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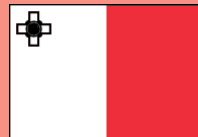
Good practices on the field
of promoting sustainable
practices at home

CERV Programme Network of Towns

EVENT 3

Dingli (Malta)

12 - 15 December 2024



Promoter:



Host:



Kunsill Lokali Dingli
(MALTA)



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CREATING NEW UTOPIAS

The village of Idanha-a-Nova stands as a testament to how local communities can embrace sustainability through innovative practices. Stiuated in the Centro region, this city has transformed its traditional agricultural economy into a model of ecological and economic resilience.

Central to this transformation is the Green Valley Food Lab, a rural-based business park spanning 800 hectares. This initiative has attracted over 55 companies specializing in organic farming, including Europe's largest continuous area of organic blueberry production. By fostering partnerships between academia and the business sector, the Food Lab promotes research and development in sustainable agriculture, aiming to produce organic food at competitive prices.

The municipality's commitment to sustainability extends beyond agriculture, Idanha-a-Nova hosts teh internationally renowned Boom Festival, which emphasizes environmental consciousness and cultural diversity. The festival's eco-friendly praactices, such as waste reduction and renewable energy use, align with the community's broader ecological goals. Moreover, the local government actively supports initiatives that integrate environmental and social regeneration. By investing in sustainable infrastructure and promoting community engagement. Idanha-a-Nova has become a living laboratory for innovative praactices that balance ecological health with economic deveoptment. Idanha- a Nova's holistic approach demonstrates that sustainability is not merely an environmental concern but a comprehensive strategy encompassing vitality and social well-being. Through collaborative efforts, the village has revitalized its local economy, attracted investment, and enhanced the quality of life for its residents.

This case exemplifies how Portuguese communities can lead in promoting sustainability. By leveraging local resources, fostering innovation, and engaging citizens, Idanha-a-Nova offers a replicable model for other regions aiming to achieve ecological balance and economic resilience.



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BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY IN ALIMOS



ΔΗΜΟΣ
ΑΛΙΜΟΥ

GREECE
Dimos Alimou

The Municipality of Alimos in Greece is a prime example of integrating sustainability with social responsibility. Through innovative practices and community involvement, Alimos has implemented successful initiatives that enhance environmental stewardship while addressing local social needs.

Community Engagement

Alimos fosters civic participation through activities such as olive harvesting and tree planting, which cultivate ownership and solidarity. Public consultations and collaboration with schools and associations ensure inclusive involvement in sustainability efforts.

Social Responsibility

Initiatives like distributing olive oil from community olive harvests to vulnerable citizens demonstrate a strong commitment to social equity. Incorporating citizen input in urban planning further ensures fair and inclusive development.

Education and Awareness

Educational programs such as workshops, plantable pencils, and campaigns on recycling and composting raise ecological awareness and encourage sustainable behaviors. These efforts aim to inspire lifestyle changes and a deeper understanding of environmental responsibility.

Innovative Solutions

Alimos employs technologies like glass bottle crushers, integrated waste management systems, and composting programs to enhance resource efficiency and reduce waste. For example, crushed glass is repurposed as sand for municipal projects, promoting a circular economy.

Ecological Urban Planning

The municipality integrates sustainability into urban development by preserving green spaces, planting fruit trees, and establishing eco-gardens. Legal victories against unsustainable construction reinforce Alimos' commitment to responsible urban planning.

Circular Economy Practices

Alimos promotes waste reduction by turning tree debris into fertilizer and distributing composting bins to residents for organic waste management. These initiatives reduce landfill dependency and support sustainable practices.

Implementation Process

Alimos follows a systematic approach to achieve its goals:

- **Needs Assessment:** Public consultations and surveys identify local priorities.
- **Research and Design:** Strategies are developed based on best practices and expert advice.
- **Execution:** Programs are implemented in partnership with local entities and funded through public-private collaboration.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuous feedback ensures programs remain effective and adaptable.

Notable Initiatives

- **Household Composting:** Free composting bins and expert support encourage residents to manage organic waste sustainably.
- **Olive Harvest Initiative:** Volunteers harvest olives from communal trees to produce oil for vulnerable citizens, blending environmental and social benefits.
- **Tree Planting Program:** The city plants fruit-bearing trees to enhance biodiversity and beautify urban areas.

Conclusion

Alimos demonstrates that sustainability is achievable through a holistic approach that balances ecological and social priorities. By engaging citizens, adopting innovative solutions, and integrating sustainability into urban planning, Alimos serves as a replicable model for other European municipalities.

FLOWERING ZUGLO



ZUGLÓ



HUNGARY

Budapest Fovaros XIV Kerulet
Zuglo Onkormanyzata

Sustainability is a pressing global concern, and local communities are at the forefront of addressing environmental challenges through innovative and inclusive strategies. Zugló, the 14th district of Budapest, exemplifies a model of sustainable development by engaging its 120,000 residents, civil organizations, and local businesses to mitigate climate impacts, adapt to changing conditions, and promote green lifestyles.

A cornerstone of Zugló's sustainability efforts is the Zugló Eco-Map, an initiative launched under the INTERREG Central Europe ENES-CE program. This program, running from 2019 to 2022, sought to enhance low-carbon energy planning through community participation. The Eco-Map is a mobile-friendly, map-based tool that displays geo-location data and highlights sustainable resources in the district. It includes locations for bike repairs, eco-conscious shoemakers, and providers of healthy, environmentally friendly food. In addition to promoting sustainable living, the map encourages the formation of energy cooperatives and citizen energy groups to facilitate the implementation of energy strategies in public institutions. With a modest budget of €3,665, this tool serves as a practical guide for residents transitioning to greener lifestyles.

Another key initiative is the Flowering Zugló Programme, launched in 2011. This program fosters collaboration between the municipality and residents to transform front gardens and street fronts into greener spaces. Open for application annually, it focuses on planting native, drought-tolerant species that support local biodiversity, including insects and birds. The program prioritizes community involvement, offering participants tools, flower seedlings, and shrubs. The process includes site assessment, guided planting sessions, and ongoing maintenance, ensuring a collective commitment to sustainability. With an annual budget of €37,000, the initiative not only beautifies the district but also raises awareness about ecological balance and the importance of green spaces.

These programs reflect Zugló's broader Climate Strategy, which emphasizes mitigation, adaptation, and education. The district's efforts align with global sustainability goals, demonstrating the importance of local action in combating climate change. By fostering a sense of community and empowering residents to take ownership of environmental initiatives, Zugló has created a replicable model for sustainable urban living.

Zugló's approach underscores the significance of grassroots participation in driving meaningful environmental change. Through tools like the Eco-Map and programs like Flowering Zugló, the district is transforming its urban landscape while building a resilient and environmentally conscious community. These efforts highlight how collaboration and innovation at the local level can contribute to a sustainable future for all.



HAD DINGLI INICIATIVES FOR THE COMMUNITY



MALTA
Kunsili Lokali Dingli

Sustainability is an essential goal for communities around the world, and the Ħad-Dingli Local Council in Malta has embraced this mission through innovative and practical initiatives. Their efforts highlight a commitment to environmental stewardship, community involvement, and sustainable living.

A key project nearing completion is Spazju Miftuħ Misraħ Santa Duminka, a self-sustainable resting area designed with ecological efficiency in mind. This space includes an underground reservoir that collects rainwater to irrigate plants and trees, and solar-powered lighting to reduce energy consumption. Additionally, the area provides parking spaces, benefiting nearby residents and showcasing how urban planning can integrate sustainability and functionality.

The council has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Ġnien il-Ħaddiem, a park that hosts community events like the “Wirja Agrarja.” This agreement involves installing solar street lighting powered by photovoltaic panels, reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources and enhancing the park’s infrastructure.

In waste management, the Free Organic Waste Bags Campaign provides residents with organic waste bags at no cost, encouraging proper waste separation. Complementing this, the council distributed specially designed bins to reduce odors and promote sustainable disposal. Other initiatives include regular glass recycling and monthly collections of hard-to-dispose-of items by the WasteServ Roadshow Truck.

Water conservation is another priority. Through the “Water Be the Change” scheme, residents receive water-saving kits, including efficient showerheads, aerators, and leak-preventing switches, along with manuals for easy installation. These tools empower the community to adopt water-efficient practices.

The Ħad-Dingli Local Council demonstrates how local governments can lead in sustainability. Through innovation and community engagement, they are setting an example for creating a greener future.

WATER BODY CLEANUP INITIATIVES

Jelgava Local Municipality has implemented numerous initiatives to preserve and enhance the ecological condition of its water bodies. These efforts aim to create sustainable landscapes while addressing challenges like water pollution and overgrowth due to intensive agricultural practices.

One significant goal is to maintain well-preserved and self-sustaining water bodies. The municipality allocates annual budget resources for the cleanup of ponds and rivers, focusing on removing reeds, aquatic plants and sediment layers. These actions not only improve water exchange and self-purification abilities but also preserve biodiversity and adapt to climate change. For instance, in 2024, the municipality cleared five ponds covering 3.5 hectares and maintained 850 meters of shoreline. Such cleanups are essential for maintaining the ecological balance of the region's abundant fertile lands.

The municipality also integrates research before initiating cleanup activities to minimize disruptions to aquatic plants and animals. For example, the cleanup of the Svete River under the 2019 Interreg Baltic Sea Region demonstrated the importance of reed removal for improving water flow and preventing overgrowth.

In financed projects for energy saving. In addition to cleanups, Jelgava promotes community participation through events like "Place a Stone in the River!" These initiatives encourage sustainable practices, such as increasing oxygen levels in rivers by placing stones to create faster currents. Such actions highlight the municipality's dedication to fostering both ecological health and public engagement.

Through consistent investments, research-backed actions, and community involvement, Jelgava Local Municipality exemplifies how local governments can lead sustainable water management efforts. These initiatives not only protect the environment but also strengthen community ties, creating a model for preserving natural resources in harmony with human activity.



LATVIA

Jelgavas Novads Pasvaldība

ENERGYHUB STEENAKKER

The electricity grid in the Netherlands is full. The TSO has declared congestion on the electricity grid in Breda. Congestion affects Breda's business climate and sustainability goals. Additionally, the ambition for the Steenakker industrial estate to be energy-neutral by 2030 is not achievable.

Due to congestion, companies cannot obtain additional capacity on the electricity network, making it impossible to install solar panels or electrify heating and mobility. In collaboration with the Municipality of Breda, the Steenakker industrial estate has initiated a project to address grid congestion. The project follows a holistic system model approach. This approach is explained in the following video: [Systeemintegratie - Semi autonome energiesystemen \(youtube.com\)](#)

The system model presented in the video could be the end goal. This project marks the first step in this direction. The focus is solely on electricity, and only the essential backbone is established initially. Once the essential backbone is in place, various product propositions can be added, such as additional solar panels, charging stations, electrification of heating demand, storage, conversion, expansion of business activities, etc.

The project includes the following elements:

- Area-specific energy management system
- Energy trading platform
- Energy community

Area-specific energy management system

An energy management system is crucial for measuring and controlling energy flows. Participating companies are equipped with high-frequency measuring equipment, allowing electricity measurement at a small time interval (usually measured every 15 minutes, now every 10 seconds). The measurement data is read in real-time by the energy management system to control energy flows.

Energy trading platform

In addition to technology, it is important that energy flows are exchanged within the area, facilitating transactions. Therefore, an Energy Trading Platform (ETP) is necessary.

Energy community

Local ownership is crucial in the energy transition as it promotes societal support. An organizational structure is necessary to exchange energy within an area. With an energy community in which participating companies are shareholders, it becomes possible for the industrial estate to control its own energy system. By integrating the energy management system and energy trading platform into the energy community, a form of a community-based virtual power plant is created. This makes the industrial estate its own energy producer and supplier.



Gemeente Breda

THE NETHERLANDS

COMPOSTING: A COMMUNITY STRATEGY

In Slovakia is located 25 prospective areas of geothermal water. Abundant geothermal resources are available closer to the earth's surface and allow easier pumping in several locations for the purpose of efficient use for the production of green energy. In such places it is possible to find temperatures to 200 °C at depths from 1500 m to 2500 m.

The use of geothermal energy is versatile, not only for the production of green electricity and heat, but also in agriculture, industry or for recreational purposes.

A lot of individual projects, funded from the private sector financial sources, are ready, or under preparation, to find and utilized geothermal waters for district heating. Some of the projects are oriented on the new bathing and swimming facilities construction.

The most abundant geothermal resource, not only in Slovakia but throughout the central Europe, is Košice basin. The Košice geothermal resource is believed to be the largest in Slovakia. This is supported by good data considering that three exploratory wells has already been drilled in the area. The resource can generate heat to supply 171,000 customers and offset up to 54,000 tons of CO₂ emissions per year. The geothermal project is also expected to provide residual heat for agriculture, recreational, and other purposes in the village along the 15-kilometer route of the heat pipe. Today, when people are worried about rising energy prices, Košice town has concrete solution that is strategic and ecological. They will significantly limit the burning of fossil fuels and households in Košice will have heat from a nearby geothermal well. Slovakia needs to use its natural energy resources to a greater extent and thus strengthen its energy self-sufficiency.

Town of Velky Meder with population of almost 9000 is situated in south part of Slovakia and well known mainly because of thermal spa operated since late 70's. Two geothermal wells are used for the needs of the spa. Thanks to positive long lasting operational experiences with geothermal system, favorable geological and hydrothermal conditions and presence of district heating systems, it was decided to implement geothermal district heating project in late 2015. Geothermal energy can be used for producing of 84 % of total heat energy produced in the central heat source annually. Up to 1 mil. m³ of natural gas is saved each year, which leads to the reduction of CO₂ emissions by almost 2 tons.

The company PW Energy operates in the field of renewable energy sources (RES) with a focus on geothermal energy. Its goal is the implementation of geothermal centers for the production of electricity with the possibility of using residual heat for households and companies, in two locations in central and eastern Slovakia.



SLOVAKIA
Mesto Fil'akovo

REUSE CENTER: A SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE IN VELENJE

In Velenje, Slovenia, the Reuse Center (CPU) exemplifies a community-driven approach to sustainability and circular economy practices. Located in northeast Slovenia, Velenje is well-known for its transformation into a hub of innovation and green initiatives, with the CPU standing out as a flagship project.



MESTNA OBČINA
VELENJE

SLOVENIA

The Reuse Center was established to tackle rising waste and promote sustainable living through innovative solutions. It functions as a space where discarded items are repaired, redesigned, and resold, thus extending their lifecycle. With the motto “From Trash to Treasure,” the center embodies the principles of reuse and resource optimization. Additionally, it introduced Nucarnica, a tool and appliance rental system, providing practical support for citizens who require items for short-term use. Since its launch, over 130 members have joined, borrowing a variety of items such as deep cleaners, ice makers, and telescopic saws.

The center not only enables the reuse of items but also fosters education and community engagement. Citizens can donate unwanted household goods, which are then repaired and made available for resale. The CPU recorded 3,500 sales transactions last year, reintroducing over 28 tons of items into circulation. Frequently donated items include furniture, electronics, kitchenware, and sports equipment. By promoting creativity and offering sustainable rental options, the initiative reduces waste while empowering local residents.

The Reuse Center has made significant environmental and social impacts. It reduces landfill contributions, lowers resource consumption, and supports a circular economy by reintroducing pre-loved items into households. Socially, it enhances community engagement by educating residents about sustainable practices and partnering with schools and organizations. Economically, it provides affordable access to tools and items while saving resources for families.

The CPU in Velenje demonstrates how local initiatives can drive meaningful change. By fostering reuse, sharing, and community participation, it sets a precedent for building sustainable cities and inspiring other regions to adopt similar practices.

“MERCADO DA LUZ”: A COMMUNITY WALLAPOP



SPAIN

The Mercado de la Luz, often referred to as the Wallapop of the neighborhood, is a vibrant marketplace in Santiago de Compostela where people can buy and sell second-hand items. This initiative, promoted by the local council, aims to foster a sense of community and promote sustainable consumption by encouraging the reuse of items.

The market was first launched at the Casa das Máquinas, featuring 27 stalls offering a variety of second-hand products, from clothing to decorative items. The event was a success, attracting a significant number of visitors and vendors. The market has since become a regular occurrence, opening on specific dates throughout the year.

One of the primary objectives of the Mercado de la Luz is to reduce waste and promote the circular economy. By providing a platform for people to exchange items they no longer need, the market helps to minimize the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. Additionally, it offers an affordable way for people to purchase items, often at a fraction of the cost of buying new.

The market also serves as a social hub, bringing together members of the community in a friendly and relaxed environment. Visitors can browse through a wide range of items, from vintage clothing to unique home decor pieces, and engage in conversations with fellow shoppers and vendors. The market has become a popular destination for those looking to find hidden treasures and connect with like-minded individuals.

Another key objective of the Mercado de la Luz is to support local businesses and artisans. Many of the vendors are local residents who use the market as an opportunity to showcase their handmade or upcycled products. This not only helps to stimulate the local economy but also promotes creativity and innovation within the community.

The market is organized with careful planning and coordination to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for all participants. Each stall is assigned a specific spot, and vendors are encouraged to present their items attractively to attract potential buyers. The market also provides amenities such as restrooms and seating areas for visitors to relax and enjoy their time at the event.

Overall, the Mercado de la Luz in Santiago de Compostela is a shining example of how a community can come together to promote sustainability and support local businesses. By providing a platform for people to buy and sell second-hand items, the market helps to reduce waste, foster a sense of community, and encourage sustainable consumption.

BIO-LAUNDRY

Developed as part of Pleven's city commitment to eco-conscious living, this innovative bio laundry detergent showcases a practical approach to sustainability, providing eco-friendly alternative to traditional cleaning products. This initiative is rooted into social communities and social centers by different NGO's as a practical workshop for the citizens of Pleven.



BULGARIA
Asotsiatsia Za Kulturen Obmen I
Razvitiye Na Lichnostta
Vav Vsyaqa Vazrast

The detergent is crafted from 100% natural ingredients, including plant-based soap, baking soda, and essential oils. This formula eliminates the use of harmful chemicals found in conventional detergents, offering a safe and sustainable solution for both people and the environment. The packaging complements the product's mission, designed to be fully recyclable and minimalistic, aligning with zero-waste principles.

The plant-based soap ensures effective cleaning without damaging aquatic ecosystems or water sources. Baking soda, known for its stain-removing and deodorizing properties, gently tackles tough stains, while essential oils provide a natural fragrance free from synthetic additives. Its biodegradable nature ensures that all components break down naturally, leaving no harmful residues in soil or water. Moreover, its gentle formula makes it suitable for sensitive skin, including that of babies, providing a safe option for all household members.

The adoption of this bio detergent has significant environmental and health benefits. By reducing chemical pollution in water bodies and promoting biodegradable products, it aligns with broader global efforts to combat ecological degradation. Households benefit from a cleaner, safer washing solution that avoids synthetic chemicals, ensuring healthier lifestyles. Additionally, the compact and efficient use of the detergent—requiring smaller amounts per wash—offers economic advantages.

At the moment, more than 300 citizens including children and seniors have conducted workshops where they could understand and handcraft their own detergent.

PLASTIC FREE CHALLENGE

Italy's Plastic Free Challenge stands out as a powerful example of grassroots sustainability initiatives aimed at reducing single-use plastic consumption. This nationwide campaign, supported by local governments and organizations like Plastic Free Onlus, focuses on education, community engagement, and policy reforms to combat plastic pollution. Steps and Good Practices

The Plastic Free Challenge originated from a growing need to address the environmental damage caused by plastic waste. By combining public awareness campaigns, community cleanups, and municipal actions, the initiative empowers individuals, schools, businesses, and governments to adopt sustainable practices. Central to its success is the "Plastic Free Schools" program, which introduces eco-friendly habits among students and reduces plastic usage in cafeterias.



Associazione
Moving Europe

ITALY

Feasibility Study - Conduct a thorough feasibility study to identify suitable

locations for solar installations, considering factors such as sunlight exposure, available space, and local regulations.

Partnerships - Collaborate with local businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies to form partnerships and share resources. This can include financial support, expertise, and access to suitable locations.

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The initiative is built on several pillars:

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Workshops, seminars, and digital campaigns educate citizens on the environmental impact of plastic and promote alternatives like reusable bottles, bags, and containers.
- **Community Cleanup Drives:** Volunteers regularly gather to remove plastic waste from beaches, rivers, and parks, fostering collective action and environmental restoration.
- **Collaboration with Schools:** Interactive programs teach students sustainability through activities like creating art from recycled materials.
- **Municipal Actions:** Cities such as Milan and Naples have banned single-use plastics in public events and facilities, offering incentives to businesses adopting biodegradable packaging.

The impact of the Plastic Free Challenge is multifaceted. Thousands of kilograms of plastic waste are removed from natural habitats annually. Citizens adopt sustainable habits like composting and using refill stations, reducing waste at home. Schools and communities report increased participation in recycling programs. By engaging multiple stakeholders and offering practical solutions, the initiative provides a replicable model for sustainable living.



· PARTNERSHIP ·



**ΔΗΜΟΣ
ΑΛΙΜΟΥ**
GREECE
Municipality of Alimou



ZUGLÓ
HUNGARY
Budapest Fovaras Xiv Kerulet
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LATVIA
Municipality of Jelgava



LITHUANIA
Kauno Tvirtovės Parkas



MALTA
Municipality of Dingli



Gemeente Breda
THE NETHERLANDS
Municipality of Breda



SLOVAKIA
Municipality of Filakovo



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SPAIN
Asociacion Cultural Enrédate



**Mouvement
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