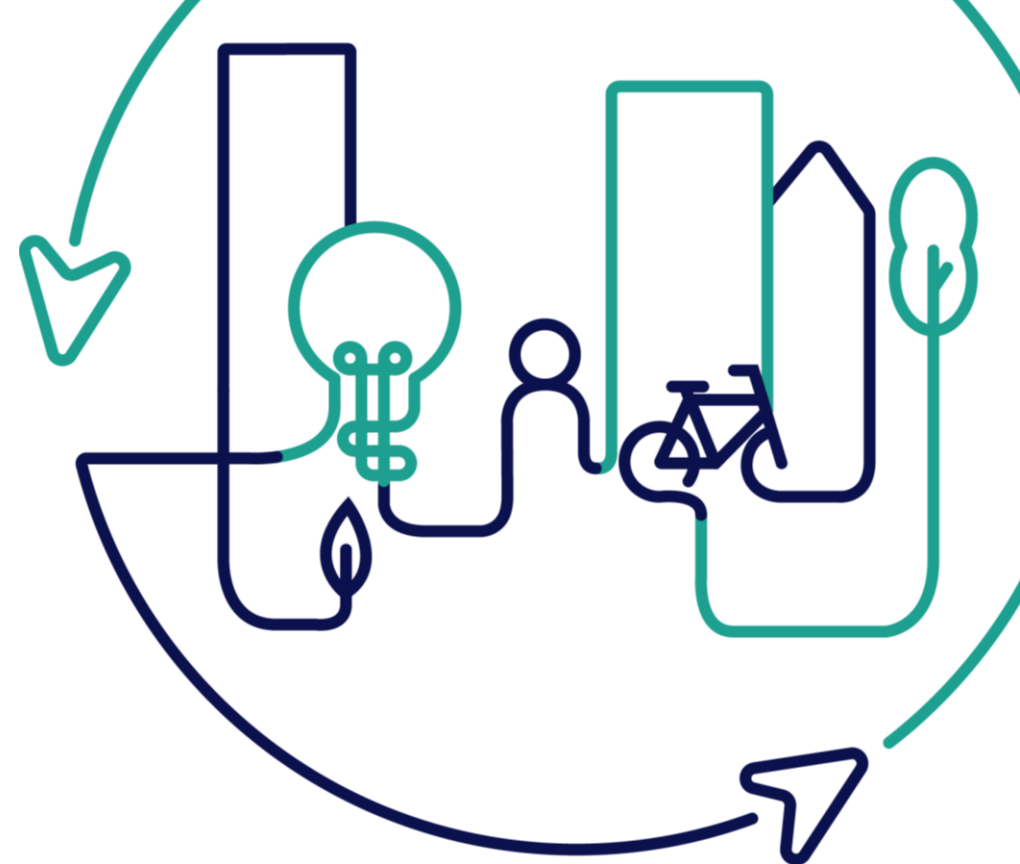


EUROPEAN U R B A N INITIATIVE

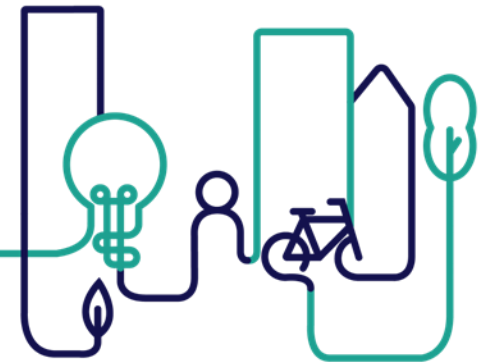


Co-funded by
the European Union

EUI Applicant Webinar

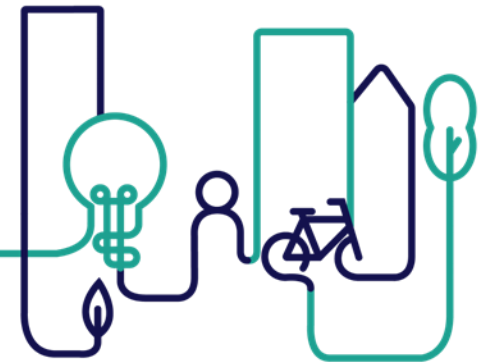
City-to-City Exchanges and Peer Reviews

05 April 2023



Agenda

- **Introduction to EUI & EUI Capacity Building**
- **City-to-city exchanges:** main features & how to apply
- **Peer reviews:** main features & how to apply
- **Key dates & assistance for applicants**



European Urban Initiative

2021-2027 Cohesion Policy legislative package includes establishment of European Urban Initiative as an EU instrument

Managed indirectly by **DG Regional and Urban Policy**

Hauts-de-France Region as entrusted entity

Total **ERDF budget of €450 million** for 2021-2027

Building on:

- Urban Innovative Actions
- Urban Development Network
- Urban Agenda for the EU
- URBACT IV

FUNDING FOR
INNOVATIVE PILOT
PROJECTS

MEASURES TO
SUPPORT &
STRENGTHEN CITIES'
CAPACITIES

ACTIVITIES AIMED AT
DISSEMINATING AND
EXCHANGING
KNOWLEDGE

THE INITIATIVE HAS BEEN CREATED in order to

- identify and test innovative, transferable and scalable solutions to sustainable urban development problems of particular relevance at EU level
- building cities' capacity for sustainable urban development
- communicating, disseminating knowledge from implemented projects and further building on the lessons learnt and their experience

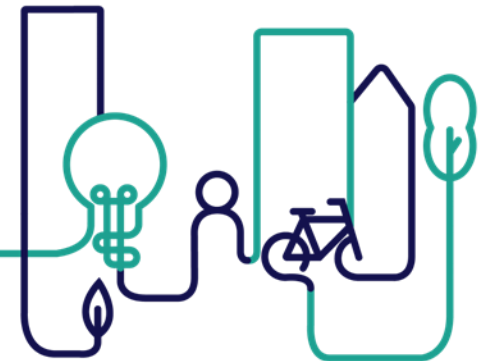
EUI Applicant Webinar

Introduction to EUI capacity building

One target group

Two objectives

Three activities



Introduction to EUI capacity building

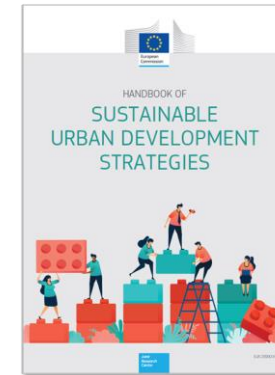
Sustainable Urban Development context



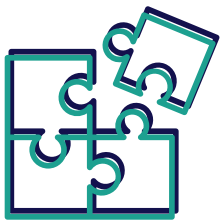
Article 11 “Sustainable Urban Development”



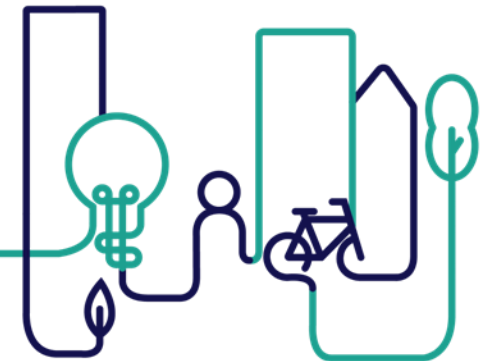
New Leipzig Charter



Handbook for Sustainable Urban Development Strategies



Capacity building to address these challenges is key to ensuring SUD strategies and related investments **deliver good results**



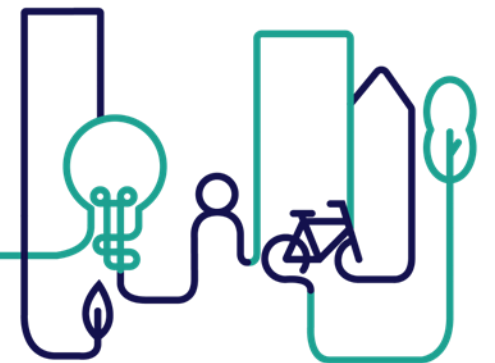
Introduction to EUI capacity building

Overall target group

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

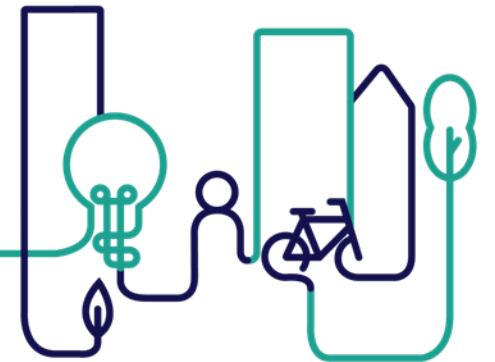
Two objectives

- **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



Introduction to EUI capacity building

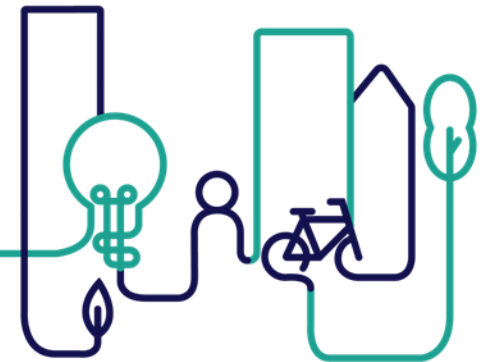
Three new activities



EUI Applicant Webinar

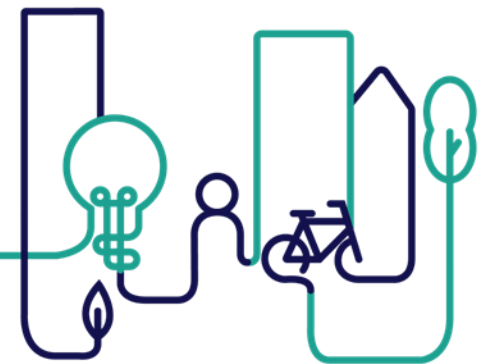
City-to-City Exchanges

Main features of a city-to-city exchange
How to apply?



City-to-City Exchanges: definition

- **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**)
 - bottom-up, short, 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: focus

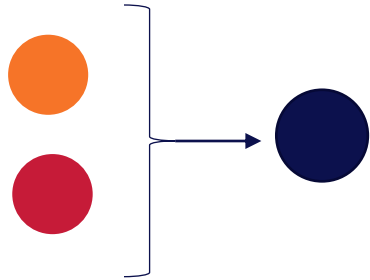
- A city-to-city exchange is required to focus on a **specific policy challenge** related to the implementation of Sustainable Urban Development within Cohesion Policy
- Applicants are required to define in the application form a specific policy challenge that consists of **thematic and operational issues**. The challenge should be as focused as possible to allow for an effective learning process between the applicant and the peers.
- A non-exhaustive list of potential thematic and operational challenges that may be addressed, covering the full range of policy objectives supported through Cohesion Policy is available in the [Guidance](#).



City-to-City Exchanges: structure

- **Peers:** 1-2 cities from other EU Member States with expertise needed to address challenge
- **Events:** 1-3 events per application, 2-5 days per event, all within 5 months of approval.
- **What formats:**

Incoming visit



Up to 2 participants from 1 or 2 peer cities visit the applicant city

Outgoing visit

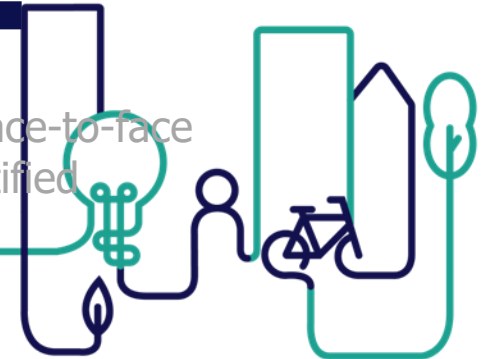


Up to 4 participants from the applicant city visit 1 peer city. Other peer city can join

Online meeting



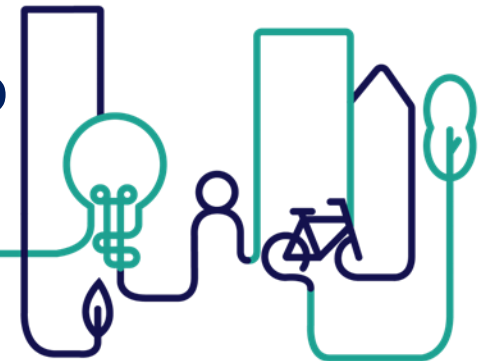
In addition to a face-to-face visit, if justified



City-to-City Exchanges: who may participate?

- **Applicants**

- Applicants are **urban authorities** within EU Member States:
 - A Local Administrative Unit as city, town or suburb (DEGURBA code 1 or 2).
 - An association or grouping of urban authorities with legal status of organised agglomeration composed by Local Administrative Units, where the majority (at least 51%) of inhabitants lives in Local Administrative Units defined as cities, towns or suburbs (DEGURBA code 1 or 2).
- No minimum population requirement for the city, town, or suburb
- Interest or involvement in **integrated, place-based approaches to SUD**
- **Stakeholders** may participate alongside urban authority if justified



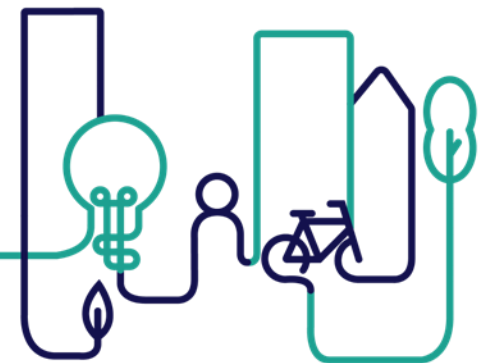
City-to-City Exchanges: who may participate?

- **Peers**

- **Urban authorities** within a different EU Member State to the applicant
- Cities with **expertise and experience needed** to address the applicant's challenge
- **Stakeholders** may participate alongside urban authorities if justified

- **Why participate as a peer?**

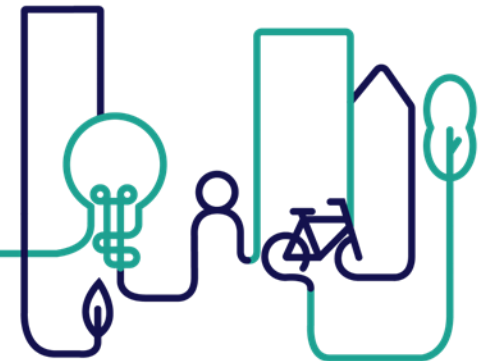
- capacity building
- visibility & networking
- funding of the activity through a lump sum
- light process for application & reimbursement



City-to-City Exchanges: available support

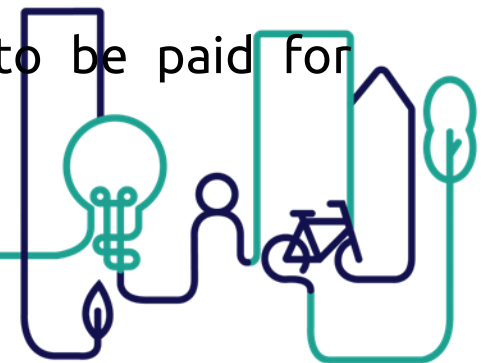
- **Funding** to support applicants and peers:

| <u>Type of cost</u> | <u>Applicant City</u> | <u>Peer City</u> |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| ➤ Travel, accommodation & subsistence | Up to 4 people | Up to 2 people |
| ➤ Daily rate covering staff time | 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. | | |



City-to-City Exchanges: focus on budget

- The staff of both urban authorities and stakeholders may be among the funded persons for applicants and peer cities
- For each event, a minimum of **one person from the urban authority** must participate
- Stakeholders (if desired and justified) must be included within the budget and Reimbursement Form of the applicant city and peers. The urban authority concerned is responsible for setting the reimbursement arrangements with its stakeholders. EUI cannot intervene in these arrangements nor reimburse stakeholders directly.
- **Daily rate:** Up to two persons per peer city are entitled to receive a fixed amount of EUR 350 per day for the duration of the exchanges, or for one day in the case of an online exchange.
- **Per diem** (accommodation, local transport and subsistence): eligible to be paid for duration of exchange plus ONE travel day
- 100% funding on **lump sum basis**, no co-financing required

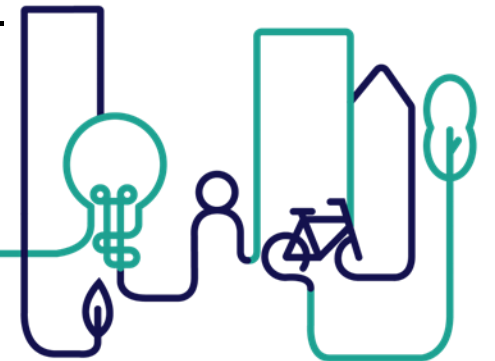


City-to-City Exchanges: selection process

Applications are submitted **on a rolling basis**

Selection process organised along the following steps:

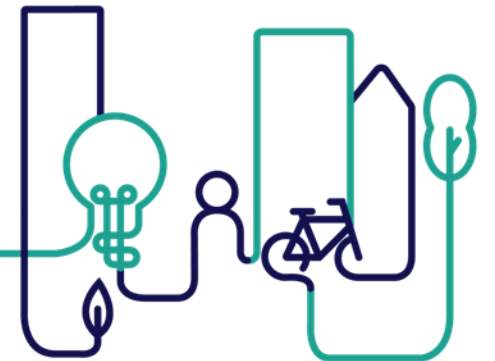
1. Prioritisation
 2. Eligibility check
 3. Quality evaluation
- Applications will be evaluated by a team of experts under the supervision of EUI PS who take a final decision on the selection process.
 - **Applicants will be notified** of the decision **on a rolling basis** – indicatively within 4 weeks after submission of application



City-to-City Exchanges: selection process

PRIORITISATION: URBAN AUTHORITIES...

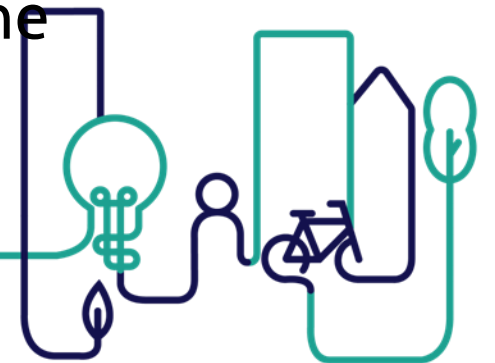
- In less developed regions
- Those with less than 500,000 inhabitants
- Have participated in an EUI peer review
- Have not yet benefited from an approved city-to-city exchange
- Resubmitting a previously rejected city-to-city exchange application
- In transition regions (second priority)



City-to-City Exchanges: selection process

ELIGIBILITY CHECK

- Full application submitted via EU Survey before the deadline
- The applicant and peers are eligible urban authorities located in an EU Member State
- Peers come from a different EU Member State
- Both the applicant institution and the peer(s) endorse the application.



City-to-City Exchanges: selection process

QUALITY EVALUATION

Challenge addressed

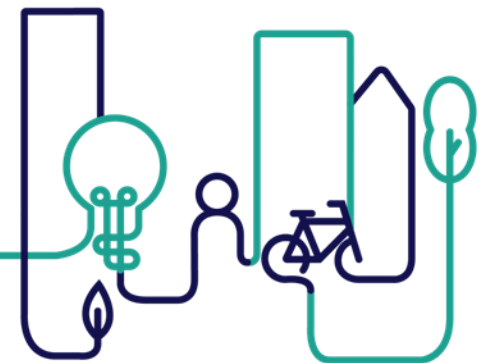
- Application focuses on a challenge related to designing/implementing SUD within Cohesion Policy
- Series of events and choice of online format (if applicable) are justified

Motivation for applying

- Applicant demonstrates involvement or interest in integrated, place-based approaches or design and implementation of SUD strategies
- Applicant justifies how they will benefit (improvement to policy instrument and applicant capacities)
- Type of outputs requested are coherent with nature and thematic focus of exchange

Peers

- The peer(s') expertise is coherent with the challenge described by the applicant
- Involvement of more than 1 peer is justified
- Each peer is involved in at least one visit



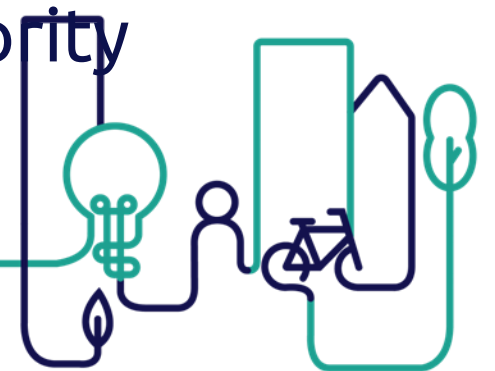
How to apply for a City-to-City Exchange?

- Interested urban authorities can now apply on our website: applications are open from 4 April to 17 November
- Help identifying peers:



Peer identification for city-to-city exchanges applicants

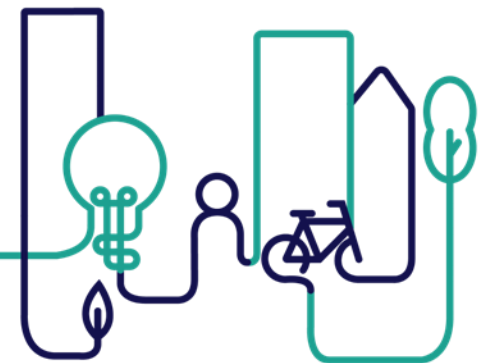
Form to request contact with urban authority involved in UIA/EUI-IA or UAEU



City-to-City Exchanges

CONTRACTING FOLLOWING APPROVAL

- Urban authorities involved in approved applications (applicant and peers) will be required to sign a Grant Agreement with Entrusted Entity.
- Besides maximum amount of ERDF granted, it provides all the conditions under which the exchange is approved and stipulates the legal basis for funding.
- The contract with the Entrusted Entity will be shared with beneficiaries following notification of approval, to be returned signed by the beneficiary when submitting the Reimbursement Form at the latest.



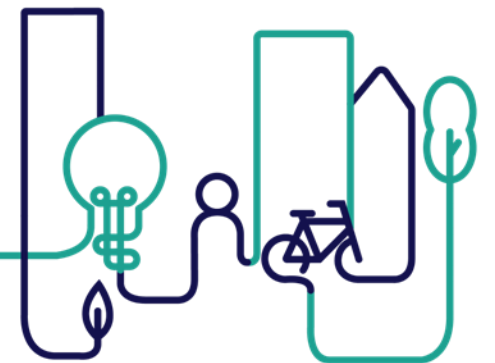
How to apply for a City-to-City Exchange?

What are the key dates of the call?

- 17 November 2023, 12:00 CET Closure of call for City-to-City Exchange applications
- 4 weeks after application Earliest notification of decision to applicants

Where to apply?

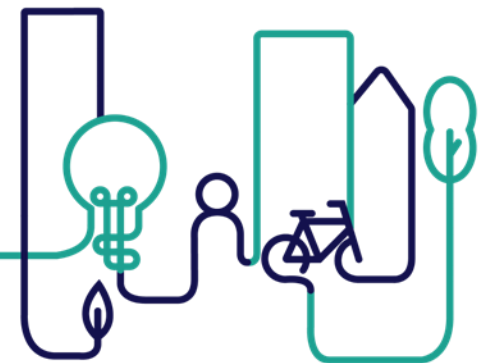
- Submission of applications on EU survey: [link](#)
- Courtesy Application Form available:
 - [EU Survey \(word format\)](#) [Workplan and Budget file](#)
- Guidance and additional information [available on EUI Website](#)



City-to-City Exchanges: application form

The application form is now available on EU Survey.

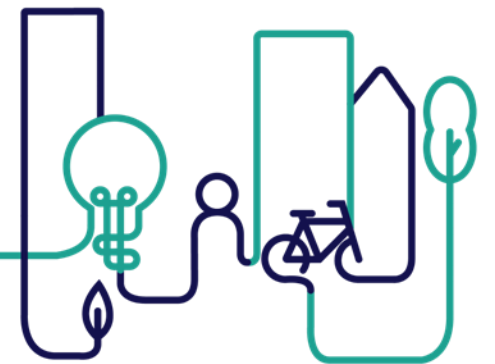
A courtesy document is at your disposal on [the EUI website](#).
You can also access EU Survey from there.



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Peer Reviews

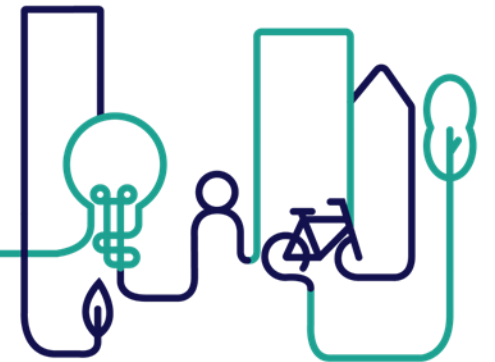
Main features of a Peer Review
How to apply to be a city under review?



Main features of a Peer Review

What is a Peer Review?

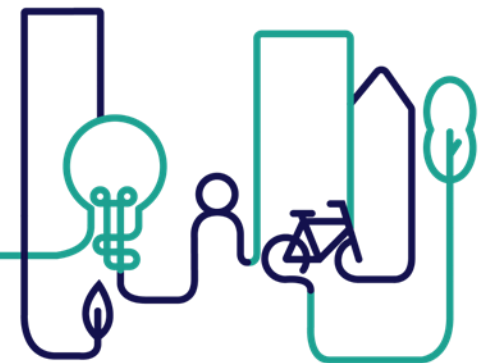
- 3-5 cities under review benchmark their SUD strategies and get peer recommendations
- 2-day event with structured preparation
- Aims to improve capacity of cities under review in designing/implementing SUD strategy
- **A fixed methodology** and implementation process of 4 to 6 months



Main features of a Peer Review

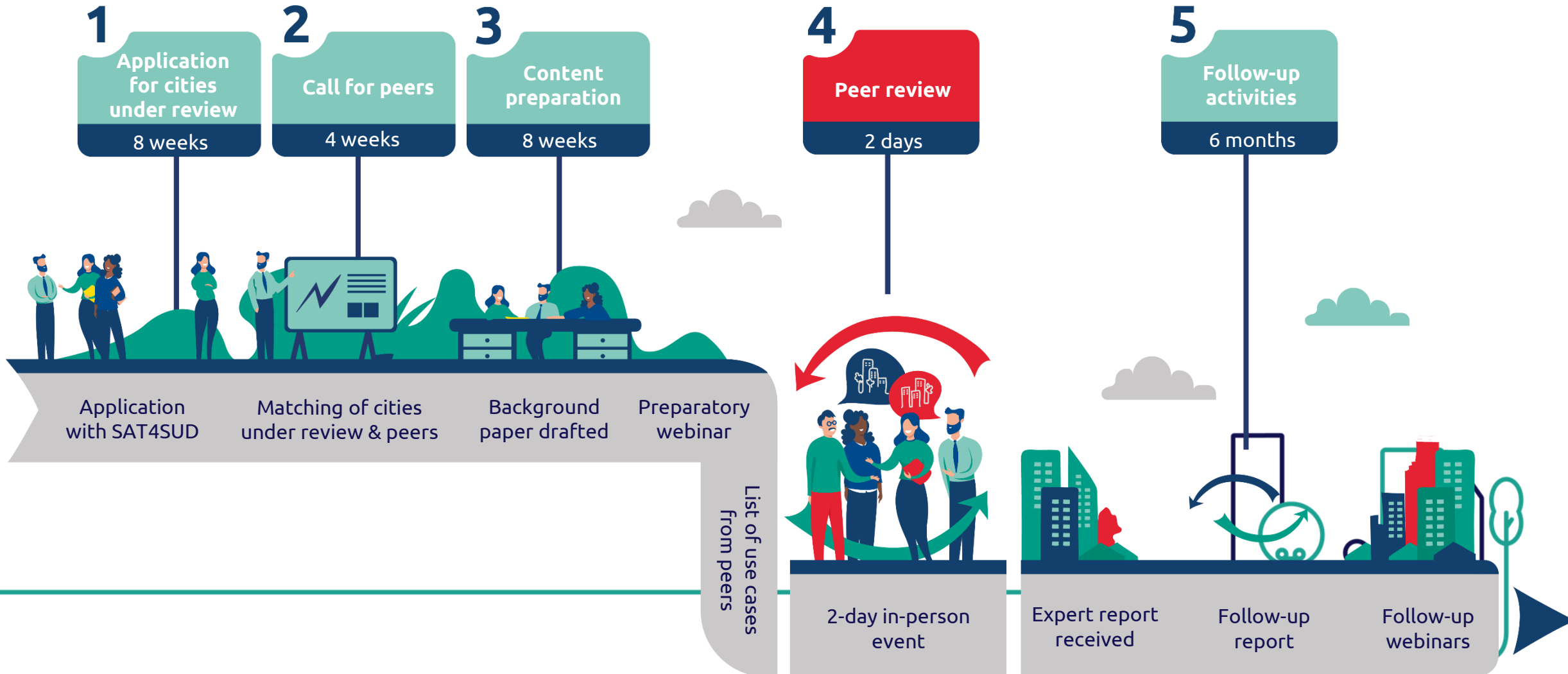
Methodology

- **3 guiding questions** defined by cities under review, building on:
 - **Six building blocks of Handbook for SUD Strategies**
 - Weaknesses identified by results of **SAT4SUD (Self Assessment Tool)**
 - 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



Main features of a Peer Review

Implementation steps



Main features of a Peer Review

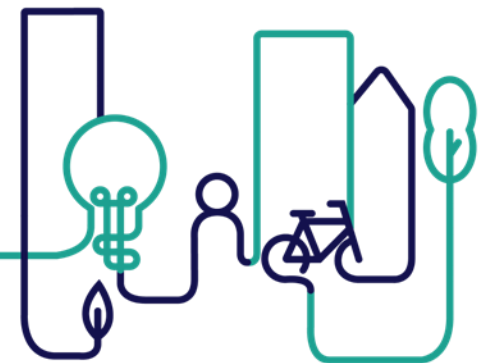
Peer support

Who are the peers and what is their role?

- **Staff members** from urban authorities experienced in the design and implementation of SUD strategies
- Applying as **individuals**
- **Up to four peers** per city under review
- **Expected contribution** includes reviewing the background paper and providing recommendations during the event

How are we matching cities under review and peers?

- **Relevance** of interests and experiences
- Quality of **motivation**



Main features of a Peer Review

Additional support offered by EUI

Expert support

- Two EUI experts allocated **per city under review**

Financial support in the form of a lump sum

For cities under review*

- Travel costs for up to 4 people
- Per diem (2 days + 1 travel day) for up to 4 people

For peers

- Staff costs for up to 5 days
- Travel costs
- Per diem (2 days + 1 travel day)

**Unless hosting the event*



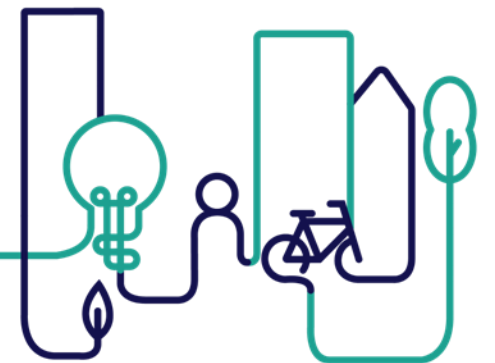
How to apply to be a city under review?

What are the key dates of the call?

- 29 May 2023, 12:00 CEST Closure of call for Cities under Review
- 12 June 2023 Indicative earliest date for selection of cities under review
- 24 June 2023 Indicative confirmation of dates and locations,
Start date of content preparation

Where to apply?

- Submission of applications on EU survey: [link](#)
- Courtesy Application Form available in [word format](#)
- Guidance and additional information [available on EUI Website](#)



How to apply to be a city under review?

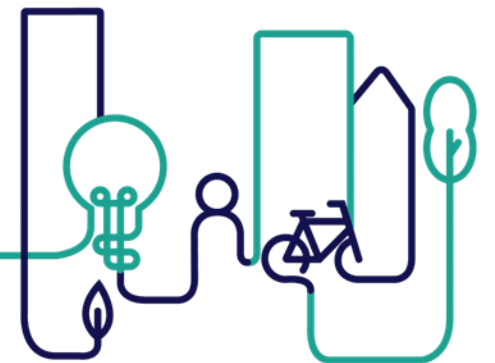
Who may apply to be a city under review?

Eligibility criteria:

- **Urban authorities** within EU Member States
- Designing/updating SUD strategy in line with **article 11 of ERDF Regulation (2021-2027)**

Prioritisation criteria:

- **Newly appointed** “article 11 cities”
- Cities with up to **500,000 inhabitants**
- Cities within **less developed regions and transition regions**
- Cities that **were not under review** in UDN peer reviews (2014-2020)



How to apply to be a city under review?

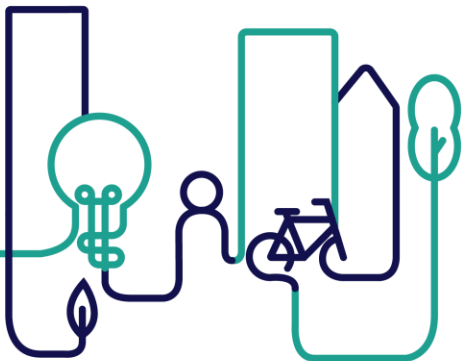
How are applications selected?

1. Eligibility check

- **Application Form** is eligible
- **Applicant** meets the eligibility criteria

2. Quality evaluation

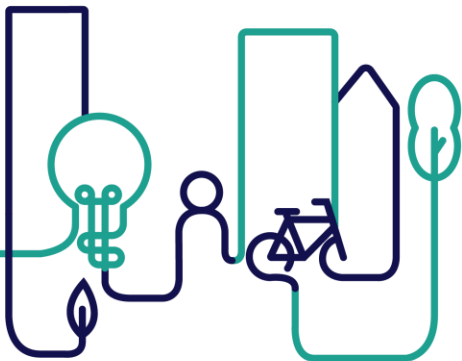
- Challenge definition and **coherence**
- **Consistency** with article 11
- Motivation and **building of capacities**
- **Maturity** of the strategy
- **Prioritisation score**



How to apply to be a city under review?

The Application Form

- A. Information on the applicant
 - › Information on the applying Urban Authority
 - › Information on involvement in SUD strategy
- B. Challenges and motivation
 - › Description of the **three guiding questions**
 - › Description of **motivation**
 - › Logistical preferences
- C. Endorsement from institution
 - › Confirmation of endorsement by **an authorised signatory**



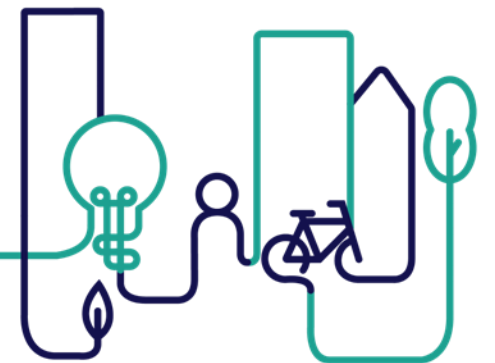
Keep an eye on our upcoming calls for peers!

What are the key dates of the calls for Peers?

- › April 2023 Opening of the **call for Peers** for the pilot Peer Review
- › Mid-June 2023 Indicative date for opening the call for Peers for autumn / winter Peer Reviews 2023

Who may apply to be a peer?

- **Urban authorities** within EU Member States.
- Experienced in designing/implementing SUD strategy:
- in line with **article 11 of ERDF Regulation** (2021-2027).
- in line with **article 7 of past ERDF Regulation** (2014-2020).



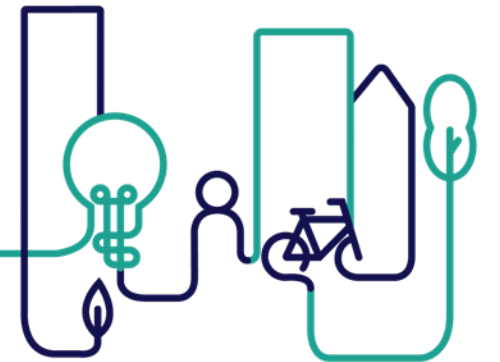
EUI Applicant Webinar

Closing

Poll

Key dates

Support for applicants



Key dates

City-to-city exchanges: Call for applications

4 April to **17 November 2023 12:00 CET** (7.5 months)

Peer Reviews: Call for Cities under Review

4 April to **29 May 2023 12:00 CEST** (8 weeks)

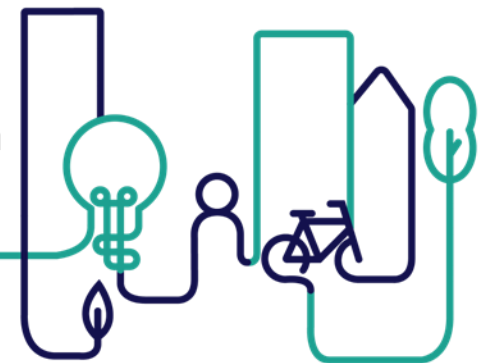
Peer Reviews: Call for Peers for Peer Review in Thessaloniki, end-June

Soon opening, early April to early May (4 weeks)

Events:

7-9 June: Delivering high-quality urban CLLD, Timisoara, Romania

4-5 July: Supporting an integrated approach to urban innovation, Ljubljana, Slovenia



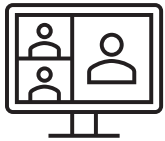
Support for applicants



Online bilateral consultations

[Booking page](#) for City-to-City Exchanges

[Booking page](#) for Peer Reviews



Second Applicant Webinar

3 May 2023, 10:00 CEST

Registration opening soon



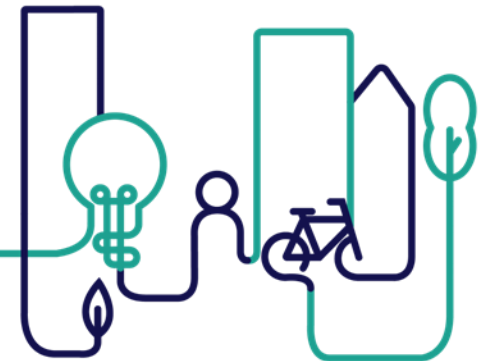
Email: capacitybuilding@urban-initiative.eu



Peer introduction support

Use [this form](#) to request to be put in contact with another urban authority from an UIA project or an Urban Agenda for the EU Partnership.

For contact details from URBACT partners, contact [National URBACT points](#).



Thank you

capacitybuilding@urban-initiative.eu
www.urban-initiative.eu/capacity-building

