



EU urban strategies: when integration means innovation

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“Sustainable Urban Development and Innovation: aligning policies for change”

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Sustainable Urban Development (2014-2020)

- Art. 7 of Regulations 1301/2013 (European Regional Development Fund):
*"The ERDF shall support, within operational programmes, sustainable urban development through **strategies** that set out **integrated actions** to tackle the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social **challenges affecting urban areas**"*
- At least **5%** of the ERDF budget is earmarked for **Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) strategies** in each Member State
- **EU integrated approach:** cross-sectoral policy, multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance, spatially diverse and community-led strategy

STRAT-Board: Territorial and Urban Strategies Dashboard

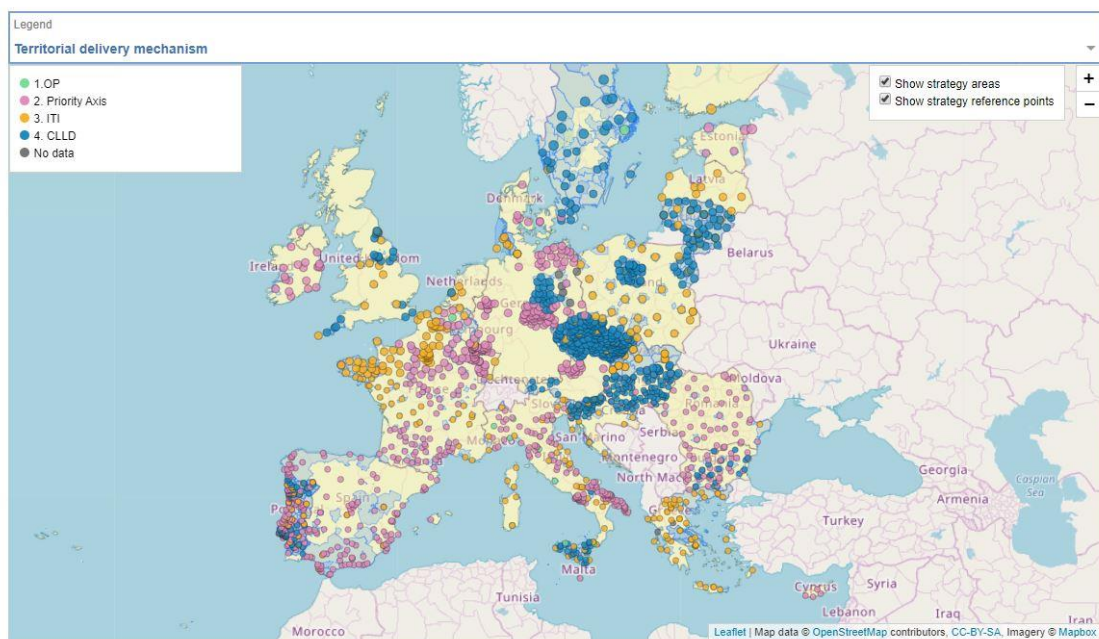
Home My Place Trends Analyses **Strategies** Tools

Strategy type: ☒ SUD ☐ non-SUD ☐ Advanced filters ☐

☒ Countries ☐ Regions

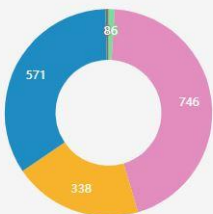
Search strategy...

Filtered strategies: 1679

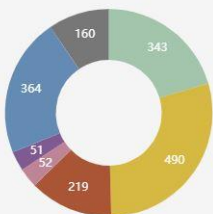


Distribution Themes and Funds Country Factsheets **Datatable**

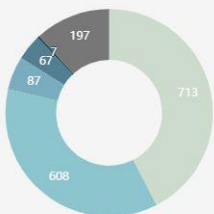
Territorial delivery mechanism



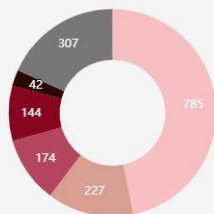
Territorial focus



Population covered per strategy



ESIF contribution per strategy



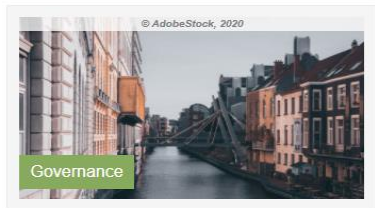
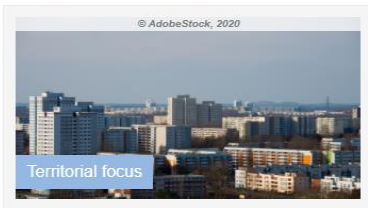
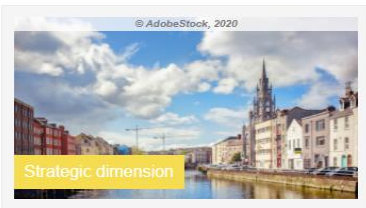
JRC project URBADDEV

- STRAT-Board webtool

Unique database

Quantitative analysis on urban and territorial strategies implemented in 2014-2020 across the EU

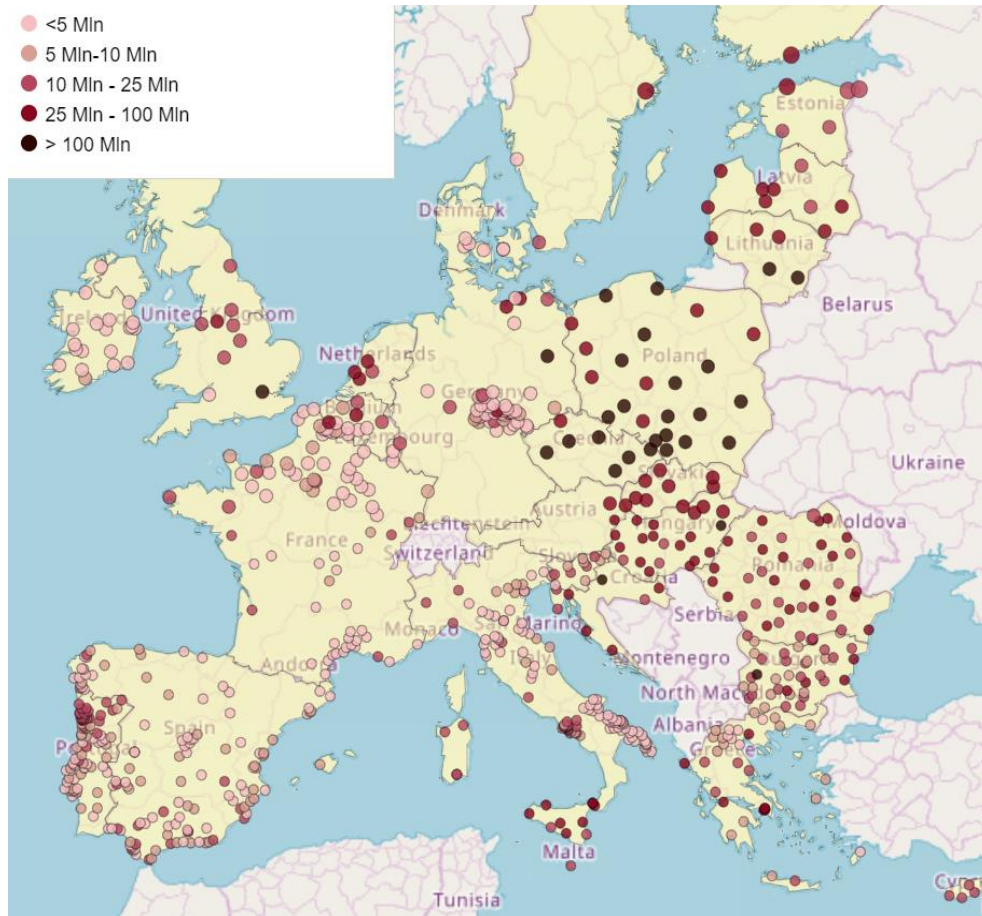
Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies



JRC project URBADDEV

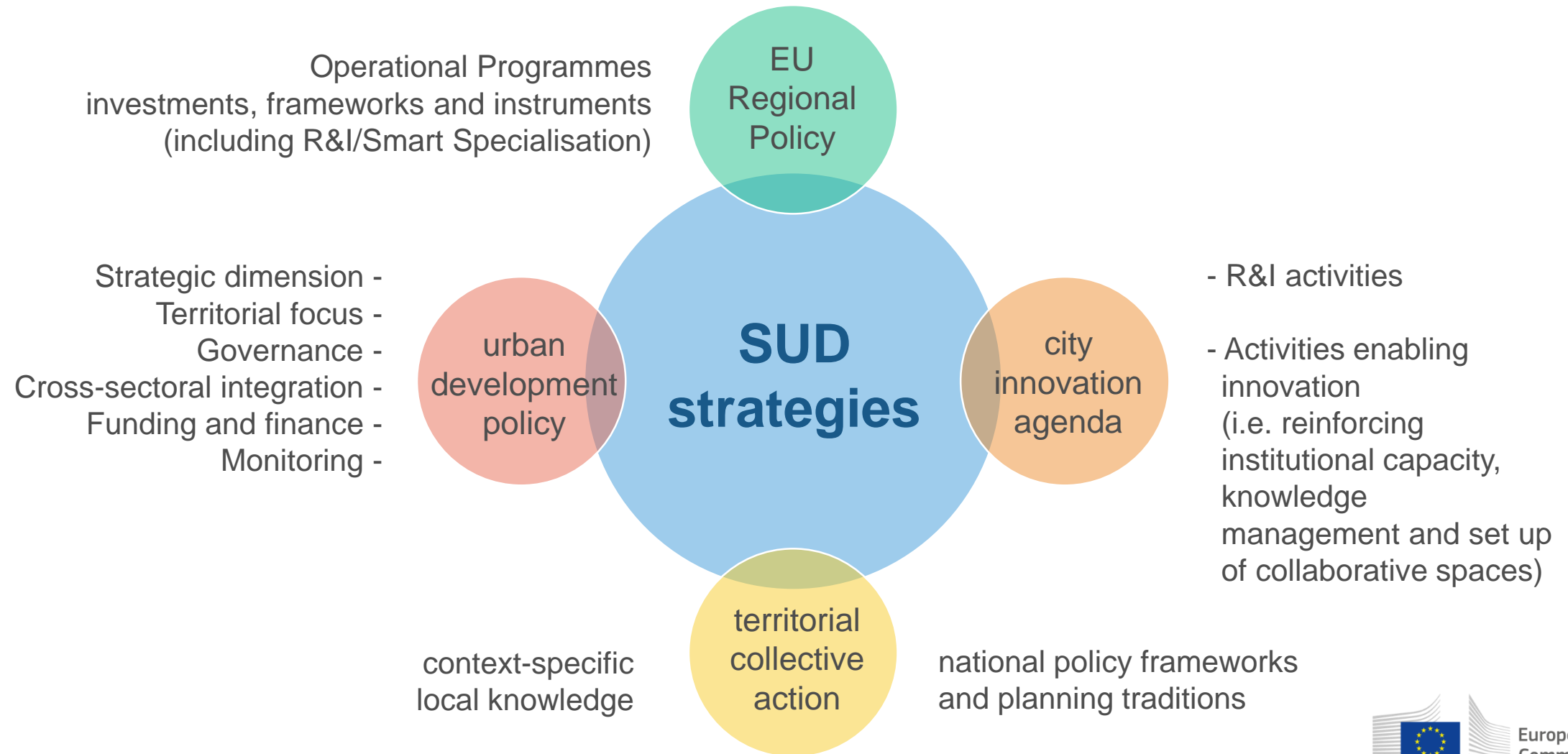
- STRAT-Board webtool
 - Unique database
 - Quantitative analysis on urban and territorial strategies implemented in 2014-2020 across the EU
- Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development strategies
 - Methodological support
 - Qualitative analysis (case-studies) on specific challenges prompted by the EU integrated approach to urban development

SUD strategies in 2014-2020: key facts

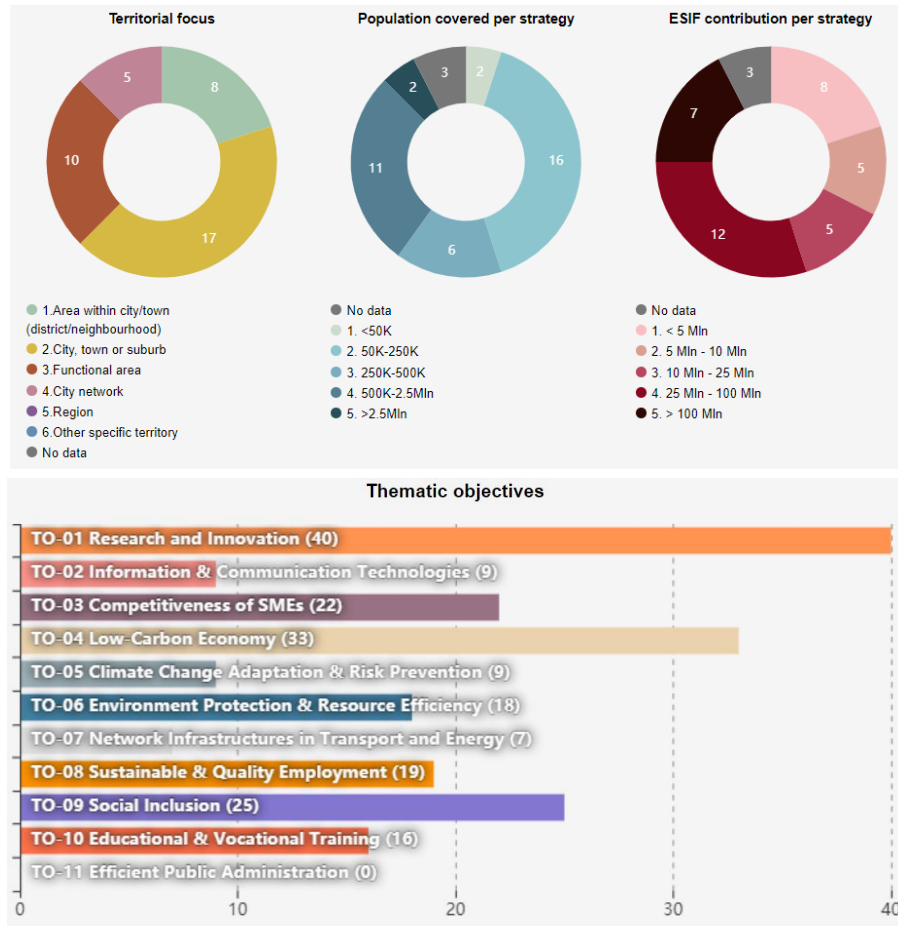


- Around **1,000 SUD strategies** across EU
- **Themes.** Focus on Low-carbon economy, social inclusion, environment and resource efficiency
- **Funding.** Majority of strategies (40%) commit less than 5 million euro of ESIF contribution. However, relevant number of high budget strategies
- **Territorial focus.** City/town and Neighbourhood most frequent (76%), but Functional areas, City networks and Territories with specific features also high
- **Legacy of previous experiences + novel approaches.** 62% of strategies refer to pre-existing strategies, with 38% of strategies specifically developed

SUD strategies as complex policy objects



R&I investments serving inclusion



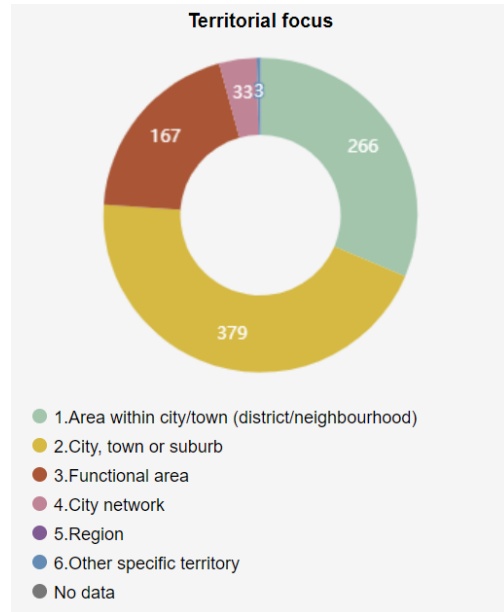
- **Novel focus on R&I.**
Forty strategies - mainly in CZ, DK, FI, NL, SE - include TO1 (R&I) with both hard (research infrastructures) and soft interventions (promotion of innovation-led business ecosystem).
- More in general, SUD strategies seem to approach **innovation, entrepreneurship and technological upgrade** as a way to **reduce inequalities**
40% of strategies use TO1, TO2 (Information and Communication Technologies) or TO3 (Competitiveness of SMEs). At the same time, 78% of them address social inclusion, social innovation and deprived neighbourhoods

Frameworks for stakeholders coordination



- **Challenge-led collaborative platforms**
Community participation is a common feature in SUD. In a number of cases, systemic involvement of local stakeholders has led to the set up of collaborative platforms that bring together citizens, companies, NGOs and R&D organisations to create new social services and new businesses.
- **Citizen engagement is the key**
Reggio Emilia SUD strategy - 1.5 million euro ESIF only - has implemented an incubator for social innovation, promoting bottom-up projects developed through a co-design process with citizens
- **Building institutional capacity**
New skills and working methods to follow up on the integrated approach. Evidence of collaboration with research organisations

Space matters for innovation



More than 50%
of SUD areas are
rural areas

- **Emergence of the functional area approach.**
24% of strategies are multi-municipal, including functional urban areas or metropolitan areas, city networks and other specific territories
- **SUD overcome the barrier between urban and rural**
More than 50% of SUD strategy areas are rural areas.
SUD strategies proved able to promote dialogue between urban and rural policymakers, professionals and communities.
- **Urban-rural innovation: inclusion of soft investments for green business development.**
Under TO4 (low-carbon economy), the Gothenburg SUD city strategy strengthens urban-rural linkages through: cross-sectoral cooperation between the city and its surroundings; testbeds implementing the city Food Strategy

Thank you



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