

Quarterly Network Report Q1

January – March 2024

This report is made by the URBACT APN IV network COPE Lead Expert [Stine Skot](#). The report is giving an overview of what the COPE Network has done from January to March 2024, building on the activities from the Activation Phase described in the [Baseline study](#) from December 2023.

The 8 COPE cities are:

- A Coruña, Spain
- Bistrita, Romania
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Kavala, Greece
- Korydallos, Greece
- Pombal, Portugal
- Saint-Quentin, France
- Vilnius, Lithuania



Unlocking the green potentials of citizen action

Remember COPE – what is it all about?

COPE Roadmap

Stages	Small scale actions				Integrated Action Plan			Present IAPs
	PLANNING ACTIONS				PREPARING IMPLEMENTATION			FINALE
	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Core Network Meetings	CNM#2 March 20 +21 A Coruña, Spain Themes: Integrated approach Deliberation and participation	CNM#3 June 18 +19 Kavala, Greece Themes: Cross-cutting themes on small-scale actions		CNM#4 October 1 +2 Pombal, Portugal Themes: IAP workshop Casestudies Sharpening the policy challenges	CNM#5 January Saint-Quentin, France Themes: IAP peer review clustered by the policy challenges	CNM#6 May 19 + 20 Vilnius, Lithuania Themes: Network peer-review of IAP concerning local actions	CNM#7 September Bistrita, Romania Themes: IAP Peer review	CNM#8 December Copenhagen, Denmark Themes: Celebrating and sharing
Online webinar	February Lead Expert: Online tool and IAP template		September Ad Hoc Expert: Circular Economy	November Ad Hoc Expert: Funding		November Lead + Ad Hoc Expert: Peer review with another APN		
1:1 meetings		Lead Expert + ULG Focus: Status on ULG Status on IAP Status on small scale actions		Lead Expert + ULG Focus: Not yet defined		Lead Expert + ULG Focus: Not yet defined		
ULG	ULG meetings - minimum 1 between all Core Network Meetings							
Comms	Network video #1 Kavala	Case study #1 A Coruna	Case study/ article Kavala	Case study/ article #3 Pombal	Network video #5 Bistrita	Case study/ article #5 Vilnius	Case study/ article #6 Bistrita	Network article #4 Lead Expert
		Network video #2 Pombal	Network article #2 Lead partner	Network video #4	Case study/ article #4 Saint-Quentin	Network video #6	Network video #7	Network video 8 The City of Copenhagen
			Network video #3	Network article #3 Lead Expert				Case study/ Article #7 The City of Copenhagen

At our first Core Network Meeting in November in Korydallos, Greece, we decided on a roadmap showing the meetings and themes we would like to work on at what time and where.

The COPE roadmap is outlining various stages and deliverables.

The roadmap spans from Q3 2024 to Q10 2025 and includes planning actions, implementation preparation, and the finalization of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP).

The core network meetings are the core elements of the network activities. Here vital elements include local site visits, workshops on integrated approach, small-scale actions, participatory approach and peer-reviews. Additionally, there are thematic meetings focusing on topics such as gender and diversity, participatory governance and more specific green perspectives not yet identified. The roadmap also include online webinars focusing on training on funding and resources, circular economy and peer reviewing ULG activities. Communication efforts include interviews, videos, case studies, articles, and dissemination events.

Webinar: Collaboration tool and IAP template

On March 1st 2024 the COPE Network met online to be introduced to the online tool MIRO. In MIRO all COPE partners shares a MIRO board where the Network Roadmap has a dedicated workspace to be elaborated and updated as a work in progress. And all partners have a dedicated workspace with their local plan and digital products. The ULG members can access the board and use it to take notes, prepare and share across the local level and the network level activities.

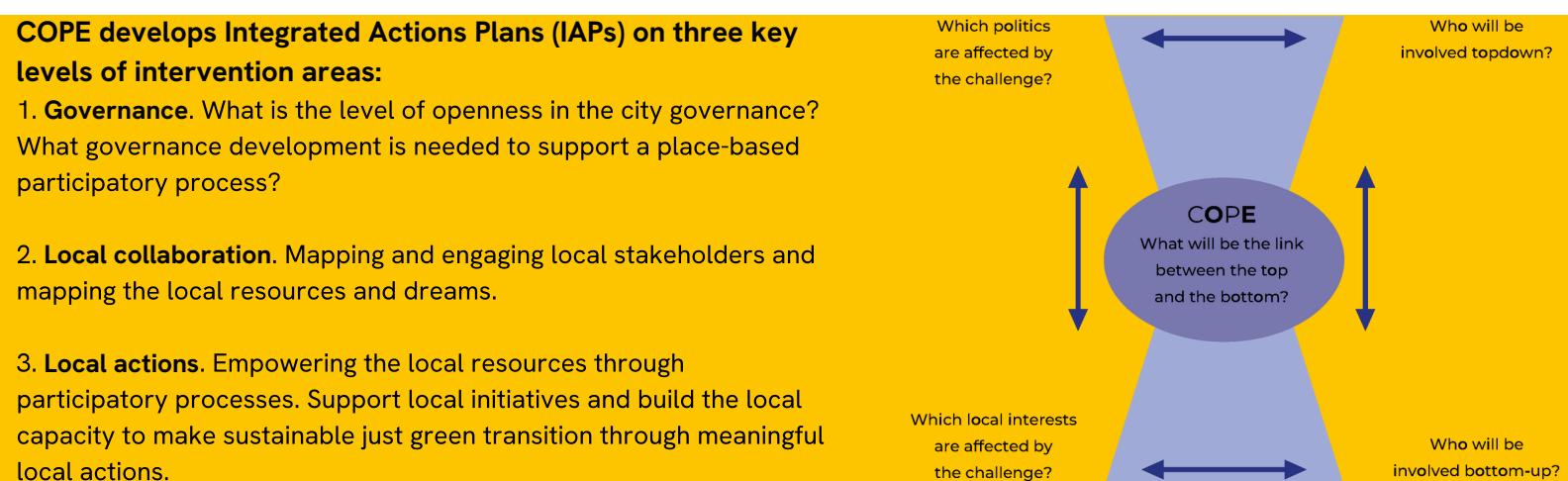
At the webinar the partners also were introduced to an IAP template. This template was prepared by the lead expert based on the URBACT reports and guidelines.

Core Network Meeting #2 in A Coruña

On March 20th + 21st the COPE Network met for our second Core Network Meeting, hosted beautifully by our Spanish partners. The agenda for the meeting was twofolded. We wanted to dive into two of the core elements of the COPE Scope:

- The Integrated Approach
- Participatory and deliberative processes

The COPE Scope is thoroughly described in the baseline study, but this figure show the basics:



The Integrated Approach is basically described in the figure above. Our COPE partners represent very different cities in sizes, culture and governance structure and procedures. But it applies to all cities that we will work place-based focusing on specific neighbourhoods or areas of the city and in these neighbourhoods we will seek to engage broadly across local interests. We will engage the local citizens and stakeholders in defining what green actions are necessary and we will engage the level of governance across the structures and pushing the existing procedures and policies to adress them and tie them together in a 360 degree solution.

At the Core Network Meeting the URBACT Integrated Assessment Grid was introduced for the partners to be able to assess their baseline and their development of integration.

WHY Engage citizens through deliberation and participation?

To sum it up these are the main take-aways from the presentation, but the subject is huge and much more can be said.

Deliberative democratic processes is a supplement to our representative democracy. They provide citizens influence on policy challenges beyond and in between elections. Also reflecting a more representative group than the elected.

Active involvement of citizens in the political decision-making process is not just an idealistic ambition for open government and a more legitimate democratic decision-making process. It is also about improving public policies and services.

Deliberation facilitates a structured conversation between citizens and the purpose is to identify or evaluate specific policy. Participation through co-creation creates new ideas or solutions based on local or individual knowledge, needs and preferences.

When planning a participatory process remember these **7 stages**:

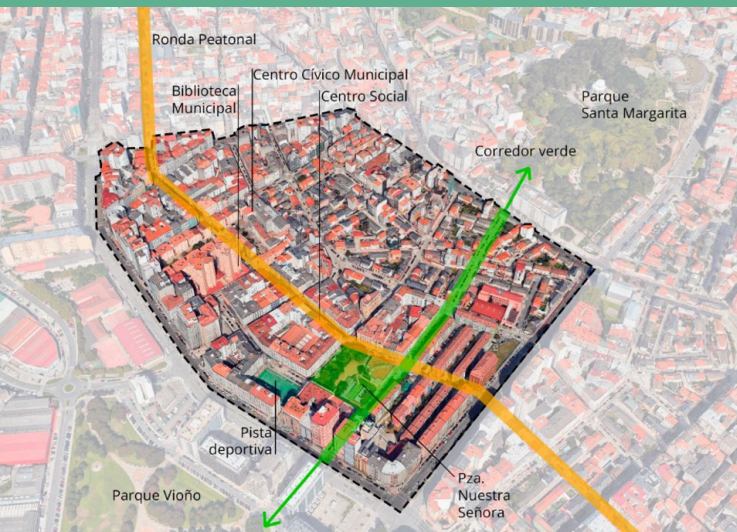
- **Political anchoring:** What is the political commitment and what political agreements do you have for receiving the output?
- **Define the problem and expected output:** What is it you need and in what format do you need it?
- **Map the situation:** What is at stake and for whom?
- **Identify the participants:** Who do you need to engage in order to meet you needs and expected output?
- **Choose the method(s) / design the process:** How can you engage the participants to fit your needs and expected output?
- **Implement the process:** Be careful to include all elements of the 7 stages when planning and implementing the process.
- **Follow up on output and process and exploit:** Can you implement new policy? Can you engage even more by sharing results? Remember to give feedback to the engaged participants.

Local highlights and A Coruña missions

Strong engagement of local key stakeholders



The ULG consists of engaged key stakeholders like the social centre, the neighbourhood chairman, the construction company and the library, just to mention a few. And on top of that the city counselor of the environment Noemi Diaz Vázquez gave us a sneak peek of the new green strategy.



In the neighbourhood Sagrada Familia in A Coruña the main focus of the ULG is to revive the neighbourhood by changing the public view of the neighbourhood and attracting people to pass through by making an inviting green pedestrian path through the neighbourhood connecting to the flourishing surrounding neighbourhoods.

The a Coruña IAP will work on issues like:

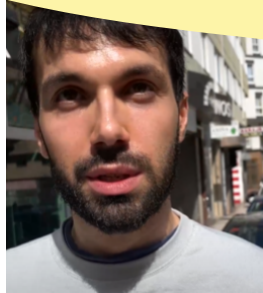
- Neighborhood isolation and lack of attractions
- Parking and pedestrianization challenges
- Suggestions for improving mobility: bike lanes, shared bikes, improved bus routes, parking solutions
- Housing issues: accessibility, thermal insulation, rehabilitation, housing market dynamics
- Empty/vacant commercial spaces: should they be transformed into housing?

SITE VISIT MISSION

At the Core Network Meeting all partners were sent on a mission in Sagrada Familia. They got the task to find out what they found interesting in Sagrada Familia. To reflect on whether they could learn anything or inspire with anything. Then they had to choose a relevant perspective and to think about what person, place, building or material on site would be relevant for the perspective. Finally all partners were sent out to make a short video (max 3 minutes) interviewing a person of interest about the chosen perspective. Or recording a place or something showing the perspective and then voicing the story themselves.

While our city did not record its own video on Day 2 as we were assisting other partners with translation, the footage captured by our peers in the Sagrada Familia neighborhood will be very useful for enriching our Integrated Action Plan. The videos offer diverse perspectives on the key challenges we aim to address, particularly in terms of pedestrianization, parking management, sustainable mobility, and local commerce. By showcasing the neighborhood through the lens of our international partners, we gain fresh insights into how these issues are perceived by external observers. Their outsider viewpoints can help us question our assumptions, identify blind spots, and explore approaches that have worked in other contexts. The videos will also serve as engaging audiovisual materials to communicate to local stakeholders. By screening the footage during our next ULG meeting, we can spark meaningful discussions, gather additional feedback, and build consensus around the priorities and actions. The international perspective brought by the videos will also help raise awareness about the global nature of the challenges we face and the importance of transnational cooperation in addressing them.”

**Antonio Prieto,
ULG Coordinator
in A Coruña**



A Coruña



Participatory diagnosis through World Café methodology: In our first ULG meeting in February, we used the World Café format to facilitate in-depth discussions on the main sustainability challenges faced by the Sagrada Familia neighborhood. Participants rotated between thematic tables focused on green spaces and sustainable energy, mobility and housing, and commerce and social policies. This dynamic allowed for a rich exchange of perspectives and the collective identification of key issues such as the need for more green areas, improved public transport connections, accessible and energy-efficient housing, and support for local businesses. The World Café proved to be an effective way to engage stakeholders in a participatory diagnosis and generate initial proposals that will shape our future Action Plan.

Building a diverse and collaborative local network: The first ULG meeting brought together a wide range of community stakeholders, including neighborhood associations, NGOs, educational institutions, social services, and local government representatives. Sitting everyone at the same table and enabling open dialogue was in itself a significant achievement. Despite the diversity of backgrounds and interests, participants showed a strong willingness to collaborate and work towards a shared vision of a more sustainable and inclusive neighborhood. The meeting laid the foundations for a local network that can co-create and implement integrated solutions. We will continue to expand this network in the coming months, engaging key actors identified through the stakeholder mapping exercise.

Bistrita

The local project is closely linked to 3 major infrastructure mobility projects. Due to some technical problems, those projects due to finish at the end of 2023, were extended and will finish only in June. As soon as the projects finish they will be gathered to collect ideas for the small-scale actions.

The ULG had one traditional meeting altogether, before the transnational meeting in A Coruna, where we invited them to join us, but due to their own professional commitments, this was not possible. In this period, we had several one-on-one meetings with the members: Gavrilă Urs, Monica Lupuți, Transmixt S.A, Copacul de cafea.



THE A CORUÑA VIDEO MISSION

“The video I took was with a young girl, living close by the Sagrada Familia Neighborhood. She knew the problems of the street very well: lack of parking, narrow street, old infamous street, but she had no idea about the future transformation into a pedestrian area. I tried to ask questions that related to Bistrita’s situation: mobility issues, parking facilities, green areas. The problems seem the same in both places: people’s mindsets are hard to change – yes, they want a pedestrian area but they don’t want to give up their personal comfort – having the car in front of your accommodation, but in the same time more green spaces around; they want safer surroundings, but in the same time they are afraid of walking around. The other thing in common is that the current situation is not the most happy one, and the need for a change is desperate.”

Cristina Cudrec,
ULG Coordinator
in Bistrita



Copenhagen



Climate Task Force seminar, January 10th 2024:

At the seminar we discussed several themes regarding the area renewal of Sønderbro. They included: Solar panels & energy communities; mobility & connections; plant & circular economy; city gardens & biodiversity; food habits- & communities; sharing schemes, local recycling & waste communities. The overall objective of the seminar was to get a climate focus on the area of Sønderbro.

Neighbourhood workshop, February 29th 2024:

The workshop was the second out of three big neighbourhood events for the area renewal of Sønderbro. At the workshop we invited local residents from the area of Sønderbro to join a discussion of different visions for the area. The objective for the workshop was to motivate people to join in the development of the plan for the neighbourhood, either as participants or creators. The aim was to test and try-out themes and get inputs to projects.



THE A CORUÑA VIDEO MISSION

"In our video our focus is: How can I, as a local shop/bar interact with the neighborhood and at the same time improve the public space, support the community and reduce carbon emissions? Therefore, we found this small intervention for outdoor serving. This the bar had constructed a small platform for a car dominated street into a street, where there are less cars (thereby reducing fossil emissions) and a room for a local community-oriented conversation that the community centre can utilize. The construction in itself shows how you with little resources can recycle readymade components into new functions, and in this sense support both a just and green transition."

**Øystein
Leonardsen, Lead
partner,
Copenhagen**



Korydallos

The Association of Social Anthropologists of Greece (SKAE / ASAG) have celebrated **European Anthropology Days** from the 15th of February to the 20th of March under the rhetorical question *“Is Anthropology present?”* Anthropology, in its polyphonic, open and critical approach, can contribute decisively to highlighting social problems, mitigating their causes and amplifying the voices of those affected. Anthropology enables new paths of understanding and can inform new policies and alternatives, evidence-based practices and shared visions.



An ULG event was part of these celebrations amongst four movie screenings, four workshops, two performances, one exhibition and an online event held in English (link to access provided below) as well as six dedicated blog posts on SKAE/ASAG’s website. Korydallos ULG event was in collaboration with the Ethnographic Film Festival in Athens, Fiji, Anthropology-inspired Storytelling network in Volos, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Athens), the University of Thessaly (Volos), the University of Macedonia (Thessaloniki), the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Aegean, four K-12 schools in Piraeus, Korydallos, Athens and the island of Amorgos, and a cinema club based on Amorgos.

More specific, from the program of the celebrations that was announced in the central webpage of European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA):

Vocational High School of Korydallos (19/02/2024, 12:30). *“Designing together” a collaboration of the school community with local governance through a European project (COPE/URBACT IV) on designing names and logos for the reuse of a municipal building for newcomers professionals. Coordinated by teachers Eftichia Siembenou, Margarita Gelada, and Antonios Kambourparisis, and Mimina Pateraki, an anthropologist at the Dept of Research, Development and Planning, Municipality of Korydallos.*

THE A CORUÑA VIDEO MISSION

: "Feeling the breeze of the North Atlantic Ocean we crossed the city to reach the Sagrada Familia, a historic neighborhood of the city where it was built during the long period of Franco's dictatorship by the partnership of the Catholic Church and private sector (company providing low-cost housing to many Galicians, other Spanish and non-Spanish, who came to work for the city's port. Fifty years later, among other problems, the residents of the area face the closing of shops and the economic withering of their neighborhood while they continue to welcome new immigrants. Last decade, Sagrada Familia was almost a forgotten neighborhood, especially because of the commercial decline. I talked with a local pastry man, middle aged Galician, owner of the shop for over twenty years, owner of grocery shop. They both proposed an alternative for the reuse of the pedestrian area. "We know that it had been interrupted to serve car traffic and now is proposed as a way of revitalizing the neighborhood by enhancing the city's green profile too. I believe that pedestrians, car drivers and residents we can share the street, lets say half-half. We need a properly quality of life but this can not be without protecting our jobs. We need people to buy from our shops, we need jobs, and more people that can have a proper living and can buy our staff."

Mimina Pateraki,
ULG Coordinator
Korydallos



"Taking seriously what people say seems that can really enrich the initial planning. Some times people from different points of view can meet each other when they feel that caring about their public space that surrounds them can be a great endorse for their personal life. In other words, sociability amongst people its a dynamic factor that local governance has to give great importance because can provide stronger and easier effects on establishing new policies. Further more people that work on the field, being part of everyday life can expose the most delicate shades of social life and this is much more colorful when these people mix their local view with their defferent cultural background."

Pombal

Claudia Costa, ULG coordinator: “In the third ULG meeting, we made an exercise with citizens and shop owners where we walked through the historical centre to evaluate the area by looking to three topics: energy efficiency of the buildings, mobility and public space. Each citizen had a cardboard where they were registering both what happens currently and what can we do. Moreover, we created three stations where one civil servant explained the relevance of each topic.”



THE A CORUÑA VIDEO MISSION

“The focus of the videos from Pombal are on mobility. Our aim was to know if citizens and shop owners have the same perception regarding the changes that will happen in the street. To achieve it, we made a series of 4 questions to four people (2 citizen and 2 shop owners): 1. which way do you prefer to use on daily day (using cards), 2. would you like to have more walking streets?; 3. do you feel ok walking on the streets?; 4. if you could change something on the street, what it would be?
The feedback we received has been very interesting for our IAP, specially because the two shop owners refer that most of the is good for business which is the opposite opinion that most of the shop owners in the historical centre of Pombal have, motivated by the fear of losing costumers”.

**Claudia Costa,
ULG Coordinator,
Pombal**



Saint-Quentin

Following the transnational meeting in A Coruña, the city of Saint-Quentin organized a local group to work on a cartographic assessment of the targeted neighborhoods: Neuville and the Faubourg d'Isle. The selected themes are mobility, waste management, renaturation, and water resources. In this local group, participants aimed to characterize the existing facilities and what they would like to see created in the future.

To carry out public communication, a photo montage was created. The objective was to ask participants in the local group for their vision of the work carried out within the COPE network.



THE A CORUÑA VIDEO MISSION

“The city of Saint-Quentin has chosen to work on the theme of urban renaturation. We interviewed residents of the Sagrada Familia neighborhood to determine the importance of establishing parks.

Two individuals were interviewed:

- 1: A thirty-year-old immigrant man from Senegal who arrived a few months ago.
- 2: A fifty-year-old resident woman of the neighborhood.

For them, the creation of parks fosters community living and can increase social interactions.

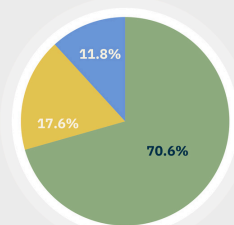
One of the themes that emerged from the local groups led by the city of Saint-Quentin focuses on the renaturation of the neighborhood. In addition to combating heat islands, the creation of green spaces allows for the integration of all aspects of sustainable development.”

Lauriane Delleaux, Romain Prevot, Alexandra Paux, ULG representatives, Saint-Quentin



Mark which theme you would assign to your developing or planned to implement COPE initiative over the next 2 years?

- **Biodiversity in the City**
City gardens, wild meadows, green roofs, insect hotels, urban beekeeping.
- **Food Waste**
Community food-sharing fridges, composting.
- **Circular economy; Repair**
Sharing, repairing, recycling for alternative use, repair cafes.



During this quarter, as part of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP), a financial support tool was developed by modifying the existing community support program to align with the primary areas of climate-neutral activities identified during the first Urban Local Group (ULG) meeting. The support program was successfully launched, offering the opportunity to apply for up to €5,000 in funding for climate-neutral activity support. The results of successful applications will be announced by the end of April.

Primary areas of activities eligible for financial support include:

- Activities and education related to biodiversity conservation (urban beekeeping, sustainable meadows, conservation of habitats for insects, animals, and birds);
- "Blooming and Greening Capital" initiatives (landscaping projects, creation and preservation of green spaces or their adaptation for recreational use, planting events);
- Activities and education related to community urban gardens and food waste composting;
- Activities and education promoting consumption reduction (ideas for sharing items, upcycling, community item exchanges and markets, etc.)

An online Urban Local Group (ULG) meeting was held to explore the feasibility of launching a new Green Initiative – the establishment of a Community Garden within a residential district of Vilnius City. New community garden project is emerging within the scope of the COPE project. The initiative was well received by all stakeholders and is awaiting the results of the funding application. If successful, work on placemaking and the establishment of the community garden will commence from May onwards.



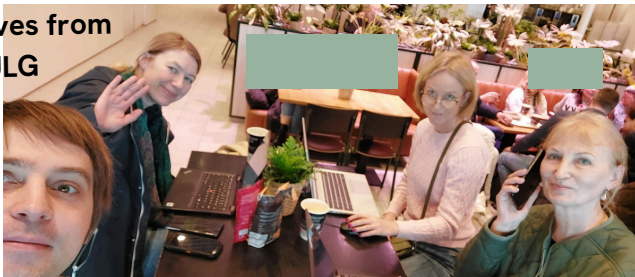
THE A CORUÑA VIDEO MISSION

We chose the theme of sustainable mobility, with the ultimate goal of asking pedestrians about their preferred modes of mobility – whether they favor cars, bicycles, or public transport. The Vilnius team conducted three interviews and obtained the following walking results:

- 1: Two individuals preferred a car due to its comfort.
- 2: One person preferred walking over driving a car.

To better understand the residents' stance on the development of sustainable mobility and the introduction of more bicycle lanes, a more extensive survey is needed. However, our video interview results show a positive outlook on the city's intention to expand its bicycle track network. This initial feedback indicates a receptiveness among the population to adopt changes that promote sustainable modes of transportation. Such endeavors could significantly influence urban mobility patterns, encouraging a shift toward more environmentally friendly and health-conscious choices among the community. Sustainable mobility is a key concern in Vilnius, and it is curious how it is implemented and what is the impact in diverse geographical settings.

**Aušra Sičiūnienė, Eglė
Vankevičė, Giedrius
Kavaliauskas, Olga
Stravinskienė,
representatives from
Vilnius ULG**



Local COPE activities Jan - Mar 2024

PARTNER CITY	ULG MEETINGS	BILATERAL MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS
A CORUÑA	1 ULG MEETING	SEVERAL BILATERAL MEETINGS
BISTRITA	1 ULG MEETING	SEVERAL BILATERAL MEETINGS
COPENHAGEN	2 ULG MEETINGS	SEVERAL BILATERAL MEETINGS + 6 COMMUNITY EVENTS
KAVALA	1 ULG MEETING	SEVERAL BILATERAL MEETINGS + ULG VIDEO
KORYDALLOS	1 ULG MEETING	SEVERAL BILATERAL MEETINGS + 2 ROWS OF WORKSHOPS WITH STUDENTS
POMBAL	1 ULG MEETING	SEVERAL BILATERAL MEETINGS
SAINT-QUENTIN	1 ULG MEETING	SEVERAL BILATERAL MEETINGS
VILNIUS	3 ONLINE ULG MEETINGS	SEVERAL BILATRAL MEETINGS + ULG SURVEY