



BUSINESS PLAN

ISO/TC 268

Sustainable Development in Communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The scope of ISO/TC 268 relates to standardization in the field of Sustainable Development in Communities. It includes management system requirements and relevant techniques and tools to assist all sizes and types of communities, interested parties, their suppliers and service providers in becoming more sustainable and resilient throughout their life cycle and in demonstrating their achievements in that regard.

The series of international standards and other deliverables elaborated by ISO/TC 268 will foster the development, implementation, appraisal and continuous improvement of area-based holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development and resilience of communities. They will help communities meet their needs, develop collaboration of all concerned at their respective levels of responsibility within a set territory and communicate on their performance.

1. INTRODUCTION

1. ISO Technical Committees and business planning

The extension of formal business planning to ISO Technical Committees (ISO/TCs) is an important measure which forms part of a major review of ISO governance. The aim is to align the ISO work program with expressed user needs and trends and to allow ISO/TCs to prioritize among different projects, to identify the benefits expected from the availability of International Standards, and to ensure adequate resources for projects throughout their development.

1.2 International standardization and the role of ISO

The foremost aim of international standardization is to facilitate the exchange of goods and services through the elimination of technical barriers to trade.

Three bodies are responsible for the planning, development and adoption of International Standards: ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is responsible for all sectors excluding Electrotechnical, which is the responsibility of IEC (International Electrotechnical Committee), and most of the Telecommunications Technologies, which are largely the responsibility of ITU (International Telecommunication Union).



ISO is a legal association, the members of which are the National Standards Bodies (NSBs) of some 151 countries (organizations representing social and economic interests at the international level), supported by a Central Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland.

The principal deliverable of ISO is the International Standard.

An International Standard embodies the essential principles of global openness and transparency, consensus and technical coherence. These are safeguarded through its development in an ISO Technical Committee (ISO/TC), representative of all interested parties, supported by a public comment phase (the ISO Technical Enquiry). ISO and its Technical Committees are also able to offer the ISO Technical Specification (ISO/TS), the ISO Public Available Specification (ISO/PAS) and the ISO Technical Report (ISO/TR) as solutions to market needs. These ISO products represent lower levels of consensus and have therefore not the same status as an International Standard.

ISO offers also the International Workshop Agreement (IWA) as a deliverable, which aims to bridge the gap between the activities of consortia and the formal process of standardization represented by ISO and its national members. An important distinction is that the IWA is developed by ISO workshops and fora, comprising only participants with direct interest, and so it is not accorded the status of an International Standard.

2. BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF ISO/TC 268

2.1. Description of the business environment

The following political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal, societal and/or international dynamics describe the business environment of the, e.g. sectors, services or products related to the scope of ISO/TC 268, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards.

Whether located at the local, regional or national level, in developing or developed countries, in urban or rural areas, communities, interested parties, their suppliers and service providers need guidance to improve their resilience and sustainability. In a context of global population growth, fast increasing urbanization, scarcer resources and climate change, the needs are likely not only to last, but also to become increasingly compelling.

Note : A community is a group of people, who may or may not be in the same locality, with shared interests, experiences and values, and with an arrangement of responsibilities, organization, relationships and identifiable objectives.



While it is expected that international standardization contributes to rectify the absence of consensus on guidance on sustainability in communities, it should be clearly understood that thinking globally and acting locally will have priority on thinking locally and acting locally.

Bearing that in mind, sustainability solutions to preserve and improve the natural and human environment, the performance of available services and the quality of life in communities, while remaining competitive, efficient and cost-effective will vastly differ around the world depending on their respective economic, climatic and cultural conditions.

Currently, there is confusion because of the wide range of sustainable development reference documents, methodologies and assessment tools especially since there is limited access to system details by city authorities and stakeholders. Therefore, one of the key benefits of an open and transparent ISO process is that it enables city representatives to join the elaboration of standards and contribute their own expertise and input so that useful and globally relevant tools for communities and cities sustainability and resilience can be created.

There is currently no ISO or non-ISO international standard on sustainable development and resilience in communities. However, the proposed series of International Standards will build upon relevant international standards and related conformity assessment activities to help communities to achieve better performance for sustainability and resilience.

2.2. Business environment for sustainability and resilience of communities

The impact of global ecological challenges, such as climate change, may rule out business as usual as an affordable option, since in some parts of the world (e.g., those subject to coastal flooding) the cost of protection promoting sustainability may be significant.

The more we wait, the far more we pay ! Hence, the need, the urge, even, to adopt holistic, cross sector and integrated approaches to sustainable development in communities of all types and sizes, at their respective levels of responsibility within a set territory.

This is clearly emphasized in Nicholas Stern's "Review on the economics of Climate Change" and in its further work, as illustrated in the excerpts below :

- "The benefits of strong, early action on climate change outweigh the costs ;
- The scientific evidence points to increasing risks of serious, irreversible impacts from climate change associated with business-as-usual paths for emissions ;
- The cost of adaptation to climate change increases as climate change intensifies and could raise to more than 100,000 billion dollars a year by 2020.

Some standards and reference documents also emphasize the need to follow integrated approaches to help communities, interested parties, suppliers and service providers sort out project proposals, enhance sustainability from the initial stages, track performance changes and improve overall cost-efficiency.

The number of international conferences and seminars devoted to sustainable, green, resilient or smart cities or communities and the number of related statements, guidelines, reports and other publications grow at an exponential rate.

They all concur to state that :

- Elaborating sustainable development approaches in and for communities becomes urgent ;
- Due to the lack of harmonisation, interested parties often resort simultaneously to several guidelines, benchmarks or rating tools. The related financial burden is significant and is not offset by a corresponding efficiency boost.

3. BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF ISO/TC 268

The proposed series of International Standards and deliverables will make it easier to develop area-based, holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development and resilience in communities to meet their needs and foster communication and collaboration between all interested parties at their respective levels of responsibility.

More specifically, the proposed series of International Standards and deliverables will contribute to :

- finding and building-up consensus on integrated modes of operation ;
- adopting cross sector, multidisciplinary, life cycle and costing policies ;
- improving resource efficiency, resilience and sustainability ; and
- steering and assessing the performance of communities in sustainability and resilience.

The envisaged series of International Standards will make it easier to develop effective, coherent strategies that fulfil the needs of communities and of their interested parties and facilitate communication and collaboration between them, within their remit and territory.

Hence, communities will be able to launch policies and programs and to devise specifications that refer to sustainable development objectives they adopt, in line with approved public policies and in compliance with legislation, and to establish monitoring systems related to set sustainability targets following cradle to grave/cradle principles.

The proposed series of International Standards will provide contractors with an operational framework to facilitate and improve their interactions with Communities. Besides, it will contribute



to build up their skills, to develop sustainability-tailored products and services, and may lead to the emergence of new fields of activity in sustainability management.

Residents and users will also benefit from the proposed series of International Standards, as communities will be able to deliver sustainable living environment and to provide opportunities for awareness raising, involvement and engagement, thus fostering sustainable and environmental-friendly life-styles.



Expected costs and benefits of implementing the proposed series of International Standards and deliverables are presented below :

EXPECTED COSTS	EXPECTED BENEFITS
area-based / community-based sustainability baseline reviews	community priorities taken into account
project monitoring and continual improvement procedure	consensus on sustainable development objectives and targets for programmes and projects ;
multidisciplinary project team mobilization	inconsistencies and redundancies subsided ; whole life cycle and global costing approach implemented ;
involvement of interested and concerned parties in sustainability (process) governance	investment in sustainable development defrayed ; litigation risk lessened ; increased sense of ownership of community sustainable development.
process facilitation	enabled dialogue with interested parties
set of alternative options	resource-efficient option selected
quality and performance monitoring and appraisal systems	sustainable development objectives included in project specifications and carried out ; high level of performance guaranteed and validated on the basis of an internationally agreed benchmark ;
regular and appropriate maintenance	sustainability of community improved ; community stature and commercial value up-graded.
implementation costs budgeted from inception	environmental impact abated
	cost of land reclamation reduced
	site redevelopment or conversion to other uses facilitated

4. REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN ISO/TC 268

4.1 ISO P and O members of ISO/TC 268 (as of 2013-09-30)

20
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Austria	(ASI)
Barbados	(BNSI)
Canada	(SCC)
China	(SAC)
Czech Republic	(UNMZ)
Denmark	(DS)
Egypt	(EOS)
France	(AFNOR)
Germany	(DIN)
Israel	(SII)
Japan	(JISC)
Netherlands	(NEN)
Norway	(SN)
Russian Federation	(GOST R)
Senegal	(ASN)
South Africa	(SABS)
Spain	(AENOR)
Sri Lanka	(SLSI)
Sweden	(SIS)
United Kingdom	(BSI)

16
OBSERVING COUNTRIES

Argentina	(IRAM)
Australia	(SA)
Belgium	(NBN)
Brazil	(ABNT)
Colombia	(INCONTEC)
Finland	(SFS)
India	(BIS)
Iran, Islamic Republic of	(ISIRI)
Korea, Republic of	(KATS)
Malaysia	(DSM)
Poland	(PKN)
Singapore	(SPRING SG)
Switzerland	(SNV)
Thailand	(TISI)
United Arab Emirates	(ESMA)
USA	(ANSI)

The list above reflects membership in November 2013, i.e. one and a half year after ISO/TC 268 was officially launched. However, if ISO/TC 268 is to accomplish its mission, i.e. to foster global harmonization on sustainable development and resilience in communities, its membership will have to be expanded to become fully representative.

4.2 Analysis of interested parties likely to participate in ISO/TC 268

Government Departments and agencies

Government Departments and Agencies elaborate, implement and monitor national sustainable development policies.

The proposed series of International Standards could become a source of inspiration and guidance for them as well as a tool to corroborate the validity of their assumptions and priorities. It could also



contribute to establish coherent sustainable development frameworks for all stakeholders in communities.

Local authorities and community management

Local governments establish local policies for sustainable development and contribute to the implementation and appraisal of related national policies at the grass-roots level.

The proposed series of International Standards will become a source of inspiration and guidance for them as well as a tool to corroborate the validity of their assumptions and priorities, help them improve their performance and communicate better on their achievements.

Residents and Community groups and agencies

Residents and Community groups and agencies are primary addressees of governmental policies and often direct users of, e.g. urban, peri-urban or rural developments.

The proposed series of International Standards could encourage their involvement in sustainable development policies at their respective level of responsibility, support improvement of natural and human environments, and facilitate assessment on the way their vested interests in sustainability are taken into consideration.

Public and private developers

To attain their objectives, public and private developers depend, to a large extent, on the administrative and legal environment set by national, regional and local governments and on their ability to have those governments take their concerns and priorities into account as part of a coherent process to involve and engage interested parties.

The proposed series of International Standards could foster consensus on a common frame and thus facilitate communication and cooperation between all interested parties at their respective level of responsibility.

Investors

Investors provide an indispensable financial support to launch sustainable development projects in communities.

The proposed series of International Standards could provide them with guidance on service-life planning and life cycle costing. It could help them develop more effective strategies and approaches to appraise the performance in sustainability and resilience of their projects and their alignment



with related communities' objectives and programs. It could also help them communicate better on their achievements.

Other interested parties

The proposed series of International Standards will help interested parties develop and follow integrated, holistic and cost-effective operational modes. This is particularly true for trainers, consultants and auditors/verifiers for sustainability and resilience management.

Other interested parties may include, e.g. :

Project designers

They undertake technical surveys and monitor construction work, e.g. urban planners, architects, economists, engineers, etc.

Builders

They carry out the actual construction work, e.g. civil engineering works and building contractors.

Municipal services operators

Whether public or private, they provide and maintain services, such as, e.g. transport, water, energy, facility and waste management, information and communication networks, under the supervision of a public authority at the national, regional or local level.

5. OBJECTIVES OF ISO/TC 268 AND STRATEGIES TO ATTAIN THEM

5.1 Defined objectives of ISO/TC 268

ISO/TC 268 aims at developing an integrated, holistic and cross-sector approach that communities, their related subdivisions and interested parties may translate into systems guidelines, supporting techniques and tools tailored to their own features and needs, while taking into account the specificities of the territory they belong to.

It may contribute to, at global, regional or local level, e.g. (the following list is presented in alphabetic order and no prioritization is intended) :

- Capacity-building and participatory governance enhancement ;
- Community and occupational safety and health improvement ;
- Culture and heritage promotion ;
- Economic efficiency and fiscal sustainability ;
- Education ;
- Green-house gases emissions mitigation and adaptation ;
- Increased resilience to the consequences of climate change ;
- Integration of minorities ;

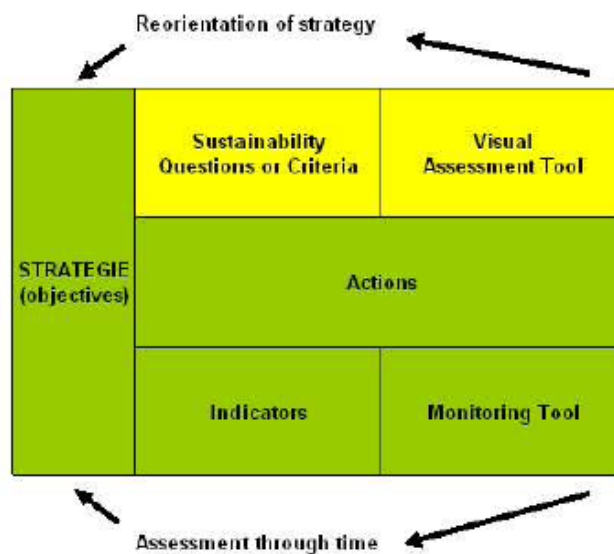
- Management of natural, industrial and technological risks;
- Poverty reduction ;
- Protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Quality of jobs ;
- Resilience to negative environmental and social impacts ;
- Social integration and community cohesion ;
- Stakeholder involvement.

The proposed series of International Standards and deliverables will thus foster the emergence of new sustainable and resilient communities and contribute to build up existing ones.

5.2 Identified strategies to achieve ISO/TC 268 defined objectives

In order to achieve its defined objectives, ISO TC 268 will follow a strategy inspired from the European cities reference frameworks, as illustrated by the figure below :

Figure 4: Main components of existing European cities reference frameworks



Reference Framework for European Sustainable Cities, Conclusion and recommendations

by MS/I Working Group , Toledo 22 June 2010

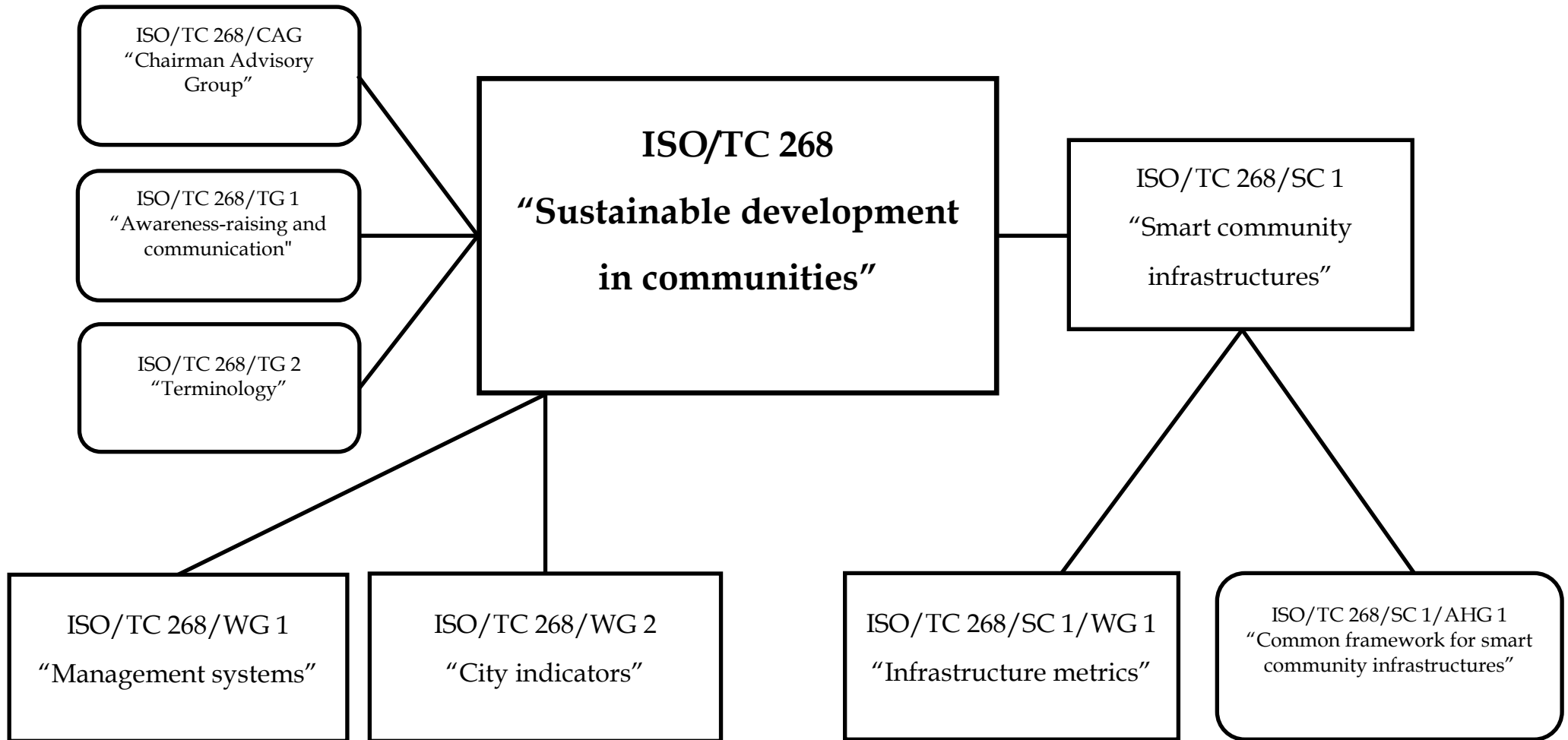
In the context of ISO/TC 268, Strategy (left column above) refers to Communities' respective goals at the local, regional and global level, as spelt out in 5.1. above.



The Reference Framework for European Sustainable Cities (RFSC) offers all interested parties a web-based tool supported by indicators for evaluating entire sustainable urban development strategies or single projects on a voluntary basis. Its indicators, following a given grid, may be amended by users.



5.3 Organization chart of ISO/TC 268



6. FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ISO/TC 268 WORK PROGRAM

Completion and implementation may be affected by questions related to the costs and benefits of implementing the series of standards elaborated by ISO/TC 268, as illustrated in the chart below :

LEVEL	EXPECTED COSTS	EXPECTED BENEFITS
Local, regional and national level	adaption to new physical or regulatory environment	higher standing and level of performance
	financial contribution to community project	up-graded infrastructure, e.g. public spaces, transport facilities, etc. improved economic, environmental and social environment negative impact abatement improved resilience
Global level	financial resources diverted from other priorities, e.g. poverty alleviation, to support sustainable development in communities	sustainable resources management innovation, example and trend setting, emulation demonstration that sustainable development is not only feasible but also cost-effective dissemination of best practices in sustainability improved resilience

Note : At the local, regional and national level, parties located outside the community may still be affected by the programs and projects it launches. At the global level, the expected costs and benefits to other countries or to the society as a whole is to be considered.



Questions may also be raised as to whether the work of ISO/TC 268 contributes to alleviate or to increase the current proliferation of private reference documents or rating tools. The expectation is that it will bolster international consensus on general principles and on their applications to various types of urban or rural communities and developments, e.g. industrial parks, hospital areas, university campus, neighbourhoods, etc.

7. STRUCTURE, CURRENT PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS OF ISO/TC 268

This section gives an overview of the ISO/TC 268 structure, scope, projects and publications. All of this information is updated regularly and is available on ISO's website, ISO Online.

The link below is to ISO/TC 268's page on ISO's website:

http://www.iso.org/iso/standards_development/technical_committees/list_of_iso_technical_committees/iso_technical_committee.htm?commid=656906

Click on the tabs and links on this page to find the following information:

- About (Secretariat, Secretary, Chair, Date of creation, Scope, etc.)
- Contact details
- Structure (Subcommittees and working groups)
- Liaisons
- Meetings
- Tools
- Work program (published standards and standards under development)

The program of work will consist of a series of International Standards, that will include Management System Standards (MSS) and other international standards and deliverables, as presented in the indicative and non-exhaustive list below :

MSS Type A

A Management System Requirements Standard will set a series of requirements and general principles that shall be used by a community or its subdivisions to demonstrate progress towards achieving sustainability, resilience.

NWI 1: Sustainable development in communities - Management system - General Principles and requirements



MSS Type B

Management System Guidance Standards will provide different subdivisions of communities and the organizations operating within their precinct with additional guidance on achieving sustainability and resilience. Existing and developing standards such as those dealing with sustainability in development areas, buildings and civil engineering works, energy and water management, social responsibility and environmental performance, etc, will be taken into account whenever considered relevant.

- NWI 2: Sustainable development in communities - Management system – Existing neighborhoods
- NWI 3: Sustainable development in communities - Management system – New Developments

Other International Standards and deliverables

Other International Standards and deliverables will establish requirements and offer guidance on related topics such as smart infrastructures and give further information and provide tools on e.g. terminology, performance indicators and assessment, service life planning and life cycle costing.

- ISO/DIS 37120: Sustainable development and resilience of communities – Indicators for city services and quality of life
- ISO/AWI TR 37121: Inventory and review of existing indicators on sustainable development and resilience in cities
- ISO/DTR 37150: Smart community infrastructures – Review of activities relevant to metrics
- ISO/PWI 37151: Smart community infrastructure metrics – General principles and requirements

- NWI 4: Sustainable development in communities - Management system – Terminology
- NWI 5: Sustainable development in communities - Management system – Performance Indicators
- NWI 6: Sustainable development in communities - Management system – Performance Assessment
- NWI 7: Sustainable development in communities - Management system – Service Life Planning
- NWI 8: Sustainable development in communities - Management system – Life Cycle and externalities costing