



# In4Green

ACTION PLANNING NETWORK

URBACT



Co-funded by  
the European Union  
Interreg



Parc Tauli  
Hospital Universitari



INNOVATION PARK  
**JOIST**

**III QUARTERLY  
NETWORK REPORT**  
July - September 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.

October 2024.

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Pictures by: Jose Costero, Navan County Council, Dabrowa Gornicza Municipality, Joist, Sabadell City Council and Avilés City Council.

## III 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)





# 2024 3rd QUARTER BALANCE

## THE LEAD EXPERT'S POINT OF VIEW.

### Time to recharge and gear up for autumn.

This quarter, **summer arrived in the In4Green cities**, bringing with it a well-deserved break for partners after the hard work of the first half of the year.

The In4Green partners reached this point in the year in different stages. **Some have made significant progress** in engaging their stakeholders through local groups and have completed the first part of their Integrated Action Plans. Others, like Larissa, have even started working on the second part. Meanwhile, a **few partners fell behind and had to re-energise in September** to catch up with the rest of the network.

A similar situation applies to testing activities. While three partners successfully organised their initial activities, most have scheduled theirs for after the summer.

As such, **autumn comes with a packed agenda for the In4Green partners**. Finalising the second part of the Integrated Action Plans will be a major challenge, requiring the involvement of stakeholders and the organisation of testing activities. This will need to be balanced with active participation in the scheduled learning activities and the third transnational meeting in Famalicão (Portugal).

***“Finalising the second part of the Integrated Action Plans will be a major challenge, requiring the involvement of stakeholders and the organisation of testing activities.” Jose Costero, In4Green Lead Expert.***

In addition, **September marked the beginning of the network’s mid-term reflection process**. This will allow an assessment of the network's progress and the opportunity to adjust the methodology if necessary.

Meanwhile, online learning and exchange activities continue as planned, including the Peer Learning Session on Innovation Ecosystems held in late September. During this session, **good practices from Sabadell and Larissa were shared, providing valuable insights for the partners**.

*By Jose Costero, In4Green Lead Expert.*







# TESTING ACTIVITY IN NAVAN (IRELAND)

## Let's Grow - Sustainable Food Eco-system





# TESTING ACTIVITY IN NAVAN (IRELAND)

## Brief description:

This testing action was about raising and growing the knowledge base on food eat - grow - compost - repeat.

## Stakeholder engagement:

The ULG members and our Town Mayor Cllr Edward Fennessy provided contacts to the wider community groups. With each workshop delivered, feedback was taken into consideration with assisted with growing the testing action.

## Target groups:

Leaders within community groupings.

## Results:

The testing action was very positive and has grown into a larger action for inclusion in our IAP.

## Evaluation:

Feedback surveys.

## IAP connection:

This will be a larger action within the IAP with a wider reach within Navan.





# TESTING ACTIVITY IN DĄBROWA GÓRNICZA (POLAND)

## 3rd of May Street Revitalisation Test



# TESTING ACTIVITY IN DĄBROWA GÓRNICZA (POLAND)

## Brief description:

The general idea of the testing activity at the Street Style Party held on May 18, 2024, in Dąbrowa Górnicza was to engage and show citizens in a vibrant and interactive environment at the 3rd May Street that celebrated local culture and creativity. The primary goal was to test various aspects of community engagement, including how well citizens could connect with each other and spend the time with the activities organized during the event.

## Stakeholder engagement:

The coordinator of the activity was the coordinator of our Urbact Local Group. Additionally, we involved several ULG members in organizing activities.

## Target groups:

The main recipients of the event were the city's residents. Citizens were able to participate in multiple ways. We encouraged them to join in various street art workshops, dance performances, and fashion showcases that highlighted local talent and business. Additionally, we set up interactive boards where attendees could share their thoughts on community initiatives and contribute ideas for future events.

## Results:

Overall, the testing activity was a very positive experience. The atmosphere was energetic and filled with enthusiasm, with many citizens expressing their appreciation for the event and the opportunities it provided for connection and creativity. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly supportive, and many participants enjoyed the hands-on activities and the chance to showcase their talents.





# TESTING ACTIVITY IN DĄBROWA GÓRNICZA (POLAND)

## Evaluation:

From the test, we learned several key conclusions. Firstly, the importance of community involvement was reaffirmed; citizens felt more connected and engaged when they had a direct role in the activities. Secondly, the diversity of activities offered attracted a wider audience, which is essential for future events. Lastly, the feedback mechanisms we implemented were effective, as they not only allowed us to gather insights but also made citizens feel valued and heard.

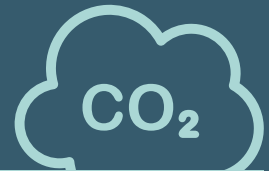
## IAP connection:

Moving forward, we aim to build on these insights to enhance community engagement in future initiatives at the 3rd May Street. It's future revitalisation will be one of the main focus of our IAP.





# TESTING ACTIVITIES IDEAS BY IN4GREEN PARTNERS



## Avilés: SMEs CO2 calculation tool.

### What?

The idea is to raise awareness among companies in Avilés about how to measure the carbon footprint of their activities through an easy and simple tool that allows them to determine scopes one and two (there are three carbon footprint scopes determined by the Ministry of Industry).

### How?

Providing companies with an easy-to-use tool to assess the two mentioned scopes, while also offering guidance on how to register in the Ministry of Industry's Carbon Footprint Registry. Additionally, highlighting the benefits of registration and its advantages for businesses.



## Bijelo Polje: Energy efficiency in buildings

### What?

Renovation of the Municipality of Bijelo Polje's main building in line with the EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings. The testing activity aims to assess the energy savings achieved in the building following the implementation of these energy efficiency measures.

### How?

Our plan involves analysing current energy consumption data for the main municipal building, including historical data from the past two years. This will allow us to compare and evaluate the impact of the implemented measures following the completion of the project.



# TESTING ACTIVITIES IDEAS BY IN4GREEN PARTNERS

## Larissa: Co-creating solutions



### What?

We aim to increase awareness among local stakeholders about the green transition in urban areas and pilot a co-creation process to develop sustainable solutions collaboratively.

### How?

Engaging in a collaborative exploration to identify challenges and address diverse stakeholder needs from multiple perspectives. Entering an experimentation phase involving the development of a prototype for the proposed solution, followed by iterative testing and refinement—improving the solution at each stage based on feedback from previous iterations. Creating a tailored Living Lab Toolkit designed to foster active and interactive participation throughout the process.

## Sabadell: Case study workshops



### What?

Encouraging the active involvement of young people in addressing city challenges by integrating their fresh ideas, diverse perspectives, and collaborative input. This approach fosters innovative discussions and joint efforts in shaping urban and territorial initiatives, with a particular emphasis on tackling sustainability challenges in industrial areas.

### How?

Organising a case study workshop involving students and professors from a relevant university programme to advance discussions on sustainable industry. The workshop will focus on one of Sabadell's industrial areas, employing a fieldwork methodology to explore the territory, identify challenges, and uncover opportunities. Additionally, it will feature strategic discussions with various local stakeholders to provide diverse insights and foster collaborative solutions.

# TESTING ACTIVITIES IDEAS BY IN4GREEN PARTNERS



## Salerno: Public consultation

### What?

We plan to conduct a public consultation as a testing activity to assess our ability to identify local challenges, gauge public interest and support for green and smart local development projects, and evaluate the effectiveness of a questionnaire as a tool for gathering this information.

### How?

The results of the testing activity will help Salerno to better understand the opinions of local stakeholders and citizens and to gain experience in the use of questionnaires for public consultations.



## Solingen: Circular economy in SMEs

### What?

We want to test how to address SMEs in identifying their needs and Circular Economy potential.

### How?

We will test different types of formats (workshops, (individual) interviews, group discussions, etc.) to identify challenges and potential for the implementation of circular processes, circular concepts, sustainable business models etc. The goal is to figure out which type fits best for our regional partners (in particular for the SMEs).



# TESTING ACTIVITIES IDEAS BY IN4GREEN PARTNERS

## Famalicão: Hackathon with students



### What?

We plan to organise a hackathon for students to develop ideas and criteria for the new green and smart industrial park to be developed in the city.

### How?

The Municipality of Vilanova de Famalicão will organise a hackathon for university students in collaboration with the University of Minho. This hackathon will coincide with a major university event to ensure high student participation. The aim is to gather ideas and proposals for the design of the future green and smart industrial park.

## Žďár nad Sázavou: Open Fablab



### What?

The aim of the activity is to test the interest of potential users of Fablab's technologies in one of the parts of the centre used to foster an innovative and entrepreneurial environment in the city. The data obtained will be used to make a possible decision on the size of the dedicated Fablab Technologies.

Another goal of the test event is to start creating a creative community interested in relocating to the innovation center.

### How?

The test event was designed in collaboration with one of the key stakeholders in this area, which currently has a limited amount of Fablab-related technology. This is a local high school which is willing and able to make these technologies available to the general public on a limited basis. At some point it will be possible to bring your digital designs to the school and test your ideas and designs under the supervision of experienced tutors..



# ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

## EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

### ONLINE PEER LEARNING SESSIONS (PLS) ORGANISED:

Peer Learning Sessions are an opportunity to know more, explore and learn from good practices and experiences of other partners in the network. The good practices (GP) and topics have been selected based on your interest and preferences discussed during the Activation Stage.

### PLS6 - INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

Larissa's GP1: -JOIST Innovation Park: private owned innovation ecosystem center in a renovated old factory with a circular approach.

Sabadell's GP2: Enlargement and consolidation of our innovation ecosystem, working on public engagement and how the quadruple helix could help to address societal challenges







# ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

## EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

### PLS6 INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS:

#### Larissa: Joist Innovation Park

##### What?

Private initiative innovation centre created in 2022 in a former industrial building that was rehabilitated with a circular approach. It offers offices for companies, coworking spaces, rooms, studio, laboratory and event space in a dynamic and collaborative environment.

##### Key Success Factors.

- The park appeals to a wide audience, including the artistic and cultural community, businesses, the public sector, universities, research organizations, students, and families.
- The combination of six major service areas provides added value by connecting areas that are typically separate in other business initiatives.
- Being a private initiative allows for greater flexibility in strategic decision-making.
- The inclusion of educational activities for children helped accelerate awareness and publicity.







# ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

## EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

### PLS6 INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS:

## Sabadell: Innovation Ecosystem

### What?

Over the past few years, the city of Sabadell has been engaged in the deployment of R&I strategies for smart specialisations (RIS3), in the circular economy, active ageing and intelligent design in industry, which are intended to develop a competitive economic advantage. However, universities, companies, local and regional administrations, and citizens (termed the 'quadruple helix' in the literature) need to come together to plan and innovate in the different fields, creating and promoting a valuable innovation ecosystem. PECT Vallès Industrial aimed to create opportunities for technological design, innovation and experimentation at different levels.

### Lessons learnt.

- The project emerged from a collaborative and shared process among the stakeholders involved in the GP, which was previously aligned with the territorial strategy. This fact was very valuable since it created confidence among the stakeholders to develop the project and allowed to produce other projects' synergies in parallel.
- Despite the project exceeded the project deadline, it was an excellent experience to get to know all the stakeholders in depth and to push the activation of common interests and shared challenges, and to improve the ecosystem cohesion.
- The tight collaboration among the stakeholders of the project allowed to create new collaborative projects. A good example is the collaboration emerged between a university dedicated to industrial design and a hospital, which joined efforts to create new products.
- The governance of the project was very complex since the economic and technical management of the European funds were managed by a regional administration. This intermediate administration delayed several processes of the project, making a more complicated governance of the project among the stakeholders.

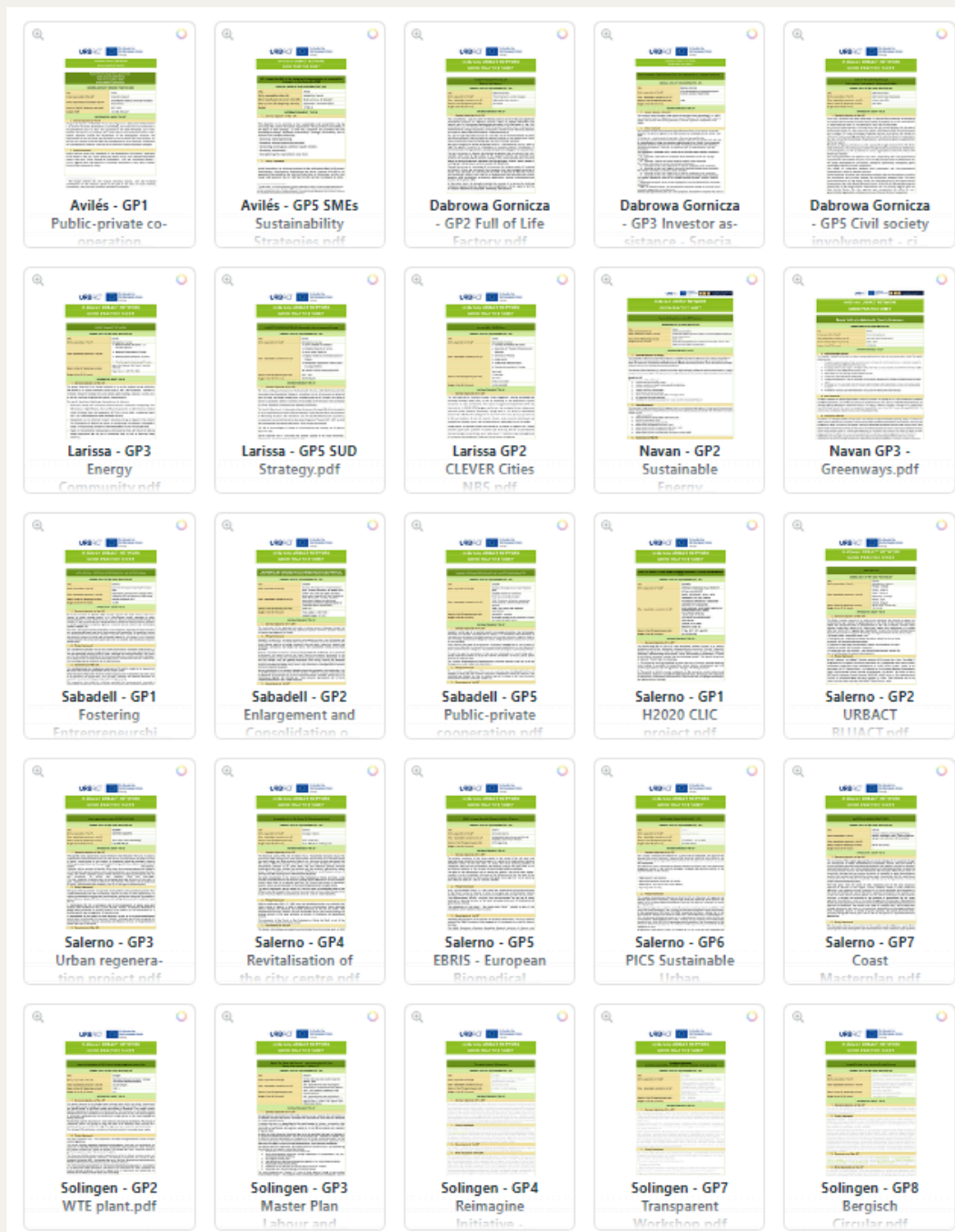


# ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

## EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

### GOOD PRACTICES REPOSITORY:

Up to 33 Good Practices Sheets have been already produced by partners and stored in the repository. Available for consultation.





# ONLINE E&L ACTIVITIES

## EXCHANGE & LEARNING BEYOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

### BESPOKE SUPPORT MEETINGS

Individual follow up meetings between partners and Lead Expert. 4 meetings were organised during the third quarter of 2024, continuing the second round of meetings with partners.

#### Participants feedback:

- “The Lead Expert has put a lot of work into the bespoke meetings with us and helped us with our ideas (particularly around for testing actions)”.
- “The meetings have been very useful since we tackled specific difficulties and challenges from each partner”.
- “The Bespoke Support has been very useful, especially for testing activities”.
- “We are interested in having more of these meetings as the process of IAP development becomes intensive”.
- “Meetings are helpful for the constant exchange on the current status and questions about the methodology”.
- “They provide an exchange of ideas and allow us to evaluate the current status of our local project”.
- “I find the Bespoke Support Meetings with the Lead Expert to be extremely valuable. These individual sessions provide tailored guidance that addresses our specific challenges and needs, making the advice highly relevant and actionable”.
- “They help to focus attention and get useful advice”.
- “Meetings allow us to summarize previous activities and outline the path for further activities as part of the implementation of the assumptions of the network”.
- “The Bespoke Support Meetings are an excellent opportunity to tackle the challenges we face in our In4Green journey at local level, with the support and guidance of our Lead Expert”.

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