

NEWSLETTER

ACROSS

An international
cooperation project for
improving integrated urban
development policies



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Editorial

Welcome to the third edition of
the **ACROSS** newsletter!

We will give you an insight into the project
implementation, activities of the project
partners and other exclusive content.

Follow the progress through our biannual
newsletter!

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1.33 M
EU FUNDING



CITIZENS

3rd Study visit in Milan

The third SC meeting, Study visit & Thematic seminar of ACROSS project, organized by the City of Milan, took place in Milan (IT) on July 1-2. Partners from seven countries attended the event to learn about the local characteristics and good practices of the city.

“
(...) An example of how we are trying to test this new model is tactical squares through tactical urbanism. In this case, we are trying to involve both citizens and businesses, but also the third sector and our colleagues in the City of Milan.
(...)”

We call this way of proceeding “sharing resources to multiply impact” because we believe that if everyone contributes with their part, together we can accomplish much more than if everyone individually tries to do the whole project. In this context, tactical urbanism squares are the way we are trying to see results on Milan’s territory.

– Giusy Chierchia (Project Manager for the City of Milan in the ACROSS project) in the [interview about the study visit in Milan](#)



Photos from the study visit in Milan

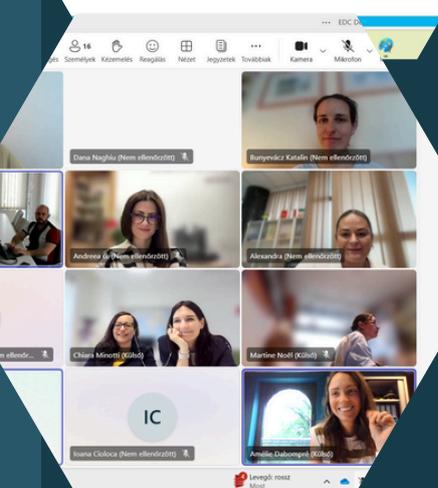
Thematic Expert Team meetings

15th of April, 2025 - online

Public-Private Partnerships

A long-term contract between a private party and a government entity, for providing a public asset or service, in which the private party bears significant risk and management responsibility and remuneration is linked to performance.

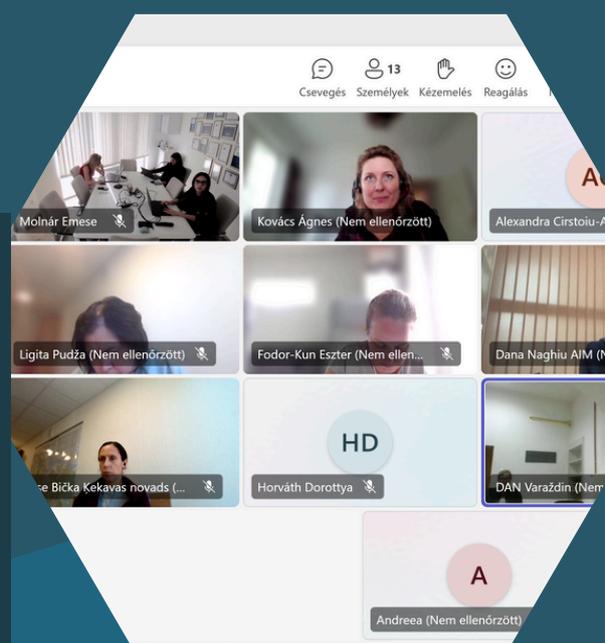
Source: World Bank. (n.d.). What is a public-private partnership (PPP)? Retrieved April 7, 2025.



On the 15th of April, 2025, Project Partners held an online Thematic Expert Team (TET) meeting. The meeting consisted of four parts: First, Audrey Lebas from the University of Liège gave a presentation about “Explanation of the similarities and differences of the following concepts and related frameworks: Sustainability, Sustainable Development (SDGs), CSR, CSRD, ESG, Public-private Partnerships (PPP) in sustainability”. It was followed by a presentation by the city of Milan about an example of a legal framework for implementing CSR/PPP initiatives. Partners also presented their policy improvement tables reflecting on the learnings from the Study visit in Debrecen in March 2025. The meeting ended with an internal project management meeting led by the Lead Partner, Alba Iulia Municipality.

29th of September, 2025 - online

On the 29th of September, 2025, Project Partners held a TET meeting online. The event focused on internal engagement to implement CSR initiatives among politicians and civil servants, alongside a detailed presentation and discussion on the successful Good Practice of the Budaörs CSR Platform. The event featured presentations on policy improvements based on lessons learned from the Milan SV, a workshop addressing challenges and solutions, and a project management session.



At the beginning of 2025, ACROSS partners have completed the first stage of the project — the analysis phase — by developing their Local Analysis Reports. Based on these reports, the advisory partner, BURST, has prepared a Synthesis Report outlining the project's key focus areas.

Seven focus areas have been identified:

- ▶ Policy framework for public-private collaboration/partnerships
- ▶ Engagement inside the organization
- ▶ CSR platform
- ▶ Knowledge and awareness raising
- ▶ SME involvement
- ▶ Measuring and sustaining CSR initiatives
- ▶ Financial mechanism: CSR fund – procurement

For each focus area, the partnership has compiled a list of related challenges, questions, and issues. During the one-year knowledge exchange phase, the goal is to address these challenges and questions, ultimately leading to improvements in the targeted policy instruments.

The document also reflects on the Partners' policy improvement objectives, detailing the policy instruments they aim to target and the specific improvements they seek to achieve within ACROSS.

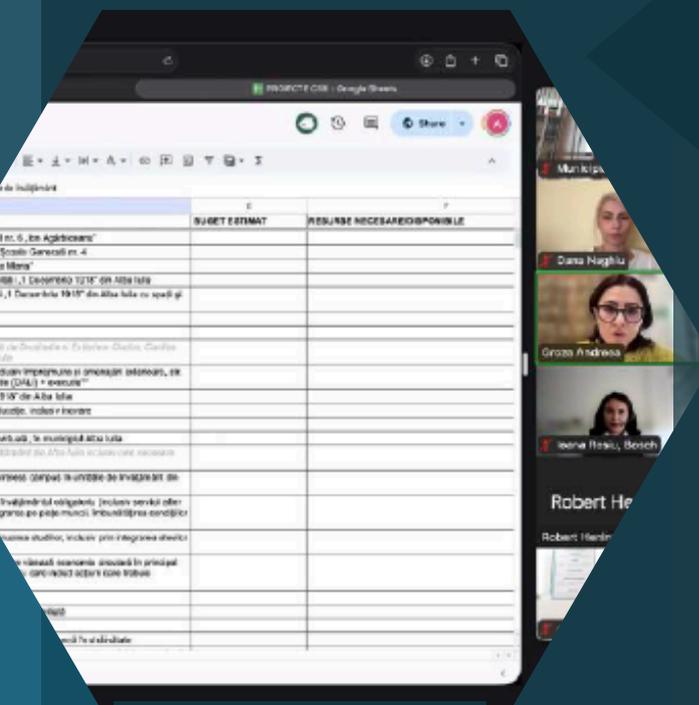
The knowledge exchange methodology proposed in the Synthesis Report aims to address all seven focus areas and tackle the challenges identified within each area during the project's knowledge exchange phase. The Annex of the Synthesis Report contains a collection of good practices from project partners, serving as the primary knowledge source for the learning process outlined in the methodology.



To read the Synthesis report, visit the [ACROSS website!](#)

Selection of local activities of Project Partners

Local Stakeholder Group meeting in Alba Iulia



18.09.2025

The third Local Stakeholder Group (LSG) meeting in Alba Iulia (RO), held on September 18, 2025, brought together representatives from various business sectors to discuss progress and strengthen cooperation in promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives that benefit the Alba Iulia community. A key result was the presentation of the first version of the "CSR Project Ideas List," a practical, adaptable tool designed to guide collaboration between the Municipality, local companies, and stakeholders in coordinating future sustainability efforts.

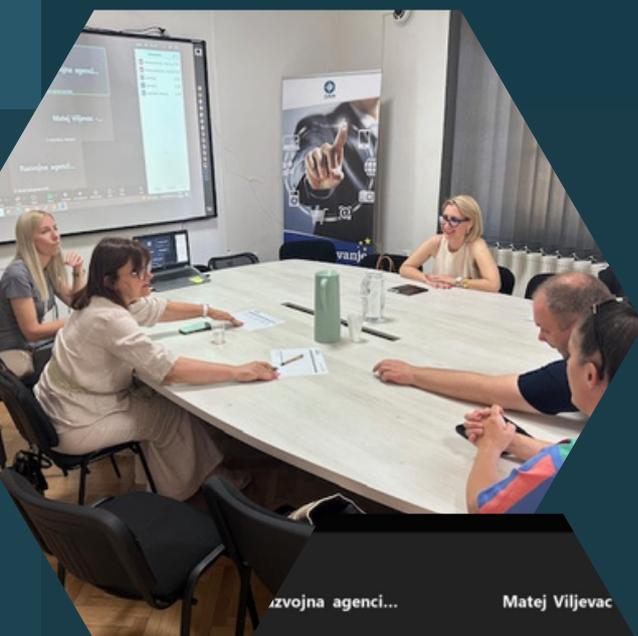
Local Stakeholder Group meeting in Debrecen

On the 24th of September, EDC Debrecen held its third LSG meeting in a hybrid format. The meeting focused on reviewing the Milan study visit and discussing the possibilities for local implementation of good practices seen during the SV. Another topic of discussion was the promotion of CSR at local level, specifically addressing how companies could assist during vis major events and exploring ideas like creating a city-wide CSR online platform and a local value declaration to mobilize stakeholders.



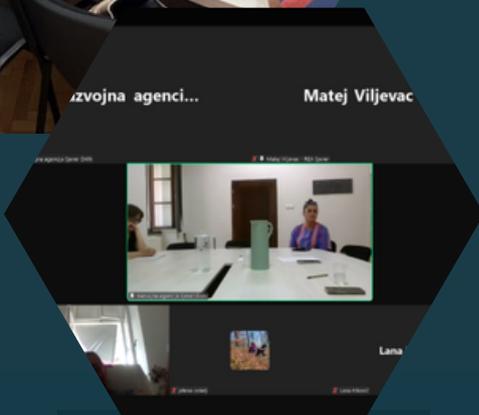
24.09.2025

Local Stakeholder Group meeting at DAN in Varaždin



The 3rd LSG meeting of the project partner, Development Agency North - DAN, aimed to provide Local Stakeholder Group members with an indication of how the chosen policy instrument (SECAP) should look and what the focus should be on the energy efficiency theme, while incorporating corporate social responsibility aspects.

After an introductory part by the representative of DAN, all members of the workshop participated in the discussion and gave their opinion and recommendations.



13.06.2025

Local Stakeholder Group meeting of Hannut

The 3rd joint LSG meeting for Hannut and Smart City Institute focused on integrating the ACROSS project's local priorities with the realities of the actors involved, particularly in the thematic areas of local commerce and agriculture. Feedback from individual exchanges with retailers and agricultural actors highlighted that economic viability is key for adopting sustainable practices, and that improved dialogue and information access are crucial for the agricultural sector.

Based on this, priority actions were identified, including sharing sustainability information for farmers, setting up a rural dialogue group, and improving soft mobility and waste management information for town center shops.



20.05.2025

Local Stakeholder Group meeting in Milan

The 5th Local Stakeholder Group meeting of the City of Milan on July 8, 2025, featured updates on the ACROSS project and presentations on Milan's "Food Aid HUB" system and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Global Forum. The meeting also included "sustainability sharing" pitches from private companies and discussions on opportunities related to the Global Forum, all aimed at aligning public and corporate sustainability objectives to maximize impact on the territories.



08.07.2025

Local Stakeholder Group meetings in Çekava

Both Çekava Municipality LSG meetings in September 2025 focused on promoting stakeholder awareness of CSR and sustainable practices, sharing lessons learned from interregional study visits, and discussing further collaboration. Key discussions included implementing cooperation with businesses in CSR, engaging local businesses, schools, and NGOs, and planning future informative events, such as incorporating CSR into the "Çekava Municipality Entrepreneurs' Days" event in November 2025.



08.07.2025

Internal meeting in Chisinau

The internal meeting held on the 15th of September, highlighted how Chisinau is strengthening public-private partnerships to align sustainability goals and promote innovative solutions for the city's development. The project is a great opportunity to transform Chisinau into a model of urban sustainability through a joint commitment to a more responsible future. As a Discovery Partner in ACROSS project, Chisinau gets familiar with the interregional exchange of experience process, increasing its capacity in both urban sustainability issues and the management of interregional cooperation projects.



15.09.2025

Activities planned in Semester 4



- ▶ 4th Steering Committee (SC) meeting, Study Visit (SV), and Thematic Seminar in Hannut;
- ▶ Knowledge Exchange Webinar;
- ▶ Six Local Stakeholder meetings;
- ▶ Two internal project management meetings online;
- ▶ One bilateral online meeting
- ▶ Participate in Policy Learning Platform activity/Programme Events.

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