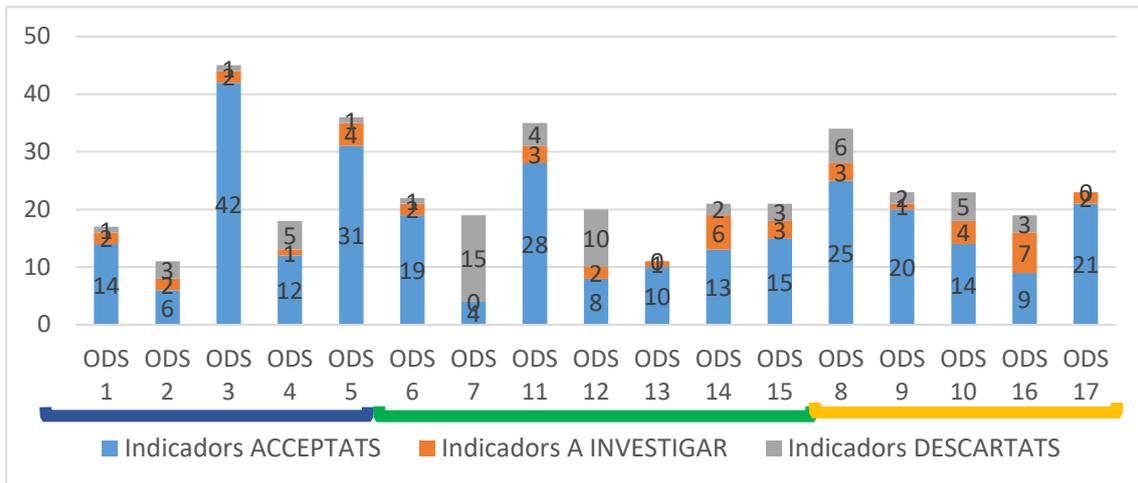
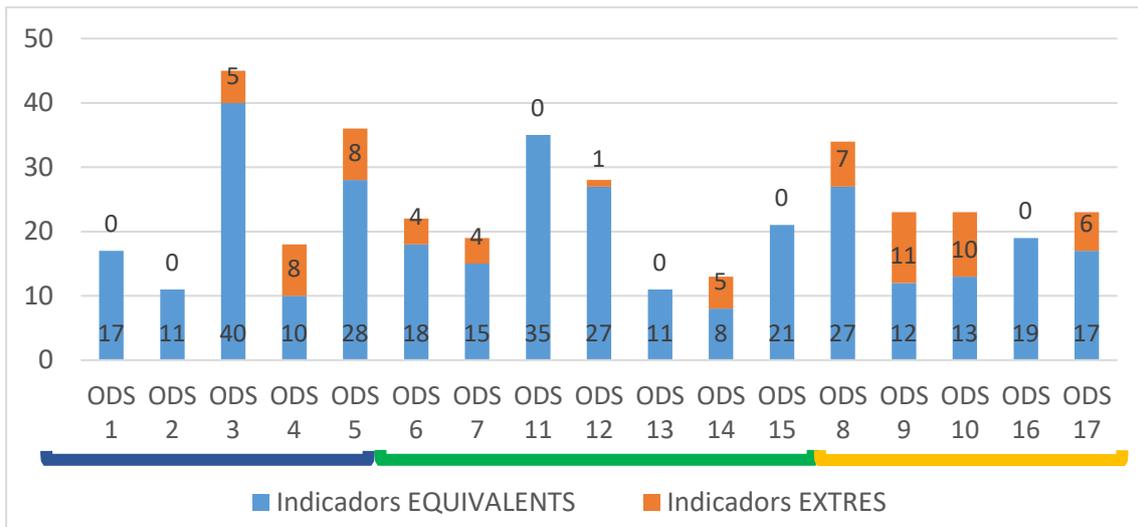
In relation to the indicators requested by the 2030 Agenda, the work assigned and performed by each group was the following:

Group PEOPLE	Group PLANET	Group PROSPERITY
74 indicators from the 2030 Agenda	77 indicators from the 2030 Agenda	87 indicators from the 2030 Agenda
From SDG 1, 2, 3, 4 i 5	From SDG 6, 7, 11*, 12, 13, 14 i 15	From SDG 8, 9, 10, 16 i 17
127 proposed equivalent indicators	149 proposed equivalent indicators	122 proposed equivalent indicators

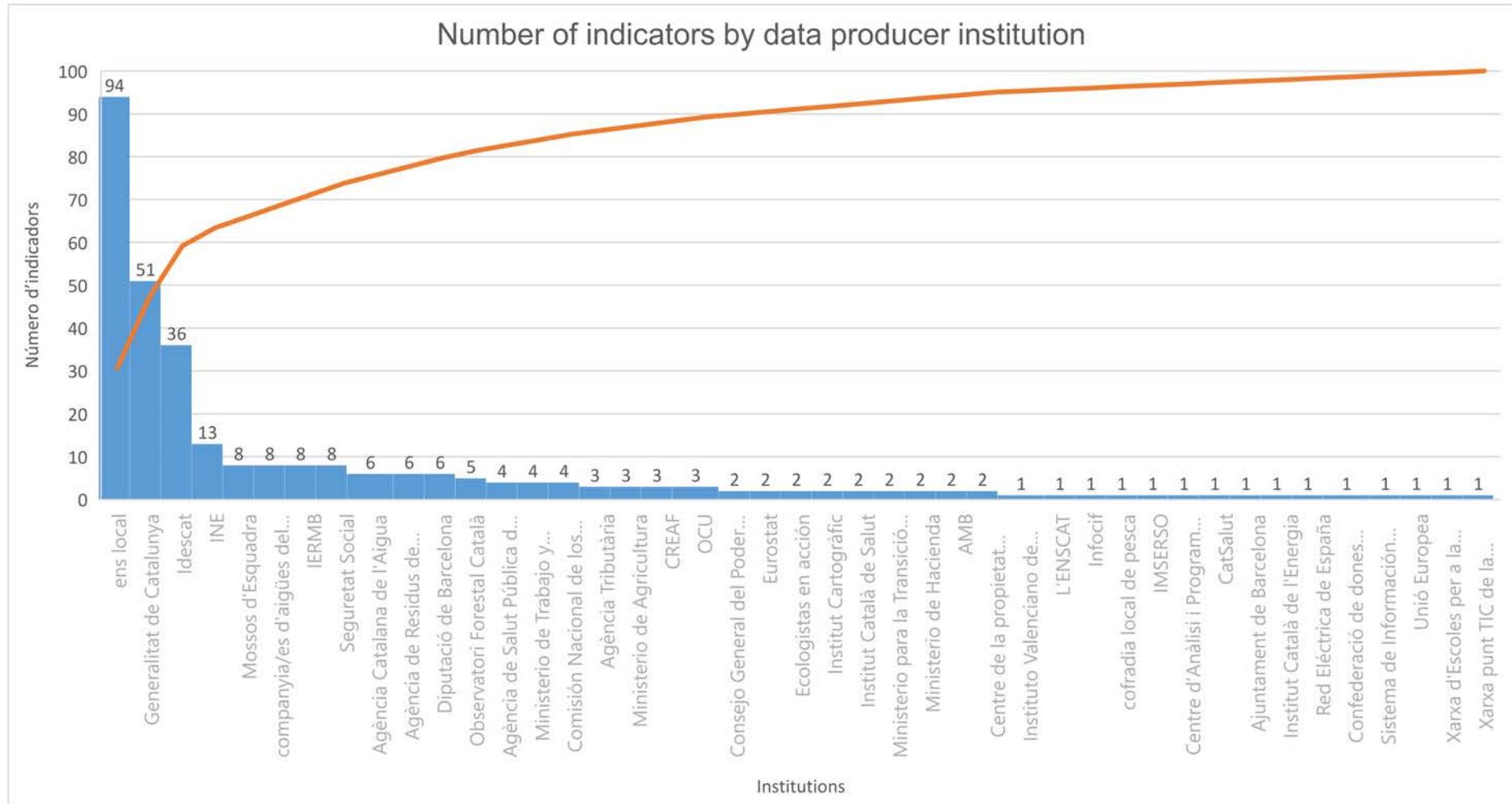
Of the total 398 indicator proposals made by the group, we see that:

398 proposed indicators	329 proposals were equivalent to the 2030 Agenda indicators	
	69 proposals were “ extra ” and deepened in the sustainable development evaluation in the metropolitan region (RMB)	
398 proposed indicators	291 proposals were accepted	336 indicators, 109 of those were selected for the common “reporting pack”
	45 proposals to improve in research	
	62 proposals were discarded	

The following are some analysis graphs about the proposals made during the process and the final set of indicators, which we consider to be of interest for other indicator selection projects.



And according to the indicator's producing institution, we have the following classification of indicators:



Recommendations

The collection of indicators is open to use by any entity and may have different uses, for example:

1. The **initial diagnosis of the local entities** in relation to the degree of previous compliance of the SDGs and which helps to determine the priorities of the projects and policies within the Municipal Action Plans (PAMs).
2. **Monitoring the SDG alignment of local entities**, thus contributing to the regular follow-up that states must make before the UN Assembly.
3. As a basis for the creation of an **information system on the fulfilment of the SDGs in the territory**, with the information disaggregated at the different scales (local, metropolitan and regional).

This project is a first step of the PEMB along the way of the 2030 Agenda, both in terms of the collaborative work methodology and the result of the identified SDG Local Indicators set. It is of interest to the association because the SDGs are one of the five PEMB principles of action, from where we work for local appropriation of the 2030 Agenda.

From the PEMB we believe that it is not enough to make the data available to the local world, but that it should be involved and that they have the [specific incentives to participate in the SDG evaluation](#); as well as [support tools for collecting information](#) and filling certain data from local councils and also creating a [community of users](#) who can improve this set of indicators.

Annex 1: Group participants

1. SUBGROUP PEOPLE	Hannah	Abdullah	CIDOB
	Liliana	Arroyo Moliner	Observatori ODS-Empreses (La Caixa i ESADE)
	Lídia	Arroyo Prieto	IN3-Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
	Marta	Cayetano Giralt	ACUP - Associació Catalana d'Universitats Públiques
	Albert	del Amor	Consell Comarcal del Vallès Oriental
	Montse	Fernández	Observatori del 3er sector
	Marina	Jareño	IERMB – UAB
	Sílvia	Llorente	Associació Metropolis
	Lucía	López Fernández	Consell Comarcal del Baix Llobregat
	Oriol	Marquet	ISGlobal Barcelona
	Gemma	Morelló	Consell Comarcal del Barcelonès
	Xavier	Muñoz Torrent	Ajuntament de Terrassa
	Sergio	Porcel	IERMB – UAB
	Xavier	Posada	Ajuntament de Mataró
	Jordi	Rosell Segura	IESE
	Josep Lluís	Sánchez Palacios	Ajuntament Santa Coloma G.
	Teresa	Udina Abelló	Ajuntament de Barcelona - Barcelona Activa
2. SUBGROUP PLANET	Oriol	Agulló	Nusos, activitats científiques i culturals, SCCL
	Josep	Báguena	Diputació de Barcelona
	Alba	Cabrera	Rezero
	Maria	Calvo	Ajuntament de Mataró
	Carles	Dalmases	Diputació de Barcelona
	Elena	Díez	Rezero
	Alfons	López Carrete	Espai Ambiental Cooperativa
	Francesc	Magrinyà	AMB
	Meritxell	Margall	Diputació de Barcelona
	Eulàlia	Miralles	Lavola - Anthesis Group
	Toni	Pujol Vidal	Ajuntament de Barcelona
3. SUBGROUP PROSPERITY	Sandra	Álamo	Creació
	Edgardo	Bilsky	UCLG/CGLU
	Josep M.	Canyelles	TSR Territori Socialment Responsable SCCL
	Andrea	Ciambra	UCLG/CGLU
	Marc	Martí	IERMB – UAB
	Sònia	Moreno Osuna	Ajuntament de Terrassa
	Àngels	Santigosa Copete	Ajuntament de Barcelona - Barcelona Activa
	Ana	Tapia	Diputació de Barcelona
	Daniel	Vilà Trepal	Diputació de Barcelona
	Eugeni	Villalbí	Associació Metropolis

Annex 2: Evaluation questionnaire

Do you agree with the following sentences?

(where 1 is completely disagree and 4 is completely agree)

ON THE PREPARATION AND THE WHOLE PROJECT	1	2	3	4	NR/DK
The objectives of the work / project are clear from the beginning					
The methodology and approach have been explained clearly					
The methodology and approach are correct, and I feel comfortable and represented					
Is there any aspect that could be improved? Which one?					

ON THE WORKING ON-LINE PLATFORM	1	2	3	4	NR/DK
The information was sent well in advance					
The platform has been easy to understand and work with					
It has been helpful in doing the job that was being requested					
Is there any aspect that could be improved? Which one?					

ON THE SESSION OF THE DAY DD/MM/YY	1	2	3	4	NR/DK
The notice and information were sent well in advance					
The objectives and purpose of the session have been clear from the beginning					
Work dynamics have been adequate to achieve the goals					
The timetable and the physical space where the session took place were adequate					
The facilitators have shown a good professional level by encouraging the development of the work to be done					
There was a good level of participation of the participants					
Is there any aspect that could be improved? Which one?					

ON THE RESULTS AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE	1	2	3	4	NR/DK
I have been able to contribute my opinion and knowledge, and this has been heard					



I've learned things I didn't know					
I have strengthened ties with other participants					
I have an interest in continuing to participate in the process / project					

Would you like to add something?
