

European Green Deal for Cities

Project Number: 2020-1-EL01-KA204-078877

IO1: Assessment Methodology for valorising /
creating European Green Deal local policies

O1. A.1.: Report on collected questionnaires

Edited by PRISM

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Introduction

EGD4CITIES is a European project aiming at providing a training material for local authorities' staff on how to put the European Green Deal into practice at the local level, and respect the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts", SDG 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", as well as to relevant targets of other SDGs.

The project is meant to get involved local authorities which are in charge of a variety of environmental services related to noise or air pollution, waste disposal, consumer education and protection, or city planning which directly affect the health of local citizens and impact the environment. The project specific goal is to capacitate local authorities' staff and NGO leaders for change engagement, developing green sectoral skills and fostering leadership skills, creativity, socio-educational and professional development, through Local Authorities' and NGOs' action.

Expected results

- Changed the way of thinking of different cities in the partner's countries, to a more comprehensive approach, promoting the climate change and environmental issues
- Established a new integrated approach to create real impact through a balanced and synergistic relationship between Local Authorities, academic research and innovation, and coupling private and public end-users' requirements
- Spread the seed, stimulate new and cutting-edge integrated activities and develop actions designed to successfully react to modern challenges.
- Offered new chances to implement professional skills of interest for Local Authorities staff.

The project has developed the first Intellectual Output, "**Assessment Methodology for valorising, creating European Green Deal local policies**". The Assessment Methodology is addressed to local authorities' staff and representatives dealing with environmental and climate goals at local level. Its specific aim is to provide the basis for the development of a common document that can be used by local authorities in order to enhance their role on assisting the provision of climate change. The Methodology is intended for local authority officers when briefing and supporting elected members, mayors and senior managers on environmental issues.

This Methodology will promote useful data sources, guidelines, template and evidence, as well as examples from local authorities and other key stakeholders. The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

An important part of this Intellectual Output has been the creation and distribution of a specialised questionnaire designed to investigate on the rules, priorities, principles, institutional approaches, best practices and explore policy areas in the frame of the European Green Deal at local level. Research based on these questionnaires has been Important to build IO1 assessment methodology, to address the size and target group for the second phase (IO1.A.2) for the best practices. Each partner had to collect a minimum amount of 20 questionnaires (15 policy makers/public officers and 5 NGO staff). The questionnaire was useful to establish the criteria for good practices and policies identification. After the questionnaires collection, PRISM prepared the Interview template for O1.A2., the sub-activity included in IO1 which foresaw the organisation of interviews and the collection of best practices in all countries thanks to individual interviews with policy makers and public officers dealing with green policies at local level. After several rounds of comments and feedback from all consortium partners, PRISM elaborated the final version of the questionnaire which was done by public officers and policy makers in all partner countries and it was the basis for the pilot research presented in this report.

In the following pages, PRISM Impresa Sociale Srl, lead partner of IO1, presents IO1. A1 “Report on collected questionnaires”, a compared analysis on the results emerged from the specialised questionnaires collected in all partner countries and a first draft of the Assessment Methodology.

Analysis of the results from questionnaires in all partner countries

1. General information on respondents

Bulgaria

In Bulgaria **69,7%** of the organisations represented by the respondents are **local public bodies**, 25% Non-governmental Organisation, 5,3% represented other types of organisations.

58,3% of the cities have 0-25,000 citizens, 41,7% 100,001-500,000. Respondents are mainly experts in environmental issues. They have been working in their position for **more than 10 years (41,7%)**, for 0-2 years the 25%, for 3-5 years and 6-10 years the 16,7%. 75 % are between 41 and 55 years old.

Cyprus

In Cyprus the **70%** of the organisations represented by the respondents are **local public bodies**, 25% Non-governmental Organisation/ Association, 5% Public Service Providers.

80% of the cities have 25,001-50,000 citizens, 10% 50,001-100,000. Respondents are mainly civil servants. They have been working in their position for **more than 10 years (35%)**, for 6-10 years the 25%, for 3-5 years the 25%.

50% are male and 50% are female. Age of respondents: **45% 41-55 years old**; 40% 30-40 years old; 10% 18-29 years old; 5% 56 – 65 years old.

Greece

In Greece the **78%** of the organisations represented by the respondents are **local public bodies**, 18% Non-governmental Organisation/ Association.

22% of the cities have 50,001-100,000 and 0-25,000. 17% has 25,001-50,000 and 100,001-500,000.

Respondents are mainly public officers and politicians. They have been working in their position for **more than 10 years (26%)**, for 6-10 years the 26%, for 3-5 years the 26%.

80% are male and 20% are female. Age of respondents: **69% 41-55 years old**; 13% 56 – 65 years old; 9% 30-40 years old; 9% 18-29 years old;

Italy

In Italy **50%** of the organizations surveyed are **public bodies** and **45% NGOs**. **35% represents 500,001-1,000,00 citizens**, **30% 0-25,000 citizens**, 10% the rest of categories. The roles represented are equally mixed: public officers and members of NGOs. **50% are working more than 10 years** in

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their position and 25% is working for only 0-2 years. **75% of respondents were male**, 25% female. Age of respondents: **50% 41-55 years old**; 30% 30-40 years old; 20% 56 – 65 years old.

Poland

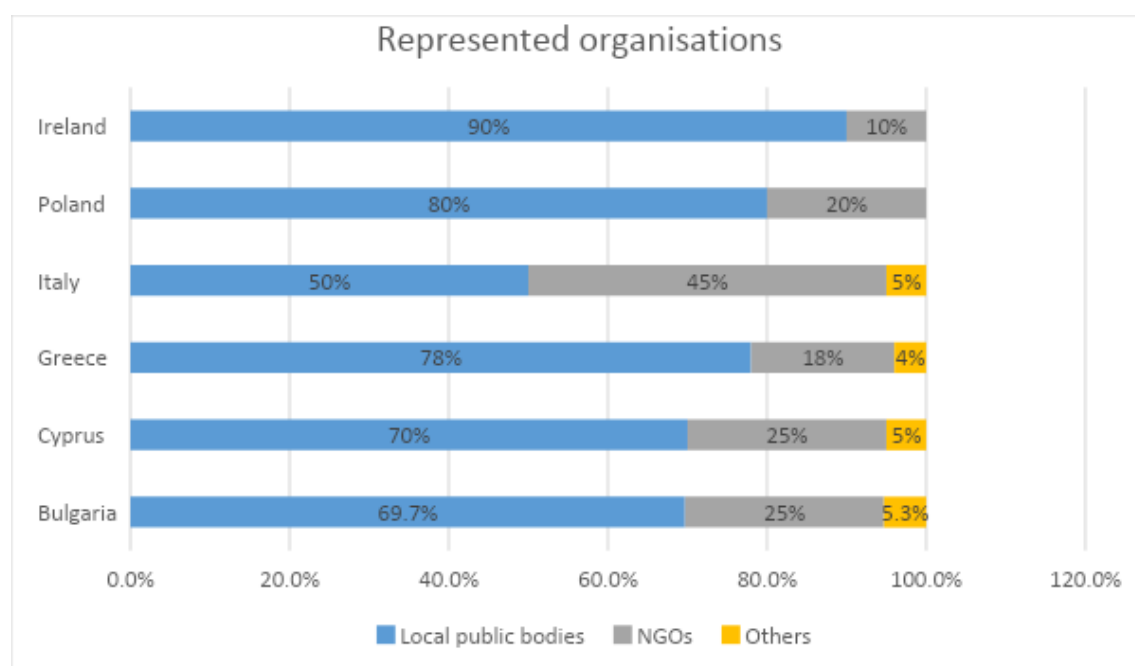
In Poland the **80%** of the represented organizations were **public bodies** and 20% NGOs. The **44% are small cities (0-25,000 citizens)**, 16% are cities with 25,001-50,000 and over 1,000,000 citizens. The complete data on the size of the represented cities are in Figure 2. The roles covered range from supervisor to major, president or vice-president. **44,1% is working for more than 10 years** in the current position, 22,9% for only 0-2 years, 20,3% for 3 -5 years. **40% is male, 60% is female**. Age is so divided: 18-29 – 4%, 30-40 – 20%, **41-55 – 44%**, 56-65 – 28%, over 65 – 4%

Ireland

In Ireland, **90%** of the represented organisations were **public bodies**, 10% NGOs. The **55% had 100,001 - 500,000 citizens** and the 40% 500,001 – 1,000,000 citizens. The majority of respondents were Housing Officers, Community Development Managers, administrators. The **55% have worked 3-5 years in the current position**, 35% for more than 10 years. **55% of respondents were male**, 45% female. Age of respondents ranged from 30 to 65 years of age.

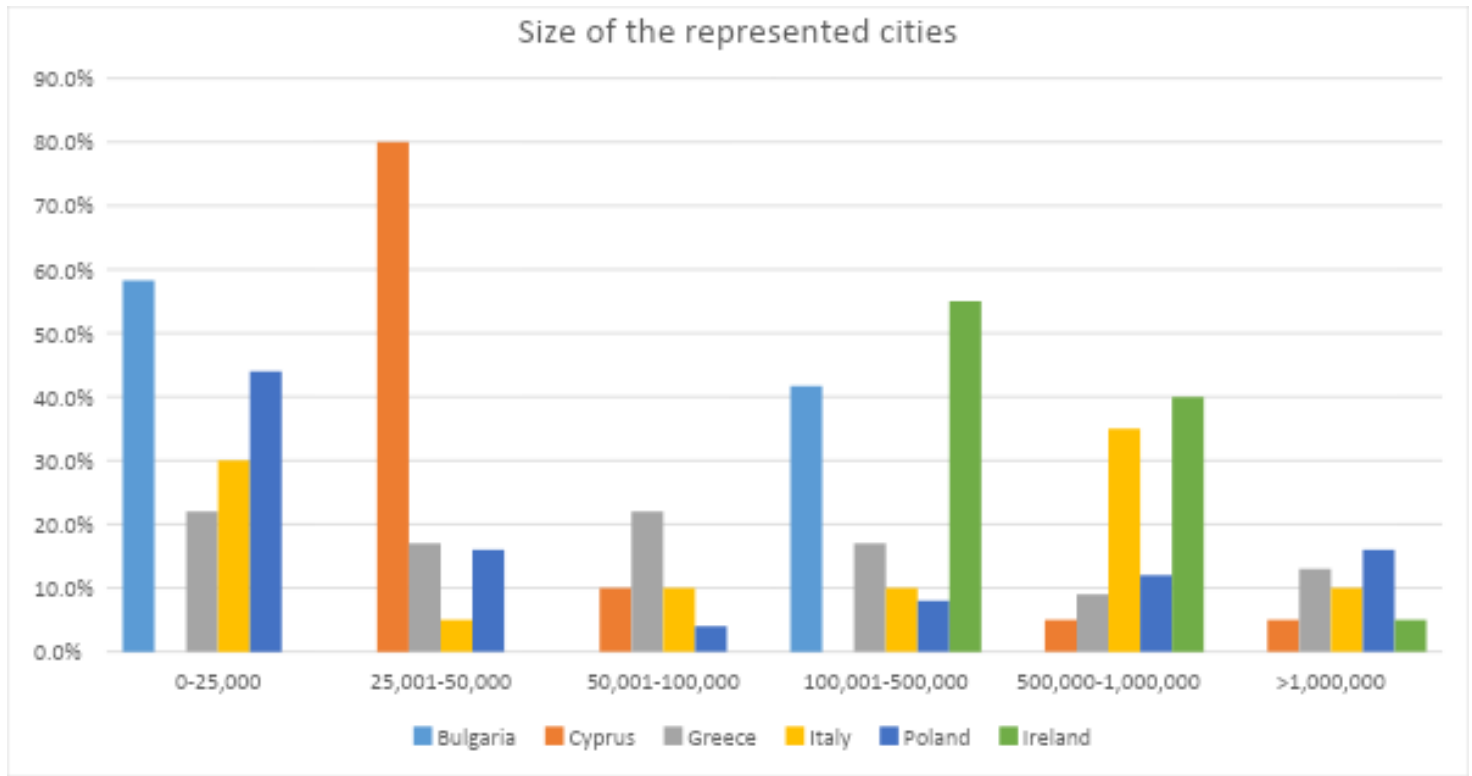
If we want to compare the results in all partner countries with a graph, the following chart summarises the compared data from the questionnaires for point 1: General Information on respondents:

Figure 1: Represented organisations by the respondents



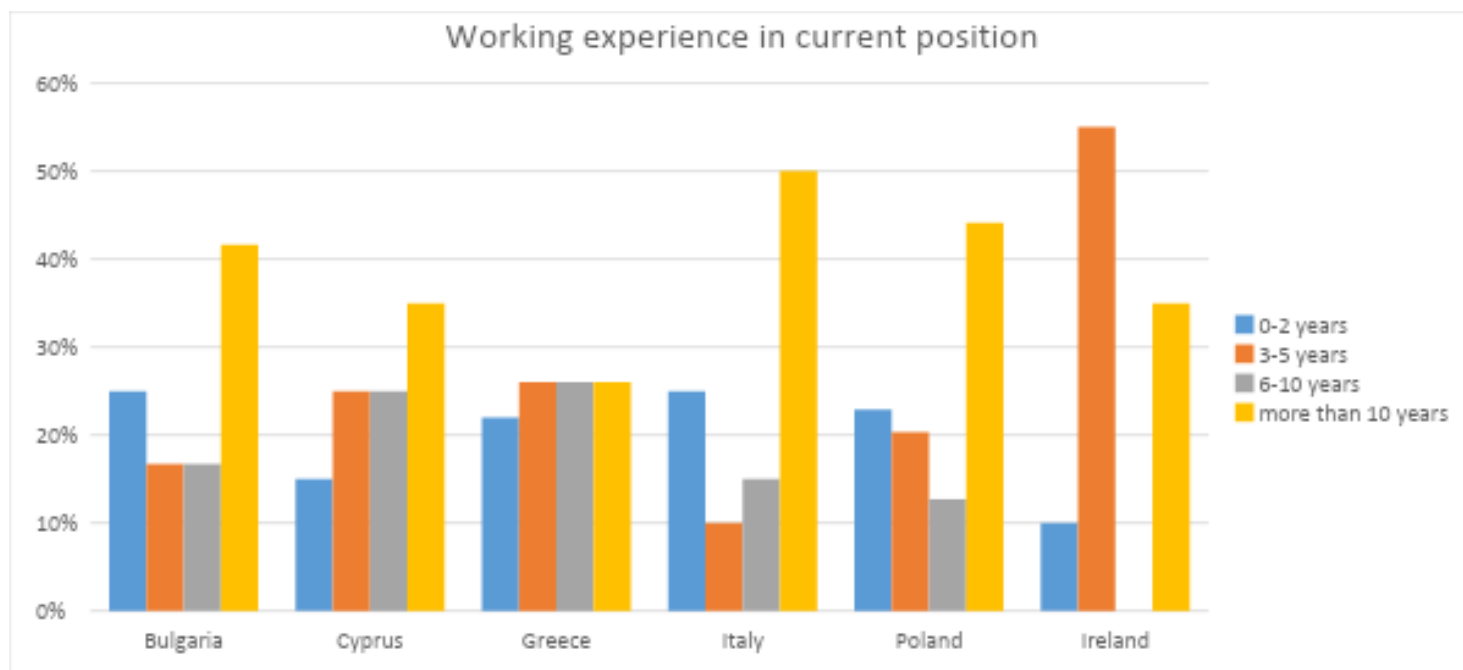
In all partner countries, the main respondents represented local public bodies.

Figure 2: Size of the represented cities



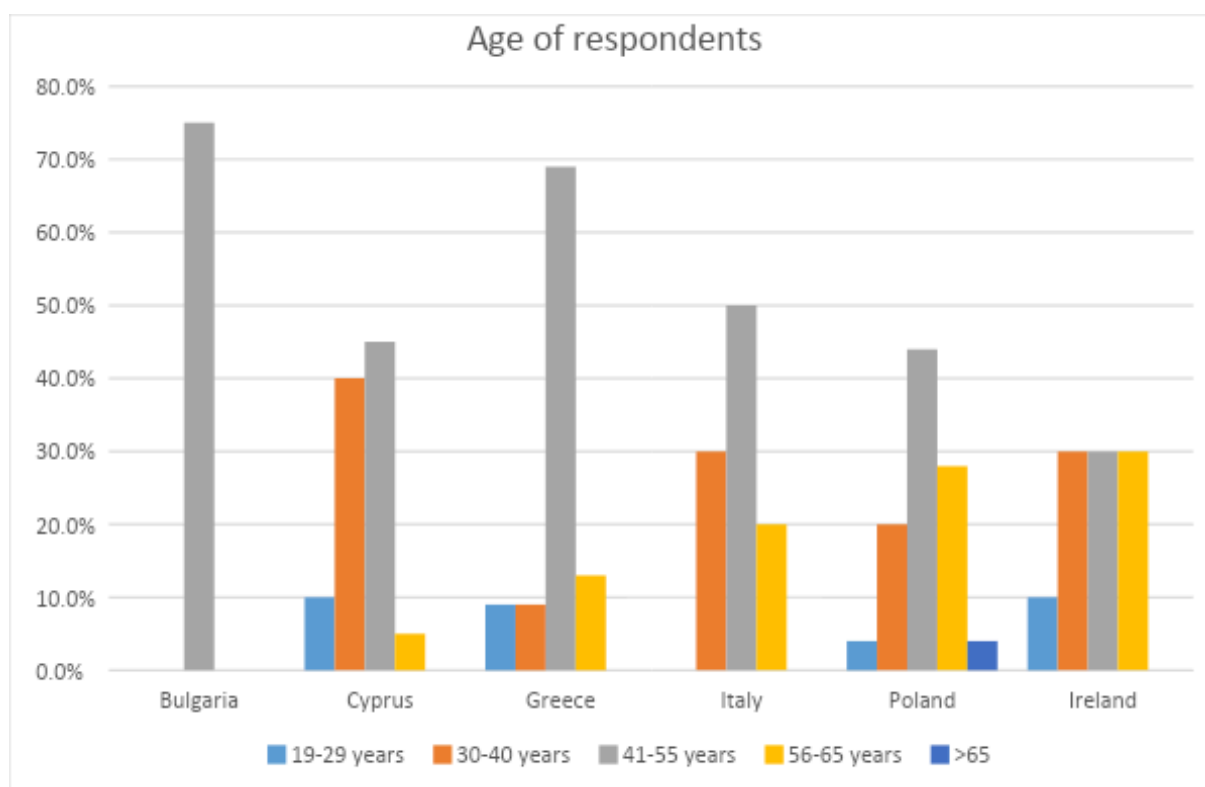
In Italy, all city sizes scored a result, while in the rest of the partner countries the size of represented cities varies: from Bulgaria with small cities, to Cyprus with small-medium cities, to Ireland with large cities.

Figure 3: Years of experience in the current position of the respondents



The working experience in all partner countries has no specific uniformity: it is similar in Cyprus and Greece, in Bulgaria and Poland. To note the young service experience of the majority of respondents in Ireland. In Italy a long-term working experience prevails.

Figure 4: Age of the respondents



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The most represented age is the 41-55 range in all countries.

2. Degree of knowledge of the EGD among stakeholders

Bulgaria

41,7% has a medium level of knowledge of the UN Sustainable Development or environmental and climate goals, followed by a 30% declaring a high level of knowledge. 25% declared they have a high and moderate level of knowledge.

The **91,7% have heard about the EGD** or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 50% said they know what the Just Transition Fund is while 50% replied that they don't know.

For all priorities of the EGD, the respondents said that their local administrations are thinking about the policy for sustainability or that these policies are in progress. **Almost no one said the policies are completed or will be completed in one/two years.**

Cyprus

45% has a high level of knowledge of the UN Sustainable Development or environmental and climate goals, followed by a 30% declaring a medium level of knowledge. Only the 15% declared they have a very high level of knowledge.

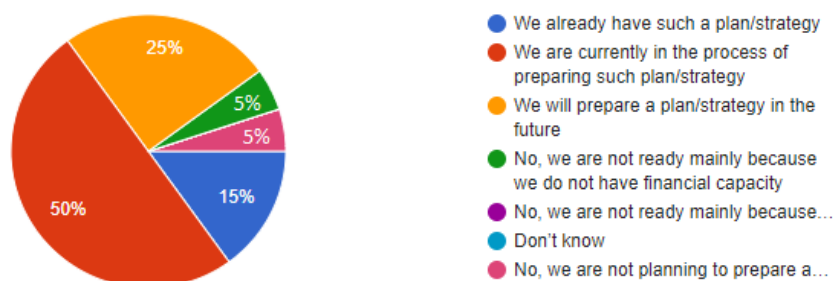
The **90% have heard about the EGD** or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 45% said they know what the Just Transition Fund is while 55% replied that they don't know.

About the priorities from the EGD applied by local councils in the framework of local policy for sustainability...in general, **in Cyprus there is a willing to implement and introduce the EGD priorities in local policies.** Most responses considered that the EGD priorities are in progress while second option is that it will be examined for further implementation. According to the results, **most respondents showed a positive attitude to make Cyprus more sustainable and efficient.**

On the institutional approach of administration/NGO towards sustainability, **80% replied that "they simply follow the national laws and recommendations"**; 25% replied that "they simply follow the international laws and recommendations"; 15% replied that "they use a proactive approach"; 15% replied that "they simply follow the regional laws (EU legislation or internal region regulations) and recommendations

As to the "Transition towards a more sustainable community by local administrations", **50% "is currently in the process of preparing such plan/strategy"**, 25% "will prepare a plan/strategy in the future", 15% "already have such a plan/strategy".

Figure 5: Transition towards a more sustainable community by local administrations in Cyprus



Greece

57% has a high level of knowledge of the UN Sustainable Development or environmental and climate goals, followed by a 22% declaring a moderate level of knowledge. Only the 17% declared they have a very high level of knowledge.

The **87% have heard about the EGD** or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. **74% said they know what the Just Transition Fund is** while 26% replied that they don't know.

For all priorities of the EGD, respondents said that their local administrations are thinking about the policy for sustainability or that these policies are in progress. **Few respondents said the policies are completed or will be completed in one/two years.**

Italy

40% declared that they are familiar with UN Sustainable Development at a medium level, 30% is familiar at a high level, only 10% at low level. **70% have heard of the EGD** or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 35% said they know the Just Transition Fund. **65% said No.**

In general, **in Italy city councils are slow in implementing and introducing the EGD priorities in their local policies.** According to the results, most city councils are still thinking about a plan or are in the process of completing plans to make their cities more sustainable and efficient.

Poland

36% said they have a high level of knowledge of the EGD policies, 24% a moderate level, 20% a medium level. **84% have heard of the EGD** or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. **72% knows the Just**

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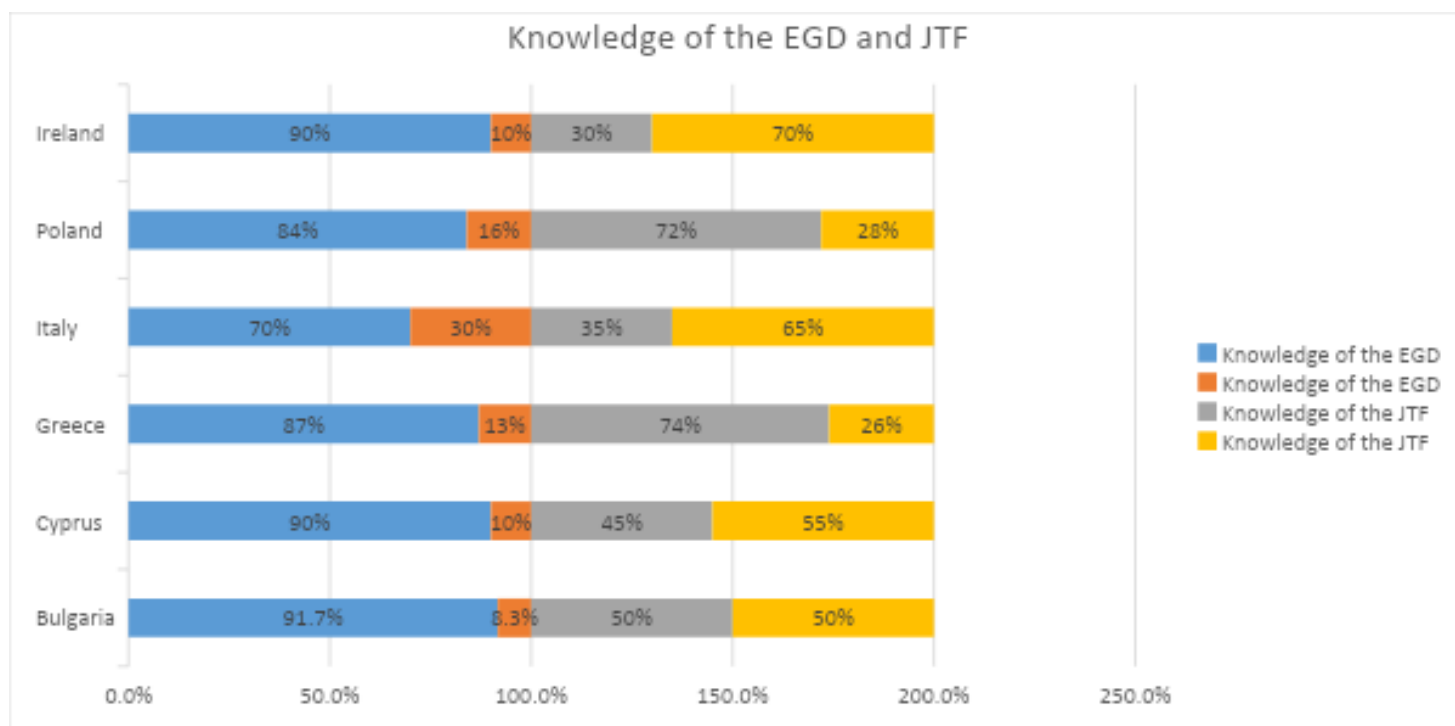
Transition Fund. In general, in Poland city councils are slow in implementing and introducing the EGD priorities in their local policies.

According to the results, most city councils are still thinking about a plan or are in the process of completing plans to make their cities more sustainable and efficient.

Ireland

40% said they have a moderate level of knowledge of the EGD policies, 30% a low level, 20% a high level. **90% have heard of the EGD** or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. **30% knows the Just Transition Fund**. In general, **in Ireland local authorities are working towards the implementation of the EGD priorities** in their local policies with many stating that they are in progress. It is worth noting that in relation to biodiversity for example, local authorities are obliged to have a plan in place and as a result the level of completeness was higher under this priority. As per the results, there is a significant percentage of local authorities' employees still at the consideration stage in terms of their policies, strategies, and practices. Also, when compared with the level of knowledge on the topic, **there is significant scope for the EGD4Cities project to make a positive learning contribution.**

Figure 6: Graph comparing the data from section 2



The EGD is well known in all countries, less the JTF with really low percentages in Ireland and Italy.

3. The impact of the pandemic on green policies

Bulgaria

41,7% of respondents said that COVID-19 pandemic affected their local policies /actions for the implementations of the sustainability plan; 33,3% said No.

To the question: “Do you think the COVID-19 pandemic will be an opportunity for climate change mitigation and adaptation?” 33,3% said: “Yes, the lessons learnt from COVID-19 might be applicable for future climate change crises”; and: “It is too early to tell”; 16,6% said: “No, this pandemic is a separate issue and cannot be linked to climate change adaptation in general” and “Yes, the lessons learnt from COVID-19 will be applicable for future climate change crises”.

Cyprus

65% declared that their local policies/actions for the implementations of the sustainability plans were affected by COVID-19. 15% declared that their local policies/actions for the implementations of the sustainability plans were not affected by COVID-19. 5% replied that their local policies/actions for the implementations of the sustainability plans were affected by COVID-19 in financial way. 5% replied that their priorities have been changed. 5% responded that sanitary measures make it difficult to implement environmental protection actions. 5% said that there was limitation on the organisation activities due to COVID-19.

To the question: “Do you think the COVID-19 pandemic will be an opportunity for climate change mitigation and adaptation?” **50% said: “Yes, the lessons learnt from COVID-19 will be applicable for future climate change crises”;** 35% said: “Yes, the lessons learnt from COVID-19 might be applicable for future climate change crises”; 10% said: “It is too early to tell”; 5% said: “No, this pandemic is a separate issue and cannot be linked to climate change adaptation in general”.

Greece

48% declared that their local policies/actions for the implementations of the sustainability plans were affected by COVID-19. 48% declared that their local policies/actions for the implementations of the sustainability plans were not affected by COVID-19.

To the question: “Do you think the COVID-19 pandemic will be an opportunity for climate change mitigation and adaptation?” **57% said: “Yes, the lessons learnt from COVID-19 might be applicable for future climate change crisis”;** 21% said: “Yes, the lessons learnt from COVID-19 will be applicable for future climate change crises”; 16% said: “No, this pandemic

is a separate issue and cannot be linked to climate change adaptation in general”.

Italy

75% of respondents declared that their policies/actions for the implementations of the sustainability plans were not affected by COVID-19. 25% said that their plans/actions were affected by the pandemic which were slowed down. **35% said: “Yes, the lessons learnt from COVID-19 will be applicable for future climate change crisis”;** 30% said: “Yes, the lessons learnt from COVID-19 might be applicable for future climate change crises”; 30% said: “It is too early to tell”; 5% said: “No, this pandemic is a separate issue and cannot be linked to climate change adaptation in general”.

Poland

52% of local administrators think that the COVID-19 pandemic affected their local policies /actions for the implementation of the sustainability plans. They specified that the pandemic affected their policies in these ways:

- “Lack of incentives for municipalities”;
- “Slowing down, braking down, abandonment in the implementation of many tasks”;
- “Slowing down of the investment process”;
- “On deadlines for implementation of corrective measures”;
- “Lack of possibility of direct contact with the public, lack of possibility to implement actions on a mass scale”;
- “Numerous problems and difficulties in implementation of projects on air and climate protection”;
- “Due to the reduction of budget resources, reduction of municipal investments”;
- “Financial constraints”;
- “Lack of people-to-people contacts”;
- “Lack of opportunities to promote RES during traditionally organised meetings”.

40% expressed the opinion that the lessons learnt from COVID-19 might be applicable for future climate change crisis; 36% said it is too early to tell.

Ireland

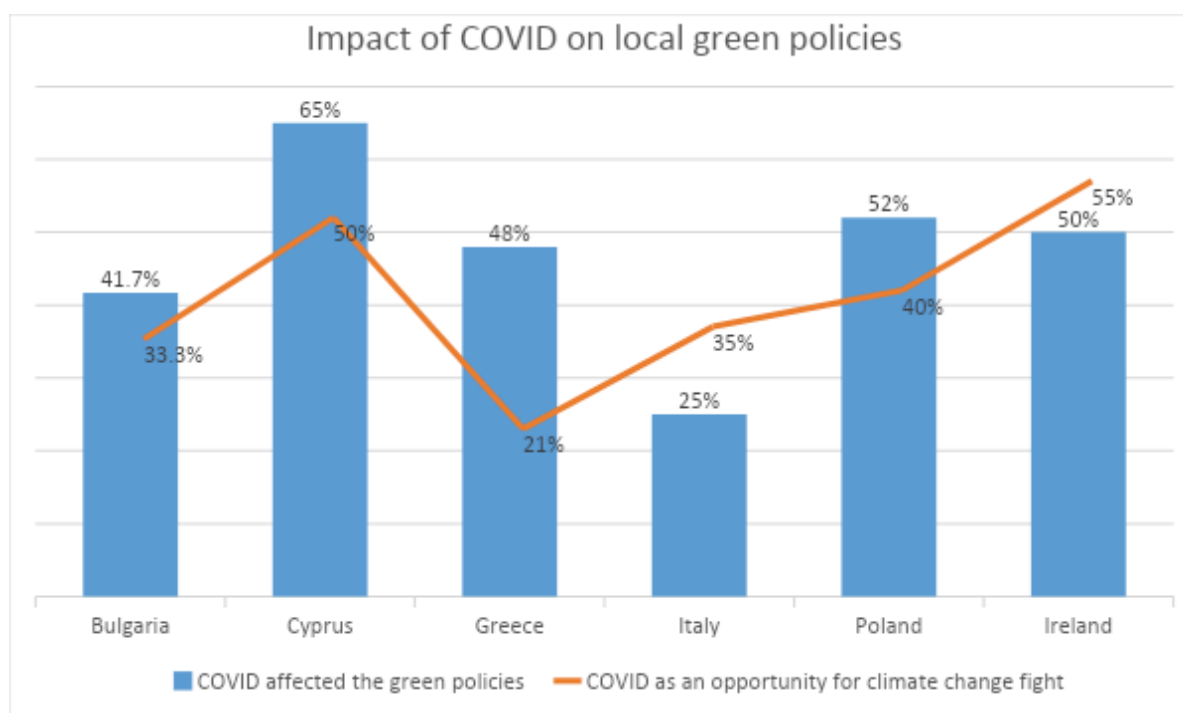
10% of respondents declared that their policies/actions for the implementations of the sustainability plans were not affected by COVID-19. **50% said that their plans/actions were affected by the pandemic due to the relocation of resources to fight COVID-19.** 40% of respondents were

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unsure as to the effect of COVID-19 on their organisations plans. **55%** said: **“Yes, the lessons learnt from COVID-19 will be applicable for future climate change crises”**. 45% said: “Yes, the lessons learnt from COVID-19 might be applicable for future climate change crises”.

Comparing the data from all partner countries, we can synthesise the data in the following graph:

Figure 7: Impact of the pandemic on local green policies



The biggest impact of COVID on local green policies was registered in Cyprus, Poland and Ireland. The pandemic as an opportunity for climate change fight has an irregular path in all partner countries with similarities only in Cyprus and Ireland.

4. The actions taken at local level

Bulgaria

50% simply follows the regional laws (EU legislation or internal region regulations) and recommendations, 41,7% We simply follow the national laws and recommendations, 33,3% uses a proactive approach

25% said their local administration has a sustainability plan/strategy; 25% said No, they are not ready mainly because they do not have financial capacity; 16,7% doesn't know; 8,3% is currently in the process of preparing such plan/strategy; 8,3% will prepare a plan/strategy in the future; 8,3% No, we are not ready mainly because we do not have administrative capacity.

Generally, **few local administrations/NGOs appear to have taken full action regarding the EGD.** Most of the local administrations/NGOs in Bulgaria don't seem to try to adopt most of the EGD. Having said that, there is room for improvement required and further support needed in order to boost local policies towards sustainability.

Among the best practices mentioned by respondents, here is a list:

- Cross-border Center for Blue Growth and Innovation, initiated as part of the Rumore project. The implementation of the project is in progress. Performed by another organization
- Construction of an installation for treatment of biodegradable waste with energy recovery
- Renovation of multi-family and single-family buildings
- Protection of ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Introduction of energy efficiency measures in administrative and residential buildings
- Construction of photovoltaic parks
- Sustainable and intelligent mobility;
- Energy and resource efficient buildings

In general, **public bodies and NGOs communicate more with citizens and actively raise awareness about the sustainable policies and the Green Deal related actions.** They also gather feedback on these policies and the Green Deal related actions. **Their action towards stakeholders/businesses is less effective and their effort is less according to the respondents.**

Cyprus

Generally, **few local administrations/NGOs appear to have taken full action regarding the EGD.** However, **most of the local administrations/NGOs in Cyprus seem to try to adopt most of the EGD since their responses are moving within acceptable levels.** There is room for improvement required and further support needed in order to progress within the concept.

A list of best practices in the country:

- Sustainable Mobility-Coastal Walkway (economic development, new jobs creation, development of the area within the coastal sidewalk)
- Photovoltaic Systems installed in the council buildings for energy saving/Energy upgrading of Municipal buildings
- Collection of organic waste after treatment to ensure biogas
- Nicosia Region Bicycle Program "Bicycle in Action"
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Lighting in the Municipality of Engomi (Nicosia) with LED technology and photovoltaics.
- Small-scale renewable energy resources

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- “Gardens of the Future” for the creation of a network of communal gardens in cities.
- Participation in the Mayors Agreement to reduce the effects of climate change.
- Olympic swimming pool in the Municipality of Geroskipou (Pafos) with the use of renewable sources (solar and geothermal).
- Two new green spaces in the district of Koloni in the Municipality of Geroskipou (Pafos) (tree planting).
- Environmental Policy Support for Recycling in Islands.
- “Stop the plastic flow” initiative supported by Beyond Plastic Med in order to stop the plastic pollution in the Mediterranean.
- “Holistic Waste Management” program
- “Providing Bicycle Parking Bicycle Promotion Regulatory Measure”
- Green Spot (Area) for citizens in the Municipality of Latsia (Nicosia)
- Upgrade of the building of Municipality of Geri in an energy way under the implementation of the “SYNERGEIN” project.
- “Green neighbourhoods” in the Municipality of Limassol

In general, respondents stated that the aforementioned **best practices have a high/very good impact on the good results/goal achievement and there is a high/very good possibility to be implemented by other organisations**. Also, there is a high/very good chance to be repeated as a good practice while there is a very **good degree of novelty and innovativeness**.

In general, **public bodies and NGOs communicate with stakeholders/businesses and citizens and actively raise awareness about the sustainable policies and the Green Deal related actions**. They also gather feedback on these policies and the Green Deal related actions.

Greece

In Greece **the big majority (88%) of local administrations simply follows the national laws and recommendations**, 32% uses a proactive approach. 45% is currently in the process of preparing a plan/strategy. 32% has already a plan/strategy, 9% will prepare a plan in the future. Only 9% is not ready because of lack of financial capacity.

Generally, **few local administrations/NGOs appear to have taken full action regarding the EGD**. However, most of the local administrations/NGOs in Greece seem to try to adopt most of the EGD since their responses are moving within acceptable levels. Also, in Greece there is a lot of work to do to implement real actions towards sustainability.

Among best practices in Greece:

- Building of bioclimatic nursery school
- Strategy for Sustainable Urban Development

- Promoting projects about the energy upgrade of school units and public buildings
- Plan for Sustainable Urban Mobility
- Shutdown of lignite power plants in Arcadia and closure of lignite mines by 2023
- Creation of Circular Economy Lab
- "Kythnos Smart Island" Project
- "Great Promenade" of Athens
- Action Plan for the climate
- Creation of Composting Unit
- Recycling by Sorting at the Source of 14 waste streams
- Replacement of buildings' window frames
- Electromobility, using electric vehicles
- Wind Park operation
- "Astypalaia Smart and Green Island" Project
- Right Waste Management
- "YES ΚΑΙΜΑ" Programme of energy-related school education
- Replacement of public street lighting with LED lights
- Beach cleanings and raising awareness on the value of biodiversity
- Development of sustainable tourism services and products (member-islands)
- "GREENS ROOMS" in thirteen school units
- Purchase of electric vehicles
- Composting Urban Network "RE-THINK ΒΡΙΑΛΗΣΣΙΑ"
- Replacement of water systems with pumping stations and telemetry for the reduction of energy consumption and water waste
- Planning of Environmental Management System according to the new ISO Standard 14001:2015
- Research and planning for Green Roofs and improvement of urban environment
- Action Plan for Sustainable Energy at the Municipality of Kavala
- Energy upgrade and energy-saving at public buildings (member-islands)
- CDP Europe Awards: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Augmentation and support of green spaces

In Greece, **public bodies and NGOs communicate more with citizens and actively raise awareness about the sustainable policies and the Green Deal related actions.** They also gather feedback on these policies and the Green Deal related actions. On this matter, **the engagement of local administrations should be improved towards businesses and stakeholders.**

Italy

The institutional approach of the administration/NGO towards sustainability returned these percentages:

- **36,8% of respondents use a proactive approach**
- **36,8% has no specific and identified policy for sustainability**
- 26,3% simply follows the national laws and recommendations
- 15,8% simply follows the regional laws (EU legislation or internal region regulations) and recommendations
- 5,3% simply follows the international laws and recommendations

The question: “If your local administration has started a transition towards a more sustainable community, at which stage is your plan/strategy?” returned the following answers:

20% does not know at which stage the local plan/strategy is

15% already has such a plan/strategy

15% is currently in the process of preparing such plan/strategy

15% will prepare a plan/strategy in the future

10% is not ready mainly because the local administration does not have financial capacity

10% is not ready mainly because the local administration does not have administrative capacity.

In general, **local administrations have taken actions in a soft way when talking about the EGD. Few actions are over the “acceptable” level**, at least “4” and in majority (more than 10 out of 20 respondents) such as “Increasing climate ambition”, “Farm to fork” and “Empowering citizens for the transition towards a climate neutral, sustainable Europe”.

Among the best practice examples implemented in local areas by the local administration/NGOs regarding the 10 areas mentioned in the previous question, the respondents listed many projects such as:

- Car, bike and scooter sharing in Palermo (4)
- Green Education in primary schools, high schools and universities (3)
- MUV sustainable mobility project (2)
- Industry (agriculture) for a clean and circular economy (2)
- Reuse Center -Caltagirone
- Piazza Armerina Ecostation
- Ri HUB-Ri Lab-Laboratories for the regeneration of obsolete PCs and household appliances
- “The fairies garden”, shared Garden in Palermo
- Ecological Sunday
- Alternative-native energies festival

- Step by step project
- Increase of cycling and green areas
- Adoption of regulation against pesticides
- Continuous training of collaborators and partners
- Events for the circular economy
- Closure of the historic center to vehicular traffic
- Public meetings with technicians, agronomists and doctors on health and the environment
- Platform to create communities
- Preservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity
- Farmer's market

In general, respondents declared that **these best practices can be implemented by other organisations/city councils, they have a good degree of novelty and innovativeness and they can be replicated as a good practice.**

Local authorities and NGOs actively raise awareness, gather feedback and set up participatory governance mechanisms on sustainable policies and the Green Deal-related actions with stakeholders, businesses and citizens. In particular, they communicate and actively raise awareness about sustainable policies and the Green Deal-related actions (for example running social media campaigns, inviting specific actors to participate).

Poland

The **52% of local administrators/NGOs staff simply follow the national laws and recommendations**, the 48% simply follow the regional laws (EU legislation or internal regional regulations) and recommendations. 36% use a proactive approach.

20% is preparing a plan/strategy in the future and doesn't know. 16% have already such a strategy and it is not ready because they do not have administrative capacity. 12% is in the process of preparing such plan/strategy. "NO" answers returned these interesting motivations:

No, we are not planning to prepare a plan/strategy for another reason:

- "Lack of time. We carry out activities, projects and ideas but we do not have time (we work elsewhere) to develop additional documentation for the Foundation";
- "Lack of commitment by heads of unit".

In the 10 areas of the EGD, **Polish administrations are slow in the implementation of effective actions.** All areas scored low marks (none above 4=medium level of implementation of the actions). This means that

local administration in Poland have a long way to full implement policies which can improve their citizens' quality of life.

Among the best practices cited by respondents:

Name of good practice	Number of occurrences
Installation of photovoltaic installations	7
Action to protect the environment and biodiversity	6
Co-financing the replacement of heat sources with sources powered by renewable energy (mainly solid fuel furnaces)	4
Thermomodernisation of public buildings	3
Installation of heat pumps	2
Green energy - Biogas plant	1
Establishment of a Renewable Energy Centre	1
Construction of domestic sewage treatment plants	1
Grants for small-scale retention	1
Mitigation of the effects of water erosion	1
Mitigation of the effects of wind erosion	1
Mitigating the effects of drought	1
Air protection, prevention of air pollution	1
Selective collection of municipal waste	1
Development of urban agriculture through a programme to support the establishment of community gardens	1
Action: Show where to plant a tree	1
Establishment of a network of Park&Ride car parks	1
Development of an electromobility strategy	1
Lighting of roads and streets	1
Increasing the car fleet with electric cars	1
Establishment of a sectoral competence centre in the field of energy and resource efficiency	1
Centre of Environmental Education	1
Education: permaculture, beekeeping, waste separation, etc.	1
Education, dissemination and awareness-raising activities + lobbying	1
Publication of articles related to the European Green Deal in a global scientific journal	1
Development of an action plan leading to the Białystok Functional Area becoming a territory with zero net energy consumption in the next thirty years (by 2050)	1

These best practices have a good potential to be implemented in other organisations and being replicated. They also have a good degree of novelty and innovativeness.

Local administrations equally engage stakeholders/ businesses and citizens but without getting feedback and participation from these target groups.

Ireland

The institutional approach of the administration/NGO towards sustainability returned these percentages:

55% of respondents use a proactive approach

15% has no specific and identified policy for sustainability

15% simply follows the national laws and recommendations

15% simply follows the regional laws (EU legislation or internal region regulations) and recommendations

The question: "If your local administration has started a transition towards a more sustainable community, at which stage is your plan/strategy?" returned the following answers:

20% already has such a plan/strategy

45% is currently in the process of preparing such plan/strategy

35% will prepare a plan/strategy in the future

In general, **local authority action has been slow with the majority of responses between 3 and 5 indicating some action taken but in many EGD actions very few respondents have stated that full action has been taken.** In relation to sustainable and smart mobility and farm to fork actions; these tend to be the least developed and this is consistent with findings in other areas of the survey. **More work is definitely needed internally with the local authorities across all actions** as their ability to be leaders in this field is impacting on their ability to also empower citizens for the transition towards a climate neutral, sustainable Europe.

Among the best practice examples implemented by the local administration/NGOs, the respondents listed many projects such as:

- Smart Mobility Hub in Dublin City
- Cycle lanes and bike share scheme
- Green Education in primary and secondary schools – Green Schools Ireland
- Leave no Trace Initiative – An Taisce
- Retrofitting of local authority homes
- Local biodiversity plans and native planting schemes
- Farmer's market and buy local initiatives
- Tallaght District Heating Scheme
- Local Agenda 21/Community Action Funding Scheme
- Farm to Fork initiatives
- LEADER Programme and investment in local communities and the rural environment

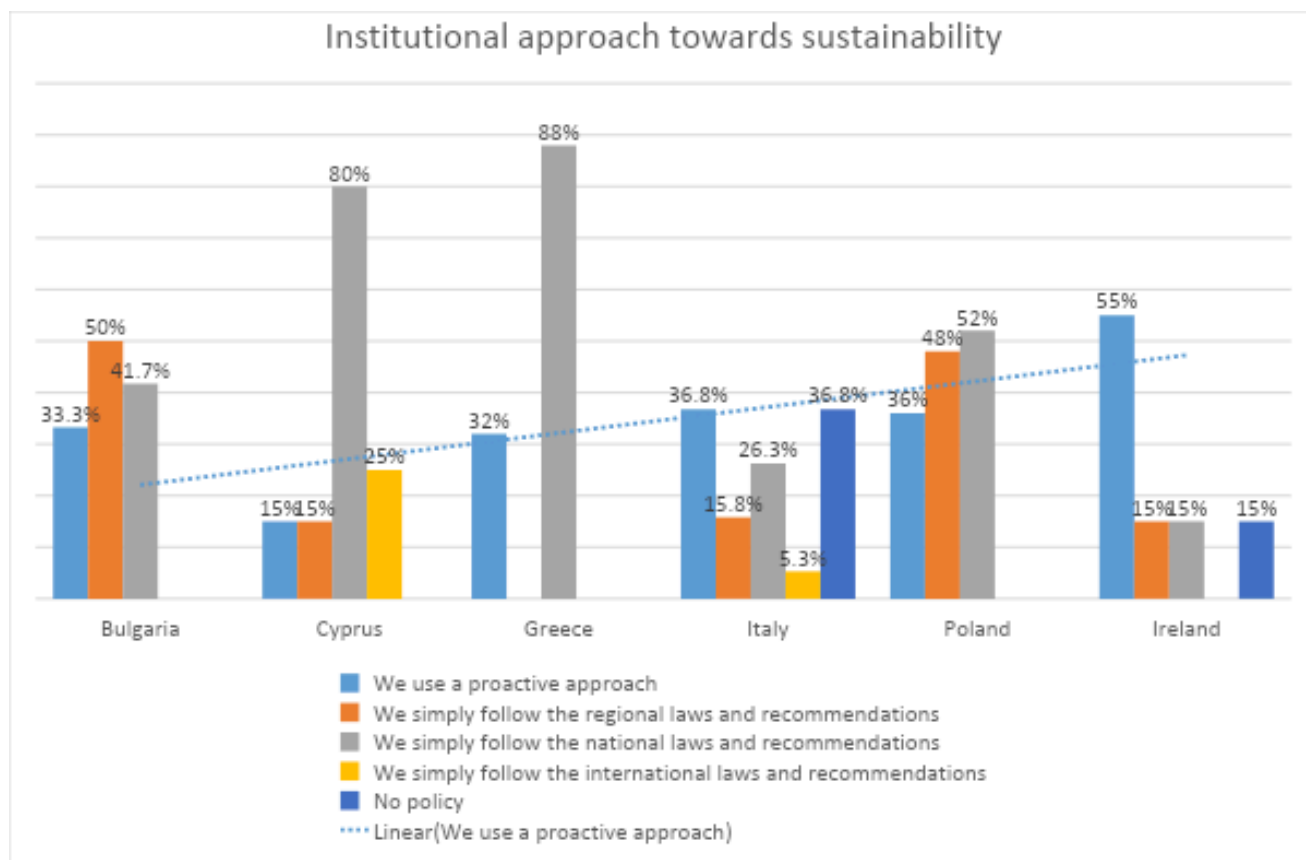
- Rediscovery Centre – upskilling and upcycling – demonstration centre for the circular economy
- CARO – Climate Action Regional Offices: Supporting a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Ireland amongst local authorities
- Circular Economy training programmes – MODUS training

In general, **many of these best practices can be transferred and implemented by other organisations/city councils across Europe.**

Local authorities and NGOs do not actively raise awareness, gather feedback, and set up participatory governance mechanisms on sustainable policies and the Green Deal-related actions with stakeholders, businesses, and citizens in Ireland; this is a core weakness in the system and is supported by the **lack of progress achieved internally with the organisations**, i.e., they do know that the knowledge or expertise at present to be leaders in the circular economy across society.

The institutional approach towards sustainability is represented by the following graph grouping the data from all partner countries:

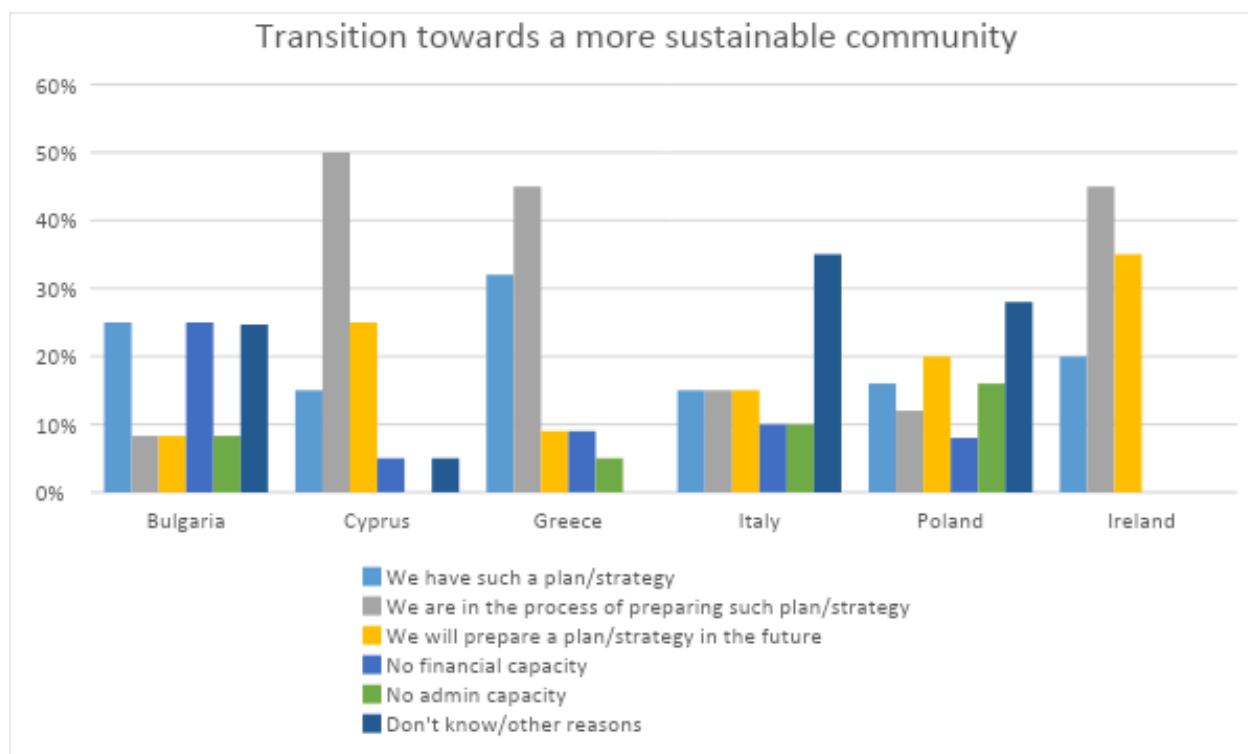
Figure 8: Institutional approach towards sustainability



The most important trend towards sustainability is that local administrations simply follow the national laws and recommendations. Using a proactive approach has also a relevance in local administrations.

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Figure 9: Transition towards a more sustainable community



Local administrations are in the process of preparing a plan/strategy towards more sustainable communities in all countries, as shown by the linear tendency.

5. Training needs of policy makers

Bulgaria

The support needed for local administrations for the transition to a more sustainable community is:

91,7% Financial support

75% Capacity building

66,7% Administrative support

41,7% Information sources

91,7% said that they need specific training, 8,3% answered No

If "Yes", which one among the following topics:

75% Green sectoral skills

58,3% Communication or marketing skills to engage citizens

50% Professional development

50% Lobbying skills

41,7% Change Management

33,3% Socio-educational skills

33% Leadership skills

16,7% Creativity

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According to the respondents, the **three biggest obstacles** their administration/NGO faces in achieving the Green Deal objectives are:

100% Lack of financial capacity

50% Burdensome bureaucracy

33,3% Lack of citizens' support and engagement

33,3% Lack of awareness among decision-makers

33,3% Lack of technical capacity

30% Lack of businesses' support and engagement

25% Lack of dialogue with higher level of governance

16,7% Lack of reliable/specific data

Cyprus

According to the respondents, the support the local administration/NGO needs for the transition to a more sustainable community is:

75% Financial support

50% Administrative support

30% Capacity building

15% Information sources

90% said that they need specific training, 10% answered No

If "Yes", which one among the following topics:

90% Green sectoral skills

65% Leadership skills

55% Creativity

50% Lobbying skills

35% Communication or marketing skills to engage citizens

30% Socio-educational skills

30% Change Management

20% Professional development

According to the respondents, the **three biggest obstacles** their administration/NGO faces in achieving the Green Deal objectives are:

60% Burdensome bureaucracy

55% Lack of financial capacity

45% Lack of dialogue with higher level of governance

35% Lack of citizens' support and engagement

35% Lack of awareness among decision-makers

30% Lack of businesses' support and engagement

10% Lack of technical capacity

5% Lack of reliable/specific data

Greece

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According to the respondents, the support the local administration/NGO needs for the transition to a more sustainable community is:

95% Financial support
75% Capacity building
55% Information sources
55% Administrative support

96% said that they need specific training, 4% answered No

If “Yes”, which one among the following topics:

Green sectoral skills (88%)
Communication or marketing skills to engage citizens (52%)
Change Management (48%)
Professional development (36%)

According to the respondents, the **three biggest obstacles** their administration/NGO faces in achieving the Green Deal objectives are:

18% Lack of financial capacity
17% Burdensome bureaucracy
13% Lack of citizens' support and engagement
11% Lack of businesses' support and engagement
9% Lack of dialogue with higher level of governance
8% Lack of awareness among decision-makers
8% Lack of reliable/specific data

Italy

According to the respondents, the support the local administration/NGO needs for the transition to a more sustainable community:

75%: Capacity building
60%: Financial support
40%: Information sources
35%: Administrative support

95% said that they need specific training, 5% answered No

If “Yes”, which one among the following topics:

55%: Communication or marketing skills to engage citizens
55%: Change Management
50%: Green sectoral skills
35%: Creativity
35%: Lobbying skills
35%: Professional development
30% Socio-educational skills
15%: Leadership skills

According to the respondents, the **three biggest obstacles** their administration/NGO faces in achieving the Green Deal objectives are:

75%: Burdensome bureaucracy
45%: Internal/local political conflicts/interests
45%: Lack of technical capacity
40%: Lack of dialogue with higher level of governance
30%: Lack of awareness among decision-makers
25%: Lack of businesses' support and engagement
15%: Lack of citizens' support and engagement
10%: Lack of reliable/specific data
5%: Potential impacts of COVID-19

Poland

In Poland local administrations need:

43% Financial support
25% Capacity building
21% Administrative support

92% think they need specific training to support the implementation of effective policies at local level.

In particular, they need:

72% Green sectorial skills
56% Socio-educational skills
48% Communication or marketing skills to engage citizens
40% Professional development
36% Creativity

The **three biggest obstacles** to achieving the Green Deal Objectives are:

52% Lack of financial capacity
36% Potential impacts of COVID-19
32% Internal/local political conflicts/interests
28% Burdensome bureaucracy
28% Lack of awareness among decision makers

Other:

- “Lack of capacity to recruit independent professional staff, especially in the field of eco-energy and energy transition”;
- “Lack of support from the authorities and local government, failure to fulfil their duties by the institutions appointed to do so!”

Ireland

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100% said that they need specific training and the topics chosen were as follows – ranked in order of priority:

75%: Green sectoral skills

50%: Leadership skills

45%: Communication or marketing skills to engage citizens

45%: Change Management

30%: Professional development

25%: Creativity

20% Socio-educational skills

5%: Lobbying skills

According to the respondents, the support the local administration/NGO needs for the transition to a more sustainable community:

90%: Capacity building

75%: Financial support

50%: Administrative support

10%: Information sources

According to the respondents, the **three biggest obstacles** their administration/NGO faces in achieving the Green Deal objectives are:

60%: Lack of financial capacity

55%: Burdensome bureaucracy

40%: Lack of awareness among decision-makers

30%: Lack of citizens' support and engagement

25%: Internal/local political conflicts/interests

25%: Lack of dialogue with higher level of governance

25%: Lack of technical capacity

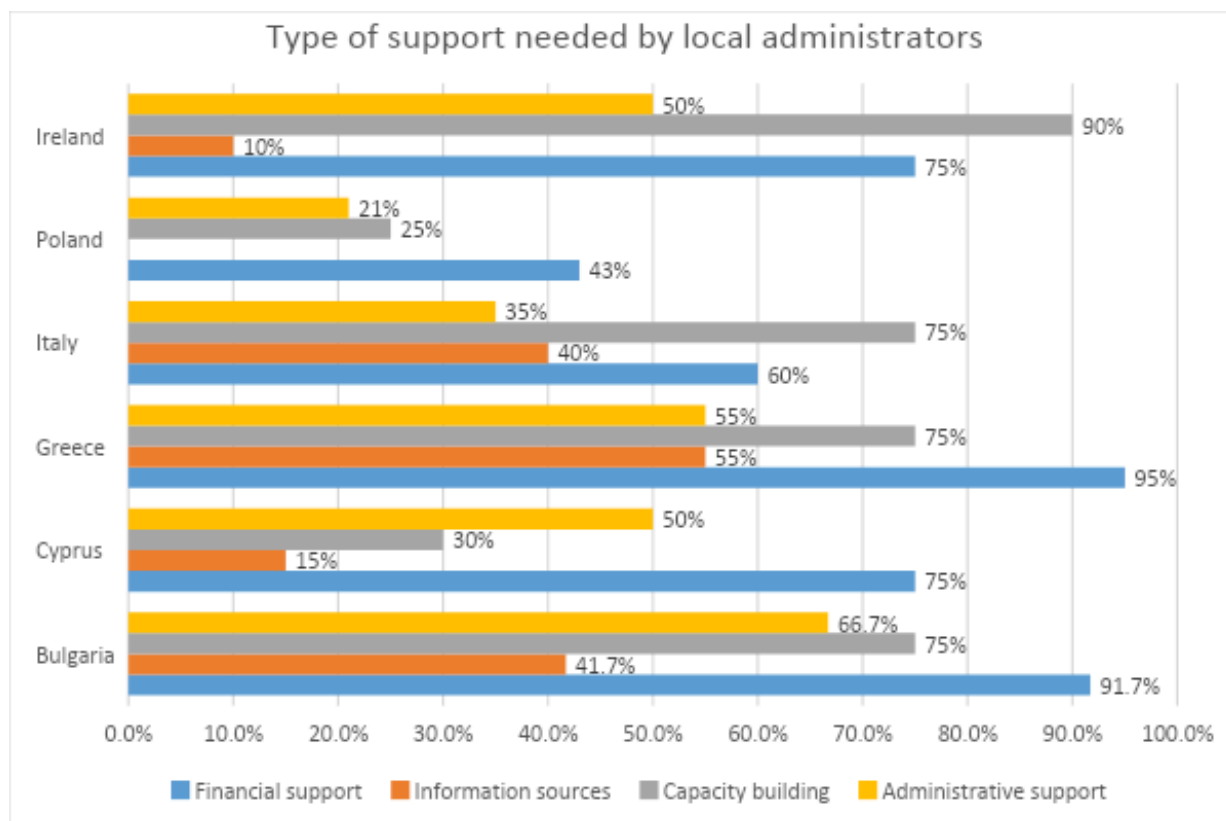
20%: Potential impacts of COVID-19

10%: Lack of businesses' support and engagement

5%: Lack of reliable/specific data

The compared analysis on the training needs of the policy makers in local contexts returned these results summarised by the following graphs:

Figure 10: Type of support needed by local administrators



Capacity building and financial support are the main things lacking at local level for the implementation of green policies. Also, administrative support has a relevance in the implementation of local green policies.

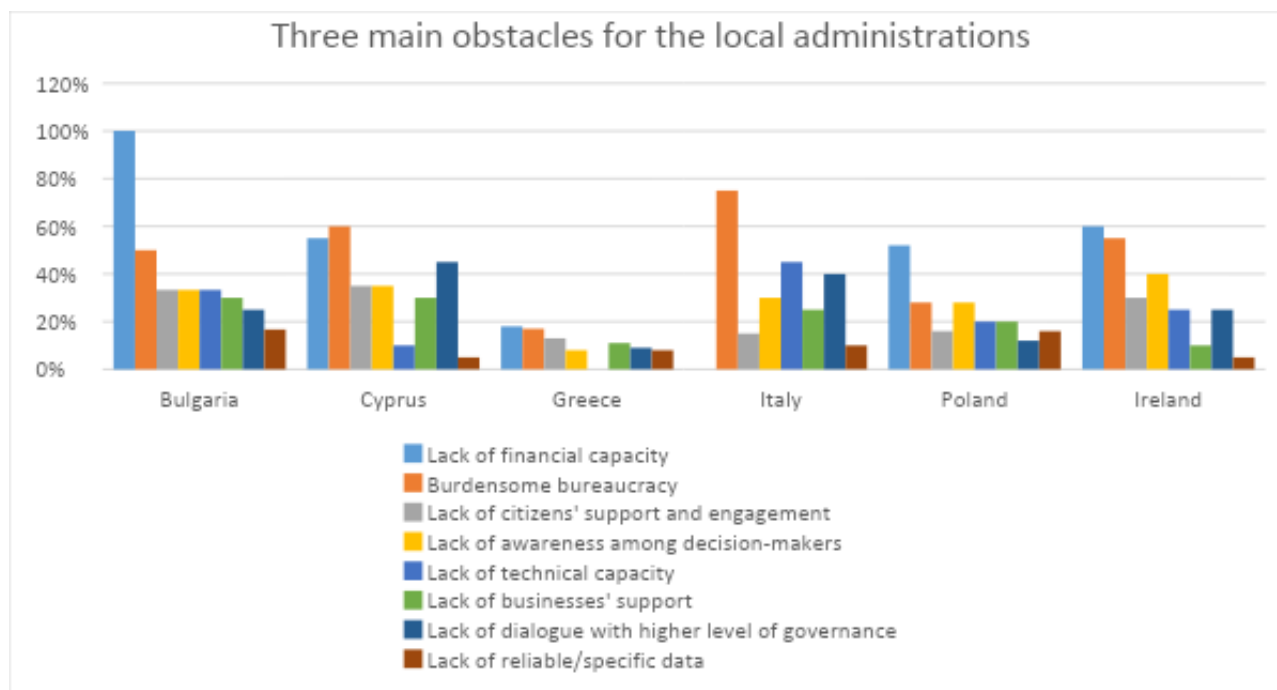
Figure 11: Topics for a specific training for local administrators



In all partner countries the main topic for a specific training is green sectorial skills, followed by communication and marketing skills.

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Figure 12: Main obstacles for the local administrators for the implementation of green policies



The main obstacle for local administrators for the implementation of green policies are: lack of financial capacity in almost all partner countries, followed by burdensome bureaucracy.

Assessment Methodology for valorising / creating European Green Deal local policies: first considerations

The Assessment Methodology is **addressed to local authorities' staff and representatives** dealing with environmental and climate goals at local level. The objective is to provide the basis for the development of a **common document that can be used by local authorities in order to enhance their role on assisting the provision of climate change**. The Methodology is addressing local authority public officers in their daily work for supporting and counselling elected members of local parties, mayors and senior managers. The Assessment Methodology is a product of joint efforts of the interviews with 5 local authorities' staff per each country and best practices in each local level. As a result, the Methodology will promote useful data **sources, guidelines, template and evidence**, as well as examples from local authorities and other key stakeholders. The idea is to adopt a **standardised framework (methodology and tools)** to evaluate and analyse the gathered interview results in a systemic cross-national matrix. Primary **qualitative analysis of research results** by PRISM are presented in the following pages.

The tools, templates, indexes for the evaluation of the actions and competencies acquired meant to develop local actions for resilience of climate change are presented in this part of IO1.A1.

Tools and Indexes

Analysing the data from the questionnaires from all countries, we can come to the conclusion that when considering the transfer and adaptation of a good practice from a country to another, from a city to another, it is fundamental to take into consideration the following **indexes**:

- The **size of the city** where to transfer the best practice
- The **professional skills and competencies** of the local administrators and technicians
- The **financial resources** available at local level
- The **length for implementing** a single practice

From the best practices, it emerged that the main obstacles to reproduce best practices are:

- **Training of key stakeholders** would also be required
- The **different needs** of the different local administrations **and their political address**
- One of the main constraints is the **funding issue** since these types of investments needs reasonable funding in order to be operative
- Sometimes **available spaces** for the implementation of real actions are an issue
- The **high cost of the initial investment** could be a limitation, especially from small municipalities
- **Limited time for the preparation** of the technical study and submission of the best practical application for funding
- Difficulty in implementing the **regulatory framework**, concerning the **public works legislation**, the **urban planning legislation**, the **building regulations** for the purpose of building energy autonomy
- Need for **further training of executives** of different specialties for the implementation and monitoring of the project
- **Data management** is an issue in many best practices
- **Long term planning is required**, and big decisions need to be made at a national level
- **Measuring the impact** is an issue
- **Motivation and engagement strategies to motivate** citizens, entrepreneurs and business people
- **Lack of green public procurement**
- **Technical constraints**
- The **high costs of personnel** managing services and projects
- **Low data availability**
- **High costs of strategy development**
- A **comprehensive approach** to sustainable development is necessary
- **Cooperation of bodies supervising** green projects is necessary
- **Resistance of citizens** to change their habits

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From the analysis of the results from the collected questionnaires and the interviews with the local administrators / NGO staff, it emerged that for the proper implementation of actions towards the application of the European Green Deal strategies, a **holistic approach is necessary** for the good results of a tested and tried action made in other contexts (city or country). A best practice in Greece cannot be automatically replicated in Italy if the context, the stakeholders, politicians, local administrations, technicians, environmental NGOs, all the parts involved in a project are not consonant with the project. A vast number of variables is influencing the good results of a practice which can be absolutely winning in one country but resulting in a big failure in another. The holistic approach is necessary and the variables/indexes to take into consideration are many. As written before, we must take into consideration:

- The **size of the city** where to transfer the best practice
- The **professional skills and competencies** of the local administrators and technicians
- The **financial resources** available at local level
- The **length for implementing** a single practice
- The **political will and address** of the local administration
- The **degree of environmental consciousness** of the citizens living in the area
- The concentration of “**green economic operators**” which work and produce in the areas

All these variables / indexes contribute to assess the transferability and potential success of an action/best practice which local politicians would like to implement in their communities to improve the quality of life from an environmental point of view.

From these data we can create a matrix to assess the applicability and transferability of a best practice from a country to another:

MATRIX FOR ASSESSMENT OF A BEST PRACTICE TRANSFERABILITY

Variables/indexes	Degree of variables at local level		
	Small (up to 25k citizens)	Medium (from 25k to 100k citizens)	Big (> 100k citizens)
<i>Size of the city</i>			
	Low	Average	High
<i>Professional skills and competencies of local actors</i>			
	Little	Medium	Big
<i>Financial resources</i>			
	Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
<i>Length of implementation</i>			
	Liberal	Conservative	Green
<i>Political will and address</i>			
	Low	Medium	High
<i>Green consciousness of citizens</i>			
	Low	Medium	High
<i>Concentration of green businesses at local level</i>			
	Low	Medium	High
<i>Degree of urbanization or industrialization</i>			

This matrix can support local administrators to compare best practices and evaluate whether a best practice used in one country can be replicated in own country a local level. It is straightforward that **it is important to compare the size of a city where the best practice was implemented with the size of the local administration** where policy makers want to “import” and replicate the best practice. In general, from the interviews with the local administrators carried out in all partner countries, replicating a best practice in a small city from a big one is complex and it is easier to apply and try to replicate solutions applied in cities with the same size. At

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the same time, **a long-term implementation is sometimes necessary to assess the efficiency of a best practice on citizens and their quality of life.** Political address and concentration of green businesses are also very important to assess the transferability of a green practice from a city to another.