



# 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

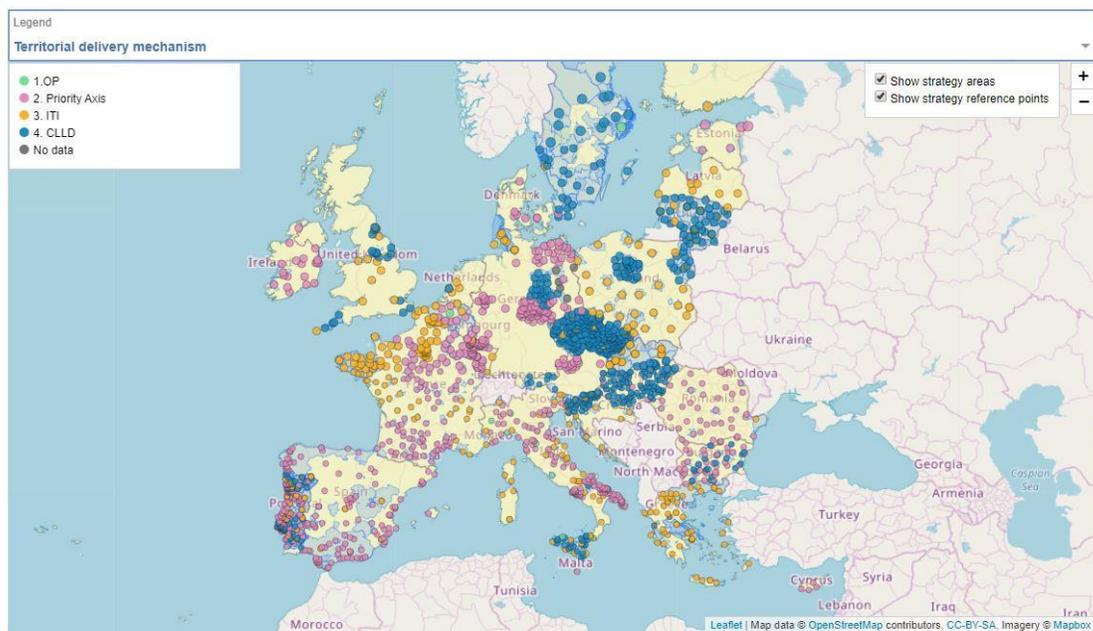
Home My Place Trends Analyses Strategies Tools

Strategy type: SUD non-SUD Advanced filters

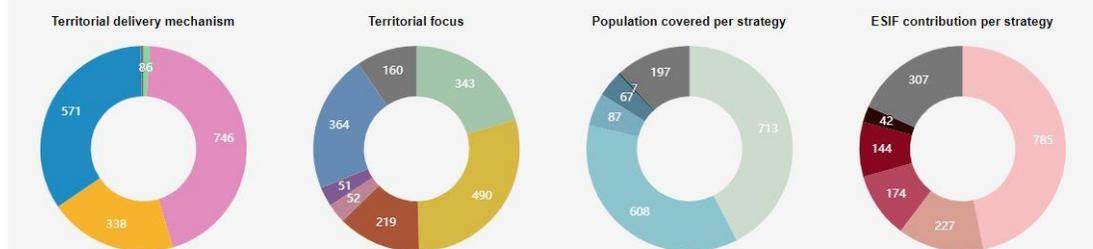
Countries  Regions

Search strategy...

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Distribution Themes and Funds Country Factsheets Datable



# 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



Executive Summary

Full Report

Presentation

Introduction



About

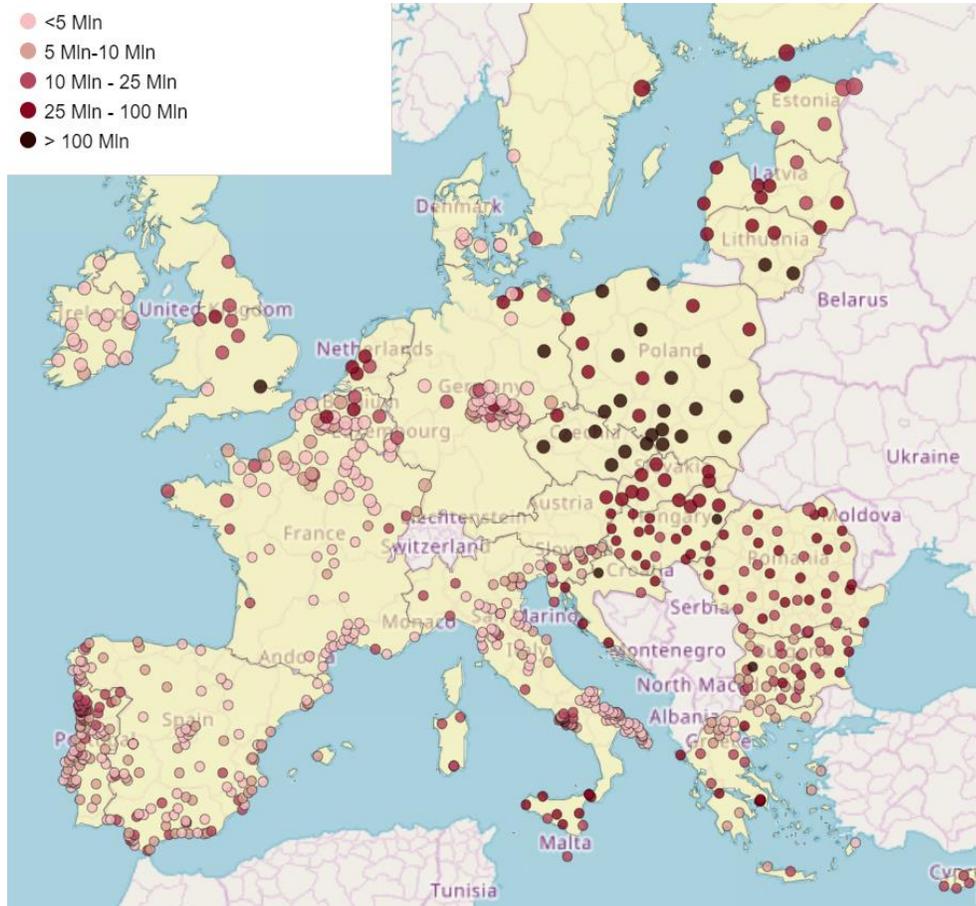
STRAT-Board

Events

# 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 2014-20: key facts

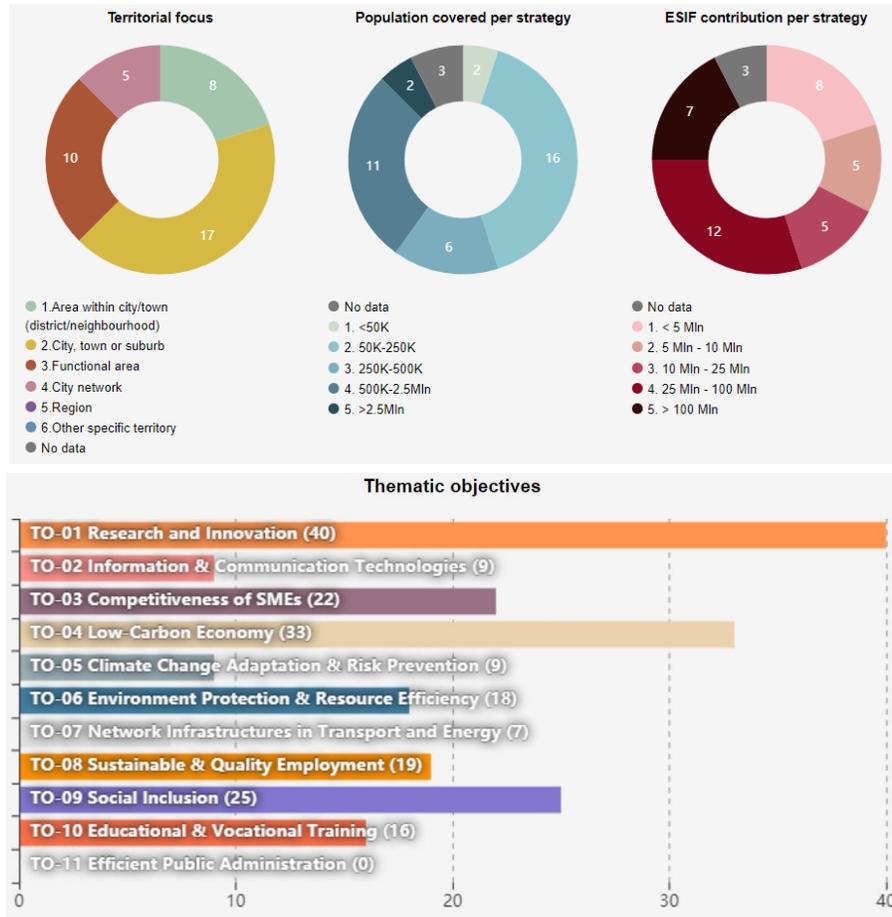


- Around **1,000 SUD strategies** across EU
- **Themes.** Focus on Low-carbon economy, social inclusion, environment and resource efficiency
- **Funding.** Majority of strategies (40%) commit less than 5 million euro of ESIF contribution. However, relevant number of high budget strategies
- **Territorial 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



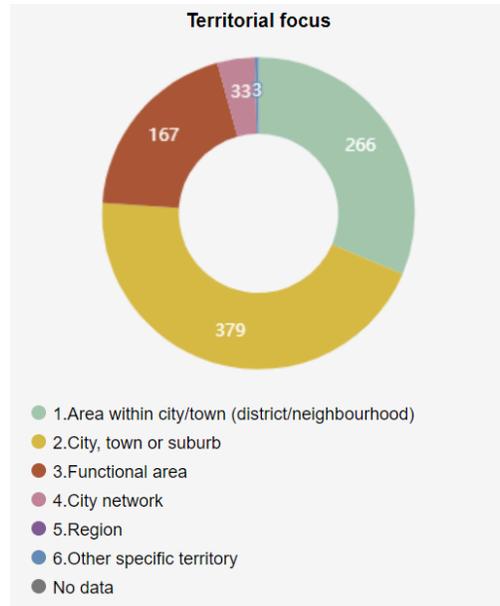
- Novel focus on R&I.**  
 Forty strategies - mainly in CZ, DK, FI, NL, SE - include TO1 (R&I) with both hard (research infrastructures) and soft interventions (promotion of innovation-led business ecosystem).
- More in general, SUD strategies seem to approach **innovation, entrepreneurship and technological 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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