



Recommendations from the URGE-network on boosting circularity in the construction sector at local level

In the frame of the URBACT-programme nine European partners have worked together to create new local policies to boost circularity in the construction sector. The partners range from small, medium to large sized cities and communities as well as an industrial partner, making their learning journey and action plans recognizable and relevant to all European cities working on circular construction

The action plans were co-designed following the integrated, participatory approach, with participation of stakeholders at local level, following the URBACT method. Within the frame of the project the partners exchanged at transnational level on specific topics that were of mutual interest and that constitute the base needed for a circular building city.

One of the results of the URGE-project is a set of recommendations from the network that would help to boost circularity in the building sector.

Awareness raising (better knowledge)

- Build capacity on circular economy and circular constructions through collaborations with universities and associations of engineers
- Engage citizens and stimulate behavioural change through visual, creative and positive communication
- Collaborate with the private sector for building of trust and provision of incentives to boost demand of secondary materials

Methods and Infrastructure

- Raise the need for regulations and technical standards that promote circular economy to different levels of government
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- Planning and process: reserve enough time, keep track on progress, use multidisciplinary and integrated approach
- Raise the need for material exchange points, recycling units and material banks as a means for linking supply and demand
- Develop of a set of circular economy criteria integrated in public procurements

Governance

- Put forward a strategic vision, also in collaboration with regional and national levels
- Joint agreement of municipal departments on circular economy implementation – breaking of silos
- Involve end-users, citizens, private companies and other stakeholders
- Design integrated policies – fight fragmentation
- Assign roles and responsibilities among actors of the value chain
- Introduce a city resolution, agreeing to test practices, methods, materials through pilot projects

Materials and natural resources

- Put forward selective demolition and design for disassembly
- Test and introduce technical specifications of recycled concrete in view of upcycling
- Put forward biobased constructions
- Circular reuse of water and soil in construction sector

We as local coordinators responsible for the development of the Integrated Action Plans would like to bring forward these recommendation to the different levels of government (local, regional, national and European) and other relevant stakeholders. With these we invite these parties to cooperate with us to develop approaches and actions that will support our aim to become circular by 2050 or preferably sooner.

In this context, we will be seeking and exploiting funding opportunities financed by the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and NextGenerationEU.

Signed on the 6th of July 2022 in Utrecht, the Netherlands, at the occasion of the Final Event of the URGE-project.



Øystein Leonardsen, Copenhagen



Ángel Luis Benito Pérez, Granada



Io Chatzivaryti, Kavala



Daniel Rank, Munich

НУША ЛАЗАР, Ниград д.о.о.



Sofía Mendonça, Oeste

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]



Daniela Tacconi, Prato



Ieva Kalina, Riga



Wim Beelen, Utrecht

[Signature]

[Signature]

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