

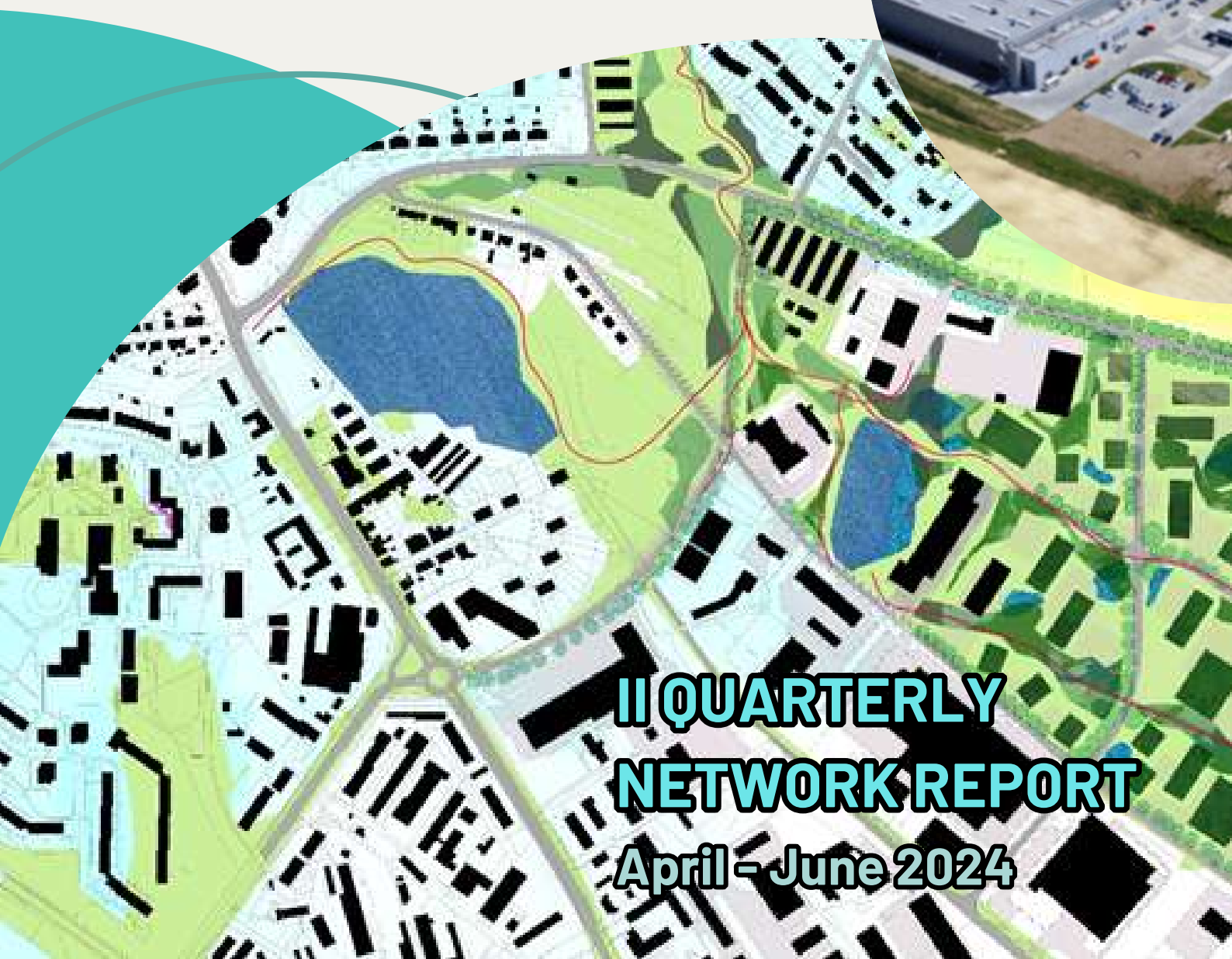


In4Green

ACTION PLANNING NETWORK



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg



**II QUARTERLY
NETWORK REPORT**
April - June 2024

CONTENT

IN4GREEN II QUARTERLY NETWORK REPORT

IN4GREEN PARTNERS	3
INTERVIEW OF THE QUARTER	4
2024 FIRST QUARTER BALANCE	
• THE LEAD EXPERT'S POINT OF VIEW	5
• STAIRWAY TO THE IAP	6
• ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS	7
• HOW ARE PARTNERS FEELING AFTER THIS QUARTER?	8
• WHERE ARE WE NOW IN THE ACTION PLANNING NETWORK JOURNEY?	9
• WHAT WERE THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE FIRST QUARTER?	10
• MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF PARTNERS	11
ONLINE EXCHANGE AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES	12
COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES	20

In4Green aims to foster green transition in small and medium-size European industrial cities. It is an URBACT project, running from 2023 to 2025, co-financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). In4Green is a network of 10 European cities who will develop integrated action plans to promote their local green transition. This Quarterly Network Report reflects the performance of partners at transnational and local level in the development of exchange and learning activities.

August 2024.

Author: **Jose Costero, Lead Expert of In4Green URBACT network** with contributions from partners:

- Avilés: Víctor Fernández.
- Bijelo Polje: Dalibor Đogović.
- Dabrowa Gornicza: Kinga Morzonek.
- Larissa: EvangeLia Gkountroumpi.
- Navan: Peter Olwell.
- Sabadell: Anna Puiggròs Xirinachs.
- Salerno: Francesco Formisano.
- Solingen: Anna Mader.
- Vila Nova de Famalicao: Catarina Alves.
- Zďar nad Sazavou: Tomáš Pleva.

Pictures by: Jose Costero, Solingen City Council, Neue Effizienz and Avilés City Council.

II QUARTERLY NETWORK REPORT IN4GREEN PARTNERS ARE:

AVILÉS (SPAIN)

BIJELO POLJE (MONTENEGRO)

DĄBROWA GÓRNICZA (POLAND)

LARISSA (GREECE)

NAVAN (IRELAND)

SABADELL (SPAIN)

SALERNO (ITALY)

SOLINGEN (GERMANY)

VILA NOVA DE FAMALICÃO (PORTUGAL)

ŽĎÁR NAD SÁZAVOU (CZECH REPUBLIC)





INTERVIEW OF THE QUARTER

KINGA MORZONEK. DĄBROWA GÓRNICZA (POLAND)

You have been the first partner in the network to organise a testing activity. Can you tell us what was the general idea of the activity? What did you want to test?

The general idea of the testing activity at the Street Style Party held on May 18th 2024 in Dąbrowa Górnicza was to engage and show citizens in a vibrant and interactive environment at the 3rd May Street that celebrated local culture and creativity. The primary goal was **to test various aspects of community engagement, including how well citizens could connect with each other and spend the time with the activities organized during the event.**

So the activity was focused on citizens engagement mainly. How were they able to participate? What did you ask them to do?

Citizens were able to participate in multiple ways. We encouraged them to join in various street art **workshops, dance performances, and fashion showcases** that highlighted local talent and business. Additionally, we set up **interactive boards** where attendees could share their thoughts on community initiatives and contribute ideas for future events. Feedback was gathered through surveys and informal discussions, allowing us to capture a wide range of perspectives.

And how was the testing activity in general? Was it a positive experience?

Overall, the testing activity was a **very positive experience**. The atmosphere was energetic and filled with enthusiasm, with many citizens expressing their appreciation for the event and the opportunities it provided for connection and creativity. **The feedback we received was overwhelmingly supportive**, and many participants enjoyed the hands-on activities and the chance to showcase their talents.

And finally, can you tell us what the main conclusions are? What did you learn from the test?

From the test **we learned several key conclusions**. Firstly, the importance of community involvement was reaffirmed; citizens felt more connected and engaged when they had a direct role in the activities. Secondly, the diversity of activities offered attracted a wider audience, which is essential for future events. Lastly, the feedback mechanisms we implemented were effective, as they not only allowed us to gather insights but also made citizens feel valued and heard. Moving forward, we aim to build on these insights to enhance community engagement in future initiatives at the 3rd May Street.



2024 2nd QUARTER BALANCE

THE LEAD EXPERT'S POINT OF VIEW.

Online exchange and learning towards the green transition.

The URBACT In4Green network completed its fourth quarter in June, i.e. its first year. In this **first year of work**, the network partners have been able to familiarise themselves with the URBACT methodology, to **better understand the challenge of the urban green transition** at European and local level, and to **involve their stakeholders** in the process of **drawing up the Integrated Action Plan**.

In this sense, the last quarter from April to June 2024 has been a challenge in the exchange and learning process as **no face-to-face meeting was planned** to be organised. For this reason, the process has been based on online activities, which have been varied and numerous.

The main element of these activities has been the **Peer Learning Sessions**, having organised a total of 4 with different themes such as circular economy, sustainability in SMEs, attracting green investment or sustainable urban development. In these sessions **up to 6 network partners have had the opportunity to share their good practices** with the rest of the partners.

“Despite the challenges, the In4Green network partners continue to make progress in the design of their Integrated Action Plans for the green transition of their cities.” Jose Costero, In4Green Lead Expert.

Moreover, this quarter saw **the first Gender Equality Session** with a workshop where partners were able to learn about basic concepts of gender equality and equity, and why it is important for cities to know and apply these concepts to urban policies.

Finally, in this quarter the Lead Expert has continued to organise **Bespoke Support Meetings**, with one partner each week, offering help with local challenges in the development of the project. The main challenges have focused on the setting up of URBACT Local Groups and the identification and design of testing activities. To give extra support in this task, **specific individual work sessions about testing activities** were organised at the end of June and will continue throughout the summer.

Despite the challenges, the In4Green network partners continue to make progress in the design of their Integrated Action Plans for the green transition of their cities.

By Jose Costero, In4Green Lead Expert.

STAIRWAY TO THE IAP

PARTNERS PROGRESS WITH INTEGRATED ACTION PLANS

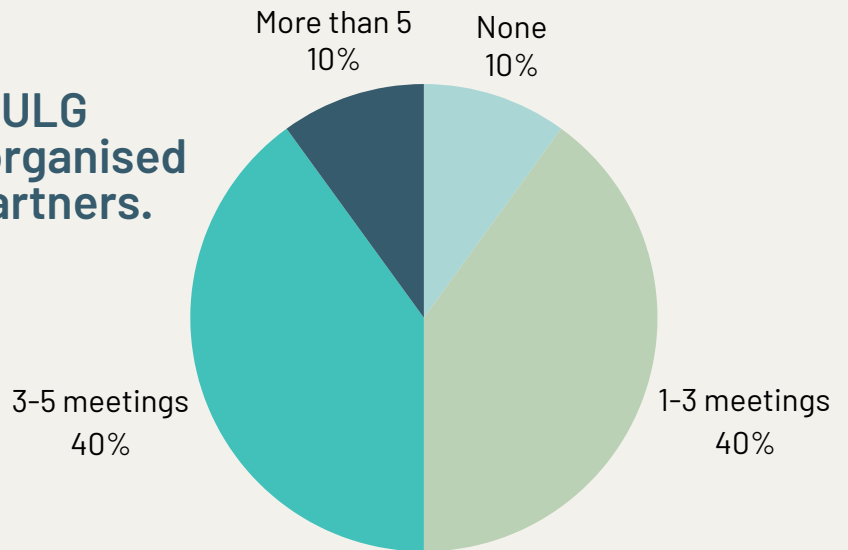
Number of partners who have reached the milestones (out of 10):



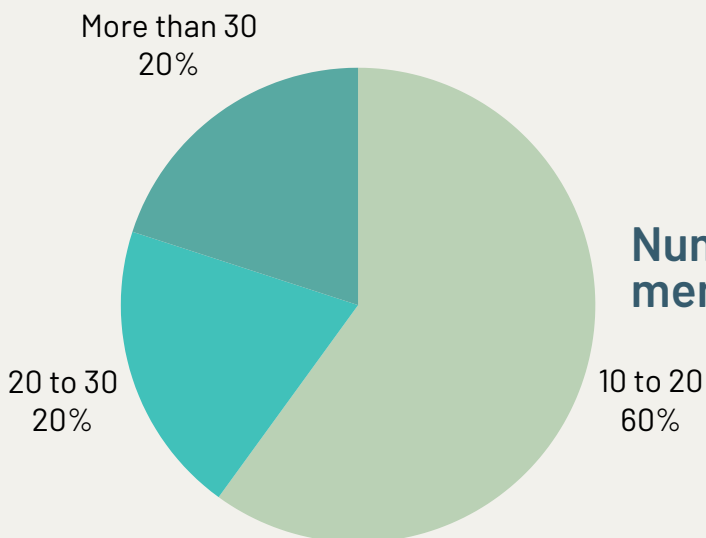
ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

URBACT LOCAL GROUPS (ULG) PROGRESS

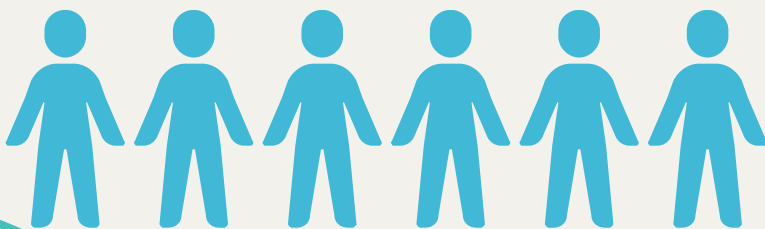
Number of ULG meetings organised so far by partners.



Number of ULG members by partners.

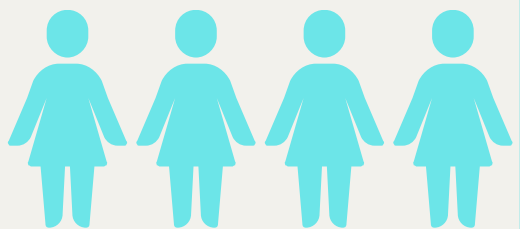


371 People attended ULG meetings so far.



43% Women.

↑ +3% Compared to previous report.



2024 2nd QUARTER BALANCE

HOW ARE PARTERS FEELING AFTER THIS QUARTER?



"We are optimistic about achieving our long-term goals."

"We feel optimistic and encouraged about the progress of the In4Green project"

"I feel good and I have more inspiration to contribute to the project"

"Good because we had a lot of interaction"

"We are quite satisfied with the functioning of the ULG"

"Comfortable and happy with the project."

"We are satisfied with ULG meetings and testing activities"

"Engaged"

"We are getting back on track"

"The project is going well"



2024 2nd QUARTER BALANCE

WHERE ARE WE NOW IN THE APN JOURNEY?

In4Green Roadmap

IN4GREEN ROADMAP		PLANNING ACTIONS - 2024												PREPARING IMPLEMENTATION - 2025												FINALE
E&L ACTIVITIES		F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
Network level	Transnational Meetings	TM 2																						TM 6		
	Thematic Working Groups																									
	Transfer Workshops	TW 1																								
	Peer Learning Sessions (online)	PLS 1	PLS 2	PLS 3	PLS 4	PLS 5																				
	Gender Equality Sessions (online)																									
	Bespoke Support (online)																									
Local level	ULG Meetings & Co-design																									
URBACT	City Labs, Festivals, etc.																									

ACHIEVED:

- 4 Peer Learning Sessions.
- 1 Gender Equality Session.
- 12 Bespoke Support meetings.
- 4 Testing Activities support meetings.
- 3 Monthly coordination meetings.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- ULG meetings.
- Local Baselines.
- Testing activities identification and planning.

IN4GREEN ROADMAP		PLANNING ACTIONS - 2024										
E&L ACTIVITIES		F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O		
Network level	Transnational Meetings	TM 2										TM 3
	Thematic Working Groups	TWG1.1										TWG3.1
	Transfer Workshops	TW 1										TW 2
	Peer Learning Sessions (online)	PLS 1	PLS 2	PLS 3	PLS 4	PLS 5					PLS 6	PLS 7
	Gender Equality Sessions (online)											
	Bespoke Support (online)											
Local level	ULG Meetings & Co-design	DRAFT LOCAL BASELINE										
URBACT	City Labs, Festivals, etc.	City Lab	City Lab								City Lab	

2024 2nd QUARTER BALANCE

WHAT WERE THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE LAST QUARTER?



“Collecting the necessary data and information for the Good Practices”

“Significant lack of time to complete tasks”

“Achieving consensus to develop a testing activity and set the main objectives of the project”

“Collection of some data for baseline study”

“Identifying testing activities with our stakeholders”

“Time constraints for ULG members”

“Developing and carrying out test activities”

“Testing activities”

“Stakeholder engagement”

“Involving the stakeholders”



2024 2nd QUARTER BALANCE

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF PARTNERS



Avilés (Spain).

"The final definition and consensus around the testing activity, which will be implemented in the last quarter of 2024."

Bijelo Polje (Montenegro).

"We held the second ULG meeting in July, where we discussed the local baseline study, upcoming activities, and testing activity."



Dąbrowa Górnicza (Poland).

"Carrying out the second test activity for the second space, which is the marketplace, and developing the second part of the IAP."

Larissa (Greece).

"We made significant progress in drafting Section 1 and Section 2 of the Integrated Action Plan."



Navan (Ireland).

"The ULG have formed a sub-committee who will compile an energy management plan through the sustainable energy communities programme."

Sabadell (Spain).

"Involving the stakeholders in the project and linking the IAP with the current city policies and strategies."



Salerno (Italy).

"We have defined one main test activity and started working on it."

Solingen (Germany).

"Successfully completed our first peer learning sessions and shared our activities with the partners."



Vila Nova de Famalicão (Portugal).

"Our city made significant progress with In4Green, particularly by completing the first part of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP)."

Žďár nad Sázavou (Czech Republic).

"Drawing multiple visions and agreeing on shared vision among stakeholders that was reflecting initial expectations of core team."





ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

ONLINE PEER LEARNING SESSIONS (PLS) ORGANISED:

Peer Learning Sessions are an opportunity to know more, explore and learn from good practices and experiences of other partners in the network. The good practices (GP) and topics have been selected based on your interest and preferences discussed during the Activation Stage.

PLS2 - CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Solingen GP3 - Master Plan "Labour and Economy" - reactivating brownfield sites.

Solingen GP7 - "Transparent Workshop": promoting circularity and local production.

Solingen GP8 - Bergisch Circular: Inter-Municipal Circular Economy.

Solingen GP9 - Exclusively local industry use of local deadwood.

PLS3 - SUSTAINABILITY IN SMEs

Solingen GP4 - "Reimagine Initiative" (#Umdenken).

Avilés GP5 - Supporting SMEs in the design and implementation of sustainability strategies.

PLS4 - GREEN INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Dabrowa Gornicza GP3: Special Economic Zone: new industrial park for investment attraction.

Zd'ar nad Sazavou GP1: Smart Parks for the Future for attracting green and smart investments.

PLS5 - SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Larissa GP5: Sustainable Urban Development in Larissa.

Salerno GP6: Sustainable City Integrated Program (PICS, ERDF).



ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

PEER LEARNING SESSIONS FULL OF INSPIRING CONTENT:

ABLE.

ENCE

DIGIT

ENERGY

101010
100101
010010

#UMDENKEN
Working together on new solutions
> Netzwerk-process for ideation

WfS

EMERGENCY INTERVENTIONS
> Hotline WfS
> Rescue system by Federal Government and state of NRW

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICE
> Information on funding opportunities & advisory services

oder direkt



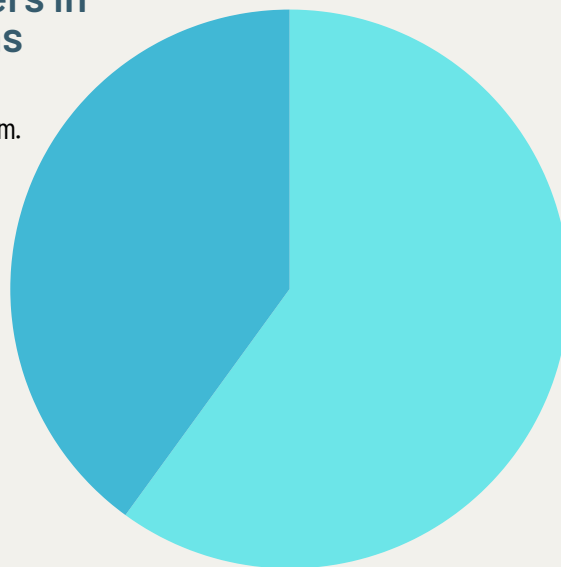
ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

INVOLVEMENT OF PARTNERS IN PEER LEARNING SESSIONS:

Participation of partners in Peer Learning Sessions

We have attended some of them.
40%

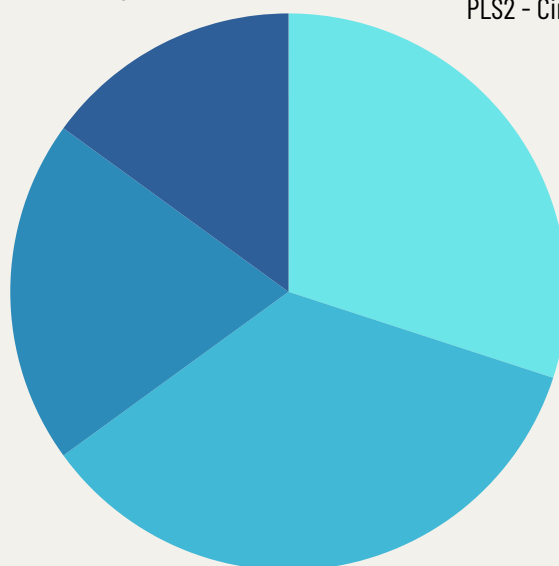


We have attended all of them.
60%

What PLS did partners enjoy the most?

PLS4 - Attracting Green Investments
4

PLS5 - Sustainable Urban Development
3



PLS2 - Circular economy in Solingen
6

PLS3 - Sustainability in SMEs
7



ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

SHARING OF GOOD PRACTICES BETWEEN PARTNERS:

What Good Practices shared during these PLS did partners find the most inspiring?





ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

MOST INSPIRING IDEAS FROM PEER LEARNING SESSIONS:



“Support of Avilés to SMEs about sustainability”

“Working in synergy with the private sector”

“Specialized industrial parks to attract investments in green and smart industries”

“Successful strategies from other cities”

“The importance of local partnerships”

“Special Economic Zones for investment attraction”

“Working in small groups of experts and SMEs”

“The concept of collaborative innovation”

“Transparent Workshop in Solingen”

“Communication of Good Practices”



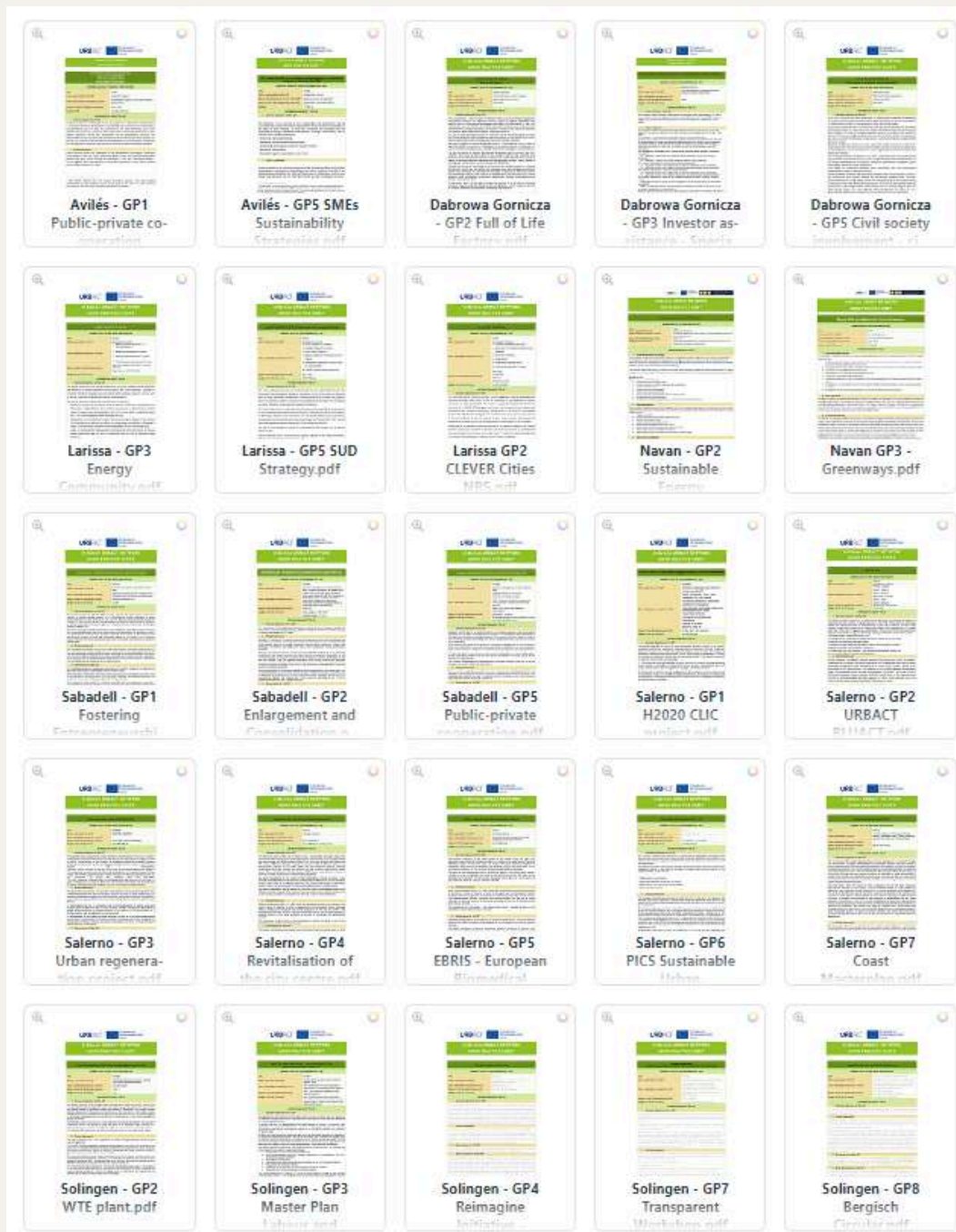


ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

GOOD PRACTICES REPOSITORY:

Up to 26 Good Practices Sheets have been already produced by partners and stored in the repository. Available for consultation.





ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

BESPOKE SUPPORT MEETINGS

Individual follow up meetings between partners and Lead Expert. 12 meetings were organised during the second quarter of 2024, finishing the first round with partners and starting the second one.

Participants feedback:

- “The Lead Expert has put a lot of work into the bespoke meetings with us and helped us with our ideas (particularly around for testing actions)”.
- “The meetings have been very useful since we tackled specific difficulties and challenges from each partner”.
- “The Bespoke Support has been very useful, especially for testing activities”.
- “We are interested in having more of these meetings as the process of IAP development becomes intensive”.
- “Meetings are helpful for the constant exchange on the current status and questions about the methodology”.
- “They provide an exchange of ideas and allow us to evaluate the current status of our local project”.
- “I find the Bespoke Support Meetings with the Lead Expert to be extremely valuable. These individual sessions provide tailored guidance that addresses our specific challenges and needs, making the advice highly relevant and actionable”.
- “They help to focus attention and get useful advice”.
- “Meetings allow us to summarize previous activities and outline the path for further activities as part of the implementation of the assumptions of the network”.
- “The Bespoke Support Meetings are an excellent opportunity to tackle the challenges we face in our In4Green journey at local level, with the support and guidance of our Lead Expert”.



ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

GENDER EQUALITY SESSIONS

In order to incorporate the gender perspective in the design and implementation of the local IAPs, the organisation of online sessions on the cross-cutting theme of gender equality is planned. The first Gender Equality Session was organised during the second quarter of 2024 with the following content:

Content:

- Why do we care about gender equality?
- Why is it important for cities?
- What are the gender gaps and how to identify them?
- Equality vs. equity, are they the same?



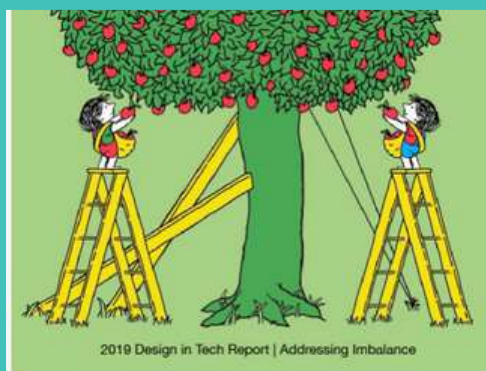
INEQUALITY



EQUALITY



EQUITY



JUSTICE



COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

COMMUNICATION HIGHLIGHTS - SECOND QUARTER 2024

Published articles:

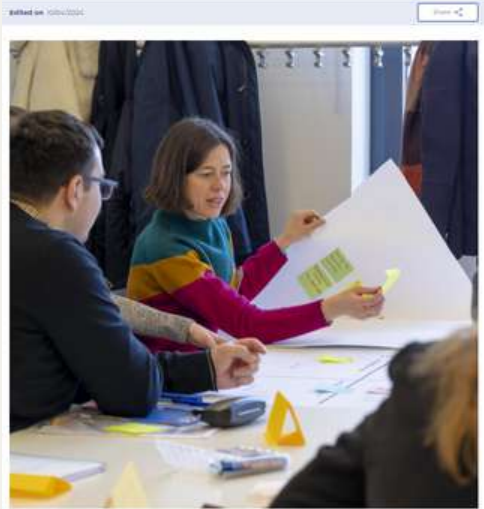


Vier Study in a Parametrical Housing, Solingen & Mactonstadt, April der Stadt Solingen

Solingen hosts the second meeting of the EU funded network for the exchange of experiences and collaborative learning on local solutions

By Jose Costero. [Link](#)

How can cities lead the change towards a circular economy? Reflections from the In4Green Thematic Working Group on Circular Economy



By Eileen Crowley. [Link](#)

Social Media: follow us on LinkedIn!



IN4GREEN

In4Green

Public administration

From black to green: Driving industrial cities towards a sustainable horizon. Funded by URBACT IV (2021-2027).

follow

In4Green

ACTION PLANNING NETWORK

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg

II QUARTERLY NETWORK REPORT

April - June 2024

**STAY TUNED, THE
BEST IS YET TO
COME!**