

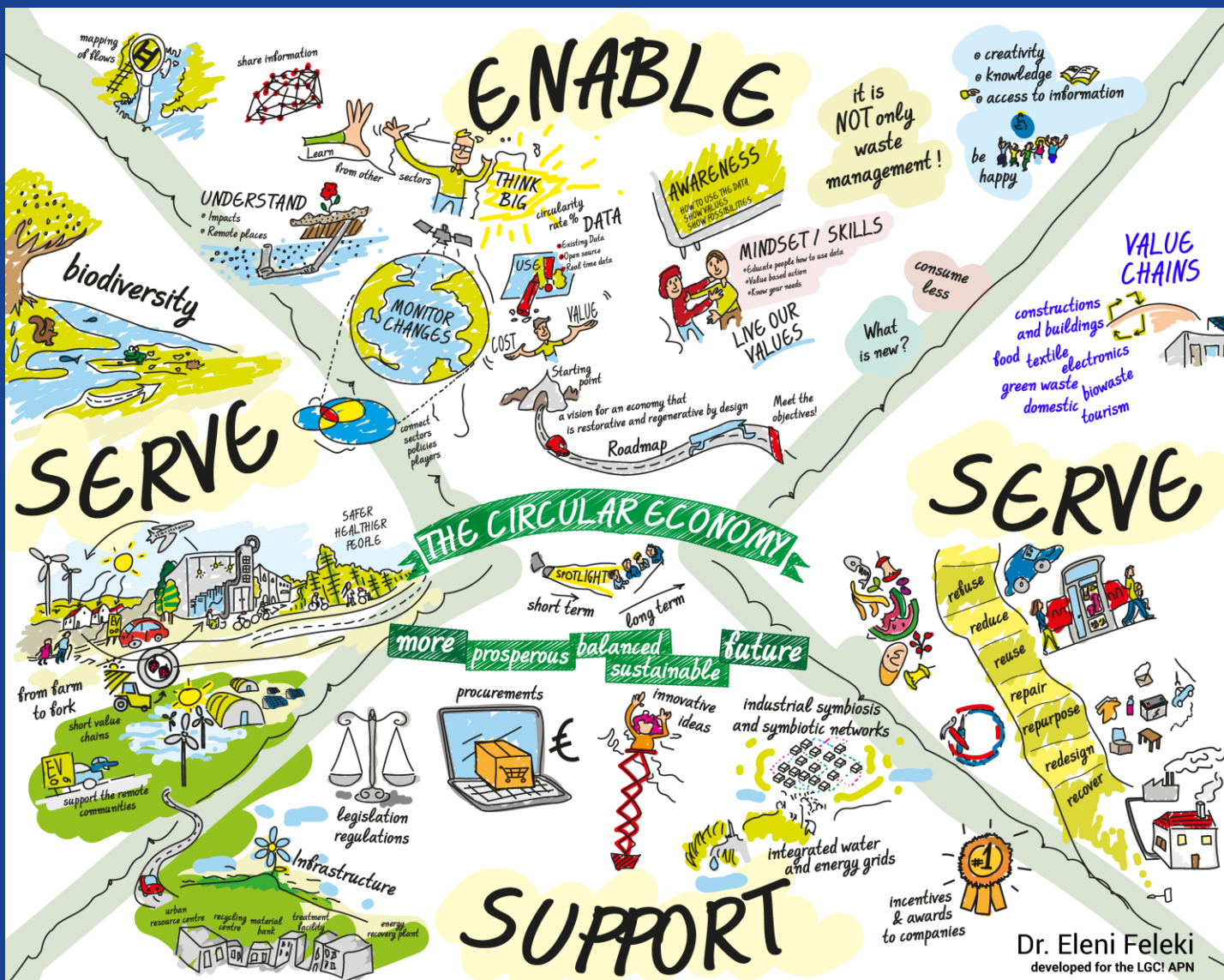
LET'S GO CIRCULAR!

Paving the way for a circular transition of cities

October 2024

3rd QUARTERLY REPORT

By Dr. Eleni Feleki, Lead expert



Dr. Eleni Feleki
developed for the LGC! APN

Integrated action plans design defining local vision, strategic objectives and preparing the ground for identification of actions following the integrated approach.

Preparation of our Mid Term Reflection session.

Our POLICY PAPER, addressing the EU Parliament and Commission to act in order to enhance circular economy in cities.

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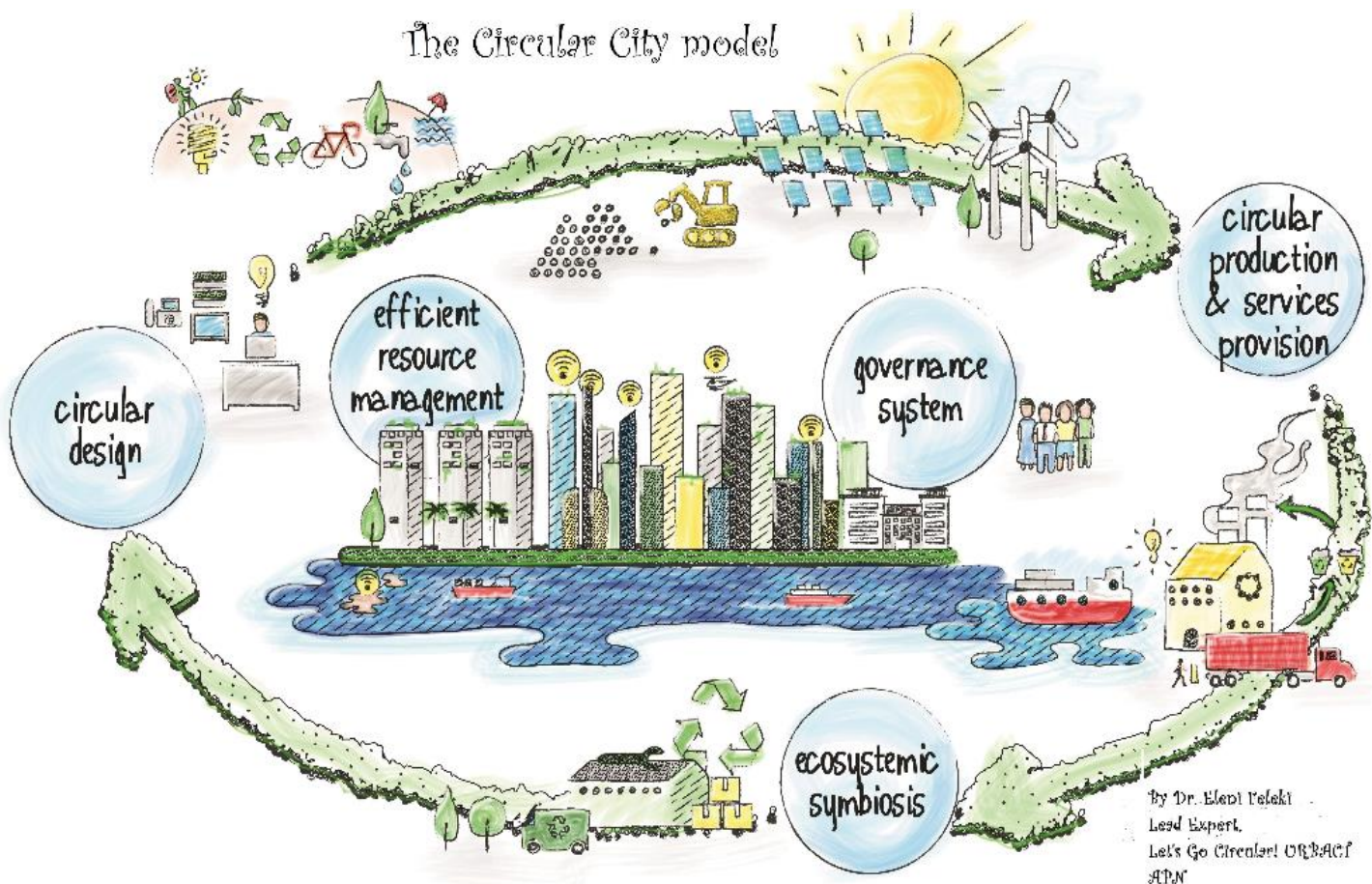
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The network in a nutshell

With **Munich as Lead Partner**, the URBACT “LET’S GO CIRCULAR! – Paving the way for a circular transition of cities” Network started in **June 2023**.

The cities that take part in the network, apart from Munich, include Cluj-Napoca in Romania, the Greek island of Corfu, Granada in Spain, Malmö in Sweden, Riga in Latvia, Oulu in Finland, as well as Guimarães and Lisbon in Portugal and Tirana. Our understanding of the **circular city** is depicted here!



The themes of focus of the network are the following:

1. Governance
2. Education, information, capacity building for circular consumption patterns
3. Development of methodologies and tools
4. Fostering innovation and entrepreneurship
5. Infrastructure

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Action planning highlights – Oulu

Vision

Oulu is the most learning circular economy city.
We develop and implement sustainable lifestyles in cooperation with companies, residents, and other stakeholders.

Local process

The local circular economy coordination group recognized areas, actions, and measures that need to be accelerated and further developed.
The actions to be prioritized were discussed, voted for and further specified in a series of workshops during the summer and fall of 2024.



Themes of focus

Theme	Intervention line	Stream/ chain
Governance (policies, strategies, regulations, monitoring, financial incentives, funding fiscal measures)	Procurements	Construction, Municipal and public assets
	Land use planning	Construction, Municipal and public assets
	Sustainable and resource efficient built environment	Construction, Municipal and public assets
Education, Information, Capacity Building and Awareness	Education and communication	Construction, Municipal and public assets
Methodologies and tools	Material cycles and mapping of flows	Construction, Municipal and public assets, Waste

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Action planning highlights – Lisbon

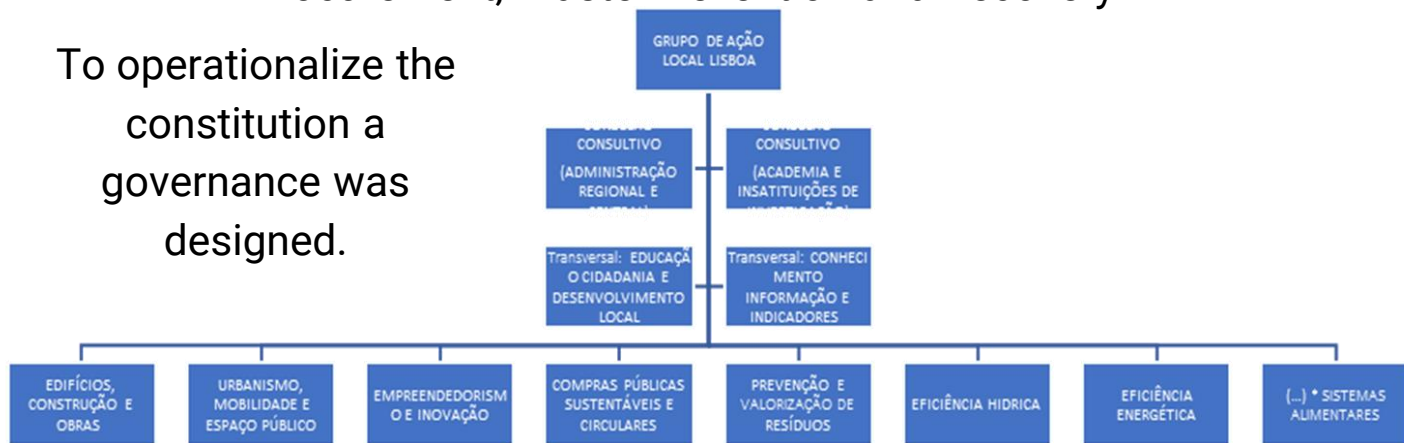
Vision

“A sustainable, responsible, fair and resilient city in transition to a more circular, regenerative and collaborative economy focused on people and contagious for the world.”

Local process

A survey was applied to find out the work already carried out, ongoing and planned in terms of Circular Economy and the position and interests of stakeholders in relation to the ULG. The analysis resulted in the creation of two advisory councils (Central and Regional Administration and Academia and Research Institutions), two transversal working groups (Education, Citizenship and Local Development and Knowledge, Information and Indicators) and eight thematic subgroups (Buildings Construction and Works; Urbanism Mobility and Public Space; Sustainable and Circular Public Procurement; Waste Prevention and Recovery.

To operationalize the constitution a governance was designed.



IAP strategic objectives

- S01:** Strengthen collaborative governance and citizen participation creating socioeconomic opportunities and benefits;
- S02:** Promote circular businesses and models of production and consumption;
- S03:** Improve efficiency of city consumption resources, closing resource loops;
- S04:** Stimulate Education, communication, awareness and training for CE;
- S05:** Enhance understanding and measurement of the city's circularity performance;

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Action planning highlights – Riga

Vision by 2030 and commitments

Residents of Riga use infrastructure that supports the circular economy

The city of Riga provides infrastructure and support services—resource centers that encourage and motivate residents to become more environmentally responsible. These centers help integrate residents into the transition from a linear to a circular economy, changing their behavior and habits.

Riga residents and businesses are educated on the circular economy

Riga becomes the hub and cornerstone of circular economy education in Latvia, responsibly managing existing resources and implementing circular economy practices in municipal institutions, neighborhoods, and communities.

Riga is an ideal place for businesses applying circular economy principles

Riga becomes a business support center for the circular economy in Latvia—attracting investments and companies focused on applying circular economy practices in their business models, and implementing circular economy principles in municipal enterprises.

Sectorial focus

1. Municipal operations
2. Circular economy hubs
3. Cultural and creative industries, manufacturing
4. Waste management
5. Water
6. Mobility
7. Energy
8. Construction

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Action planning highlights – Riga

Measuring local progress

Network of Circular Economy Points

Reusable goods sales per capita

New services related to reuse, sharing, and circular consumption

Publicly Available Data on the Circular Economy

Emissions reduction (tracking the environmental impact of circular initiatives)

Data on resource recovery (e.g., compost, energy efficiency measures)

Recycling volumes (waste sent for recycling instead of disposal)

Energy recovery data (tracking waste volumes used for energy recovery)

Circular Economy Criteria in Public Procurement and Municipal Guidelines

Circular PP (number of circular contracts, value of projects)

PP records (number of circular economy contracts, money allocated)

Volume of reused or repurposed materials in public infrastructure

Shared space m² (spaces made available for shared use)

Reduction in unused space m²

Restored buildings m² (buildings brought back into use)

Water savings in municipal operations (potentially saved water in liters)

Increase in the use of circular solutions in municipal institutions

Residents' Awareness and Engagement in the Circular Economy

Number of campaigns and outreach programs

Number of workshops, events, and centers attended

Reduction in sales of single-use products

Digital engagement (reach on social media)

Community participation rates in circular economy programs

Resource Recovery and Circular Use of Materials

Proportion of primary materials used vs. recycled materials

Water reuse and rainwater collection tracking (data on reused water volumes)

Waste recycling volumes (amount of waste sent for recycling)

Mobility services (use of circular practices in transportation systems)

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Action planning highlights – Guimarães

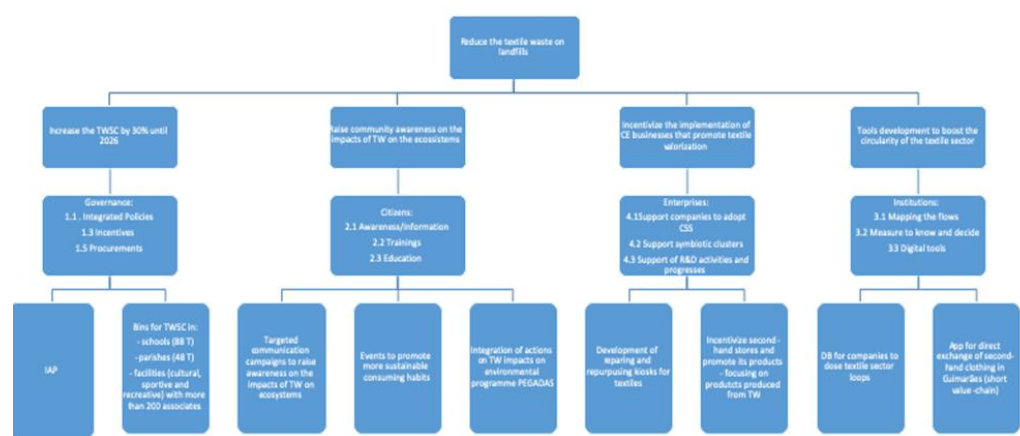
Vision by 2030

Guimarães is climate neutral by 2030 with the involvement of local entities, citizens, companies and investors, in addition to national authorities.

Local process

The ULG meetings were essential to identify local challenges related to the circularity of the textile sector as well as the circularity of textile waste management, at the local level.

Sectorial focus



The ULG composition is diversified and represent different fields of the local community:

- Territorial waste management companies
- Textile consultants
- Clothing brands
- Waste Valorization centers
- Clothing second hand sector representatives
- Municipality representatives

Strategic objectives

1. Increase selective textile waste collection by 30% until 2026
2. Raise community awareness to the impacts of textile waste on the ecosystems
3. Incentivize the implementation of circular economy ideas in the textile sector that prioritize textile waste valorization

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Action planning highlights – Tirana

Vision

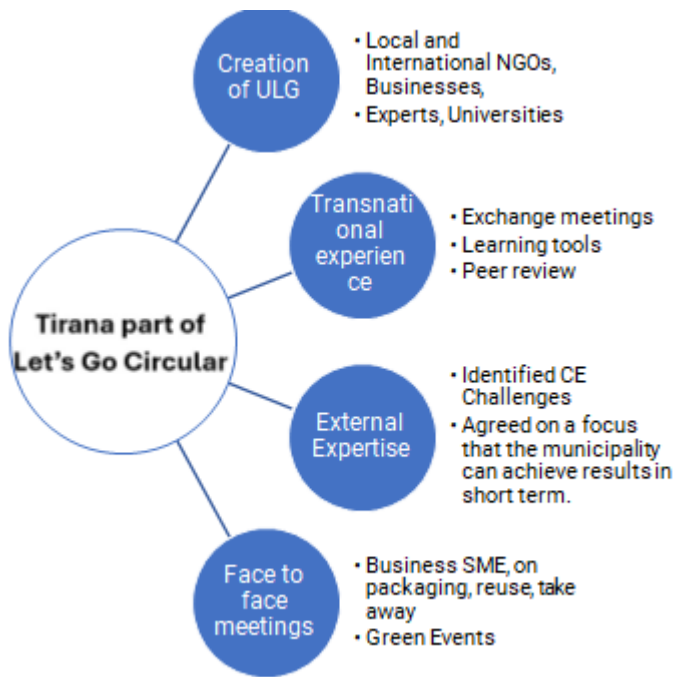
"Our city's smart and innovative transformation aims to pioneer a circular economy, through innovative business solutions, maximizing resource efficiency, and fostering a sustainable urban ecosystem for European inspiration and lasting impact for its citizens."

Local process

In developing this plan, a multi-stakeholder and cross-learning methodology has been adopted, incorporating national and international collaboration. The URBACT Local Group guides and supports the plan throughout its various stages, utilizing tools developed specifically for the project.

Central to the process were self-assessments on integration and peer reviews of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP), which helped refine objectives and actions to ensure they were both effective and feasible.

The logical framework approach was used to structure the plan. This included understanding the current situation, analyzing key



problems, facilitating an ideation process, assessing the city's capacity to progress on the topic, and drafting actionable objectives

Strategic objectives

A dynamic SMART City, a starting point of change for innovative businesses towards a circular economy in distribution and consumption. (in line with SDG12: EFFECTIVE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION & GCAP)

The City of Tirana recognizes the role and enables stakeholders in exchanging knowledge as well as stimulating entrepreneurship, towards green growth and sustainable innovation. (in line with Green Agenda WB)

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Action planning highlights – Malmö

Vision

“We drive the transition together towards a circular, resource efficient and vital city within the planetary boundaries. By joining together, act, educate and challenge, we take a joint responsibility to achieve a climate neutral, attractive and sustainable Malmö

Local process

The transition area Circular Economy has for this version of the integrated action plan included a multitude of local actors in the co-development; network-organisations, other public organisations, academia and businesses. In total representatives from 25 different entities have contributed to the work.

Transition areas



Strategic objectives

1. Environmental Programme; Goal 12 Increased Resource Efficiency
2. Malmö Waste and Ecocycle Plan; Business waste will reduce with 30 percent until 2030
3. Malmö Energy Strategy; The energy system within Malmö’s geographical area is resource efficient and balanced where low and high value energy is used in an optimal way
4. Malmö Comprehensive Plan; Circular resource management will be promoted through enhanced cooperation between public and private actors

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Action planning highlights – Munich

Vision

“To reduce the material footprint of Munich’s private households and economy, and decouple the local economy from material use”

Transition areas

1

Buildings & Infrastructure

2

Nutrition & Water

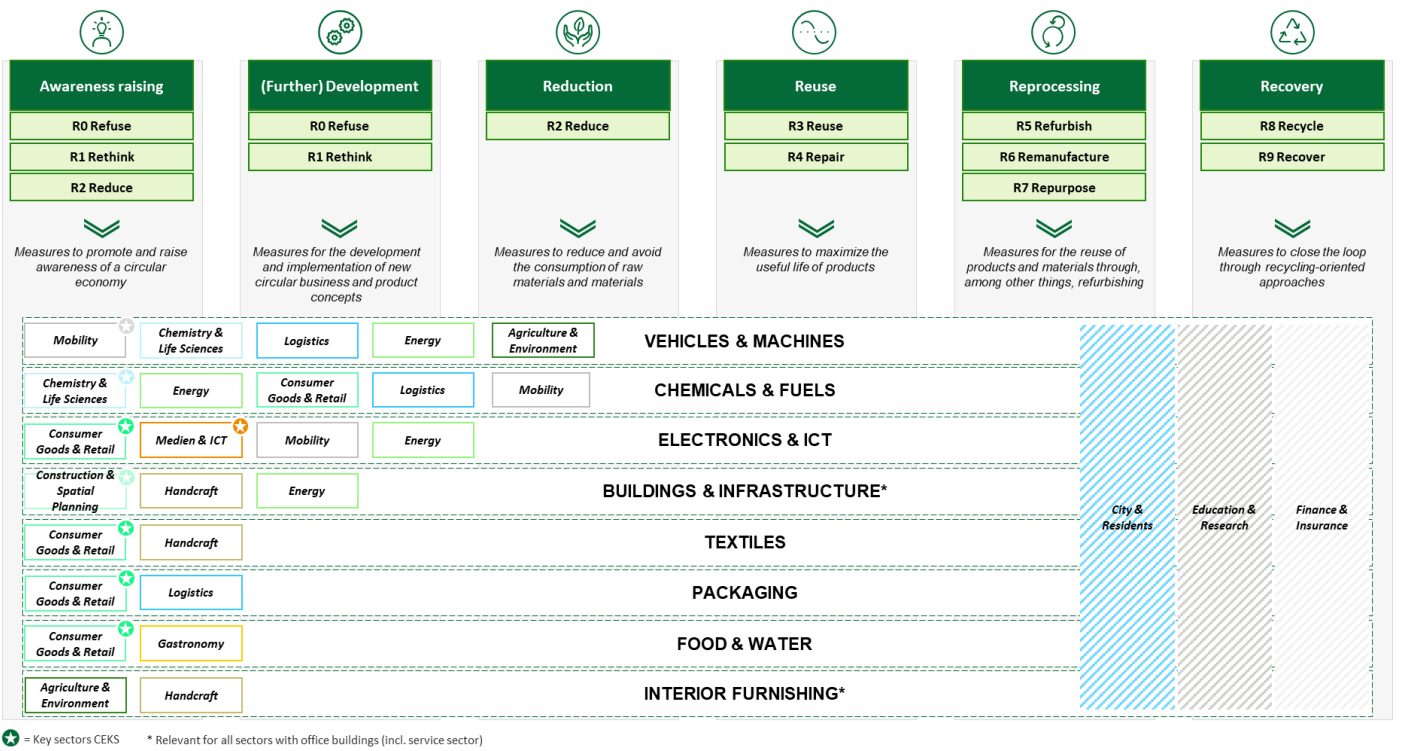
3

Products & Retail
Electronics, batteries, packaging, textiles

At its core, the Circular Economy Coordination Unit target image and framework consists of six circular approaches that are to be covered with measures.

The circular approaches are visualized below, in the dark green boxes, below in the white transverse blocks are defined the product groups and industries most relevant for the City of Munich.

A conscious decision was made to mix industries and product groups in order to catch up with the overarching circular economy strategies in Bavaria, Germany and the European Union.



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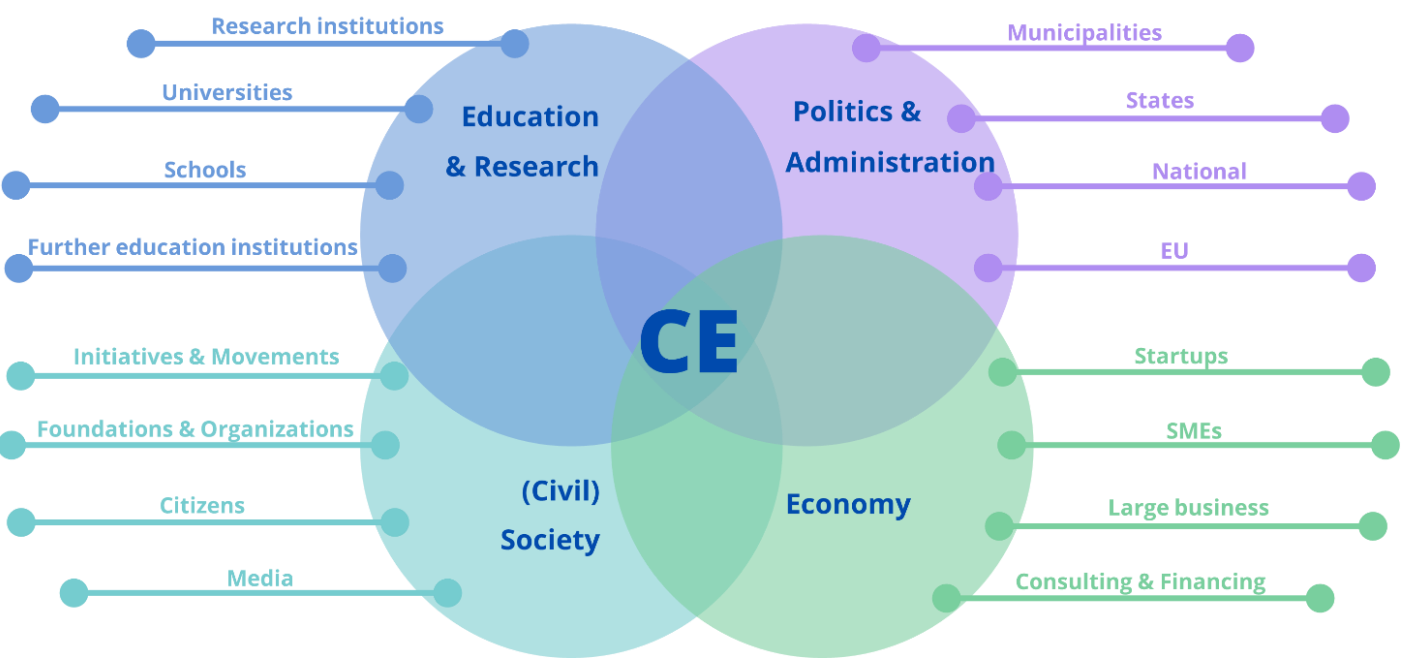
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Action planning highlights – Munich

Local process

Analysis of relevant player and groups of interest along the different sectors under consideration of the lines of integration in order to integrate respected stakeholder into the URBACT Local Group and into the process of identifying actions.

By integrating a broad spectrum of stakeholder into the process, the city of Munich targets the in section 1.2 named challenge of distributed responsibilities, including business, and including citizens.



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Action planning highlights – Cluj Napoca

Vision

“Cluj Metropolitan Area metabolism futures a high degree of information, awareness and adoption of circular economy practices at the level of public administration, local institutions, business environment and citizens.”

Strategic objective

“Achieving a 23% utilization rate of circular materials by 2030”.

Local process

Specific objective 1: Introducing CE themes into the formal or non-formal education curriculum

What? Introducing CE themes into the formal or non-formal education curriculum

Why? Because when children become teenagers and consumers have the necessary discernment

When? Elaboration of manual 2025-2026 and introduction in the program 2027-2028

Where? Schools in Cluj Metropolitan Area

Who? Experts, teachers, communicators, disseminators

How? Attracting top companies in sponsoring the manual from CSR budgets

Specific objective 2: Integration of the EC principles in the value chain

What? Sustainable design week+ standardization of the circularity design

Why? Because we intervene at the beginning of the flow

When? Biennale

Who? Arts and Design University; Technical University of Cluj-Napoca

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Action planning highlights – Corfu

Vision

To design a comprehensive strategy for application of the principles of the circular economy in the Municipality of Central Corfu and Diapontia Islands. In this context, the Integrated Action Plan for Corfu aspires to play a supporting role to the city’s municipal authorities and local stakeholders towards overcoming identified challenges, allowing Corfu to establish the Circular Economy.

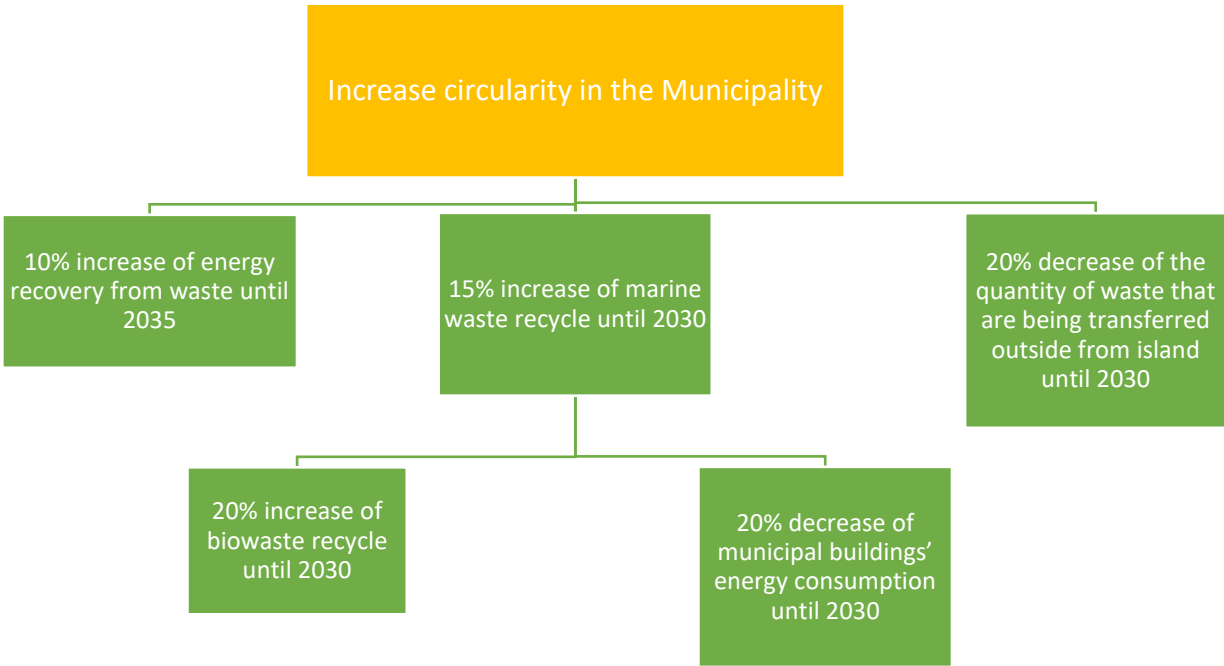
Local process

ULG meetings were the core of the project’s local progress.

Introduction to the project’s implementation through the next 2.5 years, presentation of the best practices being implemented to the other partner-cities, conversations and exchange of views towards circularity and how to install and boost circular economy locally were among the most important themes discussed.

Strategic objectives

Through the list of S.M.A.R.T. characteristics and of the 10-R strategies, the strategic objectives mentioned and finally agreed to be set as Corfu’s IAP strategic objectives (SO) are presented in the green boxes under the yellow box that contains the main vision



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Use of tools to generate outcomes

Guimaraes

Guimaraes has implemented five ULG meetings.

Lately the OPERA tool was used. OPERA helps in setting clear objectives and mapping out the roles and expectations of all involved players, which is crucial for the smooth execution of urban development projects. It aids in assessing available resources and the activities planned, ensuring that projects are feasible and well-resourced.

For more information about OPERA tool visit here:

<https://urbact.eu/toolbox-home/planning-actions/opera>



I&D	IAP LGCG	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4
Eco-Design	Action 01	Inclusão de "Ecodesign" em Planos de Formação	Produtos de formação "Ecodesign"	Desenvolvimento de piloto	Portfolio de Protótipos resultantes
Investigação Acabamentos	Action 02	Estudo de Situação	Definição de Métricas	Investimento em Hardware	Certificação do processo
Investigação Aplicações Destacáveis	Action 03	Estudo de Situação	Independência de tendências	Destacáveis e acessórios	erradicação de bordados e estampados
Investigação Materiais	Action 04	Ações de Formação	Valorização de Profissionais	Melhoria das Condições de trabalho	Manual de Boas Práticas e RSC

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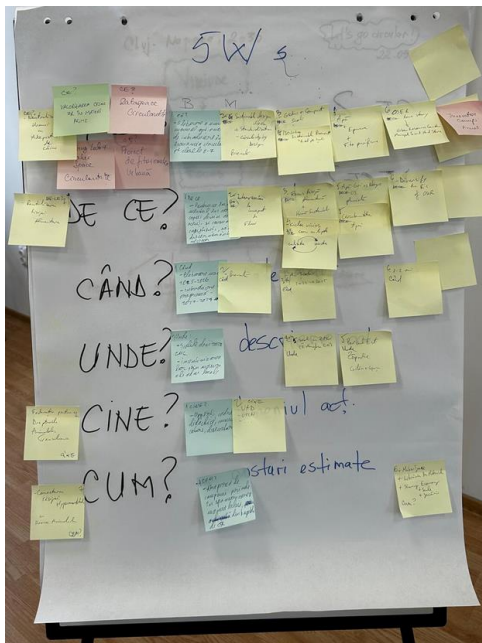
Cluj Napoca

Cluj Napoca has implemented five ULG meetings.

Lately, the 5Ws and 1H tool was used to design actions.

For more information about the 5Whys approach tool visit here:

<https://urbact.eu/toolbox-home/analysing-problems>



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Use of tools to generate outcomes

Malmo

Malmo has implemented seven ULG meetings.

Action tables are being used to describe the actions.

For more information about the co-creation of actions, visit here:

<https://urbact.eu/toolbox-home/planning-actions>

Actions	Description	Time Plan	Departments
Establish a Resource Hub In Malmö and test the concept (pilot)	The Resource Hub will provide support to businesses and operations to find new circular business models, exchange knowledge and coaching for increased resource efficiency. Together with other operations they will be able to find synergies and solve common challenges together.	Ongoing	Environment Department, City Office (NK)
Investigate possibilities/development of circular jobs	Act for cooperation with roadmap actors/other relevant actors to match their needs with the participants in the Labour Market and Social Services Department's program. Gain a better understanding of the needs/a changed labour market in a circular economy. Part of the Resource Hub's work.	Ongoing	Labour Market and Social Services Department (ASF)
Develop measurement, key figures and indicators for circular economy	Find methods to better follow up and measure the circular transition in Malmö, i.e. through benchmarking and be part of contexts that develop measurement methods – research, projects etc	Long term	Environment Department
Conduct Advocacy Work	Collect and understand the needs from Malmö situated operations and forward them to Viable Cities, Net Zero Cities, Circular Cities Declaration (ICLEI), Urbact and others	Ongoing	Environment Department

Lately, it was discussed how can the City of Malmö's resources be used to achieve greatest effect?

Criteria reasoning:

- In which areas of actions is big potential for emission reductions of CO2e?
- Which actions are unique for this transition area?
- Which areas and actions hold momentum among external actors and stakeholders?

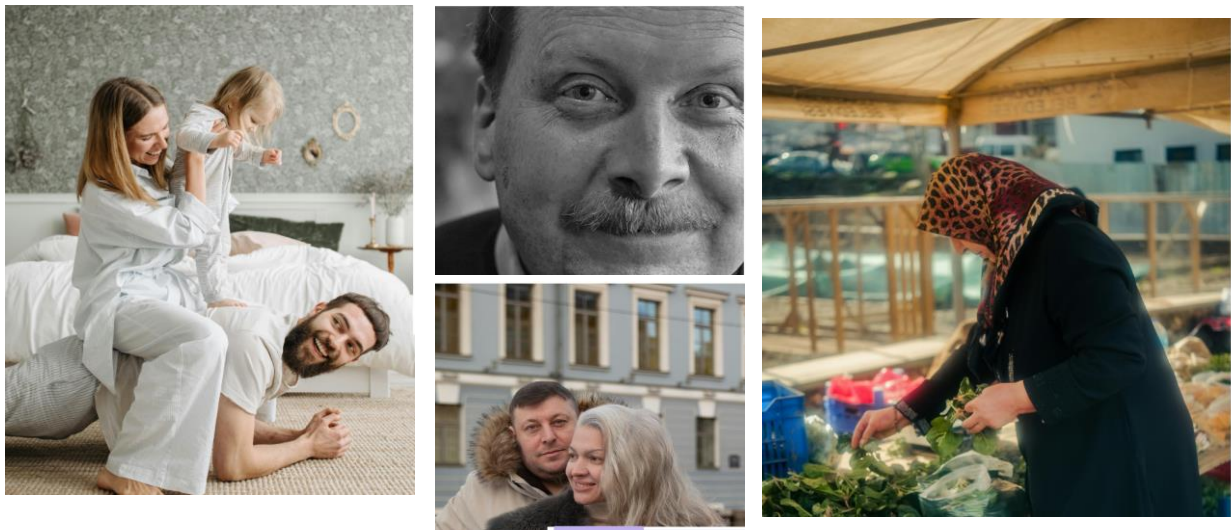
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Use of tools to generate outcomes

Riga

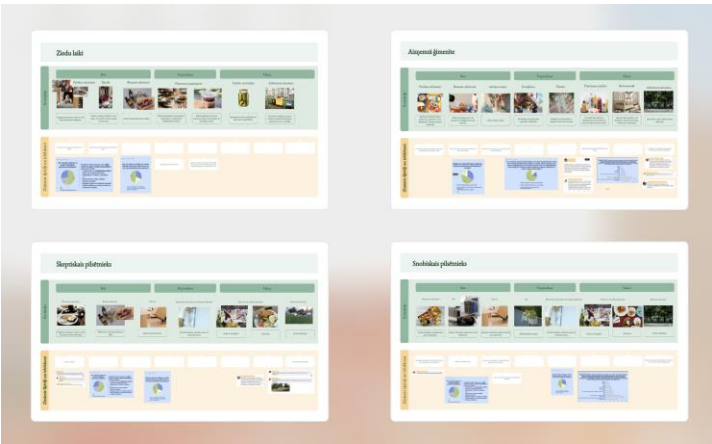
Riga has implemented eight ULG meetings. Persona game was used to identify citizen needs, behaviors, interests, and priorities, illustrating a day in the life of waste sorting decisions.



26 participants got familiar with examples of citizen personas and typical barriers and reasons preventing these residents from sorting waste. Each group analyzed various types of residents, identifying the most characteristic barriers and reasons why these residents do not sort waste.

Then, the groups created action ideas, which were evaluated based on their relevance, priority, and significance in relation to the circular economy action plan.

Each participant voted on the developed ideas, assessing their potential and significance.



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Use of tools to generate outcomes

Munich

Munich has implemented five ULG meetings. A mix of physical and online meetings are being implemented, with the use of digital collaboration tools like MIRO, allowing for a bigger number of stakeholders, even more distant ones, to participate in the URBACT Local Groups actively.

Übung #1 Erstellung von Vision-Statements

1

Schreibe mögliche Zielbilder / Vision-Statements für die nachhaltige Beschaffung Münchens auf, welche auf die identifizierten Fokus-Themen zutreffen.

Ein Vision-Statement muss sich nicht nur auf ein Fokus-Thema beziehen, sondern kann mehrere Themen umfassen.

Versuche möglichst konkrete Visionen zu beschreiben.

5 Minuten

2

Reviewt die gesammelten Vision-Statements.

Stimmst du einem Vision-Statement besonders zu? Hinterlasse einen Daumen via Copy-Paste.

Du hast eine Anmerkung, Ergänzung oder Frage? Hinterlasse ein Kommentar.

5 Minuten

3

Gemeinsame Diskussion der Vision-Statements, Kommentare und Fragen.

Ziel ist, dass wir ein **gemeinsames Verständnis** zu den Vision Statements finden, sowie ein **Einverständnis**, dass diese **zutreffend** sind.

Können Vision-Statement **zusammengefasst** werden? Sollte etwas **ergänzt** werden? Können wir ein Vision-Statement komplett **ausschließen**?

20 Minuten

Voting actions

Miro was used to allow stakeholders to vote for their priorities on circular economy

Qualitätsstandards

Die LHM verpflichtet sich dazu, nur Produkte zu beschaffen, die höchste Qualitätsstandards erfüllen und zugleich sozial und ökologisch nachhaltig sind (durch geprüfte und bewährte Produktlabels wie Blauer Engel, Fair Trade, Cradle2Cradle - wo bereits verfügbar). Die Einhaltung der Qualitätsstandards sollte von jedem Referat (VGST oder Einkauf) regelmäßig überprüft werden.

2

Standards des fairen Handels

Die LHM stellt sicher, dass beim Einkauf von regulären Textilien (Dienstkleidung, Bettwäsche, etc.) nur noch Produkte beschafft werden, die nachweislich, also durch Gütesiegel etc., die ILO-

2

Ressourcen- & Energieverbrauch

Die LHM stellt sicher, dass nur noch Elektrogeräte mit geringem Energieverbrauch beschafft werden. Bei Großgeräten/-verbrauchern wird der Energieverbrauch systematisch erfasst.

1

Vernetzung

Innerhalb der LHM gibt es klare Zuständigkeiten für einzelne Themenbereiche und Aufgabenfelder. Es findet ein regelmäßiger, zielgerichteter und strukturierter stadtinterner Austausch statt. Es ist definiert, wer die Vernetzung und die Treffen koordiniert. Auch ist klar festgelegt wie ein Austausch mit anderen Kommunen stattfindet um Wissensverluste und Mehrfacharbeit zu vermeiden.

1

Expertinnenkreis

Die LHM koordiniert einen übergeordneten Lenkungsreis für alle Referate.

1

Einführung Beschaffungskriterien

Die LHM kommuniziert Best-Practice Beschaffungen.

4

Prozessaufbauvereinfachung

Die LHM ermöglicht die Messbarkeit der öffentlichen Beschaffung.

1

Die LHM bezieht ausschließlich Produkte die unter fairen Bedingungen hergestellt wurden, um die menschenwürdigen Arbeitsbedingungen entlang der gesamten Wertschöpfungskette sicherstellen zu können.

3

Die LHM setzt auf die Beschaffung von ressourcen- und energieschonenden Produkten um den ökologischen Fußabdruck nachweislich zu reduzieren (energieeffiziente Produkte, recycelbare Produkte, Product as a service, Lösungen etc.).

5

Die LHM stellt sicher, dass die eingekauften Güter reparaturfähig sind + Reparatur-Vertrag.

3

Die LHM beschafft zur Vermeidung von Neuplastik in bestimmten Bereichen (Müllbeutel, Gassibbeutel, etc.) nur noch Produkte aus nachweislichem Recyclingplastik (PCR).

1

Die LHM etabliert einen Expertinnenkreis aus Fachleuten aus den Bereichen Beschaffung und Nachhaltigkeit, um die kontinuierliche Weiterentwicklung von Kriterien sicherzustellen, Silos aufzubrechen und ein gemeinsames abgestimmtes Vorgehen sicherzustellen.

4

Die LHM verpflichtet sich in allen Beschaffungsprozessen klare Nachhaltigkeitskriterien einzuführen, die von den verschiedenen Vergabestellen und Bedarfstellen bei der Beschaffung von Waren und Dienstleistungen angewendet werden müssen.

2

3-Klang (finanziell, sozial, ökologisch) sollte bei der Vergabe immer berücksichtigt werden.

1

Die LHM integriert die öffentliche Beschaffung in die LHM Carbon Footprint & Ressourcen Monitoring.

2

Die LHM möchte sicherstellen, dass es einfache messbare Indikatoren zur Beurteilung der Effektivität von nachhaltiger Beschaffung gibt, die über die Vergabestatistik hinausgehen.

4

Die LHM möchte sicherstellen, dass der Beschaffungsprozess klar kommuniziert ist und sich alle Beschaffenden an Rahmenvereinbarungen halten. Hier gehört die Nachhaltigkeit als ein Thema dazu.

1

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Lisbon

Lisbon has implemented three ULG meetings.

The newspaper of tomorrow was used to draft the vision.

For more information about the newspaper of tomorrow, visit here:

<https://urbact.eu/toolbox-home/analysing-problems/newspaper-tomorrow>



Engaging stakeholders locally

The local ULG coordinators have designed a survey addressed to the stakeholders to understand their aspirations and their intentions in joining specific thematic group meetings locally. This raised their interest and engagement.



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Our Policy Paper

Our Let's Go Circular! network has drafted a Policy Paper that depicts policy recommendations on circular economy, resulting from the discussions among the network partners.

We particularly call on the European Parliament and the European Commission to strengthen their support of European municipalities as follows:

- Facilitate the efforts of local authorities by creating appropriate **legal frameworks** both at EU and Member State level. This will unlock the potential to introduce new technical standards providing new opportunities for large scale application of research results. If need be, the signatories declare willing to present the existing barriers and to shed light to potential legislative changes.
- Place greater focus on the financing of circular economy measures at local level as one of the most important issues. **Investment decisions** in system-serving and new technologies as well as infrastructure must be encouraged through state aid and competition law relief so that circular economy measures are no longer made more difficult or delayed by state aid law.
- Maintain and massively expand the existing **funding programmes** for municipalities when implementing circular economy strategies in the post 2027 funding period. To support municipalities, appropriate financing programmes must be set up both at the EU level and in the member states.
- Set up an easy-to-use **communication and information tool for municipalities** where they can exchange experiences, funding opportunities, and best practice examples. The existing Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform could serve as a model for this.
- **Standardize procurement** guidelines both at the EU level and in the Member States in such a way that municipal procurements are made easier in the spirit of circular economy.
- Support the municipalities' efforts through the financial **participation of manufacturers and distributors**. At the same time, the potential of extended producer responsibility for waste prevention should be fully exploited by extending the 'right to repair' through the introduction of a manufacturer-financed EU-wide repair bonus.
- Support **inter-municipal cooperation** as a suitable and tried-and-tested form of organization at the European level. This includes improving the competition and tax law framework.

Is your organization Interested to start the signing procedure?

Contact Larissa Kiessel here: lgc_munich@muenchen.de

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Preparing for the Mid Term Review

Objectives

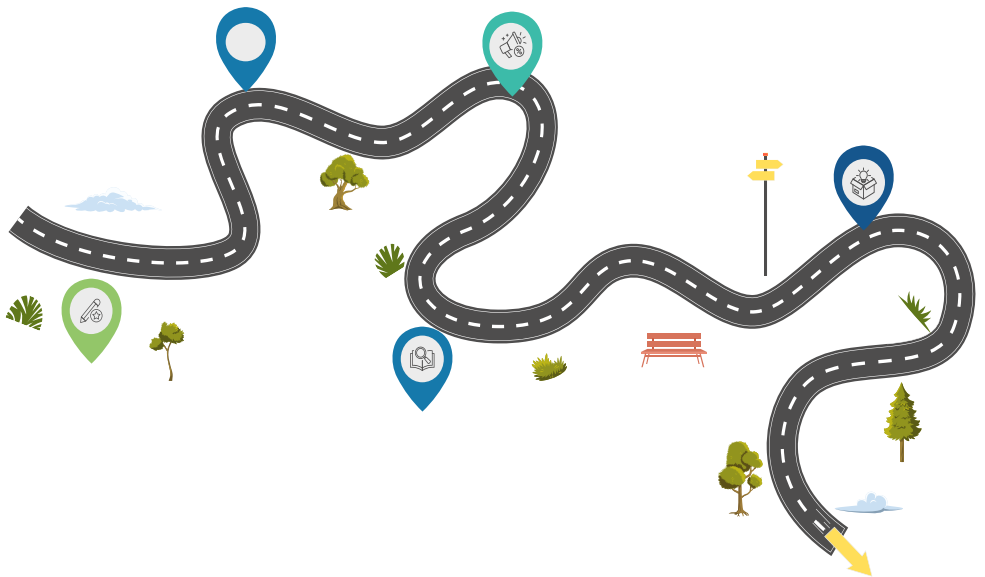
The Mid-Term Reflection (MTR) session that is being planned in the frame of the upcoming transnational meeting in Malmo in October 2024, aims to assess the progress of the Integrated Action Planning (IAP) process at the midpoint of the LGC! Network.

The session will provide an opportunity for partners to reflect on their work, discuss challenges, and identify actions needed to ensure the effective implementation of their plans.

The primary goal is to agree on any necessary adjustments to the roadmap and support measures to enhance the network's performance moving forward.

Outputs

- Clear understanding of the current state of the IAP and ULG processes.
- Identification of key factors accelerating or slowing progress.
- Agreed-upon actions for improving thematic knowledge and understanding.
- Definition of additional support needs and risk mitigation strategies.
- Consensus on next steps for reprogramming the network.



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Next steps

The Let's Go Circular! network will meet again in October in Malmo for the next TEX meeting.

The themes revolve around mapping of flows, procurements, Resource Hub, energy circularity. We are going to continue holding communities of practice and we will hold the second round of draft IAPs' peer reviews.

In the frame of our meeting in Malmo, we will also hold our mid-term reflection process.

The transnational meeting in Malmo will be backed by a study visit in Copenhagen, to partner up with the COPE URBACT Action Planning Network, and to look at circular constructions and citizens' engagement examples and cases.

We are exploring the opportunity to hold a political panel in the frame of our meeting in Malmo, slightly earlier than initially planned in our roadmap.

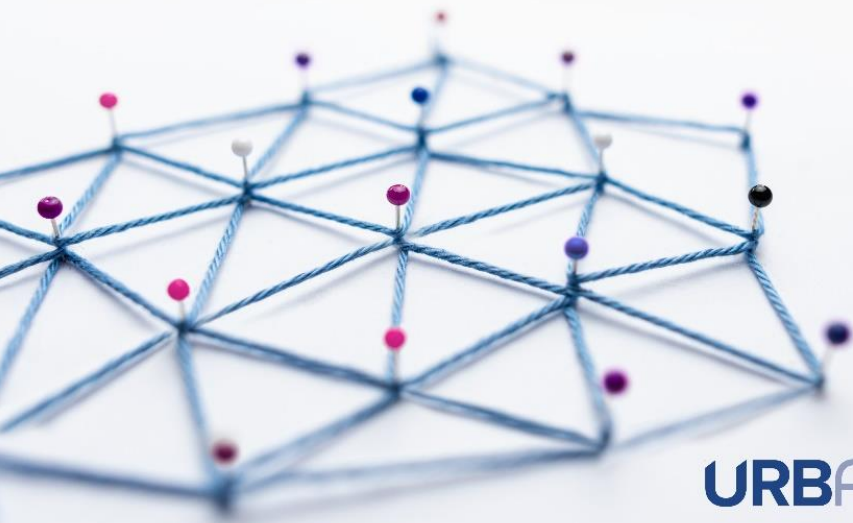
In the meantime, ULG meetings will continue.

According to our network roadmap, ULGs will meet in December 2024, to exchange on the actions planned, following URBACT guidelines and lead expert's guidance.

We are committed in continuing raising inspiring examples that combine circular economy with cross-cutting policy areas like green transition, social cohesion, equity and equality as well as digitalization.

LET'S GO CIRCULAR!

Paving the way for a circular transition of cities



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Project website

<https://urbact.eu/networks/lets-go-circular>

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