



In4Green

ACTION PLANNING NETWORK

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg



**QUARTERLY
NETWORK REPORT**
January - March 2024

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

April 2024.

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- Avilés: Víctor Fernández.
- Bijelo Polje: Dalibor Đogović.
- Dabrowa Gornicza: Kinga Morzonek.
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- Salerno: Francesco Formisano.
- Solingen: Anna Mader.
- Vila Nova de Famalicao: Paula Dourado.
- Zďar nad Sazavou: Tomáš Pleva.

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

1st QUARTERLY NETWORK REPORT IN4GREEN PARTNERS ARE:

AVILÉS (SPAIN)

BIJELO POLJE (MONTENEGRO)

DĄBROWA GÓRNICZA (POLAND)

LARISSA (GREECE)

NAVAN (IRELAND)

SABADELL (SPAIN)

SALERNO (ITALY)

SOLINGEN (GERMANY)

VILA NOVA DE FAMALICÃO (PORTUGAL)

ŽĎÁR NAD SÁZAVOU (CZECH REPUBLIC)





INTERVIEW OF THE QUARTER

MANUEL CAMPA. COUNCILLOR. AVILÉS (SPAIN)

As Lead Partner, how do you see the beginning of the In4Green journey?

I consider that **we are making positive progress** in the project. My perception is influenced by the level of commitment I observe from the cities and individuals involved. I highlight the **constructive collaboration in our meetings**, which is encouraging. Although I cannot predict with certainty how things will unfold in the coming months, the evidence of **genuine interest in achieving results** leaves me optimistic. In my view, this is a good start for the second phase of the project, and I hope we can maintain this positive momentum.

What would you highlight about the team involved in In4Green network?

While acknowledging potential challenges in aligning efforts with objectives, I **highlight the significant groundwork laid in inter-city collaboration**. Additionally, I commend the **collective efforts of individuals and technical teams in fostering a collaborative work environment**. Attending transnational meetings reinforces our commitment, and I believe we have a solid foundation for progress.

How do you assess the reception of your shared good practices by the other partners?

On the day of my presentation at the transnational meeting **the queries I received were particularly relevant**. They focused on crucial aspects of our successful practices, such as managing public-private collaborations and navigating agreements with unions and businesses. These inquiries delved into how we achieved consensus on key issues like infrastructure, business attraction, and social services. Funding was also a central topic, with questions probing the strategies behind securing adequate financing. Ultimately, **the goal of collaboration is to ensure that available funds are utilized effectively** to serve the interests of all stakeholders in the city.

What do you hope to achieve locally in Avilés with the project?

As Lead Partner, we have high expectations, particularly regarding building relationships. Over time, we naturally develop closer connections with some cities than others, discovering shared interests along the way. Currently, our focus lies heavily on attracting investments and developing land. **We seek insights from other places on integrating these areas more seamlessly into the city, moving away from the past approach where industry operated independently from urban development**. We're also exploring how mobility intersects with these efforts and how companies can innovate to add value within the local context.



2024 FIRST QUARTER BALANCE

THE LEAD EXPERT'S POINT OF VIEW.

A network of people and cities making good progress towards the green transition.

The URBACT In4Green network has now passed the first quarter of the second stage of the APN journey. By now almost all partners have their **URBACT Local Groups fully up and running**, analysing local **problems**, agreeing on the main **focus** of the Integrated Action Plan and identifying possible **testing actions**.

Being my first experience as Lead Expert of a URBACT network, I must admit that it was an exciting and thrilling moment when we finally received the green light for the methodology and the roadmap of the network. I also have to admit that **it was a challenge to set the machinery in motion**. The network roadmap is very ambitious because **the potential of the network partners and the possibilities for exchange and collaborative learning are enormous**. On the other hand, the main topic of In4Green is a challenging one: to achieve the green transition in industrial cities.

With this challenge in mind, **the network partners have been able to achieve important milestones** in this quarter such as the organisation of the **second Transnational Meeting in Solingen**, which was a great opportunity for engaging in activities such as study visits, peer reviews, presentation of good practices and deepening of the URBACT methodology.

"The human factor is key in the good performance of the In4Green network. The working atmosphere is excellent and all partners and people involved are very committed." Jose Costero, In4Green Lead Expert.

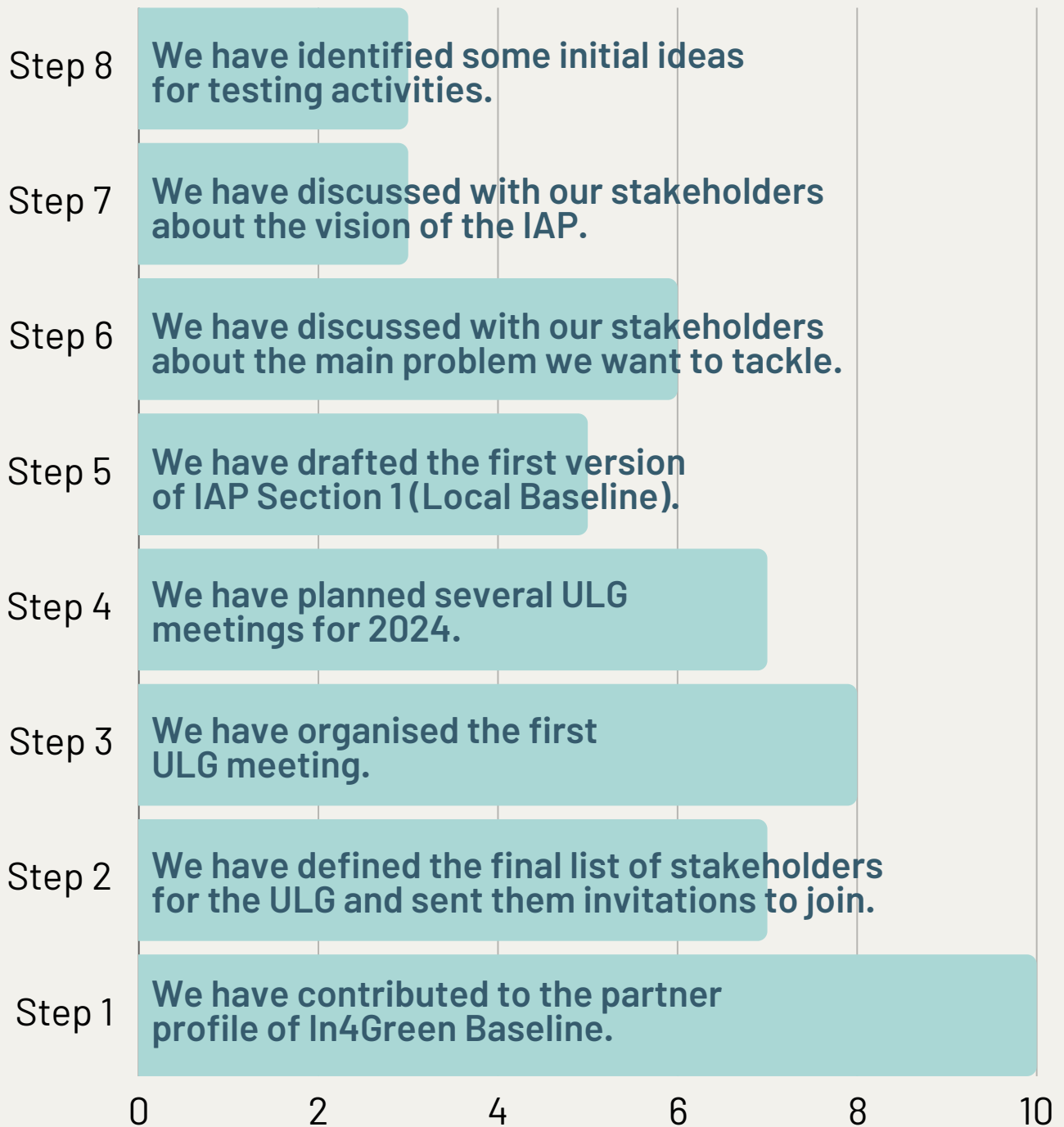
The human factor is key in the good performance of the In4Green network. The working atmosphere is excellent and all partners and people involved are very committed. After the second transnational meeting **the partners have said: "we want more city-to-city exchanges"**. We will certainly do so in the near future. The challenge for the second quarter of the year is to continue to make progress in the development of the integrated action plans, making the project activities compatible with other local initiatives.

By Jose Costero, In4Green Lead Expert.

STAIRWAY TO THE IAP

PARTNERS PROGRESS WITH INTEGRATED ACTION PLANS

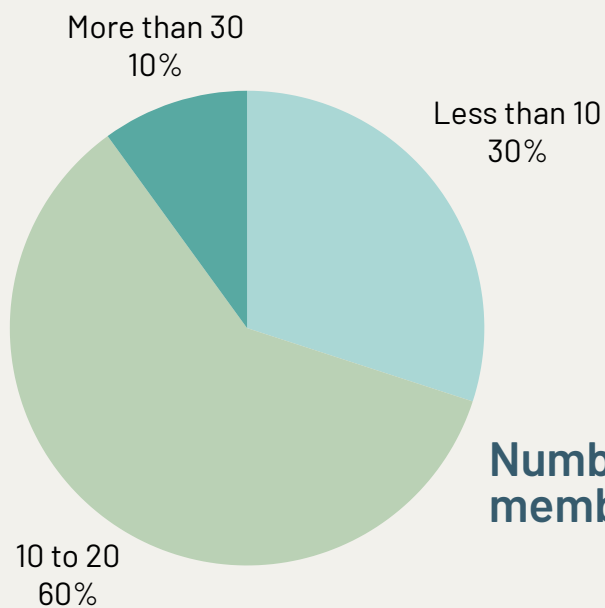
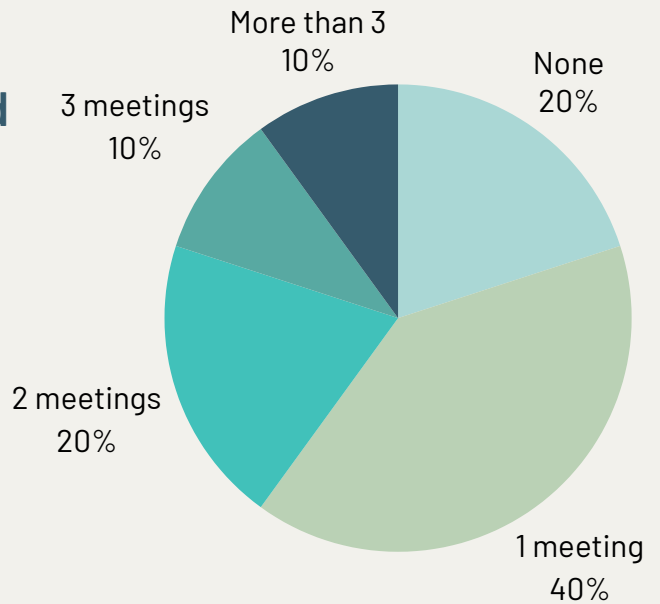
Number of partners who have reached the milestones (out of 10):



ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

URBACT LOCAL GROUPS (ULG) PROGRESS

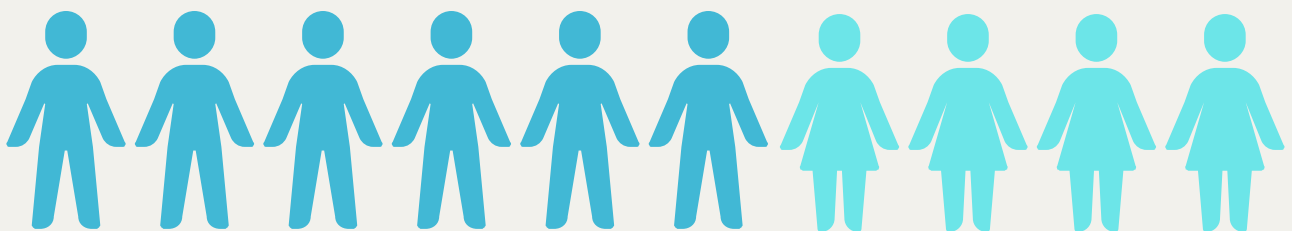
Number of ULG meetings organised so far by partners.



Number of ULG members by partners.

191 People attended ULG meetings so far.

40% Women.



ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

URBACT LOCAL GROUPS (ULG) PROGRESS

IN4GREEN FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM OF ULGS



2024 FIRST QUARTER BALANCE

HOW ARE PARTERS FEELING AFTER THIS QUARTER?



"We are quite satisfied with the response from the stakeholders."

"I feel I have learnt a lot about URBACT methodologies and green transition in industry."

"Motivated to work with the local stakeholders and get inspired by project partners."

"Motivated to go on!"

"Full of expectations."

"The first part of the quarter was very successful."

"Pretty confident."

"Overall it was positive."

"Optimistic."

"Motivated."



2024 FIRST QUARTER BALANCE

WHERE ARE WE NOW IN THE APN JOURNEY?

In4Green Roadmap

IN4GREEN ROADMAP		PLANNING ACTIONS - 2024												PREPARING IMPLEMENTATION - 2025												FINALE
E&L ACTIVITIES		F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
Network level	Transnational Meetings	TM 2											TM 3	TM 4									TM 6			
	Thematic Working Groups	TWG1.1											TWG2.2	TWG3.1												
	Transfer Workshops	TW 1											TW 2	TW 3	TW 4											
	Peer Learning Sessions (online)	PLS 1	PLS 2	PLS 3	PLS 4	PLS 5							PLS 6	PLS 7	PLS 8	PLS 9										
	Gender Equality Sessions (online)				1												2							4		
	Bespoke Support (online)	Weekly online individual meetings (1 partner per week)																								
Local level	ULG Meetings & Co-design	ULG Meetings and IAP co-design												ULG Meetings and IAP co-design												FINAL IAPs
URBACT	City Labs, Festivals, etc.		City Lab	City Lab						City Lab				City Lab												

ACHIEVED:

- 2nd Transnational Meeting.
- Thematic Working Groups 1 & 2.
- Transfer Workshop 1.
- Peer Learning Session 1.
- Bespoke Support first meetings.
- Coordination meetings.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- ULG meetings.
- Local Baselines.
- Bespoke Support meetings.
- Testing activities identification.

IN4GREEN ROADMAP		PLANNING				
E&L ACTIVITIES		F	M	A	M	J
Network level	Transnational Meetings	TM 2				
	Thematic Working Groups	TWG1.1				
	Transfer Workshops	TW 1				
	Peer Learning Sessions (online)	PLS 1	PLS 2	PLS 3	PLS 4	PLS 5
	Gender Equality Sessions (online)				1	
	Bespoke Support (online)	Weekly online individual meetings (1 partner per week)				
Local level	ULG Meetings & Co-design	DRAFT LOCAL BASELINE				Testing activities
URBACT	City Labs, Festivals, etc.		City Lab		City Lab	

2024 FIRST QUARTER BALANCE

WHAT WERE THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE LAST QUARTER?



"We are quite satisfied with the response from the stakeholders."

"To integrate the In4Green activities in the greater strategy of the City."

"To identify key problems in the area of the circular economy sector."

"The understanding of the whole URBACT methodology"

"Coordination of the action plan with the stakeholders group."

"Too many community and national projects."

"Testing activities."

"Identification of testing actions".

"Establishing the ULG."

"Lack of time capacity."



2024 FIRST QUARTER BALANCE

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF PARTNERS



Avilés (Spain).

"We have managed to reach a consensus to launch a testing action related to carbon footprint."

Bijelo Polje (Montenegro).

"After we launched the ULG group in December 2023, this year we started to communicate with stakeholders about future activities."



Dąbrowa Górnicza (Poland).

"Conducting several meetings with members of the local group."

Larissa (Greece).

"The fruitful and inspiring participation in the second transnational meeting and the peer learning sessions."



Navan (Ireland).

"The establishment of a diverse and motivated ULG."

Sabadell (Spain).

"Engagement of the stakeholders, and the alignment of the In4Green project to other initiatives taking place in the city."



Salerno (Italy).

"We have started to build a common path and we are more motivated and inspired thanks to the shared experiences of the partners."

Solingen (Germany).

"The great Transnational Meeting hosted by Solingen and Neue Effizienz in February"



Vila Nova de Famalicão (Portugal).

"Especially the knowledge and the good practices that we were aware of, and also the cooperation with the partners of the network."

Žďár nad Sázavou (Czech Republic).

"Resolving the technical aspects standing in the way of testing activities in the selected space."





2ND TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN SOLINGEN (GERMANY)

A meaningful and fruitful face-to-face time to match learning needs with URBACT experiences, knowledge and tools.





2ND TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN SOLINGEN (GERMANY)

A time full of activities...

URBACT Methodology

INTEGRATED APPROACH TESTING ACTIVITIES

Transfer Workshop

PUBLIC-PRIVATE COOPERATION

Thematic Working Groups

CIRCULAR ECONOMY SMART & GREEN INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Capacity building

ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

Study Visits

WASTE TO ENERGY PLANT TRANSPARENT WORKSHOP

Peer Reviews

LOCAL BASELINES

Management

COORDINATION & COMMUNICATION





2ND TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN SOLINGEN (GERMANY)

Main learnings:

"How different the is the starting point of each partner in terms of population, energy supply, networking between industry and public bodies, local science network, etc."

"The exchange experience is an excellent tool for enhancing one's skills, both professional and human."

"To learn more about URBACT methodology, and about specific topics as circular economy, sustainability, innovation, smart and green industrial parks..."

"How to deepen into the Circular Economy model and the need to identify who is active on it in our territory, so they could boost the circular transition."

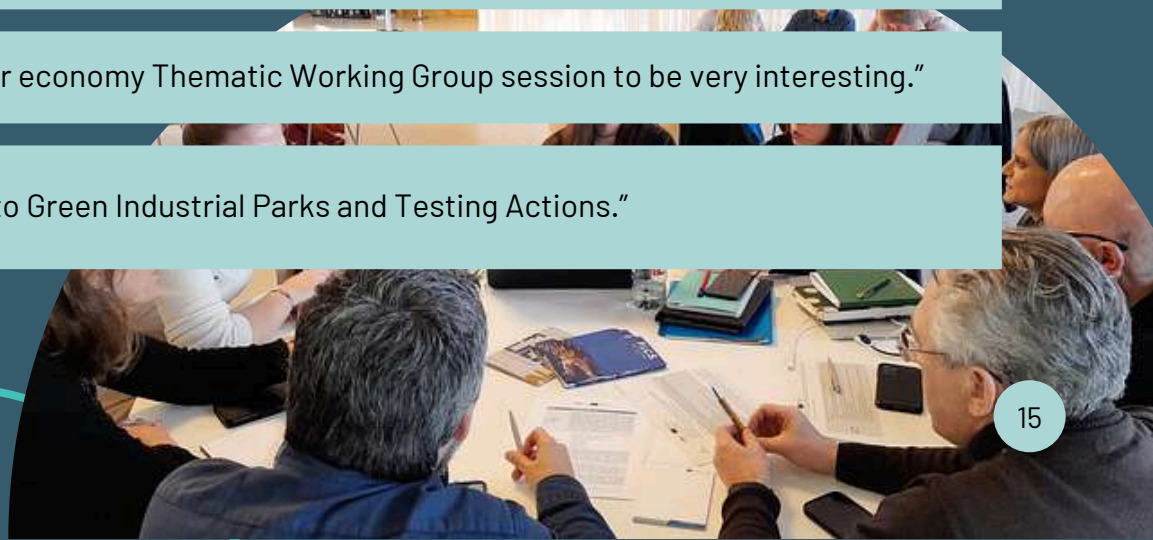
"The waste collection and treatment in Solingen. Heating plant might not be the best option since it doesn't promote waste reduction and recycling. However it helps to reduce polluted landfills".

"Entrepreneurship and citizens involvement are crucial to revitalise any place. The Transparent Workshop in Solingen is a good example on how their involvement is needed to make the initiative work".

"Important organizational issues at local level and topics discussed during workshops and sessions".

"I found the circular economy Thematic Working Group session to be very interesting."

"Contents related to Green Industrial Parks and Testing Actions."





2ND TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN SOLINGEN (GERMANY)

What inspired partners the most?

"The ability to work together with the territory, with the support of private individuals. Even though, in our case, this requires a long and laborious process, which despite all transparent work is not always appreciated by the public."

"All the interactions and parallel small discussions with partners as well as the study visits."

"The different experiences and points of view explained by the project partners."

"Professional organization of the meeting."

"Shared learnings and experiences by experts and other partners."

"The most inspiring aspect is being able to work with other cities and learn about the solutions they implement for similar problems."





ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

PEER LEARNING SESSION 1: DISTRICT HEATINGS

Sharing and exploring good practices from partners:

Solingen: waste to energy plant. Using urban waste to produce heat for households.

Žďár nad Sázavou: municipal district heating company as an opportunity for energy transition.

Participants highlight:

- "Interesting Q&A session after the presentations."
- "Examples from other cities about how they manage to operate district heating systems."
- "Exchange of points of view between partners."
- "It's always interesting to learn about the reality of other cities."
- "The linkage of this session with subsequent Transnational Meeting was excellent."
- "This is a very interesting combination of theory and practice."

BESPOKE SUPPORT MEETINGS

Individual follow up meetings between partners and Lead Expert. Six meetings were organised during the first quarter of 2024.

Participants feedback:

- "A good opportunity to receive individual support."
- "We could clarify all doubts and also get new ideas for creating our IAP and ULG activities."
- "A good tool to show the progress of the project, emphasise difficulties, and a great help from the Lead Expert."
- "Very useful to know if we are on the right track and to clarify doubts."
- "Allows you to find answers for some questions and dispel any doubts."
- "We are looking forward to the meeting."



COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

COMMUNICATION HIGHLIGHTS DURING FIRST QUARTER 2024

Published articles:

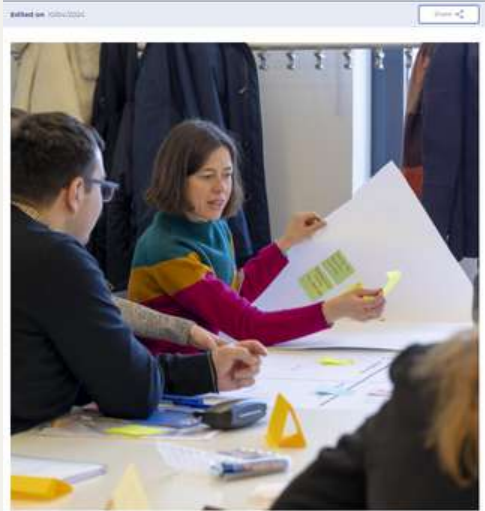


Vier Study in a Parametrical Healthy, Solingen & Maastricht, Adelen der Stadt Solingen

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

By Jose Costero. [Link](#)

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



By Eileen Crowley. [Link](#)

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In4Green

Public administration

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

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