

# PEER REVIEW ACTIVITIES IN THE NETWORK

## 2020-2021



**SERN**

SWEDEN EMILIA ROMAGNA NETWORK

Viale Martiri della Libertà 15  
I-43123 Parma  
e-mail: secretariat@sern.eu  
Phone: +39 0521 686023  
www.sern.eu

## What is peer review?

Peer Review is a form of external evaluation with the aim of supporting the reviewed institution in its quality assurance and quality development efforts. An external group of experts, called Peers, is invited to assess the quality of one or more fields of activity of the institution, such as the quality of service provision of individual departments or services. During the evaluation process, the Peers visit the reviewed institution.

Peers are external but work in a similar environment and have specific professional expertise and knowledge of the evaluated subject. They are 2-3 "persons of equal standing" with the persons whose performance is being reviewed. In the framework of the network peer review can be bilateral or multilateral. It can be based on reciprocity.

## Why a transnational peer review

- obtaining critical yet sympathetic feedback on the quality of their service provision from colleagues in the field
- becoming acquainted with an external perspective,
- ascertaining the quality of the service
- presenting strengths and showcasing good practice,
- detecting blind spots and weaknesses,
- receiving advice and discovering the good practice of Peers
- engaging in mutual learning with Peers
- obtaining an external evaluation report on the quality of their service at a comparably economic cost.



## The peer review work plan 2020-21

MONTH	ACTIVITY
<b>FEBRUARY MARCH 2020</b>	The secretariat opens the calls for application, matches the replies to the call. To participate in the call please go to <a href="https://forms.gle/qFrpmkijDRE7PQ38">https://forms.gle/qFrpmkijDRE7PQ38</a>
<b>APRIL 2020</b>	1-2 proposal(s) is (are) selected by the Secretariat.
<b>JUNE 2020</b>	<b>STEP 1 of the peer review process:</b> A Self-evaluation Report is written by the organizations which are peer reviewed. Peers must be identified and get informed about the peer review procedure. Practical organisation of the Peer Review visit.
<b>SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER 2020</b>	<b>STEP 2 of the Peer Review procedure is implemented:</b> Peers come to visit the hosting municipality and carry out an evaluation. This evaluation includes a tour of the premises and interviews with different groups of stakeholders. The Peers give initial oral feedback at the end of the Peer Visit.
<b>NOVEMBER 2020</b>	After the Peer Visit, a draft report is drawn up by the Peers. The ongoing activities of the peer review are presented to the SERN executive board.
<b>DECEMBER 2020 JANUARY 2021</b>	This report is commented on by the organization which Peer reviewed and the final Peer Review Report is issued.
<b>MARCH 2021</b>	Results and recommendations from the Peer Review are transferred into concrete actions through an internal meeting in the organisation to discuss how to implement the improvements.
<b>MAY 2021</b>	Results are presented at the SERN GA 2021.

## Costs

Given that the peer review activities are based on reciprocity the main cost will be related to the working hours that the civil servants involved will put in the various phases of the implementation.

### PEER REVIEWED ORGANIZATIONS

Meals are covered by the hosting organization.  
Flights are covered by the sending organization.

### THE SERN SECRETARIAT

The accommodation during the peer review will be covered by the SERN Secretariat.  
The Secretariat will provide overall coordination of the peer-reviewed activities as well as materials for the review and instructions for their use.

