



# Quarterly Network Report #6

## April - June 2025

By Lead Expert, Stine Skot

# COPE

– Coherent, place-based, citizen  
centered climate action



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This report is made by lead expert Stine Skot using material and input from the network activities and material and input provided by the 8 COPE municipalities.

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## 1. COPE Quarter in short

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COPE is an URBACT APN IV network. The network consists of 8 European municipalities, with the City of Copenhagen as lead partner. The seven partners are the cities of A Coruña in Spain, the two Greek cities of Kavala and Korydallos, the Romanian city of Bistrița, the French city of Saint-Quentin, the Portuguese city of Pombal and the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

The COPE Network is about changing mindsets. As an URBACT Action Planning Network, the focus is on testing smaller initiatives to develop meaningful integrated action plans for urban development. To succeed in the green transition, change is needed in our political institutions, in the way we govern and plan our cities, and in civil society. Through co-created actions, deliberative dialogue, and the testing and evaluation of activities and governance structures, cities in the COPE network are working on developing and adjusting municipal policies, strategies and structures to become coherent and integrated and to push their cities for a green and just transition. In practice, this means that the municipality must be able to facilitate citizens' green actions in balance with the need for equity and a just transition.

### 1.1 A busy quarter of 2025

**In April - June 2025 COPE had many activities.** Both on network level and local level. On local level all partners are also focusing on the writing of Integrated Action Plans and the COPE partners are turning up the volume in the final work on Integrated Action Plans with their ULGs. On network level we met online with the APN Let's Go Circular! to do a peer review.

**In part 1** you find this short introduction to this report 😊

**In part 2** you will read about our 6th core network meeting, hosted by our Vilnius partner May 19 – 20th.

**In part 3** you can read about the cross-network peer review we had with Let's Go Circular!.

**In part 4** you find a small update on some of the activities at local level.

**In part 5** you get an overview of the activities coming up.

## 2. Core Network Meeting #6 in Vilnius

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For the 6th COPE Core Network Meeting on May 19th – 20th we were invited to Vilnius in Lithuania. Being the European Green Capital 2025 they are both busy and experienced in showing and telling about their work on both strategic and political level but not least at local level including citizens stories and actions. You can read more about [Vilnius as European Green Capital here](#).

During the meeting we learned a lot from and about our Vilnius partner. We also heard reflections from our partners from Kavala, Copenhagen and Vilnius on their good practises being selected as URBACT Good Practice cities. We dived into specific details in the integrated action plan methodology discussing action tables using the drafted tables from our partners from A Coruña and Copenhagen. And then not least we went on very inspiring site visits experiencing the citizen action in Vilnius neighbourhoods.



## 2.1 Host partner city: Vilnius

### Strategic introduction

Vilnius Municipality is on a journey of sharing the achievements and challenges they meet on their way towards climate neutrality. Anton Nikitin, Vilnius Chief Sustainability Officer shared an honest and humble strategy and the data showing that this journey takes participation from everyone to accomplish. Vilnius have a holistic approach understanding that « everything is interconnected in a sustainable and livable city »

- ) Social targets (social security, health, culture, education safety etc.)
- ) Environmental targets (air, water, soil, quality, mobility, energy, waste, green infrastructure & biodiversity, adaption & mitigation etc.)
- ) Governance targets (city economy, efficiency, open data, smart & intelligent city, transparency, citizen involvement etc.)



Thank you Anton Nikitin for a inspiring presentation !



### Local COPE introduction and site visits

Vilnius' ULG coordinator Laura Petruske also gave an inspiring introduction to the Vilnius places and actions from their local COPE activities. On Day 2 of the Core Network Meeting were on site visits to all of these places and the local citizen Agne (a fantastic storyteller !) introduced some of these activities and places. If you ever get the chance then ask her to tell the story about the rosebush ! And the insect hotel that disappeared and mysteriously came back !

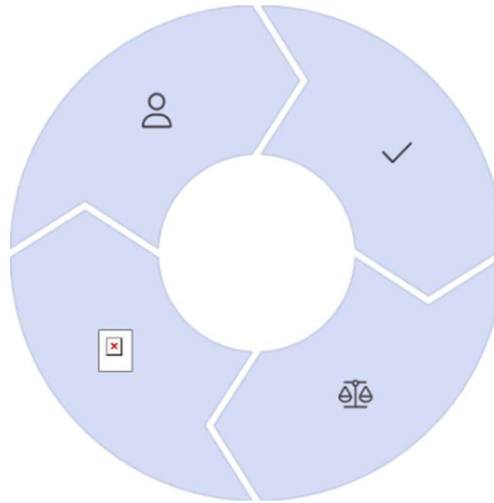


## Community-Driven

Bottom-up input from COPE Network

## Adaptable Design

Scalable across Vilnius elderships



## Proven Success

Built on existing local pilot actions

## Guided Framework

Just Transition principles and circular economy

### Miglos Community Initiative



#### Resident-Led Initiative

Local knowledge driving positive change



#### Green Space Activation

Transforming underused areas into vibrant spaces



#### Neighbourhood Cohesion

Building relationships through shared projects



#### IAP Alignment

Capacity building and community-led planning



## Bed of Ideas, community garden



### Community-Driven Initiative

Grassroots effort empowering residents to co-create and care for public green space.



### Biodiversity & Greening

35 raised beds, pollinator-friendly flower zones, composting plans for insect hotels.



### Education & Creativity

Regular event and DIY workshops



### IAP Alignment

Directly supports Urban Agriculture objective

## Community fridge

One of the tested actions in Vilnius are the community fridge. Here people can share food and save it from being wasted. The place is a success and is very used. It is kept by volunteers who makes certain that it is clean and functions. Vilnius is trying to upscale it to a network of fridges through the city of Vilnius.



### Infrastructure Development

Food-sharing facilities with 24/7 access



### Volunteer Management

Community-led operation and maintenance



### Dual Impact

Reduces waste, improves food access



### IAP Alignment

Pilot test of community fridge network





## City laboratory

The City Laboratory is a social economic SME initiated by local citizens wanting to make a green and social laboratory. The place was an old hospital unused for a long time and full of waste materials. With help from the local community, they have renovated the building and surroundings and decorated and furnished using only used and secondhand materials.



In the City Laboratory they are testing and hosting activities like swabbing closet, developing methods to communicate on nature and climate, working on ways to minimize waste of food and goods in their café and they have established a platform to host and provide space for local activities.

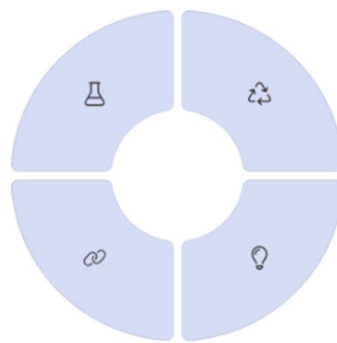


## Learning & Co-Creation

Workshops, community projects, and educational programs focused on ecology, self-sufficiency, and urban sustainability.

## Everyone Can Join

It brings together neighbors, artists, activists, and nature lovers — anyone who wants to make the city a better place.



## Circular Practices

Composting, repair, and material reuse

## Creative & Practical

Visitors can explore a hydroponic garden, educational outdoor space, and rooms filled with second-life design solutions and reused materials.





## 2.2 Partner mission on site visits

Before the COPE partners went on site visits, they were given a mission :

### Partners mission

When we go on site-visit tomorrow look for funding opportunities.

1. What opportunities do you see?
2. What organizational needs do you see?
3. How would you do it?

The mission was accomplished through a session of FISH BOWL where the COPE partners could give their finding, reflections and feedback in a shared conversation to the Vilnius team.



A Fishbowl is an exercise where you can facilitate a shared conversation. Here everyone can take the word, and everyone are forced to listen to the shared conversation.

In a Fishbowl exercise you need 2 circles – one inner circle and one outer circle. And one Conversation conductor.



In the COPE Fishbowl we had the rules that in the inner circle there should always be one person from Vilnius + two from other COPE cities. The outer circle would be everyone else. The outer circle "holds the room".



The inner circle has a conversation where Vilnius gathers ideas and reflections from the COPE partners and investigates them in the conversation. People from the outer circle can replace people from the inner circle and take part in the conversation. The conductor Lead Expert Stine Skot can if needed ask questions to the inner circle and in that way conduct the conversation, to help stay on track or to go into untouched tracks.

## 2.3 Diving into Action planning tables

The construction of the IAP introducing very complex hierarchical information is demanding a high level of clear and simple communication.

Therefor the COPE partners spend some of the Core Network Meeting discussing different approaches and giving their best advise for everyone who are going to do action planning tables. Though the most important advise is to always keep in mind to whom you are writing – Your main target group will define your communication.

At the meeting we saw two very nice examples of how to communicate the complex details. The two examples are very unlike, which shows that the target group is taken seriously.

Here you see an example of the Copenhagen take, with their main target group being local citizens :

### Ting - handling #3

Overordnet formål: Styrke en infrastruktur der skaber mulighederne for at undgå nyindkøb.

## Udvikling af nærgenbrugsstationen

#### Status på projektet:

Idé | Gennemført

Næste skridt: afklare lokalplan og muligheder for udvidelse.

#### Ressourcetræk:

**Kvarterplansprojekt:** Flere med i fællesskaber

**Fakta:** Indsatsen kræver ekstern finansiering. Den foregår på Hørgården Nærgenbrugsstation og består af et byrumsprojekt. Indsatsen er målrettet mod brugere af nærgenbrugsstationen og lokale for- eninger.

#### Kort beskrivelse:

Indsatsen skal udvikle nærgenbrugsstationen til at blive et kvarterhus med fokus på grøn omstilling, Hørgårdens Nærgenbrugsstation huser allerede et væld af aktiviteter centreret om genbrug og bæredygtighed, jobskabelse, et samlingspunkt for beboere i området. Med en opgradering af faciliteter og tilbud er der potentiale til at samle kvarteret i en grøn identitet.

#### Mål:

I 2025 er der fokus på at undersøge potentialet og opbakningen for at udvikle nærgenbrugsstationen til et kvarterhus. Det kræver en udvidelse af de nuværende faciliteter. Der siges sidst på året på at søge en projektpulje hos Realdania og Landsbyggefonden med fokus på at udvikle kvarterhuse i almene boligområder.

Potentielle udfordringer kan være om det er muligt at udvide nærgenbrugsstationen. Om der kan skabes funding. Samt om det er muligt at huse de aktiviteter kvarteret måtte efterspørge.

#### Hvem udfører det:

Amagerplanen, Område for Affald og Ressourcer (KK), Områdefornyelsen Sønderbro.

#### Mulige samarbejdspartnere:

FRAK, Idrætsprojektet, Kulturpiloterne, skoler, institutioner.



#### Del-formål:

- 4: Understøtte nærgenbrugsstationen, så flere benytter den til direkte genbrug.
- 5: Skabe fællesskaber omkring muligheder for at dele, bytte og give ting videre.
- 6: Øge viden om korrekt affaldshåndtering.

Hvornår?	Forår 2025	Sommer/efterår 2025	Efterår/vinter 2025
Hvad?	Undersøge om det kan lade sig gøre at udvide faciliteterne.	Inddragelse, afprøvninger og idéudvikling	Sendt ansøgning afsted
Hvem?	Amagerplanen, Område for affald og ressourcer	OMF, Amagerplanen	Amagerplanen, Område for affald og ressourcer, OMF

Here you see an example of the A Coruña take, with their main target group being the ULG and primarily the main stakeholders being more technical organisations and professionals :

OE1: OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD						
	Objectives	Logic	Activities	Impact	Timeline	Cost
A1: RENATURALISING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT						
A1.1 Increase green space in the neighbourhood for both recreational and community use (urban gardens)	1. Creation of urban regeneration projects in the Sagrada Familia neighbourhood in the city of A Coruña that will increase the amount of green space and improve the quality of life of the residents.	Creation of green spaces and urban regeneration projects. Creation of a new network of urban regeneration projects.	Technical project and implementation of the project.	INCREASED GREEN SPACE AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RESIDENTS.	2021-2025	100,000
	2. Increase the green space in the city of A Coruña by creating urban regeneration projects in the city of A Coruña.	Creation of green spaces and urban regeneration projects. Creation of a new network of urban regeneration projects.	Technical project and implementation of the project.	INCREASED GREEN SPACE AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RESIDENTS.	2021-2025	100,000
	3. Increase the green space in the city of A Coruña by creating urban regeneration projects in the city of A Coruña.	Creation of green spaces and urban regeneration projects. Creation of a new network of urban regeneration projects.	Technical project and implementation of the project.	INCREASED GREEN SPACE AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RESIDENTS.	2021-2025	100,000
	4. Project for the installation and maintenance of the Sagrada Familia urban regeneration project in the city of A Coruña.	Creation of green spaces and urban regeneration projects. Creation of a new network of urban regeneration projects.	Technical project and implementation of the project.	INCREASED GREEN SPACE AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RESIDENTS.	2021-2025	100,000
	5. Project for the installation and maintenance of the Sagrada Familia urban regeneration project in the city of A Coruña.	Creation of green spaces and urban regeneration projects. Creation of a new network of urban regeneration projects.	Technical project and implementation of the project.	INCREASED GREEN SPACE AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RESIDENTS.	2021-2025	100,000
	6. Project for the installation and maintenance of the Sagrada Familia urban regeneration project in the city of A Coruña.	Creation of green spaces and urban regeneration projects. Creation of a new network of urban regeneration projects.	Technical project and implementation of the project.	INCREASED GREEN SPACE AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RESIDENTS.	2021-2025	100,000
	7. Project for the installation and maintenance of the Sagrada Familia urban regeneration project in the city of A Coruña.	Creation of green spaces and urban regeneration projects. Creation of a new network of urban regeneration projects.	Technical project and implementation of the project.	INCREASED GREEN SPACE AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RESIDENTS.	2021-2025	100,000
A2: IMPROVEMENT OF THE WATER CYCLE AND EFFLUENT MANAGEMENT						
A2.1 Promoting sustainable drainage solutions and improving maintenance of the neighbourhood's infrastructure	1. Implementation of urban drainage systems and other measures of urban regeneration.	Urban regeneration and maintenance.	Technical project and implementation of the project.	IMPROVED URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND OTHER MEASURES OF URBAN REGENERATION.	2021-2025	200,000
	2. Implementation of urban drainage systems and other measures of urban regeneration.	Urban regeneration and maintenance.	Technical project and implementation of the project.	IMPROVED URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND OTHER MEASURES OF URBAN REGENERATION.	2021-2025	200,000
A3: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION, SUSTAINABLE AND ACCESSIBLE ENERGY						
A3.1 Reduce the neighbourhood's contribution to climate change through mitigation measures linked to energy efficiency, renewable energies and	1. Reducing the neighbourhood's contribution to climate change through mitigation measures linked to energy efficiency, renewable energies and	Energy efficiency and renewable energies.	Technical project and implementation of the project.	REDUCED CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH MITIGATION MEASURES LINKED TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY, RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND	2021-2025	100,000
	2. Reducing the neighbourhood's contribution to climate change through mitigation measures linked to energy efficiency, renewable energies and	Energy efficiency and renewable energies.	Technical project and implementation of the project.	REDUCED CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH MITIGATION MEASURES LINKED TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY, RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND	2021-2025	100,000

### ACTION 2: Pilot experience of indoor urban gardens for neighbourhood use.

#### Description:

The scarcity of green areas and the lack of space for an above-ground urban garden in the Sagrada Familia neighbourhood and the availability of unused buildings in this neighbourhood, invites the search for alternative and innovative uses. The boom in indoor growing is due to the enormous progress in indoor lighting technology, which allows plants to carry out their life cycle in conditions almost identical to natural ones. This has boosted the commercial exploitation of indoor growing to the point of cultivation in industrial warehouses in huge volumes. See the same can be said of the progress in humidity control and ventilation, and of the cultivation techniques themselves. We will initially focus on two of these techniques, which will combine to make the most of the space and at the same time educate the users.

#### Execute:

ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

#### Links to the strategy:

- Strategic Objective 1
- Intervention Area 1
- Specific objective 1

#### Finance and resources:

To be implemented with own funds

AMOUNT: 3.000€

vertical farming can

hods.

Preparing for action:

An available site must be available that meets the criteria required to carry out this action.

Risks:

Inviability of the spaces and budget required for

10 MONTHS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Related actions:

Feasibility

Construction Agreement

Difficulties in finding a suitable location

Budget ceiling

Compliance with requirements technicians

Active participation of neighbourhood organisations

INDICATORS

INDICATORS

INDICATORS

INDICATORS

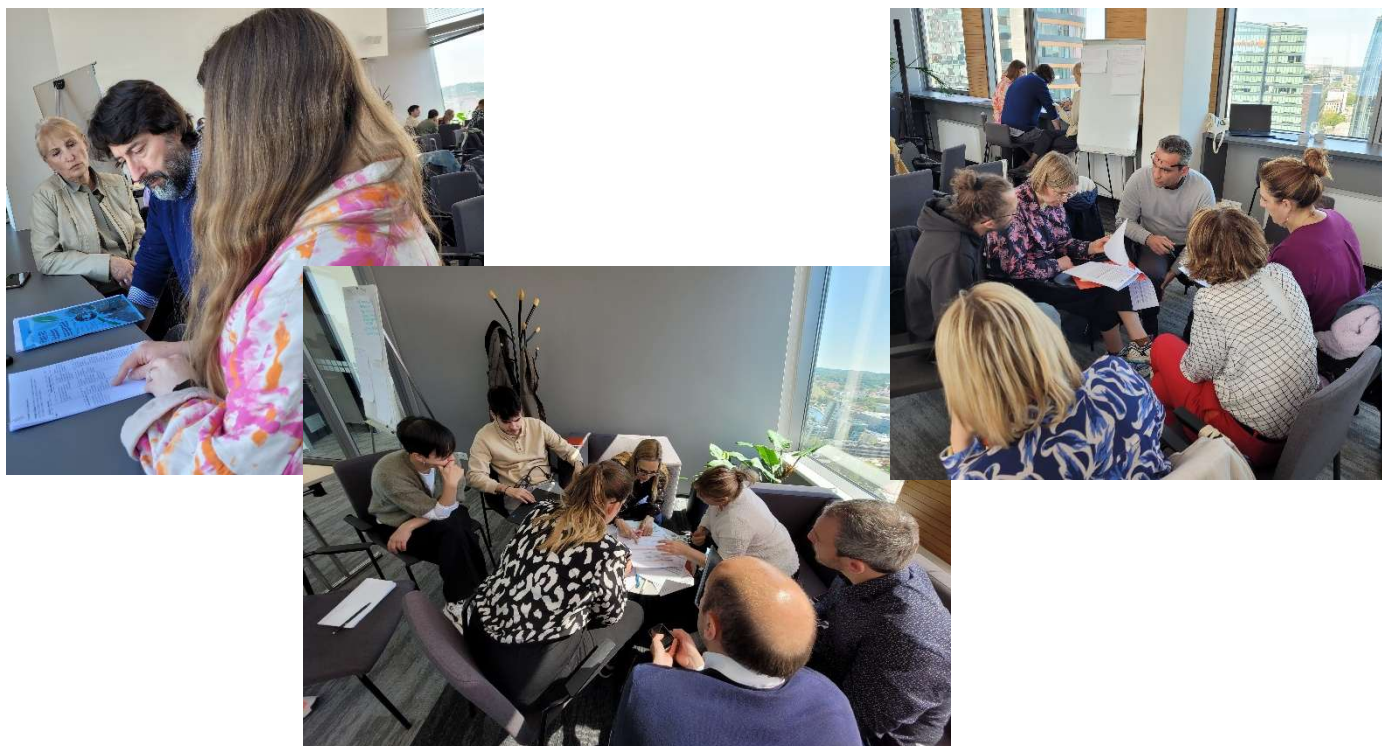
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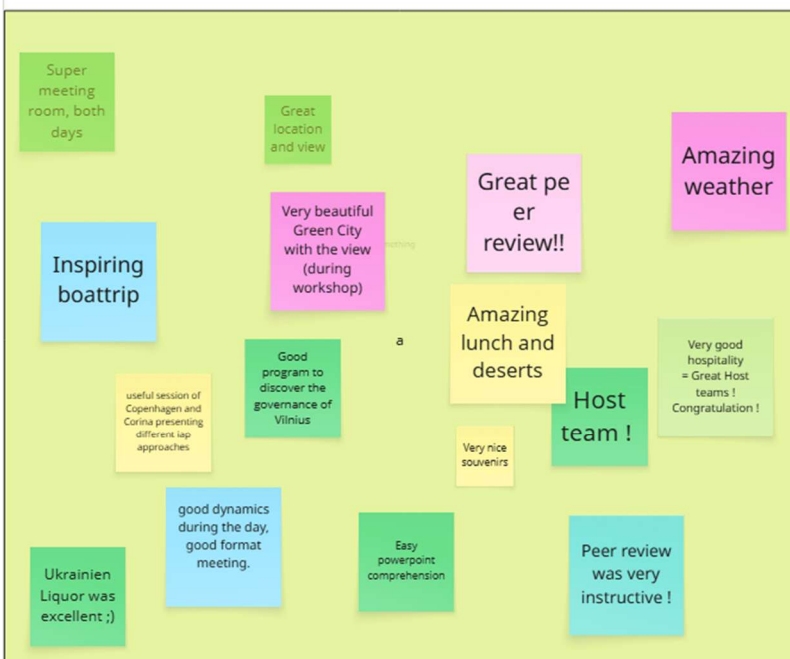
The COPE partners reviewed and discussed the different takes on the action planning tables and gave their best advice to each other for how to present actions in the best way.



## 2.4 Evaluation

When we evaluate at the end of a Core Network Meeting, we use our COPE MIRO board, where the partners can write any feedback or comment they have in mind. It looked like this after the CNM#6 evaluation:

EVALUATION DAY 1



EVALUATION DAY 2





[illegible]

### 3. Peer reviews

#### 3.1 Cross network peer review

##### Methodology

On the 10th of June COPE met online with the URBACT APN Let's Go Circular ! to do a peer review across our two networks.

The partners were paired into groups based on a survey taking the weak and strong features into consideration. They prepared using a methodology developed based on the Six thinking hats and adjusted into the needs of the review.

##### Pair number 2

Oulu and Kavala

#### "Six Thinking Hats" altered to do a structured peer review

Peer reviewer 1 : ULG coordinator of COPE  
Peer reviewer 2 : ULG coordinator of Let's Go Circular!

##### Homework to prepare BEFORE the review

###### Peer reviewer 1:

- Describe one element of your own IAP you consider weak (Blue hat).
- Share background information, refer to the specific part of your IAP relevant to your weakness and raise question. (white hat)

###### Peer reviewer 2:

- Read the blue and white hat filled in by peer reviewer 1
- Read the IAP or the piece of the IAP provided by peer reviewer 1
- Provide your feedback (green hat)

##### Same homework applies for peer reviewer 2 providing feedback to peer reviewer 1

##### During the review

- Follow the red, yellow, black and blue hat.
- Please take notes
- Both reviewers will share from the blue hats column in plenum session.

Before the peer review

Blue hat The Conductor's Hat	White hat The Factual Hat	Green hat The Creative Hat
Describe short and precise one weak point in focus of the review	Share background information and raise question. Be as clear and precise as possible.	Write down your feedback and advice in relevance to the weak point raised, without any justification or judgement and refer to specific parts of your IAP for reference.
One weak point of your IAP seeking for advice	Background and reference to the specific part of your IAP	Feedback
Peer reviewer 1 - Kavala	Peer reviewer 1 - Kavala	Peer reviewer 1 - Kavala

Red hat The Emotional Hat	Yellow hat The Optimist Hat	Grey hat The Subject Hat	Blue hat The Conductor's Hat
<p>Emotions on the feedback:</p> <p>Both peers coverage on feedback advice - what are you looking to update?</p>	<p>What are the benefits of applying this in the IAP? Spend equivalent on both ideas.</p>	<p>Any risk?</p>	<p>Summarize the feedback. What are you thinking to update, by when? Plan next steps.</p>
10 min together	5 min together	5 min together	5 min together

##### Key takeaways

(source: REPORT Let's Go Circular! and Cope URBACT APNs Cross- network peer review of IAPs, by LE Eleni Feleki)

A summary of the key takeaways from the peer review is depicted below.

##### Clarity and Readability of the IAP

- ) Focus on creating clear, concise, and visually appealing IAPs
- ) Consider multiple versions for different audiences (technical, public, child-friendly)
- ) Use infographics and visual elements to enhance understanding

##### Citizen and Youth Engagement Strategies

- ) Create youth assemblies or councils to involve young people
- ) Develop engaging and fun educational initiatives
- ) Address challenges in engaging specific groups (e.g., university students)

##### Addressing Implementation Challenges

- ) Focus on realistic and financeable actions
- ) Improve monitoring and evaluation processes
- ) Enhance citizen and stakeholder engagement throughout the process

### 3.2 One-on-ones focusing on feedback on IAPs

All COPE partners have during June met online with Lead Expert Stine Skot for a review on section 3 + 4 of the IAPs. These meetings gave room for focusing on details and for discussing how the logic and hierarchy between vision, strategic objectives, areas of intervention, specific objectives, actions and activities can be communicated in a way that is understandable and that fits the main target group.

## 4. Local activities in COPE cities

Here are updates from some of the COPE partner cities. The stories shows very well the diversity and complexity in how you can use the knowledge and activities you gain when participating in an URBACT APN.

### 4.1 Vilnius

**Vilnius presented COPE network and its Good Practice at the European Commission's CITIESFORUM 2025**

From **June 17 to 19**, the city of **Cracow, Poland**, hosted one of the most important European events focused on sustainable urban development – **CITIES FORUM 2025**, organized by the **European Commission**. The event brought together over **800 participants** from across Europe, including representatives from cities, regions, national governments, EU institutions, civil society, and academia.

As part of the **CITIES TALK** session, which highlighted inspiring examples from European cities, **Vilnius** was invited to share its experience in creating a sustainable and community-driven urban future. Representing the city, **Aušra Sičūnienė**, Chief specialist of City Environment Division, presented **Vilnius as the European Green Capital** and spoke about the city's efforts to become climate-neutral and environmentally friendly through strong community engagement. Her presentation emphasized how Vilnius actively involves local communities in greening initiatives –from expanding green infrastructure to promoting low-carbon lifestyles and climate-conscious behavior. Specific examples showcased how citizen-led initiatives, that started with **COPE**, help transform Vilnius into a greener, healthier, and more inclusive city for all.



### 4.2 Korydallos

During April-June we organized the 8th ULG meeting. The meeting took place on April 11, 2025, at the Social Services Department of the Municipality of Korydallos. It was held back-to-back with the inaugural ULG meeting of the WISH CITIES ITN project under the URBACT IV program, in which the Municipality participates as a project partner.

The meeting aimed to foster synergies between the two projects, as the establishment of the COPE Youth Entrepreneurship Hub in the Kanaria neighborhood is closely aligned with the core objectives of the WISH CITIES project, namely, the empowerment of youth through social integration, education, and economic advancement.

In this context, representatives from the educational community, local associations, social services, the Community Center, the Municipal Equality Committee, the Municipal Authority, and the departments of education and public relations expressed their full support and commitment. Collectively, they agreed to promote the active engagement and participation of young people in the activities of both projects.





### 4.3 Copenhagen

We have focused on developing our efforts within the themes of “Food” and “Urban Nature”. A popular urban garden has been created at the local playground. In another urban garden, you can participate in a learning programme about growing and preparing plant-based food. We held a big event day, “Spring Celebration”, about green transition, which we want to make a tradition. ULG visited Vilnius and was very inspired. We visited gardens in the neighbourhood and learned about biodiversity and green food. And we have been working on our IAP.



### 4.4 Saint-Quentin

5th April we had a local group meeting at the Benjamin Rouché Library. New members joined and the group decided on a timeline for upcoming actions.





8-10th of April we participated in the Urbact City Festival in Wroclaw Poland.

28th of April we published a promotional video shoot for Urbact COPE to engage local citizens, in collaboration with a professional videographer. [Watch the video here](#)



URBACT à Saint-Quentin :  
Comment les réseaux COPE et  
Residents of the Future  
transforment la ville

URBACT à Saint-Quentin : Comment les réseaux  
COPE et Residents of the ...  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

6th of June we had a joint meeting between the Urbact COPE and Urbact ROF local coordinators to co-design the micro-forest pilot project in Saint-Quentin and the 24-25th of June COPE ULG coordinator Sabrina Largilliere participated in the meeting Urbact ROF in Iisalmi (Finland) to anchor the micro-forest joint action.

## 5. Coming up

### COPE

September 16-17: CNM#7 in Bistrita  
September 18-30: One-on-one meetings on full IAPs with Stine  
Mid-October: Final review (Online)  
November 4-6: CNM#8 in Copenhagen  
Case catalogue: Marion Cugnet  
Final products

### URBACT

March 2026: Final City Festival only for the participants in this round of networking  
April-June 2026: Call for the next APN round (to be launched at City Festival 2026 New City Labs TBD by URBACT).

