

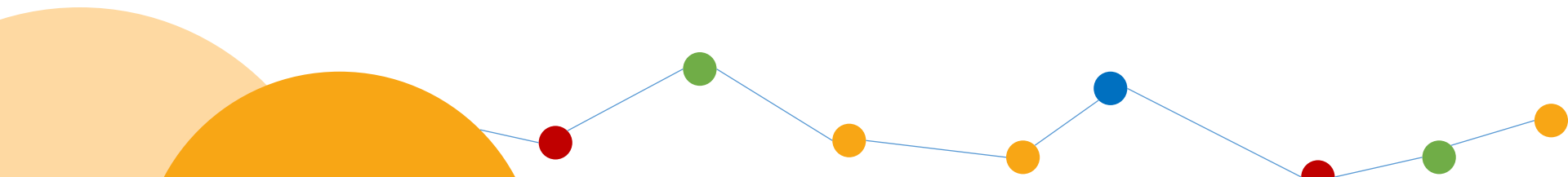
European SDG Voluntary Local Reviews: A comparative analysis of local indicators and data



Andrea Ciambra
University of A Coruña

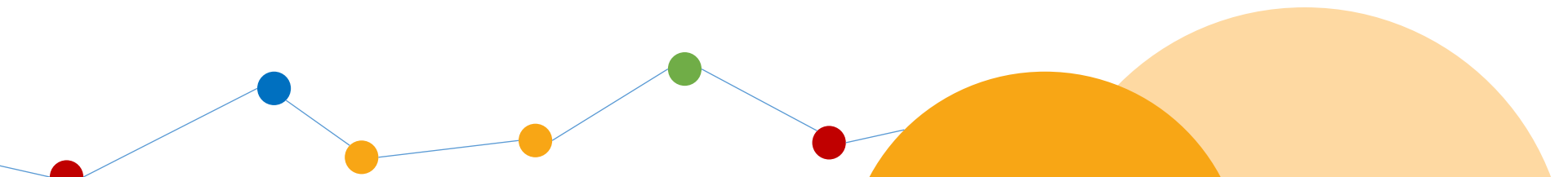
Research questions and the presentation's structure:

- How do European VLRs' indicators relate to the SDG framework at large?
- How do European VLRs define their indicators and what data sources are used to compile them?
 - *The relevance of adapted/imported indicators vs. locally-designed ones*
 - *Data availability and disaggregation at the local level*
- How do the European VLRs' indicators relate to the indicators selected by the European Handbook on SDG Voluntary Local Reviews?



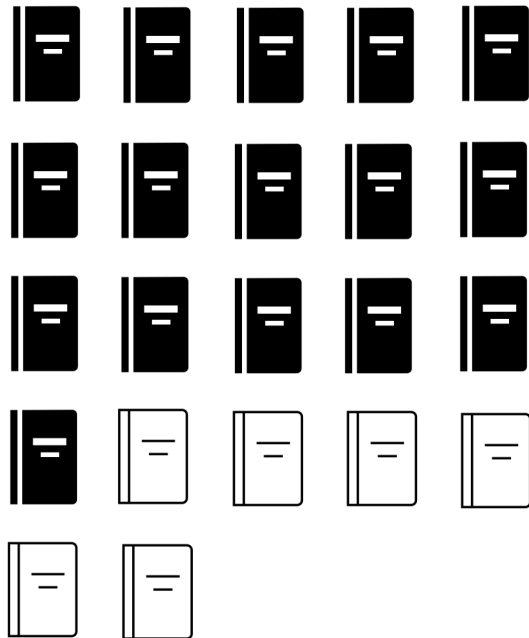
European VLRs and the SDG framework

- First, we wondered what was the impact of indicators and statistical data on European VLRs in general

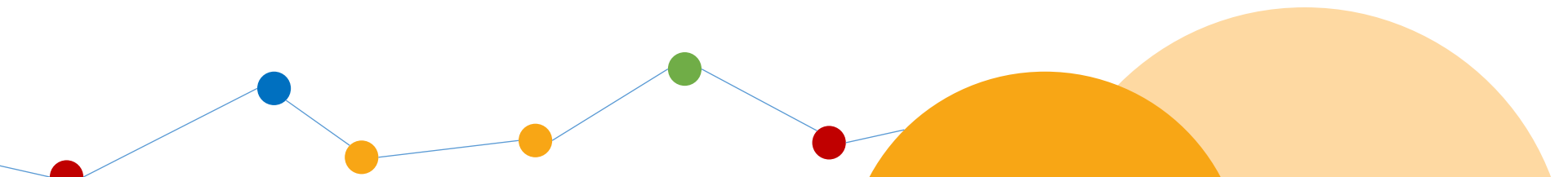


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- We found out that:



**16 VLRs out of 22 (72.7%)
included or used some kind
of indicator**

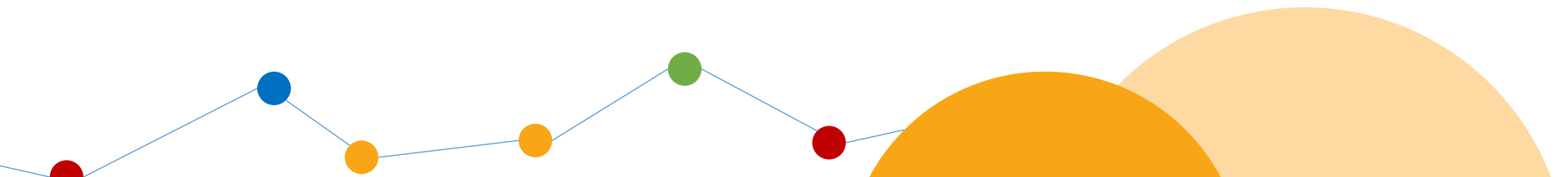


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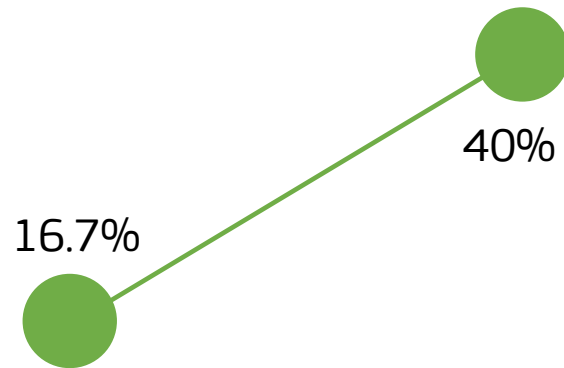


In both the 2016-2018 and 2019-2020 cohorts, one-third of VLRs had no statistical information on data and indicators



European VLRs and the SDG framework

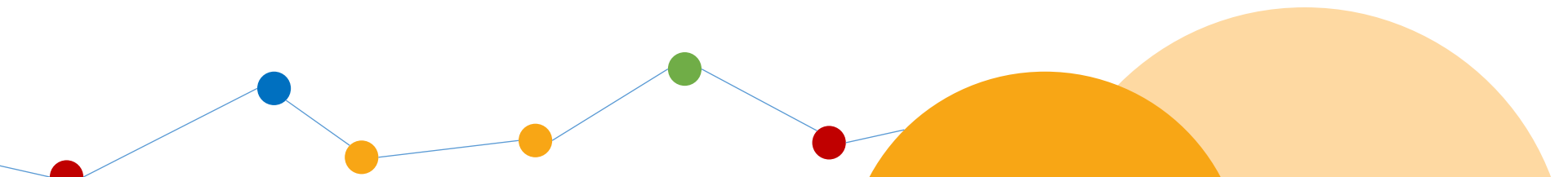
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However, 40% of VLRs issued in 2019-2020 had statistical annex and indicator metadata, compared to about one-sixth in the previous cohort

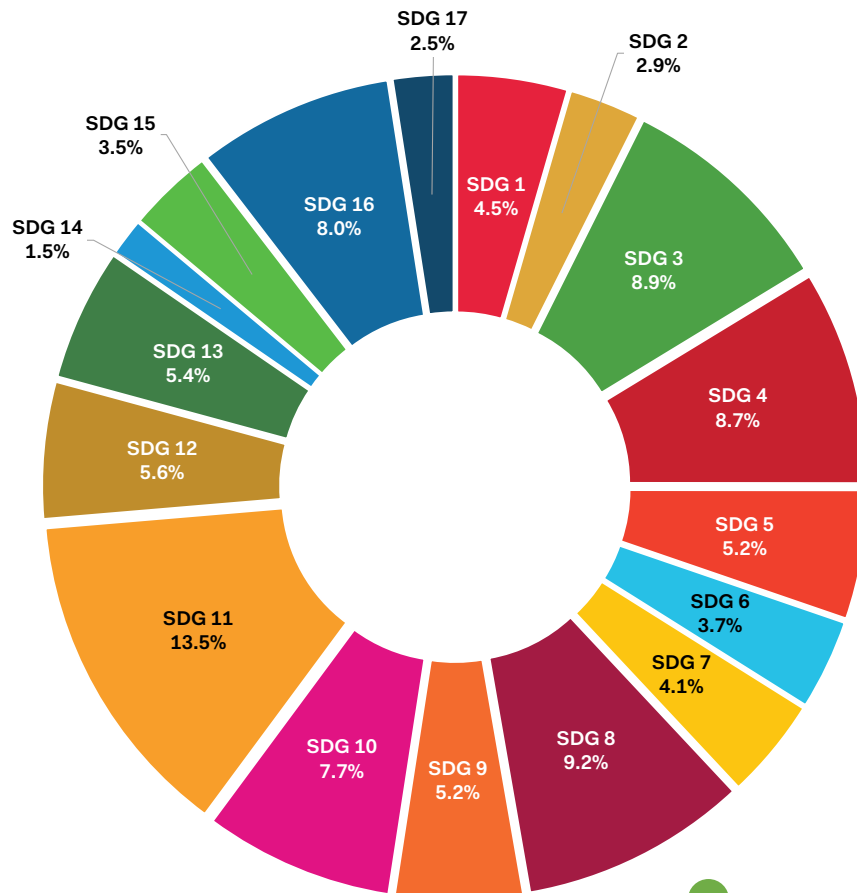
European VLRs and the SDG framework

- Then, we wanted to know what SDGs had been relevant for European VLRs in terms of available data and indicators



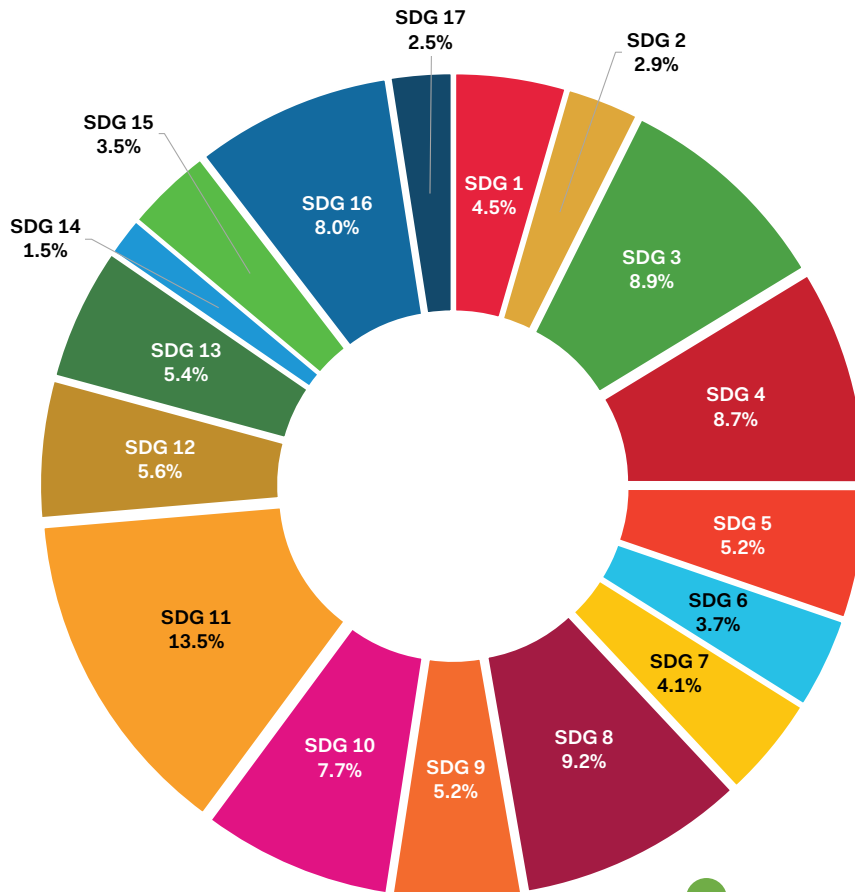
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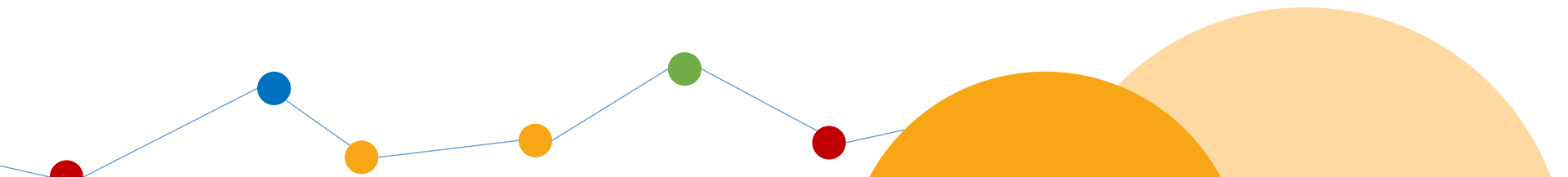


We drew a few hypotheses:

- **SDG 11 (13.5%):** due to how relevant the urban dimension is (housing, transport, utilities, public space...)
- **SDG 8 (9.2%)** and the pervasiveness of social security data
- **SDGs 3 and 4 (~9%)** because data is easily available at local level for large cohorts

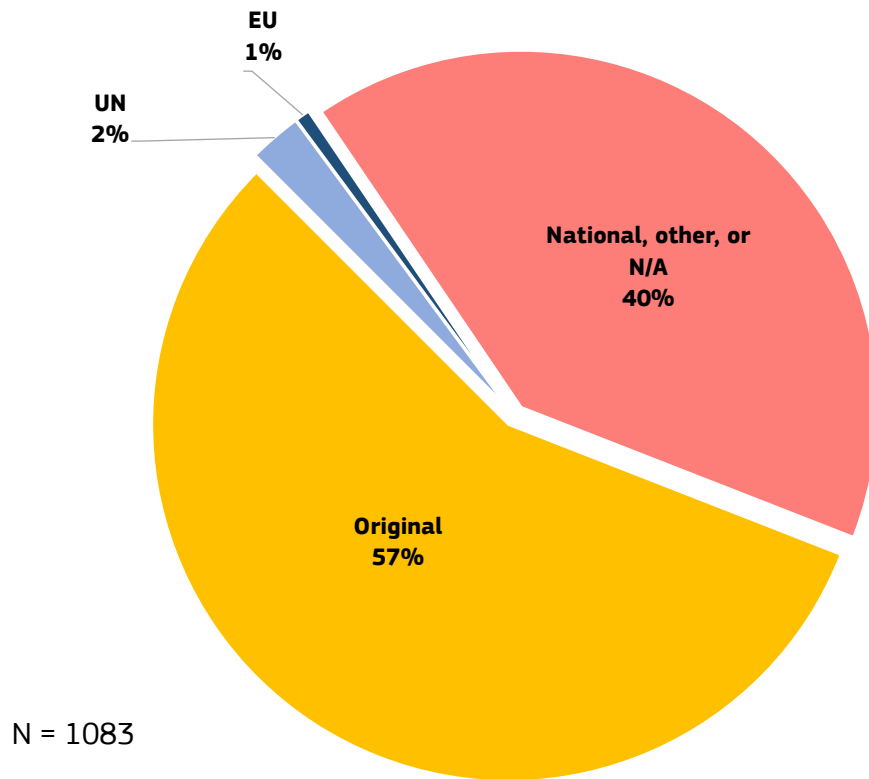
European VLRs and the definition of indicators and data

- We studied the process through which indicators had been defined: adapted from pre-existing sources? Defined from scratch?



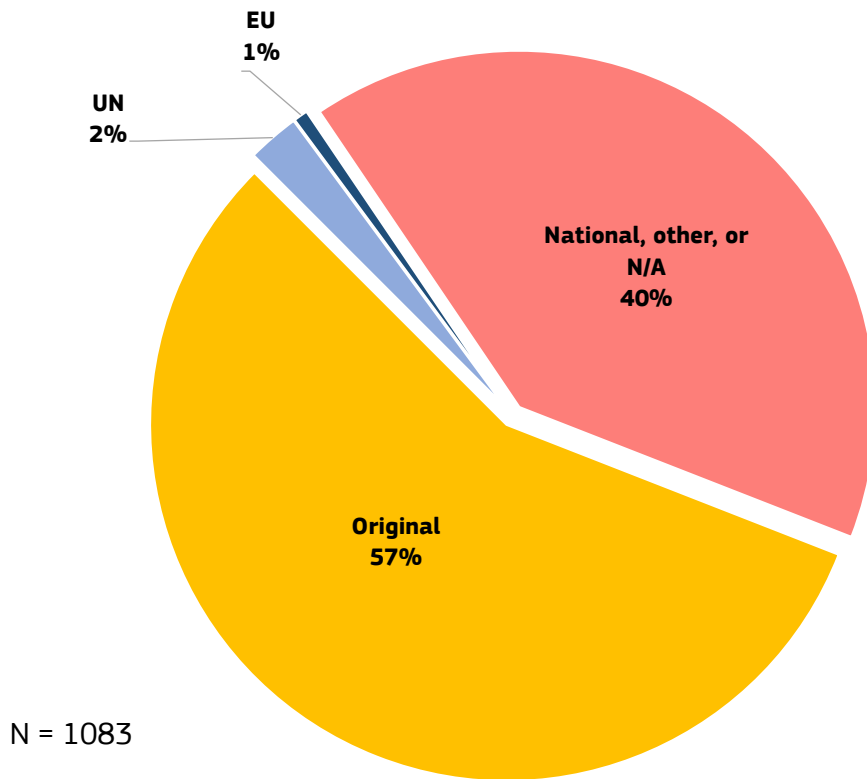
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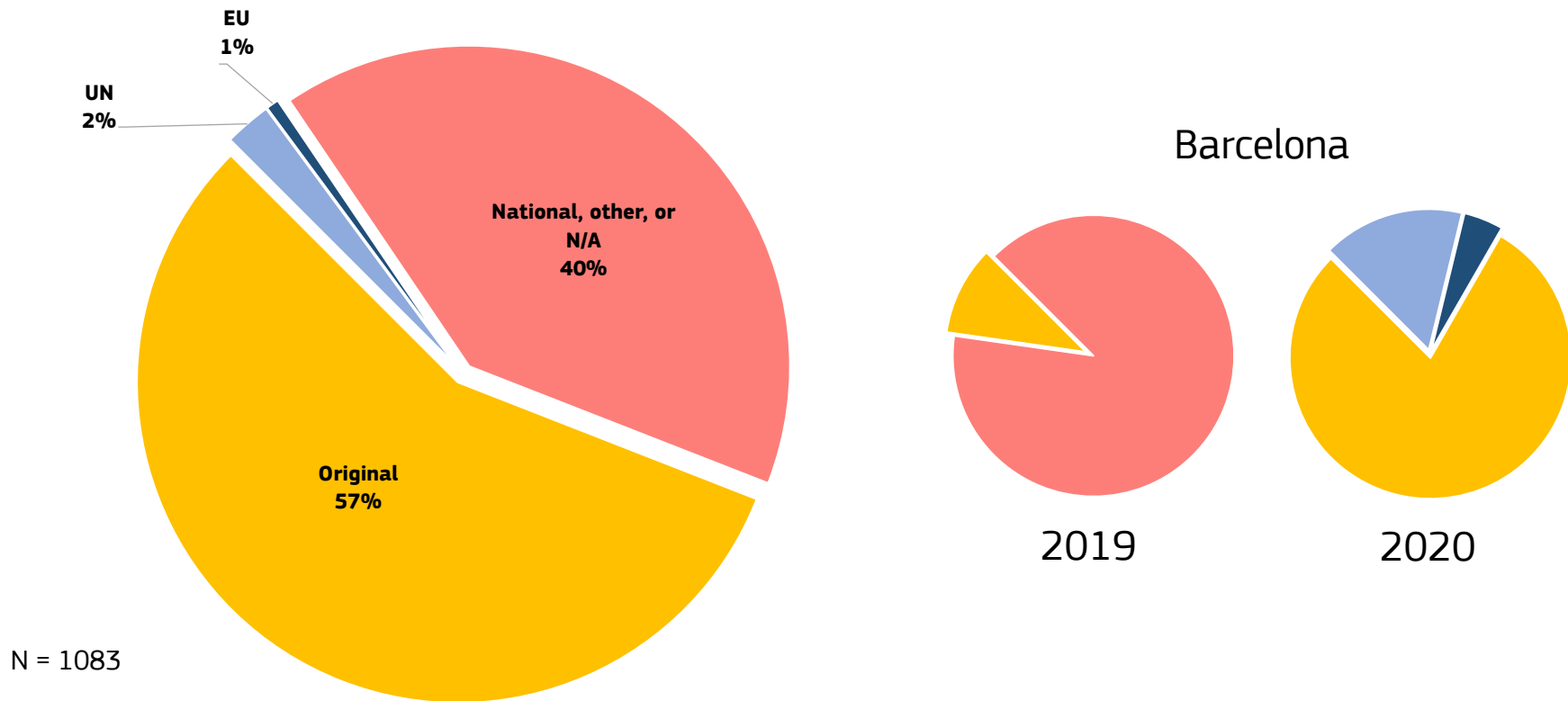
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- Third-party data brokers: Bertelsmann, UN-SDSN
- Processes of indicator localisation
- Path-dependency from existing strategic and monitoring frameworks

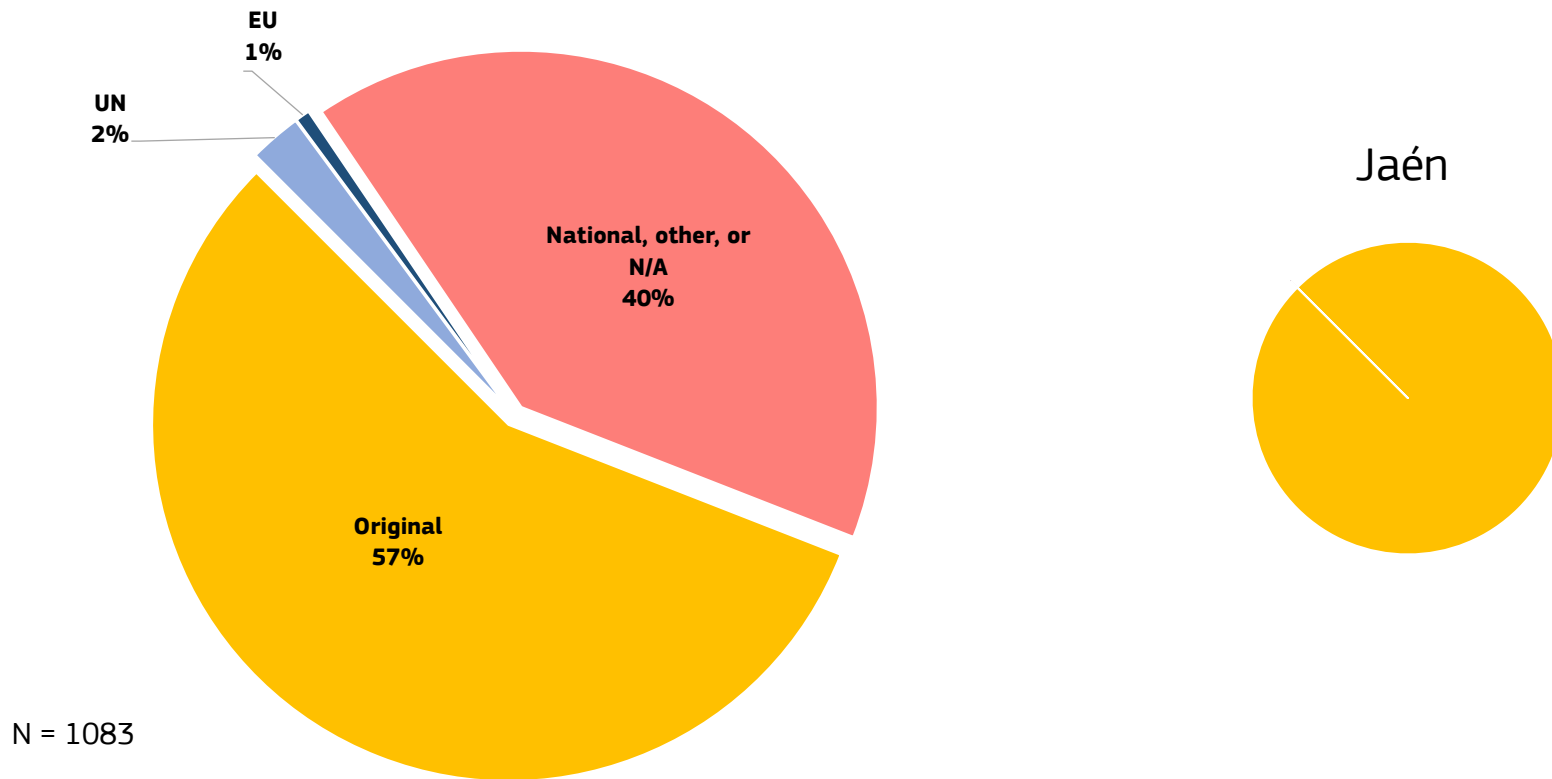
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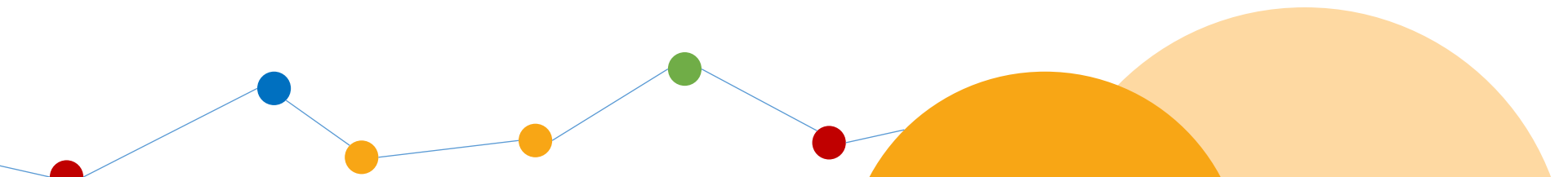
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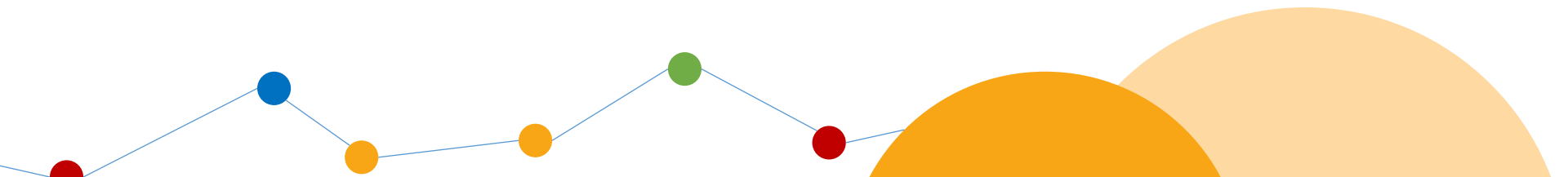
European VLRs and the definition of indicators and data

- We wanted to know what kind of data was available to LRGs:



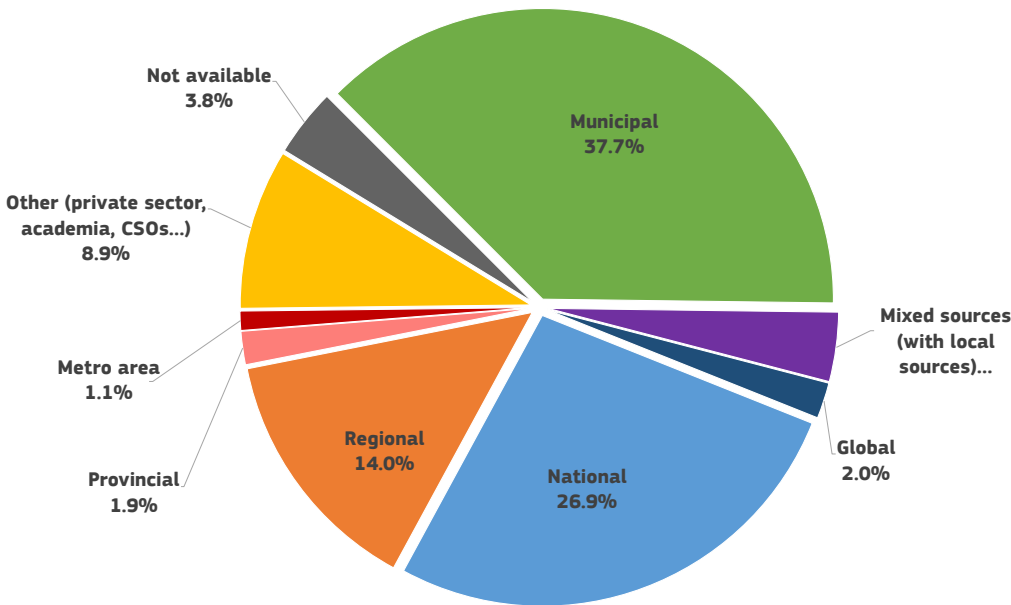
European VLRs and the definition of indicators and data

- We wanted to know what kind of data was available to LRGs:
 - Where the data sources available locally?
 - Was the data adapted to the local level from different governance tiers?
 - To what degree were certain sets of data disaggregated down to the most local source?



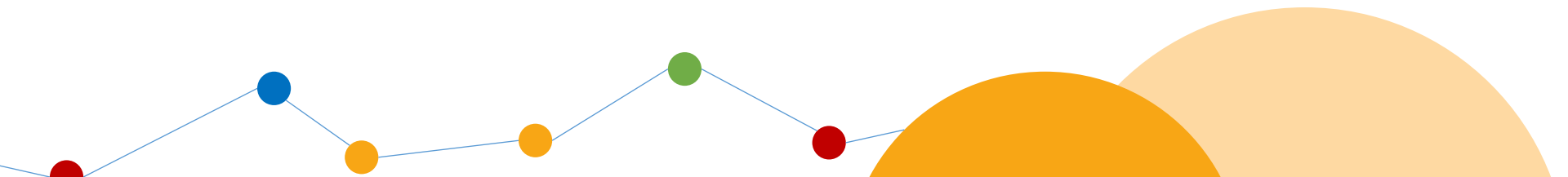
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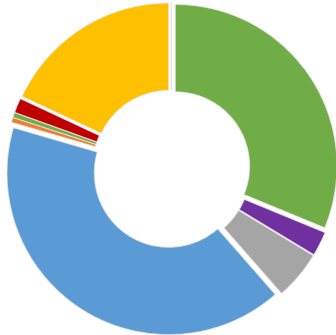
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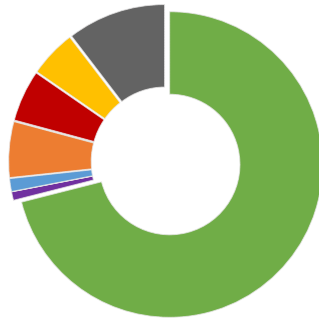


European VLRs and the definition of indicators and data

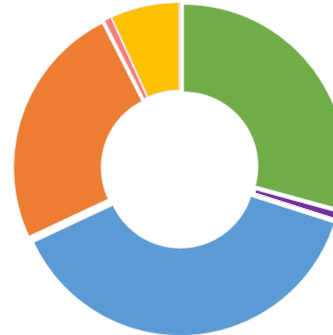
Barcelona 2019



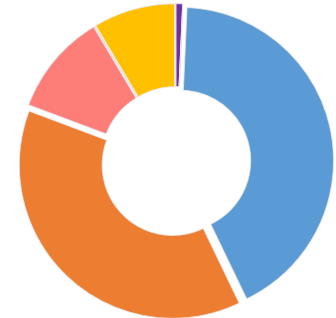
Barcelona 2020



Bristol



Province of Jaén



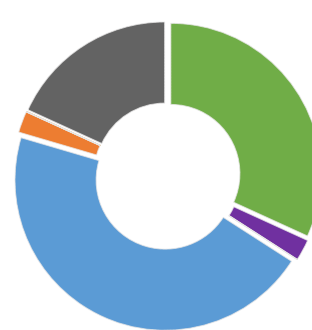
Helsinki



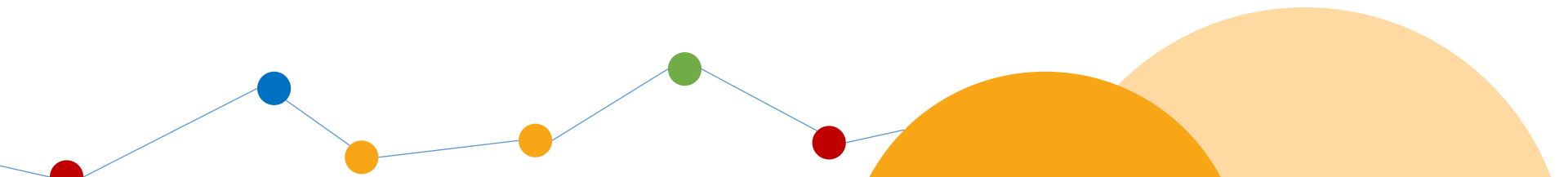
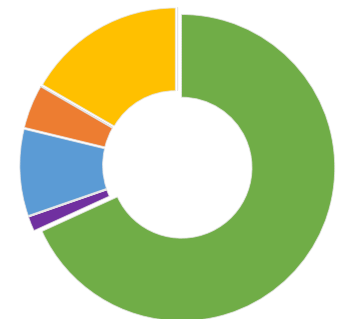
Espoo



Turku



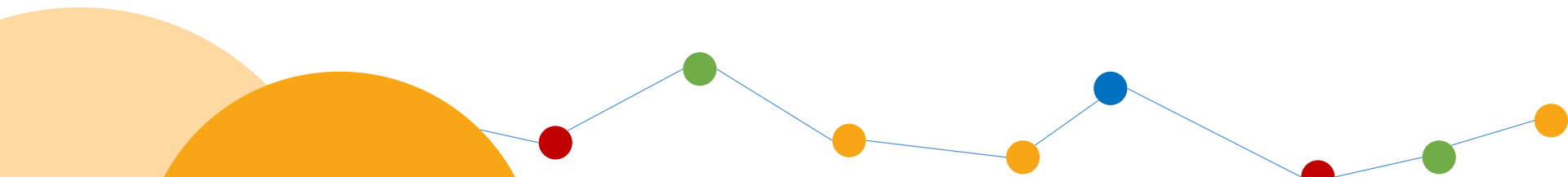
Stuttgart



Relationship between VLR indicators and the Handbook

We developed a sub-set of research questions to try and assess the 'proximity' between the VLR indicator sets and the Handbook's

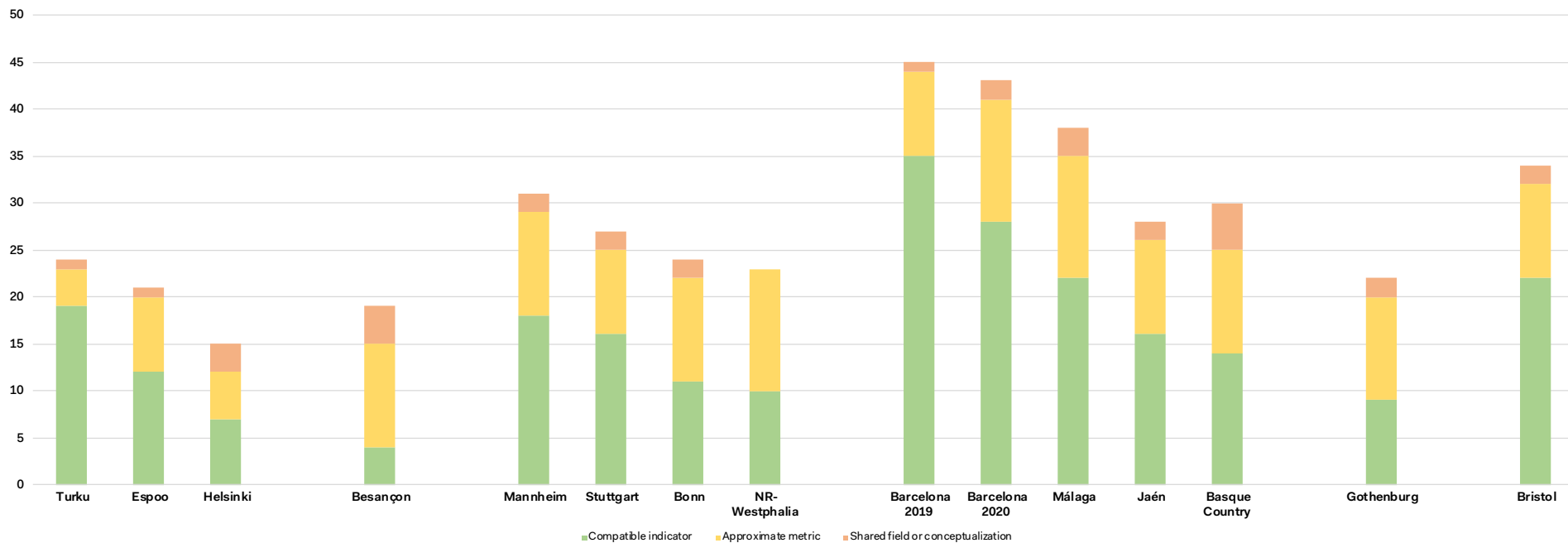
- What is a viable metric of compatibility between VLR and Handbook indicators?
- Have VLRs and the Handbook been closer for specific SDGs?
- What to do with the existing distance/lack of overlap between the indicators used in VLRs and those selected in the Handbook?



Relationship between VLR indicators and the Handbook

The Indicator Proximity (IP) index as a metric:

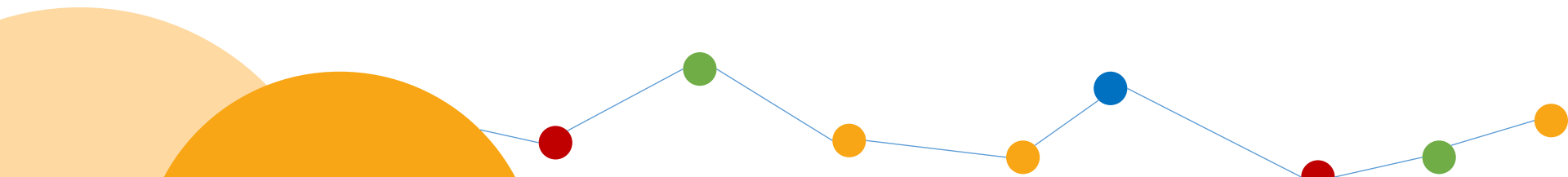
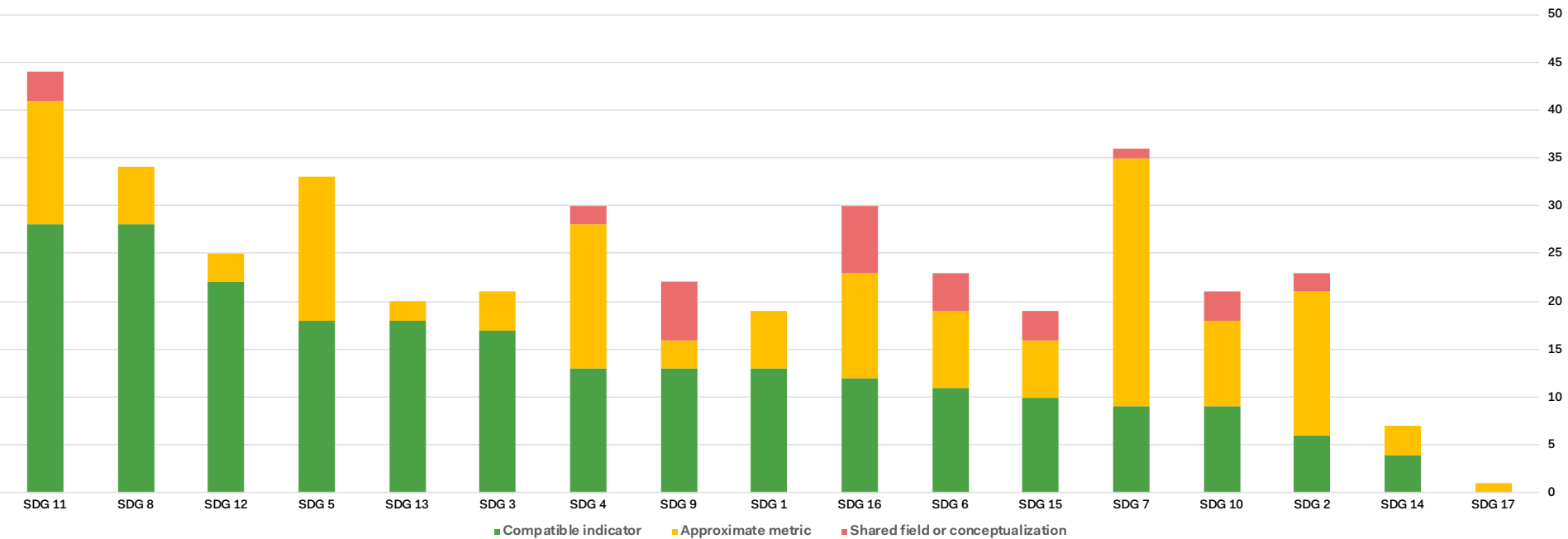
- Qualitative comparability analysis of all indicators
- Per-city and per-SDG matrix



Relationship between VLR indicators and the Handbook

The Indicator Proximity (IP) index and the SDGs:

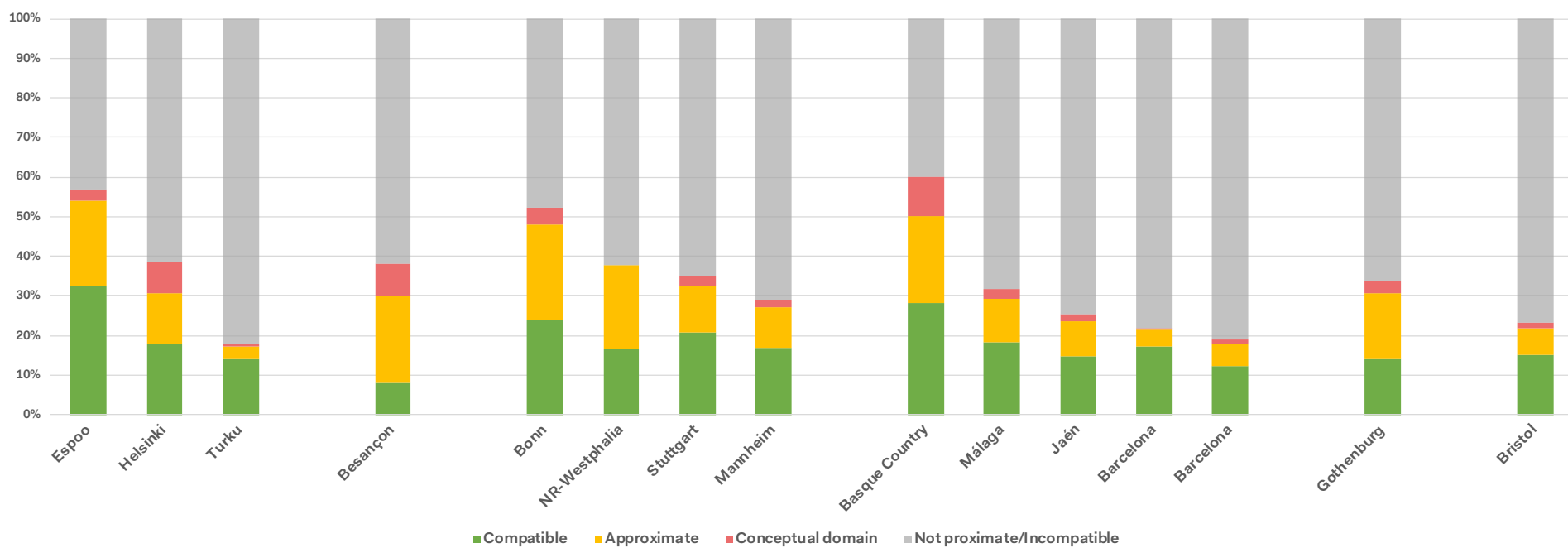
- Some SDGs more compatible than others
- Data management-friendly metrics highly likely to be frequently adopted



Relationship between VLR indicators and the Handbook

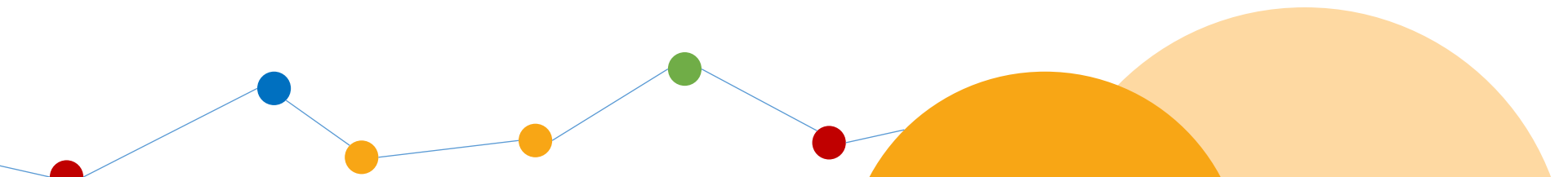
The Indicator Proximity (IP) index and the European VLRs:

- Need to weigh down the IP metric according to available resources and # of indicators
- Methodological issue about the 'grey area'



Recommendations and next steps

- The VLR community is growing more mature and aware
- The Handbook is emerging as a tool of methodological support and an incentive for participation
- A few considerations for the next steps:
 - Address specifically those SDGs that engender little proximity on a case-by-case basis
 - Consider indicators that often show up in diverse VLRs as a hint of their availability/value to European LRGs
 - Study what impact the 71 Handbook metrics are having on newer VLRs
 - Keep identifying recommended indicators with high policy-innovation value



Thank you!

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andrea.ciambra@gmail.com

