Pilot peer review of sustainable integrated urban development strategies

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Sevilla, 28-29 January 2016
Welcome to the pilot peer review workshop of urban strategies in the framework of the Urban Development Network!

In the next two days four cities will present and debate their urban development strategies with their peers and urban experts.

Why are we doing this and what is the context behind it?
What do we want to achieve with the peer reviews?

- The urban dimension of cohesion policy (evolution and key elements)
- What is the UDN and what does it to?
- Why JRC and Seville?
Who are we and what brings us together in the UDN?

The first EU-wide territorial network on sustainable urban development, bringing urban local authorities in direct contact with the Commission.

We are a group of about 800 cities/urban areas across the EU:
- implementing integrated actions based on sustainable urban development strategies financed by ERDF in the 2014-2020 period and
- Implementing projects funded by urban innovative actions.

The key aim is to improve the way we design and implement integrated urban development locally through different ways of learning and exchange.

We would also like to promote a direct dialogue between the Commission and cities on sustainable urban development.
Evolution of the urban dimension of cohesion policy in the past 25 years

supporting sustainable urban development in the EU through funding investments and knowledge exchange promoting the **integrated approach** (social, economic, environmental), community empowerment and participative planning.

**Funding investments**
- URBAN pilot projects (1989-90),
- URBAN I (1994-99) and
- URBAN II (2000-06) community initiatives to help revitalise deprived neighbourhoods

**Exchange and learning programmes**
- URBACT I (2000-06)
- URBACT II (2007-13)
- URBACT III (2014-2020)

**Mainstreaming of SUD to OPs (2007-2013)**

**Reinforced urban dimension (2014-2020)**

The urban dimension of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

How does Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 promote sustainable urban development?

1. Funding the implementation of **sustainable urban development strategies** and **empowering urban areas** (Article 7 ERDF)

2. **Promoting experimentation** by testing innovative solutions to urban challenges (Article 8 ERDF – Urban innovative actions)

3. Supporting **capacity building** and knowledge **exchange** (Article 9 UDN and URBACT III)

4. Offers extra **flexibility** through **new implementation tools**, ITI and CLLD (Article 32-36 CPR)
The elements of the SUD framework (Article 7)
Supporting integrated actions for sustainable urban development

**Strategy** at the centre point of Article 7. Urban areas develop and implement integrated, sustainable urban development strategies based on identified challenges. *(the next presentation will go into detail on the methodology for strategies)*

**Empowerment**
Urban areas will **select the projects** (drawing up and applying selection criteria) taking responsibility in the implementation of the OP. The MA must designate them as IB by way of written arrangements on the **delegated tasks**.

**Funding**
At least 5% of the national ERDF allocation must be programmed for SUD using:
- A specific priority axis of an OP dedicated to SUD
- A specific OP dedicated to SUD
- ITI: using a part of the allocation of one or more priority axes of one or more OP for SUD
Additional flexibility with new territorial implementation tools

- **ITI (Integrated territorial investment)** offers the flexibility to combine funding from different priority axes/funds/programmes to support the integrated urban strategy.

- **CLLD (Community led local development)** a very flexible implementation tool for empowering urban local communities to implement a bottom-up local strategy through small scale projects.
State of play of programming (allocations, delivery mechanisms)

Total ERDF allocation to SUD EUR **14.5 billion** (7.8% of ERDF)

- 113 OPs involved (of which 90 regional OPs in 9 MS)
- Strong geographic concentration:
  - 83% of allocation in 10 MS (22% in PL alone)
  - 70% in less developed regions

Balanced use of ITI (50%) and priority axis (46%) overall but 73% of ITI allocation in PL, CZ, FR, IT.
What part of ERDF goes for SUD and what is the thematic focus?

Most of the allocation goes to:

- **Energy efficiency/renewables** and **sustainable urban mobility** (37%)
- Improvement of the **urban environment** (brownfield regeneration, reduction of air and noise pollution) (18%)
- Social, economic and physical regeneration of **deprived urban areas** (17%)

14 MS spend considerably more than 5%.

- CY and BG 20%
- BE 15%
- RO, CZ, IE, FR, LV, DE, NL, HU 9-11%
- PL, SI, PT between 7-8%
Urban Innovative Actions (Article 8 ERDF)

*The Urban Lab of Europe*

**Objective**: to identify and test innovative solutions to key urban challenges

Topics linked to Urban Agenda
Projects max. 3 years
Grants max. EUR 5 million
Co-financing max 80%

**1st call for proposals launched 15 Dec 2015 (EUR 80 million)**

**Topics:**

Proposals to be assessed based on: Innovative nature of idea, Scope of partnership, Measurability of results, Transferability of the solution, Quality of the proposal
There are a lot of tasks still ahead of us!

- Setting up the national / regional institutional framework (in some MS)
- Selecting the urban areas and designating them as IBs (in some MS)
- **Preparation of urban development strategies** (in most MS)
- Selecting the strategies to be funded
- Drawing up and approval of selection criteria for projects
- Initiating the project pipeline
- Assessment and selection of projects
- Concluding the grant contracts
- Monitoring, reporting and follow-up of progress
How can the UDN help cities and MAs in implementing SUD?

**Tools**
- Conferences and workshops (both EU-wide and country-specific)
- **Peer reviews**
- Study visits
- Website
- Studies and expert work

**Methods**
- Building on the methodological expertise of JRC in **smart specialisation strategies (S³)**
- Building on and mainstreaming of knowledge on SUD generated in **URBACT networks**
Finally, what is the ultimate aim of this peer review workshop?

In the short term:
- To further develop the reviewed urban strategies throughout customized help, participatory approach and dissemination of best practices
  > Capitalisation of results at city level.

In the long term:
• Collection of best practices and case studies by the European Commission
  > Capitalisation of results at European level.
• to involve cities into first-hand evaluation experience and use the peer review outcomes to further improve their strategies;
• to support the creation of a community of practice in an open and trusted learning environment.
I would like to thank once more

- The city of Seville for hosting this event
- The JRC for their invaluable contribution to make this event happen
- The city of Brno, Reggio Emilia, Rotterdam and Seville who have volunteered to present and launch a debate on their strategies

I encourage all of you to actively take part in the workshops and I wish you a very engaging debate.

Thank you for your attention.