

Introduction

According to the UN Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Policy Makers must consider the sustainability perspective in strategic planning decisions. Identifying and measuring the level of sustainability, through its three dimensions, is a priority. The research focuses on assessment of public projects in rural areas based on SDG targets that are the key to relevance in the context of environmental economic and social needs.

The SDG Agenda calls for a global partnership – at all levels – between all countries and stakeholders who need to work together to achieve the goals and targets, including a broad spectrum of actors such as multinational businesses, local governments, regional and international bodies, and civil society organizations.

To assess whether, and to what extent, the SDGs are reached, Decision Makers need suitable technical support, to conduct ex-ante, evaluations of the advancement towards sustainability. Decision support systems provide appropriate information for the decision-making process to select the public project that contribute to sustainable development.

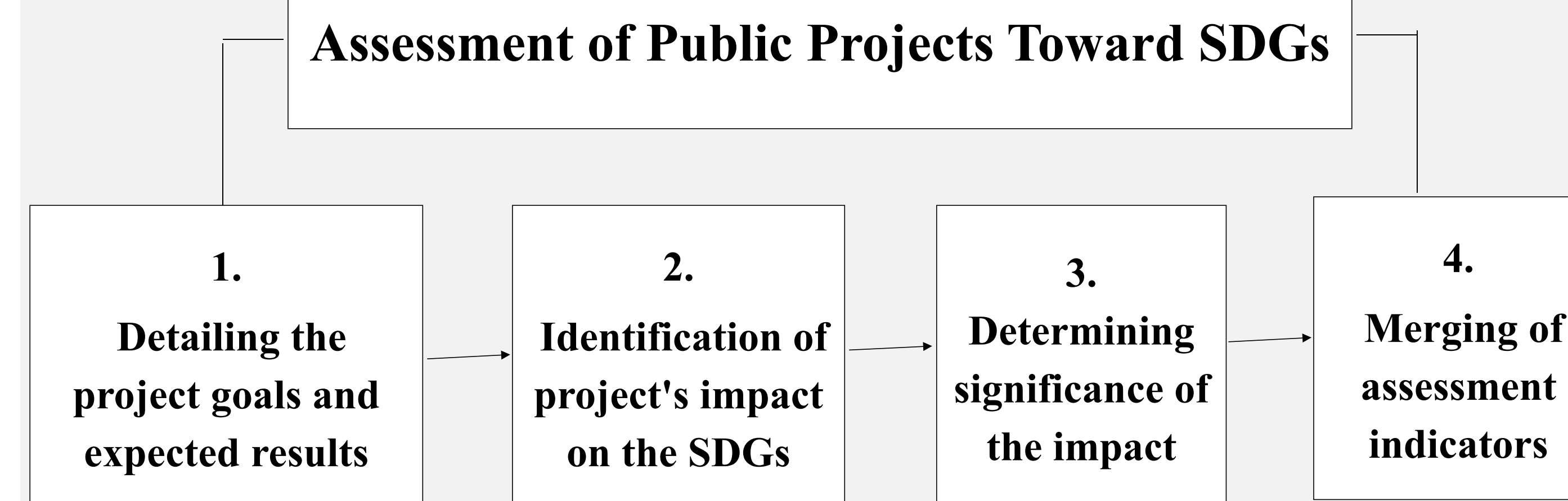
Public projects do not generate sufficient net income to be effective in terms of finance, but provide social benefits to the public. Their goals are oriented to public welfare rather than to a direct financial outcome and are intended to satisfy public needs that are ensured by the State through its institutions, non-profit organisations and associations. The goals of public projects are related to the implementation of State's functions, such as health promotion, social security improvement, children and youth education and occupation, unemployment reduction, the internal and external security of the State, environmental protection, the development of national engineering networks, etc. They help reduce social exclusion, encourage regional development and promote economic development.

The aim of the research after performing a theoretical analysis how to interpret SDGs and their targets in a public project assessment context to develop a methodology for the public project evaluation according to the SDGs. In order to achieve the goal defined, the analysis and synthesis of the scientific literature, and the systematization, comparison and summing up of information were used public project were evaluated by the multi criteria method SAW.

The SDGs are in synch with human values and with the principals of universality, transparency, participation, equality, non-discrimination, and liability than the previous objectives. The integrated nature of the SDG targets mean that progress towards one target is also linked through complex feedbacks to other targets, placing demands on science and research to support national implementation. A range of different tools and approaches are recommended by experts, and an emerging challenge is to coherently apply and combine these different approaches to support decision-making.

Methodology

The steps for assessment of public projects toward the SDGs are detailed:



After examining the objectives and expected results of the projects, using a scale $\langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle$ for each SDG, it is identified whether the impact of the project is positive (1), neutral (0) or negative (-1).

The significance of the project's impact on the SDGs is determined using a 5-point scale (1 - very weak impact, 5 - very strong impact).

The short titles of the 17 SDGs:

No poverty (SDG 1)	Reduced inequalities (SDG 10)
Zero hunger (SDG 2)	Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11)
Good health and well-being (SDG 3)	Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12)
Quality education (SDG 4)	Climate action (SDG 13)
Gender equality (SDG 5)	Life below water (SDG 14)
Clean water and sanitation (SDG 6)	Life on land (SDG 15)
Affordable and clean energy (SDG 7)	Peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16)
Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8)	Partnerships for the goals (SDG 17)
Industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9)	

In the presence of equal summarized numerical result of public project is convenient to use one of simple formulas of multi criteria assessment methods. These methods help choose one best option.

$$S_j = \sum_{i=0}^m \omega_{ij} r_{ij}$$

here:

S_j - value of multi criteria assessment of the j project;

ω_{ij} weight of the j project i indicator;

r_{ij} – normalized value of the i indicator for the j project.

Main conclusions

The methodology for public project assessment toward SDGs is provided. The methodology consists of aligning project objectives to SDGs, identifying the evaluation indicators, and setting the relevance according to the contributions to the SDGs and impacts of public project. Finally, the comprehensive indicator is calculated using multi-criteria methods and empirical evidence is provided.

After evaluating the investment ideas of one rural area local municipality taking into account the SDGs, project no. 4 has the greatest positive influence on the achievement of sustainability goals. 4 "Reconstruction of water supply and sewage systems", which has the highest overall evaluation index. In summary, it can be stated that the established public project evaluation methodology allows to compare very different investment alternatives taking into account the claims made and the negative impact on the SDGs and to select the most effective alternative in terms of sustainability.

Results

To test empirically methodology of assessment of public projects toward SDGs, the 5 public projects ideas of rural area local municipality were evaluated

1	Street reconstruction	The goal of the project is to reconstruct a section of a busy street, increasing the attractiveness of the city for residents and business representatives. A decrease in accidents is expected, less air pollution due to a decrease in car congestion
2	Reconstruction of the multifunctional sports arena	Sports, creative, educational and leisure activities are organized for community members of various ages. The project also aims to solve the problem of youth employment, improving their health, reducing involvement in bad habits and criminogenic activities.
3	Building of a bicycle path	The installation of a bicycle path will ensure safe communication by bicycles and will encourage active leisure time.
4	Reconstruction of water supply and sewage systems	The reconstruction of water supply and sewage systems will improve sanitary conditions affecting the health of the population, reduce natural pollution, and save natural resources.
5	Installation of solar power park for public needs	The created infrastructure will ensure the use of electricity for public needs from renewable sources.

Value of multi criteria assessment

