Interreg Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

Networking event:

greener Europe

29 NOV 2022

GREEN

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Agenda

EU context

Interreg Europe

10:00-11:00

Project ideas

Networking

11:00-12:00

Zoom chat

Slido.com
#InterregEurope

Networking table

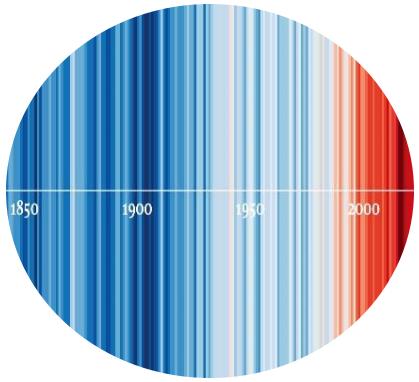
Delivering the EU Green Deal through Cohesion Policy - Interreg Europe

Myriam BOVEDA, Team Leader

DG REGIO.G1 - Smart & sustainable growth

The challenges we face today

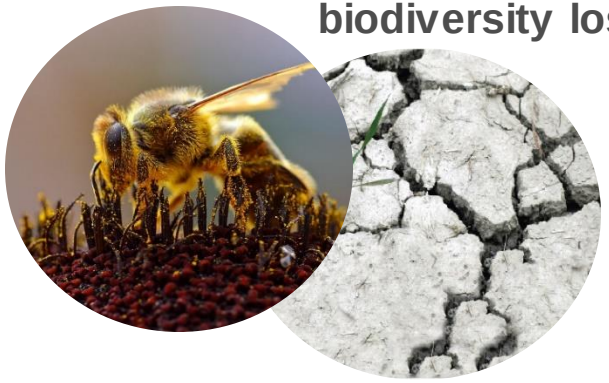
Climate change



Drought, heat and wildfires

Pollution

Environmental degradation & biodiversity loss



Floods

Growing societal concern

European Commission

The European Green Deal

The EU will…

Become climate-neutral by 2050

Transform to circular and resource-efficient economy

Ensuring a just and inclusive transition

Remaining competitive and helping companies become world leaders in clean products and technologies

Preserve and restore ecosystems and biodiversity

European Commission

Cohesion Policy in the European Green Deal

"Cohesion Funds play a crucial role in supporting our regions and rural areas from East to West, from South to North to keep up with the transformations of our world.
In this transition, ***we must recognise and respect that we do not all start from the same point****. We all share the same ambition but some may need more tailored support than others to get there."*

- Investing in place-based innovation and smart economic transformation
- Deploying technological and social innovation on a large scale
- Facilitating phase-out of unsustainable practices
- Ensuring a just transition for all regions

European Commission

Policy Objective 2: A Greener Europe

- Eight specific objectives for ERDF and CF:

  i. promoting **energy efficiency** and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

  ii. promoting **renewable energy** in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein;

  iii. developing **smart energy systems, grids and storage** outside TEN-E;

  iv. promoting **climate change adaptation**, and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches;

  v. promoting access to water and **sustainable water management**;

  vi. promoting the transition to a **circular and resource efficient economy**;

  vii. enhancing protection and preservation of **nature, biodiversity** and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and **reducing all forms of pollution**;

  viii. promoting **sustainable multimodal urban mobility**, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy;

Energy efficiency measures (SO 2.1)

- This includes, for instance:
  - Energy efficient renovation of public buildings
  - Energy efficient renovation of residential buildings
  - Energy efficiency in SMEs
  - Energy efficiency improvements of district heating networks
- Contributes to:
  - Renovation Wave, 2030 climate targets, 2050 climate-neutrality (European Climate Law)…

Renewable energy (SO 2.2)

- This includes, for instance:
  - Renewable energy in heating and cooling
  - Small-scale electricity generation based on renewable energy
  - Renewable energy technologies that are close to market or not yet widely deployed

- Contributes to:
  - EU Hydrogen Strategy, 2030 climate targets, 2050 climate-neutrality…

Smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level (SO 2.3)

- This includes, for instance:
  - Smart energy systems at local level, including smart electricity distribution grids, related demand-side measures, and storage solutions
- Contributes to:
  - EU Energy System Integration Strategy, 2030 climate targets, 2050 climate-neutrality…

CC adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience (SO 2.4)

- This includes, for instance::
  - Prevention measures (e.g. improving knowledge base, awareness-raising, flood protection infrastructure…)
  - Preparedness measures (e.g. early warning systems, equipment, training…)
- Contributes to:
  - RescEU, Adaptation Strategy, European Climate Pact…

Sustainable water management (SO 2.5)

- This includes, for instance:
  - Wastewater collection and treatment
  - Drinking water supply and improving drinking water access
  - Stormwater management
  - Improve water networks
  - Improve monitoring and capacity-building
- Contributes to:
  - Zero Pollution Action Plan, Adaptation Strategy…

Transition to a circular economy (SO 2.6)

- This includes, for instance:
  - Awareness-raising, sustainable consumption
  - Improve the knowledge base and capacity-building for all stakeholders
  - Support for upper stages of the waste hierarchy, incl. waste prevention, reuse, repair, separate collection….
  - Modernise or upgrade existing recycling and waste treatment infrastructure
  - Introduce smart technologies to improve resource efficiency, waste collection
- Contributes to:
  - Circular Economy Action Plan, European Industrial Strategy, Textiles Strategy…

Biodiversity, green infrastructure, reducing pollution (SO 2.7)

- This includes, for instance:
  - Biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration
  - Green infrastructure
  - Measures to improve air quality (incl. monitoring)
  - Decontamination and rehabilitation of industrial sites, contaminated land
  - Noise reduction
- Contributes to:
  - EU Biodiversity Strategy, Zero Pollution Action Plan, Soil Strategy, EU Forest Strategy, European Climate Pact…

Excluded from support

- decommissioning/construction of nuclear power stations;
- investments to reduce GHG emissions from **ETS activities**;
- tobacco and tobacco products;
- undertakings in difficulty (unless authorised by temporary state aid rules);
- airport infrastructure*;
- disposal of waste in **landfill***;
- increasing the capacity of facilities for the **treatment of residual waste***, except;
  - technologies to recover materials from residual waste for circular economy purposes;
- production, processing, transport, distribution, storage or combustion of **fossil fuels**, except:
  - replacement of solid fossil fuels fired heating systems with gas-fired heating systems†;
  - certain investments in existing gas infrastructure†;
  - clean vehicles for public use, and vehicles/aircraft/vessels for civil protection.

* with certain exceptions †under certain conditions note: different exclusions apply for JTF

Higher ambitions for long-term transitions

This is what we need our programmes to do better:

- Develop a **vision** of a sustainable future, and formulate **pathways**
- Put in place a system of proactive **governance** to manage the transition
- Support **innovation** to develop sustainable solutions
- Support **deployment** of innovation, and **phase-out** of unsustainable practices
- Ensure a **just transition** so that the transformation benefits everyone
- Apply specific **territorial approaches** to the delivery of the Green Deal (e.g. cities, rural areas, coal regions)
- **Mainstream sustainability** into programmes and projects

https://europa.eu/!Tc67vw

Technical assistance to Member States

Cohesion4Transitions (C4T) Platform

- Future project for technical assistance to Managing Authorities to make best use of PO 2 funding, and for capacity-building for sustainability transitions at regional level
- Workshops, webinars, tailored support, a good practices repository and two annual physical events
- Dedicated expert group with policy experts and academics
- To be launched in 2023

Thank you

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European Commission

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Interreg Europe

& greener Europe

Etienne Rodzinka-Verhelle
Policy Officer | Interreg Europe Secretariat

29 NOV 2022

Thematic networking event
Online

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European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)

Interreg: 4 strands, ~100 programmes, over 8 billions EUR ERDF

A	**cross-border**	**73 programmes** **EUR 5,800 million (72%)**	
B	**transnational**	**14 programmes** **EUR 1,467 million (18%)**	
C	**interregional**	**4 programmes** **EUR 500 million (6%)**	**Interreg Europe** Urbact, Interact, Espon
D	**outermost regions**	**4 areas** **EUR 270 million (3%)**	

Each strand has its own objectives

Sharing solutions for better regional policy

€ 379m
ERDF BUDGET

6
TOPICS

29
COUNTRIES INVOLVED

SMART

GREEN

CONNECTED

SOCIAL

CITIZENS

GOVERNANCE

Interreg Europe **rationale**

Supports the identification and transfer of good practices among EU regions in order to improve regional development policies

Helps policy makers to find new solutions to their challenges

- Primarily dedicated to **public authorities**
- Focus on **exchange of experience**

→ Different from cross-border or transnational cooperation

Two **actions**

Projects

Limited number of regions exchanging and transferring experience on a shared regional development issue

Policy Learning Platform

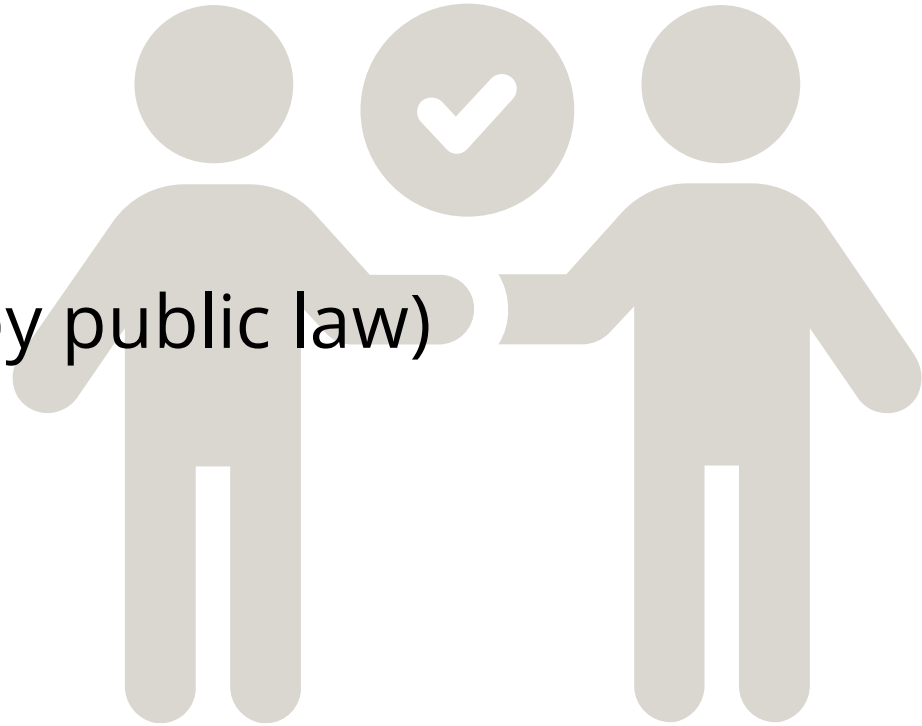
Further exploiting projects' achievements and opening up the programme benefits to all

Projects' main features

- **Objective:** Improve the **policy instruments** of the participating regions
- **Activities:** exchange of experience & **capacity building** through identification and transfer of good practices
- **Duration:** 2 phases in **4-year** implementation

Who is **eligible?**

- **Public authorities**
- **Public law bodies** (bodies governed by public law)
- **Private non-profit bodies**



Policy relevance of partnership

Policy responsible authorities must be involved in the project:

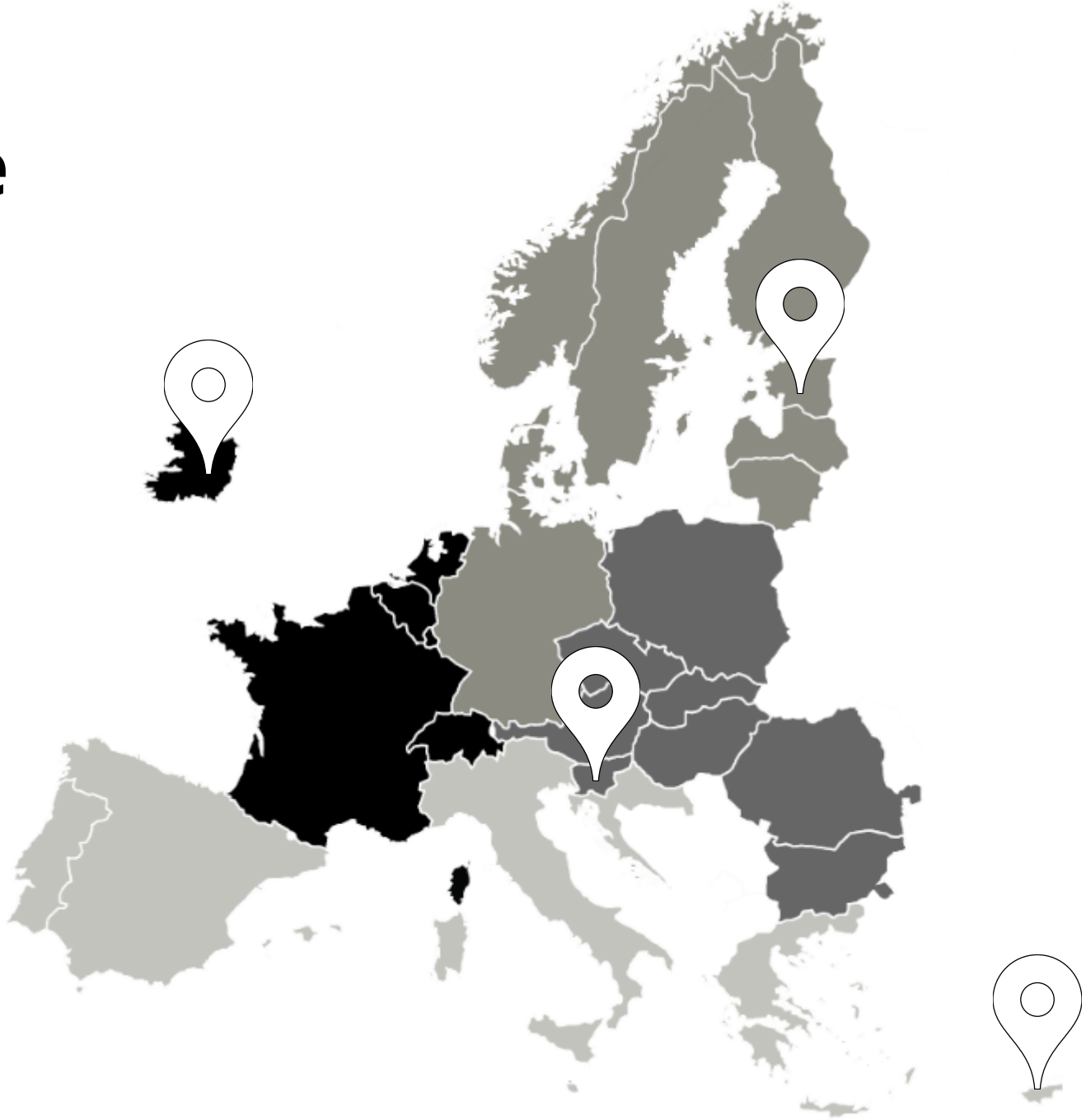
- As **partners** for at least **50%** of the policy instruments addressed
- As **'associated policy authorities'** for the remaining policy instruments

Creation of a **stakeholder group** in each region

Geographical **coverage**

- **Four areas** to be covered
- Mix of more and less advanced regions

Geographical areas	Countries covered
North	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden
East	Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
South	Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain
West	Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland



Co-financing rates

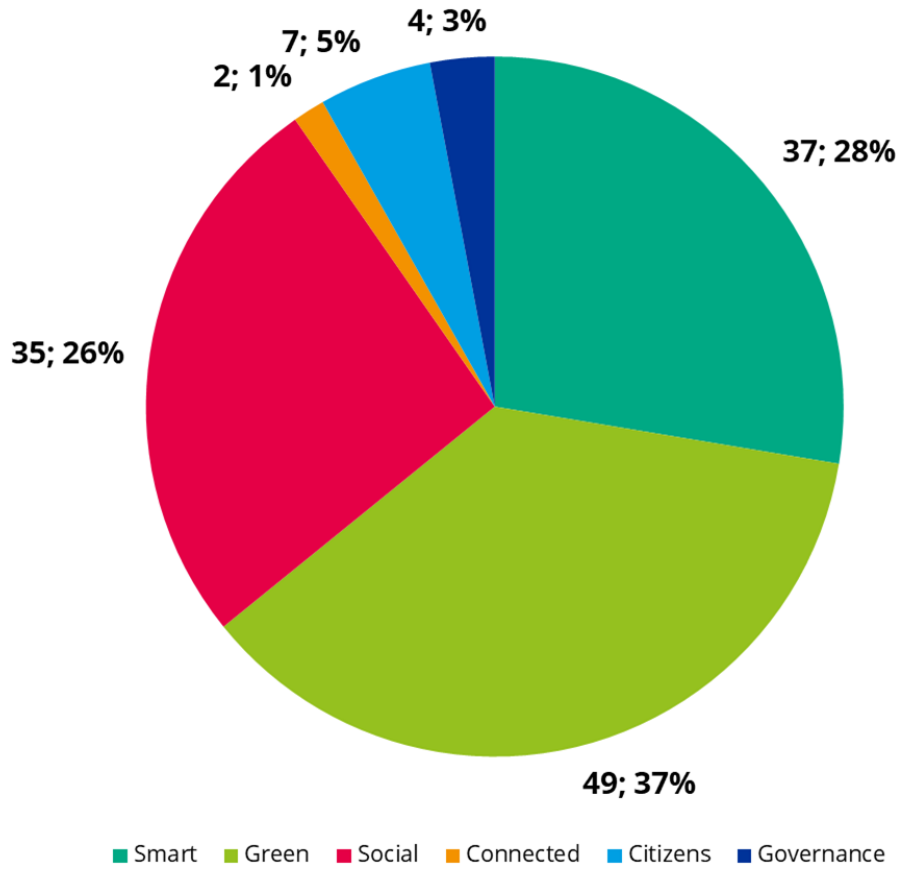
Co-financing rates	According to legal status or location
80% ERDF*	Public or public equivalent from the EU
70% ERDF*	Private non-profit from the EU
50% Norwegian funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Norway (NO)
Swiss funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Switzerland (CH)

* ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

First call **key figures**

Closed on 31 May 2022

134	project proposals
1,073	partners coming from all partner states
EUR 1.4 million	average budget per project proposal
EUR 192 million	total ERDF budget requested



First call - **first lessons learned**

- Ensure that partnership goes **beyond transnational** cooperation areas (e.g., MED covers Slovenia, Bulgaria and part of France)
- Check carefully the **'policy responsible authority' status** of the organisation involved in the project
- Select carefully the **policy instrument addressed** in each region
- Ensure that at least **one** instrument is an **Investment for growth & jobs goal programme**

Second **call**

12 weeks

Opening: **15 March 2023**

Closing: **9 June 2023 at 12:00 CEST**

Decision: **end of 2023**

All topics open

Application pack available in **early 2023**

Greener Europe

- **Energy efficiency** and reduction of greenhouse emissions
- **Renewable energy**
- **Smart energy systems**, grids and storage
- **Climate change** adaptation, disaster risk prevention, resilience
- Access to **water** and sustainable water management
- Circular and **resource efficient** economy
- Protection and preservation of **nature and biodiversity**, green infrastructures, pollution reduction
- **Sustainable urban mobility** for zero carbon economy

Innovative character

What is the added value of your project?

Remember to check:

www.interregeurope.eu/approved-projects

Project examples 2014-2020

POWERTY Interreg Europe

Renewable energy for vulnerable groups and **energy communities**

BID-REX Interreg Europe

Biodiversity data for improved governance

SET-UP Interreg Europe

Enhanced policies on **smart grids**

www.interregeurope.eu/get-inspired/projects

Interreg Europe

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Assistance

to applicants

Etienne Rodzinka-Verhelle
Policy Officer | Interreg Europe Secretariat

29 NOV 2022

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Online

Follow us on social media:

Project development assistance

Discover the programme | **Look for funding** | Approved projects | Get policy advice | Find policy

Next call for projects
Discover our terms of reference

Country specific information
Check your country rules

1. Check project relevance
Use our self-assessment tool

2. Get inspired
See approved projects and project ideas

3. Share your project idea
Explain what you want to do with your project

4. Find partners
Look for relevant organisations

5. Ask for feedback
Get guidance before applying

6. Apply for the call
Submit your project proposal

Available during calls

www.interregeurope.eu/next-call-for-projects

Other assistance tools & channels

- **Programme manual**
- **Second call documents** (available in early 2023)
  - Terms of reference
  - Application form and declaration template
- **Website** (FAQ, contact form)
- **Points of contact**

Key to **successful project preparation**

- Thorough **preparation**
  - Read programme documents carefully (e.g. the manual)

- **Assistance** tools
  - Use self-assessment tool
  - Ask for JS feedback (during open call)
  - Join assistance events

- Get to know our **selection process**
  1. Eligibility = ineligible proposals get **no further assessment**
  2. Quality criteria = meet programme expectations

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Time to start **networking!**

Follow us on social media:

Networking opportunities

15 Nov: **Smart**

17 Nov: **Social**

29 Nov: **Green**

1 Dec: **Connected / Citizens / Governance**

More **networking & events**

1 Dec: **Connected / Citizens / Governance**

5 Dec: **Policy Learning Platform**:
Next generation policymakers: Why skills, knowledge and a powerful network are vital

15 Mar: **Europe, let's cooperate!** Call launch (Stockholm, SE)

Call dates: 15 March – 9 June 2023

Stay **connected**

Group 1
Adapting Cities for Tomorrow
13

Group 2
Digital technologies for sustainable construction
1

Group 3
Sustainable Beaches Protocol
0

Group 4
Waste management and circular economy
2

Group 5
Sustainable and green cities
4

Group 6
Improve water quality by implementing new farming management
1

Group 7
Insect biocontrol as an alternative to pesticides
2

Group 8
Donating surplus food from the HoReCa sector to help those in need
0

Group 9
From the cities of cars to multimodal cities,for bikes and people
3

Group 10
Multistakeholder partnership for circular economy
2

Group 11
Governance of Circular Hubs in Europe
0

Adapting Cities for Tomorrow

29 Nov: Project ideas and networking discussions

I'm interested

Upscaling the LIFE PACT project.
PACT stands for People-driven: Adapting Cities for Tomorrow. It is the ability of cities to deploy and improve nature-based solutions (NBS). In this way we can increase urban resilience and improve the health and well-being of citizens.

https://leuven.be/en/life-pact

13

Hosted by

Baptist Vlaeminck
Coordinator
Stad Leuven
Belgium
Interested in
Joining a project +3

Interested community members (13)

Cristina Lixandroiu
senior researcher
Institut National de Cercetare Dezvoltare in Turism
Romania
Interested in
Joining a project +2

Andrea Vignoli
EU Project Manager
Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani del Lazio
Italy
Interested in
Leading a project +3
3 projects

Edna Cabecinha
Assistent Professor
University of Tras-os-Montes de Alto Douro (UTAD)
Portugal
Interested in
Joining a project +3
1 project

Nikolina Nemec Blažin
Senior advisor for development projects
Grad Ludbreg
Croatia
Interested in
Leading a project +4

Anabela Cordeiro
R&D
Mezzegra Green Energy
Portugal
Interested in
Leading a project +3

Baptist Vlaeminck
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Stad Leuven
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Interested in
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Felice Tauro
Local Energy
Italy
Interested in
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Aurora García
R & D & I consultant
ZABALA
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Interested in
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Zsanett Brunner
Business unit manager
Ex Ante Consulting Ltd
Hungary
Interested in
Joining a project +1

Nikolaos Gkonos
Research Consultant
Grants Project
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Interested in
Leading a project +4

José Francisco Benítez Santos
EU Projects Advisor
Consejería de Turismo, Cultura y Deporte
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Elina Veidemane
Deputy Head of VASAB Secretariat
VASAB - Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea
Latvia
Interested in
Joining a project +2

Maria Alexandra Carp
Iasi Municipality
Romania
Interested in
Joining a project +2

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