

ESCAP Twinning Programme for the Voluntary National Reviews

What makes it unique?

The Twinning Programme is unique because...



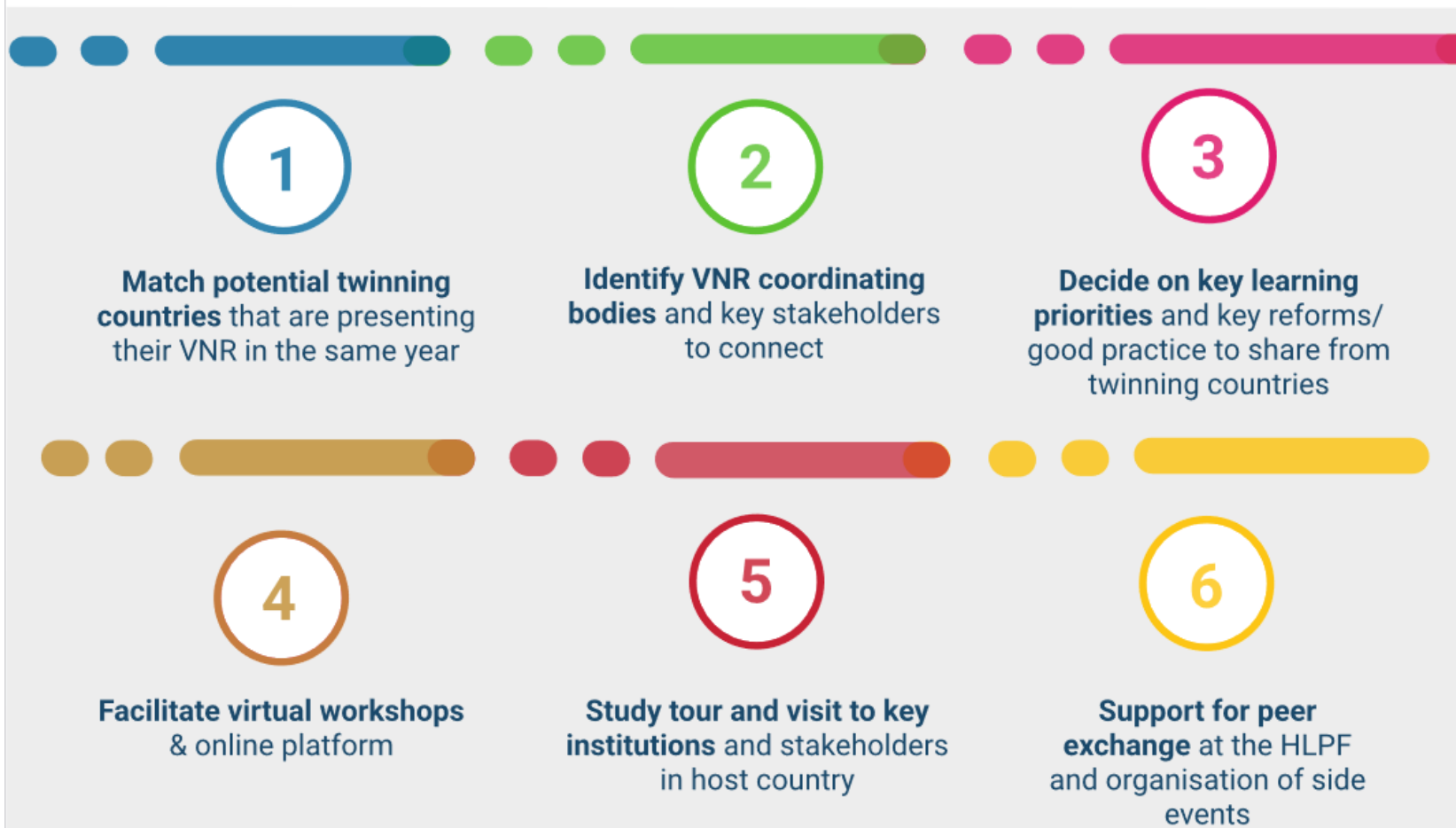
Facilitates learning opportunities through the VNR process. Through innovative study tours, peer review workshops on the VNR drafts, and focused 'learn & share workshops', the Programme connects countries to exchange good practice on topics and issues that matter to them.

Adopts a multi-stakeholder approach. In addition to connecting VNR government officials and national statistical offices, the Programme also engages stakeholders involved in the VNR process (such as civil society organizations, the private sector, human rights institutions, and parliamentarians). This unique multi-stakeholder approach can lead to a more inclusive VNR process and greater involvement of stakeholders in SDG monitoring beyond the VNR process.



ESCAP Twinning Programme for the Voluntary National Reviews

How does it work?



ESCAP Twinning Programme for the Voluntary National Reviews

How are Twinning countries identified?

Twinning arrangements vary between countries depending on their interests. The following criteria are used to identify twinning partners:

Belong to the **same region or sub-region**

Language and cultural similarities, or a similar economic context (e.g., LDC graduation)

Committed to multi-stakeholder approaches to the VNR


Identify **common challenges and priorities** for SDG implementation

Engagement and interest of **UN Resident Coordinator Offices**

Interest in learning from other countries and sharing their good practices

ESCAP Twinning Programme for the Voluntary National Reviews

What are the benefits of being part of the Twinning Programme?



Better VNR Preparation: 'live' learning from peers and exchange of approaches

Shared problem-solving: tips & advice on navigating VNR process and tricky issues

Improved tacit knowledge of reforms undertaken by peers: visiting institutions and meeting officials in charge of social and economic reforms can support SDG acceleration

Increased profile of VNR presentation: joint events at the HLPF and regional forums can increase the profile and outreach of the VNR

Improved confidence: increase momentum in implementing a multi-stakeholder approach to the VNR and SDG monitoring and implementation

Stronger connections: with stakeholders and counterparts in the country and beyond

ESCAP Twinning Programme for the Voluntary National Reviews

What results has the Twinning Programme contributed to?

South-South and Triangular Cooperation: tangible contribution to bilateral or multilateral cooperation. 11 countries have participated in the three cycles of the Twinning Programme since 2020

Greater engagement of stakeholders, including of new actors/stakeholders (such as parliaments and human rights institutions) in the VNR process and in SDG monitoring through exposure to multi-stakeholder approaches during the study tour

Establishment of new SDG monitoring institutions such as replicating institutions visited during the study tour

Strengthened leadership on the SDGs and increased impact of the VNRs on the policy-making process

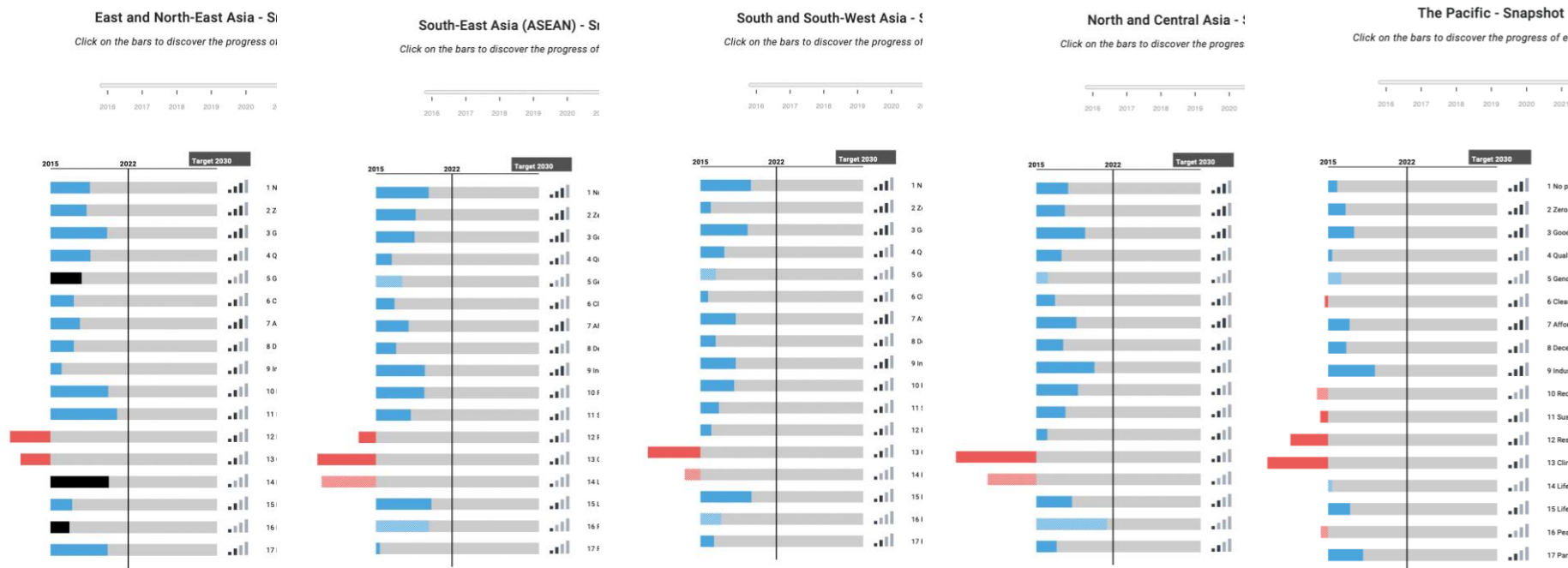
Supported SDG acceleration through exposure to and increased momentum for social and economic reforms

Multi-stakeholder engagements on the SDGs: **APFSD**

- **Annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum** to support follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the regional level
- Has **brought governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders together** to support regional efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda



Multi-stakeholder engagements on the SDGs: **Subregional forums**



- **Flagship subregional engagement** on sustainable development organized by ESCAP Subregional Offices.
- **Lays the groundwork for region-wide conversations** on sustainable development (through the APFSD)

References

Policy Brief: ESCAP Twinning Programme for the VNRs

<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2023/escap-twinning-programme-voluntary-national-reviews>

Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through voluntary national reviews

https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/ESCAP_RFSD2023_4.pdf

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subregional level

https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/ESCAP_RFSD2023_5.pdf

6th North-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on SDGs

<https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/6th-north-east-asia-forum-sustainable-development-goals-2022>





THANK YOU

- **ESCAP ENEA Office**
- <http://enea.unescap.org>
- Facebook:
- **/UNESCAP.ENEA**
- Twitter:
- **@UN_EastAsia**