



# Identification and dissemination of good practices of cities funded under Art. 7 of ERDF

Courtesy document



The European Urban Initiative Permanent Secretariat invites cities funded under article 7 of ERDF regulation during the programming period of 2014 – 2020 to submit their Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) good practices and strategies.

You are invited to read this courtesy document carefully and use it for aggregation of information before submitting your response.

## CONTEXT

During the 2014 -2020 programming period, the importance of cities and integrated territorial approach in achieving SUD-related goals in EU's growth's strategy was recognized. The urban dimension of Cohesion Policy was significantly strengthened during this period, and for the first time in EU Structural funds, 5% of the budget was dedicated to SUD under article 7 of ERDF regulation. This resulted in an increase in the role and responsibility of cities for selection and implementation of projects that were aligned with these goals. As a result, more than 980 SUD related strategies were directly managed by local urban authorities during the 2014 -2020 period.

Consequently, for the 2021-2027 programming period, the share of budget for implementation of SUD related projects within ERDF was increased to 8%, with an increased focus on functional urban areas and urban-rural linkages. This is reflected in Article 11 of ERDF, the successor to the previous Article 7. These strategies are set to be implemented through integrated territorial investments, community-local-led developments, and other territorial tools within national contexts. As the programming period is currently ongoing, it is therefore premature to estimate the number of local authorities supported under Article 11 of ERDF.

Considering the role of urban authorities in initiation and operationalisation of these strategies, and the novelty of such approach within the Cohesion Policy, there is much interest from urban actors to learn from practice. Sharing of experience gained from implementation of these strategies will raise awareness to their utility, provides a positive influence on policymaking and inspires replicability and transfer of solutions to other urban contexts. Empirical knowledge and tested solutions provide urban authorities with the opportunity to learn from the experience of their peers and avoid potential oversights and common mistakes to find the best solutions. Furthermore, learning from practice often results in discovering new ideas that when adapted to the local context, can be effective in addressing challenges.

Therefore, cities are invited to share these good practices and strategies that will help influence the future of Cohesion policy and inspire other urban authorities. The good practices may be showcased during the Cities Forum 2025 in Krakow, Poland. Additionally, these practices will be hosted on [Portico's Urban Practices Database](#) and [Urban Matchmaker](#) (*cities with a solution*), ensuring long-term visibility.

## SUBMISSION FORM

About your city	
Name of the urban authority or urban agglomeration in English	
EU Member State*	
Region ( <a href="#">NUTS 2</a> )*	
Province ( <a href="#">NUTS 3</a> )*	
Contact person*	
<i>In compliance with Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), this information will not be public.</i>	
Email*	

Good practice general information	
Title of the practice*	Carefully select a title that best describes your practice. This will be visible on Portico and during the Cities Forum 2025.
Description*	Please provide a short (1000 character) description of the strategy, its main objectives and impacts.
Status*	Ongoing – Indicate the start date and estimated end date. Completed – Indicate the start and end dates.
From the list in Annex 1, select the urban theme and the operational topic that best describes your practice.	
Thematic areas*	
Operational topic*	
Resources required*	Total project budget*
	ERDF contribution*
	Human resources required to set up and operationalise the strategy
Key Stakeholders *	Please list all stakeholders involved in the design and delivery of this strategy. This could include local NGOs, SMEs, research and education centre, etc.
Any additional link	Please insert any additional links for further information.

## Practices detailed information

Detailed information about the strategy\*

Please think of including information about:

- What is the addressed challenge and the context which triggered the practice and/or strategy?
- What was the strategy and its objectives?
- What are the strong points?
- What were the results and impacts of this strategy?
- How does the strategy reach its objectives and how it is implemented?
- What were the enabling conditions?
- What challenges did you face in implementation?

[2500 - 3000 characters]

Evidence of success (results achieved)\*:

Why is this strategy considered successful? Please provide factual evidence that demonstrates its success or failure (e.g., measurable outputs/results). [500 characters]

Potential for learning or transfer\*:

Please explain why this strategy can be appropriate for transferring and replication in other EU contexts. Please include short recommendations for other urban authorities with similar challenges.

[1000 characters]

Multimedia

Add images to enhance your good practice

# ANNEX 1: SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT THEMATIC AREAS AND OPERATIONAL TOPICS

## 1. THEMATIC AREAS

Thematic areas	Sectoral principles/areas in relation to sustainable urban development	Topics that could be covered	Description
level 1	level 2		
<b>Productive, smart and connected</b>	Research and Innovation	Social Innovation; Business incubation	Focuses on social innovation, business incubation, and fostering entrepreneurial solutions to urban challenges. Examples: Innovation hubs, social impact startups.
	Digital transition	Digital economy; Digital technologies and processes (AI, data standardisation); Data protection (GDPR)	Covers the digital economy, technologies, and processes driving urban transformation. Examples: AI applications, data standardization, cybersecurity.
	Local production	Green industrialisation; Crafts -creative industries	Addresses green industrialization and creative industries, promoting sustainable local manufacturing and cultural entrepreneurship. Examples: , artisanal crafts.
	Mobility	Active mobility; Walkable cities; Cycling; Traffic management	Encompasses active mobility, walkable cities, cycling, and efficient traffic management to create sustainable transportation systems. Examples: Pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, bike-sharing programs.
	Transportation and logistics systems	Sustainable supply chains and logistics	Involves developing sustainable supply chains, distribution networks, and innovative transportation solutions for urban areas. Examples: Last-mile delivery optimization, urban freight consolidation.
	Sustainable tourism		Promotes responsible tourism practices that minimize negative impacts on the environment and local communities. Examples: Eco-tourism, cultural heritage preservation in tourism destinations.
	Circular Economy	Sustainable production and consumption patterns	Emphasizes the transition from a linear to a circular economy, focusing on waste reduction, resource efficiency, and closed-loop systems. Examples: Recycling programs, product lifecycle management.
	Job creation and entrepreneurship	Social entrepreneurship; Social economy; jobs all type of industries	Focuses on social entrepreneurship, social economy, and inclusive job opportunities to drive sustainable urban economic growth. Examples: Social enterprise incubators
<b>Green</b>	Sustainable soil and land use	Land take; Underused land;	Addresses issues such as land take, underused land, and sustainable land management

		Sustainable use of land	practices. Examples: Urban agriculture, brownfield redevelopment.
	Food systems		Covers the entire food production-to-consumption cycle, including sustainable farming practices, local food distribution, and reducing food waste. Examples: Community gardens, farmers' markets, food rescue initiatives.
	Resilient environments	Flood management; Fire management; Risk prevention and management	Focuses on managing and adapting to environmental risks, such as flood and fire management, and overall disaster risk prevention. Examples: Flood-resistant infrastructure, fire-safe urban planning.
	Climate adaptation	Heat islands; Nature Based Solutions	Addresses measures to mitigate heat islands and promote nature-based solutions for climate resilience. Examples: Green roofs, urban parks and green spaces.
	Climate change mitigation	Air quality; Air pollution; Depollution	Covers strategies and technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and promote cleaner energy sources.
	Water management	Water conservation; Stormwater management; Wastewater treatment	Focuses on water conservation, stormwater management, wastewater treatment, and sustainable water use in urban areas. Examples: Rainwater harvesting systems, constructed wetlands.
	Nature protection and biodiversity	Nature Based Solutions; Urban forest; Green infrastructure	Highlights the importance of preserving and enhancing urban biodiversity through nature-based solutions and green infrastructure. Examples: Urban forests, biodiversity corridors.
	Energy transition	Energy retrofiting, Energy production; Renewable energy; Smart energy grids; Energy efficiency; Energy production; Energy storage; Positive Energy Districts	Encompasses energy retrofiting, renewable energy generation, smart grids, energy efficiency, energy storage, and the development of Positive Energy Districts. Examples: Solar panel installations, energy-efficient street lighting.
	Waste management	Waste and recycling; Water management; Waste management; Construction materials	Addresses waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable waste management practices in urban areas. Examples: Recycling programs, waste-to-energy plants.
<b>Just and Inclusive</b>	Social inclusion	Multidimensional poverty; Social integration and exclusion; Vulnerable groups; Youth; Children; Ageing; Migrants and refugees; Inequality;	Focuses on addressing equality principle and its access, focussing on vulnerable groups more concretely multidimensional poverty, promoting social integration, and ensuring equitable access to essential services. Examples: Integration of migrants and refugees, children poverty

		Gender equality	
	Affordable housing	Social housing; Homelessness; Affordable housing; Sustainable housing; Right to housing; Gentrification; Co-housing; Housing cooperative	Covers social housing initiatives, homelessness prevention, sustainable housing solutions, and promoting the right to housing for all. Examples: Affordable housing cooperatives, supportive housing programs.
	Education and employment	Employability; Training; Life-long learning; Apprenticeship; Skills; Talent management; Education	Encompasses initiatives that enhance employability, provide lifelong learning opportunities, and promote skills development for urban residents. Examples: Vocational training centers, job placement programs.
	Health and well-being		Focuses on creating healthy and supportive urban environments that promote physical and mental well-being. Examples: loneliness support, accessible healthcare facilities.
	Culture and cultural heritage	Cultural preservation	Involves preserving cultural diversity, protecting heritage sites, and promoting cultural expression within urban development. Examples: Historic preservation initiatives, public art installations.
	Safe and secure urban environment		Addresses issues of urban safety, crime prevention, and the creation of secure public spaces. Examples: safety perception programs, surveillance systems.
	Urban regeneration	Brownfield regeneration; Revitalisation of city centres; Shrinking cities	

## 2. OPERATIONAL TOPICS

Operational topics	Implementation related topics	Topics that could be covered	Description
level 1	level 2		
<b>Strategy</b>	Global agendas and policy frameworks	Synergies with global agendas and other policy frameworks, links with public policies (national, regional); EU policies and policy frameworks (New Leipzig	Addresses the role of regulations and policy frameworks and global agendas, such as the New Leipzig Charter and the Urban Agenda 2030, in guiding sustainable urban development initiatives and how take them into account in urban strategies

		Charter); global agendas	
	Strategy design	Analysis; knowledge-based strategy making; creating strategic capacities at local level	
	SUD strategy implementation	All content related to bridging strategies and operational programmes; project pipelines	
<b>Governance</b>	Multi-level governance	Links between national, regional, local levels	Examines the relationships and coordination between national, regional, and local levels of governance in implementing sustainable urban development.
	Multi-stakeholder approach	Partnership creation, stakeholder dialogue, consultation	Focuses on creating and managing partnerships, engaging diverse stakeholders, and facilitating stakeholder dialogue in decision-making processes.
<b>Participation and Communication</b>	Citizen engagement	Co-creation participation strategy and processes	Explores strategies and processes for involving citizens in co-creating sustainable urban development solutions and promoting participatory decision-making.
	Communication with beneficiaries	Awareness campaign	Emphasizes effective communication channels, awareness campaigns, and outreach efforts to engage and inform the target beneficiaries of sustainable urban development initiatives.
<b>Resource and funding</b>	Access to funding	Sources of funding; selection procedures; criteria for funding; preparation of funding applications	Focuses on identifying and accessing diverse sources of funding, understanding selection procedures and criteria, and preparing funding applications for sustainable urban development projects.
	Financial sustainability		Addresses the development of business models and strategies to ensure the long-term financial viability and sustainability of sustainable urban development initiatives.
	Public Procurement	financial schemes; tendering; awarding	Examines financial schemes, tendering processes, and awarding procedures related to public procurement for sustainable urban development projects.
<b>Data management and evaluation</b>	Data collection and analysis	Data management; data interoperability	Covers practices and tools for managing and analyzing data relevant to sustainable urban development, including data interoperability and integration.
	Monitoring and evaluation	Data collection for monitoring purposes; assessment; measuring success, localising SDGs	Explores methodologies for collecting data to monitor progress, assess the impact of sustainable urban development initiatives, and measure success, including localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
<b>Scaling up and transfer</b>	Capitalisation	Learning from experience; modelling knowledge	Focuses on learning from experiences and best practices to capitalize on knowledge



			gained from successful sustainable urban development projects.
	Scaling up	From small scale to bigger scale	Examines the process of replicating and expanding successful small-scale initiatives to larger scales, considering the challenges and opportunities involved.
	Transfer/Replication	Adapting public policies to other contexts	Addresses the adaptation and transfer of successful public policies, strategies, and approaches from one context to another, considering contextual differences.
<b>Territorial focus</b>	Functional urban areas	Urban- rural linkages	Explores the linkages and interactions between urban and rural areas, considering the integration and cooperation necessary for sustainable development.
	Integrated territorial tools	Community-led local development; Integrated Territorial Investment, other territorial tools	Encompasses energy retrofitting, renewable energy generation, smart grids, energy efficiency, energy storage, and the development of Positive Energy Districts. Examples: Solar panel installations, energy-efficient street lighting.
	Territorial Impact Assessment		Focuses on assessing the potential impacts of sustainable urban development projects and policies on the overall territorial context.
	Urban design	Design of buildings, groups of buildings, spaces and landscapes, and establishing frameworks and procedures that will deliver successful development (including attention to use, design thinking approaches, )	Covers place making processes linked to design: spatial adaptability, temporary urbanism, activation of spaces, attention to use
	Small and medium sized cities	Atlas JRC, URBACT	Considers the specific challenges and opportunities faced by smaller urban areas in implementing sustainable urban development strategies.