Pilot peer-review workshop
Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategies

Learning Together: Peer Review Methodology

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The Peer Review learning process applied to Integrated Urban Strategies

• **From Research & Innovation to Urban Development**
  This peer review methodology was originally developed by the S3 Platform (Joint Research Centre, European Commission) and applied in the context of regional Research & Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation

• Developing further an innovative way for the European Commission to **engage with cities**
  proven to be an effective tool in sharing, exchanging and integrating knowledge

• **An experimental pilot** with actors coming from various parts of Europe, with different working methods and expectations

• The **'learn-by-doing'** approach
Peer Reviews are about **mutual learning**

*Friendly (yet critical) discussions that allow us all:*

- **Focus on specific objectives and issues/problems**
- **Build shared cognitive frameworks** *(common understanding)*
- **Discover good practices** *(and failed policies!)*
Peer Review basics

* Participants switch roles (being peer-reviewed in one session, and becoming a reviewer/peer in another one)

* Get some experience in evaluating/benchmarking:
  - Cities under review
  - Critical peers
  - Experts

* Integrating expertise and knowledge from a variety of sources (peers, invited experts, European Commission)

* Feedback reports
Peer-Review Actors

**Representatives from the cities under review**

Representatives from 4 cities under review: **SEVILLE, BRNO, REGGIO EMILIA and ROTTERDAM**:
- have undergone intensive preparatory work
- will present for review their integrated urban strategies
- will reflect on their Lessons learned and Next steps

**Critical friends**

All peers at the workshop have the role of a critical friend providing critical (yet friendly) advice and sharing their knowledge and experience.
- The city being reviewed in one session will act as a critical friend in other sessions.

**Invited experts**

Experts offer their expert advice and recommendations.
During the peer review sessions, experts act as peers alongside everyone else.

**Urban Development Network - UDN team**

The UDN team assist the peer-reviewed cities throughout the entire peer review process.

**JRC team**

The JRC colleagues assist the UDN team to apply this custom-tailored peer review methodology in the context of integrated urban strategies.
Peer-Review structure

**Thematic plenary session**
- Expert presentations
- Policy opportunities in EU regulations and instruments

**Parallel Peer Review sessions – Peer discussions**
- Presentations from the cities under reviews
  - followed by short Q&A sessions
- Parallel table discussions
  - These questions are put forward by each city under review
- Followed by the results of these discussions

**Plenary sessions**
- Thoughts from experts and cities under review about *Lessons learned* after each peer review session
- In the final plenary session, the 4 cities under review will present their *Next steps.*
At the core of our workshop... Peer discussions

Presentation of the integrated urban strategy from the city

3 questions prepared by the city

3 rounds of discussions in smaller groups (circles)

Discussion – Round 1
What is the question behind the question?

Discussion – Round 2
Your suggestions for how the underlying issue(s) can be addressed

Discussion – Round 3
What are the relevant lessons to take home?

Sharing the results - Reporting back from tables
What can you do to benefit from this workshop?

- **Attentive listening**
  - **Listening to understand** what is being said
  - What do your peers have to teach you that you do not know?

- **Intentional speaking**
  - Focus on **what matters**.
  - Share both positive and negative experiences. These are **equally important**.

- **Suspending assumptions** and judgements
  - Contribute with your mind and heart. Allow yourself to be **both a professional and a human being**.

- Keep **networking** in mind
  - Think of possible ways to cooperate with your peers from other European cities.
Have fun and enjoy your day!