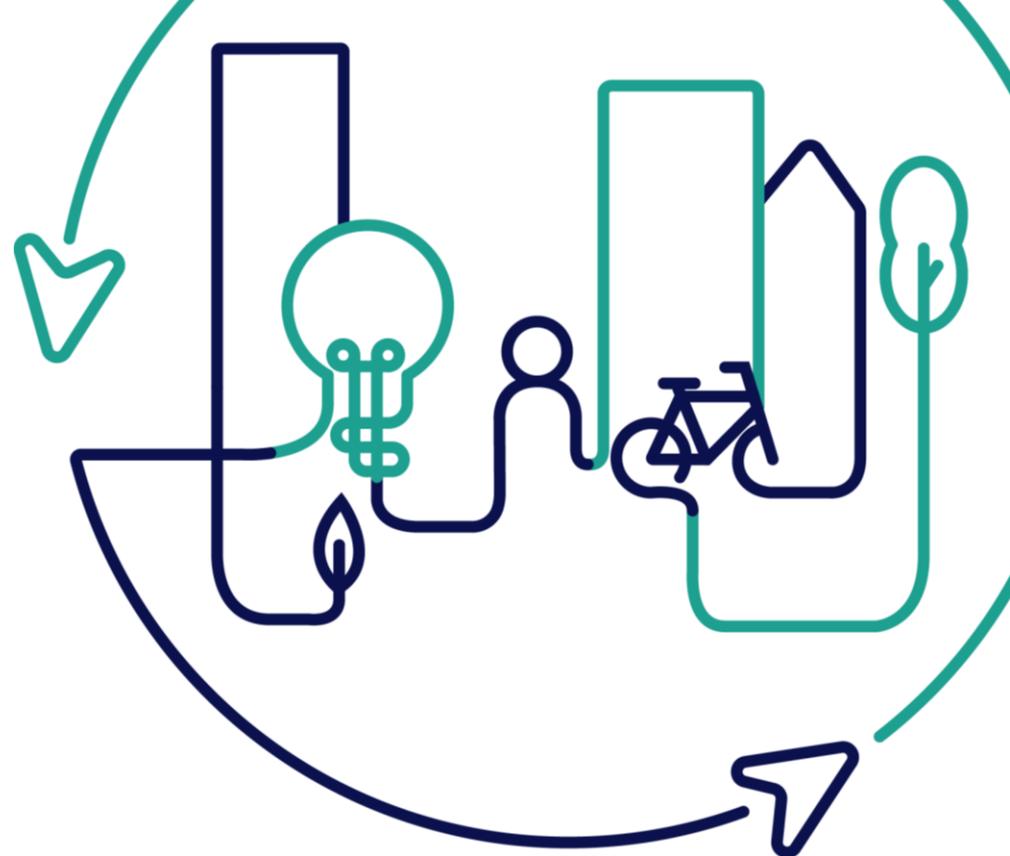


EUROPEAN U R B A N INITIATIVE



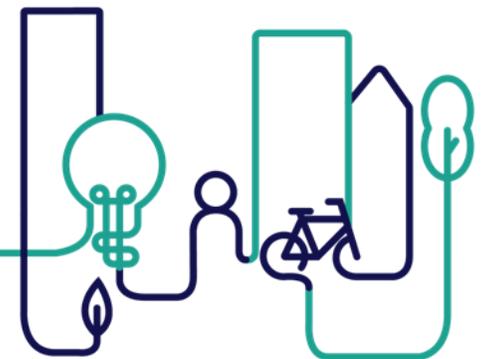
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EUI PEER REVIEW N° 7

26-27 FEBRUARY 2025 TORRELAVEGA

Welcome to Torrelavega

Deputy Mayor of Torrelavega - Jezabel Tazón Salces, City Councillor of Mobility and Town Planning, City of Torrelavega



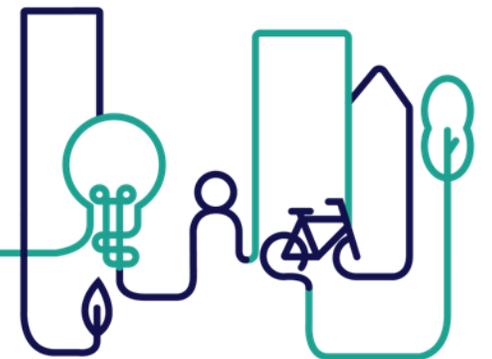
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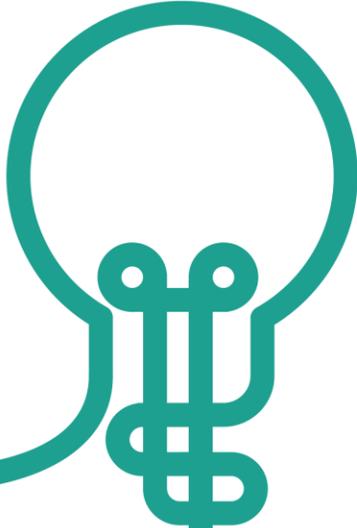
26-27 FEBRUARY 2025 TORRELAVEGA

Welcome to the EUI Peer Review

EUI Permanent Secretariat

Eilish O'Loughlin, Head of Unit Capacity Building





EUI Capacity Building in Short

One target

- EU urban authorities of all sizes working on **Sustainable Urban Development**

Two objectives

- **Build capacities** in integrated, participative approaches
- **Improve design & implementation** of SUD strategies policies & practices

Three activities

- **City-to-City Exchanges**
- **Peer Reviews**
- **Capacity Building Events**



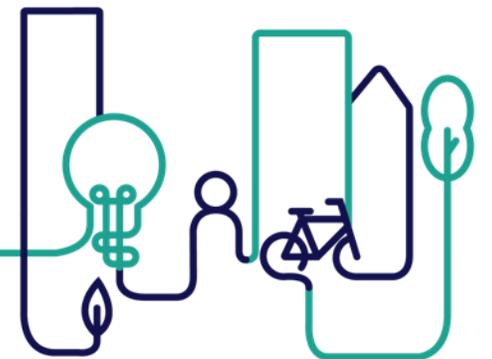


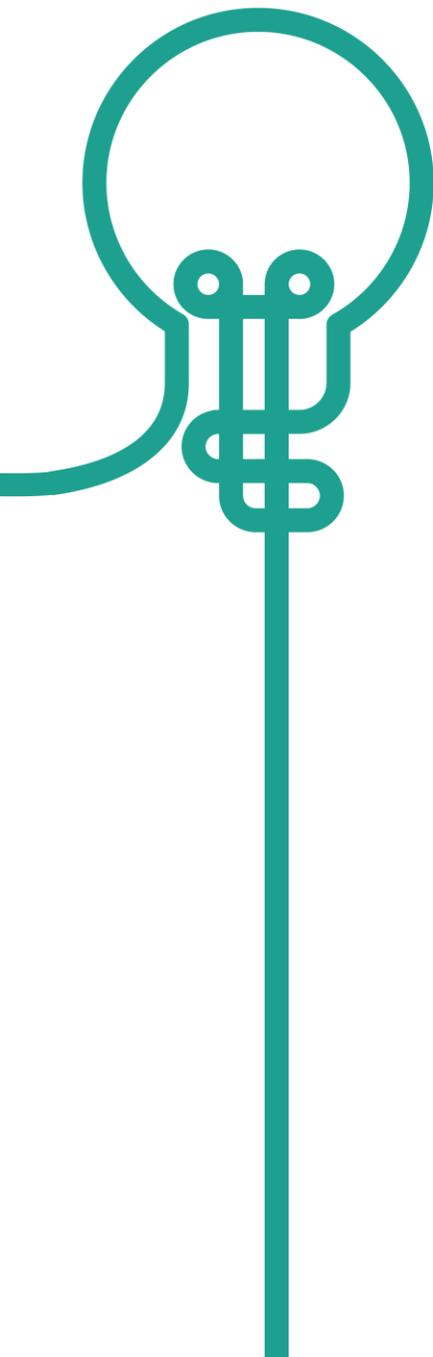
Panel Session
Moderated by
Sandra Marin EUI Expert

EUI PEER REVIEW N° 7

26-27 FEBRUARY 2025 TORRELAVEGA

**Presenting SUD and Urban Agenda in Spain:
Understanding the implementation of Sustainable
Urban Development strategies in Spain and the
Besaya area**





ERDF Art. 11 in Spain

- **Open call 1.818.000.000€ - competitive allocation**
 - To finance Integrated Action Plans (PAI) for Local Entities
- **To promote sustainable urban development**
 - From a triple perspective: environmental, economic, and social, leading to an improved quality of life for all citizens.
- **Typology of actions**
 - Digital and economic revitalization- Energy and environment - Social inclusion-Urban heritage, tourism, and culture.

ERDF Art. 11 in Spain

➤ **Typology of beneficiaries according to n° of inhabitants:**

Large Cities



More than 75.000

5-20 M€

Intermediate Cities



From 20.000 to 75.000

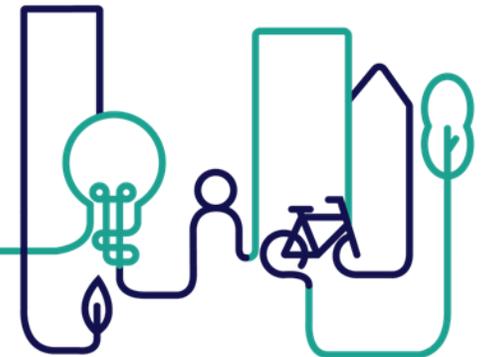
5-15 M€

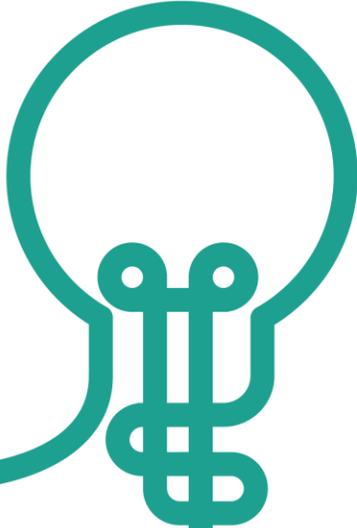
Functional Urban Areas



**-Area min. 20.000 main municipality. 10.000
-Area min. 10.000 main municipality 5.000**

5-10 M€





ERDF Art. 11 in Spain

➤ **Main Condition- ENABLING CONDITION**

➤ The Integrated Action Plan needs to be framed within a wider SUD Strategy.

➤ **What is considered a valid SUD strategy?**

1 **Art. 29 of regulation (EU) 2021/1060 on common provisions**

- ✓ Definition of the geographical area.
- ✓ Analysis of development needs and the area's potential.
- ✓ Description of an integrated approach.
- ✓ Description of partner participation.
- ✓ Approval by the competent authority.
- ✓ Timeframe: more than 5 years

2 **Urban Agendas under the Spanish Urban Agenda Methodology**



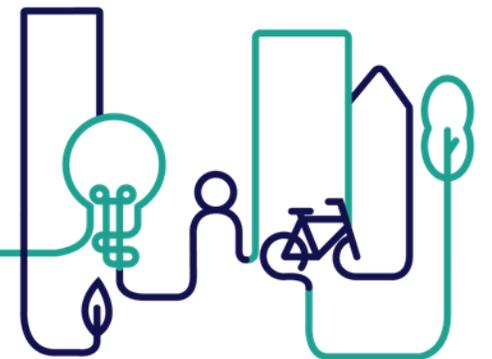
EUI PEER REVIEW N° 7

26-27 FEBRUARY 2025 TORRELAVEGA

Keynote Presentation

María Teresa Verdú Martínez

Director General of Urban Agenda and Architecture,
Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda, Spain



SPANISH URBAN AGENDA

AS

REFERENCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

MARIA TERESA VERDÚ MARTÍNEZ

GENERAL-DIRECTOR OF URBAN AGENDA AND
ARCHITECTURE



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE VIVIENDA
Y AGENDA URBANA



SPANISH URBAN AGENDA AS REFERENCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



TORRELAVEGA Renovation of the Chamber of Commerce building

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Energy Saving | 52,80% |
| Local PIREP investment | 570,816 € |
| Total investment | 1,265,350 € |



Photographer: Josema Cutillas.



TORRELAVEGA Renovation of "la Lechera" building as cultural, artistic and exhibition centre.

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Regional PIREP investment | 2.275.433 € |
| Total investment | 3.718.403 € |





"PRODUCTIVE CITIES"

EUROPAN 14

TORRELAVEGA
National Cattle Market.

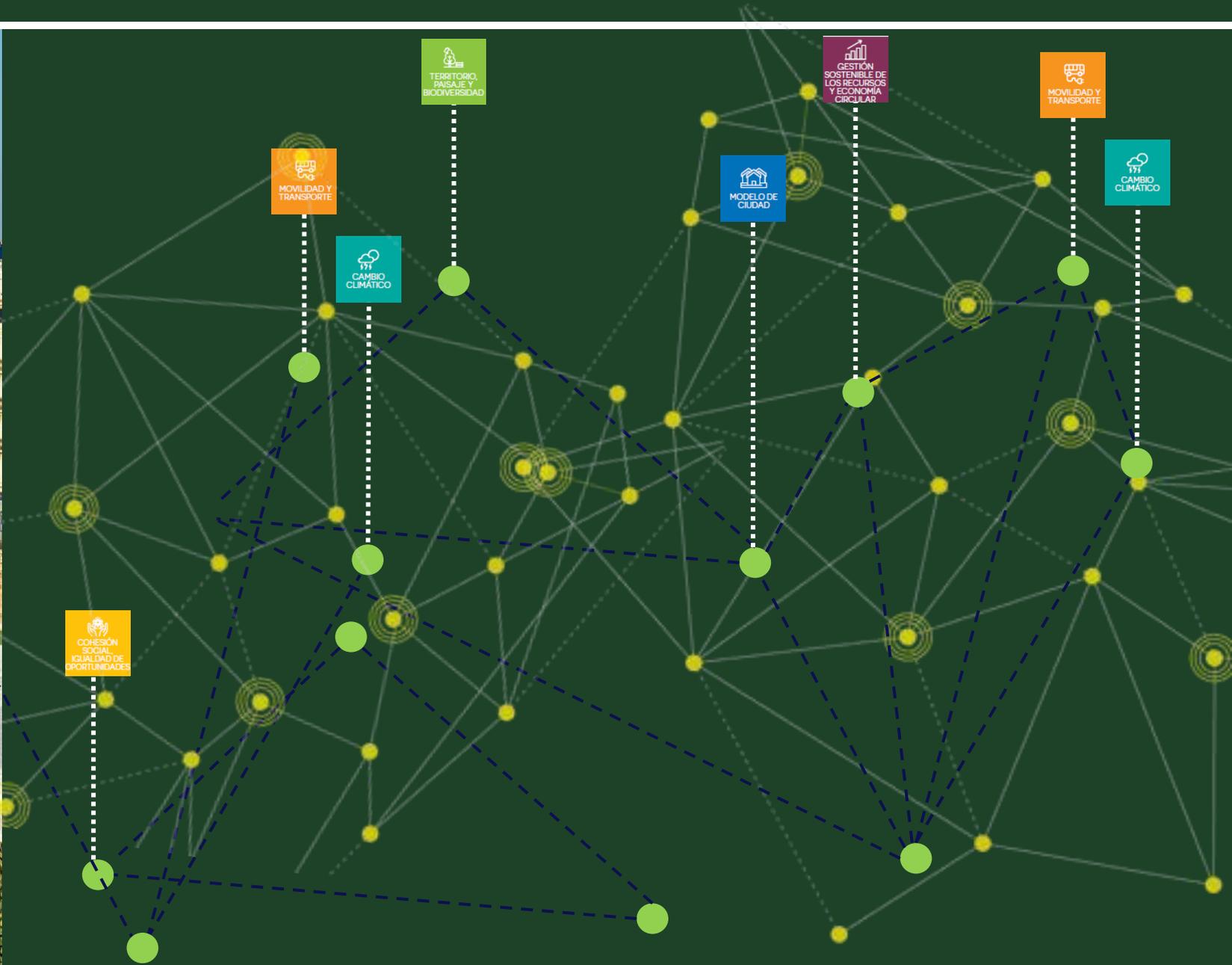


LIVING
CITIES /2



TORRELAVEGA
Railway Station.

SPANISH URBAN AGENDA AS REFERENCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



SPANISH URBAN AGENDA AS REFERENCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK





The SPANISH URBAN AGENDA is:

- A NATIONAL URBAN POLICY.
- A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK and not a normative one.
- A GUIDE for the elaboration of ACTION PLANS FOR LOCAL ENTITIES, AUTONOMOUS REGIONS and other agents:
 - Universities.
 - Business Sector.
 - Professional sector.

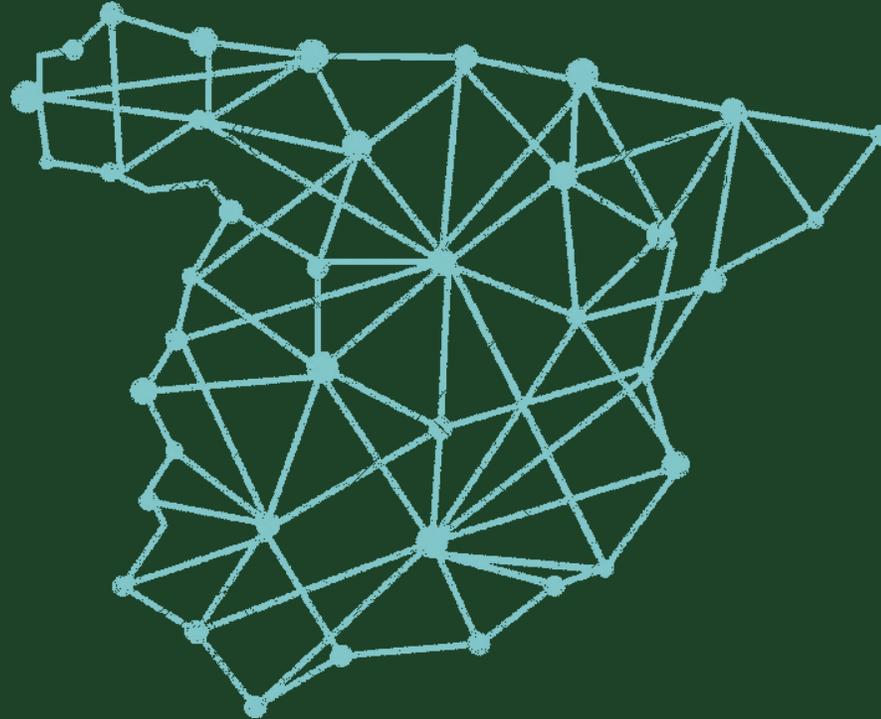
SPANISH URBAN AGENDA AS REFERENCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



81%
POPULATION
IN URBAN AREAS



42%
MUNICIPALITIES AT RISK
OF DISAPPEARANCE



20,4%
OVER 65 YEARS OLD
[30,5% IN 2055]



83,2 / 86,1
LIFE EXPECTANCY
[YEARS]

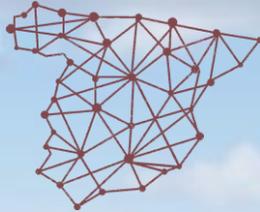
SPANISH URBAN AGENDA AS REFERENCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



LOCAL ENTITIES ACTION PLANS

+200 MUNICIPALITIES

+50% POPULATION



- Municipalities < 5.000 inhab.
- Municipalities 5.000-50.000 inhab.
- Municipalities 50.000-300.000 inhab.
- Municipalities >300.000 inhab.
- Provincial Councils

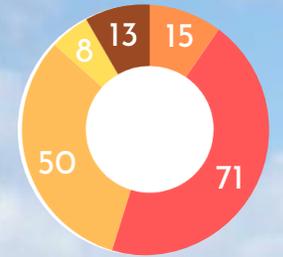
15 plans

71 plans

50 plans

8 plans

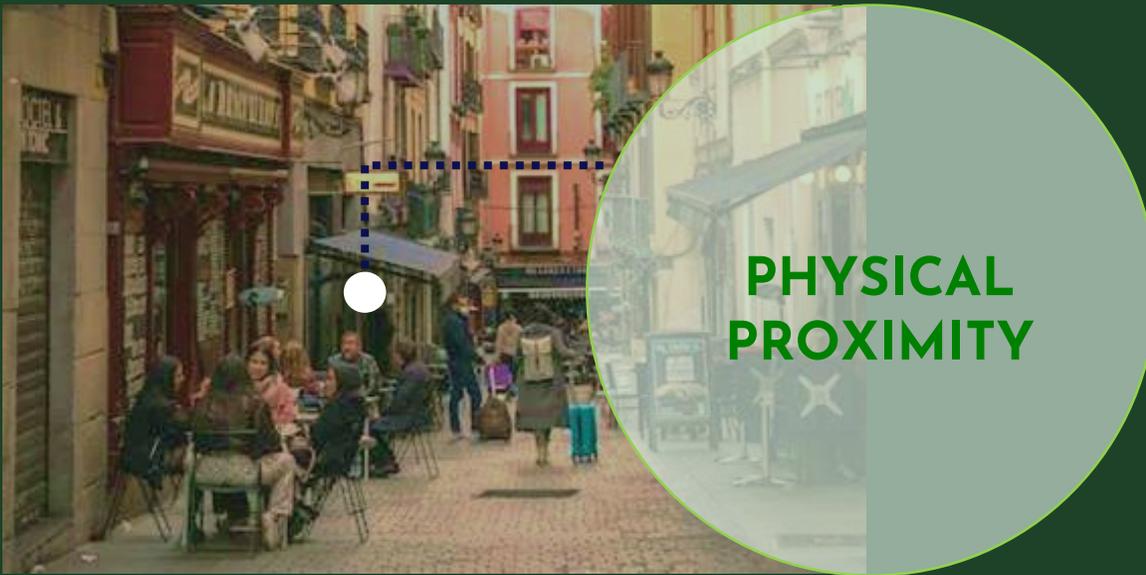
13 plans



SPANISH URBAN AGENDA AS REFERENCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



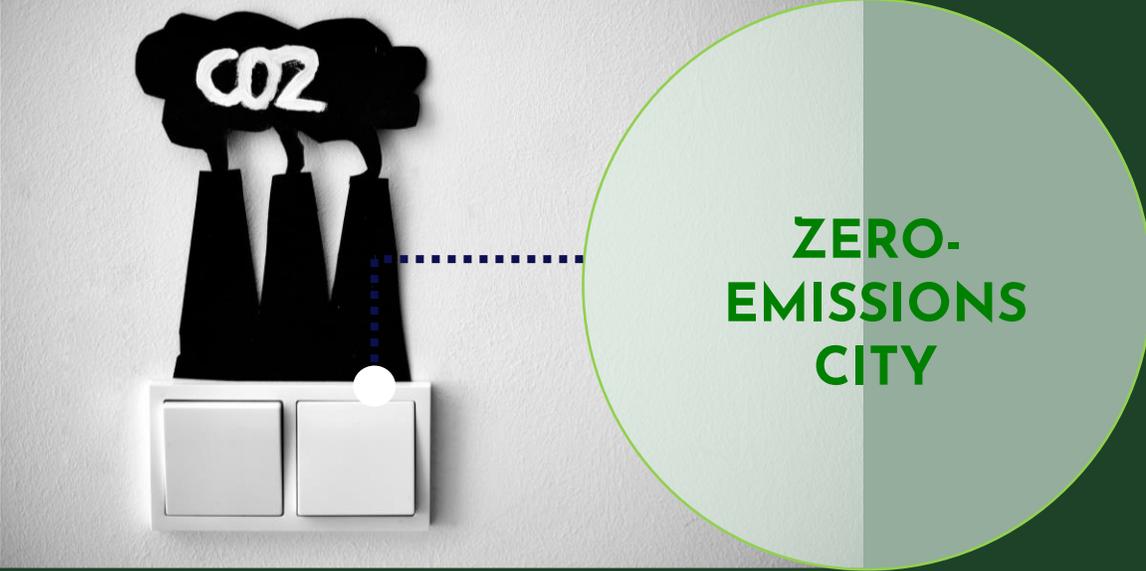
**GREEN
CITY**



**PHYSICAL
PROXIMITY**



**INCLUSIVE
CITY**



**ZERO-
EMISSIONS
CITY**

SPANISH URBAN AGENDA AS REFERENCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



REDUCING NET GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY AT LEAST 55% BY 2030
COMPARED TO 1990 LEVELS



EU MISSION: 100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND
SMART CITIES
FOR DECARBONIZATION BY 2030



MADRID BARCELONA
SEVILLA VALENCIA
VALLADOLID ZARAGOZA
VITORIA-GASTEIZ

**DIRECTIVE
(EU)
2024/1275**

**DIRECTIVE ON THE ENERGY
PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS**

ZERO-EMISSION
BUILDING STOCK BY 2050



**BUILDING DECARBONIZATION
PARTNERSHIP**

- MULTI-LEVEL WORKING GROUPS
- GOAL: TO PROMOTE BETTER REGULATION, BETTER FUNDING AND BETTER KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

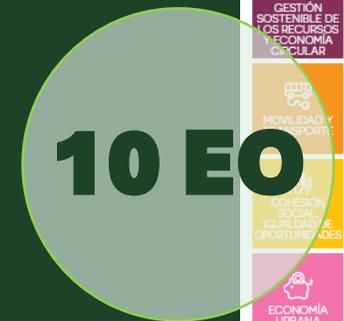


CONCLUSIONS

- 1 CITIES> THE REAL CHALLENGE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 2 CITY OF THE FUTURE: FRIENDLY, INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE.
- 3 GLOBAL CHALLENGE through the QUALITY OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE VALUES OF THE NEB.
- 4 ULTIMATE GOAL> IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE BY FOLLOWING A NEW CITY MODEL

SPANISH URBAN AGENDA AS REFERENCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

URBAN AGENDA > “A CUSTOM-MADE MENU” FOR DRAWING UP ACTION PLANS.



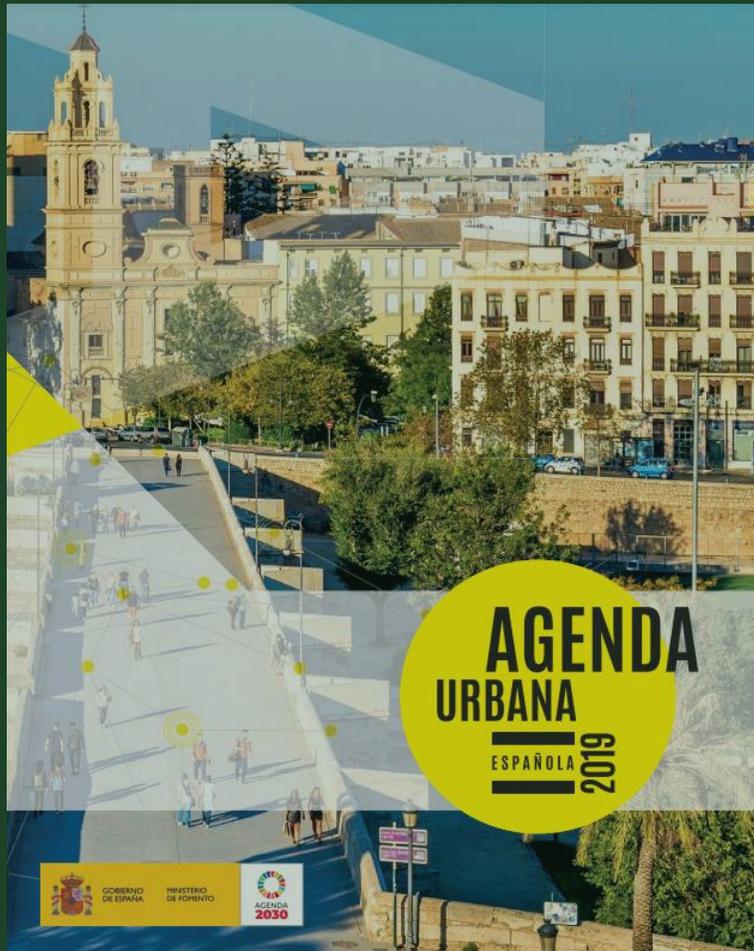
| | |
|---|---|
|  TERRITORIO, PAISAJE Y BIODIVERSIDAD | 1. ORDENAR EL TERRITORIO Y HACER UN USO RACIONAL DEL SUELO, CONSERVARLO Y PROTEGERLO. |
|  MODELO DE CIUDAD | 2. EVITAR LA DISPERSION URBANA Y REVITALIZAR LA CIUDAD EXISTENTE. |
|  CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO | 3. PREVENIR Y REDUCIR LOS IMPACTOS DEL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO Y MEJORAR LA RESILIENCIA. |
|  GESTIÓN SOSTENIBLE DE LOS RECURSOS Y ECONOMÍA CIRCULAR | 4. HACER UNA GESTIÓN SOSTENIBLE DE LOS RECURSOS Y FAVORECER LA ECONOMÍA CIRCULAR. |
|  MOVILIDAD Y TRANSPORTE | 5. FAVORECER LA PROXIMIDAD Y LA MOVILIDAD SOSTENIBLE. |
|  COHESIÓN SOCIAL Y IGUALDAD DE OPORTUNIDADES | 6. FOMENTAR LA COHESIÓN SOCIAL Y BUSCAR LA EQUIDAD. |
|  ECONOMÍA URBANA | 7. IMPULSAR Y FAVORECER LA ECONOMÍA URBANA. |
|  VIVIENDA | 8. GARANTIZAR EL ACCESO A LA VIVIENDA. |
|  ERA DIGITAL | 9. LIDERAR Y FOMENTAR LA INNOVACIÓN DIGITAL. |
|  INSTRUMENTOS | 10. MEJORAR LOS INSTRUMENTOS DE INTERVENCIÓN Y LA GOBERNANZA. |

SPANISH URBAN AGENDA AS REFERENCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

URBAN AGENDA> “A CUSTOM-MADE MENU” FOR DRAWING UP ACTION PLANS.



| | | | | |
|---|--|----|--|---|
|  TERRITORIO, PAISAJE Y BIODIVERSIDAD | 1. ORDENAR EL TERRITORIO Y HACER UN USO RACIONAL DEL SUELO CONSERVARLO Y PROTEGERLO. | 1 | Implementation of regional and urban planning tools to make a rational use of land, keeping and protecting natural resources |  |
|  MODELO DE CIUDAD | 2. EVITAR LA DISPERSION URBANA Y REVITALIZAR LA CIUDAD EXISTENTE. | 2 | Avoiding urban sprawl and revitalizing the existing city |  |
|  CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO | 3. PREVENIR Y REDUCIR LOS IMPACTOS DEL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO Y MEJORAR LA RESILIENCIA. | 3 | Prevention and reduction of climate change impacts and improvement of resilience in towns and cities |  |
|  GESTIÓN SOSTENIBLE DE LOS RECURSOS Y ECONOMÍA CIRCULAR | 4. HACER UNA GESTIÓN SOSTENIBLE DE LOS RECURSOS Y FAVORECER LA ECONOMÍA CIRCULAR. | 4 | Sustainable management of resources and promotion the circular economy |  |
|  MOVILIDAD Y TRANSPORTE | 5. FAVORECER LA PROXIMIDAD Y LA MOVILIDAD SOSTENIBLE. | 5 | Fostering the proximity and sustainable mobility |  |
|  COHESIÓN SOCIAL, IGUALDAD DE OPORTUNIDADES | 6. FOMENTAR LA COHESIÓN SOCIAL Y BUSCAR LA EQUITAD. | 6 | Enhancing social cohesion and looking for equity |  |
|  ECONOMÍA URBANA | 7. IMPULSAR Y FAVORECER LA ECONOMÍA URBANA. | 7 | Promoting and encouraging the urban economy |  |
|  VIVIENDA | 8. GARANTIZAR EL ACCESO A LA VIVIENDA. | 8 | Ensuring access to housing |  |
|  ERA DIGITAL | 9. LIDERAR Y FOMENTAR LA INNOVACIÓN DIGITAL. | 9 | Leading and encouraging digital innovation |  |
|  INSTRUMENTOS | 10. MEJORAR LOS INSTRUMENTOS DE INTERVENCIÓN Y LA GOBERNANZA. | 10 | Improving intervention instruments and governance |  |



ACTION PLAN

- 1 UPDATE THE URBAN AGENDA
- 2 IMPLEMENTATION OF A DASHBOARD > global knowledge at the national level can be facilitated to municipalities.
- 3 SCHOOL URBAN AGENDA
- 4 METROPOLITAN AGENDA

THANKS

MARIA TERESA VERDÚ MARTÍNEZ

DIRECTORA GENERAL DE AGENDA URBANA
Y ARQUITECTURA



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE VIVIENDA
Y AGENDA URBANA



EUI PEER REVIEW N° 7

26-27 FEBRUARY 2025 TORRELAVEGA

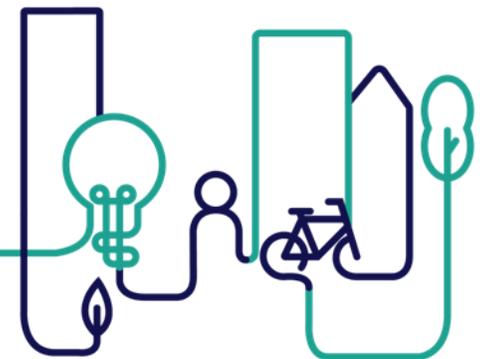
Besaya Area Strategy

Marta García Hospital

Director General of European Funds

Department of Economy, Finance and European Funds

Government of Cantabria, Spain



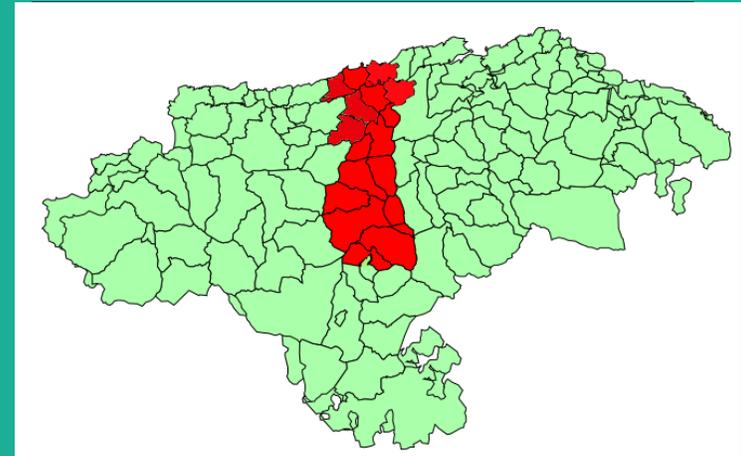
Strategy of Besaya-Torrelavega

- **Title of the strategy:** Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) Besaya
- **Country:** Spain
- **Territorial focus:** Besaya Functional Area (15 municipalities)
- **Targeted population** 110K inhabitants (19% Cantabria)
- **Funding type :** ERDF
- **Amount:** ERDF: 3.117.231,00 €, complemented with public contribution, including own regional resources
- **Policy objectives :** P.O. 5 Promote social and economic development and integrated and inclusive environmental, culture and natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in urban areas.

National map



Strategy map



Strategy of Besaya-Torrelavega

Territorial delivery mechanism: ITI Comarca Besaya Torrelavega. ERDF Cantabria 2021-2027; ESF+ Cantabria 2021-2027

Priority axes: OP5 A Europe closer to its citizens by promoting integrated development and sustainable development of all types of territories and local initiatives, ERDF and Priority 1 Employment, adaptability, entrepreneurship and social economy ESF+.

Main theme of the strategy: Industrial transition, People, Urban-rural development, Environmental resource, Culture and heritage

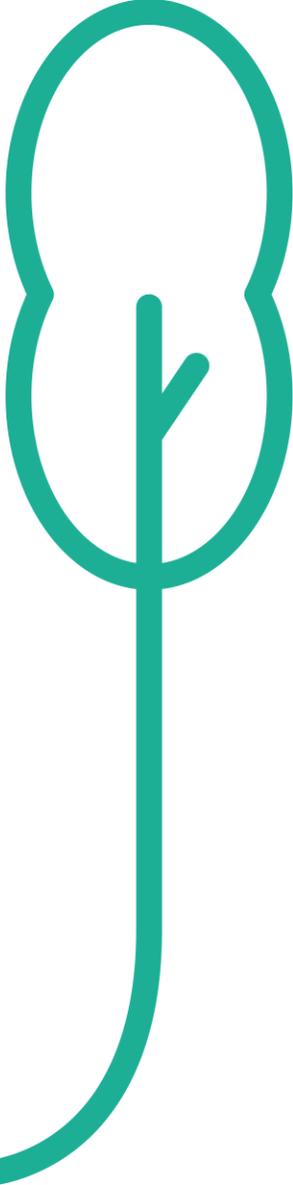
Strategic context: The geographic scope of ITI Besaya, within the Besaya's Basin was divided in three functional areas, with the following municipalities:

- **Area 1:** Torrelavega, as the capital of Besaya, and the main economic and population center.
- **Area 2:** Alfoz de Lloredo, Cartes, Miengo, Polanco, Reocín, Santillana del Mar and Suances. This is the coastal area, which have a particular strength in terms of tourism.
- **Area 3:** Anievas, Arenas de Iguña, Bárcena de Pie de Concha, Cieza, Los Corrales de Buelna, Molledo and San Felices de Buelna. This third area comprises the interior municipalities, characterised by their rural accent.



Strategy of Besaya-Torrelavega

SAT4SUD Results



Territorial focus

2.4 The strategy itself has this perspective as within the basin there is a mix between rural areas and a main urban area in the centre (Torrelavega), which is the main economic motor of the area. The approach can be improved to clarify how territories are integrated, pursuing a better cohesion, access to opportunities and considering sustainability. Score 2

Governance.

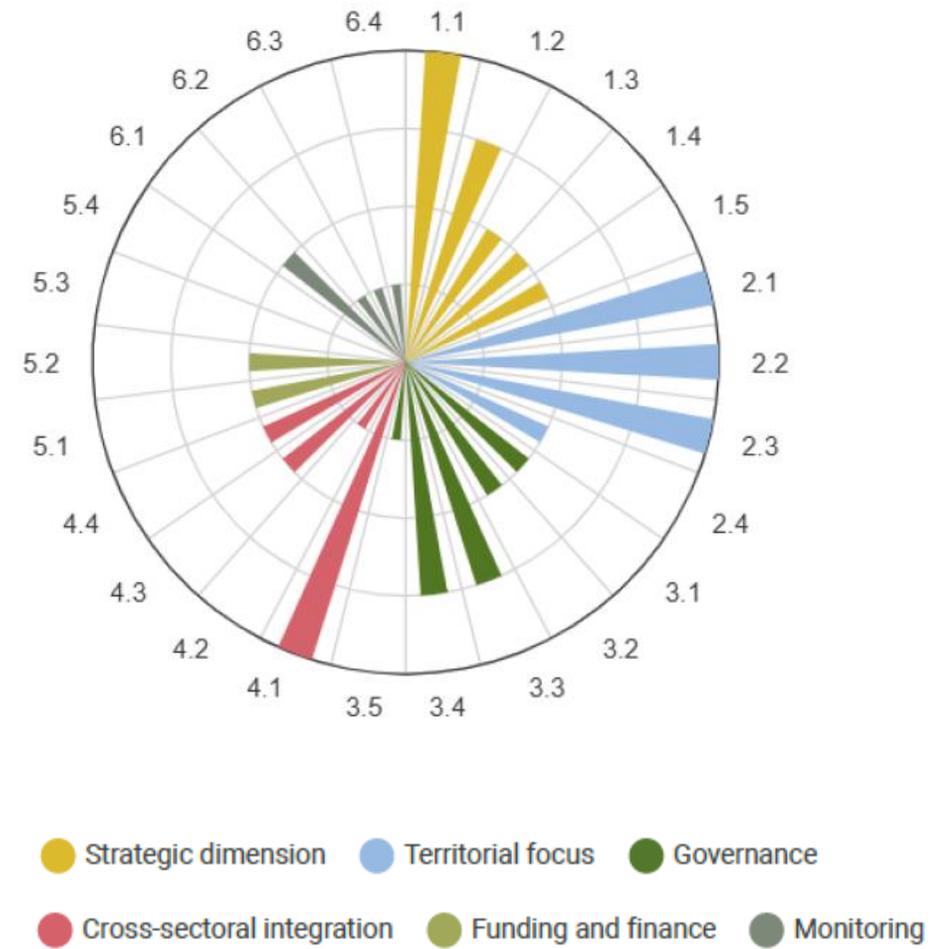
3.2 The ITI envisages a structure of governance including local bodies and other agents. In process of updating. More work on reinforcing cooperation among territories is needed. Score 2

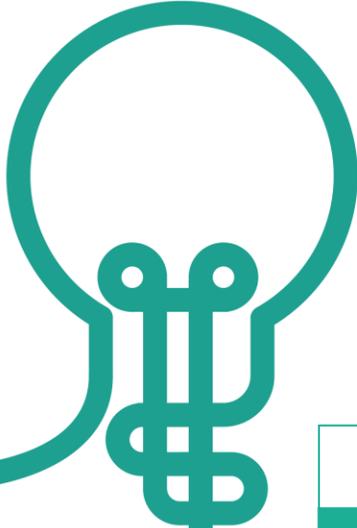
3.5 There is not a specific governance arrangement. Score 1

Funding and finance

Although the European funds to be implemented are clear, it is still necessary to know other public and private financing channels.

5.3. The involvement of private investors in funding the strategy is not envisaged but we would like to work in that sense. Score 1





Strategy of Besaya-Torrelavega

The three questions we would like to discuss

Question 1

How to attract private economic investment to the Besaya functional area?

Question 2

How to support governance in the Besaya functional area to make joint decisions, taking into account the different characteristics and needs of the municipalities that take part in it?

Question 3

How to improve, in a sustainable way, the connectivity between the municipalities of the Besaya functional area and the center of Torrelavega, as the head of Besaya area, and where most of the services and jobs are located?

Thank you!



**AYUNTAMIENTO
TORRELAVEGA**



**GOBIERNO
de
CANTABRIA**

**EUI peer review
Torrelavega, 26-27 February 2025**

**Integrated Territorial Investment
ITI Besaya**

BESAYA FUNCTIONAL AREA

Marta García Hospital, General Director of
European Funds, Government of Cantabria
garcia_marta@cantabria.es

EUI PEER REVIEW N° 7

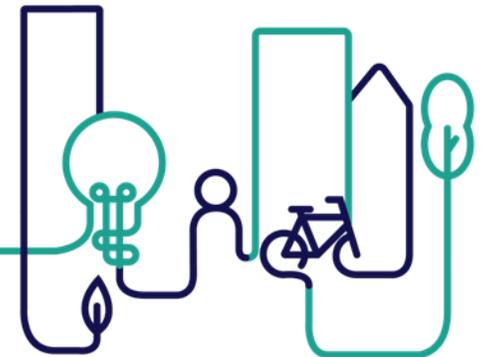
26-27 FEBRUARY 2025 TORRELAVEGA

Municipality of Torrelavega

Jezabel Tazón Salces

City Councillor of Mobility and Town Planning

Municipality of Torrelavega

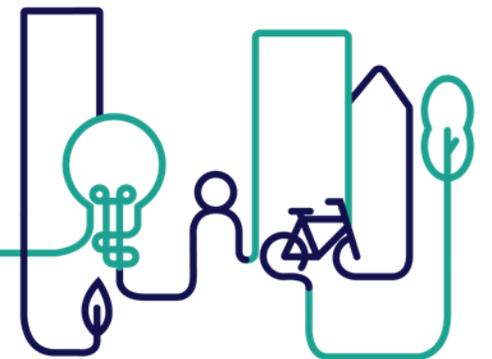


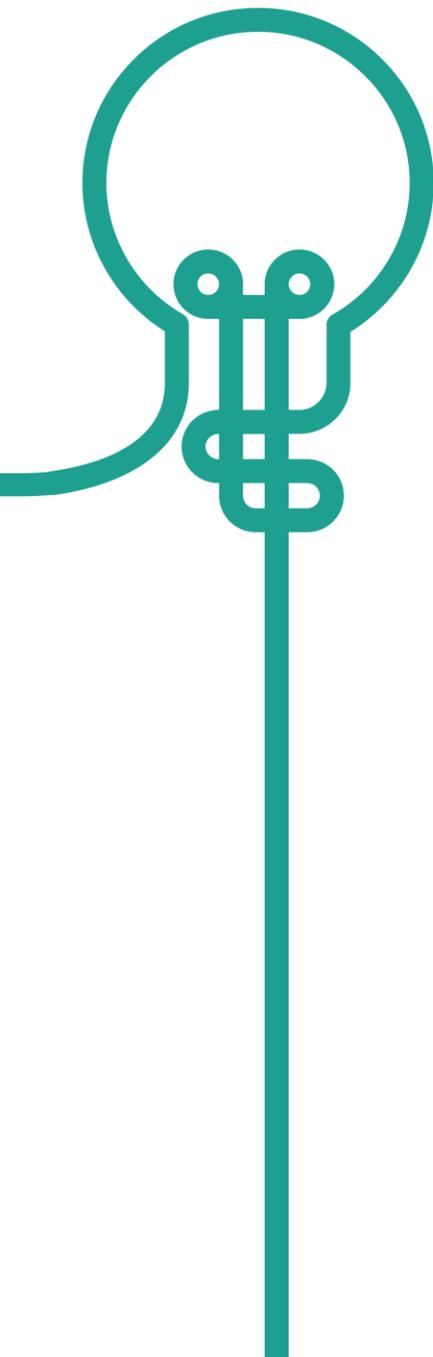
EUI PEER REVIEW N° 7

26-27 FEBRUARY 2025 TORRELAVEGA

Welcome and Practical details

Moderator: Adele Bucella, EUI Expert





Welcome !

- **EUI Peer Review:** focus on supporting a small number of urban authorities to find solutions to common challenges linked to the design and implementation of their SUD strategies.
- **Cities Under Review:**
 - **Torrelavega and Besaya Area, Spain (HOST)**
 - **Balvi, Latvia**
 - **Sibiu, Romania**
 - **Verona, Italy**
- **Peers: 19 peers** from 8 countries (CZ, DE, EL, ES, FI, FR, IT, RO)
- **National Contact Points:** 3 countries (DK, ES, LV)

Badge information

**EUROPEAN
U R B A N
INITIATIVE**

EUI PEER REVIEW #7
TORRELAVEGA, SPAIN
26-27 FEBRUARY 2025

Iluta Jaunžēikare
CUR
Balvi - LV

AGENDA
SCAN ME



 Co-funded by
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CITY UNDER REVIEW

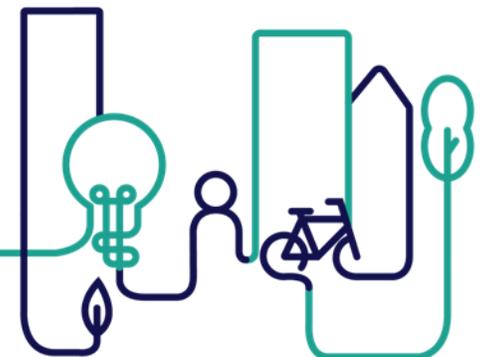
Balvi

GROUP COMMON SESSION

1

Let's get to know each other,
exchange ideas, and gain insights
on the Innovative Actions projects!

WIFI FREE ACCESS





**Our Agenda
DAY 1**

Agenda Day 1

08.30 – 09.00 Welcome and Registration

09.00 – 09.10 Welcome speeches

09.10 – 09.50 Panel Discussion – presenting SUD and Urban Agenda in Spain

09.50 – 10.00 Presenting SUD in the Veneto Region

09.35 – 09.45 Practical Details

10.00 – 10.15 Ice Breaker

10.15 – 10.45 Four Cities, Four Strategies

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 13.00 Peer Review Guiding Question N° 1

LUNCH

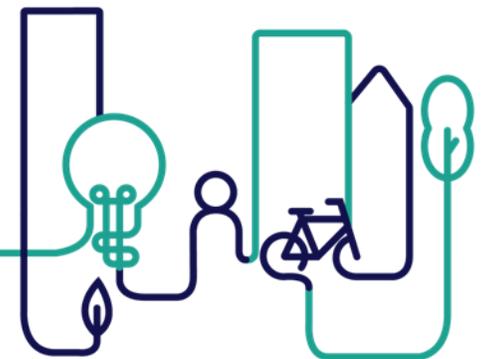
14.00 – 16.30 Interactive Session to address Guiding Question N° 2 – Collaboration across municipal borders

16.30 – 17.30 CUR Lessons from Day 1 and Networking

17.30 – 18.30 FREE TIME

18.30 – Walking Tour in Torrelavega

20.00 Dinner in Torrelavega

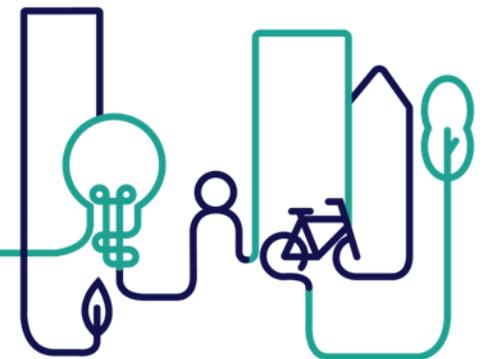


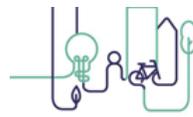


**Learning and
Action Grid**

Learning and Action Grid

- **Tools to document lessons and ideas gained throughout the peer review**
- **On paper/ post its**
- **CUR Record your learning, reflections and possible actions**
- **Peers recording your learning and suggestions for the CUR (including links to useful information)**
- **Personal and Collective**
- **Facilitators will give guidance in each session**





EUI Peer Review Learning and Action Grid (individual reflections)

What is the LAG? The individual LAG is a simple tool to allow you to capture any interesting things you hear or learn from Peer Review participants during the event. It can be used to note possible future collaboration ideas and contacts that you might like to follow up after the event.

Who is it for? The individual LAG is for EVERYONE! All Peer Review participants will learn something during the event.

What do I need to do? All participants (both CUR and Peers) should capture the key learning in the first column of the grid during each session and note any references to specific projects, good practice, possible city exchange or specific actions which you would like to follow up in the second column. Time will be dedicated in each session to reflect on your learning.

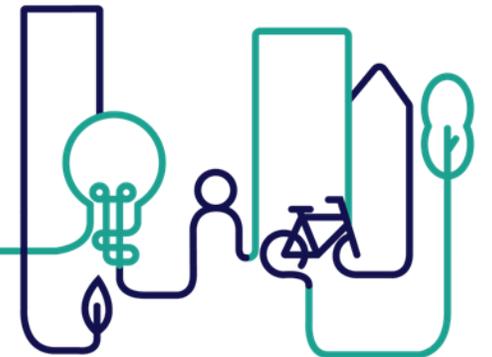
Learning and Action Grid for ALL

What is the LAG? A tool to capture learning.

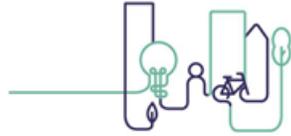
Who is it for? EVERYONE!

What do I need to do? Fill it in with the help of your group experts

| Key Learning | Specific projects/contacts/good practices/actions |
|---|---|
| Guiding Question 1 | |
| Guiding Question 2 (Interactive Workshop on Cooperating among Municipalities) | |



Learning and Action Grid for CUR

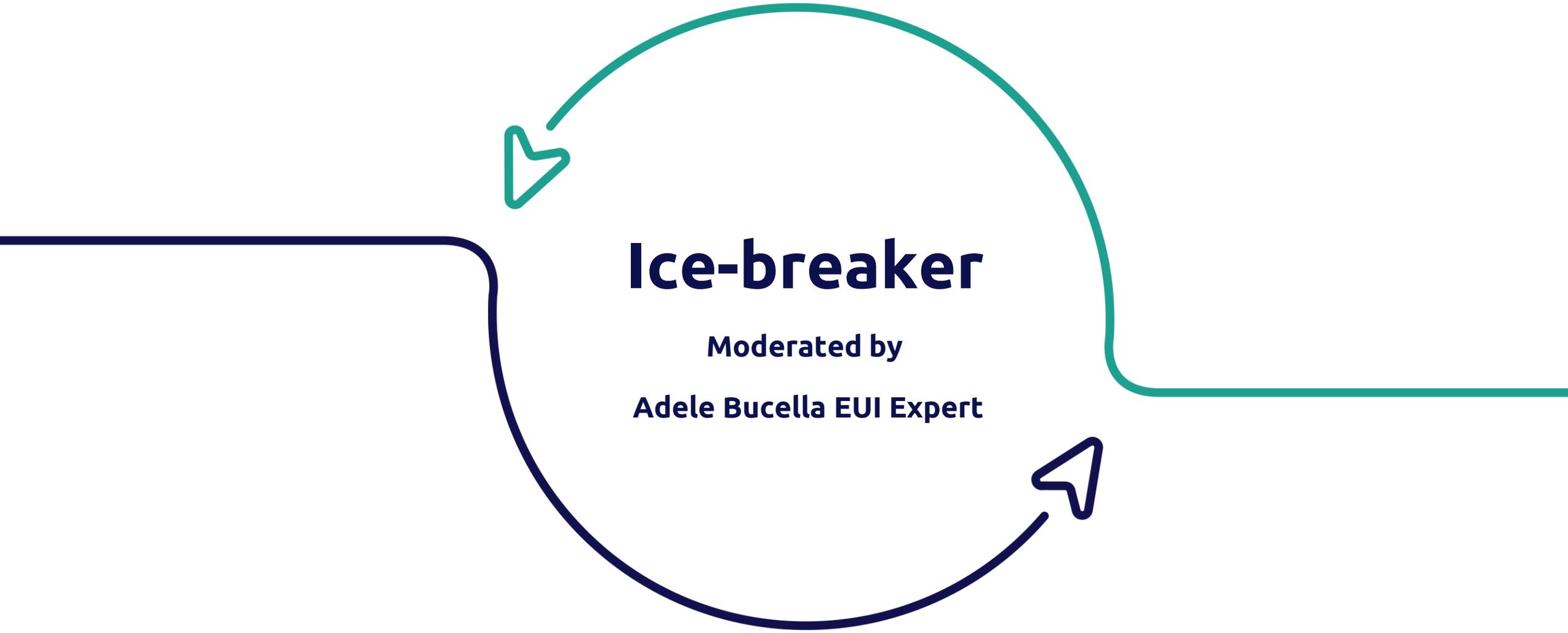


EUI Peer Review Learning and Action Grid (CUR specific)

During the Peer Review you will have captured your key individual learning in your individual Learning and Action Grids and highlighted the main points in each session. A summary of the learning and action for the CUR will be developed using this grid at the end of each day. The agreed actions will be shared with the whole group and will inform the content of the City Under Review Final Report. The progress towards these actions will be reviewed in the CUR follow-up meeting after six months.

The CUR should use their LAG to help formulate ideas for action as a follow up to the peer review.

| | Key Learning (policy advice from peers) | Agreed Actions (try to formulate at least 3 actions for each question) |
|---|---|--|
| Guiding Question 1 | | |
| Guiding Question 2 (Interactive Workshop on Cooperating among Municipalities) | | |
| Guiding Question 3 | | |
| Study Visits | Main lessons from the study visits: | |



Ice-breaker

Moderated by

Adele Bucella EUI Expert

INSTRUCTIONS



Everyone has an image (distributed at registration)

Step 1 - Find the other people with the same image and form a group

Step 2: Discuss the image you have – what emotions does it evoke

Step 3: In your group use the image (or not!) to find another thing you all have in common

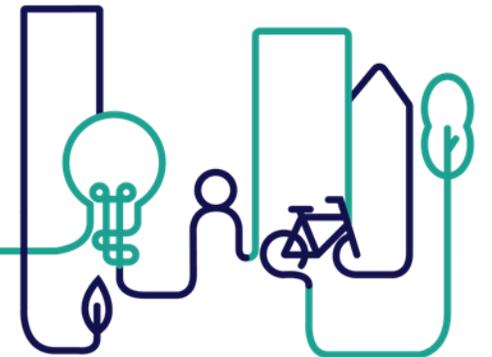


EUI PEER REVIEW N° 7

26-27 FEBRUARY 2025 TORRELAVEGA

Four cities, four Strategies

Moderators: Martina Pertoldi, Anamaria Vrabie and Sandra Rainero EUI Experts

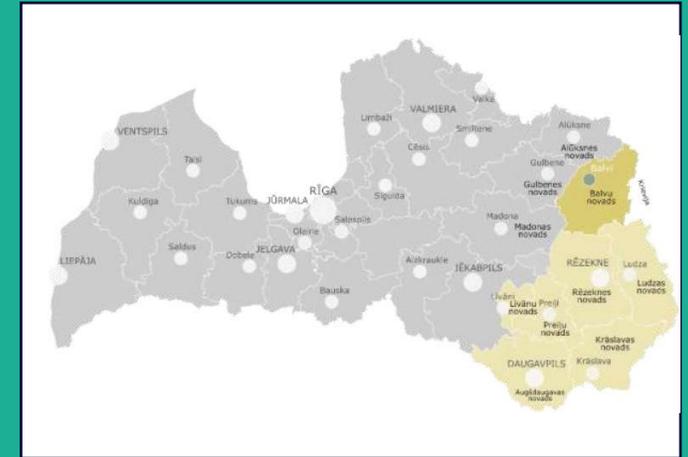


Balvi

Strategy of Balvi municipality

- **Territorial focus:** Functional (urban) Municipal Area
- **Targeted population:** covered by the strategy: 18 513
- **Amount:** estimated amount of EU funding for planned projects is ~34 milj. €
- **Territorial delivery mechanism:** SUD art.11 for coherence with EU regulation
- **Main theme of the strategy/vision:** The Balvi municipality is an open, cooperative and managed rural area in Northern Latgale, a land where self-conscious and active people create their own prosperity by creatively combining the opportunities offered by natural capital, cultural heritage, borderland and smart solutions.
- **SUD objectives:** PO1 A cohesive society and dynamic governance; PO2 A natural, orderly and healthy living, working and recreational environment; PO3; Competitive and productive economic activity.

National map- Latvoa



Strategy map



Strategy of Balvi municipality

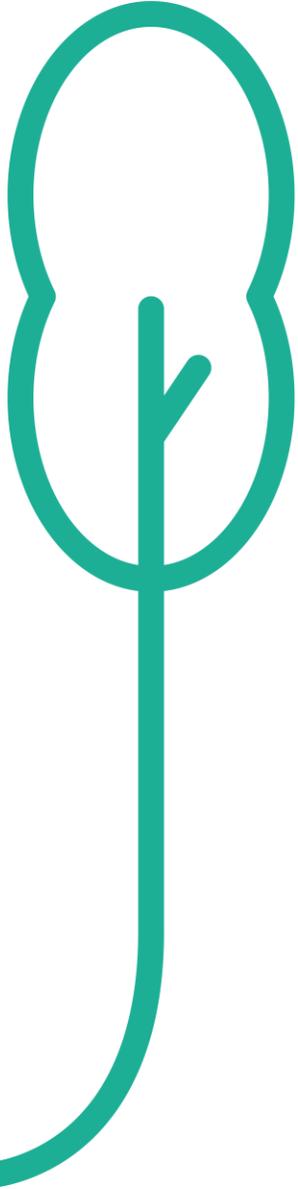
- **Territory:** Balvi municipality consists of 21 administrative territory: Balvi as the administrative center, Viļaka town and 19 parishes. Area of the municipality - 2386,3 km² and Balvi town is 0,2% or 5,1 km² – 99.8% rural area.
- **Socio- economic situation:**
 - The **population** - downward trend, with an 8.6% decrease since 2021,
 - **Density** is 8 people/km².
 - The population **structure** in 2024 was 13% under working age (15-63 years), 65% working age and 23% over working age. On average, 6 children will be born per 1000 inhabitants per year. T
 - The **unemployment rate** is on a downward trend, at 6.8% in 2024.
 - More than half or ~56% of **business activity is in the field** related to farms, i.e. mixed farming, grain, crop and livestock farming; ~10% is in the field of logging; 7% in retail, on-site and online and the remaining 27% in various other fields such as tourism, construction, logistics, etc.



SUD management structure

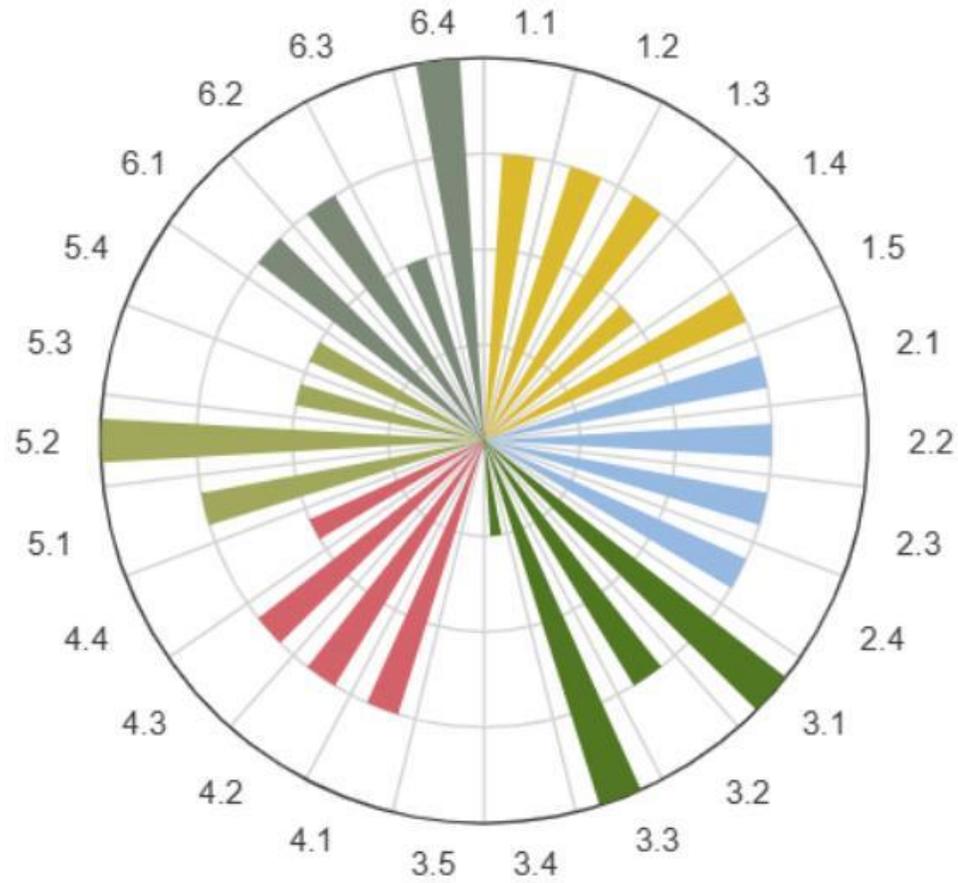
- **Development of SUD:** Four municipalities agreement → Public procedure → Ltd. «METRUM» as main developer of the SUD → Steering and drafting groups from municipalities specialists and inhabitants → public opinion gathering → Regions and ministries conclusion regarding the strategy → Councils decision to approve SUD
- **Implementation of SUD:** Updates are proposed by Development planning department, reviewed by the Finance Committee & accepted by Council → Monitoring & implementation is done by Development planning department



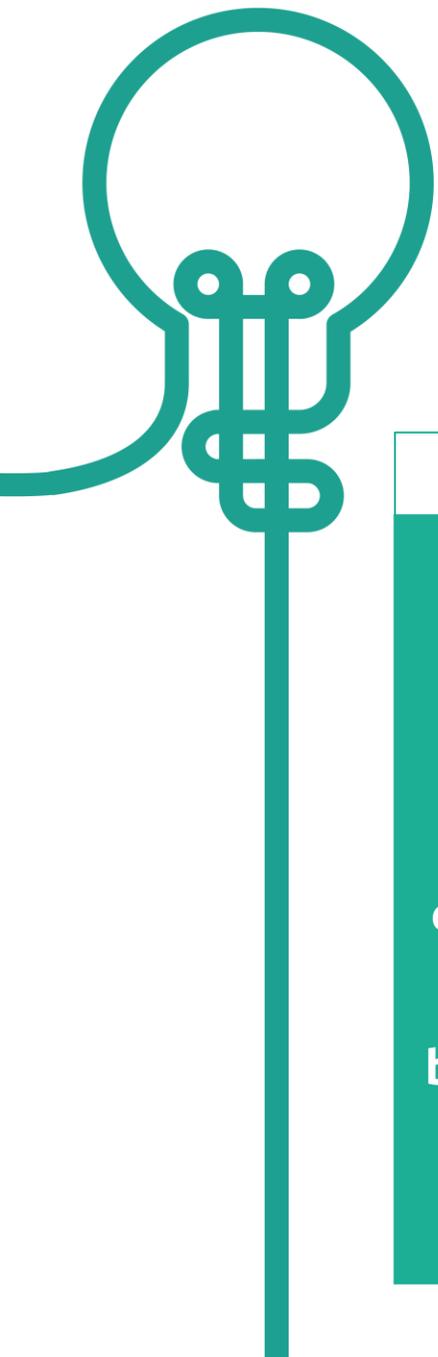


Strategy of Balvi municipality

SAT4SUD Results



- Strategic dimension
- Territorial focus
- Governance
- Cross-sectoral integration
- Funding and finance
- Monitoring



Strategy of Balvi municipality

The three questions we would like to discuss

Question 1

How to systematize collaboration, apart from when it is legal binding, between bordering municipalities that share common assets and aim to exploit common opportunities for the benefit of the inhabitants?

Question 2

How to activate the public participation when it comes to questions regarding the implementation of the Balvi municipality development program 2022-2027?

Question 3

How to integrate the climate change adaption into the strategy and how to know when an additional strategy just for climate change would be more suitable?

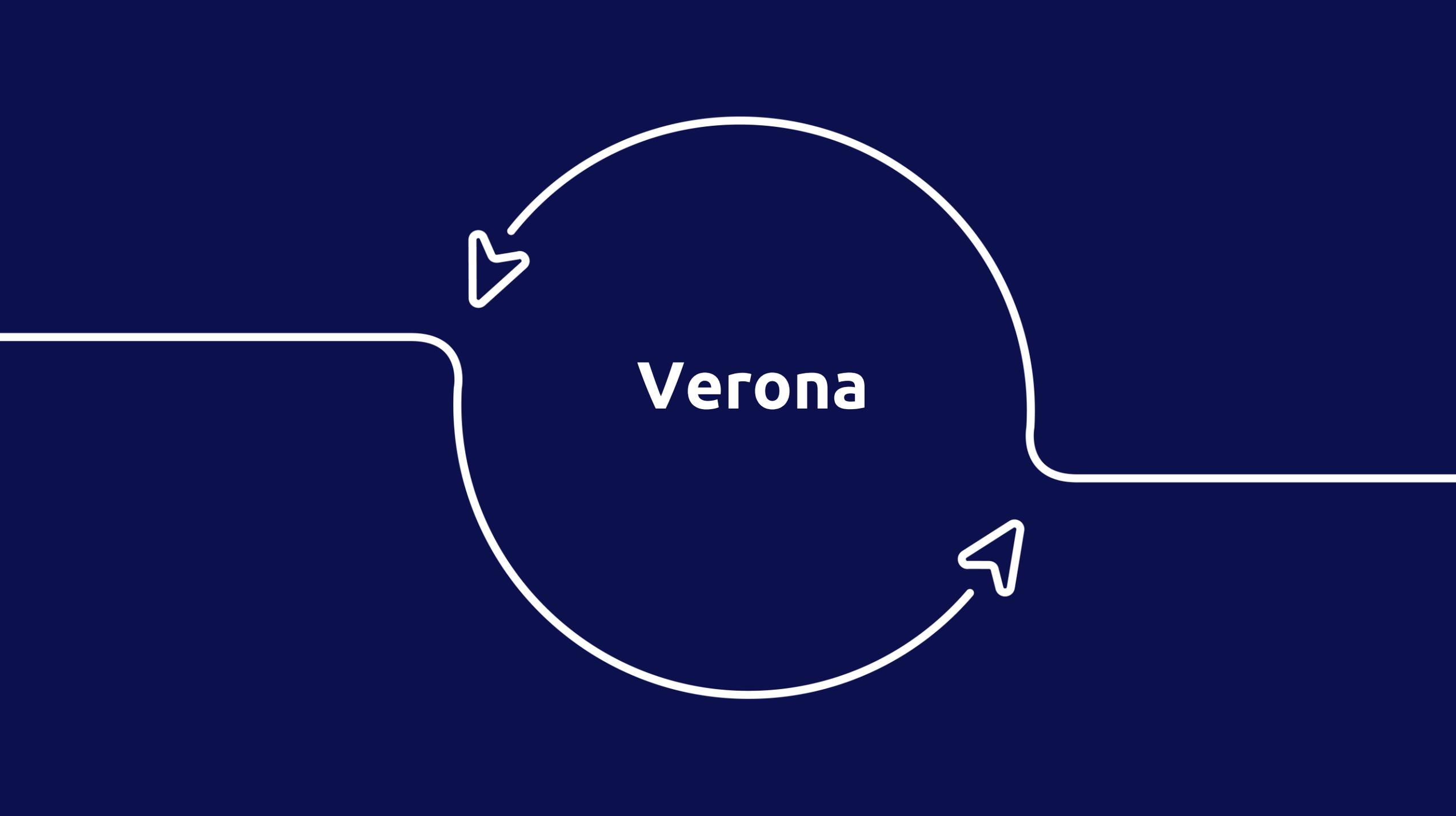


Thank you!

**EUI peer review
Torrelavega, 26-27 February 2025**

Balvi municipality, Latvia

**Santa Šmite
Santa.smite@balvi.lv**



Verona

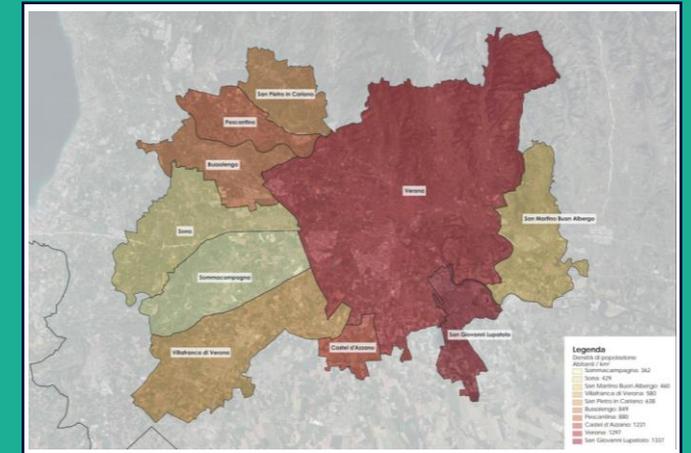
Strategy of Verona

- **Title of the strategy:** Verona Urban Area SUD Integrated Strategy
- **Country:** Italy – Veneto Region (more developed)
- **Territorial focus:** Verona F.U.A.
- **Targeted population :** 427 937 [City (258 031) + 9 bordering municipalities]
- **Funding type :** ERDF, ESF+
- **Territorial delivery mechanism:** ITI
- **Amount:** 20 578 639 (ERDF) + 760 893 (ESF+)
- **Policy objectives :** PO1, PO2, PO4, PO5

National map



Strategy map - Urban Area



Strategy of Verona

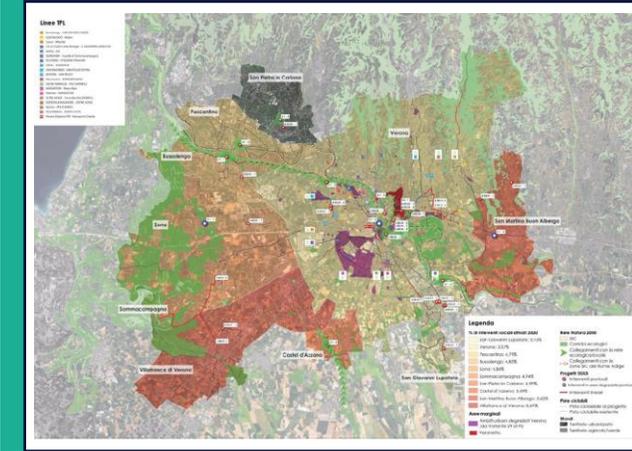
➤ Main themes of the strategy:

- **digitalisation** for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities (1-ii);
- protection and **preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure**, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of **pollution** (2-vii);
- promoting **sustainable multimodal urban mobility**, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy (2-viii);
- **socio economic inclusion** of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups, through integrated actions including **housing** and social services (4-iii);
- integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, **culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism** and security in urban areas (5-i).

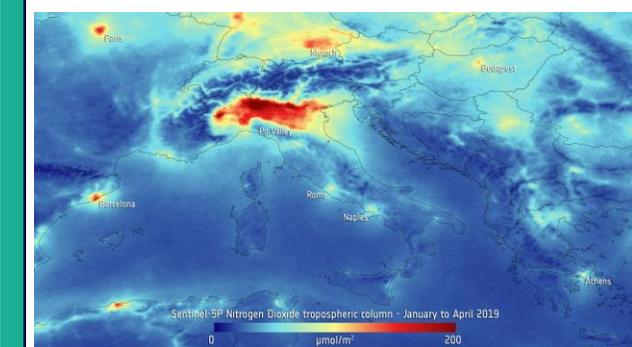
➤ **Strategic context:** Verona is at the core of an area located at the crossing of major communication and transport routes in Northern Italy. Because of its historical development, economic and demographic size, concentration of equipment and facilities the metropolitan area of Verona plays a strategic role both compared to other main poles of the Po Valley economical system and to the Middle-European area directly related.

➤ The Po-valley is characterized by a **high density of anthropogenic emissions**. In the map: high level of Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) – Copernicus Sentinel 5P.

Map of interventions



Strategic context



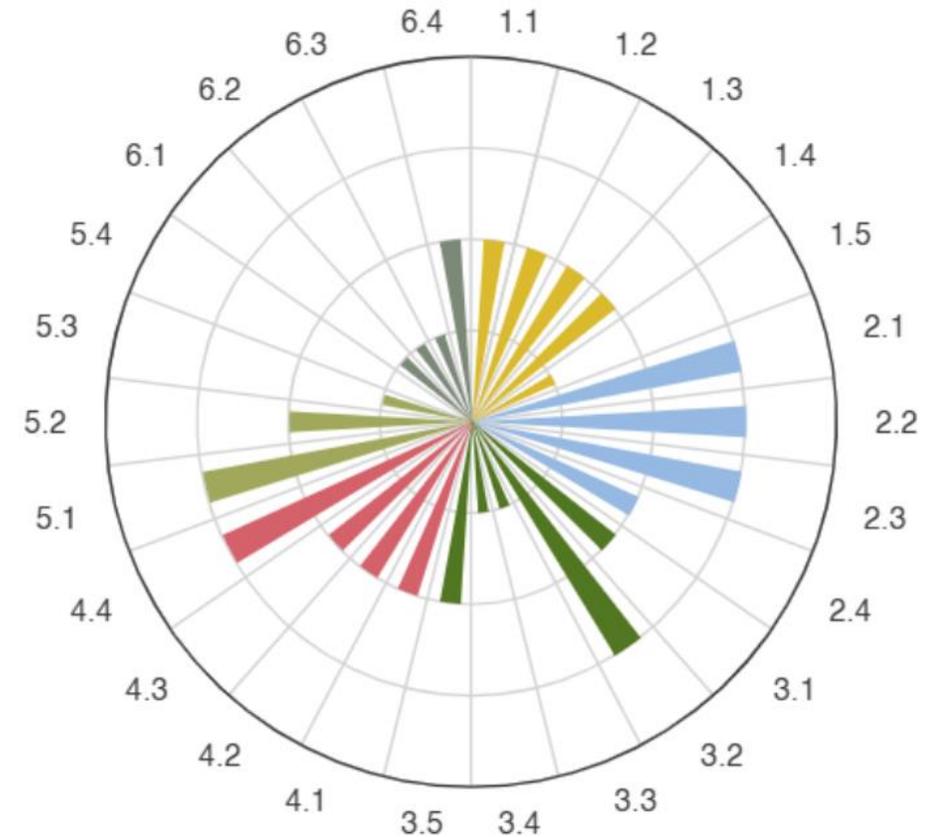
Strategy of Verona SAT4SUD Results

Lowest scores are in:

- **Strategic dimension**, hindered by a top-down decision process
- **Governance**, weakened by low political commitment and 'formal' participative tools
- **Monitoring**, lacking a coherent logical framework and looking mainly at quantitative indicators

Highest scores are in:

- **Territorial focus**, as the administrative dimension of the Urban Area covers the most of F.U.A. (85% of population)



Strategy of Verona

The three questions we would like to discuss

Question 1

How to consolidate our current SUD Strategy and make it relevant fostering evidence-based policies and allowing better alignment with spatial planning tools and other thematic programs linked to EU Policy Objectives and the Urban Agenda?

Question 2

How to strengthen the political commitment of the decision makers to ensure, both in the design and implementation phases, the continuity of Verona SUDS in a long term vision, building a governance framework on internal and external cooperation?

Question 3

How to build a reliable and effective integrated local monitoring system, following a coherent logical framework aligned with OP's objectives as well as international, national and regional sustainable development agendas?

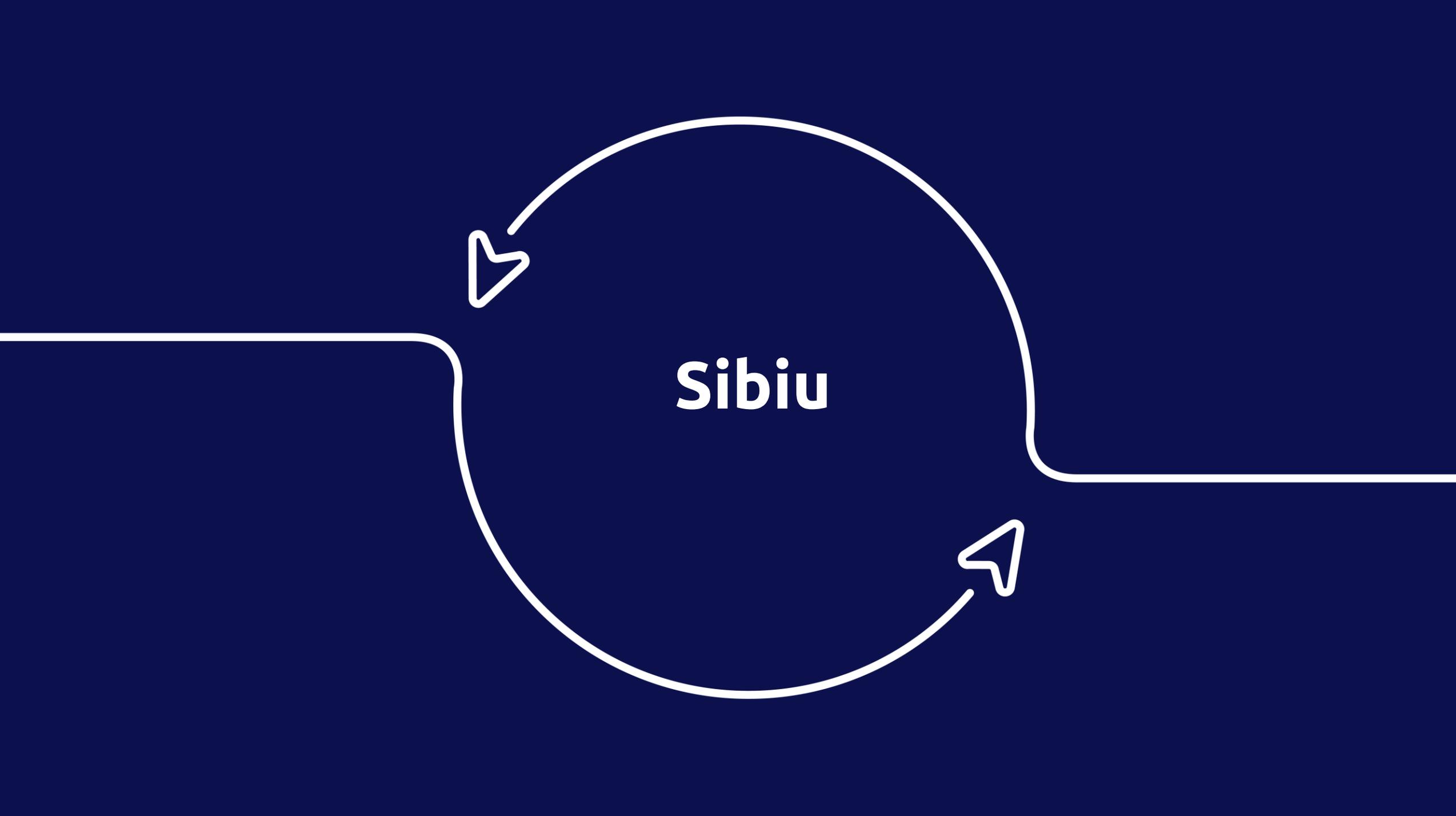
Thank you!



**EUI peer review
Torrelavega, 26-27 February 2025**

Verona Urban Area

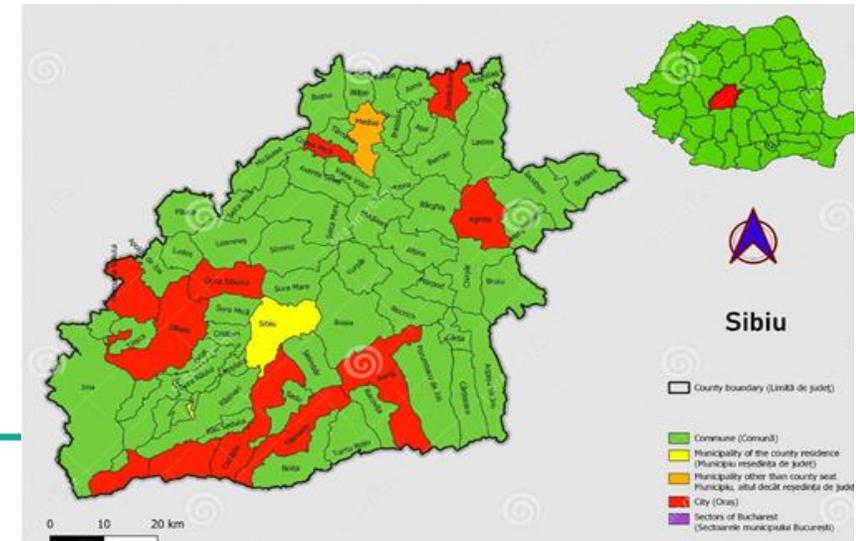
Roberto Carollo
roberto.carollo@comune.verona.it



Sibiu

Integrated Sustainable Development Strategy of Sibiu Metropolitan Area (ADI POL Dezvoltare Sibiu)

- **Title of the strategy:** Integrated Sustainable Development Strategy of Sibiu Metropolitan Area
- **Country:** Romania
- **Territorial focus:** Sibiu Metropolitan Area
- **Targeted population :** 240.000
- **Funding type :** Cohesion Funding
- **Policy objectives :**
 - P.O. 2 a greener, low carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy
 - P.O. 5 Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable a Europe



Integrated Sustainable Development Strategy of Sibiu Metropolitan Area

➤ **Main theme of the strategy:**

The main goal is to stimulate and support the prosperity and the well-being of the citizens of Sibiu metropolitan area through integrated development projects for local and regional interest by bridging the divide between urban and rural areas and create urban-rural linkages.

➤ **Strategic context:**

Sibiu Development Association (ADI POL Sibiu) was established in 2023 by 20 municipalities from Sibiu County with the mission to develop Sibiu metropolitan area in a sustainable way. Out of the 20 public administrations that are embedded in the functional metropolitan area of Sibiu, 14 municipalities are from rural areas and 6 municipalities are urban. The core city of the metropolitan area is Sibiu city.



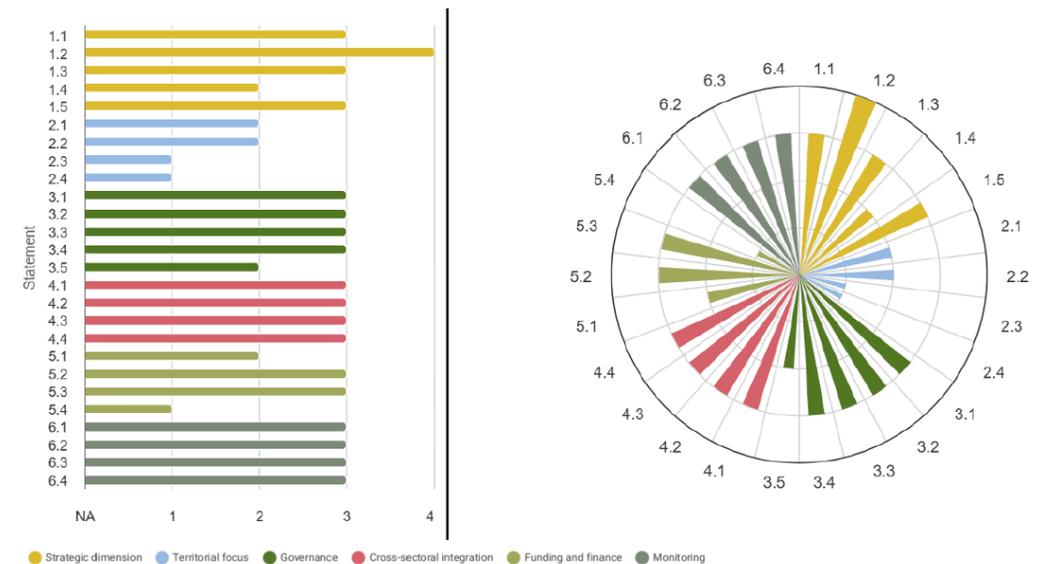
Integrated Sustainable Development Strategy of Sibiu Metropolitan Area

The Sibiu Integrated Strategy for Urban Development details its alignment with Sustainable Development Goals and national strategies, addressing the peri-urban area across five municipalities, however:

- the Integrated Sustainable Strategy for the Sibiu Metropolitan Area needs to emphasize the importance of enhancing **local connections** between urban and rural areas.
- **An update** is needed to include all 20 municipalities that form the functional urban-rural linkages.

SAT4SUD

Integrated Sustainable Development Strategy of Sibiu Metropolitan Area



Integrated Sustainable Development Strategy of Sibiu Metropolitan Area



The three questions we would like to discuss

Question 1

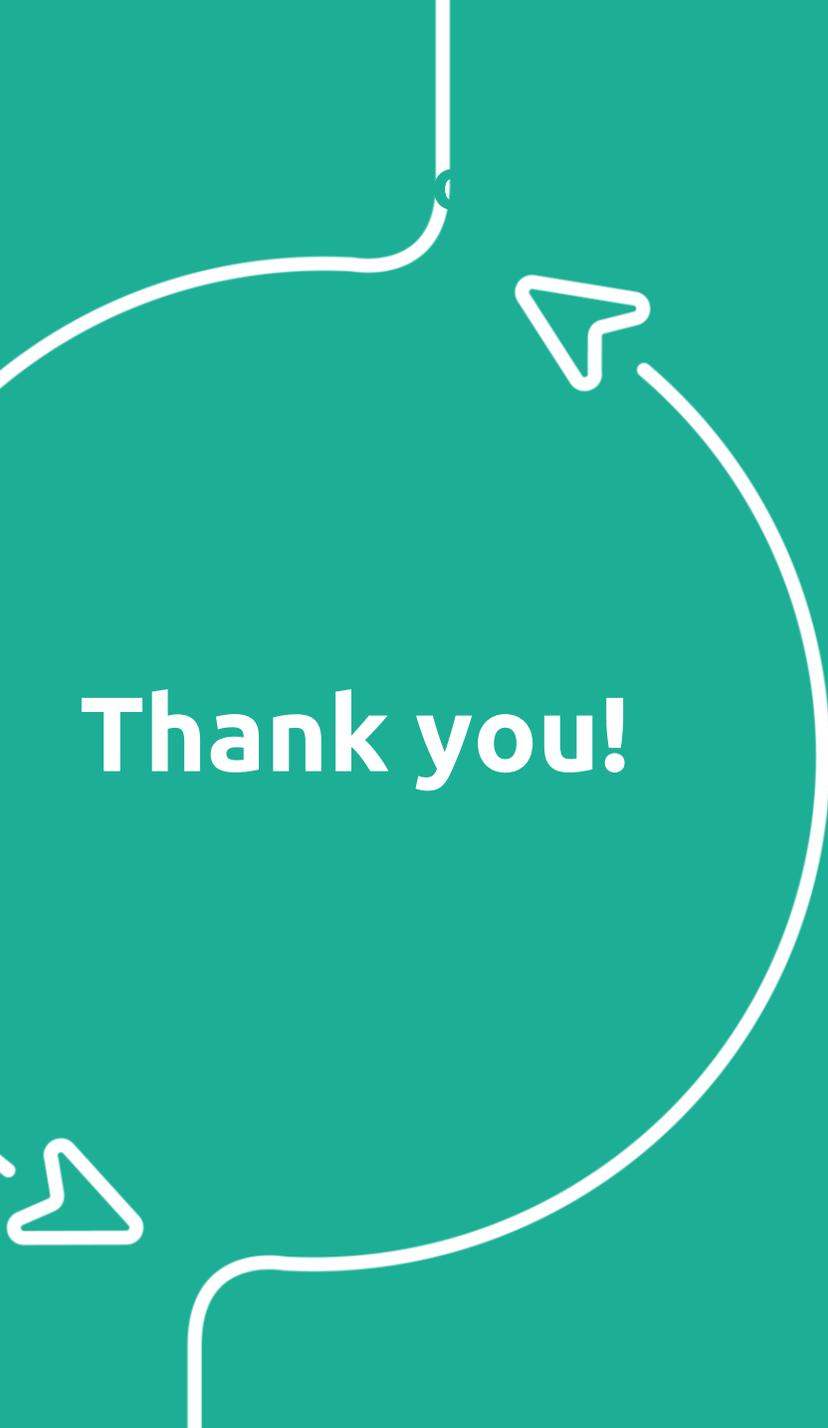
How to define a common vision for the development of the metropolitan area that is shared by both the urban and rural entities?

Question 2

How to bridge the socio-economic divide between urban and rural areas to promote balanced metropolitan development?

Question 3

What are the funding opportunities for the Sustainable Development Strategy of an Intercommunity Association?



Thank you!

**EUI peer review
Torrelavega, 26-27 February 2025**

Sibiu Development Association

Carmen Ghidiu
lungucarmen@yahoo.com

Room Allocation

Besaya Area/
Torrelavega

Stay in Plenary:

Room A

(follow Nikos and
Sandra M)

Balvi

Move to:

Room B

(follow Eleni and
Martina)

Sibiu

Move to:

Room C

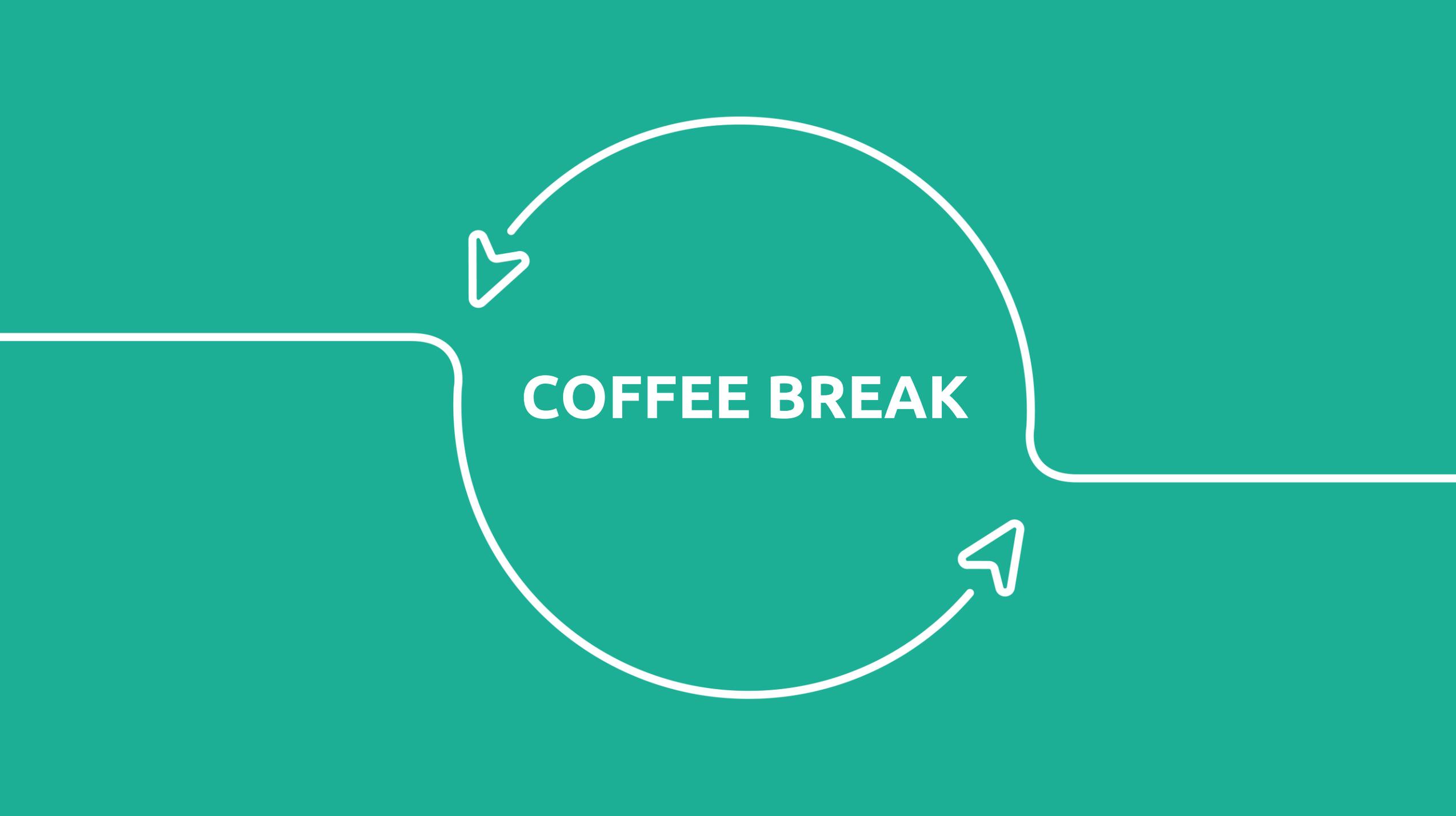
(follow Martijn and
Sandra R)

Verona

Move to:

Room D

(follow Anamaria
and Petra)



COFFEE BREAK

Room Allocation

Besaya Area/
Torrelavega

Stay in Plenary:

Room A

(follow Nikos and
Sandra M)

Balvi

Move to:

Room B

(follow Eleni and
Martina)

Sibiu

Move to:

Room C

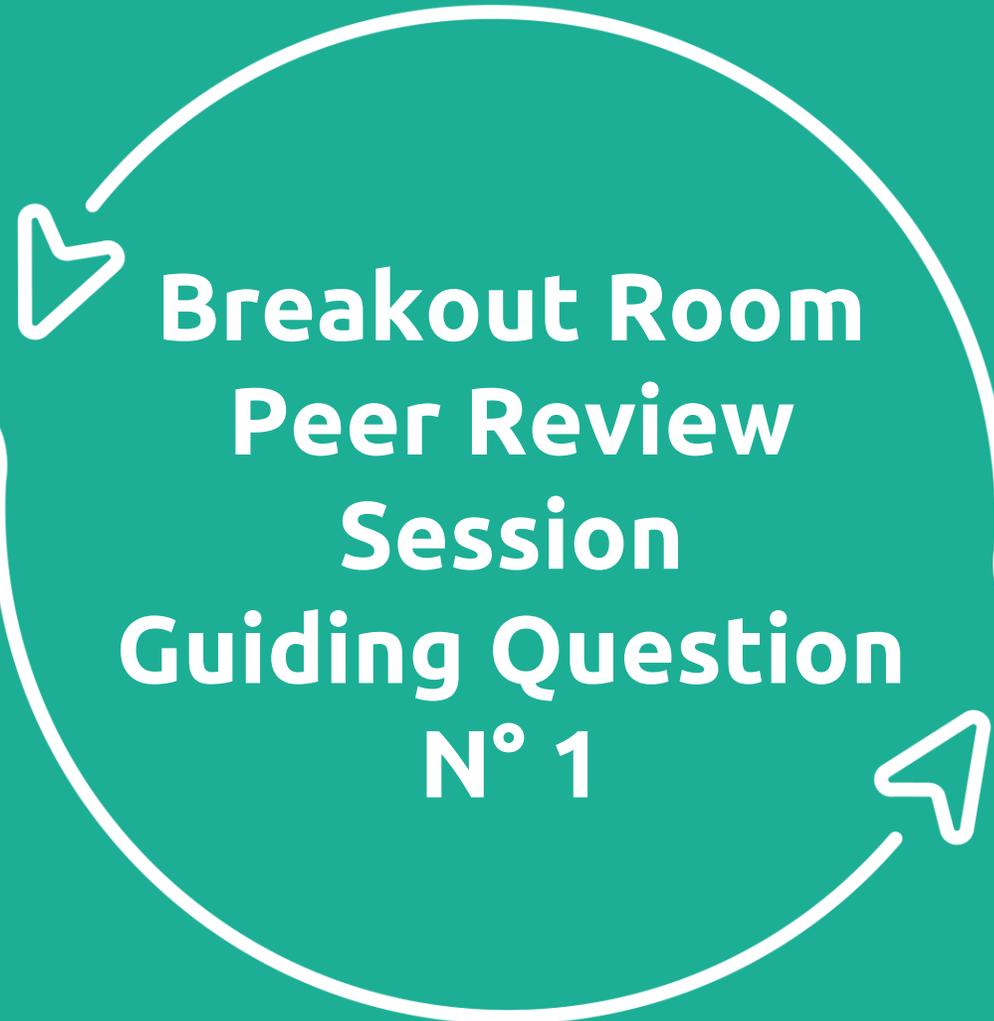
(follow Martijn and
Sandra R)

Verona

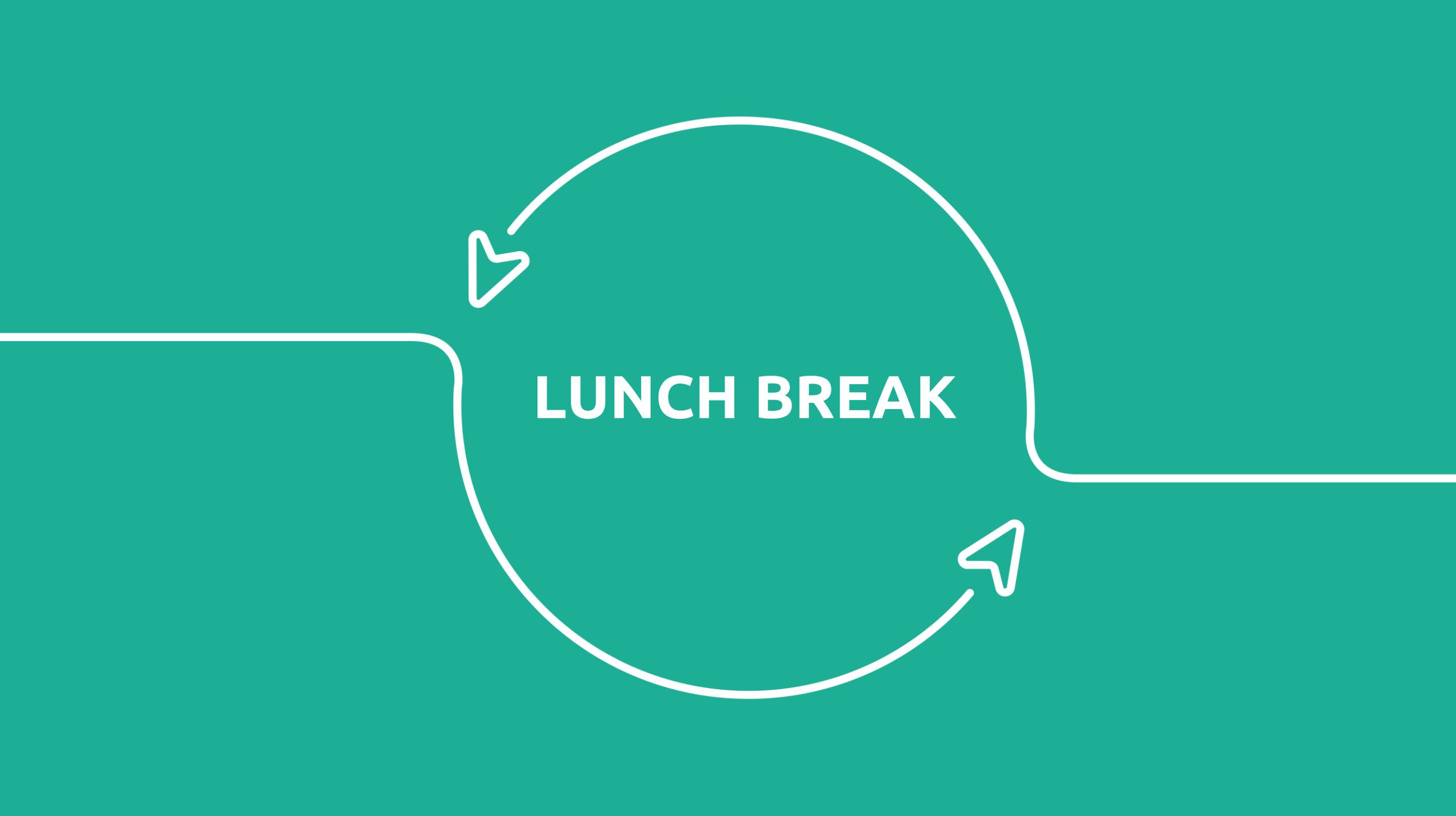
Move to:

Room D

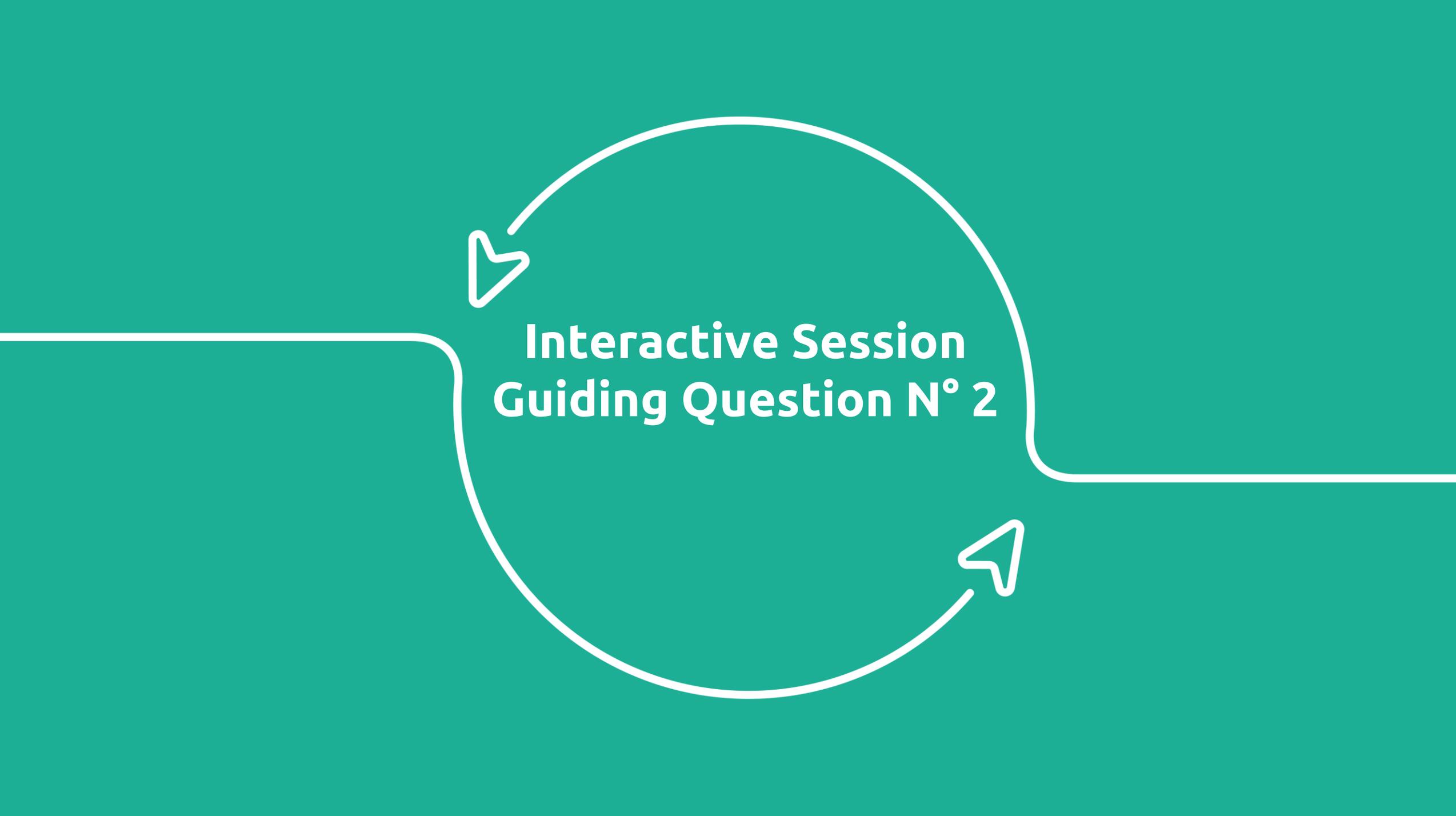
(follow Anamaria
and Petra)



**Breakout Room
Peer Review
Session
Guiding Question
N° 1**



LUNCH BREAK

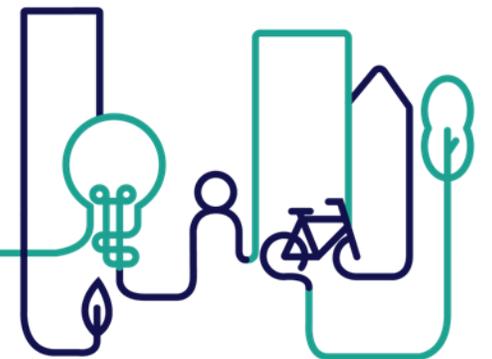


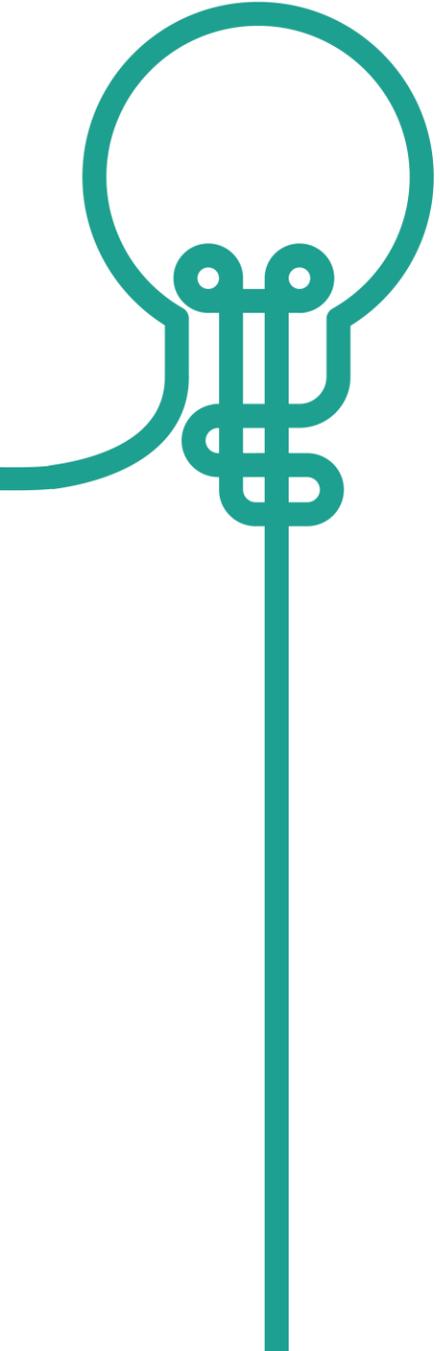
**Interactive Session
Guiding Question N° 2**

EUI PEER REVIEW N° 7 26-27 FEBRUARY 2025 TORRELAVEGA

INTERACTIVE SESSION QUESTION 2

Moderators: Anamaria Vrabie and Martina Pertoldi, EUI Experts



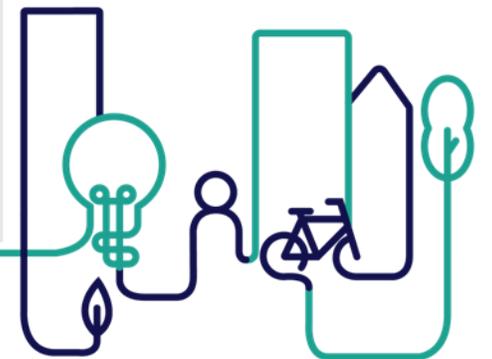


The Common Question

How to initiate and maintain effective cooperation among different municipalities and other relevant organisations in order to drive meaningful change?

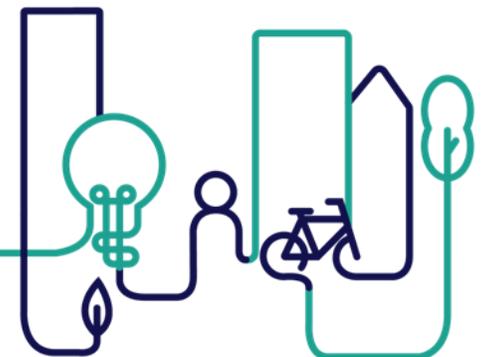
The Original Guiding Questions

| CUR | Guiding Questions |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Besaya/ Torrelavega (Spain) | How to support governance in the Besaya Region to make joint decisions , taking into account the different characteristics and needs of the municipalities that take part in it? |
| Balvi (Latvia) | How to systematize collaboration , apart from when it is legally binding , between bordering municipalities that share common assets and aim to exploit common opportunities for the benefit of the inhabitants ? |
| Sibiu (Romania) | How to bridge the socio-economic divide between urban and rural areas to promote balanced metropolitan development ? |
| Verona (Italy) | How to strengthen the political commitment of the decision makers to ensure, both in design and implementation phase , the continuity of Verona SUD strategic objectives and actions building a governance framework on internal and external cooperation (with the surrounding territories)? |



Framing the Common Question

- Main topic: **functional area approach** beyond jurisdictional boundaries
- 2014-2020 JRC data show that **20% of SUD strategies** and 61% of local and territorial development strategies **focus on functional areas**
- **Cooperation** is key for SUD strategies involving more municipalities BUT relevant also for single-municipality strategies
- Often addressing also **urban-rural** linkages
- Crucial for achieving territorial integration, effective governance affect **all the other dimensions of an integrated approach**, from goal setting to monitoring



Graph: Functional Areas in the EU, Methodological Toolkit to improve governance, coordination, planning, and implementation processes across jurisdictional boundaries, 2024. Available at [Methodological Toolkit – Functional Areas in the EU](#)

How is your attention bandwidth?

You are about to hear 2 short presentations from fellow peers on the topics of intermunicipal cooperation and multi-actor coordination.

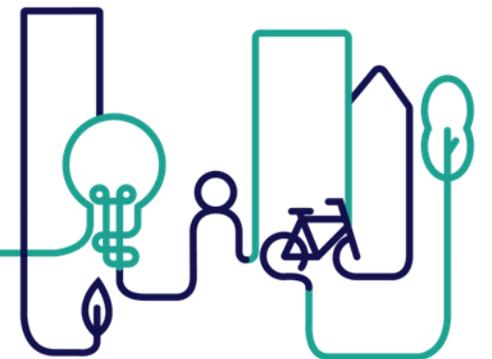
Each presenter will mention **3 words** that you can find in the word puzzle received.

What you need to do:

1. Find the 6 words marked in the word puzzle.
2. Mark them **WHEN** they are mentioned by the speakers
3. Say **ANCHOA** after you hear all 6 words mentioned by the speakers.

WORD SEARCH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | R | G | H | Y | W | C | B | U | J | I | O | L | P | S | C | N | K | L | Z | R | U | O | M | X | C |
| S | F | R | D | C | G | Y | T | H | N | J | K | U | S | R | F | V | N | H | U | A | F | R | Y | Y | J |
| D | T | G | H | Y | U | K | P | O | L | I | C | Y | F | R | T | G | H | E | R | L | Y | N | B | X | D |
| Z | M | D | R | E | F | T | G | Y | C | Q | A | N | B | D | B | S | T | R | A | T | E | G | Y | I | L |
| E | E | U | S | F | R | G | H | Y | H | U | P | R | Y | I | P | M | C | A | F | A | B | N | J | G | F |
| D | T | L | L | R | T | Y | J | N | L | I | A | K | G | V | B | K | X | E | S | M | C | F | R | E | S |
| P | M | W | A | T | P | O | I | J | L | M | C | G | T | Y | D | C | B | J | U | I | N | Y | T | R | N |
| E | R | X | V | B | I | F | R | G | I | Y | I | Z | T | J | L | C | X | Q | A | R | X | V | N | Q | E |
| D | T | H | N | J | M | - | T | Y | C | D | T | T | S | U | S | T | A | I | N | A | B | L | E | Z | Z |
| R | Y | G | U | I | O | L | L | T | Y | Y | Y | E | G | Y | N | U | Q | S | X | V | R | O | P | L | N |



Guest speaker: Petr Sasinska

Head of Department
Brno ITI Management and
Metropolitan Cooperation Unit



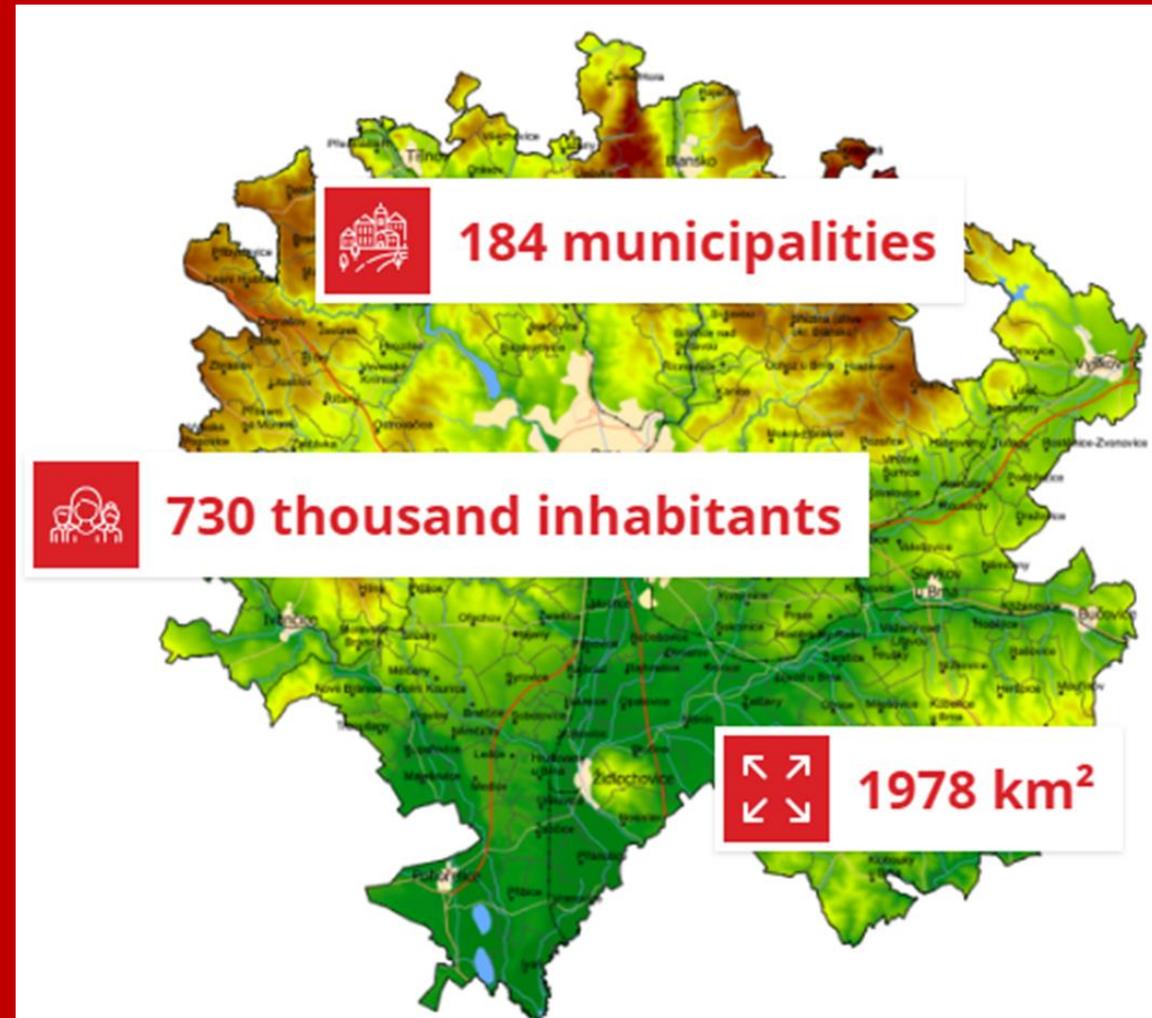
How to initiate and maintain effective cooperation among different municipalities and other relevant organisations in order to drive meaningful change?

*How can we bring all relevant stakeholders on board... ?
What is needed to build trust?*

Brno Metropolitan Area experience (CZ)

Challenges:

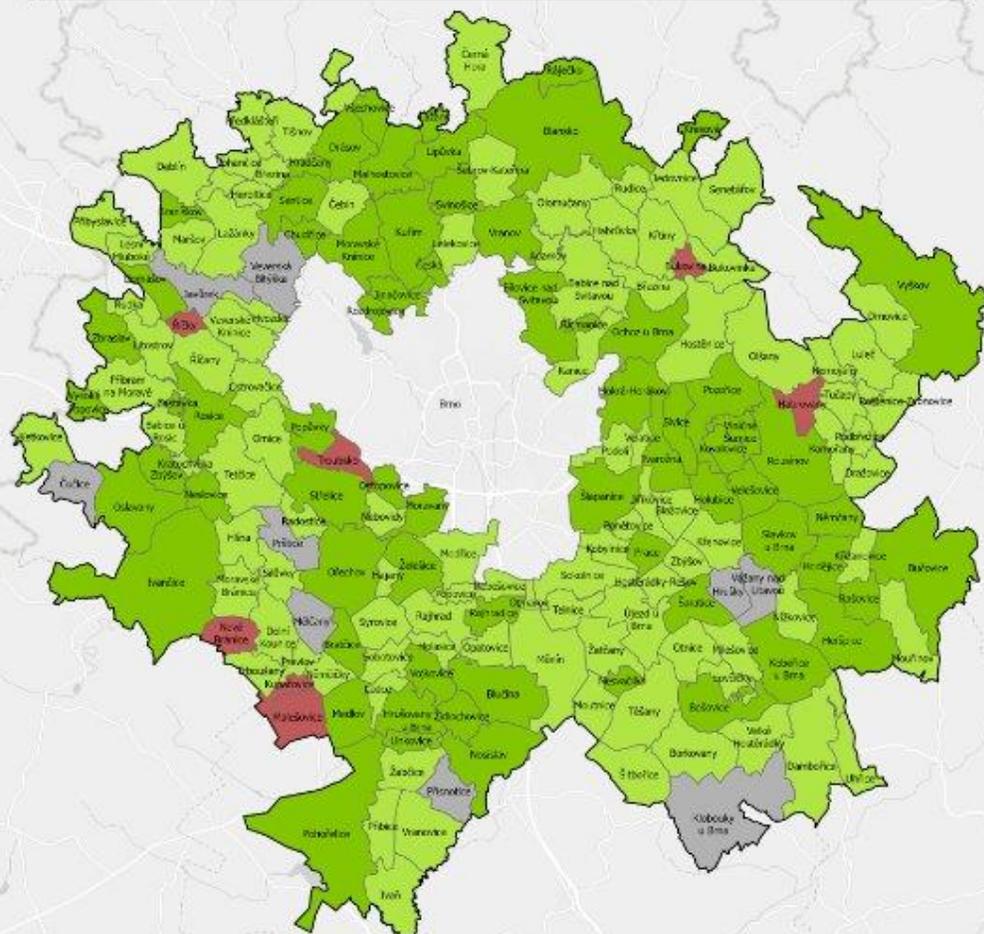
- high number of municipalities
- scale imbalances among municipalities
- contradictory motivation and priorities as emerging from diverse territories
- conflicts among decision makers



Simple answer: **HOLD ON!** 😊

- **Our long-term approach: since 2014 parallel development of three dimensions of cooperation:**
 - Material** – metropolitan issues and projects included in the strategy
 - Cultural** – awareness, mutual trust, cohesion, visual identity
 - Institutional** – forms of cooperation, planning process, governance models, legislation etc.
- Allocation for ITI of BMA (2014-2028) – cca **500 mil. EUR** from 3 funds (CF+ERDF+ESF)
- Memorandum on metropolitan cooperation with South Moravian Region and 6 largest municipalities in surroundings (since 2014)
- **2 types of regular communication**
 - **Intensive** – based on memorandum: Steering group (politicians), 5 expert WGs (given by national methodology)
 - **Extensive** – with all 183 municipalities: newsletters, christmas cards, questionnaire survey etc.)
 - **plus individual approach ;-)**
- Publicity and awareness within BMA (e.g. publications, workshops, conferences, marketing campaign)

WILLINGNESS OF MUNICIPALITIES TO COOPERATE AT THE METROPOLITAN LEVEL

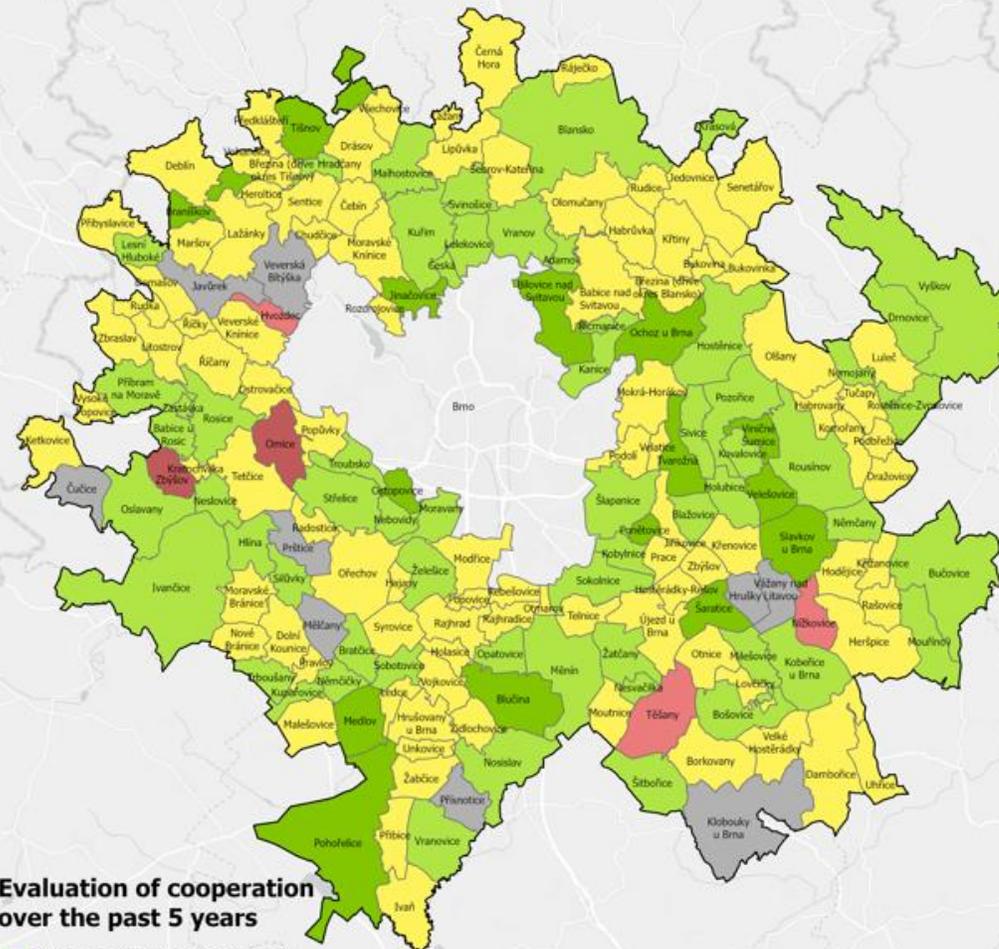


- Definitely yes – active involvement (69)
- Rather yes – passive involvement (98)
- Definitely not (7)
- N/A (9)
- Municipal boundaries
- BMA boundaries

Data source: Questionnaire survey of City of Brno 2023, ArcData ČR
GUGIK, Esri, HERE, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS

0 5 10 20 km

EVALUATION OF THE COOPERATION OF BRNO AND MUNICIPALITIES IN BMA IN THE PAST 5 YEARS



Evaluation of cooperation over the past 5 years

- Significantly improving (15)
- Slightly improving (59)
- Still the same (95)
- Slightly worsening (3)
- Significantly worsening (2)
- No answer (9)
- Municipal boundaries
- BMA boundaries

Data source: questionnaire survey MMB 2023, ArcData ČR
GUGIK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS

0 5 10 20 km

**Guest speaker:
José Mateos
Moreno**

**General Director
Sustainable Development
Provincial Council of Granada**





GRANADA: A LAND OF CONTRASTS



TWO TERRITORIAL REALITIES: NEED TO ADAPT THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

GRANADA RURAL: The Provincial Strategy to address the Demographic Challenge and Depopulation of Granada

GRANADA URBANA: Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategies of the Provincial Council of Granada



URBAN AND RURAL AGENDA OF THE PROVINCE OF GRANADA

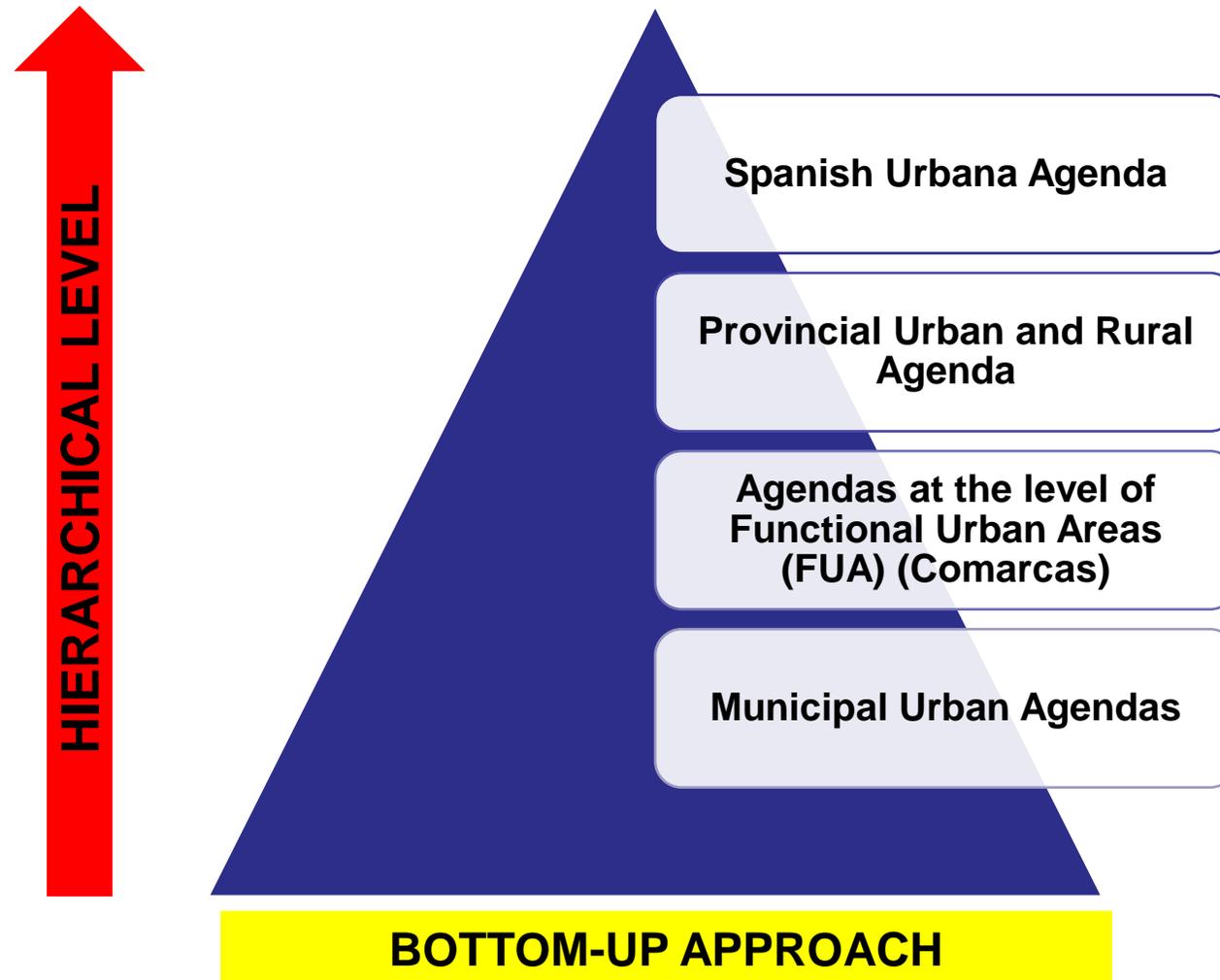
ROLE OF THE GRANADA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

In 2020, the Granada Provincial Council incorporated a new Programme to its Catalogue of Services to City Councils (Concertación): “Urban Agenda 2030 for sustainable development”, which includes the following Services:

1. Support for Design
2. Support for Implementation
3. Support for the maturation of Driving Measures



BOTTOM-UP PROCESS





AGENDA URBANA Y RURAL 2030 DE LA PROVINCIA DE GRANADA

AGENDAS SUPRAMUNICIPALES
EN 15 ÁREAS FUNCIONALES

[HTTPS://OPAUGRANADA.ES/INDEX.PHP](https://opaugranada.es/index.php)



- **Willingness to cooperate at a supra-municipal level:** Overcoming localisms and assuming belonging to a Functional Urban Area.
- **Combining local with supra-municipal approach:** It must be compatible for a municipality to participate in a Supra-municipal Urban Agenda with its legitimate aspiration to have its own Municipal Agenda.
- **Governance - Who leads the process?:** Different options, from more formal formulas (Mancomunidades or Associations of Municipalities), to more flexible solutions such as administrative agreements or simply having the support of already established supra-municipal Entities (for example, Provincial Councils).
- **Mobilization of human and economic resources:** Special mention with regard to small municipalities with less technical and economic capacity.
- **Citizen participation:** need to articulate citizen participation in supra-municipal context

ANCHOA



How do we work on the common question?

- **4 groups, different set-up**
- **Check your badge to see your group number.**
- **Group work and then sharing of main results in plenary.**

GROUP 1

Stay in
Plenary:
Room A
(follow Eleni and
Nikos)

GROUP 2

Move to:
Room B
(follow Sandra
R and Petra)

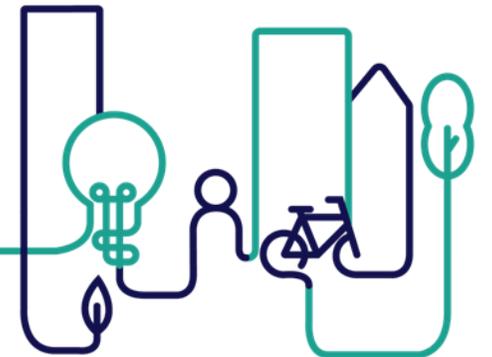
GROUP 3

Move to:
Room C
(follow Sandra M
and Anamaria)

GROUP 4

Move to:
Room D
(follow Martijn
and Martina)

We expect you back in plenary at 15:45!

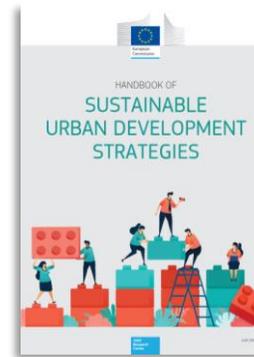


Group reporting



Eager to learn more?

- Joint Research Centre, Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies, 2020
[Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies | European Commission](#)



Introduction

Targeting neighbourhoods

The functional area approach

Urban-rural linkages

LEARNING FROM PRACTICE
The integrated territorial investment strategy of Brno (CZ)

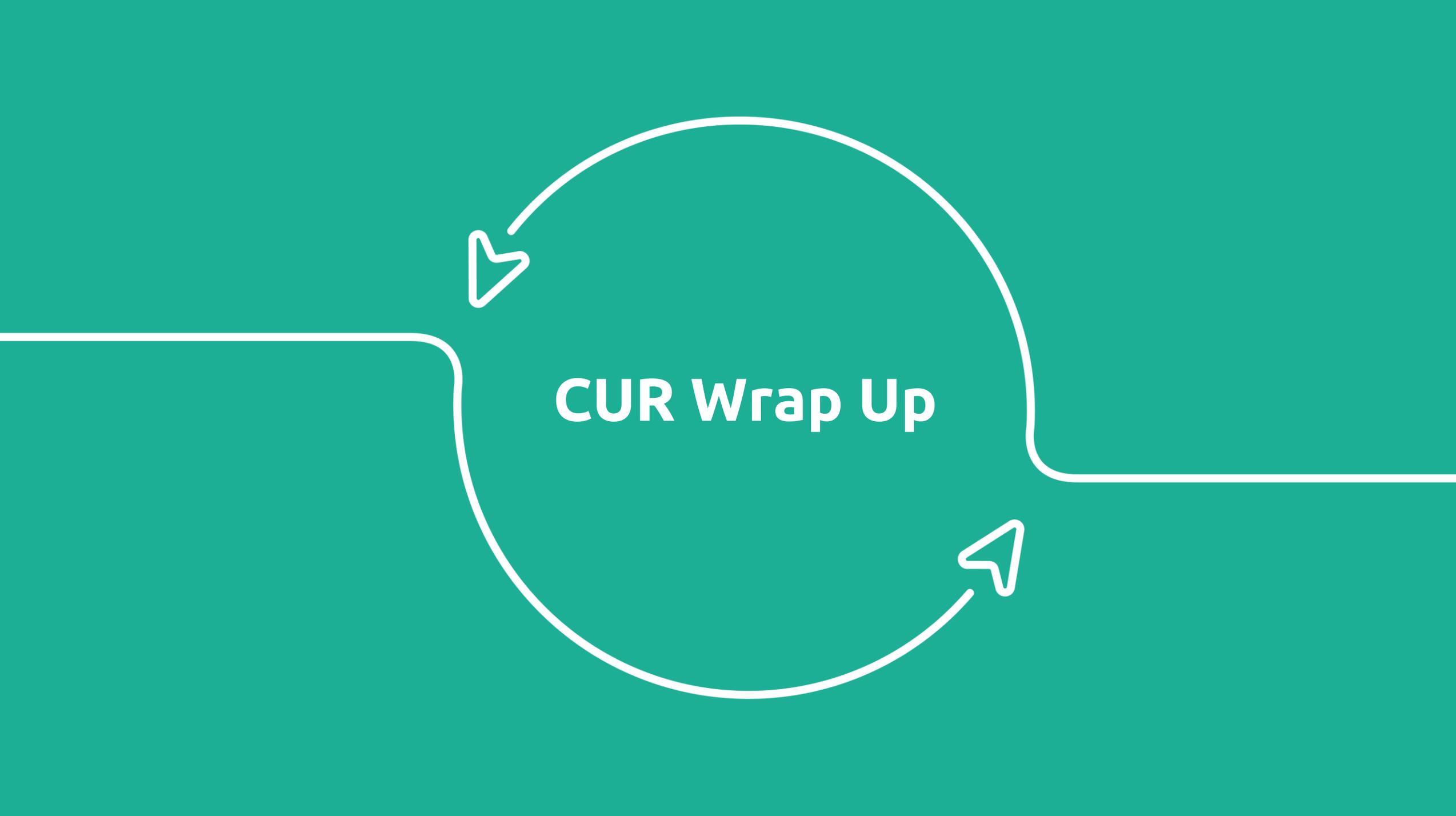
Challenge 3
How to achieve cooperation among actors (municipalities) when there is not a pre-existing framework?

Learning from data

The functional area approach can be found throughout all macro-regions, with the exception of a few countries. However, some differences emerge when one looks into the details. In particular, **strategies in many EU13 countries like the Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Poland and Slovakia focus exclusively on functional areas** in these countries⁽¹⁾, the option of focusing on functional areas was seized as an **opportunity to create new cooperation structures across municipal borders**, especially where such cooperation was previously weak or totally absent.

- Functional Areas in the EU, Methodological Toolkit to improve governance, coordination, planning, and implementation processes across jurisdictional boundaries, 2024
[Methodological Toolkit – Functional Areas in the EU](#)





CUR Wrap Up

Wrap Up and Networking

| | Key Learning (policy advice from peers) | Agreed Actions (try to minimum formulate 3 actions for each question) |
|--|---|---|
| Guiding Question 1 | | |
| Guiding Question 2 (Practical interactive session on stakeholders) | | |
| Guiding Question 3 | | |
| Study Visits | | |

- ❖ CUR take time to work with their Peer Reviewers to complete the Learning and Action Grid for the sessions already completed at the end of Day 1.
- ❖ FOCUS on recommendations and actions that you would like to explore in your city.
- ❖ Agree in CUR group (without peer reviewers) which actions to include in the learning grid

Room Allocation

Torrelavega

Stay in
Plenary:

Room A

(follow Nikos and
Sandra)

Balvi

Move to:

Room B

(follow Eleni and
Martina)

Sibiu

Move to:

Room C

(follow Martijn and
Sandra R)

Verona

Move to:

Room D

(follow Anamaria
and Petra)

Emergency Contact Numbers

If you get lost or have a problem, you can call:

Sandra V – 00333 6 95 28 27 86

Adele – 00333 6 06 75 03 33



MEETING POINT:

**Tourist Office
Plaza González y Trevilla**

TIME: 18.30

VISIT:

Walking Tour of Torrelavega



DINNER: Restaurante El Parque

C/ Cid 9 Bajo, Next to Manuel Barquín Park, 39300, Torrelavega

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FREE TIME