

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

Dr Kathryn Oldham OBE
Chief Resilience Officer
Greater Manchester



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection

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



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection

Uscore (1!)



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection

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**



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection

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



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection

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



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection

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



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection

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



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection

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