<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The SURE Reference Picture</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Status Quo of the SURE Reference Picture</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Outlook &amp; Self-Reflection on the Process</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The SURE Reference Picture

The SURE Facilitation & Synthesis Research Project provides scientific and organizational support for the overall funding priority of SURE and its ten respective projects. One task is the scientific integration and synthesis of the findings. A central question of this synthesis research is how impacts can be observed in the context of sustainable development of urban regions. After all, the intended impacts are embedded in the complex context of global challenges, the trans-disciplinary nature of urban and spatial research, and the multi-layered funding priority of SURE that includes ten projects (plus F & SR) across different regions, topics, numerous interventions as well as actors.

In order to approach this complexity, the SURE Reference Picture, which represent intended impacts (references) for each project as well as for the overall funding priority were developed. All the Reference Pictures are structured according to the SURE focus topics and show the targeted references as well as the intended ways to get there (achievements). In addition, the achievements were categorized from intention to program to action. On a meta level the picture reveals development issues, urban challenges and respectively questions for future scientific research.

Internally, the SURE Reference Pictures offer the opportunity to continuously reflect the progress towards impact. With the support of the SURE Reference Picture, it is possible to monitor – throughout the whole project cycle – whether specific references can be achieved or have changed and may need to be adjusted. In this way, it is possible to intervene during the process in a purposeful manner and, for example, to reinforce certain activities.

Externally, the SURE Reference Picture represents a way to locate the SURE funding priority on the international stage. For example, the reference picture can be used to identify in what way and depth the Sustainable Development Goals are addressed.

Based on the identified references, the SURE Facilitation & Synthesis Research Project is currently developing tools to establish and support an individual culture of reflection (SURE Toolbox, coming soon).

Development of the SURE Reference Picture

In general, the Reference Picture is based on the Questionnaire on Intended Impact answered by the SURE projects (summer 2022). Using the Grounded Theory, these answers have been analysed in a multi-stage coding process. The Grounded Theory is a qualitative research method that uses a systematic set of procedures to develop an inductively derived, object-anchored theory about a phenomenon (e.g. Corbin, Juliet; Strauss, Anselm (1996). Grounded Theory. Grundlagen Qualitativier Sozialforschung, p. 8). The development process of the Reference Pictures is shown below:
The first step consisted of receiving and previewing the answers by every project received through the Questionnaire on Intended Impact (summer 2022).

In a second step, codes were assigned to the answers given by the projects. Step three involved clustering the codes into categories. In multiple feedback loops the answers from the questionnaire were fed into the categories as well. This verified that the assigned categories still make sense after the simplifications. After this verification, they became superordinate categories, which were filled with content of the questionnaires.
In the fourth step, the categories were organised into the 6 SURE Focus Topics.

The fifth step contained several densification processes, in which the categories were simplified to build references (summaries of the categories). The references derive directly from the project team’s answers of where they want to achieve a positive change and can therefore be seen as the self-set impact goals of the SURE projects. The detailed answers how or by what the projects aim to achieve impact were simplified as well and are listed as achievements. For the development of the SURE Reference Picture for the funding priority the individual references from the individual projects as well as achievements were summarized and condensed in several loops.
Achievements help to reach the respective references and are based on their nature clustered into intention, program, or action. This gradient from intention to program to action is represented through a gradient from dark to light colour (see figure 2).

**Intention**: Achievements that are an idea or a support belong to the class intention (example: strengthening the academic learning partnership for structural transformations of urban-rural regions).

**Program**: Achievements that can be understood as measures, concepts or strategies are considered as the class program (example: development of concepts for water-sensitive development).

**Action**: Concrete achievements such as labs or tools fall into the class action (example: flood risk maps highlighting the most vulnerable infrastructure).

Following the outlined procedure, 1) an overarching Reference Picture for the entire SURE funding priority, and, 2) individual Reference Pictures for each of the SURE projects were developed. The latter were discussed in peer-to-peer meetings with the respective SURE projects and then reflected upon, adapted, and modified again. Based on the changes made to the individual Reference Pictures of every SURE project, a modification of the SURE Reference Picture for the funding priority was made. The current state of the overall SURE Reference Picture (July 2023) is presented in this document (see part 2).
2 Status Quo of the SURE Reference Picture

On the next page the SURE Reference Picture as it appears in July 2023 is illustrated. Changes to the December 2022 (before the modifications made during the peer-to-peer meetings) status are marked (●). In this regard, it is also important to emphasize that even this current version is neither final nor static, but constantly evolving to account for the changing nature of critical reflection processes.
3 Outlook & Self-Reflection on the Process

For the SURE Facilitation & Synthesis Research Project, several challenges arise in the process of developing the SURE Reference Pictures. In general, the process of finding the references is complex, as a large amount of information has to be condensed while not losing information. The high number and diversity of given answers results in many codes that are tough to compare and difficult to group in simpler categories. For this reason, it can be that the references seem vague in some cases. In addition, there is the challenge of extracting/abstracting the overall Reference Picture of the SURE funding priority from the projects’ individual Reference Pictures.

Another challenge is the use of both English and German language. Since some of the questionnaires were answered in German, the references and achievements have to be translated into English. Especially in the peer-to-peer meetings, it is noted that some translations need to be adjusted to use consistent terminology.

In the beginning, the questionnaires are analysed with the help of Grounded Theory and by paper and pen. This involves the risk that not all information is recorded in detail, and some is overlooked. As a consequence, from today’s point of view, a certified software would ease the coding process. On the opposite, the methodology of analogue work is very close to the material, which results in a high level of knowledge among the analysts. By having at least two people review and analyse each material, the assignment to categories and simplifications are done in double check. The numerous feedback loops and discussion sessions, in which fitting terms, references and structures are developed, prove to be particularly helpful. This intensive work leads to finding terms that simplify the complex SURE Reference Pictures in its presentation and still represent the intended impacts (to a certain extend). Even if this abstraction leads to general references, this is necessary in order to create an overall SURE Reference Picture, which illustrates the intended impacts of the whole funding priority. Therefore, the coding process – following the Grounded Theory – allows for open and unbiased assumptions. The strength of this procedure can thus be seen as a learning while doing, in which codes, categories, references and achievements are developed from the material and thus tailored precisely to it.

In summary, the SURE Reference Picture shows the intended references of the whole funding priority and is not to be understood as static – it can evolve parallel with changing references and intended impacts. Since the SURE projects operate in complex urban environments and deal with multiple issues, conditions may change rapidly, to which SURE projects may lead to changes in references.

At the same time, the Reference Picture acts as a mirror for self-reflection through which different aspects can now be seen in a different light. For the purpose of reflection, the SURE Facilitation & Synthesis Research Project develops methods and tools (SURE Toolbox) as an offer to support, among other things, self-reflection processes which can be applied to the picture. The SURE Toolbox will be published in autumn 2023.