

17 March 2023

European Urban Initiative: Presentation of Capacity Building Offer

Eilish O'Loughlin, Head of Capacity Building Unit
European Urban Initiative – Permanent Secretariat



EUI CAPACITY BUILDING



Overall target group

EU cities of all sizes involved or interested in **Sustainable Urban Development** within Cohesion Policy

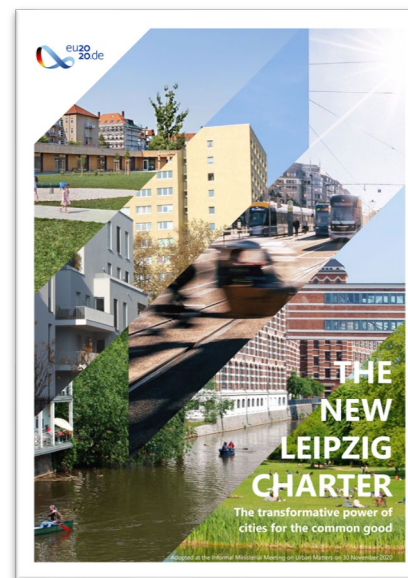
Two objectives

- **Improve the capacities of cities** to design and implement SUD strategies, policies and practices in an integrated and participative way
- **Improve the quality of the design and overall implementation** of SUD strategies, policies and practices

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Article 11 “Sustainable Urban Development”

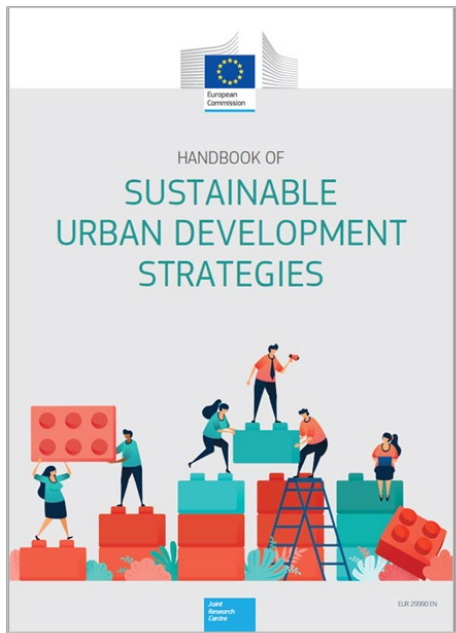


New Leipzig Charter

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Handbook for Sustainable Urban Development Strategies



Six building blocks for sustainable urban development:

1. STRATEGIC DIMENSION

4. CROSS SECTORAL INTEGRATION

2. TERRITORIAL FOCUS

5. FUNDING AND FINANCE

3. GOVERNANCE

6. MONITORING

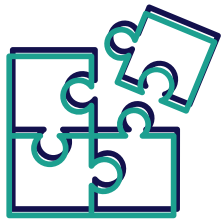
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Capacity building is key



"With great power comes great responsibility"



Building capacities of urban authorities on these challenges is key to ensuring that SUD strategies and related Cohesion Policy investments **deliver good results**

THREE NEW ACTIVITIES



CITY-TO-CITY EXCHANGES



What is a city-to-city exchange?

- brings together an urban authority facing a specific implementation challenge related to SUD ('the applicant')
- and another urban authority from a different EU Member State with expertise to help tackle this challenge ('the peer')
- short-term, quickly implemented visit
- designed by the applicant according to their needs
- aims to **improve capacity of the applicant** to tackle the identified SUD challenge through peer learning



CITY-TO-CITY EXCHANGES



Flexible, bottom-up activity

- **Peers:** 1-2 cities from other EU Member States with expertise needed to address challenge
- **Number of events:** 1-3 events per application
- **Format:** In-person visits between applicant city and peers
 1. Incoming visit - peer(s) travels to applicant city
 2. Outgoing visit - applicant travels to peer cityIf justified, possibility for online exchange following in-person visit
- **Duration:** 2-5 days per event
- **Timing:** Start as soon as possible, all exchanges completed within 5 months of approval

CITY-TO-CITY EXCHANGES



Who may apply?

- Urban authorities within EU Member States
- Interest or involvement in integrated, place-based approaches to SUD
- Relevant stakeholders may participate alongside urban authority, if justified

Who may participate as a peer?

As above, plus:

- Must have expertise and experience needed to address the applicant's challenge
- Must come from other EU Member State to the applicant

CITY-TO-CITY EXCHANGES



What support is available?

Funding to support applicants and peers (urban authorities, and stakeholders if justified)

<u>Type of cost</u>	<u>Applicant City</u>	<u>Peer City</u>
<i>Travel, accommodation & subsistence</i>	Up to 4 people	Up to 2 people
<i>Daily rate covering staff time</i>	No	Up to 2 people

Expertise: EUI can **appoint a moderator** to facilitate exchange and learning process

Peer identification: EUI can **facilitate contact** with urban authorities involved in UIA / EUI – Innovative Actions and the Urban Agenda for the EU. A **peer search platform** will be developed on Portico in the long-term

PEER REVIEWS



What support is available?

Funding to support Cities under Review (urban authorities and stakeholders) and Peers (individuals from urban authorities)

<u>Type of cost</u>	<u>City under review</u>	<u>Peer</u>
<i>Travel, accommodation & subsistence</i>	Up to 4 people	Up to 2 people
<i>Daily rate covering staff time</i>	No	Up to 2 people

Expertise: two peer review experts per City under Review to guide the process, facilitate exchange & learning process and draft the expert report

Peer identification: experts identify relevant peers to support each City under Review

PEER REVIEWS



What is a peer review?

- 3-5 cities under review benchmark their SUD strategies and get peer recommendations
- 2-day event with structured preparation
- Aims to improve capacity of cities under review in designing/implementing SUD strategy



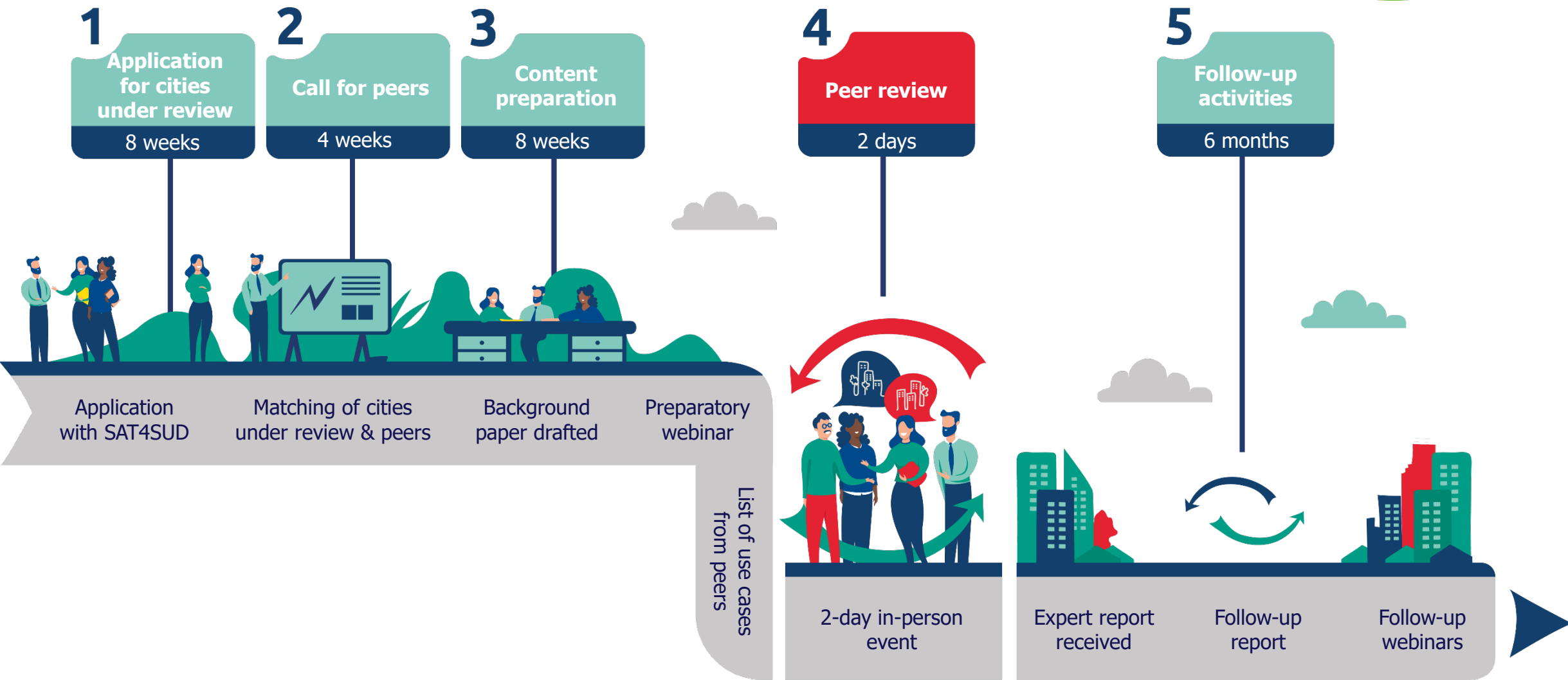
PEER REVIEWS



- **A fixed methodology** and implementation process of **4 to 6 months**
- **3 guiding questions** defined by cities under review, building on:
 - **Six building blocks** of Handbook for SUD Strategies
 - Weaknesses identified by **SAT4SUD** results
 - Validated through **stakeholder** consultation
- **3 sessions** each addressing one question:
 - Reframe the question
 - Share relevant experiences
 - Provide insights & recommendations
 - Documented in expert report, completed by city under review

PEER REVIEWS

Implementation milestones



PEER REVIEWS



Who may apply?

- [Urban authorities](#) within EU Member States (cities under review may involve stakeholders)
- Designing/updating SUD strategy in line with [article 11 of ERDF Regulation](#)

Who may participate as a peer?

As above, plus:

- Must have [expertise and experience needed](#) to address the identified challenges
- Must come from other [EU Member State](#) to city under review
- Must be ready to personally participate in event ([apply as individual](#))

PEER REVIEWS



What support is available?

Funding to support Cities under Review (urban authorities and stakeholders) and Peers (individuals from urban authorities)

<u>Type of cost</u>	<u>City under review</u>	<u>Peer</u>
<i>Travel, accommodation & subsistence</i>	Up to 4 people	Up to 2 people
<i>Daily rate covering staff time</i>	No	Up to 2 people

Expertise: EUI will **appoint two peer review experts** per City under Review to guide the process, facilitate exchange & learning process and draft the expert report

Peer identification: EUI experts **identify relevant peers** to support each City under Review

Logistics: EUI will **organise the peer review event** (venues, catering & other services providers)

EVENTS



Capacity building events:

Bring together urban authorities and managing authorities to exchange information with each other and with the European Commission on horizontal and thematic policy issues related to SUD

Top-down and bottom-up approach to initiation

Objectives:

- provide a 'space' for exchange
- facilitate the creation of a growing community of cities
- provide easier access to knowledge and capacity building



Geographical scope: EU-level, cluster of Member States, Country-specific

EVENTS



Target groups

Open to local, regional and national practitioners and policymakers interested or directly involved in Sustainable Urban Development within Cohesion Policy

Article 11 Cities	Managing authorities of Cohesion Policy programmes	UIA/EUI Innovative Actions projects
URBACT networks	Urban Agenda for the Partnerships	Other cities and stakeholders interested in SUD

Methodology and formats

In-person and online seminars, workshops, conferences, webinars, matchmaking activities, site visits or training sessions mixing peer learning and expert-driven modules

WHY ENGAGE AS A PEER?

Five good reasons

- **Build your own capacity** by learning how other cities tackle and solve similar challenges that you've faced or may face in the future
- **Multiply your impact** by exporting your solutions to other urban contexts and promoting these transfers at EU-scale
- **Develop your profile** as a front-runner on Sustainable Urban Development
- **Build your EU network** and foster new partnerships with other EU cities
- **Promotional opportunities** for the most active and impactful peers



COMPLEMENTING URBACT

Improved access to knowledge on integrated & participatory approaches

- URBACT cities as source of potential peers for EUI activities
- Complementary activities for non-URBACT cities next to URBACT events (e.g. national schemes)

Improved support for developing & sustaining partnerships

- Supporting exchanges among cities before creation of URBACT networks
- Supporting cities with any ongoing needs after the closure of an URBACT network

A wider selection of intensity and methodological approaches for capacity building

- Short-term activities (EUI) vs longer-term activities (URBACT)
- Three new methodologies: one fixed (peer review), one flexible (city-to-city exchanges) plus events

Capacity building opportunities with a lower administrative burden

- Simplified processes for application, reporting & reimbursement of EUI activities
- First steps for EU networking for newcomer cities

THANK YOU!



EUROPEAN
URBAN
INITIATIVE

