Uscore2 city-to-city peer reviews in Disaster Risk Reduction

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City level interest in peer reviews

- Local governments closest to communities
- Municipalities often convene DRR preparations in the city
- DRR assurance
- Tools include:
 - Guidance
 - Self-assessment
 - Value in collaboration





Uscore (1!)





Benefits of self-assessment in Uscore

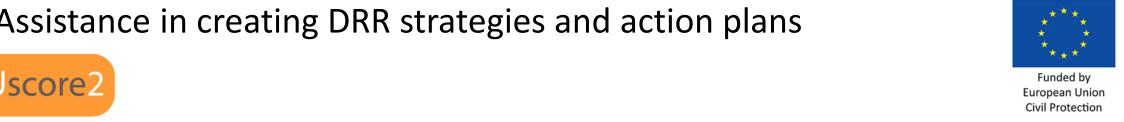
- Data collection against indicators
- Improved cross-sector and partner conversations
- Useful starting point for a city to produce a baseline and inform an action plan
- Positive political engagement
- Thorough understanding of UNISDR Making Cities Resilient framework
- Establish the city as a global leader in resilience putting cities on the global stage
- City-to-city learning exchanges





Learning from Uscore that cities wanted to address

- A focus on practical issues of relevance to cities
- Recognising the complexity of topics and stakeholder engagement
- Demonstrating investment proportionate to outcomes
- Enabling cities to focus on topics of most relevance to their context
- Recognising a qualitative assessment can be as valuable, if not more so, than a numeric one
- Building on the city-to-city exchanges that offered new ideas and perspectives
- Assistance in creating DRR strategies and action plans



Uscore2





Uscore2 inception

- Self-assessment tools were available to cities but peer reviews were only available at a national level
- Peer review of cities' civil protection mechanisms would help to deliver independent assessments supporting efforts to build local resilience
- Conducting rigorous city-to-city peer reviews was a challenge for practitioners and policy-makers who wanted to learn from best practice as this had not been assembled into an easy to use tool





Uscore2 specific objectives

- 1.To design a practical city-to-city peer review tool for measuring city resilience and resilience action planning
- 2.To apply the peer review tool to 3 EU cities to support DRR in those cities as well as refine the tool to enable it to be more broadly applicable.
- 3.To develop and apply an impact evaluation methodology to evaluate the peer review tool and gauge its impact on enhancing city resilience
- 4.To disseminate the peer review tool and impact evaluation methodology to ensure wide take-up





Viggiano, Italy

- Population 3,148
- Decreasing population since 1861
- Area 89.03 km²
- In Province of Potenza, Basilicata Region
- Home to Europe's biggest oilfield with increasing oil production from 75,000 barrels per day to 150,000 barrels per day
- Adjacent to Val D'Agri forest area with important ecosystems
- Key risks: earthquake, forest fires, landslides, industrial





Amadora, Portugal

- Population 176,000
- Area 23.78 km²
- Population density: 7,363 per sq km (the densest municipality in Portugal)
- Average monthly income of workers 1,249 Euros
- Average age of residents: 41.5 years
- Key risks: floods, urban and forest fires, traffic accident, earthquakes, landslides





Greater Manchester, UK

- 2.71 million people, 1.15 million households
- 7 million within one hour's drive of city centre
- Generates £51 billion GVA
- Culturally diverse, over 150 languages spoken
- Population grew by 7% in last decade
- 100,000 new jobs and 3% growth in GVA forecast by 2023
- Key risks: pandemic flu, floods, industrial risks, loss of electricity





Importance of the peer review for Viggiano's Resilience

- create a focal point on resilience inside the administrative structure and allocate resources
- create a database on relevant resilience issues to improve data collection, sharing and distribution (Viggiano has an excellent City Emergency Plan but not a general database on all the resilience information)
- define a resilience strategy consistent with the Sendai Framework
- good community resilience and response preparation, but need improvement in communication to the population
- improve collaboration with external stakeholders through a permanent common platform with the relevant stakeholders



Amadora actions following peer review

- create a multi-stakeholder local platform for resilience that brings partners together formally on a regular basis
- capitalise on recognised good practice to make further progress in the city
- opportunity to feedback to stakeholders and raise the visibility of DRR
- strengthen the cross-stakeholder training programme
- turn the findings into action through an action plan and ensure there is time to implement it before a follow-up review
- continue to learn, promoting city-to-city exchanges





Greater Manchester benefits

- heightened awareness of DRR as an international agenda to which a city can make a meaningful contribution
- emphasised the importance of evaluating recovery after disasters and the importance of involving the community's views
- reinforced the scale and complexity of city infrastructure and the need for collaboration in resilience planning
- brought a focus on understanding the risks and plans in place for high impact, low probability events





What did all 3 cities learn?

- We could all help one another and learn from examples in each other's cities
- Whether being part of the peer review team or part of the city team being peer reviewed, we took away new perspectives and new knowledge
- Peer reviews make a difference on the ground both through the process itself and also through consideration of the findings
- A good peer review takes time to prepare, carry out and write up but it is a good investment for the city



In summary: benefits to cities of undertaking a DRR peer review

- 1. Demonstrate commitment to international and European frameworks and regulation
- 2. Create the opportunity to assess current situation and potential improvements
- 3. Receive supportive challenge from expert panel
- 4. Build confidence in and ownership of DRR agenda within the city
- 5. Initiate a policy dialogue helping to improve consistency in DRR
- 6. Structured learning process with ways to demonstrate the value of the time and resource invested
- 7. Personal and professional development