

Fostering Urban-Rural Linkages in Circular Economy: Lessons from "Resourceful Cities" Project



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To reflect on the roles of cities and rural areas in the development of C.E.



To share examples of "leading by doing" from the Resourceful Cities project



To provide inspirations for how you can influence and shape your community



INTENTION

The URBACT Programme



- The main European territorial cooperation (ETC) programme dedicated to cities
- Co-financed by ERDF and Member/Partner States
- **Main objective:** To promote integrated sustainable urban development in Europe
- **Target:** EU city administrations (city staff – policy makers, decision makers, practitioners, etc.)



The URBACT Method

Integrated + Participative + Transnational Exchange + Expertise = 'hands on' Sustainable Urban Development

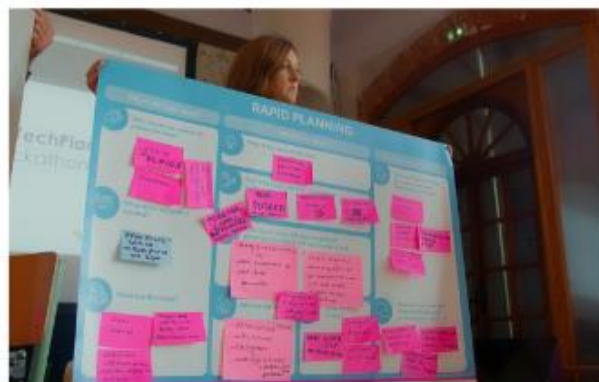
- **Integrated approach** - > tackling different policy areas and governance levels at the same time
- **Participative approach** - > involving all relevant local stakeholders
- **Transnational exchange** - > learning from peers
- **Expertise** - > customised support provided to all networks

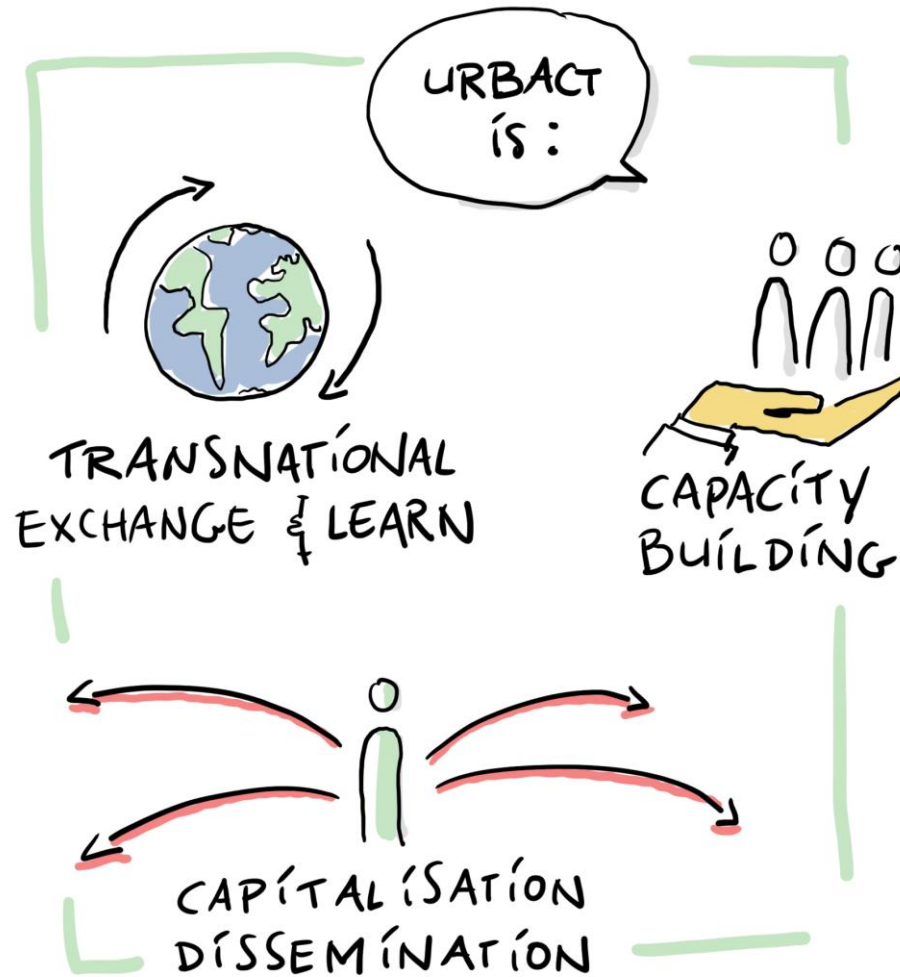


URBACT Network

5 to 12 cities during 2,5 years common topic / expertise support

- **Action Planning Networks** - co-produce an Integrated Action Plan-IAP
- **Implementation Networks** - overcome challenges of the implementation of IAP
- **Transfer Networks** - adapt and transfer an URBACT Good Practice





Resourceful Cities



- Resourceful Cities was an URBACT Action Planning Network of ten European cities, active from 2019 to 2022.
- **GOAL:** to develop the next generation of urban resource centers, so they can serve as catalysts of the local circular economy by adopting a participative and integrated approach.
- **Partnership:** The Hague (NL), Vila Nova de Famalicao (PT), Ciudad Real (SP), Caceres (ES), Mechelen (BE), Oslo (NO), Zagreb (HR), Patras (EL), Opole (PL), and Bucharest's 3rd District (RO).



What is an Urban Resource Centre?

- **Urban Resource Centres** are **physical centres** that promote the circular economy at local level.
- These centres can be designated as **multifunctional places** where the waste hierarchy is correctly implemented, emphasizing the **social, economic and environmental functions of the circular economy**.
- Urban Resource Centres brings together a **wide community of stakeholders**, promoting circular consumption, waste prevention, re-use and circular resource management in cities today.




 [Oslo's mini recycling station "Lindeberglokalet"](#)



 [Urban Resource Centers explained!](#)



 [Opole's "Reusability space": RE-Start Centre and recycling activities](#)

Why not a (regional) rural resource center?

- A resource center does not have a standard design. **Each RC should cater to the specific needs of the community it serves.**
- Despite the fact that a resource center may require resources, both financial and human, that are beyond the means of a single rural community, a regional partnership among such communities may provide the means to establish an RC.
- Given the decline and aging of the rural population, an RC could assist in engaging seniors in the circular economy.

 [Opole explains: How to engage seniors in the circular economy?](#)



A rural resource center's potential functions

- Point of information on new technology and innovation with a focus on circular innovations
- Farm machinery repair shops & reuse shops
- Point of contact for market participants
- Access to market information and microfinance opportunities for farmers
- A forum for the exchange of information among various rural stakeholders
- A social hub for the local community



A Resource Center on wheels...

In order to reach secluded rural areas or disadvantaged communities, a mobile resource center could be an option.

Examples:

The "[ECOTIC Caravan](#)" - a mobile display of WEEE, which includes batteries, lightbulbs, and electrical waste. Additionally, it functions as an engaging educational tool on the value of separate WEEE collection.

Oslo's mobile recycling station



Building Circular Habits in The Community

The Schoolyard Composting Corner – 3rd Districts Pilot Project

- The 3rd District carried out a small scale action (SSA) as part of the Resourceful Cities project to examine community participation in an urban composting initiative.
- Named "The Schoolyard Composting Corner" the SSA was tested in 3 schools
- Target group: teachers and 60 primary school & highschool students (age 7 to 18)
- 3 composting sites & 3 thematic workshops



Building Circular Habits in The Community

The Schoolyard Composting Corner – 3rd Districts Pilot Project

Three thematic workshops were held in each school under the direction of an urban composting expert:

- **W1.** Reduce - Reuse – Recycle
- **W2.** Compost, a universe full of life
- **W3.** Compost, essential gestures & actions

GOALS:

- Increasing awareness of the natural events and processes taking place around us.
- Explaining the concepts of reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Understanding the connection between healthy food and healthy soil.
- Learning how compost is made: tools & gestures.



Building Circular Habits in The Community

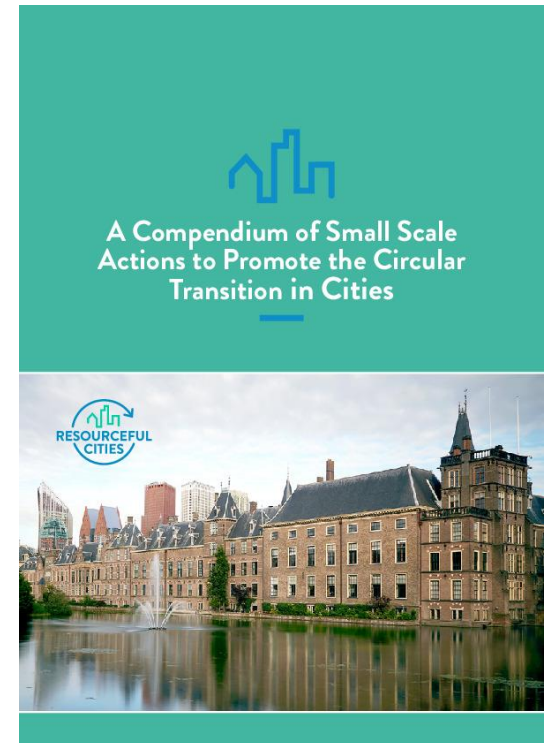
The Schoolyard Composting Corner – 3rd Districts Pilot Project

Findings:

- Students' initial enthusiasm and readiness to participate (much more from young students). The excitement fades quickly. To keep the momentum moving in the right direction, fresh and frequent actions are needed.
- On-site composting might be challenging. Finding a responsible adult who will supervise the composting procedure in schools is essential. It might be preferable to collect compostable waste from schools and compost it offsite.
- A favorable response from citizens and NGOs.
- Farmers expressed interest in working together with the municipality should the project be scaled up.

Useful to know & use

- **URBACT Good Practices** – a database of URBACT-labelled Good Practices
<https://urbact.eu/good-practices>
- **URBACT Knowledge Hub** - the place where initiatives sparked by URBACT cities – and other partnerships – have room to grow and evolve
urbact.eu/knowledge-hub
- **The Resourceful Cities Compendium of Small Scale Actions**
circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/sites/default/files/ssa_compendium_f1.pdf



Let's work together for a sustainable future!

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