2024 Territorial Peer review on demographic change

for non-urban integrated territorial development strategies

Factsheet

What are the Territorial Peer reviews for integrated development strategies in non-urban areas[1]?

This Peer review is a two-day workshop planned for local authorities in charge of designing and/or implementing a territorial development strategy. The aim of this event is for strategy owners to learn and exchange challenges that they came across in their planning and operational journey. The **challenges are discussed with others peers** who are local authorities from across the EU, experts and EU Commission representatives. These peer reviews are organised by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO). For further details on the benefits taking part to the peer review, check Table 1 in the next page.

How do I know if my strategy is eligible to take part in the territorial peer review?

This JRC - DG-REGIO Peer review is planned for representatives of integrated territorial development strategies **in areas other than urban areas**. Such strategies are promoted by cohesion policy under the PO5 specific objectives 2 (ITI, CLLD or other type of territorial tools in non-urban areas) during the **2021-2027 programming period.** In the European Regional Develoment Fund (ERDF) regulation, such strategies are mentioned in Art.3, 1.e, ii

Under which category would you like to take part to the meeting?

Representatives of territorial strategies can attend under one of these categories:

1) The **strategies under review**. The workshop is open to 3 strategies, each of them represented by 3 invited officials. For further details, see Table 3 in the next page.

2) The **co-hosting strategy**. It is one of the 3 strategies under review who is willing to co-organise and host the two days event in collaboration with the European Commission

3) The **strategies attending as peers**. The strategies that can attend the event are a maximum of ten. The workshop is open to two representative per strategy. For further details see Table 4.

For further details on the three categories, check Table 2.

Where and when will be the event?

The event will be co-hosted by one of the strategies under review in their own territory.

For further details on timetable, check Table 5 in the next page. For the main elements of the agenda, consult Table 6.

Main topic of this event in June 2024:

This Peer review will touch upon many issues (e.g. governance, funding, stakeholder involvement, etc.) but with a predominant thematic focus on **demographic change**. The vast majority of European territories in non-urban areas are losing population. How are current strategies reflecting the demographic transition and, the challenges related to depopulation in particular? What are the key drivers for successful adaptation to demographic transition?

How to apply? Which expenses are covered?

The representatives of the strategies willing to take part to the workshop can apply via this SURVEY. The deadline for application is **May 2 at 13.00 CET**. The coverage of expenses changes according to the category you apply for. For more info, check Table 7.

[1] Peer reviews tackling Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) strategies (Article 11) are organised and implemented by the European Urban Initiative following a similar format.

TABLE 1 _Benefits of being part of a Peer review:

- ✓ **Receive tailor-made support** for improving your integrated territorial development strategy from peers designing and implementing similar strategies in other European contexts, experts and EU Commission staff;
- ✓ **Identify possible solutions for key challenges** related to the design and implementation of your strategy;
- ✓ **Get insights on how to use the resources** developed by the Joint Research Centre, such as the Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies and the Self-Assessment Tool for Territorial and Local Development Strategies (SAT4TER);
- ✓ As a host territory, **increase your European positioning on the topic of integrated territorial development**, as well as work closely with key policy experts from JRC and DG REGIO;
- ✓ **Network** with like-minded colleagues;

TABLE 2_Participant profiles and expectations:

	Who are they:	**What it is expected from them:**
Representatives of the strategies under review	Representatives of the local authority responsible for **designing and implementing one of the selected integrated territorial development strategies in non-urban areas**. It is not advisable to involve external consultants, unless they are a knowledge-based institution such as a local research institute or university.	Work with the JRC team of experts to identify 3 main challenges they would like to discuss with their peers during the workshop. Work on developing knowledge material prior to the workshop (i.e. a background paper and a PPT presentation) in order to present the peers the local context related to the development of their strategy and the identified challenges.
Peers	Representatives of an integrated territorial development strategy in non-urban areas involved in its design and implementation.	Provide structured feedback during the sessions (e.g. policy recommendations and examples) to address the challenges of the strategies under review. They can learn from and exchange with the other participants.
Experts	Professionals in the field of strategic planning, experts in integrated territorial development strategies and EU Commission representatives. Directly appointed by JRC.	Support the authorities representing the strategy under review in the preparatory phase of the Peer review (i.e. prepare the background paper and the presentation), join the event and finally draft a feedback report.

TABLE 3_Key roles for representatives of the strategies under review:

Competent bodies of the strategy will:

1) Nominate **3 representatives** fluent in English to fully take part in the Peer review workshop in **June 2024.**
2) Fill in the **SAT4TER** self-assessment tool. **SAT4TER** aims to support local and managing authorities when verifying to what extent their strategy builds on an integrated and participatory approach. The tool focuses on a self-assessment as an important learning practice and it helps to assess the strategy's completeness and quality, from its design and implementation, to its monitoring and evaluation.
3) Prepare a **background document** following a template provided by JRC, explaining the socio-economic, environmental and spatial background of the strategy and the institutional and policy context (5 pages)
4) Prepare a **Power-point presentation** following a template provided by JRC, describing the strategy and 3 main challenges (15-20 slides)
5) Attend a **two-hour webinar** 2 weeks before the in-presence event.
6) Join the Peer review in presence event (3 representatives per integrated territorial strategy are invited).

TABLE 4_Key roles for the hosting local authority:

The competent bodies hosting the Peer review workshop in their territory will:

1) **Organise**, together with the JRC, the two-day event within the area that the strategy covers for 20 participants
2) **Provide a venue** to host parallel sessions for discussion (1 plenary room for 30 people with Audio-Visual Equipment and 3 break-out rooms for 10 persons each with flip charts)
3) Organise a **study visit** to projects planned by the 2021-2027 strategy or to projects implemented via a previous strategy funded by the cohesion policy (Preferably walking tour max 2 hours)

TABLE 5_Timeline of the 2024 event:

Open call	Mid-April 2024
Call closes **(deadline for application)**	**2 May 2024 at 13.00 CET**
Confirmation of selected participants and co-hosting territory	15 May 2024
Preparation of background document and Power-point presentation	
Preparatory webinar (mandatory for all participants)	13 June 2024
Two-day Peer review workshop event	Mid-June 2024 (dates TBC)
Feedback report submitted by experts to the strategies under review	Mid-July 2024

TABLE 6_Main elements of the agenda:

Day 0	**Day 1**	**Day 2**
Arrivals	Morning session: each strategy under review discuss the first challenge	Morning session: each strategy under review discusses third challenge/ common challenge
(optional) Welcome dinner – self-paid	Lunch (Offered by EC)	Lunch (Offered by EC)
	Afternoon session: site-visit and each city under review discusses second challenge	Afternoon session: synergies and wrap up
	Dinner (Offered by EC)	Departures after 16:00

TABLE 7_What expenses are covered?

The expenses to attend the workshop **for representatives of the strategies under review** are covered by the European Commission. This includes a daily allowance, travel and accommodation expenses, based on the European Commission flat rates applicable for the host country.

In the case of **peers**, the European Commission will cover the expenses of coffee breaks, lunches and one dinner in, as well as all costs related to the site visit. Travel and accommodation expenses are covered by the peers' own organisation.

The JRC *Territorial Development Unit* in collaboration with DG REGIO

European Commission

For further clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact JRC-RURBADEV@ec.europa.eu