IMU
1. Noteworthy productions

1.1. Outstanding progress regarding research

This group has a very strong emphasis on interdisciplinary research, requiring three distinct fields to be joined in conceiving and conducting each project it chooses. At its core, IMU can be said to have a distinct focus on the intelligent city and urban region of the future, with emphasis on the Lyon-Rhone-Alps region. The project leaders have been extremely successful in creating partnerships in the private and public sectors of the region. The combination of capabilities in advanced information science as applied to urban and environmental issues promises to produce a high level of sustainability, building on, but extending well beyond, LABEX support.

1.2 Striking progress in other “Labex” fields

a. Formation

The project has created excellent pedagogical programs, including a new masters program, Altervilles, which develops students with skills needed in the 21st century because they have been developed in partnership with eventual employers.

b. Valorization

1.3 Valorization – IMU is extremely effective in communicating its research to a wide audience of interested parties.

c. International (outreach, attraction, networking...)

Excellent international relationships, both in research and in applied projects.

2. Added-value resulting from labelling and funding as a “Laboratoire d’Excellence”

IMU has developed extremely strong partnerships with major economic and social actors in the region which would not be happen absent LABEX support.

3. Main weaknesses

3.1 Main weaknesses that might require corrective actions regarding the research performed in the “Labex”

There are none.

3.2 Main weaknesses that might require corrective actions regarding other fields of the “Labex”

a. Formation

There are none.

b. Valorization

There are none.

c. International (outreach, attraction, networking...)

None that we identified.

4. “Labex” contribution to structuring the gathered scientific strengths (governance, synergy, common scientific programming, visibility...)

All outstanding.
5. Beyond scientific results specifically obtained by the “Labex”, give an assessment on its contribution to the development, outreach and overall visibility of the concerned institutions and of the corresponding site.

They are making outstanding progress in outreach and visibility.

6. Overall opinion and recommendations

IMU has done everything that LABEX project could have hoped for in its inception. It is creating, in my view, a model for other cities and university systems to emulate. It has the ability to become a rare example of sustainable social science. This includes the formation of young researchers who will be on demand in the regional labor force and will not have to depend on government support for the rest of their working lives.

IMU is a model for the most advanced metro regions and nations to follow. IMU is demonstrating that the social sciences can and should be adapted to facilitate the evolution of the “intelligent city” of tomorrow. One can envision a Lyon School of urbanization eventually emerging from this exciting LABEX project. As it is charting new futures for the interdisciplinary application of new knowledge, IMU is also extremely successful in producing innovative scholarship. Its presentations to the public are also a model of clarity in communications. The project is highly imaginative and extremely relevant to contemporary metropolitan issues. None of it would have been possible without LABEX support.