

NEWSLETTER

ACROSS

An international cooperation project for improving integrated urban development policies



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Editorial

Welcome to the fourth 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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EU FUNDING



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4th Study visit in
Hannut and Liège

The fourth SC meeting, Study visit & Thematic seminar of ACROSS project, organized by the City of Hannut and University of Liège, took place in Hannut and Liège (BE) on December 3-4, 2025. Partners from seven countries attended the event to learn about the local characteristics and good practices of the cities.

“ (...) During the study visit, we were able to highlight some of our public-private collaborations which enable the development of a range of services that directly benefit citizens. Among these collaborations, we can quote an innovative good practice developed locally that interests several European partners. This is the ride and buy app, which promotes cycling and walking and rewards eco-friendly behaviour by offering voucher to exchange with local businesses.

– Amélie Dabompré (Eco-advisor, Ville de Hannut) in the [interview about the study visit in Hannut](#).

Find more information about the Good Practice *Ride and Buy app* on our [website](#)!

Visiting the good practices of Hannut and Liège



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“ One of the visited good practices that inspired me the most was the “la Ressourcerie”, the factory that manages the recycling business for Liège, because I never saw something like that with my own eyes, in the sense that everything is recycled, everything is put back together and everything is then sold out to the public at fair prices.

(...) They go to pick it up, they get it to la Ressourcerie, put it back together from the parts of the other home appliances. And, let's say from 3 fringes you get one that's functioning with all the guarantees, and you walk in the shop like you're in any other shop, buying yourself a newly recycled.

”

– Filip Bišćević (Consultant, Development Agency North) in the interview about the study visit in Hannut

Partners at Ressourcerie du Pays de Liège

“ These good practises were highly inspiring to all of our partners, although both require strong involvement from public private partnership, they still hold significant potential for transferability.

Through on-site discussions, partners were able to gather the detailed information they needed to assess whether these practises could be transferred to their own region, which is a key aim of the ACROSS learning process.

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– Eszter Fodor-Kun (Projectmanager, thematic coordinator, Burst Group Ltd.) in the interview about the study visit in Hannut



Thematic Expert Team meeting

10th of February, 2026 online

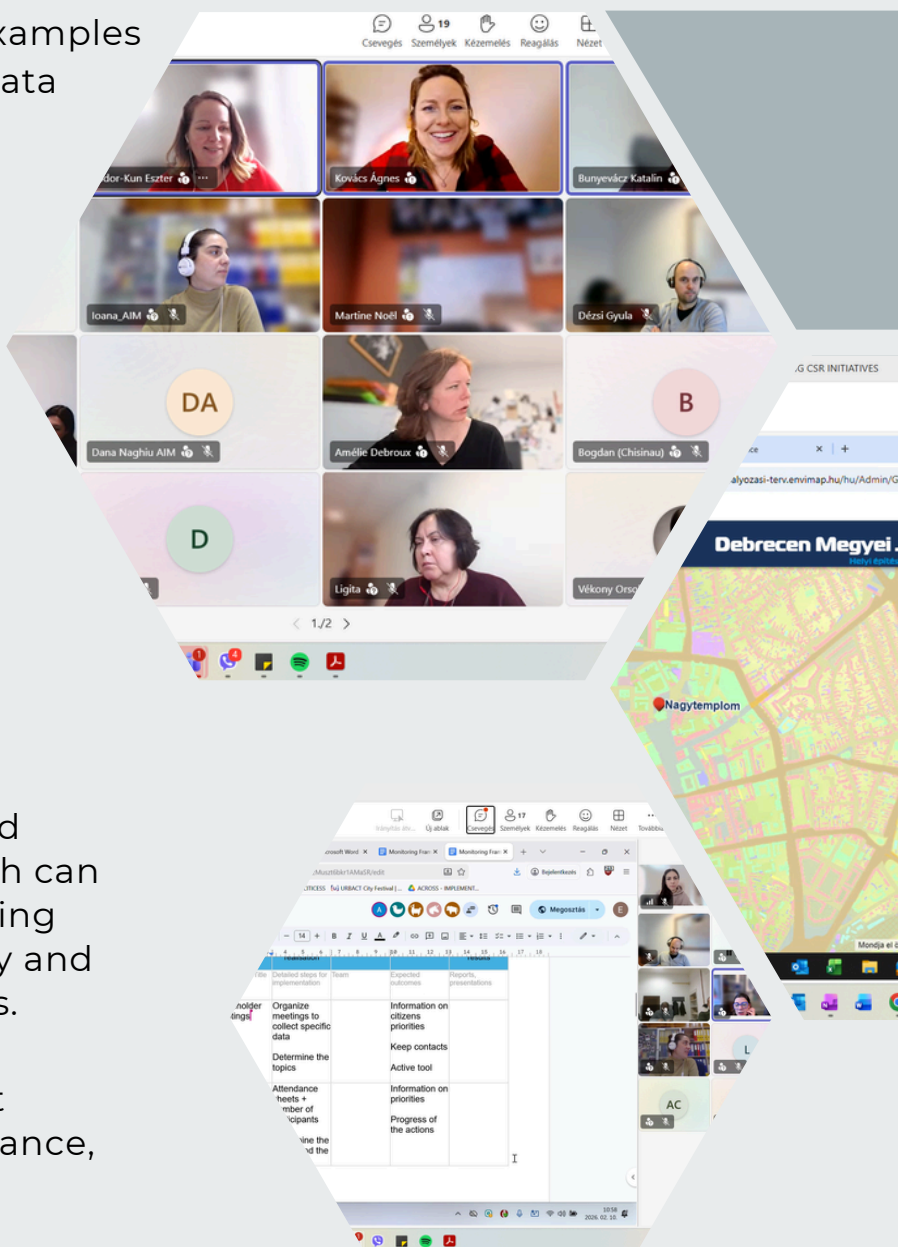
On 10 February 2026, ACROSS project partners met online for the 6th Thematic Expert Team webinar, which focused on measuring, monitoring and sustaining CSR initiatives. The session explored how public authorities and their partners can better assess the impact of CSR actions, communicate results more effectively and support their long-term sustainability.

The programme included a thematic introduction, a reflection on lessons learnt from the Hannut study visit, an expert presentation and an interactive workshop where partners shared examples and discussed adaptable tools for data collection, indicator systems and visualisation methods.

A central contribution of the webinar was the presentation by URBACT expert Katalin Bunyevácz, which highlighted the importance of structured result frameworks and clear indicators in tracking the outcomes of CSR initiatives.

The presentation also addressed practical aspects of monitoring, including data collection, data management, GIS-based tools, map-based online surveys and visualisation techniques, all of which can support evidence-based policymaking and improve the long-term visibility and effectiveness of CSR-related actions.

The webinar also included a project management session, including finance, management, and communication activities.



Local activities of Project Partners

Local Stakeholder Group meeting in Alba Iulia

On 9 March 2026, Alba Iulia Municipality held its 4th Local Stakeholder Group Meeting within the ACROSS project, focusing on the “Arena Tinerilor” initiative as a platform for cooperation between public sector, businesses, NGOs. The meeting highlighted how corporate sustainability goals can be aligned with local development strategies. Participants also discussed concrete stakeholder contributions, including thematic workshops for young people on civic participation, community impact and storytelling skills.



Local Stakeholder Group meeting at DAN, in Varaždin

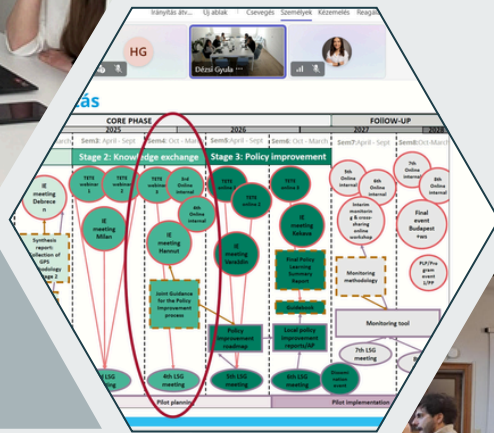
On 26 January 2026, Development Agency North (DAN) held its 4th Local Stakeholder Group Meeting in Varaždin, bringing together 18 participants from 11 institutions in a hybrid format. The meeting focused on presenting analytical data for the revision of the city’s SECAP for the 2025–2028 period and discussing potential measures, activities and CSR-related elements to be included in the updated document. The event also provided space for stakeholders to share recommendations and confirmed their strong interest in contributing further comments and proposals during the finalisation of the SECAP revision.



Local Stakeholder Group meeting at EDC Debrecen

The ACROSS Stakeholder Meeting in Debrecen, held on 30 March 2026 in a hybrid format, brought together local stakeholders to review the project's progress and discuss key upcoming activities, including lessons from the Hannut study visit and the next study visit to Varaždin.

A central focus of the meeting was the Good Practice of Milan Tactical urbanism, with participants discussing the possibility of its local implementation in Debrecen, alongside the presentation of this year's planned CSR actions.

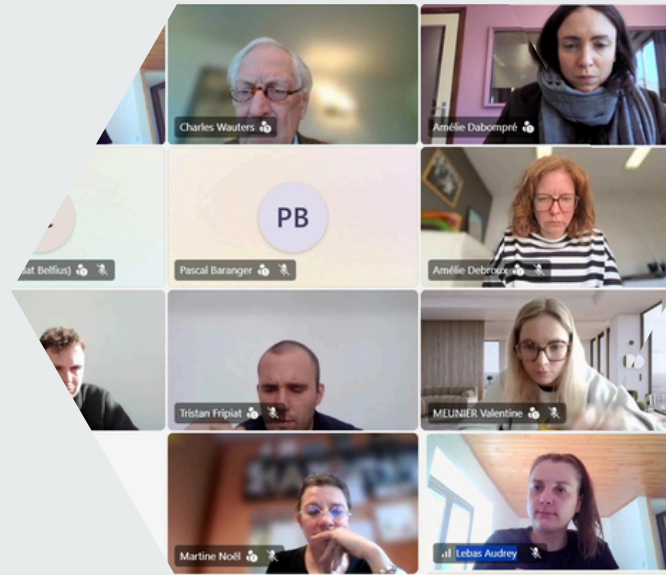


Local Stakeholder Group meeting in Milan

Milan's fifth Local Stakeholder Group meeting brought together public and private stakeholders to share project updates, present the City of Milan's Air and Climate initiatives, and showcase CSR projects developed in cooperation with the local public administration. Held in person at the centrally located Museum of the Risorgimento on 28 November 2025, the event also featured an interactive discussion with the Vice Mayor for Welfare and Social Policies and provided valuable space for informal networking, which participants highly appreciated alongside the inspiring venue and exchange-oriented format.



The fourth LSG meeting of Hannut and Smart City Institute, University of Liège on 18 March 2026 provided an opportunity to review the activities carried out since May 2025, present the outcomes of the December study visit, and launch a discussion on sustainable public procurement, including its challenges, priorities, and key actors. Organised in an online format, the meeting also opened an interactive exchange on the development of a summary document for local sustainable collaborations, using Miro to support stakeholder participation and co-creation.



Local Stakeholder Group activities in Kekava

In Semester 4, Kekava Municipality carried out several Local Stakeholder Group activities within the ACROSS project, focusing on sustainability and cooperation between local actors. As part of Entrepreneurs Days 2025, creative competitions for high school students were organised to promote environmental awareness and collaboration with local companies.

The initiative “Activate sustainability in your business!” offered selected SMEs the opportunity to receive sustainability audits and practical recommendations from external experts. The results of these audits were later shared with a wider audience through a public lecture, contributing to knowledge dissemination and awareness raising.

In addition, the Local Stakeholder Group meeting “A Click for Growth” on 25 November, 2025 brought together more than 30 participants, including entrepreneurs, municipal representatives and business support organisations. The event provided a platform for presenting project activities, exchanging experiences and initiating new collaborations among stakeholders. The activities provided a platform for knowledge exchange, stakeholder engagement and the promotion of CSR-related practices at local level.



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- ▶ 5th Steering Committee (SC) meeting, Study Visit (SV), and Thematic Seminar in Varaždin;
- ▶ 2 Online Thematic Expert Team Exchanges;
- ▶ Six Local Stakeholder meetings;
- ▶ Six Policy improvement roadmaps
- ▶ Two internal project management meetings online;
- ▶ One bilateral online meeting
- ▶ Participate in Policy Learning Platform activity/Programme Events.



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