



Quarterly Network Report #4 October - December 2024

By Lead Expert, Stine Skot

COPE

– Coherent, place-based, citizen
centered climate action



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Interreg

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This report is made using all the material and input the Lead partner team and the network partners from the 8 COPE municipalities have provided and not least from the materials produced by our ad hoc experts Dr. Eleni Feleki and Marion Cugnet.

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1. COPE in short

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 will work to develop and adjust municipal policies, strategies and structures to become coherent and integrated. 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.

A busy last quarter of 2024

In COPE the last quarter of 2024 have been packed with activities both on network level and not least on local level. On local level all partners are focusing on the writing of Integrated Action Plans and the process with the Urbact Local Group (ULG). This work on local level have a very contextual appearance and this report will not dive into this work at this point. But see the [Quarterly Network Report #2](#) for a deeper local insight. In this network report you can get a quick read focusing on our network experiences.

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

In part 2 you will read about our 4th core network meeting, hosted by our Pombal partner in the beginning of October.

You can also read about us changing gear in the **IAP writing process** going from collecting knowledge and learnings on both network level and local level to moving onto synthesizing and developing these learnings into planning and the writing the Integrated Action Plans. And in the middle of working with the IAPs on different levels we are also finalizing a process of **midterm reviewing our network**.


In part 3 you can read about the webinar we had on circular economy, where the COPE partners were exploring specific knowledge and tools to include in their planning and writing of IAPs.

In part 4 we celebrate our 3 partners who got selected to being URBACT Good Practice cities!

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

2. Core Network Meeting #4

In our fourth Core Network Meeting on the 7th and 8th of October we learned and experienced a lot. Here is a brief summary and further down you get more information about the site visit in Pombal and about the different methods we used during the meeting.

During this Core Network Meeting we had a lot on the agenda. We wanted to prioritize specific network activities such as changing gear in the IAP process, understanding and writing. We also wanted to go on a mission in Pombal exploring their historic city center and their small scale action. But we also needed to prioritize the midterm review process decided on programme level. This resulted in a packed agenda, which was only possible due to the very nice hosting of our Pombal partner and the COPE partners positive atmosphere and « yes-hats ». 

On the first day of the meeting we had 2 workshops. The first workshop was a deep dive into the process of writing IAPs with expert Marion Cugnet, The second workshop was part of the midterm review process.

The first workshop: IAP Workshop by expert Marion Cugnet

The IAP workshop was conducted by Marion Cugnet, who is an expert in several URBACT processes and issues and very trained in the writing of Integrated Actions Plans.

The workshop was a starting point for the gearshift in the COPE network.

Up til now we have spend a lot of time to be curious on our local issues. The partners have worked locally with their ULG and their governance structure figuring out how they can engage with citizens in specific neighbourhoods defining their local problems and collecting ideas on how to prioritize and solve the defined problems. This is something we all have to practise and work on and is an ongoing matter.

The COPE partners generally have been writing section 1 and starting section 2 up to this point. And several have had issues nailing their specific objectives. Therefor this workshop was planned to focus on the setting of objectives.

In figure 1 you see the process we started with Marion Cugnet.

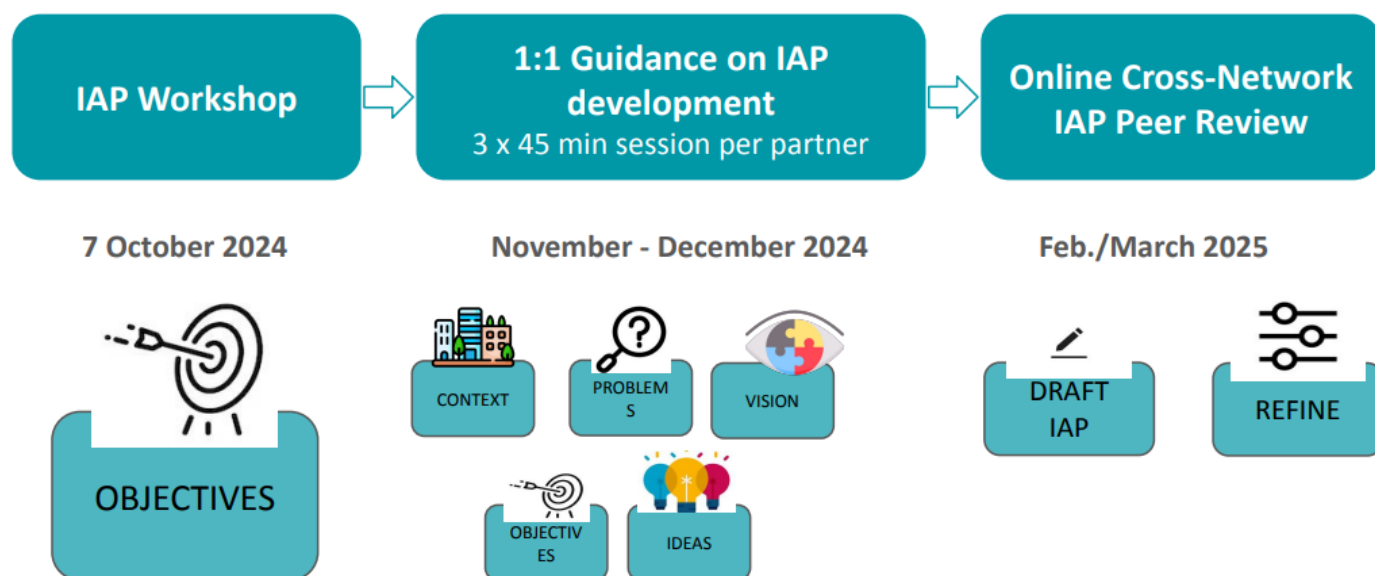
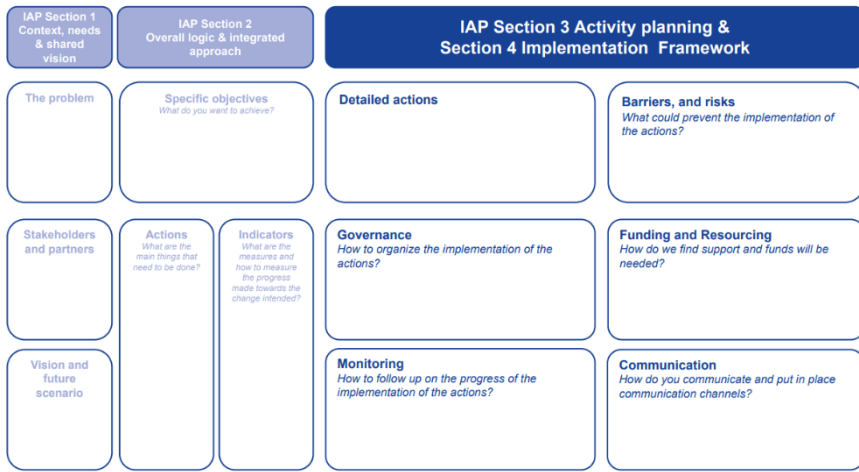


Figure 1: From Marion Cugnets presentation



In the workshop the partners recaped what an Integrated Action Plan (IAP) is and how it is structured and they worked with an IAP Canvas to help themselves be more clear on their structure and content and more specifically section 1 on context, needs & shared vision and 2 on overall logic and integrated approach for now.

Figure 2: IAP Canvas from Marion Cugnets presentation

The intervention logic was also in focus in the workshop and the partners were reminded about the chain of elements to remember when planning to make a change from the current situation to the wanted future situation.

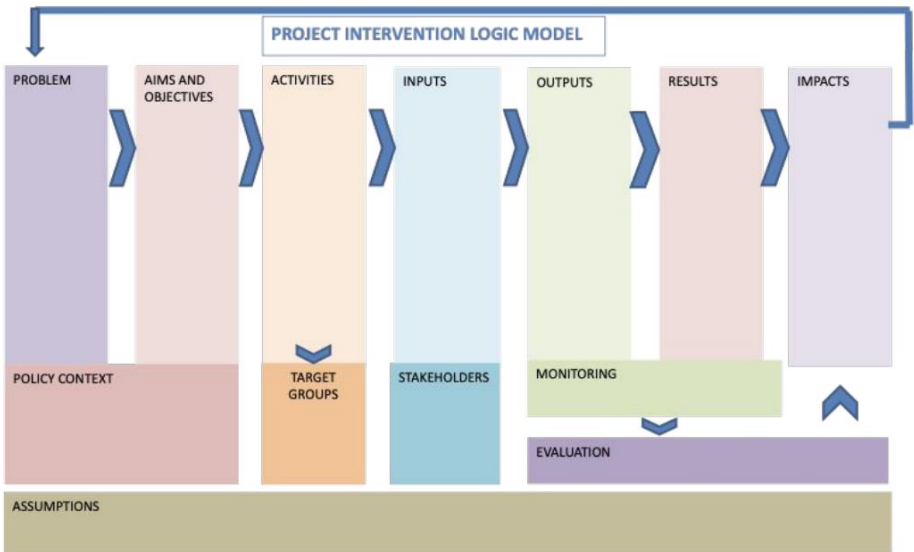


Figure 3: Project Intervention Logic Model from Marion Cugnets presentation



And then of course we were working with defining specific objectives using the **SMART approach**.

Figure 4: SMART approach from Marion Cugnets presentation

The IAP workshop ended with a mini peer review exercise where our partners from Copenhagen and Vilnius had prepared a 5 minutes presentation each on their IAP content for section 1 and section 2 so far subject for the review following this proces:

-) For each peer review session > 1 city is the 'review city' and the other cities are 'peer cities'
-) 30 minutes per mini peer review
-) Appoint a note taker and a timekeeper
-) 5 minutes for review city to share their IAP (Vilnius and Copenhagen today)
-) 20 minutes for the peer cities to comment and (constructively) critique

) 5 minutes for note taker to summarise comments

And the principles for everyone to follow when doing the review are important to follow for making a safe space where we can share doubts and give and take criticism in a good and constructive manner:

- ❖ Open and Friendly - fair & constructive feedback
- ❖ Collaborative
- ❖ Trust and Respect
- ❖ No wrong answers
- ❖ Active participation

In the review the partners, who were reviewing were taking on these different roles in order to avoid blind spots and forgetting different perspectives :

ROLES



Managing Authority of Regional Funds

Decision-making and funding responsibilities at regional level. This person will look at the plan from a (multi-level) governance perspective and strategic policy perspective



Local NGO supporting climate neutral actions

This person will look at the plan from a civil society perspective with a strong focus on citizen engagement and inclusion elements



Business

This person will look at the plan from an economic and entrepreneurial perspective



Primary school

This person will look at the plan from an educational / awareness raising perspective



Journalist

This person will ask clarifying and critical questions, and seek to understand what the project will bring to the citizens of the city

[IAP Process from here](#)

In November and December all COPE partners are having one on one meetings with Marion Cugnet giving them the opportunity to get custommade consultancy discussing their specific questions.

In the next Core Network Meeting on the 28th and 29th of January we will do an internal peer review focusing on section 1 and 2 ensuring a solid foundation. These reviews will make it clear what each partner need to go home and adjust before moving on to section 3.

In the first half of February all partners will again have the opportunity to have a one on one meeting with Marion Cugnet and lead expert Stine Skot. In these meetings all partners will be supported in their progress of section 3 leading up to a cross network peer review with the Let's Go Circular network end of March.

Midterm Review Workshop (MTR)

In the second half of the first day we did a midterm review workshop with the purpose of discussing the state of our Action Planning Network.

A month before the meeting all partners had filled out a survey with questions asking their opinion about their progress on the IAP and the ULG. We also asked whether the received support was relevant and helpful and whether other kinds of support, help or activities are needed.

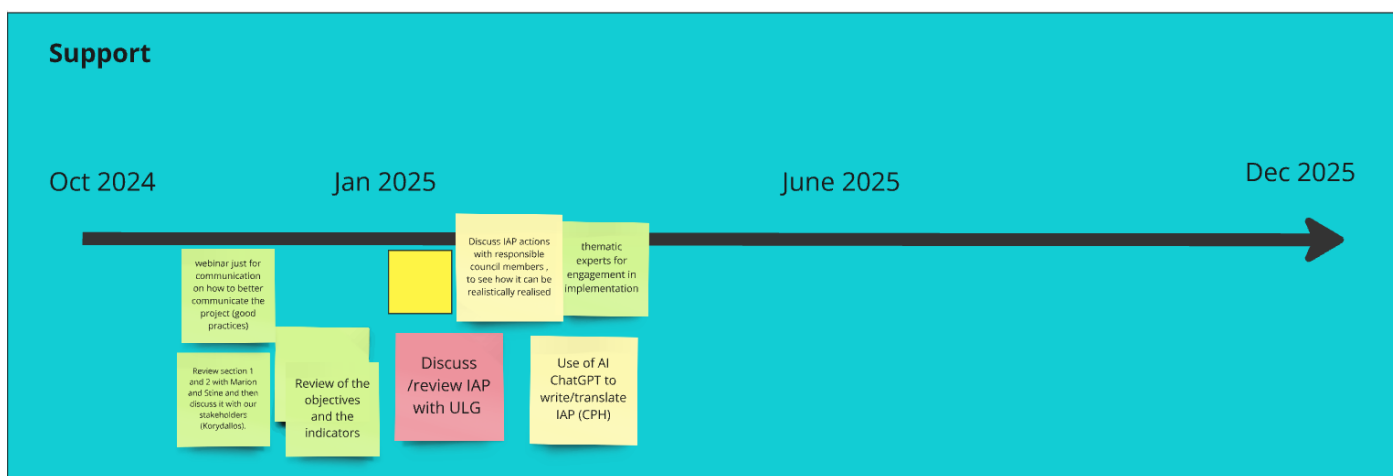
The overall impression is that the partners are satisfied with their progress, with our network activities and with the support from lead expert and lead partner.



In the workshop, we did some floor exercises to get out of our chairs. We used ourselves to make scales on the floor using our bodies indicating how much the partners agreed to specific statements. Partners in each end of the scales and some in the middle were then asked to elaborate on their reasons for why they placed themselves where they did.

This resulted in some good and honest discussions.

After making different floor exercises and discussions we had brainstorms in our digital main room in MIRO, where the partners could suggest new activities needed or make comments on how to prioritize activities.



[MTR Process from here](#)

After the survey and the midterm review workshop in Pombal, we followed up with a row of one on one meetings. Here all partners have had the opportunity to both discuss their individual needs and opinions on both the network roadmap and on their budget with the lead partner and the lead expert.

On 25th of November lead expert Stine Skot delivered the Midterm Review Report to the URBACT secretariat. Since the report is a tool for the URBACT secretariat to learn more about the APN processes and the potential difficulties the participating cities can meet both locally and on network level, the hope is to get as honest a feedback as possible and in order to support this hope the report is not public.

In the coming Core Network Meeting in January 2025 in Saint-Quentin we will finalize this midttern review process by agreeing on an adjusted roadmap and budget

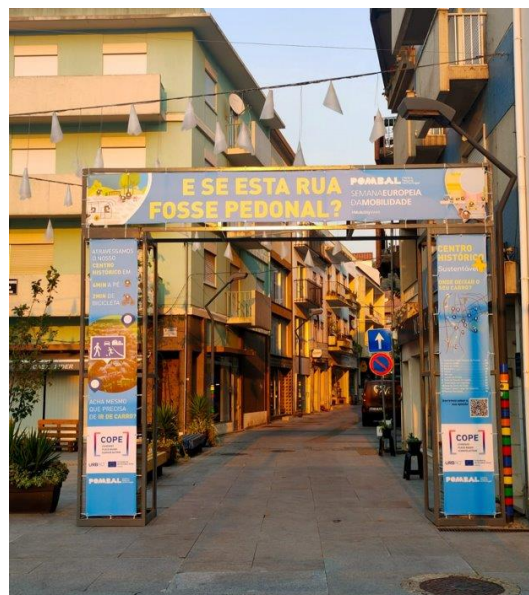
And now back to the story about the Core Network Meeting in Pombal. The Midterm Review Workshop ended the official agenda on the first day.

The unofficial agenda ended with a fantastic dinner and music treatment feeling the portuguese vibe with local artists playing guitar and singing portuguese folk music starring our Pombal partners son as vocal lead. *Fado* got a new meaning for everyone in the room

On the second day we focused on our host partner Pombal. We heard presentation from their local experts from the ECO school and got an introduction to their just and green activities with the kids.



Claudia, the Pombal ULG coordinator introduced the historic city centre, which is the place based neighbourhood in focus in Pombal. As well as the Pombal small scale action as described in [Quarterly Network Report #3](#) which was an action testing what would happen if they closed down the historic city center for cars and introducing other changes in the living environment such as places to rest, cancelling parking spaces and replacing them with flowers. After the presentation all the partners would see it themselves on a site-visit.



When visiting the historic city center and the small scale action the partners were sent on a mission in teams of 2 cities together.

The mission challenge was to interview the local ULG members and the Pombal municipality team and to see the elements from the small scale action with the perspective of the SMART approach in mind.

The mission question was « How was Pombal SMART? Think about the SMART objectives. Be curious, be critical, look for details, talk with the local citizens, stakeholders and the pombal team ».

Defining your objectives

Initial goal	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Timebound
Keeping your vision in mind, write down your goal(s) without thinking too much	What do you want to accomplish? When do you want to do this? Who needs to be included? Why is this a goal?	How can you measure progress and know if you have successfully met your goal?	Do you have the skills required to achieve the goal? If not, can you obtain them? What is the motivation for this goal? Is the amount of effort required on par with what the goal will achieve?	Why am I setting this goal now? Is it aligned with the overall objective?	What is the deadline and is it realistic?
Smart Specific Objective:					

With the SMART canvas in their hands the partners went on their mission.

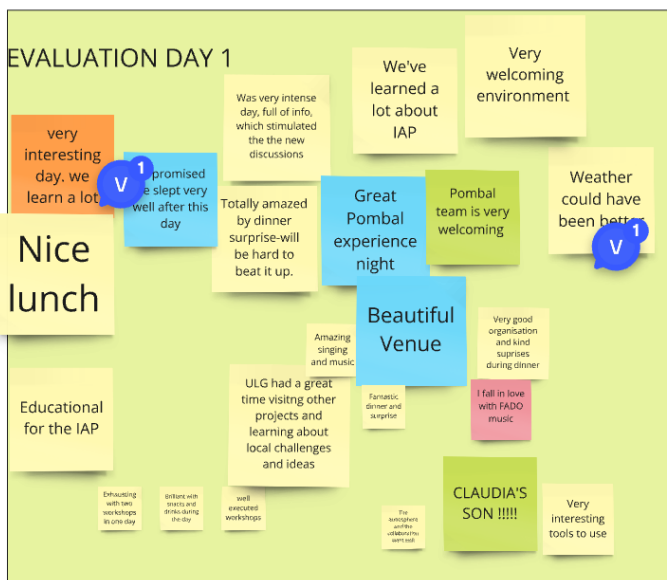
Specific
Measurable
Achievable
Relevant
Timebound

When we came back the partners were in groups with a member of the Pombal team in each group being facilitators. The facilitator would give everyone 1 minute to speak their most important points according to the pombal small scale action using the SMART perspective. There would be 5 rounds of 10 minutes. One round were the partners gave feedback on what they saw on being « Specific », one round with « Measurable » and so on.

This exercise was the last activity in our meeting.

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#4 evaluation:



3. Webinar on Circular Economy

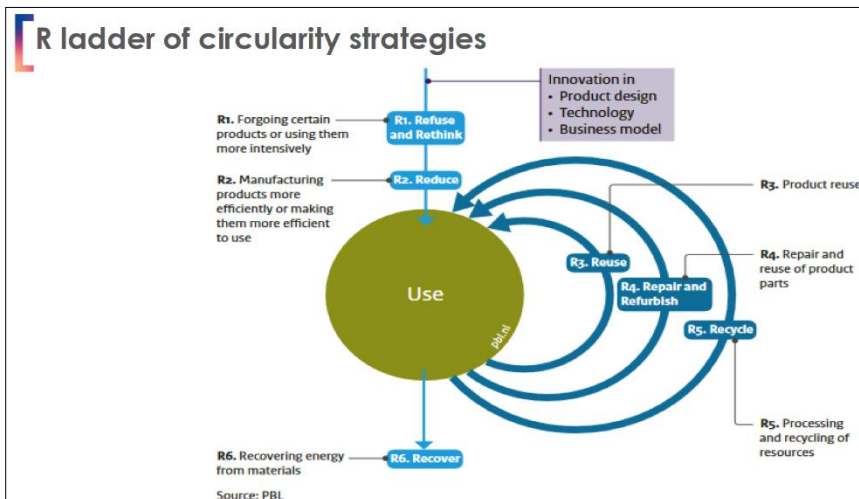
On the 29th of November Dr. Eleni Feleki took the COPE partners through an online workshop on Circular economy. The subject was suggested at the beginning of the COPE network when we drafted our roadmap. At a later stage through one on one meetings between the partners and the lead expert we elaborated on what specific focus the partners wanted the workshop to have. We collected the input in our MIRO board.

DEADLINE END MAY

CIRCULAR ECONOMY - WHAT FOCUS DO WE WANT IN OUR WEBINAR?

RECYCLE - REUSE - REPAIR - SHARE	CIRCULARITY, BIODIVERSITY IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS & PUBLIC SPACES	NBS - NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS	DOUGHNUT ECONOMY	URBAN DYNAMICS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> repair shops' workshop opportunity for vacant commercial spaces right to repair - new EU regulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of recycled products on construction zero impact on construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> small-scale NBS for dense neighbourhoods how to respect the natural cycle of the water in the cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> excess offsh water consumption health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable mobility everyone's responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how to reduce consumption support home appliances repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> biodiversity Basic concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how to promote biodiversity reuse of rainwater for watering, fire pumps) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact that the growth of the urban limits in a small city may have on the population how to increase the roof network, so that the population can find comfortability on the home-work school route
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> impact of the individual action on a global warming 100% reused plastic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how to build in a sustainable way without increasing costs how to use less water, materials and energy on construction 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community gardens
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> what to do to the residual waters and construction waste how to solve the problem of the construction waste that ends on illegal dumps garbage don't want to pay to collect 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how to avoid biodiversity destruction during construction 			

During the webinar Dr. Eleni Feleki poured a lot of knowledge on the partners and one of the main tool from her presentation is the R ladder:



**Refuse
Rethink
Reduce
Reuse
Repair
Refurbish
Recycle
Recover**

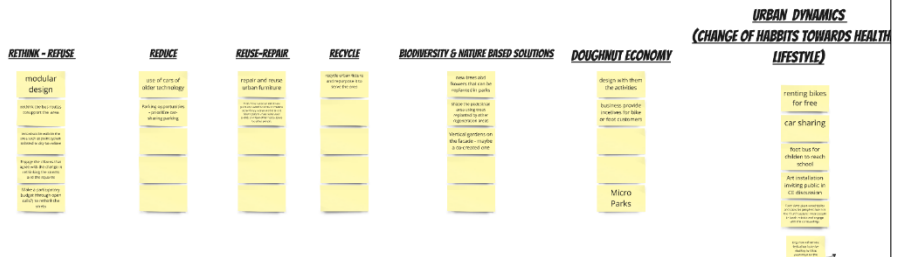
NOVEMBER 29TH 2024

CIRCULAR ECONOMY - LET'S CO-DESIGN AN INTEGRATED ACTION

EXAMPLE OF ACTION: WHAT IF THIS STREET WAS PEDONAL?

AIM: FIGHT ILLEGAL PARKING AND DECREASE THE NUMBER OF CARS THAT CROSS THE HISTORIC CENTRE

WHERE DOES CE FIT? AKA WHAT CAN WE TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN DESIGNING THE ACTION TO MAXIMISE CE IMPACT?



Thank you for an inspiring workshop!



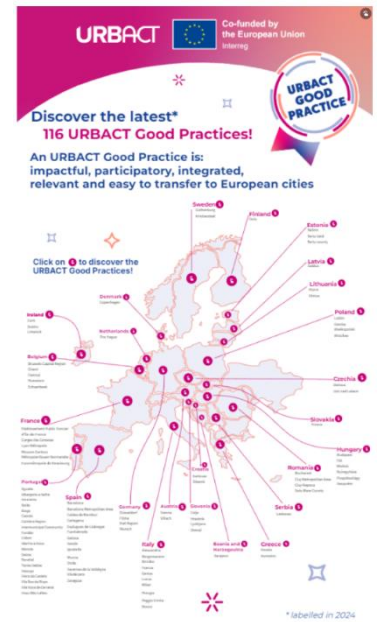
4. THREE (!) Best practise cities

We are proud to say that three of our eight COPE cities have been selected to be an URBACT Good Practice city.

Copenhagen, Climate Task Force: Transversal governance model empowering citizens for local green transition.

Kavala, Centralised Procurement: Driving economic diversity and environmental sustainability.

Vilnius, Climate Neutrak Communities: Network of communities prioritising climate neutral activities.



CONGRATULATIONS!

5. Coming Up

COPE

CNM#5 in Saint-Quentin 28th and 29th of January 2025.

Webinar on funding tailored the partners needs by Ad Hoc Expert Marion Cugnet, around February/March 2025.

Process of IAP development and peer review with help from Ad Hoc Expert Marion Cugnet.

Cross network peer review with the Let's Go Circular network March/April 2025.

CNM#6 in Vilnius in 19th and 20th of May.

CNM#7 in Bistrița in September 2025.

CNM#8 in Copenhagen in November 2025.

URBACT

April-June 2025 application for Transfer Network opens (based on Good Practice, among other things)

8-10 April 2025: City Festival – open to actors also outside the networks (put it in the calendar).

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).

