Green Living Areas Mission

Thematic Working Groups focusing on policy: Preparing the 1ˢᵗ Institutional Dialogue

Minutes

From 11/06 to 13/06/2024

June 2024

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Introduction

In the framework of the Green Living Areas (GLA), dedicated meetings of the Five Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) were organised, online, to address policy issues.

So far, five TWGs have been activated, in line with the topics of the first Thematic Projects of the Mission, subject to changes. These are as follows:

- Green Mobility
- Green Energy Systems
- Green & Climate Change Resilient Spatial Planning
- Finance for Green Transition
- Green Community Engagement

The objective of the first policy-oriented meeting was to discuss the needs of the Thematic Projects' Partners, and potential interesting policy instruments, to prepare for the **First Institutional Dialogue of the Green Living Areas, on 10 October, in Brussels.**

All meetings followed a common structure. Each began with an introduction outlining the purpose of the meeting: to bring together the Thematic Projects' Partners interested in their respective projects or their organisation's missions. The aim was to turn project results into policy instruments, to exchange ideas for replicating or adapting existing policies or creating new ones. In addition, participants received feedback from the initial exchange between the Governance and Thematic projects held in April 2024 in Turin, during the Green Living Areas Thematic Community Kick-off event. The meetings also included a presentation of the policy survey results, designed and analysed by IREC, and preliminary insights from a policy mapping analysis conducted by IREC with contributions from all D4LA partners. Finally, the meetings aimed to collectively identify policy instruments for discussion within this institutional dialogue process. The meetings lasted approximately one and a half hours, featuring a one-hour interactive discussion. This discussion was freely coordinated by TWG leaders, who based it on each group's progress. The goal was to lay a solid foundation for the First Institutional Dialogue. This document reports the minutes of Online Thematic Working Group sessions, focusing on policy, which took place from 11 to 13 June 2024.

Green Mobility Thematic Working Group

This group was animated by Claudia Ribeiro (POLIS) - D4LA and Marina Kouta (University of Patras) - D4LA, with the participation of C4LA partners.

Overview of Participants:

Thematic Community Projects on Green Mobility	13 – All projects represented, except from GREENMO
Other Thematic Community Partners	5
GLA Mission Partners	10
Total Participants	28

From the Thematic Community Projects on Green Mobility

1. **MEDCOLOURS:**
   o Lorenzo Cello, Institute for Transport and Logistics - ITL Foundation
   o Riccardo Maratini, Open ENLoCC
   o Elisa Bianchi, Open ENLoCC
   o Bernardo Pereira, Lisboa E-Nova - Agência de Energia e Ambiente de Lisboa
2. **E-MED**
   o Despina Tsavdari, CERTH
   o Miquel Estrada Romeu, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
3. **ARTMED**
   o Maja PIŠKUR, Municipaliyt of Postojna
   o Camila Garcia, Transportes Metropolitanos de Lisboa
   o Evi Kousidou, CERTH
4. **RuralMED:**
   o Adriyan Hristov, Szreda
   o Francisco Márquez, AGENEX - Energy Agency of Extremadura
   o Rachel Tully, AGENEX - Energy Agency of Extremadura
5. **GARDEN**
   o Hugo Juillard, FAB'LIM

Other Thematic Community Projects

1. **CO2PACMAN:**
   o Tina Maričić, Split Dalmatia County

        o   Katarina Šuta, Split Dalmatia County
        o   Martin Bućan, Split Dalmatia County
  2. **ProLIGHTmed**
        o   Mili Jercic, City of Kastela
  3. **RENEWPORT**
        o   Pablo Palomo, Fundación Valenciaport

Main outputs from the round of Introductions: *participants were asked to introduce their projects, their roles, and the main policy challenges they are addressing.*

Lorenzo Cello (MEDCOLOURS)

- **Project:** Urban logistics with a focus on sustainable urban logistic plans.

- **Objective:** Support six cities in developing and testing sustainable logistic plans.

- **Activities:** Pilot actions such as consolidation centres and access control systems.

- **Roles:** ITL focuses on dialogue with projects, while Open ENLoCC (European Network of Regional Logistics Competence Centers) is responsible for institutional dialogue and all *policy-related matters.*

Miquel Estrada (E-MED)

- **Project:** Decarbonisation of public transport, specifically electric buses in medium to large cities.

- **Objective:** Develop toolkits for planning, operations, and procurement.

- **Key Areas:**

    o   Planning tools to modify transit networks for electric vehicles.

    o   Operational data analytics for service improvements.

    o   Procurement strategies for electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, including sustainability practices like water reuse and battery repurposing. **Policies in line with such challenges are a priority for the project.**

Maja Piškur (ARTMED)

- **Project:** Automated mobility in rural areas.

- **Objective:** Develop an impact assessment tool, test it, and create a guide for implementing new mobility solutions.
- **Focus:** Connecting rural areas to city centres and transportation networks, aiming for sustainable first and last-mile transport solutions.

Rachel Tully (RURALMED)

- **Project:** Sustainable mobility in underdeveloped and underpopulated areas.
- **Objective:** Implement pilots tailored to regional needs, focusing on electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, and shared transport models.
- **Activities:** Address different transport models for vulnerable populations and develop management tools for monitoring improvements.
- **Collaboration:** Noted synergy with the E-MED project on infrastructure issues.

Hugo Juillard (Garden Project)

- **Project:** Decarbonising food logistics transport in Mediterranean cities.
- **Objective:** Use biofuel and electricity to decarbonise transport, focusing on economic and organisational changes.
- **Focus:** Transform economic models of transporters and facilitate collaboration among producers for urban deliveries.

From Interactive Discussion:

The goal was to identify high-priority policy issues to be discussed in the upcoming First Institutional Dialogue in Brussels (10 October. The conversation focused on discussing several challenges and potential policy solutions related to sustainable urban mobility and logistics, focusing on the Mediterranean context.

Here are the key points:

1. **Challenges in Implementing Autonomous Mobility**:
   - **Slovenia**: Maja Piškur highlighted that Slovenia's legislation currently only allows the testing of autonomous vehicles, with no comprehensive laws for full implementation. There are also challenges in developing on-demand transport services due to outdated or non-existent legal frameworks.

2. **Legislative Gaps**:

   o **General**: Participants highlighted the need for clear legislative frameworks to support new mobility technologies and services. Marina Kouta suggested that countries lacking specific policies could draft new policy instruments tailored to their unique needs.

3. **Coordination and Planning Issues**:

   o **City Logistics**: Riccardo Maratini emphasised the complexity of urban logistics, requiring comprehensive planning and coordination among various stakeholders and geographic areas, extending beyond city centres to functional urban areas.

   o **Holistic Approaches**: Sustainable Urban Logistics Plans (SULPs) were mentioned as key references for integrating logistics into urban planning.

4. **Infrastructure for Electric Mobility**:

   o **Rural Areas**: Francisco Márquez discussed the lack of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles in rural Mediterranean areas. He noted that some countries like Portugal have national strategies for developing such infrastructure, which could be replicated elsewhere.

5. **Public Procurement and Green Criteria**:

   o **Small and Medium Cities**: Miquel Estrada highlighted the need for standardised green procurement criteria to ensure that smaller cities can adopt new green technologies effectively. This includes setting clear performance standards and evaluation criteria for procurement processes.

6. **Policy Development and Prioritization**:

   o **Energy and Low Carbon Solutions**: Participants discussed the necessity of developing policies to access low-carbon energy infrastructure and to clarify recommended energy alternatives. Hugo Juillard mentioned their focus on integrating low-carbon technologies in urban food logistics, specifically through a pilot in Montpellier.

7. **Capacity Building and Training**:

   o **Public Sector**: Riccardo Maratini mentioned the importance of capacity-building workshops for public stakeholders to develop the

necessary skills and knowledge for implementing sustainable urban logistics plans. This includes exchanging ideas and learning from various networks and experiences.

The animators presented an example of a highly replicable policy instrument identified from D4LA's initial policy mapping exercise, in line with the policy challenges identified during the Thematic Community event in Turin (Fig. 1).

Figure 1 WG1: Example of policy instrument with high replicability potential for Logistics.

Input Gathered from MiroBoard:

Policy challenges: Consider the policy challenges identified during the meeting in Torino. Would you like to expand on them? Would any of these be a priority for the 1st Institutional Dialogue?

Figure 2 WG1 - Expand on the policy challenges identified during the meeting in Turin.

Policy challenges: In addition to the challenges identified in Torino & via the survey, are there other challenges that you would like to identify?
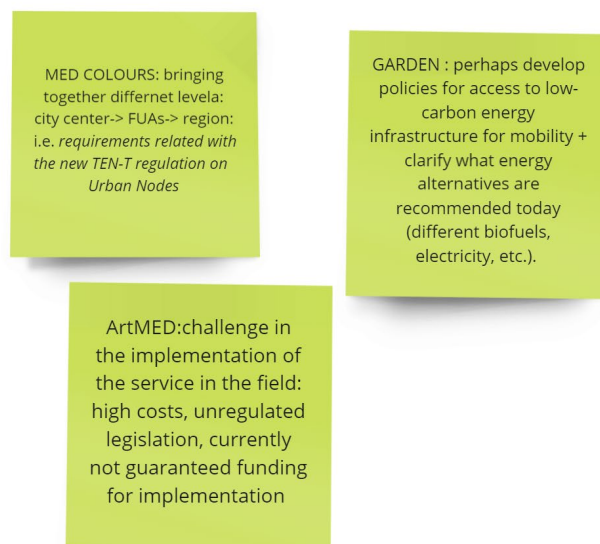
Figure 3 WG1 - Additional policy challenges identified by the participants.

Replicable Policies: Are the examples presented in line with what you expect from GLA's contribution to your work? If yes, how so? If not, what can we do differently?

MED COLOURS: already developed SULPs (e.g. Bologna)

ArtMED:As AMoD technologies and services continue to evolve, these policies will need to adapt and expand, reflecting the dynamic nature of urban mobility, we see a lot of help and support in the GLA
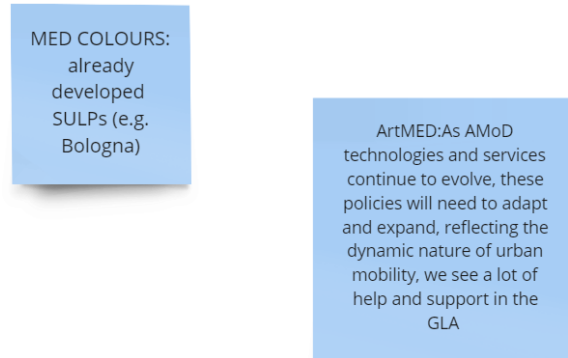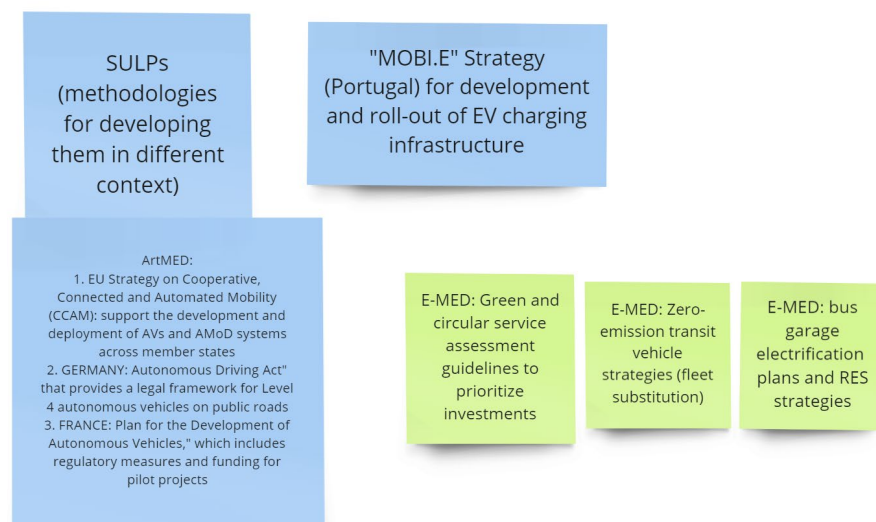
Figure 4 WG1 - Policy instruments presented are consistent with the needs of the participants and additional considerations.

Replicable Policies: Can you think of specific policies with a replicability potential that you would like to apply to your context?

SULPs (methodologies for developing them in different context)

"MOBI.E" Strategy (Portugal) for development and roll-out of EV charging infrastructure

ArtMED:
1. EU Strategy on Cooperative, Connected and Automated Mobility (CCAM): support the development and deployment of AVs and AMoD systems across member states
2. GERMANY: Autonomous Driving Act" that provides a legal framework for Level 4 autonomous vehicles on public roads
3. FRANCE: Plan for the Development of Autonomous Vehicles," which includes regulatory measures and funding for pilot projects

E-MED: Green and circular service assessment guidelines to prioritize investments

E-MED: Zero-emission transit vehicle strategies (fleet substitution)

E-MED: bus garage electrification plans and RES strategies

Figure 5 WG1 - Additional policies with a replicability potential.

Some conclusions/takeaways to prepare First Institutional Dialogue:

- o **There was no cross-cutting policy issue identified by this TWG's projects,** as projects deal with specific topics within urban mobility: e.g. urban logistics, electrification of public transport, autonomous demand responsive transport, deployment of charging infrastructure, mobility hubs.
- o While it can be said that these are interconnected: e.g. availability of charging infrastructure is important both from the perspective of individual users and

Logistics Service Providers, the challenges identified are still not cross-cutting;

o TWGs provided input on **specific policy instruments that** they would like to focus on (see the last image of MiroBoard above). D4LA will analyse these with the ranking system we have applied to the policy-mapping. The example of a high-ranked policy presented was welcomed by the MEDCOLOURS project, as a good topic for the Institutional Dialogue. Potential Policy Instruments for The 1ˢᵗ Institutional Dialogue**: The Sustainable Urban Logistics Plan of Bologna, as well as the MOBI.E (Portugal's strategy for roll-out of EV charging infrastructure), French Plan for the Development of Autonomous Vehicles. (see Fig. 5).**

o The First Institutional Dialogue in Brussels on 10 October 2024 will thus zoom in on the mobility of goods by highlighting the experience of Bologna's Sustainable Urban Logistics Plan, with a complementary vision on financing and community engagement.

Green Energy Systems Working Group

This group was animated by Diana Zanabria (IREC) - D4LA and Rui Mendes (Lisboa E-Nova) - D4LA, with the participation of C4LA partners.

Overview of Participants:

Thematic Community Projects on Green Energy Systems	19, All projects represented
Other Thematic Community Partners	8
GLA Mission Partners	11
Total Participants	38

From the Thematic Community Projects on Green Energy Systems

1. **GARDEN**
   - o Alina Al-Garby, FAB'LIM
   - o Hugo Juillard, FAB'LIM
2. **ENERCMED**
   - o Emanuela Pallavidino, University of Genoa
   - o Johan Augusto Bocanegra Cifuentes, University of Genoa
3. **LOGREENER**
   - o Aida Svraka, Department for Development and International Projects of Zenica-Doboj Canton
   - o Fatima Pasic, Department for Development and International Projects of Zenica-Doboj Canton
   - o Muhamed Serdarevic, Department for Development and International Projects of Zenica-Doboj Canton
   - o Paula Lairón, Valencian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces
   - o Yolanda Nicolau, Valencian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces
4. **RECinMED**
   - o Francesco Suzzi
5. **ProLIGHTmed**
   - o Mili Jercic, City of Kastela
6. **RENEWPORT**
   - o Alberto Cozzi, Port Network Authority of the Eastern Adriatic Sea
   - o Greta Fachin, Port Network Authority of the Eastern Adriatic Sea

- o Ilija Milic, Luka Koper - Port and logistic system, Public limited company
- o Stefano Bevilacqua, Port Network Authority of the Eastern Adriatic Sea

Other Thematic Community Projects

7. **E-MED**
    - o Dorotea Rebernik, Municipality of Maribor
8. **ARTMED**
    - o Bjorn Bonello, Regjun Tramuntana - Local Government Northern Region of Malta
    - o Evi Kousidou, CERTH
9. **Nudges**
    - o Carla Mata, MUSOL
    - o Inna Ovcharuk, MUSOL
10. **CO2PACMAN:**
    - o Tina Maričić, Split Dalmatia County
    - o Katarina Šuta, Split Dalmatia County
    - o Martin Bućan, Split Dalmatia County
11. **RuralMED:**
    - o Marina Zheleva, Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency

Main outputs from the round of Introductions: *participants were asked to introduce their projects, their roles, and a key word related to their projects.*

Alberto Cozzi (RENEWPORT)

- **Project:** Renewable energy for MED ports.

- **Objective:** Supporting the clean energy transition and renewable energy sources (RES) in MED ports.

Yolanda Nicolau / Fatima Pasic (LOGREENER)

- **Project:** Composing Local Green Energy Transition.

- **Objective:** Improve the capacities of local authorities to design and implement local green energy transition plans

- Optimized toolbox to support planning and implementation of local energy plans

- **Activities:** Capitalizing results on 3 Interreg MED projects, implement local energy plans, capitalization of tools, development of policy recommendations

Andrea Vignoli (URWAN)

- **Project:** Urban Regenerative Water Avant-garde.

- **Objective:** Support the increase of green urban areas using the potential of NBS, avoiding stressing the use of water for irrigation purpose, investigating the use of non-conventional water resources.

Andrea Vignoli (Streets for citizens)

- **Project:** Tactical urbanism approach for sustainable mobility and more liveable cities.

- **Objective:** Redesign cities to improve, to vision in the pilots, increase slow mobility, increase and give back space to citizens, improve safe space and reduce use of urban spaces dedicated to private cars.

Bjorn Bonello (ArtMED)

- **Project:** Planning for autonomous mobility on demand in the Euro-MED area.

Francesco Suzzi (RECinMED)

- **Project:** Inclusive Renewable Energy Communities.

- **Objective:** Support decision of diffusion of inclusive RECs.

- **Activities:** 3 pilot actions to test solutions and new methodologies to support REC in 3 different geographical contexts (urban areas, rural areas, island areas).

Mili Jerčić (PRoLightMED)

- **Project:** Solutions in greener optimization of public lightning in EURO-MED area.

- **Objective:** Implementing LED solutions for public lightning.

- **Activities:** Evaluate investment, produce needed documentation and implement infrastructural work.

Carla Mata (NUDGES)

- **Project:** Support tools to Mediterranean Governments Exploiting Behavioural Incentives.

- **Objective:** Identify and implement non-financial incentives to promote behaviour change among citizens towards climate-friendly actions.

From Interactive Discussion:

The goal was to identify high-priority policy issues to be discussed in the upcoming First Institutional Dialogue in Brussels (10 October). The conversation focused on discussing several challenges related to energy, focusing on the Mediterranean context.

Here are the key points:

1. **Policy Harmonisation and Simplification:** There is a need for harmonizing energy policies across the Mediterranean to address inconsistencies and complexities in legal frameworks, which impede effective implementation.

   The complexity of legal frameworks and the variations in national implementations of European directives were identified as major barriers to effective policy implementation. **Francesco Suzzi (RECinMED)** discussed the specific challenges of managing green energy processes under these conditions and the different interpretations that are made, which slow the process of energy transition. **Andrea Vignoli (URWAN)** highlighted the difficulty due to different directives and legislation affecting renewable energy communities, emphasizing the need for a unified approach to simplify these complexities.

2. **Investment in Infrastructure:** The need for substantial investment in grid infrastructure to support the integration and scalability of green energy systems was emphasized. **Francesco Suzzi (RECinMED)** pointed out the necessity for such investments to accommodate the growing demand for renewable energy.

3. **Engagement of Specific Target Groups:** It was highlighted the importance and challenges of engaging specific communities, particularly those affected by energy poverty, in green energy initiatives. **Francesco Suzzi (RECinMED)** discussed the importance of engaging specific target groups, especially those experiencing energy poverty, in infrastructural investments like solar power. **Andrea Vignoli (URWAN)** highlighted the importance of engaging in a bottom-up approach, which also have connections with the Working Group 4 – Green Community Engagement.
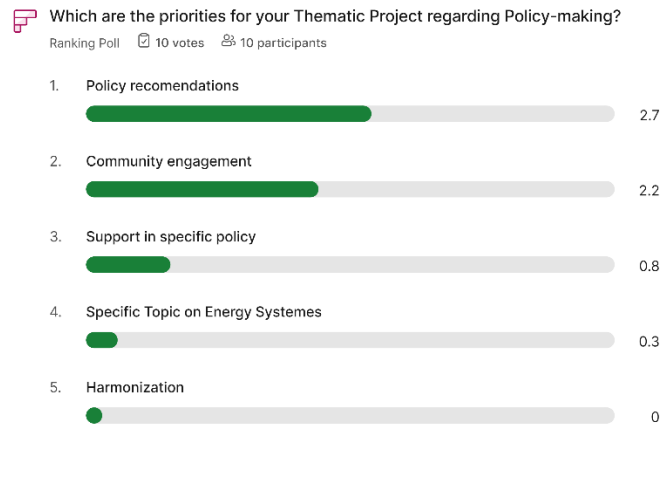
4. **Development of Tools and Methodologies for Policy Implementation:** There is a need to create adaptable tools and methodologies that can be implemented within diverse national frameworks to support renewable energy communities. **Marco Affronte**: mentioned the necessity for tools and methodologies that adapt to different national frameworks, reflecting the diversity of policy implementation across the EU and achieving a common interpretation.

5. **Policy Recommendations and Planning:** Most of the Thematic Projects focus on creating policy recommendations at various levels to support local energy transition planning. **Yolanda Nicolau (LOGREENER)** mentioned the necessity of drafting policy recommendations at both international and national levels to enhance local energy transition planning. As well as the need of articulating these efforts in the Working Group.

Input gathered from SLIDO

Figure 6 WG2 – Policy concerns related to Green Energy Systems

Figure 7 WG2 – Priorities related to Policymaking in the Thematic Projects

Some conclusions/takeaways to prepare First Institutional Dialogue:

- There is no crosscutting common topic or priority as the Thematic Projects are focused on different and very specific areas under Energy.
- The main key areas related to policy-making under this WG are: 1) harmonizing energy policies across the Mediterranean to address inconsistencies and legal complexities; 2) engaging specific communities and stakeholders related to the specific subtopics addressed by the Thematic Projects ; 3) the necessity of creating adaptable tools and methodologies that can be implemented within diverse national frameworks to support renewable energy communities; and 4) the focus of thematic projects on creating policy recommendations at various levels to enhance local energy transition planning.

Green & Climate Change Resilient Spatial Planning Working Group

This group was animated by Miljenko Sedlar (REGEA), Mihaela Babić (REGEA) - D4LA and Marina Kouta C4LA (University of Patras) - D4LA, with the participation of C4LA partners.

Overview of Participants:

Thematic Community Projects on Green Mobility	9 – URWAN, CO2PACMAN, ReMED, BauNOW
Other Thematic Community Partners	1
GLA Mission Partners	10
Total Participants	22

From the Thematic Community Projects on Green Mobility

1. **URWAN:**
   - Konstantia Nikopoulou, MEDCITIES
   - Coco González Pi, MEDCITIES
   - Wafa Hawamdeh, Jerash Municipality
2. **REMED**
   - Marzia Casazza, Municipality of Genoa
   - Cristina Giusso, Municipality of Genoa
3. **CO2PACMAN**
   - Katarina Šuta, Split-Dalmatia County
   - Tina Maričić, Split-Dalmatia County
   - Martin Bućan, Split-Dalmatia County
4. **BauNOW**
   - Blaz Barboric, Geodetic Institute of Slovenia

Other Thematic Community Projects

5. **EnerCmed**
   - Hameedullah Zaheb, University of Genoa

Main outputs from the round of Introductions: *participants were asked to introduce their projects, their roles, and the main policy challenges they are addressing.*

Martin Bućan (CO2PACMAN)

- **Project:** Increased knowledge of citizens on climate neutrality and engagement

- **Objective:** Aimed to rebuild and involve more citizen and NGOs in project's actions, recreate the current setup to include more local engagement, and strengthen the influence of cities and municipalities on the island.

- **Activities:** Pilot actions on specific islands from Greece (Crete) and Italy (Elba).

- **Key Challenges:**

  - He mentioned the example of Brac's population jumping from 15,000 in winter to 150,000 in summer, thus putting significant pressure on infrastructure, traffic and waste management systems.

  - Managing the increased demand for health and medical services during the summer.

Konstantia Nikopoulou (URWAN)

- **Project:** Water resilience and green area planning

- **Objective:** The project aims to enhance water resilience in green areas using nature-based solutions (NBS) and it operates in six municipalities with two distinct approaches:

  - Technical Solutions Implementation: Testing technical solutions for water resilience in three municipalities.

  - Integrated Decision Support Tool: Testing an integrated decisional support tool for green area planning in three other municipalities.

The project engages stakeholders in a participatory process to support the planning and implementation and involves training sessions and living labs to develop and refine recommendations.

- **Key Challenges:**

  - Policy Level: Governance issues that impede large-scale implementation of NBS.

  - Municipal Level: Specific obstacles faced by local authorities in executing green infrastructure projects.

Cristina Giusso (REMED)

- **Project:** Climate resilient cities/climate adaptation measures for urban areas through policy instruments.

- **Objective:** The project aims to enhance urban resilience. The primary goal is to integrate climate change adaptation into urban planning, involving mapping and assessing risks and actively engaging local stakeholders.

- **Actions:**

  o Indicator Development to support urban planning.

  o Urban Planning Integration with the incorporation of new rules into urban planning to adapt to climate change, ensuring a more resilient city structure.

  o Platform Development that combines both technical and political aspects to implement climate change-related policies effectively.

From Interactive Discussion:

The goal was to identify high-priority policy issues to be discussed in the upcoming First Institutional Dialogue in Brussels (10 October 2024). The conversation focused on discussing several challenges and potential policy solutions related to urban areas transformation, climate change resilience and spatial planning, focusing on the Mediterranean context.

Here are the key points:

1. **Challenges in water resource management**

   o The conversation emphasised the importance of integrating water resource management and mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation into all processes.

2. **Legislative Gaps**:

   o **General**: The discussion underscored the critical role of local and regional governments in advancing resilience and climate adaptation. Holistic approaches are vital for breaking down traditional silos in spatial planning and green transition efforts, aligning with broader climate goals and fostering a cohesive and effective response to climate challenges across regions.

   o **Social aspect**: Community engagement is a major issue identified across working groups. Participants recognised that policies need to

be inclusive and involve community participation in planning and implementation processes. Ms. Kouta clarified that social aspects are critical for D4LA in identifying the highest priority policy instruments for policy dialogues. Overall, policies should encourage participatory planning processes to engage the community in the development and maintenance of green spaces.

o **Existing local laws are barriers to the greening of Med areas**: Certain local laws and regulations may restrict the development of green spaces and require adjustments.

3. **Nature-Based Solutions Projects**

   o Need to identify other projects targeting nature-based solutions, even if not as their main priority, but as part of a larger planning process.

4. **Coordination and Planning Issues**:

   o Develop recommendations to overcome these identified challenges in water management through the NBS and ensure that the recommendations apply not only to policy issues but also to technical and governance issues.

   o Adapting existing urban planning policies to address climate change.

   o Ensuring comprehensive stakeholder engagement to support policy changes.

   o Connection with external stakeholders and good policies to be replicated and transferred to project territories. Importance of addressing these issues beyond the scope of current projects

Input Gathered from Slido:
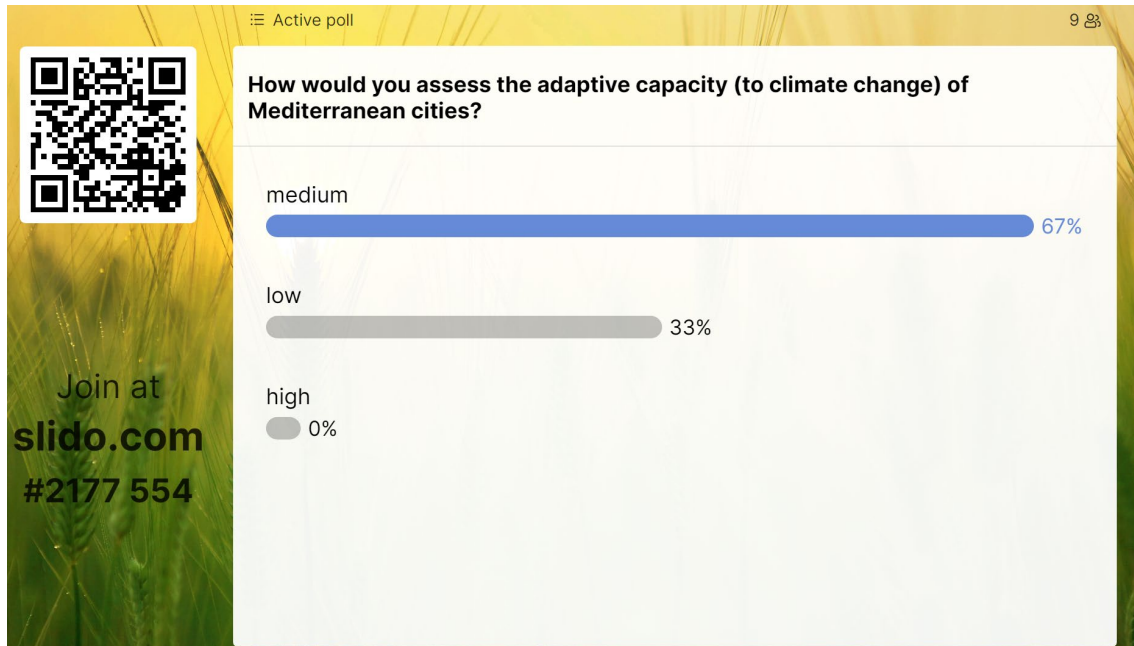
Figure 8 WG3 - Assessment of the adaptive capacity (to climate change) of Mediterranean cities.

Konstantia Nikopoulou emphasized that local and regional governments have the competence and powers to move towards resilience (Fig. 8), thus having the capacity to transform policy-making. She pointed out that the push towards resilience predominantly happens at the local and regional levels rather than the national level. She noted that these governments possess the technical capacities and political priorities needed for such initiatives. She also highlighted that municipalities are often at the forefront of addressing climate change impacts and should not be overlooked in their ability to implement climate adaptation solutions. Despite this, she acknowledged that in some cases, technical capacity may still be lacking.
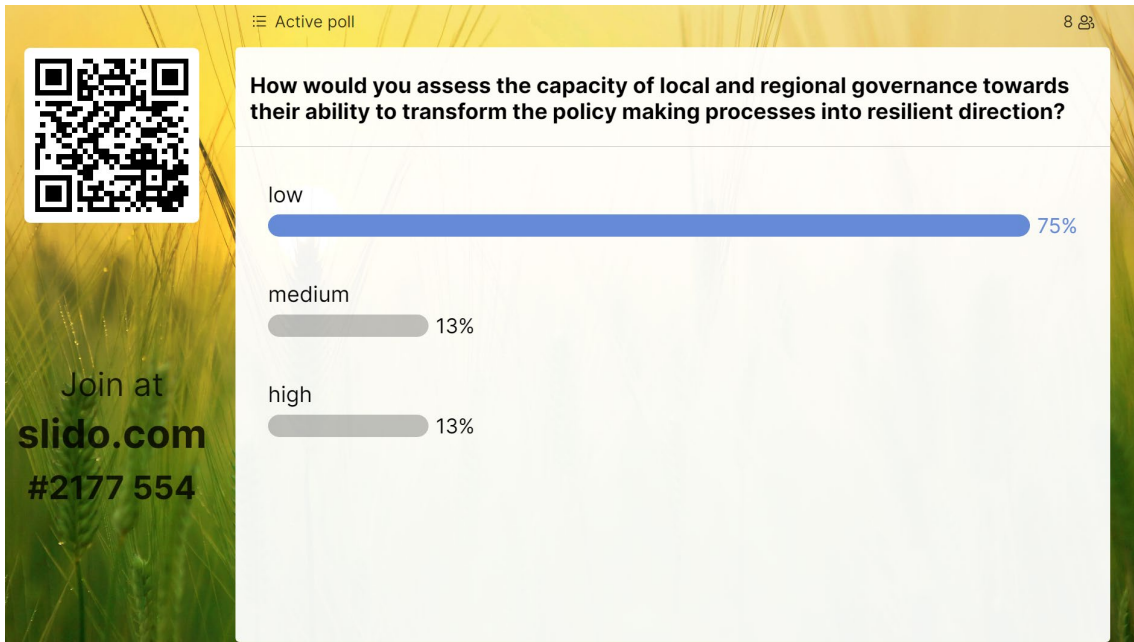
Figure 9 WG3 - Assessment of the capacity of local and regional governance towards their ability to transform the policy-making processes into resilient direction.
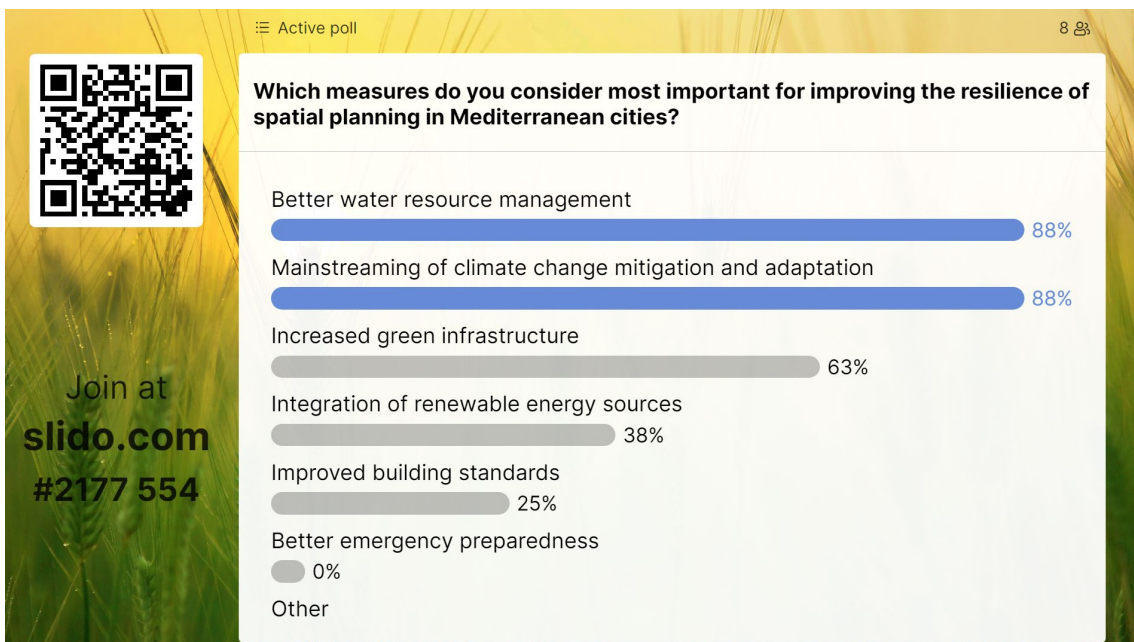
Figure 10 WG3 - Most important for improving the resilience of spatial planning in Mediterranean cities.

Mr. Sedlar presented an example of a highly replicable policy instrument identified from D4LA's initial policy mapping exercise, in line with the policy challenges identified during the Turin event (Figures 9-10).

- Barcelona's Superblocks:
  o Prioritise people and inclusion in space planning.
  o Focus on social aspects, community participation, sustainable mobility, and improving biodiversity.
- Sustainable Urban Planning in Croatia:
  o District-level urban plan with bans on fossil fuels and emphasis on renewable energy.
  o Mandatory green infrastructure, rainwater harvesting, waste management, and local food production.
  o Model for scaling sustainable planning to larger urban areas.
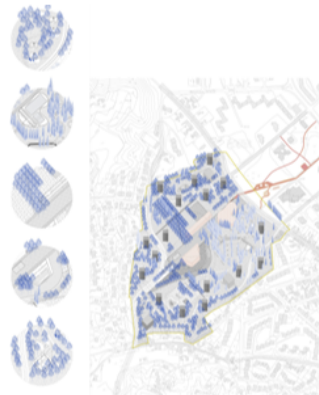
Figure 11 WG3 **-** Superblocks as an example of a replicable Policy Instrument.

Figure 12 WG3 - Luščić district urban development plan (Karlovac) as an example of a replicable Policy Instrument.

Some conclusions/takeaways to prepare First Institutional Dialogue:

o **Social aspect and community engagement** was the cross-cutting policy issue identified by this TWG's projects. → Possible we can take into account the recommendations from the WG5: Community Engagement.

Financing the Green Transition Working Group

This group was animated by Michela Fossa (IRE) - D4LA, Diana Zanabria (IREC) - D4LA and Hrvoje Maras (REGEA) - D4LA, with the participation of C4LA partners.

Overview of Participants:

Thematic Community Projects on Financing the Green Transition	4, 3 projects represented
Other Thematic Community Partners	3
GLA Mission Partners	11
Total Participants	18

From the Thematic Community Projects on Finance for Green Transition

1. **ARTMED:**
   a. Camila Garcia, Transportes Metropolitanos de Lisboa
2. **INFIRE:**
   a. Catherine Premat, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energie Environnement
3. **BAUNOW:**
   a. Blaz Barboric, Geodetic institute of Slovenia
   b. Andrea Borg Brincat, Geodetic institute of Slovenia

Other Thematic Community Projects

4. **CO2PACMAN:**
   a. Katarina Šuta, Split Dalmatia County
   b. Martin Bućan, Split Dalmatia County
5. **ENERCMED:**
   a. Hameedullah Zaheb, University of Genoa

Main outputs from the round of Introductions: *participants were asked to introduce their projects, their roles, and a key word related to their projects.*

Camila Darcia (ARTMED):

- **Project:** Automated mobility for public transportation in rural areas.

- **Objective:** Develop an impact assessment tool, test it, and create a guide for implementing new mobility solutions (strategies with investment plans).

- **Focus:** Connecting rural areas to city centres and transportation networks, aiming for sustainable first and last-mile transport solutions.

Catherine Premat (INFIRE)

- **Project:** Innovative green financing for climate adaptation and carbon neutrality (CACN) transition

- **Objective:** To develop socioeconomic tools for the assessment of CACN projects, improve financing policies and capacities on local and regional levels

- **Focus:** Local and regional policy documents for long-term planning of climate-neutrality, innovative financing models and instruments, testing of concrete CACN investment solutions in 7 countries

Blaz Barboric (BAUNOW)

- **Project:** Financing of green and just transition (GJT)

- **Objective:** To improve the capacities of public and private stakeholders for financing green just transition through new business models and financial/funding sources

- **Focus:** Web-based tool with easily transferable step-by-step methodology on how to design, finance and implement GJT on the local or regional level
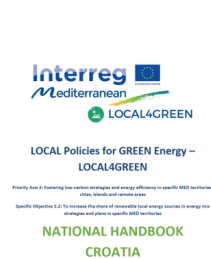
Martin Bucan (CO2 PACMAN)

- **Context:** Introduced himself and the projects on which they are working on in Dalmatia County, all of them including some green financing aspects.
- **Objective:** The aim is to explore and apply effective financing schemes to co-finance efforts that reduce the impact of climate change.

The animators presented a concrete example of a highly replicable policy instrument identified from D4LA's initial policy mapping exercise, in line with the policy challenges identified during the Turin event (Fig. 13). It consists of a fiscal policy from Croatia, also resulting from a Interreg Med programme from the previous programming period.

Figure 13 WG4 – Example of Policy Instrument "Reduction of Communal Contribution fee for supporting new energy-efficient buildings – Croatia"

From Interactive Discussion:

The goal was to identify high-priority policy issues to be discussed in the upcoming First Institutional Dialogue in Brussels (10 October). The conversation focused on discussing several challenges related to financing of the green transition, within the Mediterranean context.

Here are the key points:

1. **Policy Engagement with Subnational Focus**: The discussion highlighted a strong emphasis on the need for projects to operate within localized frameworks that cater specifically to regional and community-specific challenges. This approach not only ensures that policies are effectively tailored but also facilitates greater community involvement and stakeholder engagement. **Katarina Šuta (CO2PACMAN)**: emphasized the importance of localized initiatives: "Last year we established a **Coastal plan (Marine environment and coastal area management plan of Split Dalmatia County).** and we established the Coordination Council for that Partnership Council and the Advisory Council."

2. **Key Policy Instrument mentioned: Katarina Šuta (CO2PACMAN)**: Described the Coastal Plan and its coordination councils, highlighting the inclusion of numerous stakeholders and the focus on infrastructure. Also,

Martin Bućan (CO2PACMAN) mentioned joint development of SECAPs for smaller municipalities as a good practice policy example in which the regional government managed to coordinate such activity on regional level to produce aligned documents with more realistic financing models.

3. **Multi-Level Governance and Financial Coordination:** There is a need for cooperation between regional and local levels, especially in small countries. Effective financial strategies for the green transition require collaboration across various levels of governance, from local to regional and national. This ensures that financial resources and policy support are aligned and effectively utilized. **Martin Bućan (CO2PACMAN):** highlighted the role of regional governments in supplementing local efforts, particularly in smaller countries where local capabilities for policy planning and project development may be limited. Two projects have been highlighted as good practice examples for aggregation and bundling of small projects that were coordinated by the regional body for smaller rural municipalities were the EIB ELENA funded project NEWLIGHT (Croatia) and the IEE MLEI PDA PARIDE project (Italy) for modernisation of public lighting with innovative financing models (EnPC). Influencing national decision makers for support programmes towards regional level initiatives remains an issue.

4. **Barriers to Innovative Financing:** There was a significant focus on the need for innovative financial solutions to support the green transition due to huge financial gap between needs and availability of traditional grant funding. Despite the potential benefits of such models, participants noted substantial barriers, including scepticism from traditional banks, public authorities on all levels and the complexities of integrating new financial tools with established practices. Lack of capacities from project developers and awareness from decision markers was also pointed out with technical assistance as one of potential solutions to this issue (ELENA, PDA mechanism). **Martin Bućan (CO2PACMAN):** detailed the challenges in engaging financial institutions and establishing new financial instruments due to existence and over-reliance on traditional financing and funding sources (grants and loans). **Katarina Šuta (CO2PACMAN):** also pointed out practical approaches to integrating new financial strategies within existing frameworks and need for closer

cooperation with financing institutions and managing authorities for ESIF in this process.

5. **Citizen Engagement:** Successful involvement of citizens in renewable energy projects. **Catherine Premat (INFIRE)**: Shared an award-winning example of citizen investment and engagement in renewable energy projects. The INFIRE project will also test co-creation models with citizens for development of their climate adaptation and climate neutrality pilot investment projects in 7 countries.
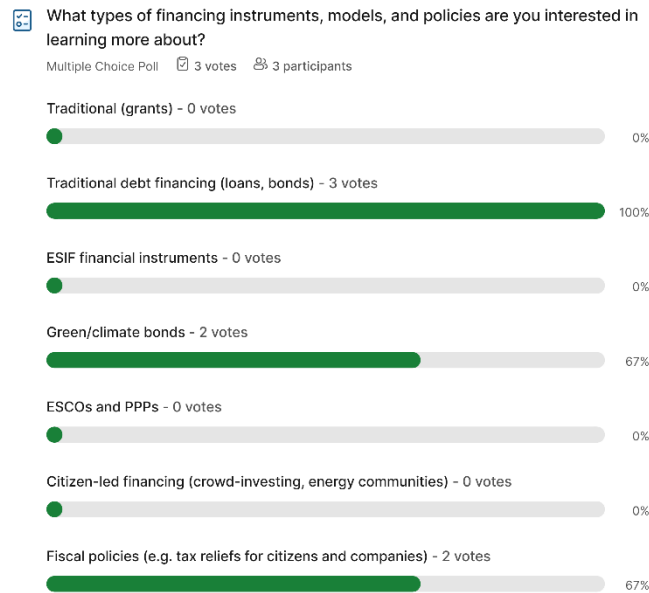
Input gathered from SLIDO
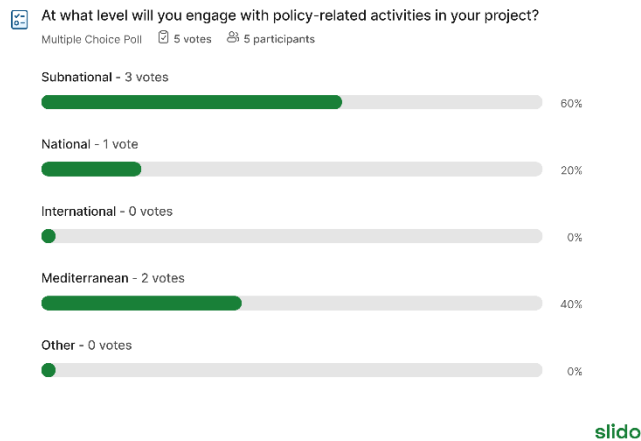
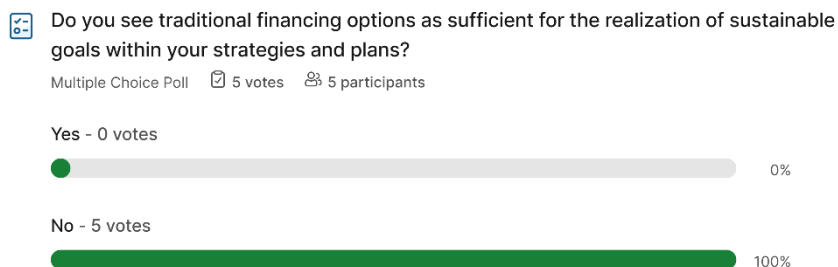**Figure 14** WG4 – Level of engagement in policy related activities
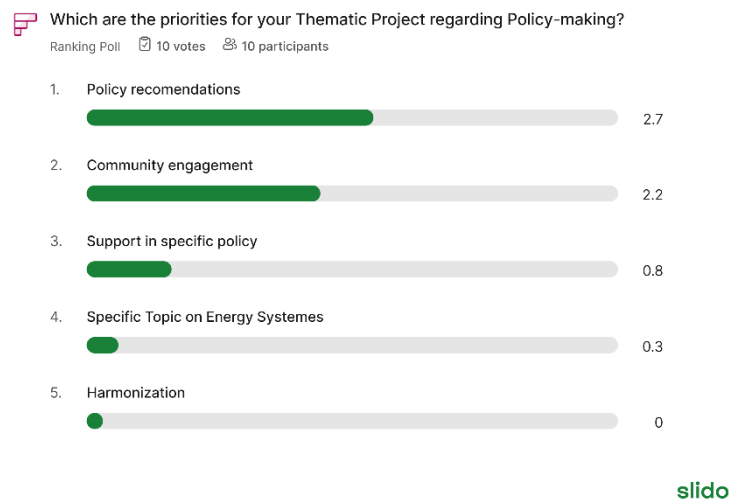
Figure 15 WG4 – Priorities for the Thematic projects in Financing Green Transitions issues

Figure 16 WG4 – Types of policy instruments more interested in the Thematic Projects under the Financing the Green Transition WG

Figure 17 WG4 – Traditional financing models for reaching sustainable goals

Some conclusions/takeaways to prepare First Institutional Dialogue:

- Some key policy instruments and planning documents that will be targeted for **improvement (Integrated Territorial Investments, SECAPs, SUMPs, air**

quality, spatial and urban development plans) developed under the INFIRE project could be focal points for discussion during the Institutional Dialogue.

- A key area of interest for future discussions within the Working Group and the upcoming Institutional Dialogue is the exploration of barriers to innovative financing models and the involvement of external stakeholders in the design and implementation processes.

Green Community Engagement Working Group

This group was animated by Eudokia Balamou (ANETEL) - D4LA and Rui Mendes (Lisboa E-Nova) - D4LA, with the participation of C4LA partners.

Overview of Participants:

Thematic Community Projects on Community Engagement	8 – All projects represented, except from BAUHAUS4MED
Other Thematic Community Partners	4
No project related	1
GLA Mission Partners	6
Total Participants	19

From the Thematic Community Projects on Community Engagement

NUDGES
- o Afrodite Tzortzi - Medical Physics and Digital Innovation Lab - AUTH-Greece
- o Gabriela Dujarric – MUSOL – Spain
- o Carla Mata – MUSOL – Spain
- o Kristina Topić – Development agency of the City of Prijedor - PREDA – Bosnia and Hersegovina

RECinMEd
- o Ivona Jadrić, Association for nature and environment conservation and sustainable development Argonauta, Crotia

Street for Citizens
- o Danilo CEH, BISTRA PTUJ, Slovenia

CO2PACKMAN
- o Simone Bastianoni, Univeristy of Sienna, Italy
- o Martin Bućan, Splitsko-dalmatinska županija Split Dalmatia County, Croatia

Other Thematic Community Projects

GARDEN
- o Hugo Juillard, FAB'LIM, France
- o Pauline Kieffert, FAB'LIM France

EnerCmed

o Johan Augusto Bocanegra Cifuentes, University of Genoa, Italy
o Hameedullah Zaheb, University of Genoa, Italy

No project related

o Hameedullah Zaheb, Eastern Regional Council, Malta

Main outputs from the round of Introductions: *participants were asked to introduce their projects, if they have stakeholder mapping activity or any policy mapping activity as well as any policies or policy related activities in the project at what level, topic and when these activities are implemented?*
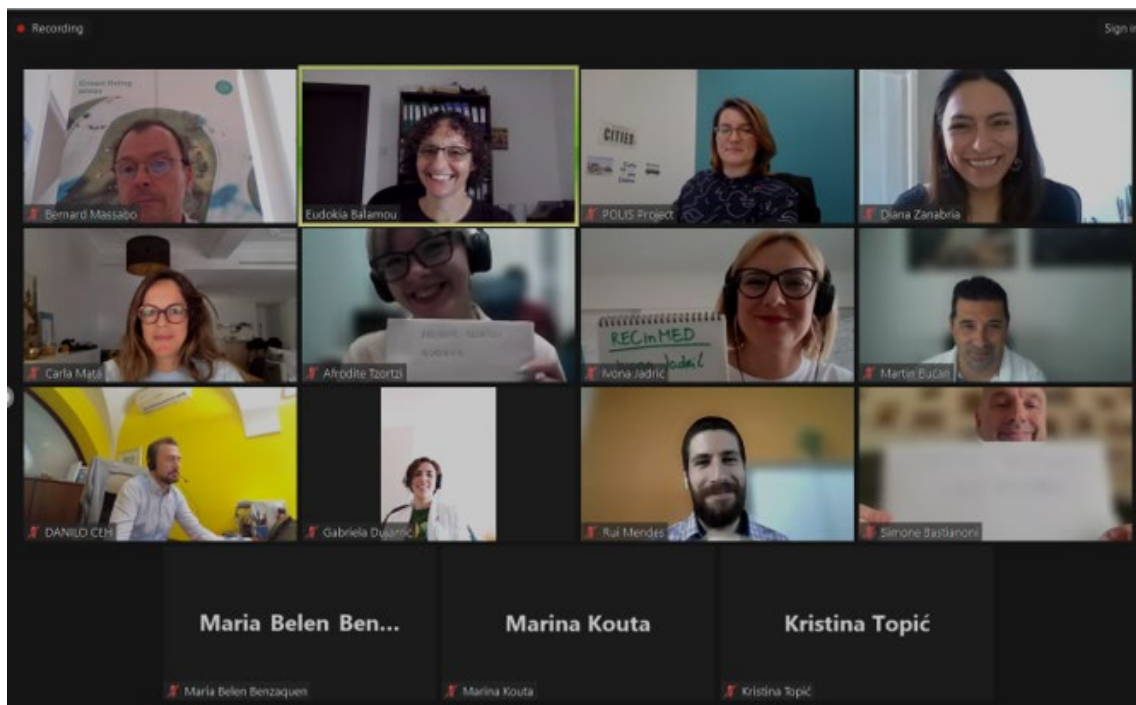
Carla Mata (NUDGES)

- **Project:** Support tools to governments to exploit behavioural change

- **Objective:** Promoting sustainable behaviour changes through non-economic incentives

- **Activities:** Six pilot actions focused on the five senses that will identify non economical incentives, policies that could be included in the local policy level to adapt to climate changes. Pilot actions with high citizens involvement.

Simone Bastianoni (CO2PACMAN)

- **Project:** Decarbonizing the Mediterranean islands

- **Objective:** to guide towards climate neutrality. The project addresses climate change challenges and promotes sustainable development.

- **Project Activities:**

  o Stakeholder mapping activity both local stakeholders and general stakeholders that can addressed in the Med area and beyond.

  o Policy related activities and sub-topics: develop a tool/ instrument in order to reach a consensus for policies on the decarbonization. This instrument to be developed is also including involvement of citizens/ schools together with policy makers to discuss about policies. Sub-topics: decarbonization of territories, citizen engagement and public authorities' engagement. These activities are starting from the beginning of the project, that is the tool development and then the testing of the tool to the island (pilot activity). In the last period of the project to upscale the issue of decarbonization to all islands and all the coastal areas of the MED area.

Danilo Ceh (Street for Citizens)

- **Project:** Tactical Urbanism as a new innovative solution for sustainable mobility in the cities to mitigate negative environmental impacts.

- **Objectives:** redesign the streets for citizens with their involvement.

- **Project Activities:**

  o Stakeholder mapping activity at the local level to integrate the urban-rural stakeholders' networks since it is important for the sustainable mobility concept since people transit between rural areas to the cities.

  o Policy related activities and sub-topics: policies will be addressed at the final stage of the project. Focusing on sustainable mobility policies to integrate tactical urbanism and place making in the concept of the planning of the mobility in the city. Tactical urbanism and place making is a new concept on how to redesign of streets with the involvement of citizens. Sub-topics: sustainable mobility, territorial planning, space planning, streets planning, and community insolvent as a holistic approach/ cross cutting issue.

- First year: activities for learning people about tactical urbanism and place making (a concept already know in bigger cities but not in small ones) based on an awareness raising strategy.

- Second year: involving citizens and demonstrate with the concept show and tell some tactical urbanism and place making actions which at the end of the project will be focus on local policies (sustainable mobility plans.

Ivona Jadric (RECinMED)

- **Project:** Inclusive Renewable Energy Communities.

- **Objective:** Support decision of diffusion of inclusive RECs.

- **Activities:** 3 pilot actions to test solutions and new methodologies to support REC in 3 different geographical contexts (urban areas, rural areas, island areas).

General remark: Most of the projects in this thematic group are focusing on local level, on the cities by engaging citizens with different tools, like nudging, tactical urbanism, gamification, tools for carbon footprint, civil society driven nodes/ crowdvocacy, toolkit for renewable energy communities. The main aim is to find ways how to upscale these tools to the policies.

From Interactive Discussion using Slido:

The goal was to identify high-priority policy issues to be discussed in the upcoming First Institutional Dialogue in Brussels (10 October). For 3 questions have been done.

1. If you had a magic wand, what's the one action you will do to improve community engagement in policymaking in the Mediterranean? Main challenge: Actively involving citizens to jointly address green solutions for adapting to climate changes.

- Collaboration
- Promote political engagement to community proposals
- Give them "value"
- Gamification activities
- Merging these topics with something fun
- E-governance initiatives

Question followed if these solutions proposed are in their project activities.

The Nudges project uses the fun to engage citizens and make the actions entertaining. Also, may have community engagement and policies design at the local level with the stakeholder's involvement but that results are not upscaled/ transferred to the top policies.

RECinMEd project have pilot actions with investments, so there is the need to engage with people to show them real outputs. So, showcasing pilot actions results as example for engaging more citizens.

2. What are the primary concerns/ challenges in Policymaking, within your project's area of influence and in regard to community engagement?

- Competences to different scales - municipal, regional, national
- Make sure to take into consideration minorities
- Keep key people in key positions
- Have to wait long to see the outcome of your engagement
- Fake news are too easy to communicate and spread

This question was also in the survey shared with the Thematic Projects and the results of this survey from the projects of this Working Group in regard to the policy concerns were the following:

- Policy approaches that co-create policy frameworks together with the community engagement tools
- Active motivation of the key policymakers
- Policies must support economic and organisational frameworks that ensure the long-term viability of solutions
- Fostering stakeholder engagement and multi-actor collaboration to recognize benefits of GLA policy making
- Public resilience to new approaches
- Reaching the proper policy makers/authorities
- Citizen's involvement and regulatory issues
- Integrating the projects results in several primary concerns in policymaking
- Provide policy maker with the necessary skills

An example of a highly replicable policy instrument identified from D4LA's initial policy mapping exercise was presented. It is the Strategic Territorial Plan of the Metropolitan City of Cagliari, a policy that was drafted by highly engaging the community in terms of participatory approach and the relevant stakeholders

(events, living labs, communication of the plan, forums) but also it was implemented with the community involvement.

3. Which are the policies your Thematic Project will work on during its implementation period? Do you know of a highly replicable policy tool that hasn't been declared yet, but could be useful for your work environment?

- Policy recommendations – an instrument that municipalities may use in order to introduce them in their policies, engage municipalities within this initiative, since municipalities normally don't promote non economically policies and additionally, the need for a tool to help municipalities introduce these recommendations on their policies.
- Territorial alliances for climate neutrality
- Policy brief – specially on sustainable behaviour and the choices that are made.

Nudges is preparing a policy brief to share the results of the project (from the pilots) and to promote sustainable behaviour through these sensory based actions and cultural interventions. There will be policy recommendations as an instrument that the municipalities can use to introduce the results of the project to the local policies. also, to engage municipalities with the nudging initiative since it is an innovative process that includes non-economical incentives and that could be upscaled to the local policies. Additionally, NUDGES is producing a manifesto and blueprints and an action research agenda for the upcoming years illustrating the different results of

the project on different priorities (climate mitigation, climate adaptation), and deepening the research and focus on the connections between cultural policies and practices and the diffusion of environmental concerns and virtuous practices among the population.

RECinMED will produce testing reports, toolkits and methodologies from the testing areas (rural areas, energy communities) and this can be used for policy making. It is valuable data and insights that the policy makers can use. Encourage bottom – up approach. In the second period of the project, they will start to seek for policies related to energy communities.

Some conclusions/takeaways to prepare First Institutional Dialogue:

- o Project are focusing on local level, most of the tools to be developed are for the cities.
- o Projects need guidance on how to upscale their project results to the local policies. Promote political engagement to community proposals.
- o Project outputs connected to policies are policy recommendations, policy briefs, and manifesto that are coming mostly at the end of the project.

Conclusion and next steps

The meetings of the Thematic Working Groups, focusing on policy, had the main objective of preparing the first Institutional Policy Dialogue, which will be held on 10 October 2024, at 14:00 CET, in Brussels, in the frame of the European Week of Regions and Cities.

To start the discussion, a few selected policy champions will be analysed, through the introduction of transversal elements: innovation, financing, and community engagement, in order to understand how these elements impact on the implementation of the policies, as catalysts or as barriers.

Time will then be dedicated to each policy, in parallel discussion groups, to evaluate the conditions for implementing, adapting and replicating these policies.

Stakeholders involved in policymaking related to Green Living Areas topics will be welcome to bring their added value to this first Institutional Policy Dialogue, in order to provide support to policymakers at a transnational level and benefit from exchanges of experiences and best practices with partners all around the Mediterranean basin.