

OUTPUT FACT SHEET

Strategies and action plans

Version 2

Project index number and acronym	CE1578 CWC
Output number and title	O.T3.2 Transnational strategy for creating an enabling policy framework on circular water use in CE cities
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	PP6 E-institute
Project website	https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/CWC.html
Delivery date	04.2022

Summary description of the strategy/action plan (developed and/or implemented), explaining its main objectives and transnational added value

Water scarcity and drought is an increasingly frequent and widespread phenomenon in the European Union. Studies estimate, through the world's first global survey of large cities' water sources, that 1 in 4 cities already is seriously water stressed, with different cities facing various problems.

"The Transnational CWC strategy & policy recommendations for boosting circular water use in the CE cities, address these challenges and aim to contribute to EU's efforts to stimulate and facilitate water reuse and rainwater use.

Strategy was developed upon a bottom-up approach joining the individual base elements and characteristics of the existing systems of urban water management in partner regions, with emphasis on identifying the problems and gaps hindering its circularity, through the whole project implementation. First gaps and potentials were identified on local levels, in each of the involved FUAs, later, project partners prepared a comprehensive assessment of laws, strategies, regulatory and non-regulatory measures applied in the 6 CE countries involved (Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Poland and Croatia), with the aim of elaborating national level policy recommendations comprising of all of the previously explored elements and further discussed on national roundtables discussions in order to form a complexed and complete top-level system.

The Strategy is introducing elaborated national level regulatory & non-regulatory policy options on CE level to close identified gaps hindering circular water use, incorporated in three content sets:

- *Legislative policy measures: upon the need to improve existing bottlenecks.*
- *Knowledge capacity and awareness raising policy measures: to improve knowledge and awareness deficit.*
- *Governance policy measure: to improve existing governance principle (to tailor governance to the needs of circular economy approach).*

NUTS region(s) concerned by the strategy/action plan (relevant NUTS level)

NUTS0 Countries: Germany - DE, Hungary - HU, Italy - IT, Slovenia - SI, Poland - PL and Croatia - HR.

Expected impact and benefits of the strategy/action plan for the concerned territories and target groups

Strategy serves to guide the cities and practitioners (representatives from our local and regional stakeholder groups), who are incorporating the principles in policies and strategies, planning, investment prioritization, and design and operations to achieve a fully circular and resilient water system. Rethinking urban water through the circular economy and resilience lenses offers an opportunity to tackle urban water challenges by providing a systemic and transformative approach to delivering water supply and sanitation services in a more sustainable, inclusive, efficient, and resilient way, recognizing and capturing the full value of water - as a service, an input to processes, a source of energy and a carrier of nutrients and other materials.

Key target groups included and addressed are local public authorities, regional public authorities, national public authorities, sectoral agencies, infrastructure and (public) service providers, interest groups including NGOs, higher education and research institutions, international organizations, EEIGs under national law, general public.

Sustainability of the developed and/or implemented strategy/action plan and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

The sustainability of O.T3.2 Transnational strategy is connected with FUA-level CWC strategies (OT3.1) and Action Plans (DT3.2.5), which are endorsed by partners and associated partners, which will be able to ensure sustainability & the realization of future interventions. New financing means will support these actions. Already implemented National Policy Roundtables (DT3.4.4) and meetings with decision makers (DC5.2) facilitate the uptake of policy recommendations' into the Transnational CWC Strategy (OT3.2).

Transnational strategy was also introduced and discussed with three EU platforms/networks:

- *ICLEI network - Local Governments for Sustainability, a global network of more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development.*
- *The Global Water Partnership (GWP): action network with over 3,000 Partner organizations in 179 countries. GWP's action network provides knowledge and builds capacity to improve water management at all levels.*
- *Interreg Europe Programme, Policy Learning Platform.*

Developing a Transnational Strategy, using a bottom-up approach, taught us, that the multitude of interconnected water problems faced by cities, requires a structural and systemic approach to address and resolve as many issues as possible and put cities at the European forefront as circular water centers.

References to relevant deliverables and web-links
If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

Strategy is available here: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Policy-Recommendations-for-Circular-Urban-Water-Management.html>

Connected deliverables:

D.T3.4.2 Country reports on the assessments of the national level legislative and policy frameworks

D.T3.4.3 National level policy recommendation discussion papers in EN & national languages

D.T3.4.4 Reports on national policy roundtable discussions

D.T3.4.5 Summary report on discussing the policy recommendations at prominent EU thematic platforms

D.T3.4.6 Blueprint of the transnational CWC strategy

D.T3.4.7 Transnational CWC strategy & policy recommendations for boosting circular water use in the CE region