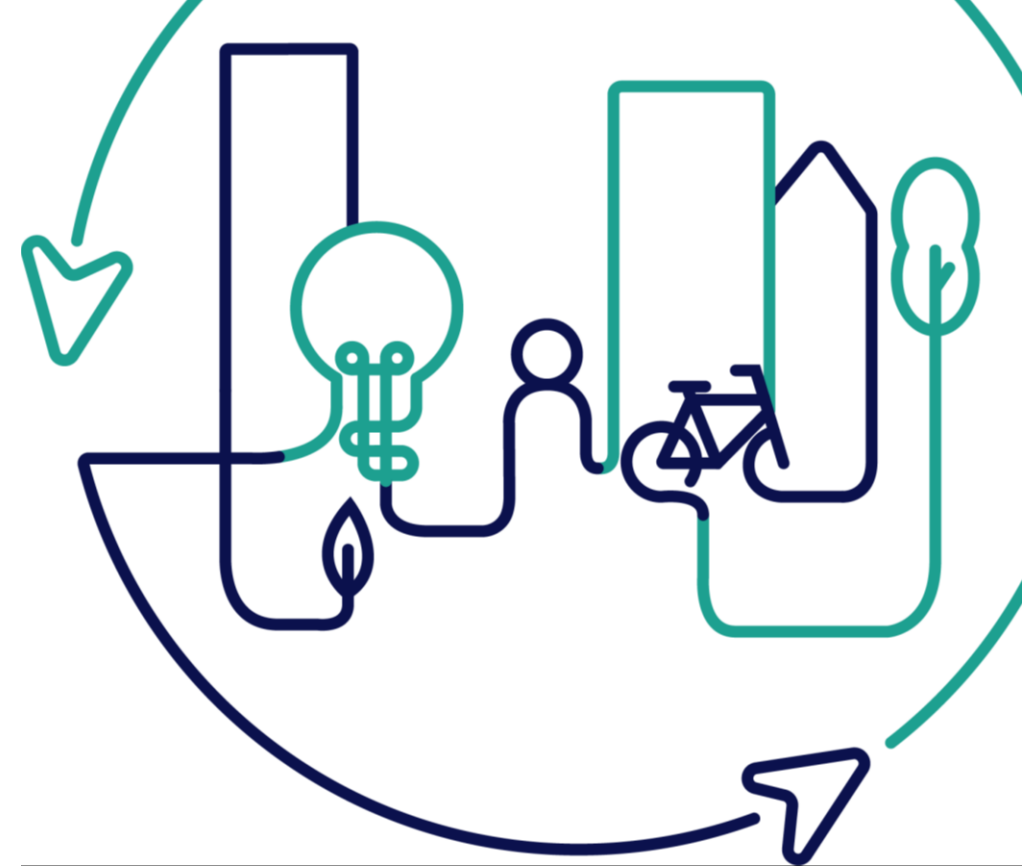


EUROPEAN U R B A N INITIATIVE

Online Info Session
Call for Peer Reviews

27 March 2025, 10:30 – 12:00



Co-funded by
the European Union



**MC for today's
event**



Louise Hunskaar Abrahamsen

Partnership Officer,
EUI Permanent Secretariat

Today's agenda

10:30

Welcome & Meet the Team

10:40

Context for EUI Peer Reviews

Carlotta Cesco Gaspere
Policy Officer, DG REGIO, European Commission



10:50

Peer Review call – main features & eligibility

Eilish O'Loughlin
Head of Capacity Building, EUI Permanent Secretariat



11:10

Breakout rooms in national languages

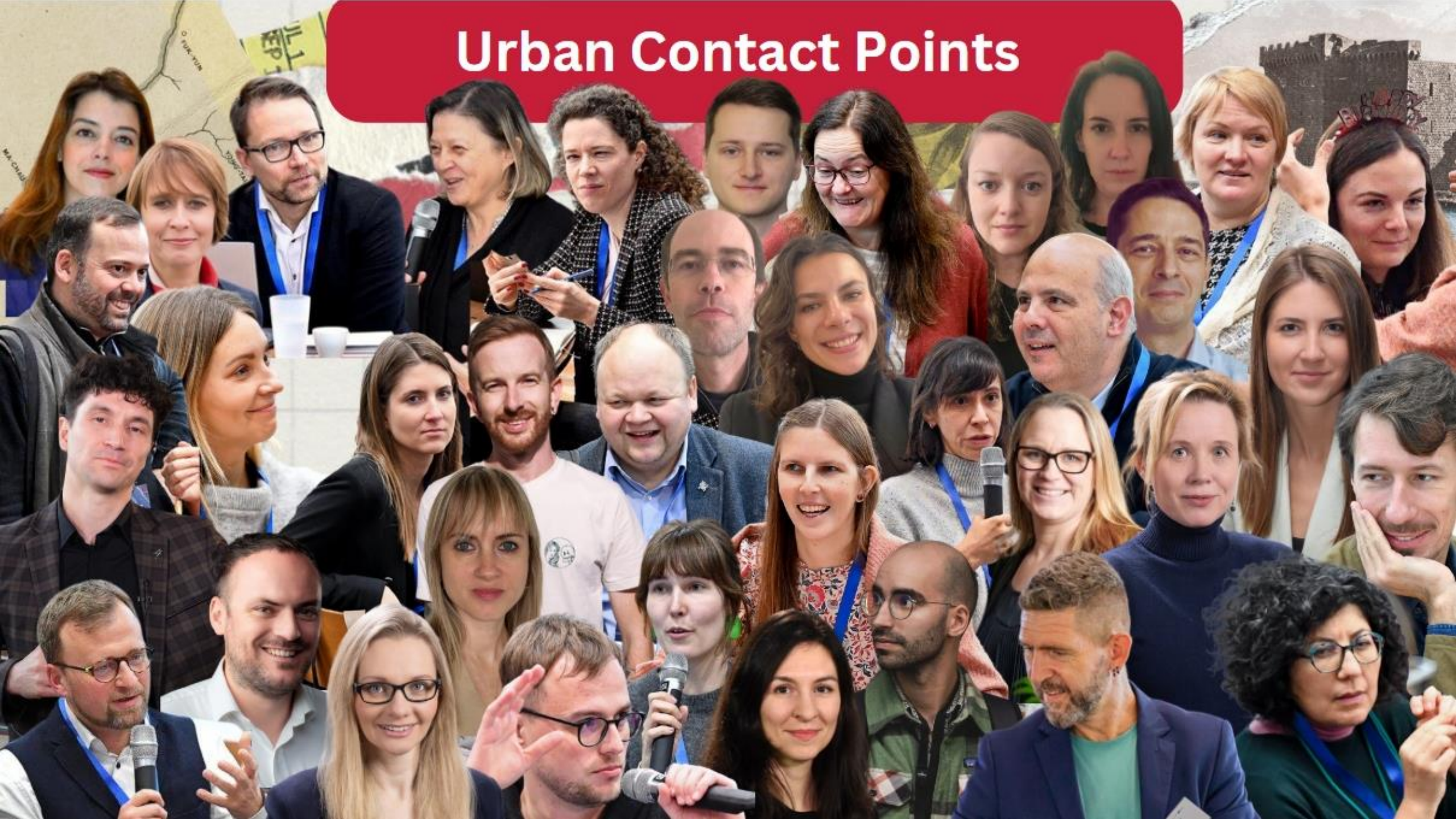
11:45

Return to plenary – how to apply & applicant support

12:00

End

Urban Contact Points



EUI PS - Capacity Building Unit

Meet the team

Sandra Valiunaite

Zoé Fournand

Eilish O'Loughlin




Eleonora Giorgi

Paul Janson

Magda Baidan

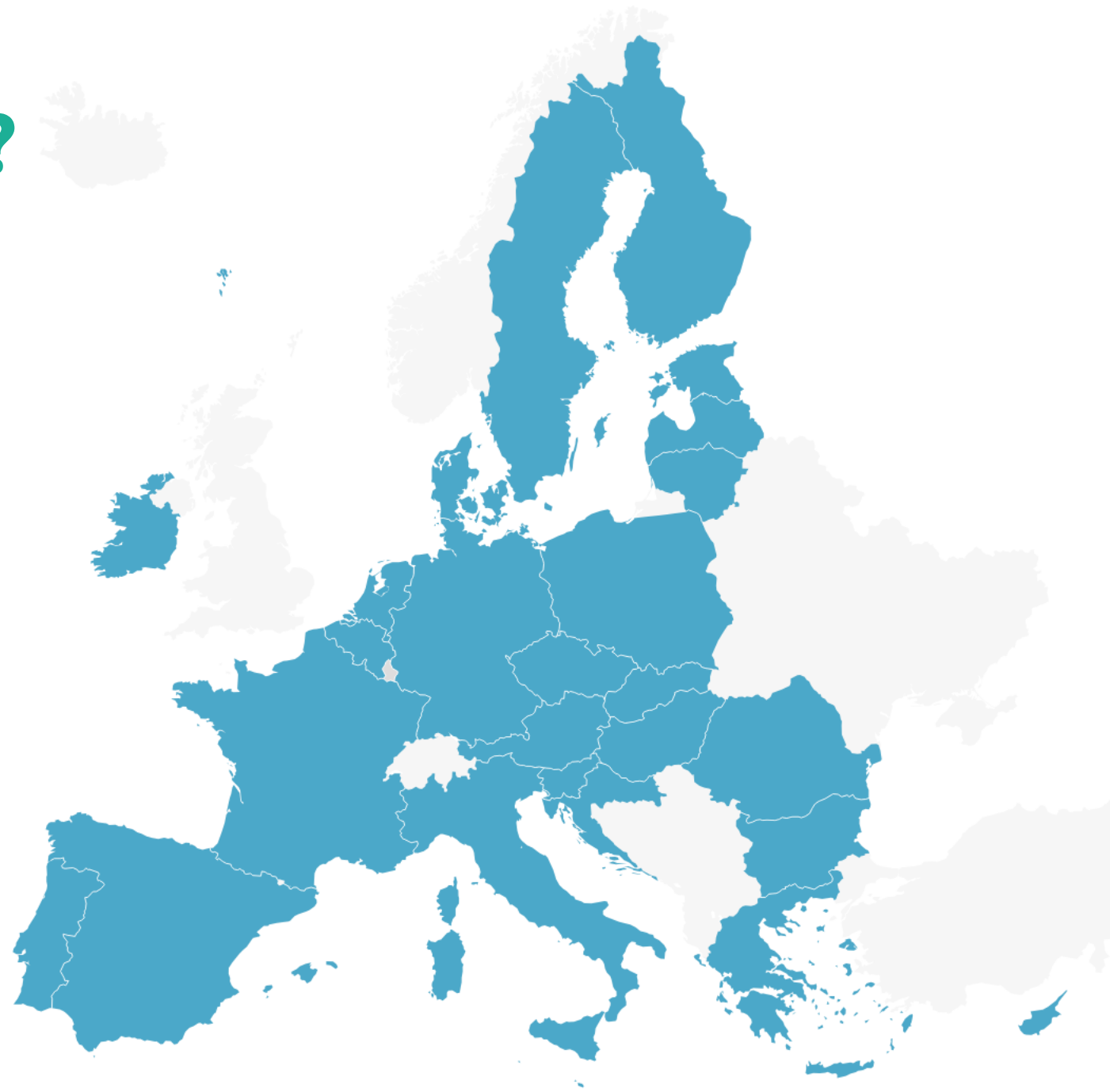
How to self-select a breakout room

- Once the breakout rooms open a **pop-up window will open inviting you to join the Breakout Rooms.** Click Join and choose your **national Breakout Room**
- If you **have missed the pop-up asking you to join your Breakout Room**, or clicked 'join later'
 - Click on 'Breakout Rooms' icon  or you can click on the 3 dots in the bottom right corner in your meeting controls.
This will display the list of open breakout rooms created by the host.
 - Hover your pointer over the number to the right of breakout room you wish to join, click Join, then confirm by clicking Join
 - Repeat as necessary to join other breakout rooms or click Leave Room to return to the main session.



Who is in the room?

**Let us know where you come from
in the chat box!**





Context for EUI Peer Reviews



Carlotta Cesco Gaspere
Policy Officer, DG REGIO, European
Commission

**Peer Reviews:
Main features,
eligibility & Call
timeline**



Eilish O'Loughlin
Head of Capacity Building,
EUI Permanent Secretariat



EUI Capacity Building in Short

One target

- EU cities working on **Sustainable Urban Development (SUD)**

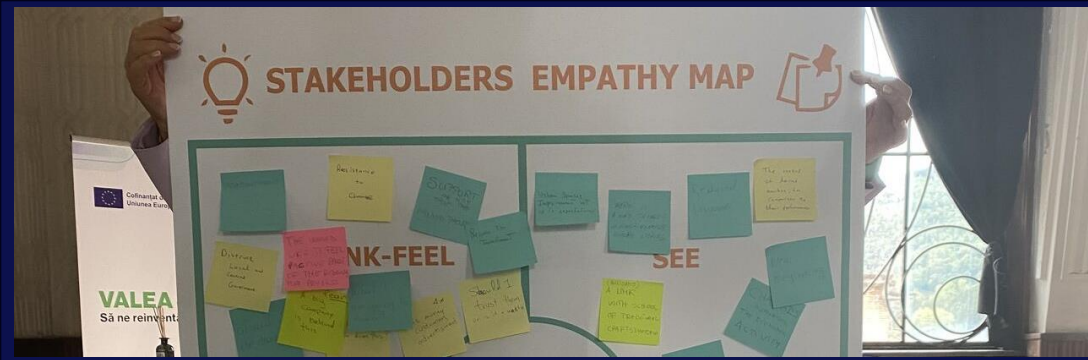
Two objectives

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

Three activities

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





What is an EUI Peer Review?



Peer Reviews

Cities come together for a 2-day event to solve challenges related to SUD strategies (those financed through art.11 ERDF)

Each PR: usually 3 **cities under review** & 15 **peer reviewers**

Cities under review: EU urban authorities on Article 11 list
(www.urban-initiative.eu/article-11-cities)

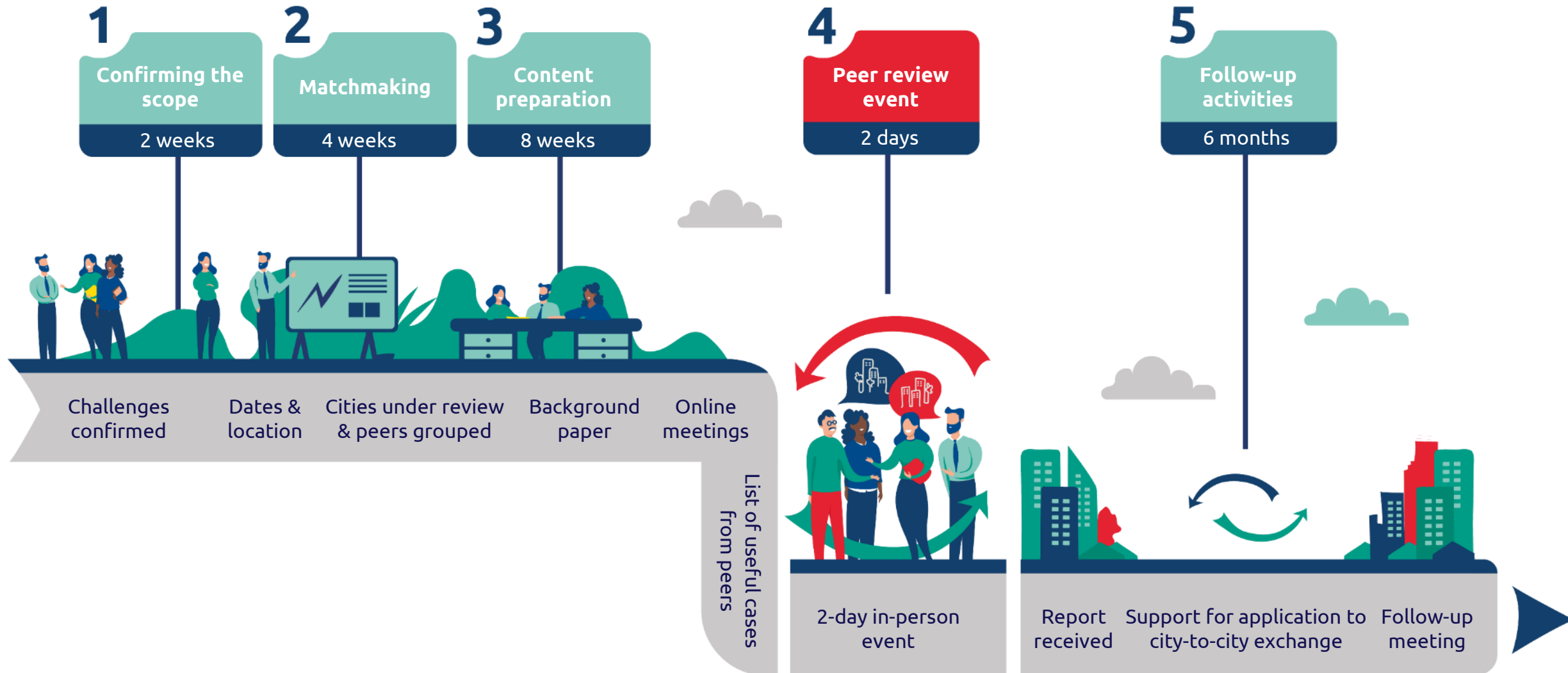
Peer reviewers: Any EU urban authority interested in integrated, place-based approaches to SUD



- **Fixed methodology** and implementation of 4 to 6 months
- Support from **a team of experts** throughout the process
- Travel costs for all, staff costs for peer reviewers
- 7 peer reviews held so far (EL, PT, PL, RO, CY, IT, ES), 3 upcoming (RO, SE, IT)

What happens in an EUI Peer Review?

An activity in five steps



Introducing the Peer Review Experts



Adele Bucella
Expert & Coordinator



Eleni Feleki



Levente Polyak



Sandra Rainero



Martijn De Bruijn



Sandra Marin



Martina Pertoldi



Petra Grgasović



Anamaria Vrabie



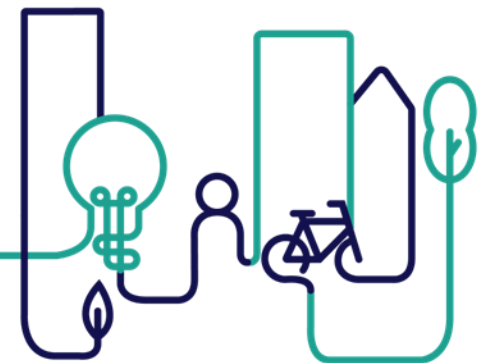
Nikos Karadimitriou

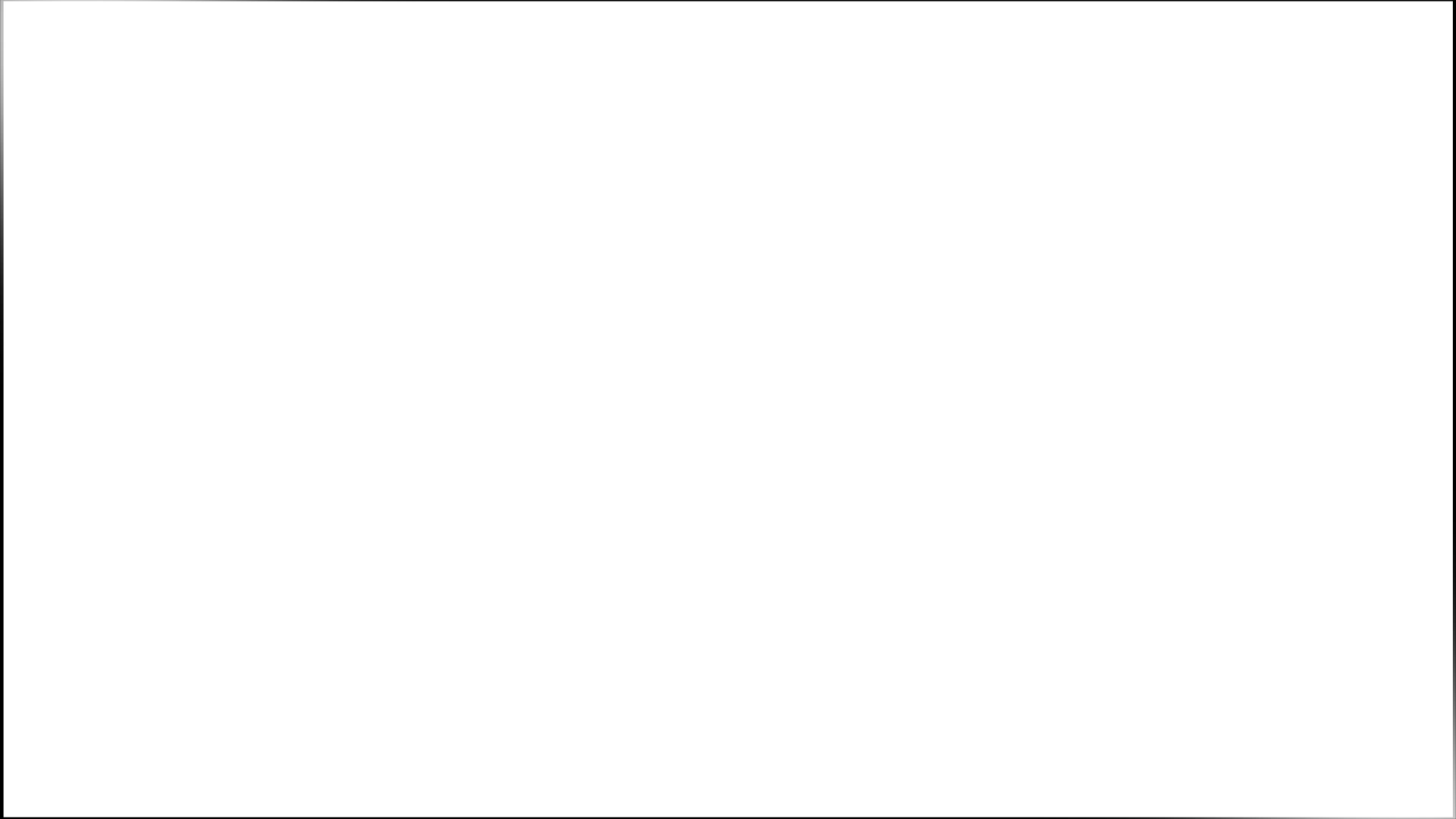


Sally Kneeshaw

What's in it for cities under review?

- 1** A structured process to help you address specific needs in developing, implementing or monitoring your SUD strategy.
- 2** Specific, tailored feedback, reflections, and inspiration from peer reviewers to address challenges and improve your strategy
- 3** Constant expert support, guidance and advice from the team of approved EUI experts and the EUI Secretariat.





I would like to apply as city under review

What are my challenges?

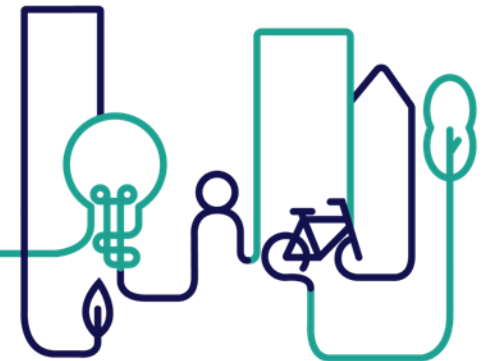
- Potential city under review identifies **three challenges** to address in the PR
- Must be related to design / implementation of **their SUD strategy (Article 11 strategy)**
- Check **six building blocks of Handbook** for SUD strategies and SAT4SUD self-assessment tool to identify relevant topics.
- You can **refine the challenges** described in the application form during the preparation stage.

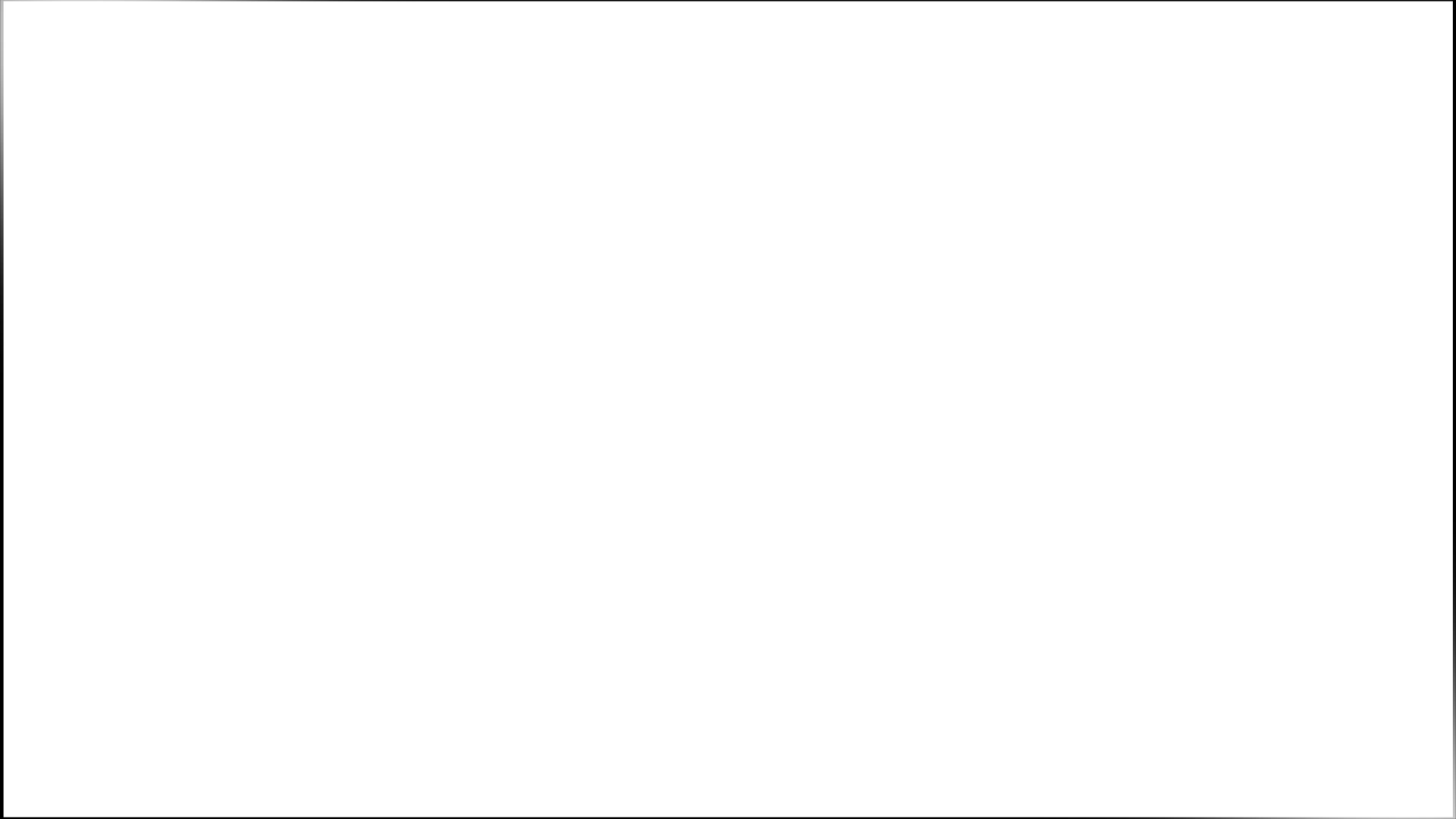
Key resource for cities under review:



What's in it for peer reviewers?

- 1** Peer reviewers learn from, as well as inspire, the city under review – **the learning goes both ways.**
- 2** Learn from the other peer reviewers, hear about a range of inspiring practices and approaches from cities across Europe.
- 3** By being engaged in this process, peer reviewers critically reflect on their own successes and remaining challenges.





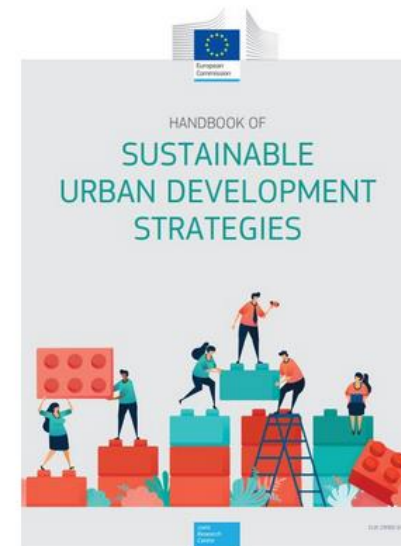
I would like to apply as peer reviewer

What is my expertise?

Potential peer reviewers identify their **operational and thematic** fields of expertise.

- Operational expertise is based on the six building blocks of Handbook for SUD strategies.
- Thematic expertise is based on the Portico taxonomy of thematic areas.

Key resources for peer reviewers



Thematic areas

- Productive, smart and connected**
Research and Innovation, Digital transition, Local production, Mobility...
- Green**
Sustainable soil and land use, Food systems, Climate adaptation, Energy transition...
- Just and inclusive**
Housing, Education and employment, Health and well-being...

What support does EUI provide?

Apply, and we take care of the rest!

1

Expertise

Two experts support cities under review with every step

2

Logistics

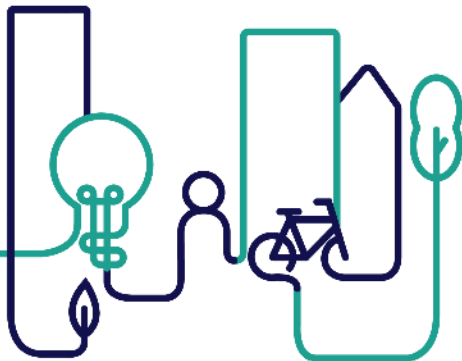
- **Host cities:** we organise event and cover all costs
- **Participants:** You book travel & accommodation which EUI reimburses after the event.

3

Funding

You can claim financial support:

- **After** event
- Based on **standardised costs**
- Up to **4 people** for city under review
- Up to **2 people** for peer reviewer



How does the funding work?

A lump sum paid to urban authority (except hosts)

1

Travel cost

Fixed unit cost defined by EC based on distance between place of departure & host city



2

Per diem

Fixed daily rate defined by EC per MS for accommodation, subsistence & local travel

Up to 4 days payable



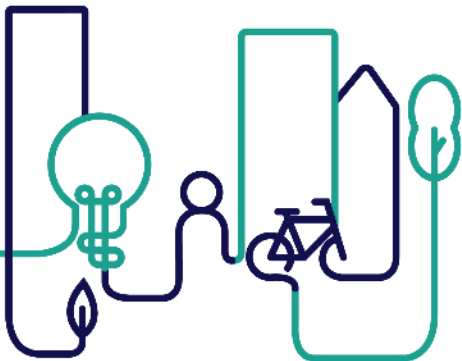
2

Staff costs

€ 350 per day

Up to 5 days payable

Only for Peer Reviewers



Call for EUI Peer Reviews - Key Details

1

Dates: 20 March – 1 May 2025, 12:00 CEST

2

Eligible authorities:

Cities under review: EU urban authority on Article 11 list (www.urban-initiative.eu/article-11-cities)

Peer reviewers: Any EU urban authority interested in integrated, place-based approaches to SUD

3

How to apply:

Submit application via EUI website. Prepare information with courtesy application form:

For either/both roles: Motivation, participating staff, endorsement of institution

Cities under review: Status of SUD strategy, 3 challenges, staff involvement in SUD strategy

Peer reviewers: Thematic and operational expertise related to SUD strategies

4

Timeline for next steps:

30 May Earliest dates for results of call, notification of all applicants

June 2025 Decision on dates and locations for peer reviews

June 2025 Composition of peer review groups based on matchmaking and agreement

Sept to Dec Peer Review events resulting from this call (4 expected)



Time for break-out rooms

You are pre-allocated to language rooms

- > 11:00 – Participants move to break-out rooms
- > 11:45 – All return to plenary for closing messages

Didn't arrive in the right room?

- > Write your language in chat box, we will move you

Participants from DK, LU & MT:

- > Stay with us in plenary for Q&A!
- > UCP will follow up to answer your questions



Recap: how to apply, what support is available

Spring 2025 call for peer reviews
Apply by 1 May, 12:00 CEST



Get support

- **Application Pack:** Read [Guidance for Peer Reviews](#) and [Courtesy Application Form](#).
- **Article 11:** check eligibility at www.urban-initiative.eu/article-11-cities
 - You are article 11, but your city isn't listed? Talk to UCP, upload proof with application.
- **Bilateral consultations:** if you have specific questions, [book a 1-1 meeting](#) with PS
- **Email support:** Send your queries via capacitybuilding@urban-initiative.eu.



**Thank you for your
participation!**