In4Green

Avilés, Spain
75 000 inhabitants

Challenge

Avilés main challenge is how to transform a traditionally industrial city into a greener, more competitive and resilient urban economy, while ensuring that local businesses and communities are fully supported and no one is left behind.

Local heroes

This would not have happened without the implication of the University of Oviedo, Regional administration, startups, local companies and R + D centers



Lessons learnt

Innovation is not only about technology; it also requires being smart in social terms. When technology is combined with new ways of working, strong governance and clear business models, projects truly take off.
Cities that move faster do not work project by project: they rely on clear responsibilities, defined funding and continuous adjustment, keeping living plans with clear rules and linking each initiative to funding to strengthen credibility and seize new opportunities.

Solution

Development of Talent Hub

In Avilés, the Talent Hub is being shaped as a multi-use space through the regeneration of a former educational facility that had fallen into disuse. Rather than allowing the site to deteriorate, the city chose to repurpose it as a strategic asset linked to innovation, talent and new economic activity.

Today, it is emerging as an environment where companies, University and public administration coexist and collaborate in R+D projects, looking for new solutions and products for our local industries



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AYUNTAMIENTO AVILÉS

In4Green

Bijelo Polje, Montenegro
40 000 inhabitants

Challenge

In 2023, Bijelo Polje was facing rising air pollution during the winter months. PM 10 and PM 2.5 particles reached some highest levels in comparison to the previous period. This is caused mainly by using energy sources like coal and wood..

Local heroes

The actions that we undertook would not be possible without our Municipal team from the Office for Local Economy Development and the Office for EU projects. Experience and contributions from ULG members made the work a lot easier.

Our campaign in the promotion of green energy solutions has made an impact on local citizens and encouraged them to think on green transition's impact to healthy environment.

Lessons learnt

Here are few things to keep in mind for this action:
You should first analyze available data and propose solutions to the ULG members group. Feedback from all members should be examined and presented to municipal leadership, alongside good practices from other cities. Conclusions must be discussed with ULG members.

Solution

Programme for transition to green energy solutions

Bijelo Polje had no plans for the transition to green energy in 2023. After a series of suggestions from the municipal team working on the In4Green project, we came up with several ideas on how we can mitigate the negative impact of energy sources such as coal and wood. The municipality adopted a plan to change or upgrade existing coal-fired boilers and we conducted several public calls for subsidies for switching to other heating sources. Until 2025 more than 300 households purchased energy-efficient air conditioners that, consume less electricity. Air purification filters were installed on the chimneys of public institutions and schools.



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In4Green

Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland
112 000 inhabitants

Challenge

This "grey" post-industrial landscape suffered from declining foot traffic and a lack of green infrastructure. Our goal was to bridge this gap through a green transition that supports local entrepreneurs without losing our industrial identity.

Local heroes

This achievement belongs to our URBACT Local Group. Their dedication and diverse expertise provided the essential bridge between municipal strategy and the real needs of our community.



Lessons learnt

- **Maintain constant dialogue to align the city's vision with stakeholder needs.**
- **Integrate green-blue infrastructure early to link heritage with sustainability.**
- **Prioritize connectivity between key hubs like the Market and Factory Full of Life.**
- **Use the ULG for co-creation to build community ownership of urban changes.**

Solution

The Green Heart: Connecting 3. Maja Street and Factory Full of Life

In 2023, Dąbrowa Górnicza faced a fragmented city center where the historic Marketplace and 3. Maja Street felt isolated from the modern Factory Full of Life. We proved that ecological transformation boosts local commerce by increasing foot traffic. Our Integrated Action Plan balances industrial heritage with sustainable growth for both the environment and entrepreneurs. We have successfully turned a grey landscape into a vibrant, living center for all citizens.



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DĄBROWA GÓRNICZA
dla aktywnych

In4Green

Famalicão, Portugal
136 000 inhabitants

Challenge

Famalicão's main challenge is to better connect academy with industry to promote innovation. Despite strong industrial and research assets, limited integration between businesses, research, skills and public policies slows the green transition and limits high-value, sustainable industrial solutions.

Local heroes

This action would not have been possible without the leadership of Famalicão City Council and the active involvement of companies, research institutions and technological centres, working together to translate research into concrete innovative industrial solutions.

Lessons learnt

- **Innovation is most effective when it is grounded in real business needs and developed through continuous dialogue with academia.**
- **Bringing researchers into companies accelerates trust and results.**
- **Strong municipal coordination is essential to connect actors and sustain long-term impact.**

Solution

Innovation Mission in Companies

To address this challenge, Famalicão launched Innovation Missions in Companies, bringing researchers, innovation experts and municipal teams directly into local businesses to identify concrete industrial challenges and turn innovation into practical, scalable.

The action strengthens academia–industry cooperation, accelerates green and digital innovation, and supports companies in developing higher value-added products and processes, helping shift Famalicão from a "Made in" to a "Created in" economy.



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Famalicão
CÂMARA MUNICIPAL

In4Green

Larissa, Greece
154 537 inhabitants

Challenge

When Larissa joined the URBACT In4Green network, the main challenge was integrating the wider functional urban area with the municipal industrial zone, while aligning fragmented planning, infrastructure and governance systems with regional green territorial planning priorities.

Local heroes

This action would not have been possible without the active involvement of the Municipality of Larissa and its departments, the Development Organization OLON S.A., the Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Thessalian Industries and Enterprises, the Technical Chamber, the University of Thessaly, JOIST Innovation Park, and the Municipal Youth Council, whose collaboration ensured strong business engagement, technical expertise, innovation support and continuous stakeholder dialogue

Lessons learnt

Link industrial transition with city sustainability goals. Co-create actions with stakeholders, ensure strong governance and funding, invest in skills and innovation, and build long-term public–private collaboration.

Solution

Green Skills for Industrial Transition

In 2024, the Municipality of Larissa tested participatory solutions through a World Café workshop, engaging 27 stakeholders from industry, academia, public authorities and civil society. The discussions highlighted two key needs: permanent dialogue with the industrial ecosystem and practical training for the green transition. Based on this input, the city developed two complementary actions. The Business Collaboration Office will act as a communication hub between the municipality and industry, while Workshops will support industrial businesses, employees and young people in building green and digital skills.



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ΔΗΜΟΣ ΛΑΡΙΣΑΙΩΝ
MUNICIPALITY OF LARISSA

In4Green

Navan, Ireland
34 000 inhabitants

Challenge

Textile & clothing waste is becoming a growing problem in Navan, with clothing banks overflowing and second-hand shops at capacity with waste accounting for 18% of Navan's carbon emissions.

Local heroes

This would not have been possible without the help of our local designers, Circular Fashion Ireland, our elected representatives, and our local community groups working with our public



Solution

EcoChic: A Circularity Awareness & Training Campaign

In 2025, we worked with local designers and clothing swap providers to engage in a circular clothing campaign, raising awareness on sustainable clothing consumption, circular clothing practices like free clothing swaps, and provide key training such as sewing and upcycling to reduce clothing waste. We had over 600 people attend our events with over 2,000 clothing items swapped resulting in 16 tonnes of CO_2 saved and significant public interest in the circular economy. This has been a win for both the local community and the environment



Lessons learnt

Here are a few things to keep in mind for this action:

- **Make it as inclusive as possible, have clothing available for all**
- **Use your elected representatives to mobilise and engage the public**
- **Run events at times that suit your public i.e. evening or weekends**

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comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

In4Green

Sabadell, Spain
224 589 inhabitants

Challenge

Help companies to move towards green energy and improve their efficiency and competitiveness, while helping to address green transition in the industrial areas of the city of Sabadell.

Local heroes

To move forward with the green transition of the industrial sector, the involvement and alignment of all key territorial stakeholders are essential. In this regard, different City Council departments, regional administrations, local companies, and key economic actors were involved.

Lessons learnt

Here are few things to keep in mind for this action:

- **Previous understanding of the energy self-consumption model to be implemented is needed.**
- **A good consultancy service is essential to guide you in the whole process.**
- **Alignment with other strategic actions of the City Council.**

Solution

Collective self-consumption of green energy

With the aim of transforming the CEI (Industrial Companies Centre) into a green building and a flagship for the city, the installation of rooftop photovoltaic panels and their potential energy generation were analysed. The favourable results of the study made it possible to take a step further by proposing the implementation of a collective self-consumption model, which will allow to share the energy among the CEI, the companies located in the CEI and surrounding companies. The action is currently on the executive project phase, prior to being funded and executed.



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Ajuntament de Sabadell

Vapor Llonch Promoció Econòmica de Sabadell, S.L.

In4Green

Salerno, Italy
125 402 inhabitants

Challenge

In 2022, tourist arrivals recorded in accommodation facilities in the city (overnight stays): 198.549.

Local heroes

This would not have happened without the effective collaboration between Campania Region, key departments of the Municipality of Salerno, associations and Confindustria Salerno.

Lessons learnt

An important aspect of this action is to plan all necessary interventions within a single strategy (overarching vision) in order to effectively identify and utilise the available financial resources.

Solution

Culture and tourism

Since its 1994 urban planning programme, the city of Salerno has pursued a tourism-oriented development strategy.

Supported by EU funding, urban regeneration initiatives were first implemented in the historic centre and later extended across the city, with a particular focus on the coastal area, aiming to enhance cultural and tourism assets and improve urban liveability and safety.

These programmes have increased the city's tourist appeal, leading to higher private investment and growing tourist flows.



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COMUNE DI SALERNO

In4Green

Solingen, Germany
165 000 inhabitants

Challenge

We aim to become climate-neutral by 2040, which requires transforming the local economy. Local SMEs face pressure from resource costs, regulations, and sustainability expectations, and need practical guidance and support to adopt circular business models

Local heroes

This action would not be possible without the strong involvement of Solingen.Business, the city's economic development agency, which coordinates stakeholders, connects local companies, and supports the implementation of the flagship actions.



Lessons learnt

Here are few things to keep in mind for this action:

- **SMEs need hands-on support to start circular practices**
- **Small-scale experimentation is key, stakeholder involvement must be intensive**
- **Tracking measurable indicators, like a regional circular economy rate, helps monitor progress for the city.**

Solution

Circular Economy Competence Center

The local economy needs new skills to adopt circular business models. To support this, Solingen will join a regional competence center, working with SMEs, regional partners and research institutions. The center will act as a hub for knowledge exchange, project incubation, and cross-sector collaboration, offering practical guidance, tools, and training. By piloting new approaches, involving the economy and tracking a regional circular economy rate, the center aims to accelerate circular practices and strengthen the regional economy, with the goal of increasing the circular rate steadily.



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Solingen
Klingenstadt Solingen

neue effizienz

In4Green

Žďár nad Sázavou, Czech Republic
20 124 inhabitants

Challenge

Žďár nad Sázavou's main challenge is addressing a growing skills gap as local industry transitions toward green and digital technologies. With manufacturing employing 34.8% of the workforce, companies struggle to recruit qualified technicians while technical education enrolment declines.

Local heroes

This initiative is driven by the municipality and the ACTIVE centre together with the Vysočina Region, local schools and the Chamber of Commerce. Local companies such as ICE, TOKOZ, CECHO and Hettich contribute expertise, mentors and real industry perspectives.

Solution

Technical Education Support Programme

This progamme aims to inspire young people to pursue STEM careers and strengthen vocational skills for the green and digital transition. The initiative connects schools, companies, universities and the municipality through technical clubs, STEM roadshows and public science events. A new FabLab workshop at the ACTIVE centre will provide a shared space for hands-on learning and community innovation. Teacher training and career guidance activities also strengthen educational capacity. By 2030, the programme aims to increase technical and STEM enrolment by around 20% and establish a permanent city hub for practical experimentation.



Lessons learnt

Here are a few things to keep in mind for this action:

- **Engage schools, companies and the municipality from the beginning to align education with labour market needs.**
- **Create opportunities for students to experiment with real technologies and interact with professionals.**
- **Shared facilitiessuch as a FabLab help make innovation visible and accessible.**

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Žďár nad Sázavou