



re-value

Re-Value Monitoring & Evaluation Report 2

Re-Value Deliverable D7.5

Report information

Deliverable: D7.5: Re-Value M&E Report 2

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Executive Summary

The present deliverable constitutes the second report on the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of Re-Value's project impacts. The Re-Value M&E Framework has been initially developed in deliverable D7.1: Re-Value Monitoring & Evaluation Model (initial version)¹ and updated in the following versions D7.3 and D7.6 (submitted concurrently to this report). The Framework, in its latest version, bases the evaluation on a set of project-level Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), as well as on city journeys. The latter capture the progress in the Re-Value cities in a narrative way, linking it to the project-level KPIs, accentuating the project's pathways to impact. Four types of KPIs have been defined:

- Results that are to be delivered within the duration of the project;
- Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation (CDE) measures that the project uses to communicate and disseminate various project results within and beyond the Re-Value cities ecosystem;
- Outcomes that can be observed in the mid-term as a result of communication and dissemination of project Results to direct target groups, among others within the Re-Value cities;
- Impacts in the longer term and outside of the project's boundaries, including long-term effects on society.

This second version of the M&E Report captures the progress made by Re-Value cities and the project in general during its second year (January 2024 to December 2024). Examining the activities that happened, the challenges and learnings, allows to steer the work in the various work packages of the project towards more impactful and replicable approaches. Lessons learned are not only useful for this project, but also for similar endeavours that aim to bring sustainable and inclusive innovation in European cities of various contexts.

In its second year, the project shifted from initial exploration toward co-creation and contextualization, with all nine Re-Value cities working as a Community of Practice to exchange design principles and create a shared Portfolio of Urban Planning and Design Approaches. Leading cities completed their Detailed Roadmaps for full-scale deployment that will follow in the next years, while Replication Cities also progressed toward their own Roadmaps. The review of this year also provided important lessons: delays in both project years underscored the non-linear and iterative nature of systemic urban transformation, highlighting the need for phased planning, regular reviews, and built-in buffer time. The diversity of disciplines and professional backgrounds enriched the work but also exposed ambiguity in key terminology, prompting an ongoing process of clarification to strengthen collaboration. Finally, locally anchored workshops and Innovation Camps proved valuable for engaging stakeholders—particularly youth—in shaping pathways toward climate neutrality, with learnings feeding directly into the cities' Roadmaps.

The next reporting of project impact progress in the third year will be included in the following deliverable of the series, namely D7.8: Re-Value M&E Report 3, due in December 2025. Furthermore, a final update of the Re-Value M&E Framework, that will incorporate any new findings during the upcoming reporting period is foreseen in the deliverable D7.8: Re-Value M&E Model (final version) due in March 2026.

¹ [D7.1: Re-Value Monitoring & Evaluation Model \(Initial Version\)](#)

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1. Introduction

1.1. About this Deliverable

The "Re-Valuing Urban Quality & Climate Neutrality in European Waterfront Cities" (Re-Value) project aims to support cities in developing, testing, capturing, and sharing innovative strategies for creating value through urban quality while pursuing holistic approach to climate neutrality. The project will showcase, at full scale, how integrated urban planning and design can be effectively applied to build inclusive, beautiful, and sustainable cities in line with the New European Bauhaus (NEB) objectives². As part of the Horizon Europe Innovation Actions, Re-Value contributes to the EU's Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission by advancing practical solutions for urban transformation that foster both environmental sustainability and enhanced urban living.

This deliverable (D7.5) is developed as part of Work Package (WP) 7 on Monitoring and Documenting Impact, and it presents the progress during the second year of the project done under the Task 7.2 (T7.2: Monitoring and documentation of impact). The goal of WP7 is to understand how Re-Value helps city stakeholders benefit from an urban design that aims for climate neutrality and urban qualities. The Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the project impact was first developed in deliverable D7.1: Re-Value Monitoring & Evaluation Model (initial version), and updated in D7.3: Re-Value M&E Model (first intermediate version)³ and D7.6: Re-Value M&E Model (second intermediate version)⁴. It described the M&E Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including their connection to project activities and tasks, the roles and responsibilities for the project partners, and their contribution to expected outcomes and impacts of the project.

The M&E KPIs described in D7.6 are used in this deliverable to report on the progress made in the second project year (M13-M24, January-December 2024). Under each KPI the progress and insights on lessons learned are provided. Following the last version of the M&E Framework in D7.6, the present report additionally includes a section on the progress made in the Re-Value cities. These city journeys, which link activities in the cities with the project KPIs, provide a clearer, more complete and easy to read view of the project's impact. Content in this deliverable is therefore partly repeated or summarised from other project reports that describe the work in more detail. Further, a KPI tracker, in the form of a spreadsheet, is used to track progress in a more quantitative way. This is only used for the project progress reporting to the European Commission (EC).

The documentation and evaluation of the progress made in the first project year provided a basis for reflection and potential refinement of project activities, some of which are included in this deliverable. Updates of the M&E Framework until now have been included in deliverable D7.6: Re-Value M&E Model (second intermediate version) that was due in M27 (April 2025), but will be finalised together with the present deliverable. The next progress report will be part of deliverable D7.8: Re-Value M&E Report 3 due in M36 (December 2025), and a final update of the M&E Framework will be part of D7.9: Re-Value M&E Model (final version) due in M39 (March 2026).

² EU Funding & Tenders Portal. Urban planning and design for just, sustainable, resilient and climate-neutral cities by 2030 HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-miss-2021-cit-02-01>

³ [D7.3: Re-Value M&E Model \(First Intermediate Version\)](#)

⁴ D7.6: Re-Value M&E Model (second intermediate version) is submitted concurrently with the present deliverable.

1.2. Monitoring & Evaluation in Re-Value

The goal of WP7 is to understand how Re-Value helps city stakeholders benefit from an urban design that aims for climate neutrality and urban qualities. Cities throughout Europe have set a course to achieve carbon neutrality, sustainability and quality of life, but they struggle with a currently siloed and insufficient way of working towards realising those goals. At the same time, current approaches result in missed opportunities for high urban quality. Therefore, Re-Value aims to contribute to treating those symptoms of sub-optimal urban planning approaches. WP7's mission is to track and analyse indications of positive future impact of the project, and potentially negative externalities, on Re-Value cities as well as on the broader community of European cities. It will try to gather some insights regarding the following questions:

- Do Re-Value cities change their vision, their approaches, or their outcomes based on what they learn from Re-Value?
- How does Re-Value contribute to capacity building to further help other European cities?
- What aspects of Re-Value help cities more (or less)? What can be improved?

To achieve this, the Re-Value M&E Framework has two main aims: to demonstrate that the project and its cities reach their goals, and, even more important, to understand how they reach them, so that a feedback and learning loop is established to support them and other cities that want to replicate our approaches and results. The M&E Framework (shown in Figure 1) operationalises the monitoring of project progress, the evaluation of processes and results, and feedback, through the tracking of project Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and the evaluation of Impact Pathways.

Analysing how impact is achieved through technological, governance, economic, social, spatial and other types of impact pathways can bring valuable insights and help learning and replication of experimentations and methods used in the project. Concretely, Re-Value will produce a set of Results and will use appropriate communication and dissemination measures and other knowledge transfer activities, in order to reach the expected Outcomes and long-term Impacts set out in the project's Grant Agreement. This is illustrated in Figure 1. Mid- and long-term impact, however, cannot be effectively measured within the duration of the project. Therefore, specific KPIs have been defined to act as proxies of how the project activities and results contribute towards reaching the Outcomes and Impacts defined in the project or requested in the European Commission's Call⁵. The KPIs are tracked in both a quantitative and qualitative way, through an internal KPI tracker and in this series of deliverables respectively. These KPIs serve not only as a monitoring and evaluation tool but also as guidance for each Work Package to align their tasks with the project's overarching goals. They help ensure that activities across the consortium are strategically contributing to the desired Outcomes, and Impacts.

Through the process of understanding how the different project results and activities lead to the desired Outcomes and Impacts, learnings can be gathered for steering the pilots and the project itself, but also for supporting the wider community of cities in their quest to become just, sustainable, resilient and climate-neutral. The focus here lies not just on reaching targets, but specifically on tracking how results are

⁵ EU Funding & Tenders Portal. Urban planning and design for just, sustainable, resilient and climate-neutral cities by 2030 HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-miss-2021-cit-02-01>

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achieved, so that learnings can be shared and results validated in context. For this purpose, appropriate methods will be utilised to monitor and document how and for whom impact is created by the different project activities that contribute to the desired Outcomes and Impacts of the project.

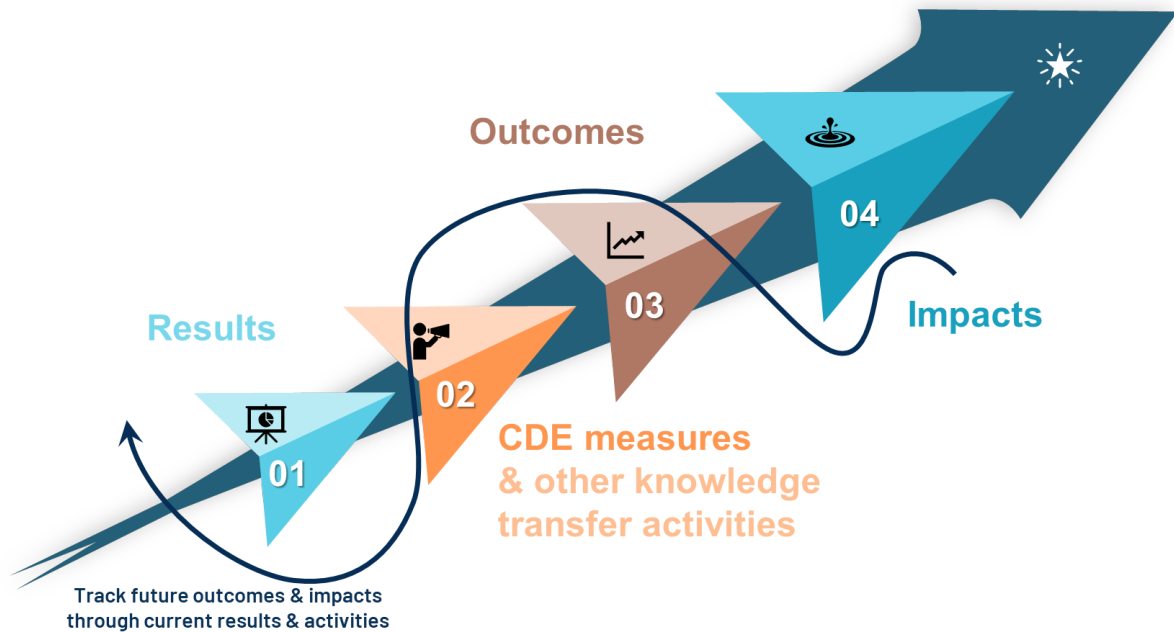


Figure 1: Depiction of Re-Value Monitoring & Evaluation approach.

2. Progress in Re-Value cities

2.1. Leading Cities

2.1.1 Ålesund

2.1.1.1 Re-Valu(ing)

In the Re-Value partnership, Ålesund is actively working in the Sørsida area (88 500m²) to create a sustainable and accessible urban environment delivering not only quality for the local people but also climate neutrality. In 2019, the municipality created a Special-Purpose Vehicle, “Sørsida Utvikling AS” (SUAS), a municipal company, to coordinate the development of the Sørsida waterfront district. The municipality and SUAS will use Re-Value to co-create and implement the district's transformation using data-driven approaches and story-building with the local community and other stakeholders.

Sørsida is to be developed from an under-utilised waterfront area to become a leading example of an urban area with sustainable solutions that deliver on the environmental urgency while working with the goals for economic development and social sustainability. The development will include business premises, cultural venues, and housing that contribute to value creation for owners, renters, and visitors of Sørsida. Social sustainability will be fostered through the creation of good meeting places, safe urban spaces, smart mobility solutions, and a diverse urban environment that promotes equal opportunities for all.

Previous planning efforts have envisioned including a new cultural centre in the area, with a performing arts theatre, school, and other community functions—called Kulturhavna (The Cultural Harbour). Kulturhavna has two development phases; one short-term (temporary) and one long-term (full build out). The Re-Value project focuses on the temporary development phase due to the project's time horizon and because it provides an innovative and creative engagement arena for Ålesund kommune (AK) and its municipal development agency, Sørsida Utvikling (SUAS), to get input to help shape the outcome of Kulturhavna's long-term development. Today, Kulturhavna consists of two main elements. East of the Brosundet sound is the former Devold building, where a large skate hall has now been established, which is also used as an event space. The area west of Brosundet was formerly a parking lot. Now, it has been established as a car-free recreation area with activities and functions for various target groups.

As part of Re-Value, Ålesund will develop processes to support the area's development and future city plans, with a strong emphasis on collaborative urban design and planning—all aiming to make the urban transition towards climate neutrality truly irresistible for Ålesund and its residents.



Figure 2: Aerial map of Downtown, Sørsida development area and Kulturhavna (oval) (Source: Ålesund Kommune).

2.1.1.2 Progress during reporting period

Detailed Roadmap

The work on the Roadmap for the pilot area is led by SUAS, a development company owned by the municipality. Work on the Detailed Roadmap has been split in two parts. The first part covering the history of the Sørsida area up until present day was completed in June 2024. The second part goes deeper into the work performed in the Re-Value project and describes how the various methods that have been adapted or developed help the city reach the project objectives and work towards making Sørsida a climate neutral and beautiful area.

Input for the second part has been gathered both through an impact model workshop and extensive use of the Cultural harbour as a test-area. The project has cooperated with the local North West festival and other stakeholders that fill the area with almost continuous activities. AK and SUAS are using the Cultural harbour as a testbed for co-creation, inviting the overall population, but especially youth and children to give their input. The final version of the city's Detailed Roadmap was delivered in November 2024 as D2.1: Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Ålesund⁶, where all details can be consulted.

⁶ [D2.1: Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Ålesund](#)



Figure 3: The temporary Cultural harbour, established at a former parking-lot (Foto: SUAS).

The Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Ålesund describes the history behind the area, the current situation and the methods that will be used within the project to achieve the ambition of good urban qualities and climate neutrality at the same time. The pilot area in Ålesund focuses on the development of the Cultural Harbour, in both a temporary and permanent form. The process around permanent infrastructure in the planned area is on-going as more areas are being developed and sold. The temporary activities continuously inform the establishment of more permanent infrastructure.

The Roadmap describes the methods used for activating the area using both existing buildings and new temporary mobile infrastructure. The input from the Innovation camps has provided valuable input that can already be seen in the area.

The Roadmap further lays out the main activities and ambition for the rest of the project. At the same time, the complexity and shifting nature of the development project is a source of uncertainty that is expected.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

AK like most other Norwegian municipalities has ambitious goals for reducing emissions and working towards climate neutrality. Municipalities follow a complicated set of laws that dictates how planning should be executed. Establishing a separate company (SUAS) to develop the harbour area adds some additional layer of complexity. Relevant plans and strategies have been identified as part of the city's long-term Territorial Transformation Plan (TTP) for climate neutrality that the project intends to update. This has been a large and complex task as it requires mapping the relevant municipal plans and strategies and understanding where Re-Value can have an influence. AK has through the contribution of Re-Value looked at

a possible strategy for the city centre that would incorporate the 6 systemic challenges. The work on this strategy has started in 2024. The Re-Value project has contributed to the establishment of the knowledge-base of plans, strategies and methods and how they are applied both in Ålesund and other cities. Regardless, AK is in the process of identifying which plans and strategies should be seen as part of the long-term TTP and use the Re-Value project and learnings to influence these through the proper channels. Such a process, with selected insights from the project and recommendations for change, will be reported in the TTP deliverable (D2.3).

The work on the Detailed Roadmap documented how the ambitious goals in the climate budget can be translated into tangible results using the means that are available at the municipal level. The work for identifying this «toolbox» for both AK and SUAS was included in the final version of the Roadmap. The methods and data-sources that form the basis of the climate budget have been documented and gaps have been identified that need to be filled in order for the climate budget to be properly integrated with both the development at Sørsida, but also other large development projects in the city centre. The same lack of integration is also found for the municipal land-use plan which is arguably the most important tool for implementing the ambitions in both the climate budget and the overall SDG-ambitions of the municipality. AK and SUAS also aim to include the learnings from Re-Value in other major plans along the harbour since Sørsida is one of three large plans along the harbour on the south-side of Ålesund.

AK is participating in the Norwegian National forum for mission cities to follow the work of Trondheim, Stavanger and Oslo municipalities closely. AK, with its role in Re-Value as Leading City and with the experience of developing the city's Roadmap, is an important contributor since the results are already being noticed and gaining positive national attention.

The forum also provides direct contact with participants from the ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, the Ministry of Climate and Environment and the Ministry of Digitisation and local governance. In addition, important national organisations such as Innovation Norway and the Research Council are represented.

The Mission Cities are currently working on their contracts and will share updates from the ongoing work. It is therefore expected that AK can learn from and replicate many of the proposed actions from the Norwegian Mission Cities. The goal is that through the Re-Value project, AK and SUAS will get a clear picture of how national ambitions for reduction of GHG-emissions can be translated into clear actions on a local level in a way that can be replicated in other cities.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Full-Scale Deployment of the Waterfront Pilot

Due to the timing of the Sørsida development in relation to the Re-Value project, the development of the Cultural harbour as a pilot area has been ongoing and continuously integrating results from Re-Value activities. In particular, the results from the first Innovation Camp (September 2023) were important in forming the area and the refurbishment and revitalization of the Devold-building is an important milestone. SUAS is working closely with stakeholders to develop the area and balance the various needs of the city. The first plots of land are already being sold, so it is critical to integrate the results from all Re-Value activities

continuously: In particular, the pilot Roadmap is an important document that structures our approach for integrating the added value from Re-Value and documenting the results that are implemented in the Full-Scale Deployment of the Waterfront Pilot (D2.2). SUAS facilitated a series of workshops (dialogue meetings) with stakeholders at the Cultural harbour during the fall of 2024. This was an important forum for communicating the ambitions in Re-Value and gathering input from stakeholders.

The plans for Sørsida, and the full-scale deployment of the pilot will be affected by uncertainties and outside factors that are beyond the control of SUAS and AK. Since the start of the project, the municipality has been split and the economy for both the municipality and the county is strained due to increasing interest-rates. Since these are the most important partners and investors at the future (permanent) Cultural harbour, this could cause delays in this part of the project. The political and economic landscape is constantly changing, and large projects may be stopped or changed on short notice. SUAS depends on attracting investors to develop plots and handle dependencies with other large projects, such as road-development in the area. The contribution of Re-Value will be documented and implemented regardless of changes in the timeline of the various construction-projects.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R6: Full-Scale Deployment in Leading Cities' Waterfront Pilots

Fit for 55 objectives

The most important strategic document for Ålesund municipality's work with climate targets is the *Green strategy*, which focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preventing the loss of natural diversity. Measurements of several KPIs in 2019 showed that direct emissions (within the municipal boundaries) were approximately 297 000 tonnes of CO₂, the largest sources being shipping (45%), road traffic (21%), and energy supply (18%). The municipal organization's climate footprint has also been mapped and is partially followed up through the Environmental Lighthouse Scheme.

The *Green strategy* sets the goal for 2030 to reduce emissions by 60% compared to 2009. The year 2009 is used as the reference year because the statistics at the municipal level do not go further back than this. This target means an emissions cut of 177 000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents (169 260 according to updated figures from the Norwegian Environmental Agency, 2024). The status in 2022 was a reduction of approximately 11.5%. The climate budget shows that there is still a large gap between the effect of the measures and the municipality's target of reducing direct emissions by 60% by 2030.

The Sørsida pilot area will have many different opportunities to contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions when the plots are sold and developed. SUAS, as development company for the area, wants to have a clear focus on, and requirements for, environmental and social sustainability vis-à-vis potential land buyers for development. This may include setting energy efficiency requirements. While the Sørsida plan originally assumes that the existing buildings are to be demolished, interest for reuse and the circular economy has increased since 2015. The buildings can give the area increased value and new economic, cultural, and social uses, along with environmental benefits and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for new construction. Additionally, Kulturhavna, the arena for testing various aspects of environmental sustainability, has set up recreation areas in the harbor area that are movable and can be reused. Kulturhavna is also conducting a pilot project on garbage sorting with local actors, starting in December 2024.

Furthermore, SUAS sees the zoning plan for the area in connection with the Plan for land use, climate and transport (PAKT) for the Ålesund region. Moving the buses to the new public transport hub is an important prerequisite for the area's development. Also, it provides an opportunity to make mobility in the centre more efficient and facilitate easy access to public transport, walking and cycling. It will be important that consideration is given to the movement patterns of future users of all ages: children, young people, and the elderly, in particular, who have special needs here. SUAS is also conducting a feasibility study on temporary and permanent bicycle repair, electric bicycle rental, and safe bicycle and pedestrian crossings in the development areas.

A crucial point and the expected added value offered by Re-Value would be to connect plans and strategies with climate neutrality goals, as currently the city is rather focused on urban quality. Especially important for the Ålesund partners is to demonstrate how the activities performed in the Pilot area of Sørsida contribute to the city's ambitions and implement the plans/strategies in practice. Ålesund will follow the ongoing work in the NetZeroCities (Trondheim, Oslo, Stavanger) through the national Cities Mission-forum and learn as much as possible from their approach.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

O1.1: Re-Value cities reach Fit for 55 objectives

Contribution to intended outcomes and impacts

Throughout 2024, several participatory engagements helped strengthen the implementation of the Re-Value across diverse community groups in Ålesund ([O2.2](#)).

The Re-Value Impact Model (IM) was tested in an adapted format for one workshop in Ålesund with a small group of 11 local stakeholders on 22 March 2024 as an initial step. This workshop created pathways for adopting IM in the long run ([O3.1](#)). While the model was not fully integrated into the pilot project, its application contributed to early reflections on its suitability for the current phase of development at Sørsida/Kulturhavna. This process facilitated the identification of relevant indicators for the pilot area, informing the first version of the Roadmap. Despite its limited number of participants, the workshop allowed them to engage with the model, strengthening their sense of contribution to the outcomes ([O2.2](#)). Ålesund also gained initial exposure to the Re-Value Story building, Scenario building, and Investment & Partnership strategies ([O2.1](#)), supporting future long-term adoption. For instance, with the support of Innovation Cycle 2, scenario building, Ålesund enriched the digital twin as a tool to make more accurate and efficient predictions and experiment with solutions without costly and potentially disruptive real-life tests (see details in D6.3: Re-Value Urban Planning and Design Approaches Portfolio (Initial Version)²).

Expanding community engagement, the **Meeting in the Middle workshop (29 April 2024)** brought together **250 youth** at Sørsida. This initiative empowered younger voices in territorial transformation discussions, in accordance with practices promoted by the Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol ([O3.2](#)). Further strengthening connections between generations, **A Meaningful Lunch (30 April 2024)** facilitated dialogue between **50 youth and politicians/stakeholders**, bridging perspectives on sustainability challenges. By fostering direct exchanges, this activity empowered youth and encouraged communication across

² [D6.3: Urban Planning and Design Approaches Portfolio \(Initial Version\)](#)

generations. Complementing these engagements, **The Perfect Playground workshop (30 April 2024)** engaged **30 participants, both children and kindergarten teachers**, introducing the youngest community members to inclusive and participatory urban design principles and collecting input for the design of future playgrounds in the area ([O3.2](#)). Furthermore, SUAS organized Dugnad at Kulturhavna in April 2024. Dugnad is a Norwegian tradition of local volunteer work. This event brought together around 40 people, including students, craftsmen, and local residents with the same “a place shaped by, with and for the people of Ålesund” (see details in D6.3).

Finally, the **Re-use of Old Buildings initiative (6 December 2024)** involved **15 participants** in exploring sustainable redevelopment strategies at Sørsida, a step towards embedding circular value chains in the city’s activities and plans and reflecting on the value of protecting and re-using old buildings ([O5.2](#)). Furthermore, Ålesund benefited from tailored support from Innovation Cycle 3 through City Finance Dialogues, which helped identifying key stakeholders for partnership and outlining potential financing pathways, including climate funds and blended finance.

Overall, these activities represent preliminary steps toward achieving the intended outcomes and impacts of the Re-Value, ensuring that exploitable results ([O4.1](#)) continue to develop in Re-Value.

Collectively, these activities have contributed to several intended outcomes and impacts of Re-Value:

O2.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities take up the participatory Re-Value Story building, Scenario building and Investment & Partnership building strategies

O2.2: Citizens/professional stakeholders feel they contributed to the outcomes

O3.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities use the Re-Value Impact Model long-term

O3.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities adopt the Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol long-term

O4.1: Exploitable Results are embedded in Re-Value cities

O5.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities fully embed the participatory, circular and shared value chains in their Investment and Partnership Plans

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation measures

Ålesund developed its Communication and Dissemination Plan, aligned with the Re-Value CDE plan, and submitted its first version in June 2024 (M18) as deliverable D8.2⁸ ([CDE6](#)). An updated version is expected in 2025. Communication and engagement with the local community is generally well established in the municipality, including daily news on the municipality’s website as well as local press engaging constructively on issues well connected to Re-Value, such as citizen engagement, urban planning and culture. Re-Value thus contributes to taking a step further regarding informing and engaging local stakeholders on concepts such as ‘innovation camps’, ‘co-creation’ or ‘climate neutrality’, as well as communicating the city’s efforts to the outside world via the Re-Value channels.

⁸ [D8.2: Local Communication and Dissemination Plans by Re-Value Cities](#)

2024 has been an eventful year in Ålesund. In March, the city hosted the Re-Value Consortium Meeting and Study Visit, during which the consortium learned of plans and discussed ideas regarding the development of the Sørsida pilot area.

Soon after, in April, Ålesund organised several local workshops, most of which have been focused on youth engagement ([CDE1](#)), as summarised in the table below and discussed in the previous section. In May was the official opening of ‘the Cultural Harbour’ in the area, an important Re-Value milestone, as it emerged partially from the ideas that had come from the first Innovation Camp (in 2023). It received positive coverage in both media and blogs. Similarly, the work to establish a skate hall in the Devold building, another Innovation Camp idea, was completed and officially opened in the autumn of 2024.

Date	Activity	Participants
22/03/2024	Impact Model Workshop: Ålesund	11
29/04/2024	Meeting in the middle (North-West) - Workshop with youth at Sørsida	250
30/04/2024	A meaningful lunch (North-West) - Meeting between youth and politicians/stakeholders	50
30/04/2024	The perfect playground - Workshop with 2 kindergartens	30
06/12/2024	Re-use of old buildings at Sørsida	15

The Innovation Camps in Ålesund have served as a platform for effectively engaging youth in urban planning and sustainability initiatives, as highlighted by the previous results ([CDE9](#)). After the first successful one in 2023, a second Innovation Camp was organised in November 2024, spread over four days and gathering 124 participants. Details are available in deliverable D8.5: Re-Value Innovation Camps Report 2⁹. The participating students first had a tour of the city to familiarize themselves with urban challenges and get inspiration for solutions they were asked to generate in a brainstorm supported by mentors that provided guidance and feedback. The resulting ideas were pitched to a jury of local stakeholders, resulting in the following winning solutions:

- Interpool: A park with a heated harbour bath powered by district heating.
- Lystorget: A multifunctional space with a laser tag track and a basketball court/ice rink.
- Container Café: A youth-run café using repurposed containers and offering equipment rentals for nearby activities.

Ålesund is further a member of national city networks to connect with and learn from other Norwegian cities ([CDE12](#)), namely the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), and the National Mission Cities Forum managed by the Design and Architecture Norway (DOGA). The municipality originally applied to become part of the EU's mission "Climate neutral and smart cities," and while it wasn't selected, it is following the network closely, as a non-mission city member. The first major multi-actor meeting took place in Stavanger in May 2024, bringing together Transition Teams from the three Mission Cities—Stavanger, Trondheim, and Oslo—alongside representatives from Norway's NZC Pilot City, Drammen, and delegates from four applicant cities: Ålesund, Bergen, Bodø, and Tromsø. The event also included officials from the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, the Ministry of Climate and Environment, and the Ministry of Digitalisation and Public Governance. In addition, national institutions

⁹ [D8.5: Innovation Camps Report 2](#)

such as Innovation Norway, the Research Council of Norway, the Norwegian Confederation of Business, and Design and Architecture Norway (DOGA) were represented.

At the European level, Ålesund became a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors in 2008 and is also part of the EU Mission Restore Our Ocean and Waters. Through Re-Value, the city is also learning from the other Leading and Replicating Cities, through the Community of Practice and extensive Capacity Development and Exchange Programme ([R7](#)), and among others the Peer-to-Peer Review process for the Roadmaps and the Study Visits ([CDE2](#)). In 2024, Ålesund hosted its own Study Visit along with the Consortium Meeting in March, and members of the team travelled to the Rijeka Study Visit in October, where they learned about industrial heritage and adaptive re-use. The use of old industrial buildings, for example the new library, was especially relevant and inspiring.

2.1.2 Bruges

2.1.2.1 Re-Valu(ing)

In Re-Value, Bruges focuses on its 'Kaaidistrict' (Quay District) as its Waterfront Pilot, which is a 30-hectares area that serves as a transition district between the city's UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the inner port linked to the city's sea port. Bruges investigates how the ambitious plans the city has for the Kaaidistrict can transform the currently monofunctional and fully paved area to a sustainable, climate neutral and climate resilient and multifunctional city-district to serve as inspiration for other parts of the city and outside of it. Through extensive collaborations, Bruges aims to develop innovative strategies encompassing quality of life, urban mobility, climate policies, new development approaches (f.i. new governance models and masterplans), and enhanced participation among public, private stakeholders and less typical stakeholders such as creative organisations and citizens. In Re-Value, the City of Bruges collaborates with VITO as local partner.

Specifically, the interventions will focus on taking actions identified in a concept study for the Kaaidistrict from 2022. This vision aims to transform the area from what's today dominated by the legacy of 'soft' industry, into a neighbourhood leaving room for retail sale, food vendors and local artisans, combined with living and recreation.

In order to achieve the level of ambition for the Kaaidistrict, Bruges explores new strategies in the field of spatial policy and planning, climate policy, vision development and collaboration between the public and private sector. The development of this new urban district can only be realised by and with all stakeholders: owners, developers, users, residents, the local harbour and all government authorities involved. This project in the Kaaidistrict aims to become a leading example of how climate goals and spatial quality objectives can be effectively integrated into urban planning tools and frameworks.



Figure 4: Aerial photo of the Kaaidistrict taken from SE, city centre (Source: Stad Brugge).

2.1.2.2 Progress during reporting period

Detailed Roadmap

Bruges worked on the development of its Detailed Roadmap throughout 2024, submitting a first draft for internal review in March and delivering the complete version in November 2024. The Detailed Roadmap for the waterfront pilot in Bruges primarily illustrates the bigger picture: the goal towards climate neutrality and spatial quality in the Kaaidistrict, accompanied by the long-term vision of the city, including important policy plans such as the climate plan and the spatial policy plan.

The pilot area of Re-Value, the Kaaidistrict, has already been designated as a transformation area in the spatial policy plan of Bruges (2023), a place where the city aims to achieve climate neutrality on a small scale in the short term.

The Re-Value project, with relevant partners and partner cities, guides the city of Bruges to reach their goal by linking several policy plans, foresee staff budget and funds for community building to realise the action plan for the Kaaidistrict, which is a result of the Impact Model Workshop. Re-Value gives the city the space to experiment with new spatial instruments and community building (Kaaiklappers) to reach this goal.

The Re-Value action plan for the Kaaidistrict consists of three main themes, three anchors to which all actions carried out until the end of 2026 can be linked. The three anchors are: community building, spatial

transformation and ‘design by research’. For each anchor several actions were defined and for each action the activities with timing and state of play were added. The action plan is regularly reviewed and adapted, depending on new opportunities or insights.

The annex of the roadmap gives more insights in the pre-Re-Value situation of Bruges, the local and supralocal policy plans regarding spatial quality and climate neutrality. The annex also describes the Kaaidistrict, the pilot area of Re-Value, and the several studies and simulations which were carried out. The Detailed Roadmap was delivered in November 2024 as D3.1: Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Bruges¹⁰, where all details can be consulted.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Bruges uses the Re-Value project as an experimenting space to achieve spatial quality and climate neutrality in the Kaaidistrict as one of the transformation spots in the overall city's journey that the project aims to boost. The following three parts are building blocks for Bruges's Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans – climate plan, spatial policy plan and concept study.

Part I: Climate plan 2030 ('Bruges Towards Tomorrow' of 'BruggeNaarMorgen')

On 30 June 2020, the city of Bruges signed the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy 2030. By doing so, the city committed to reducing its CO₂ emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 2011 and to adapt the city to the new climate conditions. To achieve this, a Climate Plan 2030 was developed and approved by the City Council on 21 February 2022. The Climate Plan 2030 aims for Bruges to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 and a 49% reduction in local CO₂ emissions by 2030. The Climate Plan 2030 also contributes to the climate resilience of the city by preparing for increased risks of heat, drought, and flooding. The Climate Plan 2030 is structured around seven thematic bridges and 20 substantive pillars, encompassing over 200 actions. All seven bridges are implemented in the action plan for the Kaaidistrict in order to achieve climate neutrality in this waterfront pilot.

Below is an overview of the bridges (www.brugge.be/klimaat):

- Bruges heats fossil-free
- Bruges is a renewable electricity city
- Bruges moves smart, fossil-free and healthy
- Bruges undertakes climate-friendly and circular
- Bruges 'tastes'
- Bruges is climate-resilient
- Bruges organises itself for a climate neutral future for everyone

Part II: Spatial Policy plan Bruges

¹⁰ [D3.1: Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Bruges](#)

The spatial Policy Plan for Bruges - the successor to the Municipal Spatial Structure Plan - is a future plan for a spatial framework in our city. The plan, approved by the City Council on 18 December 2023, will be the guiding principle for choices on how space in Bruges will be further used, organised and ordered in the coming decades.

The Spatial Policy Plan Bruges contains a number of strategic emphases or key lines and reflects what the City of Bruges really wants to focus on. Climate, mobility, energy, etc., are interwoven throughout the entire strategic vision. The policy plan consists of both a strategic vision and policy frameworks that are conceived as flexible and implementation oriented. The policy frameworks are each a short-term elaboration (symbolic perspective 2035) of a specific part of the strategic vision.

In the Spatial policy plan the Kaaidistrict was identified as a transformation spot. The 'city atelier' was already mentioned to direct these transformation spots. Within Re-Value Bruges wants to experiment with this spatial instrument and let the Kaaidistrict evolve to the neighbourhood of the future.

Part III: Concept study Kaaidistrict

Concrete cases posed challenges for the city. Recognizing the need to play a leading role in the transformation of the Kaaidistrict, the city of Bruges assumed the role of director. The goal is to re-develop this transitional area, waterfront pilot within Re-Value, into a space with layered, diverse, and multifunctional use, integrating manufacturing, businesses, various forms of housing, amenities, tourism, temporary use, sustainable logistics, etc. As part of this directorial role, the city commissioned a conceptual subsidy to develop a robust spatial framework through co-creative design research and create an action plan for implementation.



Figure 5: Three zones in the Kaaidistrict: retail cluster, food hub and Makers district.

Providing a glimpse into the long-term perspective, the Kaaidistrict as a whole develops a strong identity within the city. Simultaneously, the different requested economic and societal programs find their own

place within the Kaaidistrict, maximising alignment with the specific spatial context. Three zones are distinguished: urban retail cluster, a food hub and a makers district.

For the moment the city is very active in all three zones by testing new spatial instruments and starting a co-creation process for community building (see above).

All these plans (climate plan, spatial policy plan and concept study) come together in the Re-Value project where Bruges uses this experimenting space in order to achieve spatial quality and climate neutrality in the Kaaidistrict. The next important step is the development of a spatial implementation plan (RUP of territorial Transformation Plan) for the area 'Kaaidistrict'. In Spring 2025 a starting memorandum will be finalised with the description of the area, the current spatial planning context, the formulation of planning objectives, etc.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Full-Scale Deployment of the Waterfront Pilot

The City of Bruges does not own land in the Kaaidistrict beyond the public domain. As a result, the development of the built environment will proceed at the pace set by private building owners and developers. The existing parcel structure will guide the future spatial configuration of the area. Several steps have been taken to support this process. There are three key anchors for a full-scale deployment in Bruges—community building, spatial transformation, and design by research.

At the core of Bruges' approach is the question: How can urban quality be enhanced and climate neutrality achieved in the Kaaidistrict? To explore this, Bruges participated in the NEB (New European Bauhaus) workshop, which helped clarify the actions needed to meet the goals of the Re-Value project. The city's action plan is structured around two interlinked guidelines: spatial transformation and community building.

Spatial Transformation

Bruges introduced the "city atelier" as a collaborative model to engage city departments and developers in a more inclusive and co-creative planning process for the Kaaidistrict. In parallel, the city began implementing new spatial tools to support the development of a future spatial implementation plan focused on improving urban quality and achieving climate neutrality.

Key actions under this guideline include leading the masterplan for a retail cluster, organising design charrettes with developers in the Makersdistrict to foster shared ownership and realise a detailed masterplan, and applying the NEB Impact Model. A dedicated workshop in April 2024 resulted in a draft action plan aligned with Re-Value objectives, which will continue to evolve throughout the project.

Community Building – Kaaiklappers

Since 2023, efforts have been underway to build a strong and engaged community in the Kaaidistrict. Recognising the importance of local involvement, the Re-Value team initiated a series of workshops, meetings, and outreach activities to bring together a group of local ambassadors. These efforts led to the

formation of the “Kaaiklappers”—a community group rooted in the district and committed to supporting its transformation.

To build this network, the city actively engaged with existing local communities and stakeholders, establishing new connections and fostering dialogue. In 2024, several activities were organised to strengthen this engagement. These included a brainstorming session in May focused on reimagining an underused green space near the F31 bicycle path through tactical urbanism, public information sessions at events such as the Fun Fair in Sint-Pieters, and a community market following the release of the Kaaidistrict concept study. Additional workshops were held to discuss ongoing studies related to mobility and the Makersdistrict.

To support visibility and coherence, a dedicated house style was developed for all communications related to Re-Value and the Kaaidistrict. The official launch of the Kaaiklappers took place in September 2024, marking a new phase in community involvement, with an afterwork event. More than 120 Kaaiklappers attend the event.

The motivation behind this community-building effort is to activate underused spaces—such as greenfields, parking lots, and canal-side areas—through tactical urbanism. These spaces offer potential for more meaningful and sustainable use. The Kaaiklappers will play a key role in this transformation, acting as ambassadors and co-organisers of events such as the Kaai parties and other outreach activities that bring the district’s vision to life.

Design by Research

Systematic research has been conducted on several themes to support evidence-based problem-solving. These studies are aligned with both the city’s climate ambitions (Climate Plan BrugesTowardsTomorrow) and spatial goals (Spatial Policy Plan Bruges), which converge in the Re-Value project’s aim to use spatial interventions to achieve climate neutrality in the Kaaidistrict.

Mobility Study of the Kaaidistrict: This study assesses the feasibility of the mixed-use programme proposed in the concept study. It includes a dynamic roadmap with 37 actions, covering both short- and long-term measures. The roadmap is reviewed and updated annually, with the primary goal of improving livability and achieving a modal shift in the district.

Study: Space of Makers in the Makersdistrict: Following the approval of the Kaaidistrict concept study, questions emerged regarding the development of the Makersdistrict—specifically, who the makers are, what their needs are, and how the area should be governed. The study refined the scope of the district and explored governance models to ensure its effective realisation. It addressed key questions such as:

- What management model is most appropriate for available space and infrastructure?
- What role can the city or another public partner play in this model? And how should this be done?
- How can space for Makers be secured in the long term?
- What licensing issues need to be considered?

The study involved spatial-economic analysis, design feasibility assessments, consultations with city departments, and working sessions with local and supra-local actors. It also included bilateral discussions

with makers, entrepreneurs, businesses, developers, and landowners. Additionally, it covered a study for the reconstruction of the Krakele Bridge, which connects the city centre with the Kaaidistrict and is a focal point for enhancing the amenity value of the waterfront.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R6: Full-Scale Deployment in Leading Cities' Waterfront Pilots

Fit for 55 objectives

In Bruges, the 'BruggeNaarMorgen' Climate Plan (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) + scope 3 emissions) was approved by the municipal council in 2022. More than 200 actions, spread across seven different themes, together aim to reduce local CO₂ emissions by 49% by 2030 compared to 2011. This will allow the city of Bruges to stay on track for a maximum climate warming of 1.5°C, which corresponds to the Fit For 55 objective. The seven themes are: fossil-free heating, renewable energy, fossil-free mobility, circular economy, sustainable food, climate adaptation and 'Bruges organises itself'. The city is organising to get everyone on board. Many of these themes are linked to the concept study in the Kaaidistrict (2022) and the consequent Re-Value project. There is a yearly update and monitoring of the climate plan that is presented during an open network event for every citizen of Bruges. The chart below was shown during the last open network event in December 2024. With respect to 2011, the local CO₂ emission of Bruges decreased with 27% (estimation). In 2025 the climate plan will be revised and updated in order to reach the goal, responding to the Fit For 55 objective.

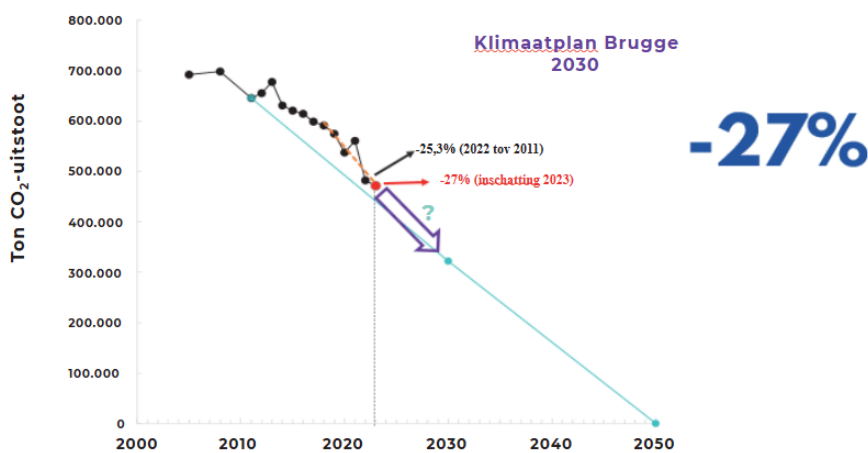


Figure 6: Evolution of the local CO₂ emission in Bruges (from D3.1¹¹).

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

O1.1: Re-Value cities reach Fit for 55 objectives

¹¹ [D3.1: Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Bruges](#)

Contribution to intended outcomes and impacts

In 2024, the Impact Model Workshop for the Kaaidistrict contributed to shaping a broad vision for an action plan, laying the groundwork for the long-term use of the Re-Value Impact Model ([O3.1](#)). The lunch-to-lunch workshop held on 15–16 April 2024 was an inspiring and productive 24-hour session.

The first session, on 15 April, brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including colleagues from various city departments, developers, and architects. The focus was on discussing the indicators of the Impact Model—how they interrelate, and how some indicators can reinforce or undermine others. This collaborative dialogue helped identify the main challenges in the Kaaidistrict, considering all domains and impact categories.

In the second half-day session, a smaller group of internal city experts developed a Re-Value Action Plan based on the identified challenges, deficiencies, and gaps. The plan was structured around three key anchors: community building, spatial transformation, and design by research. The plan will guide implementation efforts over the next two years.

During Re-Value, Bruges established the City Atelier, a collaborative hub for city departments to work together on transformational projects. This new governance mechanism aims to reduce siloed approaches and enhance efficiency in managing complex projects in the Kaaidistrict (see details in D6.3: Urban Planning and Design Approaches Portfolio (Initial Version)¹²). This initiative contributes to embedding exploitable results in Re-Value cities ([O4.1](#)).

On 24 February 2024, inspired by the Re-Value city of Ålesund, Bruges launched the 2024 Circular Festival and constructed urban furniture for the Kaaidistrict from already felled trees. This event activated an urban space in the Kaaidistrict using circular economy principles and citizen engagement (see D6.3), marking an initial step toward embedding participatory, circular, and shared value chains in the city's Investment and Partnership Plans ([O5.2](#)). To this end, also the one-on-one support from Innovation Cycle 3, through the City Finance Dialogues and case study, has provided valuable insights regarding clearer financial strategy options and helped the city build greater investment readiness. Furthering this momentum, the Breakfast Circular Hub held on 4 July 2024 engaged 40 participants, continuing the dialogue and collaboration around circular urban development.

Bruges furthermore has included detailed data-driven insights in its Detailed Roadmap, based on the simulation of three scenarios for the energy demand and heat networks of the Kaaidistrict, performed by Re-Value partner VITO. The insights cover energy aspects and how new designs lead to decarbonisation, helping the city improve its decision-making processes using data ([O4.2](#)).

Collectively, these activities have contributed to several intended outcomes and impacts of Re-Value:

O2.2: Citizens/professional stakeholders feel they contributed to the outcomes

O3.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities use the Re-Value Impact Model long-term

O4.1: Exploitable Results are embedded in Re-Value cities

¹² [D6.3: Urban Planning and Design Approaches Portfolio \(Initial Version\)](#)

04.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities embed long-term Re-Value's data-driven co-creation and scenario-building in decision support

05.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities fully embed the participatory, circular and shared value chains in their Investment and Partnership Plans

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation measures

Bruges developed its Communication and Dissemination Plan, aligned with the Re-Value CDE framework, and submitted its first version in June 2024 (M18) as deliverable D8.2¹³ ([CDE6](#)). An updated version is expected in 2025. The city has embedded the Re-Value project within the broader vision set out in its new Spatial Policy Plan Bruges, which frames the transformation of key urban areas to reflect the city's 2050 goals. The Kaaidistrict was designated as one of these “transformation spots”—strategic zones where the city concentrates efforts to realize its long-term ambitions. As such, Re-Value aligns closely with this transformative agenda, benefiting from collaborative processes that break down departmental silos and directly link pilot project actions to city-wide communication. The Kaaidistrict's development also complements the goals of Brugge Naar Morgen (Bruges Towards Tomorrow), particularly in its ambition to halve local CO₂ emissions by 2030. Communication channels supporting Re-Value efforts include the municipal and climate action websites, city magazines, local newsletters such as Kaaiklappers, and both traditional (e.g., poster columns in the district) and digital media platforms ([CDE6](#)).

In 2024, the City of Bruges also carried out a series of communication and engagement activities in support of the Kaaidistrict transformation and the realization of the Re-Value project's objectives. These activities were directed toward a diverse group of stakeholders, including local residents, youth, students, creative professionals, and institutional partners. A range of local workshops and events were organised to facilitate dialogue, share information, and gather input related to the planning and development of the pilot area ([CDE1](#)). These included thematic sessions, public events, and co-creation workshops. The activities contributed to a broader understanding of the project's aims and supported the inclusion of local perspectives in the planning process.

The following key activities were carried out:

Date	Activity	Participants
15/04/2024	Impact Model Workshop: Bruges	39
23/05/2024	Future Building Block in the Retail Cluster Workshop	17
30/05/2024	Brainstorm Evening - Food Chain with locals from St Pieters	30
31/05/2024	Brainstorm Evening - Activation Greenfield	15
30/06/2024	Fun Fair Sint-Pieters	50
04/07/2024	Breakfast Circular Hub	40
04/09/2024	Work session for the development of a masterplan for the building block in the retail cluster	5
04/09/2024	Workshop with WVI about management structure in the Makers district	8

¹³ [D8.2: Local Communication and Dissemination Plans by Re-Value Cities](#)

09/09/2024	4 th City Atelier - September	25
10/09/2024	WinVorm (province West-Flanders) workshop in Bruges to show examples of renovation and new developments	100
10/09/2024	Presentation GECORO (local authority commission for spatial planning)	18
12/09/2024	Startevent Kaaiklappers	125
15/09/2024	Kaaidistrict on car free Sunday - Maquette presentation to design a dream street in the Kaaidistrict	100
25/09/2024	Site Visit Kaaidistrict for Vives Honours Degree	25
08/10/2024	Journey to Change Workshop (European Week of Regions and Cities)	30
16/10/2024	5 th City Atelier - October	25
08/11/2024	Presentation of the city atelier and the format of charette period to the members of the World heritage commission Bruges	14
26/11/2024	Co-creation meeting for the development of a masterplan	15

Bruges further hosted its second Innovation Camp in March 2024, continuing its youth-focused educational initiative under the Re-Value project ([CDE9](#)). The camp engaged 130 fifth-year secondary school students from five schools across Bruges. Following the first successful edition, the second camp deepened its focus on circularity through the themes of food systems, energy, water management, and local economies. Students from various academic backgrounds worked in interdisciplinary teams using design-based learning methods to create actionable, future-oriented solutions for the Kaaidistrict. Supported by expert guidance and real-time feedback, students developed and pitched ideas to a jury of municipal representatives and external stakeholders. The winning concepts included:

- Food Circularity: The Tastemakers
- Energy Circularity: Energy's
- Water Circularity: The Aqua Brothers
- Economic Circularity: Team Bas

Beyond idea generation, the initiative fostered system thinking and practical collaboration. By combining expertise from the Re-Value project, municipal representatives, and educators, students were empowered to tackle complex challenges in sustainability and climate neutrality. This initiative not only inspired students but also provided valuable input for the city's vision for the Kaaidistrict, showcasing the potential of youth-driven collaboration in shaping sustainable urban futures. More details are available in deliverable D8.5: Innovation Camps Report 2¹⁴.

Bruges has been actively participating in Re-Value's Community of Practice and Capacity Development and Exchange Programme ([R7](#)). In 2024, representatives from Bruges took part in all organised Study Visits to Ålesund, Burgas, Constanța, and Rijeka, learning from peer cities and exchanging experiences across different urban contexts ([CDE2](#)).

¹⁴ [D8.5: Innovation Camps Report 2](#)

The city's strong engagement in European initiatives and city networks has also bolstered its Re-Value contributions. Bruges is a signatory of several major declarations, including the Covenant of Mayors, the Circular Cities Declaration, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, and the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration. It is also part of networks such as Eurocities, POLIS (mobility), the Organisation of World Heritage Cities OWHC, and the International City/County Management Association. These affiliations reinforce Bruges' commitment to climate action, heritage-sensitive urban renewal, and mobility innovation, while offering further avenues for knowledge exchange and collaborative advancement of Re-Value goals. Within Belgium, Bruges participates in the organisation of sustainable energy (District Heating network Flanders), the 100 neighbourhood platform (Agency for Home Affairs, department of Flanders), and the Flemish Federation for space and planning, among other initiatives ([CDE12](#)).

2.1.3 Burgas

2.1.3.1 Re-Valu(ing)

In Re-Value, Burgas is focusing on its Waterfront pilot, which includes key areas along Burgas Bay—such as the northernmost residential district “Sarafovo” near the airport, the Salinas, and the “Atanasovska Kosa” beach. The city aims to leverage its coastal and wetland assets through a holistic development approach guided by the Re-Value Innovation Cycles. The key focus is demonstrating environmentally friendly urban solutions to achieve climate neutrality in its territorial coastal area, and integrating the specific roadmaps developed for sustainable development and integration of coastal areas into wider city strategies.

Specifically, Burgas is prioritizing not only the development of sustainable transport systems but also fostering greater public engagement and adoption. The city aims to expand the use of digital urban services by enhancing the capabilities of its intelligent urban systems, while also incorporating blue-green infrastructure and sustainable tourism into its urban planning framework. In Re-Value the Burgas Municipality collaborates with Sofia University as local partner.



Figure 7: Sarafovo Neighbourhood and Pilot Study Area: Sarafovo Sea Park (Source: Burgas Municipality).

2.1.3.2 Progress during reporting period

Detailed Roadmap

During 2024, progress was made on the development of a Detailed Roadmap for the Sarafovo pilot area, aligned with the broader strategic vision of Burgas Municipality for the period 2021–2027. This vision aims to position Burgas as an attractive location for both living and business, with a focus on balanced, sustainable, and integrated development. Key priorities include preserving local identity, enhancing urban connectivity, promoting climate-adaptive infrastructure, and supporting inclusive economic growth.

Sarafovo Quarter, located along the Black Sea coast in the eastern part of Burgas, has been identified as a key area for urban transformation. Its proximity to major transport infrastructure, including Burgas Airport and Republican Road I-9, and its population of approximately 3 500 residents, make it a strategic site for piloting integrated urban development approaches.

The roadmap process began with a comprehensive assessment of existing conditions. Several challenges were identified, including a high proportion of seasonal residences, limited public green space, insufficient vegetation, and environmental pressures such as noise, dust pollution, and unstable soils. In addition, the area's inactive railway infrastructure and fragmented land use patterns present further constraints to development.

Despite these challenges, the area offers significant opportunities. Sarafovo's geographical position—linking the Black Sea, Lake Atanasovsko, and Sarafovo Port—provides a strong foundation for integrated planning. The varied topography, natural features, and cultural assets, such as the nearby salt extraction facilities and historical ties to fishing and aviation, contribute to the area's potential for multifunctional development.

The Detailed Roadmap¹⁵, officially submitted on 25 November 2024, outlines strategies to address these issues while leveraging local strengths. Proposed actions include the introduction of mixed-use developments, improved public space design, and the integration of green and blue infrastructure. These measures aim to enhance livability, support climate adaptation, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the area.

The roadmap will serve as a guiding document for future planning and investment in Sarafovo, supporting the implementation of the Re-Value project and contributing to the municipality's broader territorial transformation goals.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

In 2024, the Municipality of Burgas continued to align the Re-Value project with its broader strategic vision for long-term territorial transformation. The project's learnings are being integrated into key municipal planning documents, including the Plan for Integrated Development of Burgas (2021–2027) and the Sustainable Energy and Climate Strategy (2021–2030). These integrations ensure that Re-Value contributes directly to the city's overarching goals for sustainable urban development and climate resilience.

A central focus has been the use of geospatial data to support data-driven planning and decision-making. This data is informing updates to local ordinances and municipal programs, particularly those targeting the regeneration of green urban spaces and the adaptation of coastal zones.

Burgas has reaffirmed its commitment to climate adaptation through a comprehensive strategy that emphasizes green and blue infrastructure, public engagement, and cross-sector collaboration. The city's climate goals include reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40%, increasing the share of renewable energy by 32%, and cutting energy consumption by 32% by 2030. These targets are embedded in the city's Sustainable Energy and Climate Strategy and are supported by a set of priorities focused on improving regulatory frameworks, enhancing public awareness, expanding green infrastructure, and building institutional capacity.

One of the key initiatives under this strategy is the development of a multifunctional “smart suburban island” in the Re-Value pilot zone. This innovative urban solution combines ecological, recreational, and mobility functions, including coastal protection, cultural spaces, and shared mobility infrastructure powered by renewable energy. It serves as a model for integrated, climate-adapted urban design.

In parallel, the city is updating several regulatory and planning instruments to reflect its climate adaptation goals. These include the Municipal Program for the Improvement of Inner-Quarter Spaces (“My City, My

¹⁵[D4.1 Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Burgas](#)

Neighborhood, My Street”) and the Ordinance on the Appearance of Urban Spaces and Architectural Ensembles. Both documents are being revised to incorporate climate-adapted urban regeneration principles and to guide the design of resilient, inclusive, and aesthetically coherent public spaces.

Burgas also continues to apply zoning regulations and district overlays to guide land use while preserving natural resources. The city promotes mixed-use development, transit-oriented design, and the integration of green spaces to foster vibrant, walkable neighborhoods. These efforts are reinforced by stringent green building codes and net-zero standards, ensuring that new developments meet high environmental and energy performance criteria.

Through the Re-Value project, Burgas is not only piloting innovative solutions in its coastal areas but also trying to embed these approaches into its long-term territorial transformation plans. This integrated approach positions the city to respond proactively to climate challenges while enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Full-Scale Deployment of the Waterfront Pilot

In 2024, the City of Burgas continued working on the full-scale deployment of its Waterfront Pilot under the Re-Value project, with a particular focus on the Sarafovo Quarter. The initiative aims to support sustainable and climate-adaptive urban development, while maintaining the area's natural and cultural characteristics.

The pilot area benefits from Sarafovo’s coastal location and its proximity to key infrastructure, including Burgas Airport and the fishing port. The development strategy includes the integration of green and blue infrastructure, improved urban connectivity, and the introduction of mixed-use spaces that combine residential, recreational, and public functions. Cultural elements, such as the area's historical links to fishing and aviation, are intended to be reflected in the design.

In 2024, a key milestone was reached with the completion of the pilot area roadmap and the creation of a geo-data-based digital twin of the Sarafovo coastal zone. This model supports data-informed planning and has contributed to the commissioning of a geological report. The next planned step is to contract landscape architects and an architectural bureau to develop a technical investment project for the Sarafovo Coastal Park. The project is expected to increase green space per capita from 2.36 m² to over 29 m².

An earlier concept for the coastal park, developed in 2009, proposed a range of recreational and cultural facilities but was not implemented. Since then, the area has undergone notable changes, including the construction of the Sarafovo Fishing Port in 2015. These developments, along with evolving urban needs, have prompted the preparation of a new project aligned with current conditions and sustainability objectives.

Several challenges have been identified in the deployment process. These include variations in land ownership and land-use designations across the pilot and adjacent areas, as well as physical constraints such as elevation changes and active landslide zones. The area currently lacks structured green spaces, pedestrian infrastructure, and urban furniture, highlighting the need for comprehensive redevelopment.

“In conclusion, the pilot area can be considered largely undeveloped. It lacks an alley network, designated spaces for prolonged stays with diverse functions, and the placement of urban furniture (lighting, benches, gazebos). There are multiple anthropogenic interventions in the environment such as the construction of illegal accesses to the beach, deforestation, and parking in green areas. These should be included in the future conceptual solution. As a natural consequence of the location of the area, local culture is historically associated with the activities of fishing communities and the development of passenger aviation. These are two essential aspects that need to be preserved and manifested as characteristic accents in the space.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R6: Full-Scale Deployment in Leading Cities’ Waterfront Pilots

Fit for 55 objectives

In 2023, the City Council of Burgas approved two key planning instruments: the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) and the Ordinance on Urban Spaces. These documents contribute to the city’s alignment with the European Union’s Fit for 55 objectives.

The Strategy for Sustainable Energy and Climate Adaptation (2023–2030) outlines several targets, including:

- A 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions,
- A 32% increase in the share of renewable energy, and
- A 32% reduction in energy consumption.

In addition to mitigation goals, the strategy includes objectives related to climate resilience, institutional capacity building, and public awareness on climate adaptation.

As part of the Re-Value project, Burgas is generating geospatial data to support analysis of climate adaptation potential in its coastal areas. This data will inform updates to the SECAP and the Plan for Integrated Municipal Development (2021–2027), particularly in relation to climate-adapted urban development and the integration of green and blue infrastructure.

Relevant components from the Re-Value Impact Model and climate adaptation methodology are also being considered for incorporation into the Ordinance on Urban Spaces and the Program for the Improvement of Inner-Quarter Spaces (“My City, My Neighborhood, My Street”). These updates aim to align local planning tools with climate adaptation indicators and support the city’s broader sustainability objectives.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

O1.1: Re-Value cities reach Fit for 55 objectives

Contribution to intended outcomes and impacts

Throughout 2024, several activities were carried out in Burgas to support the co-creation, planning, and refinement of interventions in the Sarafovo pilot area, contributing to the intended outcomes and impacts of the Re-Value project.

On 2 February 2024, a stakeholder meeting was held with municipal representatives, the project team, and academic partners. The session focused on presenting the scope of the Sarafovo pilot zone and outlining

the planned geo-data mapping and data collection activities. These measures are intended to support evidence-based planning and facilitate the analysis of future interventions, contributing to long-term use of Re-Value's data-driven co-creation and scenario-building in decision support ([O4.2](#)). The meeting helped align expectations and clarify the technical approach among key actors involved in the project.

On 26 April 2024, a public discussion was organised with local stakeholders to present and gather feedback on the proposed interventions for the development of the Sarafovo Seapark. The event was attended by 35 participants, including residents, local organisations, and municipal staff. The discussion provided an opportunity to share preliminary concepts, address community concerns, and strengthen local engagement in the planning process, making a space for citizens/professional stakeholders to contribute to the outcomes ([O2.2](#)).

These activities were followed by the Impact Model workshop on 11 June 2024, which focused on identifying key challenges and co-developing the Seaparc Sarafovo Action Plan. The workshop used participatory tools, including gamification methods such as the domino game, to encourage active dialogue and collaborative problem-solving. The session supported the identification of priority issues and the formulation of targeted, locally relevant solutions, building pathways for long-term use of the Re-Value Impact Model ([O3.1](#)).

The workshop also contributed to aligning proposed development ideas with the Municipality's climate adaptation strategy, particularly its emphasis on nature-based solutions. The suggestions generated during the session have been incorporated into the initial design concept and are currently being integrated into the technical design project by a multidisciplinary team contracted for this purpose.

Collectively, these activities have contributed to several intended outcomes and impacts of the Re-Value project:

O2.2: Citizens/professional stakeholders feel they contributed to the outcomes

O3.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities use the Re-Value Impact Model long-term

O4.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities embed long-term Re-Value's data-driven co-creation and scenario-building in decision support

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation measures

Burgas developed its local Re-Value Communication and Dissemination Plan June 2024 (M18) as deliverable D8.2¹⁶ ([CDE6](#)), with an update expected in 2025. Burgas Municipality has developed strong communication mechanisms through its long-standing participation in European projects, allowing efficient one-way communication such as press releases to flow seamlessly from project teams to broader municipal outlets like the website and social media. This foundation ensures that initiatives like Re-Value can be well-publicised through established channels. However, the Re-Value team in Burgas is placing a particular emphasis on going beyond simple dissemination to focus on meaningful engagement. The municipality's broader ambition to involve residents more directly offers a valuable opportunity for Re-Value to actively contribute in the development of a new approach to local engagement.

¹⁶ [D8.2: Local Communication and Dissemination Plans by Re-Value Cities](#)

During 2024, the Municipality of Burgas implemented several communication and dissemination activities to engage stakeholders and promote awareness of the Re-Value project and its objectives ([CDE1](#)). These efforts supported knowledge sharing, stakeholder involvement, and the integration of local perspectives into the planning process for the Sarafovo pilot area. A series of roundtables and workshops were organised to facilitate dialogue on the detailed planning and proposed interventions in the waterfront zone. These events also served as platforms to present and discuss the results of an online survey conducted to gather feedback on the proposed development concepts. The following key activities were carried out:

Date	Activity	Participants
02/02/2024	Stakeholders meeting with the team and the academic partner researchers in the frame of Re-value project aimed at presenting the scope of the zone and the planned geo-data mapping and data collection measures to facilitate and analyse further interventions planning	12
26/04/2024	Public discussion with local stakeholders on the planned interventions in the pilot zone for developing a seapark in Sarafovo	35
11/06/2024	Impact Model Workshop: Burgas	33

A cornerstone of Burgas' approach to citizen co-creation and youth engagement has been the organisation of Innovation Camps ([CDE9](#)). In June 2024, the second edition of the Burgas Innovation Camp was held, building on the lessons of the previous year. With over 50 students from eight schools participating, and a new venue at Burgas Free University, the camp benefited from larger collaborative spaces and academic mentoring. This round emphasised values aligned with the New European Bauhaus, particularly the integration of urban aesthetics, inclusivity, and sustainable design. Students explored the intersection between ecological sustainability and tourism, proposing innovative concepts like eco-friendly BBQ areas and community coastal development models. Divided into eight teams, participants were guided by mentors from the Regional Information Center of Burgas and received expert feedback on entrepreneurship and sustainable development strategies. The improved timing of the camp, scheduled earlier in the academic year, boosted participation, while stronger collaboration with academic institutions raised the overall quality of the ideas produced. More details are available in deliverable D8.5: Innovation Camps Report 2¹⁷.

Through Re-Value, the city is actively engaging in mutual learning with both Leading and Replicating Cities via the Community of Practice and the broader Capacity Development and Exchange Programme ([CDE2](#)). In June 2024, Burgas organised a Study Visit focused on Nature-Based Solutions, while representatives of the team also joined the Study Visit hosted by Ålesund alongside the Consortium Meeting in March, the one in Constanța in June, and later that year in Rijeka ([CDE2](#)).

Burgas' international outlook is further reinforced by its active membership in a variety of European initiatives and networks, which align with Re-Value's aims. The city is involved in the EU Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change, the Covenant of Mayors (including the Urban Transition Mission), the Green Cities Accord, CIVITAS, Living-in.EU, and the CrAfT Cities project. These affiliations support Burgas in embedding climate and digital transitions into its urban strategy. Furthermore, the city is a member of key

¹⁷ [D8.5: Innovation Camps Report 2](#)

European networks such as Eurocities, ICLEI, the International Association of Public Transport, the Clean Bus Europe Platform, and the B40 Network of Balkan Cities. These connections provide fertile ground for peer learning, scaling of good practices, and increased visibility for projects like Re-Value at the European level. Within Bulgaria, Burgas is connected to other city initiatives and networks, such as the National Association of Municipalities in Bulgaria, EcoEnergy – the Municipal Energy Efficiency Network, and the Association of Municipal Ecologists in Bulgaria ([CDE12](#)).

2.1.4 Rimini

2.1.4.1 Re-Valu(ing)

Rimini's Re-Value pilot focuses on two distinct yet interconnected coastal areas: the Parco del Mare South and the San Giuliano a Mare district. These areas embody different urban characteristics—Parco del Mare South is a vast, tourism-driven stretch of waterfront lined with hotels and services, while San Giuliano a Mare is smaller but densely populated, closely integrated with the Borgo San Giuliano neighbourhood and the Marina. Both areas are included in Rimini's larger strategy and planning documents for its waterfront redevelopment, including the 2007-2027 Strategic Plan, the city's Sustainable Urban Development Action Plan, the Beach Plan, the Green Plan, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP), among others.

The Re-Value project positions these sites as living laboratories for advancing climate-neutral and inclusive urban regeneration. Building on the city's ambitious Parco del Mare transformation—which has already reimaged over 13 kilometers of coastline—Rimini is leveraging Re-Value to integrate participatory planning and data-driven tools such as impact modeling, scenario development, and stakeholder mapping. This holistic approach strengthens coordination between departments and fosters deeper connections among residents, civic groups, and private actors.



Figure 8: Aerial maps of the Parco del Mare South (left) and San Giuliano a Mare (right) pilot areas in Rimini (Source: Rimini Municipality).

Rimini's participation in Re-Value not only supports its climate and sustainability goals but also reinforces its identity as a forward-looking coastal city by revaluing its waterfront through co-designed, cross-sectoral intervention.

2.1.4.2 Progress during reporting period

Detailed Roadmap

Rimini worked through 2024 to deliver a first draft of the Detailed Roadmap in March, and the final document in December¹⁸. Rimini's Roadmap focuses on the development of its two waterfront cases, the Parco del Mare South area and the San Giuliano a Mare district, within a vision of a sustainable city that highlights the potentiality of urban regeneration rather than land consumption. The planning process of these degraded urban areas takes place through co-designed and targeted interventions, to support the creation of green spaces, pedestrian and bicycle paths, leisure facilities and to ensure accessibility to all citizens. Furthermore, the interventions focus on connecting the waterfront areas with the city centre of Rimini. The creation of inclusive public spaces and heritage preservation are key elements in making the city's development more attractive, sustainable and inclusive.

The Roadmap has identified the specific characteristics of the city, and more particularly of its two pilot areas, and mapped the regulatory framework in which the transformation of the areas could be implemented. This sense-making phase paved the way to understand the possibilities and challenges for these Waterfront Pilots, allowing the development of a tailored roadmap of interventions. The systemic challenges identified in the Rimini waterfront regeneration include fragmented urban areas, outdated infrastructure, climate risks (like sea level rise and heat islands), and seasonal tourism dependency. Additional issues involve the weak connectivity between coastal zones and the city, limited stakeholder coordination, and the need to align local planning with evolving environmental and regulatory frameworks. Tackling these challenges requires integrated governance, resilient design, as well as long-term and cross-sector collaboration.

The San Giuliano a Mare interventions highlighted in the Roadmap focus on reconnecting the area with the rest of the city through sustainable mobility, green infrastructure, and coastal protection. The Parco del Mare South pilot, Rimini's southern waterfront, will be transformed into a sustainable, green urban space. Placing wellness and biodiversity at the forefront, while incorporating dune systems and permeable surfaces to mitigate heat and marine ingress, the envisioned transformation will enhance biodiversity and landscape identity, making sure public spaces are designed for year-round use. Integrating both sites with the Adriatic Cycle Route and the Metromare¹⁹ (electric bus rapid transit line), the project supports climate neutrality, tourism renewal, and a healthier, more inclusive urban environment.

The Roadmap finally identifies short-term goals, like enhancing mobility, upgrades to the public space and modernising tourism infrastructure, as well as a long-term vision to create a resilient, climate-neutral, and inclusive coastal city that balances tourism, environmental sustainability, and quality of life.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

¹⁸ [D5.1: Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Rimini](#)

¹⁹ <http://metromare.startromagna.it/>

Update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

The city has been in the process of adopting various urbanistic plans for a few years now to implement a strategic program of urban redevelopment and to be able to address the major issue of climate change and the goals of the European Community. These plans are the Beach Plan, Green Plan, Social Inclusion Plan and Plan for the Elimination of Architectural Barriers as explained in the Detailed Roadmap²⁰.

In addition, the Emilia Romagna region requires all municipalities to have a single General Urban Plan, geared to promote and regulate urban regeneration processes and limit land consumption²¹. In particular, the General Urban Plan is oriented towards the reuse and regeneration of urbanised territory, establishes a specific “strategy” for the qualification of the public city and limits and discourages the possibility of new sprawl settlements. The Municipality of Rimini has started in 2024 the procedures of a 4-year-long process for the implementation of the General Urban Plan and new building regulations. Rimini is therefore in a crucial phase from a planning perspective. The aim is to encourage the urban regeneration of urbanised territories and the improvement of urban and building quality, regarding the liveability conditions of urban areas also in terms of environmental and ecological quality. Such a planning process represents Rimini's effort in updating its long-term territorial transformation plan, where the city hopes to anchor some of the practices, strategies and learnings from Re-Value.

The Re-Value project is making a strong contribution in this phase, particularly by highlighting how the working methodology currently used in the municipality is not suitable for a city in transformation. The workshops, the reflections at the technical boards, and the analyses done for the development of the Roadmap revealed the lack of cooperation of the different Sectors of the Municipality. Despite this, the challenge of driving change within such a rigid and entrenched system persists.

A cornerstone of the Re-Value approach has been the active involvement of local stakeholders, culminating in an impactful workshop held in May 2024. During this session, a wide spectrum of themes emerged—some well-known, others newly articulated—providing an invaluable understanding of the needs and dynamics of the San Giuliano mare district from the perspectives of residents, traders, and visitors. Although the municipality has already experimented with participatory planning in some of its initiatives, the Re-Value process has demonstrated the importance of systematizing and expanding this approach. Key challenges were identified and will be further explored within the project:

- The need to Improve internal governance, inspired by the LIFE HELP organisational structure, for better integration and cooperation of the different sectors in planning and design
- The need for private funding, particularly in the area of maintenance

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

²⁰ [D5.1: Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Rimini](#)

²¹

<https://territorio.regione.emilia-romagna.it/codice-territorio/disciplina-regionale/pianif-territoriale/legge-regionale-21-dicembre-2017-n-24>

Full-Scale Deployment of the Waterfront Pilot

Throughout 2024, the Municipality of Rimini has taken major strides toward the full-scale deployment of the Waterfront Pilot within the framework of the Re-Value project, particularly in the areas of San Giuliano Mare and Parco del Mare South. The Municipality has adopted a multi-disciplinary approach, working across departmental silos (infrastructure, mobility, planning, environment, and European projects) with technical support from the University of Bologna - UNIBO (Department of Civil, Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering and Department of Architecture). A new model of intersectoral governance of environmental policies -being implemented and tested in Rimini thanks to the European project “Life Help” - is also promoting a new approach to the planning and management of environmental objectives, including the development of a dimensionless index that can easily communicate to the public and politicians the environmental progress achieved annually by public administration.

Results from Re-Value activities, as well as other projects in which the municipality is involved, have been used iteratively to improve pilot design with stakeholder input. Project activities—including the Innovation Camps and Impact Model workshop in May 2024, among other meetings and stakeholder engagement—have played a key role in raising awareness on the importance of adopting approaches of sustainable and inclusive urban design. These include, among others, nature-based solutions, actions to improve microclimate, urban quality, and social function of public spaces, as well as ideas to rethinking the use of greenery, manage rainwater more effectively, incorporate permeable materials, and integrate infrastructure for soft mobility. Close collaboration with stakeholders has also helped to better understand and address the diverse needs in the areas involved. As a result of these good practices, the plans for the pilot areas have been improved and better understood.

On one hand, the Roadmap being developed within the Re-Value project has enabled the Municipality to integrate (and systematize) data and information already available to the administration, which often remain underutilized. On the other hand, the Impact Model serves as a practical tool, offering both a comprehensive snapshot of the pilot areas and to discuss and negotiate with local stakeholders and communities, to guide future improvements across various dimensions—social, environmental, cultural, political, and economic. The combination of these two key components will be instrumental in supporting the Full-Scale Deployment of the Waterfront Pilot.

Moreover, the Re-Value NEB Impact Model could be used as a tool to assess and measure the process, valorising the many potentialities of the model in relation to the six systemic challenges and for assessing and monitoring the progress of urban development initiatives, providing a bridge between strategic goals and measurable outcomes. Furthermore, insights gathered from citizen engagement will directly inform the direction of new planning instruments. These will focus on the city’s transformation. Ultimately, the full-scale deployment of the pilot is expected to significantly influence the ongoing territorial transformation process and shape the forthcoming General Urban Plan.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R6: Full-Scale Deployment in Leading Cities’ Waterfront Pilots

Fit for 55 objectives

In 2022, the City of Rimini reaffirmed its climate and sustainability commitments by updating its Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) in accordance with the Covenant of Mayors guidelines as a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors. Approved by Council Decision in September 2022, the revised SECAP set new targets aligned with the European Union's Fit for 55 objectives, including:

- A 55% per capita reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 2010 levels, or
- A 40% reduction of total local emissions.

To achieve this, the city identified 19 mitigation actions, six of which focus on the mobility sector, reflecting its central role in Rimini's decarbonization strategy. By 2019, the city had already achieved a 15% per capita emission reduction compared to the 2010 baseline, signalling strong initial progress. Additionally, the SECAP includes 23 adaptation actions, targeting increased resilience to climate risks through investments in green and blue infrastructure, optimized public service management, and enhanced citizen awareness and capacity building.

A new initiative launched by the Municipality of Rimini in 2024 is the development of its first Renewable Energy Community. The action, which is currently being implemented, envisages a public-private partnership for energy efficiency interventions on sites owned by the Municipality of Rimini at the service of Rimini citizens, as well as the design, construction and management for a period of time equal to 20 years of six photovoltaic plants to be placed on buildings or areas owned by the Municipality for the production of energy from renewable sources. The action is also a measure to tackle energy poverty and therefore the Covenant of Mayors template will also indicate the information required for energy poverty actions. A further action included in the SECAP concerns the energy efficiency measures on public housing properties started in 2020 by the public property management agency, with the aim of improving the efficiency and environmental sustainability of the entire public housing estate. From the monitoring of all mitigation actions, which is currently underway, it will be possible to redefine any new objectives and have a precise idea of the indicators envisaged in the SECAP.

As part of the Re-Value project, Rimini is piloting the regeneration of a coastal district to support integrated urban transformation. The Re-Value initiative contributes directly to the SECAP's implementation by:

- Supporting governance innovation and citizen participation, helping to operationalize participatory processes for climate planning and monitoring,
- Generating geospatial and socio-economic data that inform both mitigation and adaptation strategies,
- Demonstrating scalable solutions in energy-efficient retrofitting, public space upgrades, and climate-adapted infrastructure.

Moreover, Rimini is using insights from the Re-Value Impact Model—such as life cycle assessment tools, sustainability indicators, and participatory diagnostics—to inform the revision of additional planning instruments beyond the SECAP, including the Local Urban Plan and future strategies for sustainable tourism and urban regeneration.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

O1.1: Re-Value cities reach Fit for 55 objectives

Contribution to intended outcomes and impacts

Throughout 2024, Rimini leveraged Re-Value support to make substantial progress both in its two Waterfront Pilot areas, and regarding the overall approach and strategies of the Municipality. At the same time, this progress is also reflected on Re-Value intended outcomes, as described below.

Rimini has embraced and deployed the Impact Model methodology in the development of its Waterfront pilots. Building on the 2023 Rimini study visit, a first Impact Model Workshop was held in Rimini on 23-24 May 2024, helping to explore better the challenges that the city faces and create synergies between different stakeholders in structuring evaluation and planning tools for the San Giuliano Mare pilot area. The workshop's primary objective was to propose Key Performance Indicators to monitor progress. With strong participation from local stakeholders, the workshop applied interactive tools like "domino cards" to visualize environmental and socio-economic indicators and co-develop strategies for assessing the impacts of different projects. The workshop informed Rimini's broader urban strategy but also generated proposals immediately applicable to the pilot area, demonstrating how the Impact Model can be an effective tool to discuss and negotiate with the main stakeholders involved in the urban transformation process, given its ability to integrate sets of indicators permitting to qualitatively and quantitatively assess the impact of the interventions, thus supporting decision-making process according to a holistic approach.



Figure 9: Pictures of the Impact Model Workshop with the San Giuliano stakeholders held in Rimini on 23-24 May 2024.

Working with the Impact Model during the workshops also paved the way for the city to integrate it long-term in its planning and evaluation processes ([O3.1](#)). The city of Rimini together with the University of Bologna began working on the development of a common method for the assessment of the transformation interventions based on the implementation of the Impact Model. The tool permits to analyse the ex-ante and ex-post impact of an urban regeneration project. This approach aims to construct a synthetic index capable of expressing the level of impact of the project in terms of New European Bauhaus (NEB) value on the territory. In the specific case of the city of Rimini, the municipal administration has also expressed interest in further exploring the Impact Model to develop site-specific guidelines aimed at monitoring the intervention in both the short and long term, highlighting the potential for improvement of the project itself.

The Impact Model is a tool that can be used in different ways: firstly to discuss and negotiate with stakeholders and communities, as well as a tool to be applied across all members of the partnership and, in

the future, extended to other urban contexts. To make it effective and flexible to adapt in different urban contexts, the Rimini team works on structuring it using the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), which breaks the evaluation down into three levels: Pillars, Impact Categories, and Indicators. This hierarchical model helps assign weighted values to KPIs based on city preferences and stakeholder input. The methodology follows four key phases: identifying city-specific priorities (Pillars and Categories), adapting the model to those priorities, linking operational KPIs to real-world data, and computing a final NEB index. This index is calculated using normalized scores and AHP-derived weights, allowing the scale and relevance of the impact on the territory to be estimated.

From a monitoring perspective, the tool under investigation serves as a starting point for modelling future scenarios relating to the evolution of the pilots over time. The preliminary results appear promising, although still partial, as not all stakeholder groups have been involved yet. In this regard, an online questionnaire will be administered during ECOMONDO—an international sustainability fair to be held in Rimini in autumn 2025—to collect additional data, including citizen participation. The updated data will be used by the municipality for internal planning purposes. From a methodological point of view, the framework will be presented at the EURO2025 Operational Research conference and will be further improved, with the aim of expanding and refining the evaluation techniques used to ensure replicability, flexibility and integration with the ReValue project partnership.

Next to the work on the Impact Model for monitoring, the stakeholder engagement and co-creation process that was followed, with the numerous workshops and the Innovation Camp that were organised, play a key role in fostering a more inclusive and diverse urban transformation process. By involving citizens, youth, experts, and local organizations in co-design sessions and participatory planning, the city ensures that a wide range of voices and lived experiences shape the waterfront's future ([O3.2](#)). This inclusive approach helps identify shared priorities, cultural values, and accessibility needs, strengthening social cohesion. Moreover, by integrating stakeholder input into scenario planning and pilot project development, Rimini empowers communities to take part in decision-making ([O2.2](#)). This not only builds trust but also leads to more resilient, widely supported outcomes—ensuring that long-term strategies reflect both technical evidence and local knowledge.

Furthermore, through the planned actions in its Roadmap, Rimini incorporates the principles of universal access and inclusion in its approach to energy and mobility planning, in line with the Impact Model and Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol ([O5.1](#)). These actions include the creation of Renewable Energy Communities, which are designed to involve economically disadvantaged groups, aiming to reduce energy poverty by providing locally generated, affordable clean energy. Another aspect is the development of soft mobility systems such as the Metromare (electric Bus Rapid Transit) and Shuttlemare (on-demand electric shuttle service), which enhance accessibility for all citizens, especially those without private vehicles, addressing forms of mobility poverty.

Collectively, these activities have contributed to several intended outcomes and impacts of Re-Value:

O2.2: Citizens/professional stakeholders feel they contributed to the outcomes

O3.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities use the Re-Value Impact Model long-term

O3.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities adopt the Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol long-term

05.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities embed in their strategies for updating long-term Territorial Transformation Plans a universal design of climate neutrality, including energy and mobility poverty

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation measures

Rimini submitted its local Re-Value Communication and Dissemination Plan in June 2024 (M18) as deliverable D8.2²², with an update scheduled for 2025 (CDE6). The city benefits from a well-established set of communication tools—including Facebook, Twitter, its municipal website, and strong ties with local media—which provide effective and reliable channels for publicising urban initiatives. These tools have been successfully employed to raise awareness of the Re-Value project and its pilot activities. Beyond this one-way communication, Rimini is using Re-Value as an opportunity to strengthen direct engagement with local residents and stakeholders in the pilot area. This marks a shift from dissemination to participation and aligns with the municipality’s broader effort to foster dialogue and co-creation in urban development.

In 2024, Rimini conducted a range of local workshops to involve citizens and stakeholders in discussions around the interventions planned under Re-Value (CDE1). These workshops reached participants from different parts of the city and took place both in the pilot area and during larger public events, reinforcing the visibility and inclusivity of the project. The activities allowed local perspectives to shape the direction of pilot planning, while also building community awareness and ownership of the transformation process.

Date	Activity	Participants
15/01/2024	Workshop for citizens and technicians	85
17/01/2024	Workshop for citizens of the North Area Viserba	85
30/01/2024	Workshop for citizens South Area City Centre	85
09/02/2024	Workshop for San Giuliano area	85
23/05/2024	Impact Model Workshop: Rimini	34
06/09/2024	Workshop inside the "Festa de Borg" 22 nd edition in Rimini San Giuliano	3000
10/10/2024	Stakeholders meeting during the conference "The living city - The Biodiversity"	29
25/10/2024	Stakeholders meeting "Urban regeneration between skyscrapers, factories and art to overcome the "waste" culture	25
25/11/2024	Lectio magistralis "All my city: urbanistic approach for inclusive, safe and comfortable public spaces" with Eva Keil	300

Youth involvement has been a core element of Rimini’s engagement efforts through the organisation of Innovation Camps (CDE9). While the first edition drew strong participation from local Rimini schools, the second camp in 2024 was held in nearby Riccione. Although students from Riccione responded positively to the design-based learning methodology, their lower familiarity with the challenges specific to the Parco del Mare pilot area made it more difficult for them to connect fully with the issues. The second camp also highlighted the importance of strong teacher involvement—something that was more pronounced in the first round. Varying levels of school engagement, competing schedules, and differences between theoretical and practical school systems presented further challenges. Despite this, students in the second round still

²² [D8.2: Local Communication and Dissemination Plans by Re-Value Cities](#)

produced thoughtful and creative solutions. More details are available in deliverable D8.5: Innovation Camps Report 2²³.

Rimini is also an active participant in Re-Value's Community of Practice and the broader Capacity Development and Exchange Programme, contributing to and learning from shared experiences across the project consortium. In 2024, representatives from Rimini took part in the Study Visits organised in Ålesund, Constanța, and Rijeka ([CDE2](#)).

In terms of broader engagement with Italian and European cities, Rimini participates in the Italian association of Municipalities ([CDE12](#)) and is involved in multiple European projects and initiatives. The city of Rimini will host the 2026 Velo-City sustainable mobility conference. These initiatives reflect a strong outward-facing orientation and contribute to positioning Rimini as a dynamic actor in European urban innovation.

2.2. Replication Cities

2.2.1 Cascais

2.2.1.1 Re-Valu(ing)

Cascais' efforts in the Re-Value project are led by Cascais Ambiente, the municipal environmental company, with support from LNEG as a local partner. Initially, Cascais scoped its Re-Value work across three pilot areas: Guia Road, Carcavelos Beach, and the Vinhas Stream. However, since the proposal phase, many of the improvements originally planned for the Ribeira das Vinhas trail have already been implemented through other initiatives, reducing the added value of further interventions under Re-Value. Additionally, the area's designation as a natural landscape prone to flooding introduces significant legal and regulatory constraints, further limiting the feasibility of new actions.

To maintain the ambition for meaningful implementation along the Cascais coastline and to develop a coherent local narrative, Cascais decided to focus exclusively on the two remaining coastal pilot areas: Guia Road, a scenic 3km cliffside stretch known for its natural landmarks and vibrant public spaces; and Carcavelos Beach, a highly frequented 1.25km urban beach serving as a pilot for managing seasonal coastal use.

Through Re-Value, the main goal is to build capacity and test innovative solutions that support urban planning and drive the energy transition in waterfront areas. A key priority is inclusivity—actively involving residents to ensure their voices and needs are reflected in the design of urban spaces.

Aligned with this mission, Cascais is reviewing its climate policies and adopting new governance models that promote stakeholder participation in decision-making. This approach not only supports the objectives of Re-Value but also strengthens connections with other local, national, and European initiatives.

The Re-Value project places particular emphasis on participatory story-building, data-driven scenario development, and robust financial and partnership models for integrated planning. Through this

²³ [D8.5: Innovation Camps Report 2](#)

collaborative approach, Cascais is working to create a more inclusive and holistic path toward sustainable urban transformation.

With these efforts, Cascais aims to make the transition to climate neutrality irresistible—inspiring and motivating local residents, visitors, and stakeholders alike.



Figure 10: Map of Guia Road Pilot (top) and Carcavelos Beach Pilot (bottom).

2.2.1.2 Progress during reporting period

Detailed Roadmap

Cascais completed a first draft of the roadmap in June 2024 and is currently working on finalising the first Explore phase by June 2025 (M30).

Through an analysis of environmental conditions, planning strategies, and governance models, the Detailed Roadmap aims to provide a comprehensive overview of Cascais's coastal adaptation efforts. It outlines the tools, partnerships, and policy shifts necessary to address evolving risks and to co-create an inclusive, and climate-resilient waterfront line.

The first part of the Roadmap sets a strong foundation for Cascais' journey towards sustainable urban development. By focusing on areas with existing supportive policies and concentrating efforts on key pilot areas, Cascais is well-positioned to create a resilient and inclusive urban environment.

Cascais' roadmap was meticulously crafted in alignment with the municipality's overarching vision of leveraging technological and sustainable innovations to enhance citizen well-being. This initial phase focused on specific areas of the municipality that are governed by robust policies and regulatory frameworks, concentrating particularly on two critical pilot areas:

1. **Guia Road** – Strengthening sustainable tourism, upgrading infrastructure for improved walkability and bikeability, and enhancing resilience and biodiversity with nature-based solutions.
2. **Carcavelos Beach** – Enhancing sustainable tourism and recreation, integrating Nova School of Business and Economics, promoting renewable energy generation and electric mobility, and managing seasonal beach use.

Local and regional plans with respect to the two pilots have been analysed. The Cascais Coastline Protection Plan and the Alcoaça-Cape Espichel Coastal Zone Programme are associated with the pilots.

For the delivery of the Explore phase, the Detailed Roadmap will include a description of existing policy and regulatory framework related to the project, a general description of the municipality's location and an extensive description of the two pilot areas, which were useful for characterising the site and defining the steps to be taken. This document will also include a data-driven approach, citizen engagement and social measures and ongoing and future projects related to Re-Value.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Cascais is actively participating in several European and global initiatives to achieve climate neutrality and sustainable development goals, such as the European Covenant of Mayors, the European Green City Accord, and the EU Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change. Cascais Municipality is also actively engaged in efforts to achieve the targets established by the EU.

The city's approach integrates technology and good environmental practices to create a resilient city. This vision prioritizes quality of life, long-term environmental stability, and economic sustainability through key initiatives such as renewable energy generation, soft mobility solutions, forest management, and waste reduction via circular economy principles.

A critical component of this urban transformation is the redesign of the waterfront, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity while fostering social and cultural activities that enhance community engagement. This integrated approach shows Cascais' commitment to long-term territorial transformation. The knowledge

gained from the development of the Detailed Roadmap and the implementation of the Re-Value project initiatives will be integrated into Cascais' long-term Territorial Transformation Plan (TTP), drawing on insights from the two pilot areas: Guia Road and Carcavelos Beach.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Initial work towards deployment of the Waterfront Pilot

For Cascais, the pilots aim to address systemic challenges in both energy and mobility as well as cultural and spatial quality, aiming to create a more inclusive, accessible, and vibrant waterfront. The main goals towards deploying the Waterfront Pilot are the following:

Guia Road

- **Energy and Mobility systemic challenge:** improve walkability and cycle lanes along the coastline (Cascais - Guincho cycle lanes and Cascais coastal walk lane). This will lead to more visitors, which translates into more customers to local businesses.
- **Cultural and Spatial Quality systemic challenge:** plan for refurbishment of local infrastructures to provide better accessibility to vulnerable groups, local businesses, housing and leisure opportunities.
- **Cultural and Spatial Quality systemic challenge:** redesign the waterfront to facilitate more social and cultural activities.

Carcavelos Beach

- **Energy and Mobility systemic challenge:** improve walkability and cycle lanes across the coastline (Carcavelos Beach coastal walk lane). 25 000 citizens will benefit from improved leisure and commuting space for pedestrians.
- **Cultural and Spatial Quality systemic challenge:** redesign the waterfront to facilitate more social and cultural activities.

Fit for 55 objectives

The European Climate Law sets a 2030 goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels, supported by the comprehensive “Fit for 55” legislative package. In Portugal, this ambition is mirrored through the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 and the Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality 2050. Municipalities play a key role in this transition by fostering inclusive, locally tailored climate actions.

Cascais has been paying attention to the issue of climate change from an early stage and is at the forefront of Portuguese municipalities in the search for innovative solutions. Since 2010, with the adoption of Cascais' Strategic Plan for Climate Change, the municipality has been paving its way towards a sustainable future for all its inhabitants. Since then, the municipality has been promoting cycles of planning and implementing climate action policies complemented by progress assessment of emissions through energy and carbon matrices (published in 2017 and 2023).

The “Cascais for the Climate Mitigation Plan” is an update of the municipality's strategic vision. It focuses on short-term operational actions aimed at meeting the 2030 target, primarily by implementing the measures outlined in the “Sustainable Energy Strategy 2030.” The plan includes 40 decarbonisation measures, which are estimated to reduce annual emissions by 69kt CO₂e. Of this total, 56kt CO₂e corresponds to stationary energy and transport sectors, directly impacting the municipality's GHG emissions.

The total investment required by the Cascais municipality to implement the measures related to transport and stationary energy amounts to 39 million euros. Part of this investment is also intended to attract private sector funding. Accordingly, the municipality is committed to creating favourable conditions for private investment.

Recognising the significant role of tourism in the municipality's economy, the pursuit of carbon neutrality also calls for a transition toward more sustainable forms of tourism.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

O1.1: Re-Value cities reach Fit for 55 objectives

Contribution to intended outcomes and impacts

Throughout 2024, Cascais actively engaged with Re-Value through a series of participatory, data-driven, and inclusive activities across its two pilot areas: Carcavelos Beach and Guia Road. These efforts contributed to the uptake of Re-Value's participatory strategies, including Story Building, Scenario Building, and Investment & Partnership planning ([O2.1](#)). The municipality grounded their work in five fundamental “P’s”: “Pessoas” (People), “Projetos” (Projects), “Parcerias” (Partnerships), “Partilha” (Sharing), and “Pertença” (Belonging).

To strengthen stakeholder engagement and make sure citizens/professional stakeholders contribute to the Re-Value outcomes ([O2.2](#)), Cascais leveraged a variety of digital tools (see detailed in D6.3²⁴). The MobiCascais app facilitated integrated mobility services, while platforms such as DataCascais and GeoCascais provided open access to municipal data, enabling citizens to explore and use information in decision-making. These tools supported transparency, encouraged civic participation, and informed the development of climate indicators used to prioritize mitigation measures.

The Re-Value Impact Model workshop was held in Cascais on 27 November 2024, with participation from 14 stakeholders representing departments such as Strategic Planning, Urban Rehabilitation, Environmental Monitoring, and Public Transport. The workshop applied the Impact Model to the two pilot areas, enabling a multidisciplinary analysis of potential impacts and generating actionable insights. Although time constraints limited the depth of some exercises, the workshop successfully identified feasible solutions and informed the development of three future scenarios: Yellow Jersey, Middle Way, and Smooth Sailing. The workshop also helped establish a network of engaged stakeholders and sparked interest in further use of the Impact Model. For example, the Department of Innovation already asked for Impact Model materials translated into Portuguese to use in their project's evaluation ([O3.1](#)).

Cascais also took steps to embrace the Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol ([O3.2](#)) in its urban planning. The redesign of the waterfront prioritized accessibility and inclusivity, aiming to improve access for vulnerable

²⁴ [D6.3 Urban Planning and Design Approaches Portfolio \(Initial Version\)](#)

groups and support a wider range of social and cultural activities. Initiatives such as Viver Cascais (see details in D6.3) empowered citizens, encouraging sustainable and inclusive behaviors.

In terms of exploitable results ([O4.1](#)), Cascais continued to expand its smart city infrastructure. Tools such as FixCascais and SmartBin (see details in D6.3) enabled real-time monitoring of urban services. SmartBin, in particular, optimized waste collection routes, supported the circular economy and the mitigation of carbon dioxide emissions by around 350 tonnes/year. These innovations contributed to more efficient, informed, and sustainable urban management.

Cascais also made progress in embedding data-driven co-creation and scenario-building into its decision-support systems ([O4.2](#)). Platforms like WEGENERATE, GeoCascais, and DataCascais were used to support transparent planning and community engagement. The three scenarios developed through the Impact Model workshop for the pilot areas will support the city's planning processes.

Finally, Cascais began embedding climate neutrality and circular value chains into its long-term strategies ([O5.2](#)). The CASCAIS SMART POLE project (see detailed in D6.3), developed in collaboration with NOVA SBE, served as a living lab for co-creating local sustainability solutions. This initiative brought together businesses, residents, and students to address challenges such as renewable energy generation and mobility. Cascais is also aiming to develop public-private partnerships together with Innovation Cycle 3 to support inclusive and regenerative urban transformation.

Collectively, these activities have contributed to several intended outcomes and impacts of Re-Value:

O2.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities take up the participatory Re-Value Story building, Scenario building and Investment & Partnership building strategies

O2.2: Citizens/professional stakeholders feel they contributed to the outcomes

O3.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities use the Re-Value Impact Model long-term

O3.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities adopt the Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol long-term

O4.1: Exploitable Results are embedded in Re-Value cities

O4.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities embed long-term Re-Value's data-driven co-creation and scenario-building in decision support

O5.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities fully embed the participatory, circular and shared value chains in their Investment and Partnership Plans

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation measures

Cascais submitted its local Re-Value Communication and Dissemination Plan in June 2024 (M18) as deliverable D8.2, with an update foreseen for 2025 ([CDE6](#)). Building on a strong tradition of citizen engagement, the city benefits from a broad array of participation tools and platforms—most notably Cascais Participa, a digital platform and municipal brand that aggregates initiatives such as participatory budgeting, volunteering schemes, and public consultations. Digital instruments like “Fix Cascais” further support citizen involvement in local sustainability efforts. Within the Re-Value project, the municipality is

exploring how to mobilise this existing infrastructure to foster inclusive engagement and encourage active participation in the pilot's implementation.

More specifically, Cascais integrates Re-Value within a wider innovation hub approach that aligns various local and international projects tackling climate change, digitalisation, urban sustainability, and participatory governance. In 2024, Re-Value was embedded in the Cascais Climate Action Agenda (#CascaisPeloClima), which promotes climate literacy and participatory governance through community awareness campaigns and hands-on workshops. These initiatives, which span training, awareness-raising, and dissemination of tools for climate action, help build both individual and collective capacity for climate adaptation and mitigation. Key local events under #CascaisPeloClima in 2024 contributed to this effort and included workshops directly linked to the Re-Value framework summarised below ([CDE1](#)).

Date	Activity	Participants
16/02/2024	"Speaking for the Climate": informal community meeting aimed at co-creating solutions and activities that enhance resilience to climate change. By focusing on Inclusive Climate Action, the initiative incorporates the pillars of Environment, Economy, and Society, along with an Equity pillar to ensure a just transition- this approach maximises inclusion and fosters community involvement, ensuring that the benefits of climate action are shared equitably among all.	10
28/02/2024	"Energy Café": informal meetings to promote energy literacy and games on energy efficiency, where topics such as the importance of energy saving, energy efficiency measures, electricity bill and the social energy tariff were analysed. These meetings were held as part of Horizon Europe's DATA CELLAR project (CEES – Community Energy for Energy Solidarity). The Energy Cafés have been developed as a means of providing free energy-saving advice and free energy efficiency kits (with around 100 kits already distributed).	30
15/03/2024		20
21/03/2024		5
14/05/2024		20
20/06/2024		20
02/10/2024		35
25/03/2024	"Positive Energy for Homes and Companies": Working group for the discussion of the potential for energy savings with the use of renewable energies. This analysis was carried out by automatically analysing consumption data in real time using an innovative electronic platform.	5
27/05/2024	Impact Model Workshop: Cascais	14
20/06/2024	"Demonstration Webinar on Energy Communities, Energy Cafés and Cooperatives": As part of COST ACTION, this webinar allowed the discussion of fact that while the potential of Energy Communities to empower citizens is clear, how to engage citizens on the topic of energy remains a challenge. Through a series of presentations, this webinar outlined the wide range of methods and associated considerations for stakeholders, highlighted the example of the Energy Cafés and explored the role of energy cooperatives in establishing energy communities.	30
23/09/24	"The urban transition to climate neutrality in coastal zones – LNEG": Webinar that covered the work being done under the Re-Value project, analysing the 2 pilot coastal zones and participatory intervention measures in urban spaces to improve	80

	resilience and biodiversity through nature-based solutions, increase accessibility, and contribute to climate change mitigation.	
11/12/24	“Capacity Development and exchange programme - Cascais Round: Energy Transition”: webinar held to explore how the energy transition can be advanced through the integration of technology, environmental best practices, and climate literacy - key elements in building more resilient cities.	30

Re-Value supports youth engagement in Cascais through the Innovation Camps ([CDE9](#)). On 21 November 2024, the city hosted its second Innovation Camp, involving 50 students from two schools who tackled the question: “How can we promote intelligent water consumption, increasing savings between us and the city?” Participants used the business model canvas to structure their ideas, with a proposal to collect and reuse rainwater from lawns for irrigation winning the competition. The Innovation Camps in Cascais have evolved from focusing on design prototyping in the first round to incorporating business thinking in the second. Teacher feedback highlighted the value of both methods, suggesting that a hybrid approach could offer a more effective balance between creativity and practical application. These camps have also proven valuable for environmental education and participatory governance, allowing young people to contribute to the city’s urban resilience vision and giving visibility to their ideas within the municipality.

Cascais continues to engage with cities across Europe to share lessons and approaches, within Re-Value and beyond. Through the Community of Practice and Capacity Development and Exchange Programme, Cascais has visited Ålesund (March) and Rijeka (October) for the organised Study Visits in 2024, while the city is planning its own Study Visit in 2025 focusing on Public Engagement([CDE2](#)). These activities complement the city’s long-standing involvement in European initiatives, including the Covenant of Mayors, the EU Missions for Climate-neutral Cities and Adaptation, and the European Green City Accord. Cascais is also an active member of ICLEI, Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, and the Portuguese Network of Municipalities for Climate Change Adaptation ([CDE12](#)), leveraging these networks to advance integrated and participatory approaches to climate action.

2.2.2 Constanța

2.2.2.1 Re-Valu(ing)

In the Re-Value project, Constanța is actively engaged in testing, capturing, and sharing best practices to develop its historical centre, known as the Peninsula Area. Drawing on lessons learned and interactions with other Re-Value partners, the city aims to expand its holistic approach to climate neutrality beyond the Peninsula Area into broader urban strategies.

The Peninsula District covers approximately 0.9 square kilometers (about 0.01% of the city’s total area) and is home to around 8 000 residents. It features a mix of uses, including housing, administrative services, businesses, dining, and tourism, making it one of the city’s most-visited areas, especially in summer. Access is provided via a hierarchical and dense street network.

A key challenge in this area is the advanced degradation of buildings, many vulnerable to seismic risk. The cultural heritage is also deteriorating, with insufficient infrastructure to support major events or withstand

ongoing wear. Within Re-Value, the municipality aims to future-proof its inventory of cultural heritage buildings and monuments, while engaging the community to enhance urban quality throughout the district. This includes addressing sensitive issues such as parking, public open spaces, urban greening, and maintaining access and view corridors to the sea. A key feature of this approach is integrating climate-neutrality principles into existing frameworks, policies, and networks, such as sustainable public transport ambitions and energy-efficient building renovations.

Locally, the partnership includes the Municipality of Constanța and ADI-ZMC (Constanța Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association), which supports the sustainable development of 16 local administrative units in the region.



Figure 11: Constanța Pilot Area.

2.2.2.2 Progress during reporting period

Detailed Roadmap

Constanța completed a first draft of the Roadmap in March 2024 and is currently working on finalising the first Explore phase 2 by June 2025 (M30).

The first draft Roadmap focused on establishing a comprehensive understanding of the current conditions within the Waterfront Pilot Area, specifically the Peninsula Area, which represents the historical core of the city. This phase was developed collaboratively by the local Re-Value team and involved extensive data

collection and analysis. The team examined a wide range of aspects, including the area's historical and cultural background, key landmarks, socio-economic characteristics, land use patterns, urban structure, spatial and cultural quality, community facilities, mobility infrastructure, and utilities. Additionally, a detailed review of the policy and regulatory framework was conducted, taking into account all relevant local strategies and planning documents that impact the pilot area.

The development of this draft was marked by strong collaboration among local Re-Value partners. Activities included desktop research, consultations with municipal departments and stakeholders, coordination with the team responsible for the Zonal Urban Plan, and the preparation of thematic maps using the City's GIS system. A thorough policy analysis was also carried out to identify how existing plans, strategies, and projects intersect with the goals of the pilot.

Following the completion of the initial draft, the Constanța team engaged in a peer review process. They reviewed the Roadmap developed by the İzmir team, provided written feedback, and discussed their observations during the Ålesund Consortium Meeting. In turn, Constanța's Roadmap was reviewed by the Rijeka partner. Based on their feedback, several revisions were made to improve the document.

The Roadmap will be further delivered in two phases. The Explore phase focuses toward identifying methodologies for collecting new, targeted datasets relevant to the Peninsula Area. This phase outlines the main features of the area, presents a stakeholder analysis, and documents the engagement activities carried out thus far. The second Implement phase will highlight the key opportunities and challenges associated with the development of a Territorial Transformation Plan (TTP), which aims to guide Constanța toward climate neutrality by 2035. In addition, Constanța will develop a short-term action plan that will support the design of the TTP in a collaborative and inclusive manner. The final document will reflect both the progress made and the strategic direction for the next stages of the project.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

The local Re-Value team successfully initiated discussions with the municipality of Constanța regarding the TTP at multiple levels, including high-level decision-makers. The Mayor of Constanța coordinated several meetings, with participation from the Deputy Mayor and key municipal executives responsible for areas relevant to the TTP, such as mobility and infrastructure, green spaces and waste management. These included the Chief Architect, the Departments of Public Services, Strategies and European Funding, and the local police, among others. In parallel, the team established contact and began cooperation with the company contracted by the municipality to design the Zonal Urban Plan for the Peninsula and City Centre area.

An additional milestone in 2024 was Constanța's engagement in the Mirror Mission Cities Hub Romania call for proposals, which presented an opportunity to apply for further funding and secure impacts of the work started in Re-Value on a longer term. As part of this process, Constanța mobilised various partners and companies to support the preparation of a project proposal (submission deadline: September 2024).

Constanța City and Constanța Metropolitan Area were selected, among other nine cities, plus the three cities selected in the EU Mission, to be a part of this nation hub.

As part of the long-term planning process, the team also mapped nearly all relevant regional, national, and European strategies that could support efforts toward achieving climate neutrality in the pilot area, the city, and the broader Functional Urban Area.

On 20 June 2024 (M18), the first Impact Model Workshop was held at Constanța City Hall. The event gathered 21 participants from a wide range of sectors, including academia, the municipality, municipally-owned companies, residents, designers, architects, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other citizen representatives.

The workshop generated several key ideas that can be incorporated into the process of updating the TTP, such as:

- Introduction of a SMART and clean public transport route within the Peninsula area, accessible to both residents and visitors;
- Establishment of a water bus connection between the historical city centre and Mamaia resort;
- Enhanced community engagement through the organisation of cultural, sports, and youth events to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for the area;
- Protection and promotion of cultural and historical heritage, including identification and absorption of funding opportunities for building refurbishment.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Initial work towards deployment of the Waterfront Pilot

Following the initiation of the Detailed Roadmap for the pilot area, the Constanța team identified key areas that require improvement to support the transition toward climate neutrality, restore the area's urban and cultural value, and re-establish it as the vibrant heart of the city and an attractive historical city centre.

In this context, several priority areas emerged:

- Expansion of cultural and sports events, including efforts to extend activities beyond summer season;
- Implementation of a Low Emission Zone in the pilot area, in order to support sustainable urban mobility within the pilot area;
- Improvement of the greening and shading of the public spaces to enhance thermal comfort and environmental quality and reduce the heat island effect;
- Support of the refurbishment of the buildings within the pilot area, including through the approval of a local supported program for co-financing different interventions, especially to the facades of the buildings;
- Public consultations and awareness raising campaigns to enhance the citizen engagement and support behavioural change towards supporting climate neutrality;

- Improvement of the energy efficiency in public and private buildings;
- Improvement of the cooperation among public and private stakeholders in order to maximize the results of the projects developed and implemented within the pilot area and on the topics addressed to mitigating climate neutrality.

These elements are considered essential for achieving climate neutrality and improving the urban and cultural environment of the Waterfront Pilot area.

Fit for 55 objectives

Constanța joined the Covenant of Mayors initiative in 2013 and in February 2023 the City reconfirmed its commitment to contribute to the energy and climate targets of the initiative. Constanța approved its SECAP in 2024 which continues the Sustainable Energy Action Plan, approved in 2016, that foresaw actions until 2020. The new SECAP has as main objectives: to decrease the greenhouse gas emission by 55% in 2030 compared to the year of reference, to reach climate neutrality by 2050, to prevent the apparition of climate hazards, and to increase the community's resilience. The strategy's action plan also includes actions relevant to the Re-Value pilot area, with the aim to improve urban quality in general.

The strategy establishes the strategic directions for climate change mitigation in correlation with the sectors that are the main source of GHG emissions, and provides an extensive action plan with 2050 as a horizon for: 1. Buildings sector (residential, public and commercial buildings); 2. Transport sector; 3. Public lighting; 4. Local production of renewable energy; 5. Land use and urban planning; 6. Public acquisition of goods and services; 7. Citizens and stakeholders involvement.

For climate change adaptation the SECAP provides the following general measures: 1. aligning the SECAP measures with the measures provided in other strategic documents of the city, region and national level; 2. reducing the GHG emissions associated with the energy and fuel consumption at local level; 3. transport sector decarbonisation; 4. decarbonisation of the building sector; 5. fighting against the energy poverty phenomena.

For the Re-Value pilot area the SECAP action plan includes different actions, namely:

1. Sustainable urban mobility in the Peninsula neighbourhood – a project aiming to refurbish/extend and create pedestrian areas, cycle paths and to integrate them into a functional network at the City level. To increase the quality of the public transport service by refurbishing the streets and specific infrastructure used by it.
2. Leisure facilities in the Peninsula neighbourhood – improving/construction of the specific leisure infrastructure – playing fields for youth, sport fields, multifunctional spaces and equipment for leisure and socio-cultural activities.
3. Improving the urban environment in the Peninsula neighbourhood – integrated refurbishment of urban spaces, including the underground technical infrastructure: refurbishment of the existing green areas, footways and buildings access streets, urban furniture, CCTV, WIFI, intelligent lighting and pedestrian crossings, automated irrigation system, including the rain water collection and use, Selective waste collection points, electric vehicle charging stations.

4. Green spaces and areas in the Peninsula neighbourhood – planting of new green areas with irrigation systems, creation of new pedestrian and promenade routes, urban furniture, leisure areas, public lighting.
5. Integrated refurbishment of the area between the access to Modern Beach, Lebedei Street and the slope – Creating new facilities for cultural events and leisure, including promenade areas and parking places.
6. Refurbishment of Mihai Eminescu High school building.
7. Constanta Casino restoration and consolidation.

The city is also working on the Zonal Urbanistic Plan for the historical centre and the city centre area. The plan is ongoing and is looking to define the urban functionalities of the area. The Constanța Re-Value team is working hand in hand with the plan developers in order to align the Plan with the project vision and objectives.

Another important step towards climate neutrality made by the city and its Functional Urban Area is related to its selection in the Mirror Mission Cities HUB Romania among other nine Romanian cities. Constanța already began working on the Climate City Contract that should be ready for public consultation in March 2025.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

O1.1: Re-Value cities reach Fit for 55 objectives

Contribution to intended outcomes and impacts

Throughout 2024, Constanța has made initial steps toward aligning its local actions with Re-Value's participatory strategies ([O2.1](#)), particularly in the context of the city's cultural and historical revitalization efforts. For example, Constanța identified the Casino as a potential anchor project for Innovation Cycle 1 – Story Building, offering an opportunity to link cultural heritage with participatory visioning and climate-neutral objectives. While participation to date has remained largely observational, initial efforts to engage cultural actors, such as through discussions on a potential Short-Term Artistic Mission, signal intent to deepen participatory activities.

In the context of Innovation Cycle 2 – Scenario Building, the municipality has acknowledged limitations in its current digital planning capacity. The city primarily relies on GIS tools for data viewing rather than design, and staffing constraints pose a barrier to the use of more advanced digital modelling tools. To address this, the city plans to collaborate with Ovidius University to bring in external expertise and strengthen scenario-building capacity ([O4.2](#)). For example, through the CITYINNOHUB project, coordinated by Ovidius University and involving a wide regional consortium, Constanța is positioning itself to strengthen its data-driven transformation capacity. The project supports SMEs and public service providers in their digital transitions, creating an opportunity to link these efforts with Re-Value's co-creation and scenario-building work. This cross-initiative synergy can help address existing digital capacity gaps and facilitate systemic innovation in areas such as Tourism 4.0 and Smart Cities.

For Innovation Cycle 3 – Investment and Partnership Building, Constanța has shown interest in exploring new funding mechanisms. However, national-level legislative constraints currently limit the adoption of

instruments such as public-private partnerships. The city is actively monitoring policy developments to identify future opportunities for more flexible investment structures. Constanța's REACTIS initiative (see details in D6.3²⁵) exemplifies how local regenerative and circular urban development principles are being embedded in practice. Focused on the restoration of historic buildings, REACTIS offers financial and technical support for property owners and includes key public refurbishments in the Peninsula area, showcasing exploitable results of Re-Value ([O4.1](#)).

Constanța is also preparing to launch a user perception survey as the foundation for further engagement and transformation scenario development in the Peninsula area. This effort is complemented by continued local stakeholder meetings, which will gain added momentum through activities linked to the City Climate Contract. One of the key forward-looking actions involves establishing a Local NetZero Coalition. This platform aims to mobilize a wide array of actors—from businesses and universities to civil society and public agencies—to advance circular economy initiatives and co-create sustainable urban solutions. Planned initiatives include capacity-building, collaborative project development, and advocacy for regulatory changes to enable zero-waste and climate-resilient urban systems ([O5.2](#)).

While public engagement in Romania often occurs primarily in response to legal requirements, and most of the time is made in a formal way, without real stakeholder and citizens involvement and follow up, Constanța Re-Value team is working to shift this paradigm, by continuously inviting stakeholders and citizens to take part in the project activities, making an effort to make citizens and professional stakeholders feel they contribute to the outcomes ([O2.2](#)).

On 20 June 2024, Constanța hosted its first Re-Value Impact Model workshop, bringing together 21 participants from diverse sectors, including academia, local government, NGOs, and citizens. The exercise, though initially perceived as complex, generated insightful discussions and helped participants reflect on the broader implications of their projects. The workshop was particularly effective in encouraging systems thinking and fostering cross-sectoral dialogue, paving the way for using the Impact Model in the long run ([O3.1](#)). There is a growing recognition that future exercises of this kind would benefit from external facilitation to ensure objectivity and enhance their professional quality .

Ideas generated during the Impact Model workshop inform the city's long-term Territorial Transformation Plan for the Peninsula pilot area ([O5.1](#)). These include proposals for clean and smart public transport, improved connectivity with surrounding districts, and community-led cultural and recreational initiatives. Technical studies are underway to support these concepts, while ongoing stakeholder engagement remains central to refining and legitimizing the city's climate mitigation strategies.

Collectively, these activities have contributed to several intended outcomes and impacts of Re-Value:

O2.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities take up the participatory Re-Value Story building, Scenario building and Investment & Partnership building strategies

O2.2: Citizens/professional stakeholders feel they contributed to the outcomes

O3.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities use the Re-Value Impact Model long-term

²⁵ [D6.3 Urban Planning and Design Approaches Portfolio \(Initial Version\)](#)

O4.1: Exploitable Results are embedded in Re-Value cities

O4.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities embed long-term Re-Value's data-driven co-creation and scenario-building in decision support

O5.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities embed in their strategies for updating long-term Territorial Transformation Plans a universal design of climate neutrality, including energy and mobility poverty

O5.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities fully embed the participatory, circular and shared value chains in their Investment and Partnership Plans

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation measures

Constanța's Re-Value Communication and Dissemination Plan was prepared in June 2024 (M18) as deliverable D8.2, and will be updated in 2025 ([CDE6](#)). The project's focus on the Peninsula aligns closely with the city's wider strategy to revitalise its historic centre—enhancing its cultural and functional value for both citizens and tourists. Constanța has experience coordinating complex urban projects with stakeholders and professionals, yet engaging directly with residents remains a key challenge. Re-Value offers a valuable opportunity to test more inclusive forms of citizen involvement in the urban development process.

Throughout 2024, Constanța organised a series of workshops centred on the Peninsula area and other Re-Value themes ([CDE1](#)). These events attracted mainly professional stakeholders, though some residents also joined informally to share their views. The workshops contributed to surfacing local concerns while helping embed Re-Value's objectives into the ongoing transformation efforts in the city centre.

Date	Activity	Participants
16/05/2024	Data based and digital information solutions design and implementation	50
04/06/2024	Energy and mobility, circular economy and quality of urban space	50
20/06/2024	Quality of urban space in the Peninsula area	50
20/06/2024	Impact Model Workshop: Constanța	22

As part of its co-creation activities, Constanța also hosted its second Innovation Camp in 2024 with a focus on the Peninsula's identity, challenges, and future potential ([CDE9](#)). Students proposed creative yet context-sensitive solutions, such as integrating public services in ways that preserve the area's historical character. The Innovation Camp adopted a more flexible format—spanning several stages and including a guided site visit—to accommodate school schedules and enhance student understanding. Compared to the first edition, the second round was more focused, better aligned with municipal strategies, and helped refine Constanța's approach to youth engagement and urban education.

Through its active participation in the Re-Value Community of Practice and Capacity Development and Exchange Programme, Constanța has benefited from peer learning opportunities with both Leading and Replicating Cities. The city's involvement in Study Visits in 2024—namely those hosted in Ålesund, Burgas, and Rijeka—offered valuable exposure to diverse approaches to waterfront redevelopment, data-driven decision-making, nature-based solutions, and adaptive re-use. These exchanges have enhanced the local

team's understanding of practical tools and methodologies, helping to inform and inspire the ongoing transformation of the Peninsula area ([CDE2](#)).

Constanța also participates actively in European and national networks supporting climate action and sustainable urban mobility. The city is a member of the Covenant of Mayors, CIVITAS, CIVINET Romania, EIT Urban Mobility, and contributes to Eurocities. At the national level, it is engaged in platforms like the Association of Romanian Municipalities and the Federation of Metropolitan Areas and Urban Agglomerations in Romania, strengthening its capacity for knowledge exchange and collaborative urban innovation ([CDE12](#)).

2.2.3 İzmir

2.2.3.1 Re-Valu(ing)

As part of the Re-Value partnership, İzmir is working to enhance and expand its design strategy for the Alsancak District waterfront, and the dense urban texture surrounding it.

The district spans from Alsancak Port's entrance to the eastern end of the Gulf of İzmir and is a key landmark in the cityscape. Covering about 175 hectares, it comprises three densely populated and vibrant neighbourhoods, the Alsancak, Kültür, and Mimar Sinan, and embodies a blend of cultures, histories, and urban experiences, reflecting İzmir's maritime heritage, commerce, and community life. Alsancak Kordon—located in the selected waterfront pilot area—was recently redeveloped to provide 150 hectares of greenery, pedestrian areas, cycling paths and a single-lane vehicle road. Building on insights from the [İzmirSea Project](#) and previous pilot initiatives, the city is focusing on strengthening its connection with the sea and promoting sustainable urban transformation, particularly as it is often impacted by flooding.

To apply Re-Value's integrated planning approach, İzmir plans to advance climate-neutral, inclusive, and nature-based urban transformation by developing the Sustainable Green Zone concept, particularly in the dense urban and waterfront areas surrounding İzmir Bay. Aligned with the New European Bauhaus (NEB) principles and integrated with the city's strategic plans (Green City Action Plan, SECAP, and İzmir Strategic Plan), the project addresses key environmental and social challenges—including the urban heat island effect and rising surface temperatures, flood risks, and limited access to public spaces. Through participatory and place-based planning, the project seeks to create integrated, site-specific, and scalable solutions that enhance green connectivity and guide the development of a roadmap for sustainable transformation. These efforts will be further supported by the "Digital Twin Roadmap", part of the Waterfront Pilot within the Re-Value project. This roadmap will outline key phases for integrating the pilot into the broader citywide Digital Twin initiative. By doing so, the project aims to generate data-driven insights in support of scenario-building and informed decision-making, addressing challenges such as urban flooding, impermeable surfaces, and rising surface temperatures, all reducing urban comfort within the dense urban zone surrounding the waterfront.

İzmir's work in Re-Value is being shaped through a close partnership between the İzmir Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) and the İzmir Institute of Technology (IZTECH), with IMM leading on the overall development of the city's strategy and implementation of sustainable green zone, and IZTECH supporting

especially on data creation, management and analysis, as well as data driven and transformative innovative solutions.



Figure 12: Pilot study area boundaries in İzmir, covering the neighborhoods of Alsancak, Mimar Sinan, and Kültür (Image credit: IMM).

2.2.3.2 Progress during reporting period

Detailed Roadmap

İzmir completed a first draft of the Roadmap in June 2024 and is currently working on finalising the first Explore phase by June 2025 (M30).

The first draft of the Roadmap offers an overview of İzmir, followed by an in-depth analysis of the Alsancak District, addressing aspects such as location, history, microclimate, urban population, and spatial analysis. A key milestone in Alsancak's development was the transformation of the Kordon waterfront from a proposed six-lane road into a green public space in 2000.

In the document, the physical master plan for Alsancak was also assessed with the aim of creating modern urban spaces that promote efficient public transport, cycling, and pedestrian movement—while safeguarding the historical and cultural heritage that shapes İzmir's identity. Furthermore, different policies, strategies and plans affecting the pilot were summarised to provide a basis for the further development of the Roadmap and update of Territorial Transformation Plans.

This phase also identified the Alsancak waterfront as a pilot area with strong potential for growth and revitalization, particularly through collaborative efforts under the Re-Value project. Opportunities in the

area include advancements in urban planning, economic development, cultural enrichment, and environmental sustainability. Despite its strengths, the Alsancak waterfront faces recurring flood risks. The severe flooding on 26 November 2023, which caused widespread damage and power outages, underscored the urgency of addressing this issue, which remains one of the most pressing challenges in the region.

For the next phases of the Detailed Roadmap, the city keeps working with the Innovation Cycles, the Re-Value Impact Model, and the Innovation Camps, to further identify opportunities and challenges and define an implementation roadmap that will help the city move forward toward climate neutrality. Innovation Cycle 1 plays a key role in this process by fostering a shared vision through participatory storytelling and spatial interpretation, using methods such as Citizen Design Science and tools like co-design workshops and the Artistic Mission. Simultaneously, the city aims to leverage Innovation Cycle 2 for the development of a Digital Twin Roadmap that will facilitate the integration of microclimate data and urban comfort into İzmir's broader city-wide digital twin initiative, ensuring that data-driven, citizen-informed design strategies guide the city's sustainable urban transformation.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

As one of the Mission Cities, İzmir has made significant strides in advancing urban sustainability and resilience. This commitment is reflected in a range of strategic documents and plans that guide the city's sustainable development. Key among them is the İzmir Metropolitan Municipality Strategic Plan, which defines the city's overarching goals and priorities.

To tackle specific sustainability challenges, İzmir has adopted targeted action plans. The Green City Action Plan promotes environmental sustainability, while the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) focuses on improving energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy use, and mitigating climate change impacts. A standout initiative, the İzmir Sponge City project, addresses stormwater management and flood resilience through green infrastructure and sustainable water practices. Additionally, the Alsancak-Kahramanlar Region Physical Master Plan aims to modernize urban spaces by enhancing public transport, cycling, and pedestrian infrastructure in the city center.

These inputs will be carefully incorporated to ensure exchange between the İzmir Waterfront Pilot's Roadmap and the plans for territorial transformation and the city's established strategic frameworks.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Initial work towards deployment of the Waterfront Pilot

Full-scale deployment in the Waterfront Pilot area focuses on advancing the implementation of the Roadmap through a series of strategic, participatory, and data-informed actions under the Re-Value project. Initial efforts are guided by the Innovation Cycles and the Re-Value Impact Model, which help identify context-specific opportunities and challenges for Alsancak and its surrounding zones. The first Innovation

Cycle (Story-Building) has played a critical role in shaping a shared vision through citizen participation, using the Citizen Design Science methodology to co-create narratives and spatial ideas that reflect local values. In parallel, the city is leveraging Innovation Cycle 2 to develop a Digital Twin Roadmap, which will support scenario-building through the integration of microclimate data, urban comfort indicators, and citizen input. This will inform the design of nature-based and climate-neutral interventions, helping to prioritize areas for transformation and evaluate their performance. Together, these actions form the basis for full-scale deployment in the pilot area, aligning local engagement, scientific data, and strategic planning to deliver an integrated and replicable model for Sustainable Green Zone implementation.

Fit for 55 objectives

İzmir is a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors since 2015 and has committed in its SECAP (2020) to reduce CO₂ emissions by at least 40% (per capita) against the 2018 baseline year by 2030, as well as to increase climate resilience and provide secure access to sustainable and affordable energy. The GHG emissions for the baseline year of 2018, were estimated to be 25 MtCO₂e, with industry having the highest share (31.4%), transport accounting for 23%, residential buildings for 14.3%, and tertiary buildings for 8.8%. Process emissions from clinker production account for 6.1 %, energy generation for own use is around 3.7%, and the rest are CH₄ and N₂O emissions related with waste, wastewater treatment, fertiliser use in agriculture, irrigation and livestock and manure management.

İzmir is planning to revise its SECAP. As part of this update, the city seeks to enhance its sustainability strategy by incorporating concepts during the process of urban design according to the indicators based on the Re-Value project. This integration aims to create a more holistic and effective approach for urban development, by ensuring that sustainability measures are aligned with cutting-edge practices and standards. By doing so, İzmir aspires to not only meet its environmental goals but also to set a benchmark for other cities in terms of sustainable urban design, planning and development.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

O1.1: Re-Value cities reach Fit for 55 objectives

Contribution to intended outcomes and impacts

Through the Re-Value project, İzmir is strengthening and further developing existing tools and approaches to achieve climate neutrality and urban quality in line with the Re-Value approach to urban planning and design: being Visionary, Integrated, Informed, Inclusive, Regenerative / Circular, and Irresistible²⁶. Through these processes, the project is assisting the city to reach its objectives while contributing to the project desired outcomes.

The Impact Model Workshop held in İzmir on 25 November 2024 marked an important step in embedding the Impact Model into the city's decision-making structures ([O3.1](#)). By bringing together a diverse group of 25 stakeholders—from local administrations to NGOs and academic institutions—the workshop fostered a participatory, bottom-up approach to urban planning, with a focus on the Re-Value pilot area. Through collaborative discussion and the identification of key local issues such as cultural value loss, flood risks, and

²⁶ [D6.3: Urban Planning and Design Approaches Portfolio \(Initial Version\)](#)

sustainable tourism, the event demonstrated how inclusive processes can shape relevant, context-specific solutions.

This approach aligns closely with the principles of the Impact Model by prioritizing stakeholder perspectives, encouraging systems thinking, and integrating social, environmental, and spatial dimensions. The identification of actionable focus areas—sea-level rise and flooding, urban heat island mitigation, and social innovation—further reinforces İzmir’s commitment to using evidence-based, participatory frameworks in shaping climate-neutral, resilient urban futures. Stakeholders indicated their desire to participate in such meetings in the future and believed they can help achieve results faster ([O2.2](#)), setting a foundation for sustained use of the Impact Model in guiding future initiatives.

İzmir is furthermore actively embedding inclusiveness and diversity into its urban transformation processes to ensure that the benefits of sustainability and climate resilience reach all segments of its society ([O3.2](#)). Through the Re-Value project, the city prioritizes engagement with key local groups—including citizens, youth, municipal departments, and NGOs—each playing a vital role in shaping a just and equitable transition. With half of its population under 30, İzmir places particular focus on youth involvement, engaging them through innovation camps ([CDE9](#)) and educational initiatives to foster digital literacy, creativity, and civic ownership. The city also advances participatory planning through a Citizen Science approach to increase public participation and strengthen democratic governance in urban planning. Meanwhile, collaboration across municipal bodies and local experts ensures coordinated, knowledge-driven progress, and NGOs amplify community voices, promote equality, and advocate for inclusive development. This diverse and participatory approach not only strengthens community ties but also helps embed long-term sustainability into İzmir’s decision-making structures.

Collectively, these activities have contributed to several intended outcomes and impacts of Re-Value:

O2.2: Citizens/professional stakeholders feel they contributed to the outcomes

O3.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities use the Re-Value Impact Model long-term

O3.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities adopt the Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol long-term

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation measures

İzmir developed its Communication and Dissemination Plan, aligned with the Re-Value CDE plan, and submitted its first version in June 2024 (M18) as deliverable D8.2²⁷ ([CDE6](#)). An updated version is expected in 2025. İzmir Metropolitan Municipality is leveraging its established communication strategies to support the Re-Value project, using one-way tools like press releases, website updates, and official social media channels, alongside two-way digital engagement platforms such as the [Açık Veri \(Open Data\) Platform](#) and [Biz İzmir](#). These tools promote transparency, public participation, and feedback, helping to engage a wider audience in the city’s sustainability efforts. With a strong background in multi-stakeholder engagement, İzmir aims to ensure broad public involvement in advancing climate-neutral urban transformation.

During the second project year, the İzmir team worked primarily with stakeholders defined specifically for the Re-Value Pilot, to set the stage for upcoming activities planned for 2025, including the Study Visit and

²⁷ [D8.2: Local Communication and Dissemination Plans by Re-Value Cities](#)

Consortium Meeting, scheduled for 8-10 April 2025. One important event was the Impact Model Workshop that took place on 25 November 2024, as described in the previous section. More than 25 stakeholders were present from the local administrations, professional chambers, associations, universities, and NGOs. During the workshop they identified key topics and projects for the three neighbourhoods of the Alsancak District, under the themes of sea-level rise and flood risk, mitigation of the urban heat island effect, and social innovation. Other, more technical meetings with stakeholders aimed at addressing environmental, economic, and social challenges in the Alsancak coastal pilot area, in alignment with the Re-Value project and the New European Bauhaus (NEB) principles. Such examples are coastal engineering expert stakeholder meetings, with one titled “Alsancak Kordon Flood Project Meeting” taking place on 6 December 2024 ([CDE1](#)).

Another important event was the second Innovation Camp ([CDE9](#)), which took place on 7 October 2024 (see D8.5 Re-Value Innovation Camps Report 2 for details²⁸). This iteration built further on the results of the first camp, but with a narrower focus and more specialised participants. Sixty-three university students from architecture, environmental engineering, and urban planning used Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to provide creative solutions of enhanced technical quality for urban challenges, under the theme "ReValue Your City with AI". The city aims to use the third Innovation Camp in 2025 to further build on previous learnings to generate even more impactful solutions. This iterative process is designed to continually refine and enhance the relevance of ideas developed by participants, supporting the city's climate-neutrality objectives. The challenge lies in ensuring that youth-led solutions transition from ideation to execution.



Figure 13: Teamwork with their mentor (left), AI generated image illustrating a possible solution (right).
Source: JA Türkiye (left), MidJourney (right).

²⁸ [D8.5: Innovation Camps Report 2](#)

Regarding İzmir's connection to other cities and networks, one key factor is that the city was recently selected as one of the 112 cities for the EU Cities Mission on Climate Neutrality, making it the only city among the Re-Value project partners to receive this distinction. It further received the Mission Label in recognition of its efforts in developing a Climate City Contract, highlighting the city's strong commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2030. İzmir is also a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors since 2015, it is developing a Green City Action Plan for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Green Cities Program, and became an applicant for European Green Capital status in 2020.

Besides these European initiatives, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality is a member of several national and international city networks ([CDE12](#))²⁹. National networks include Türkiye Belediyeler Birliği (Union of Municipalities), Ege Belediyeler Birliği (Union of Aegean Municipalities) initiated by İzmir in 1986, and Sustainable Urban Development Network, which includes 20 municipalities from Türkiye. Internationally, IMM is a member of the Mediterranean Cities Network MedCities, the United Cities and Local Governments global network, ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) and its Urban Climate Resilience Program, and is part of the UNESCO tentative list in 2020.

Within Re-Value, İzmir is taking an active part in the Community of Practice and Capacity Development and Exchange Programme ([R7](#)), where it exchanges with the other Re-Value cities and learns through, among others, the Peer-to-Peer Review process for the Roadmaps and the Study Visits ([CDE2](#)). In 2024, İzmir representatives travelled to Ålesund in March for the combined Consortium Meeting and Study Visit, as well as to the Study Visits organised in Burgas in June and in Rijeka in October.

2.2.4 Písek

2.2.4.1 Re-Valu(ing)

As part of the Re-Value project, the city of Písek seeks to embed the principles of the New European Bauhaus into its urban development strategy, with a particular focus on strengthening the relationship between the urban environment, its residents, and the Otava River.

Písek focuses on two Waterfront Pilot areas in Re-Value: Mezimostí Waterfront, a space without a clear identity but with a great potential due to its proximity to the river; and Portyč Neighborhood, the largest housing estate in the city with a strong presence of disadvantaged groups. Both areas are in close proximity to the city center of Písek, with each having a distinct urban, functional, and social character.

²⁹ See more details in [D8.2 Local Communication and Dissemination Plans by Leading and Replicating Cities 1](#) and following updates

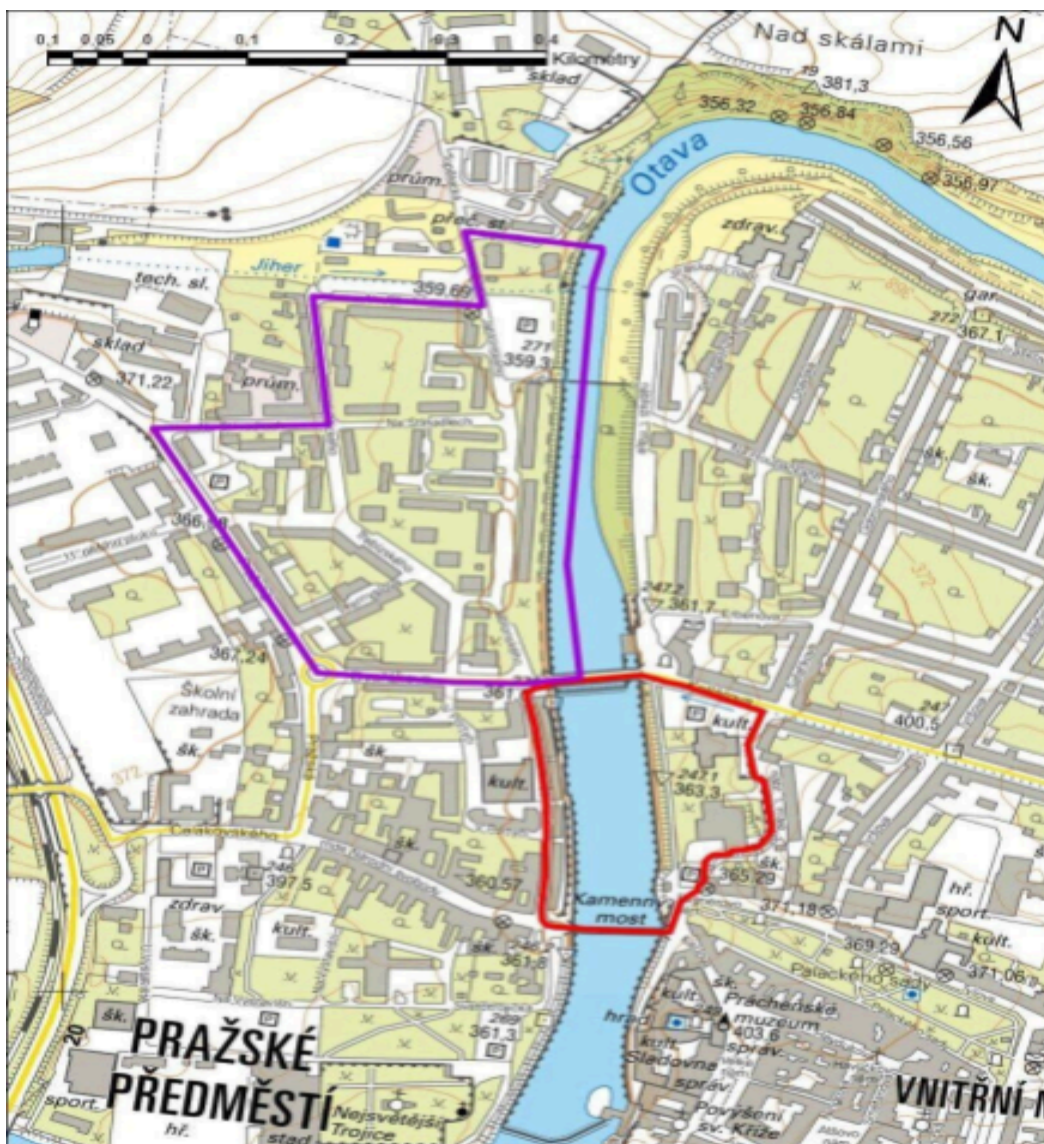


Figure 14: Map of the Waterfront Pilot areas: the Portyč housing estate marked in purple, and the Mezimostí area marked in red.

The municipality coordinates its efforts through the Smart Písek initiative, with strong support from two key partners: ECOTEN, a specialist in urban environmental science and development techniques, and Sladovna Písek, a dynamic cultural centre serving as the project's creative partner. Together, these partners aim to enhance the city's capacity to utilize digital tools for informed decision-making, urban planning, and inclusive design processes.

A central component of the project involves engaging the local community through creative workshops focused on sustainability. These participatory activities are designed to foster a sense of ownership and inclusion among residents. Additionally, feasibility studies will be conducted to equip the city with the necessary knowledge, establish strategic partnerships, and attract investment for the long-term implementation of its urban transformation plans beyond the project's duration.

The Re-Value initiative builds upon a foundation of ongoing municipal efforts in public space enhancement, social inclusion, and climate adaptation. While these initiatives have historically been developed in

isolation, their integration within the Re-Value framework illustrates a cohesive and strategic approach to the city's sustainable transformation.

2.2.4.2 Progress during reporting period

Detailed Roadmap

Písek completed a first draft of the Roadmap in March 2024 and is currently working on finalising the Explore phase by June 2025 (M30).

The initial Roadmap development focused on the identification and analysis of both Pilot areas from various perspectives. In this sense-making phase, the current state of these locations and their challenges were analysed with regard to cultural and socio-economic characteristics, land use and infrastructure, mobility patterns, and energy, among other aspects. Furthermore, a first assessment of relevant policies and regulatory framework was made.

Portyč faces several challenges, such as lack of parking, social exclusion and outdated infrastructure, public transport accessibility, and issues with safety, which despite the revitalisation efforts remain unsolved. Mezimostí is a primarily pedestrian zone characterised by a river and two differently utilised banks. While the right bank houses the Písek Cultural Center and mostly administrative buildings, the left bank is dominated by a residential complex and flood protection measures.

Enormous urban potential has been identified in both areas, though significant challenges for the city's future development have also been presented. The improvement of quality of life and the contribution to sustainable development in these locations have been set as the goals of the analyses and the proposals that will follow in the next phases.

During 2024, the Písek team continued to work towards the development of the Explore phase of the Roadmap, in conjunction with other Re-Value activities. Several participatory activities were conducted throughout the year to gather insights and involve local stakeholders. This included the Impact Model Workshop held in October 2024, where participants discussed climate adaptation, social inclusion, and public space improvements, identifying key priorities such as river accessibility and community-led initiatives. In November 2024, the Junior Achievement Innovation Camp engaged local students in designing solutions for improving public spaces and connectivity to the Otava River. Furthermore, the city actively participated in public events such as Earth Day, Touch the Písek, and Head in Písek 2024 to raise awareness, collect feedback, and promote community involvement in urban transformation processes.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

The city's long-term territorial transformation plans (TTPs) are significantly supported by a series of participatory and innovative initiatives aimed at deepening citizen engagement, integrating youth perspectives, and applying data-driven planning methods. Písek's commitment to public engagement is central to its transformation strategy. Through a mix of events, workshops, and data collection, the city

ensures that its territorial development reflects local needs. The mobile laboratory concept, developed in partnership with Sladovna, exemplifies this by bringing engagement directly into neighborhoods, serving as a versatile communication and feedback tool to support planning decisions.

Examples of activities carried out in the frame of Re-Value include the Innovation Camps, involving local youth in environmental and urban planning workshops, which foster early civic involvement and generate fresh, community-rooted ideas for infrastructure and public space improvements—helping to shape a new generation of stakeholders in city development. An ECOTEN-led workshop introduced expert environmental insights into urban airflow and cooling strategies, especially in densely built areas like Portyč. This supports data-informed, sustainable planning that aligns with long-term climate resilience goals. Lastly, a particularly impactful initiative was the tactical urbanism event held on 26 April 2024, organized by Smart Písek and the city architect's office. This event demonstrated how changes in the urban environment can help better understand residents' needs and desires. The lessons learned regarding tactical urbanism will be integrated into future planning processes.

Additionally, activities such as the Impact Model Workshop and city-wide public events, including Earth Day, Touch the Písek, and Head in Písek 2024, contributed to setting long-term priorities and fostering community trust, with results being incorporated into broader strategic planning processes. Together, these initiatives create a foundation for inclusive, sustainable, and informed urban transformation in Písek.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Initial work towards deployment of the Waterfront Pilot

Písek's efforts towards deployment are primarily focused on the creation of innovative strategies, concepts, and planning tools that support the city's long-term spatial transformation. A key initiative in the Portyč housing estate involves the deployment of a mobile unit—a caravan designed to function as a community engagement point. This space will be staffed by trained personnel who will facilitate conversations with local residents, gather feedback, and identify community needs to inform future planning efforts in the area.

In Mezimostí, the city is preparing to digitally map the area and develop a comprehensive 3D model. This model will serve as a planning aid for the city architect, enabling more effective visualization and evaluation of proposed projects. Among these is a planned intervention inspired by the “Turkish steps” concept from İzmir, Písek's partner city in Re-Value. The adaptation of this design is expected to enhance the area's visual appeal while offering functional improvements for residents and visitors alike.

In parallel, the city organized an Impact Model Workshop in October 2024, which supported the identification of key priorities for both pilot areas, particularly regarding riverfront accessibility and community needs in Mezimostí. The workshop outcomes are being incorporated into the planning and deployment processes for the pilot interventions. Additionally, public events such as Earth Day, Touch the Písek, and Head in Písek 2024 were used to gather community feedback and foster resident engagement in shaping future projects within the Waterfront Pilot areas.

Fit for 55 objectives

The City of Písek has been implementing the SECAP since 2020, and plans to update it in 2026 (postponed from an original plan to update it in 2024), with as main goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The update process remains part of the project's core commitments, and the insights gained through pilot activities will directly inform the updated strategy.

In 2023, a dedicated energy management company was established in Písek to develop renewable energy sources and ensure energy management according to ISO 50001. Other important related strategies are the Sustainable Mobility Plan and the Sustainable Green Space Plan (accepted in 2022). At the same time, in 2023 the City of Písek started the preparation of a new general strategic plan for the years 2025-2035, which should integrate the existing sub-strategies, and focuses on key areas such as transport, environment, economy, public space, and social issues. In this process, Re-Value plays a catalytic role in fostering a planning culture grounded in innovation, inclusivity, participation, and co-creation.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

O1.1: Re-Value cities reach Fit for 55 objectives

Contribution to intended outcomes and impacts

In Písek, the Re-Value project supported a more integrated and participatory approach to urban development by promoting participatory story-building and scenario-building. Through a series of coordinated activities—such as the Impact Model Workshop, Innovation Camps, and interventions in community-based events like *Earth Day*—the city has actively tested and implemented Re-Value's storytelling and co-creation methodologies. These tools were not only used to generate community insights but also to shape real planning interventions that are taking shape in the city's Detailed Roadmap, signaling that Písek has operationalized Re-Value's integrated strategies for long-term urban transformation ([O2.1](#)). Such planned interventions will make use of Innovation Cycle 2 support with microclimate simulations, and will also focus on a systematic leveraging of community events by the municipality (through Smart Písek) for sharing, learning, and engaging with citizens.

Besides, throughout the various workshops and activities organised by the city in the context of Re-Value, inclusiveness and diversity have been prominent pillars, bringing together local officials, professionals, youth, educators, and community organizations to collaboratively address urban challenges. Looking ahead, the municipality also wants to design measures to reach underrepresented groups directly in their neighborhoods ([O3.2](#)). With the further deployment of participatory tools and co-creation, the involvement of various stakeholder groups in the development of solutions will foster a sense of shared authorship of the city's future ([O2.2](#)).

More specifically, the Impact Model Workshop, held on 2-3 December 2024 at Sladovna in Písek, brought together local stakeholders—including government, NGOs, universities, and professionals—to collaboratively address urban and social challenges. Using Re-Value's Impact Model methodology, the workshop focused on enhancing social cohesion, mitigating urban heat islands, improving public space use, and identifying scalable solutions. Discussions evolved from identifying barriers, such as legislative issues and spatial conflicts, to proposing practical interventions like blue-green infrastructure and renewable energy sharing. Emphasizing that social solutions must precede technical ones, participants highlighted

shared motivation as key to sustainable transformation. The workshop successfully fostered a collaborative atmosphere and laid a strong foundation for inclusive, sustainable urban development in the city. Písek's planning team has committed to refining and continuing this tool, aligning it with future revisions of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) and public space revitalization projects, thus setting a foundation for its long-term integration into governance processes ([03.1](#)).



Figure 15: Hlava v Písku (Head in Písek) in September 2024, Visiting the Transport Playground and Municipal Power Plant.

Furthermore, another workshop with local stakeholders was held where ECOTEN demonstrated a simulation of urban microclimate for the project's pilot areas. Afterwards a discussion was held on how the technology could support the city's goals for the pilot sites within the Re-Value project. The session highlighted the potential of microclimate modelling to inform strategic planning and enhance the environmental resilience of urban spaces. Combining such data with participatory feedback loops, the city aims to further utilise the support of Innovation Cycle 2 to operationalize co-created, scenario-based planning as part of its future-oriented decision-support system ([04.2](#)).

Collectively, these activities have contributed to several intended outcomes and impacts of Re-Value:

02.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities take up the participatory Re-Value Story building, Scenario building and Investment & Partnership building strategies

02.2: Citizens/professional stakeholders feel they contributed to the outcomes

03.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities use the Re-Value Impact Model long-term

03.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities adopt the Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol long-term

04.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities embed long-term Re-Value's data-driven co-creation and scenario-building in decision support

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation measures

Písek developed its Communication and Dissemination Plan, aligned with the Re-Value CDE plan, and submitted its first version in June 2024 (M18) as deliverable D8.2³⁰ (CDE6). An updated version is expected in 2025. The city's communication strategy is anchored in its existing "Smart Písek" branding, visible across multiple channels: a Czech-language Facebook profile³¹, an English-language LinkedIn page³², and a dedicated website³³ that aggregates information about ongoing and past projects. A key focus is on engaging local citizens, and this is pursued through a mix of activities—from the participatory budget process and visibility at city festivals via a municipal stall, to initiatives such as "Hlava v Písku," which opens up normally inaccessible spaces to the public. The city also supports user-facing services like shared bikes and parking apps to promote sustainable and accessible mobility.

In terms of local engagement during 2024 relevant to Re-Value (CDE1), Písek organised activities during two public-facing events, on International Earth Day (19 April 2024) and for *Head in Písek* (16-20 September 2024), followed later in the year by a two-day Impact Model Workshop (2–3 December 2024) at Sladovna. This workshop brought together a broad coalition of stakeholders—from local administrations to universities, professional chambers, and NGOs—to identify and address social and spatial challenges across the city.

Date	Activity	Participants
19/04/2024	Den Země (Earth day)	100
16-20/09/2024	Hlava v Písku (Head in Písek)	200
02/12/2024	Impact Model Workshop: Písek	16

Youth engagement continues to play a central role in Písek's contribution to Re-Value, particularly through its Innovation Camps (CDE9). The second edition, held in November 2024, built on the structure of the first camp while introducing important refinements. The core theme remained tactical urbanism, with students selecting specific areas of the city to address through practical, low-cost design interventions. The introduction of a rotating mentorship model allowed teams to benefit from a wider range of feedback, and roughly 45% of participants were returning students—bringing improved presentation skills and continuity to the event. The result was a higher quality of proposals, more closely aligned with the city's urban goals, including the revitalisation of the Portyč and Mezimostí waterfronts. Despite these successes, sustaining student engagement beyond the camp format remains an open question, as the long-term role of youth in shaping Písek's urban future has yet to be fully defined.

³⁰ [D8.2: Local Communication and Dissemination Plans by Re-Value Cities](#)

³¹ <https://www.facebook.com/smartpisek/>

³² <https://www.linkedin.com/company/smartpisek/>

³³ <https://smart.pisek.eu/>

As part of the Re-Value knowledge exchange and replication process, Písek took part in several international visits throughout 2024, including the digital tools-focused Consortium Meeting in Ålesund (March), and Study Visits on Nature-Based Solutions in Burgas, Tactical Urbanism in Constanța, and Industrial Heritage in Rijeka ([CDE2](#)). These visits provided valuable insight into peer cities' approaches, particularly around adaptable public space strategies and cultural regeneration.

Písek's commitment to sustainability also extends through its participation in EU-level initiatives, including the Covenant of Mayors and the European Climate Pact. Within the CrAft Cities project, the city works alongside local partners like Písek Maltings to apply New European Bauhaus principles at a neighbourhood level. It is also an active member of regional and national networks ([CDE12](#)), such as the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, the Association of Municipalities of the Písecko Region, and the South Bohemian Chamber of Commerce, reinforcing its commitment to collaborative urban governance across scales.

2.2.5 Rijeka

2.2.5.1 Re-Valu(ing)

Rijeka's Waterfront Pilot in the Re-Value project has been centered on the adaptive reuse of the Exportdrvo building—an emblematic post-industrial structure located directly on the city's waterfront. Built in the 1960s as a timber export warehouse, Exportdrvo once served the maritime transport of wooden goods and today stands as a large, underutilized hall of both cultural and architectural significance. Though minimal renovations were made for the 2020 European Capital of Culture programme—during which it hosted major exhibitions and creative events—the building remains largely unmodernized. Occupying a high-value site in Rijeka's port-maritime zone, Exportdrvo is increasingly recognised as a strategic asset in bridging the city's industrial heritage with a civic and ecological future. Once a vital part of Rijeka's industrial identity, Exportdrvo is gradually being reimagined as a hub for inclusive cultural and community-led regeneration.

The pilot reflects Re-Value's alignment with the broader ambitions of the EU Cities Mission, integrating objectives such as circular economy practices, climate neutrality, and democratic innovation into Rijeka's waterfront transformation. The Rijeka team also aims to contextualize the revitalisation of the Exportdrvo, with other important regeneration focuses in the entire Delta, that could contribute to the enhancement of the city waterfront vibrancy and quality of use. Indeed, the Exportdrvo pilot is seen as a strategic starting point within the broader vision of a "Cultural Corridor"—a concept that links several cultural, ecological, and social nodes across the city's port and riverfront.

This evolving role of the waterfront is closely tied to Rijeka's strategic intent to leverage its port's central location and engage stakeholders in advancing climate neutrality goals. Building on experiences such as the European Capital of Culture 2020—whose momentum was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic—the city is exploring ways to repurpose existing cultural infrastructure to increase quality of life while meeting sustainability objectives. Tools like Rijeka's digital public consultation platform are being expanded to encourage broader citizen participation in these processes and to attract further European funding.

The city also draws on earlier initiatives such as the CLIC project, applying circular economy principles to explore the reuse of urban voids and underutilized industrial sites, while it has also benefitted from the

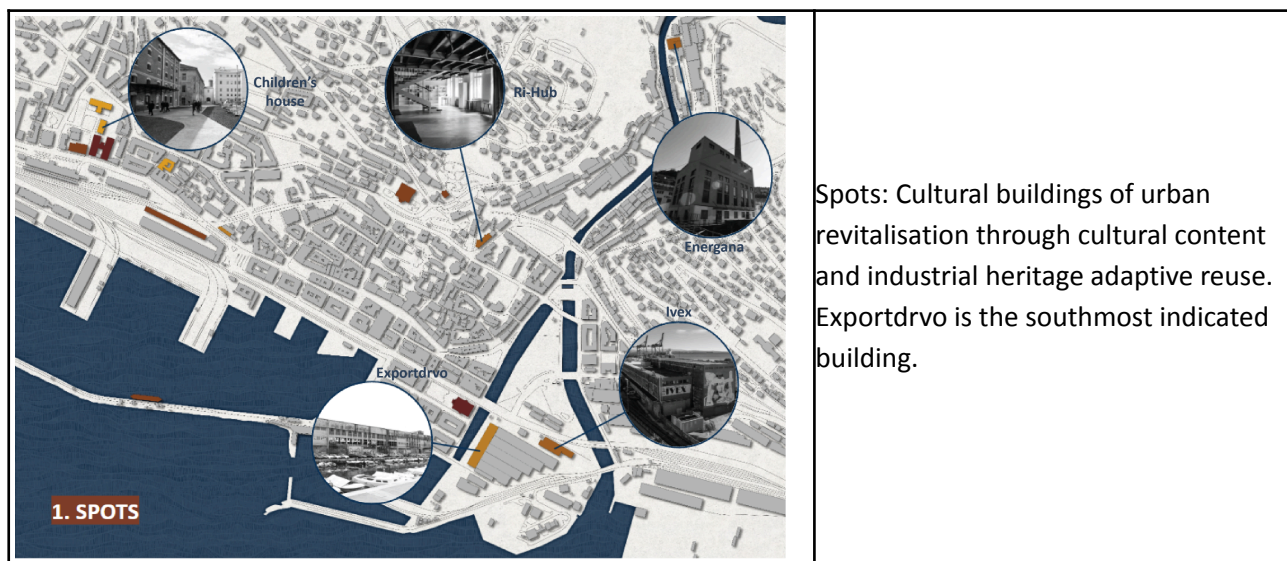
numerous projects matured during the Culture Capital 2020, as well as other EU framed initiatives. However, the transformation is not without its challenges. Many waterfront properties are under private ownership, protected as heritage sites, or in advanced states of deterioration—conditions that complicate and raise the costs of renovation. Nevertheless, Re-Value offers a platform to test new governance and planning models capable of addressing these barriers. In the project, Rijeka Municipality collaborates with the University of Nova Gorica as local partner, to explore innovative approaches to urban regeneration, cultural heritage reuse, and stakeholder engagement within the city’s evolving waterfront transformation.

2.2.5.2 Progress during reporting period

Detailed Roadmap

Rijeka completed a first draft of the roadmap in September 2024 and is currently working on finalising the Explore phase by June 2025 (M30).

The first sense-making part of the Roadmap involved mapping and visualising key features of the Rijeka waterfront, and identifying the broader strategic framework and key challenges of the city, through a learning and inclusion process encompassing internal workshops, focus groups, and exchanges with project partners. This process allowed defining a vision and setting priorities for the city in the context of the Re-Value project.



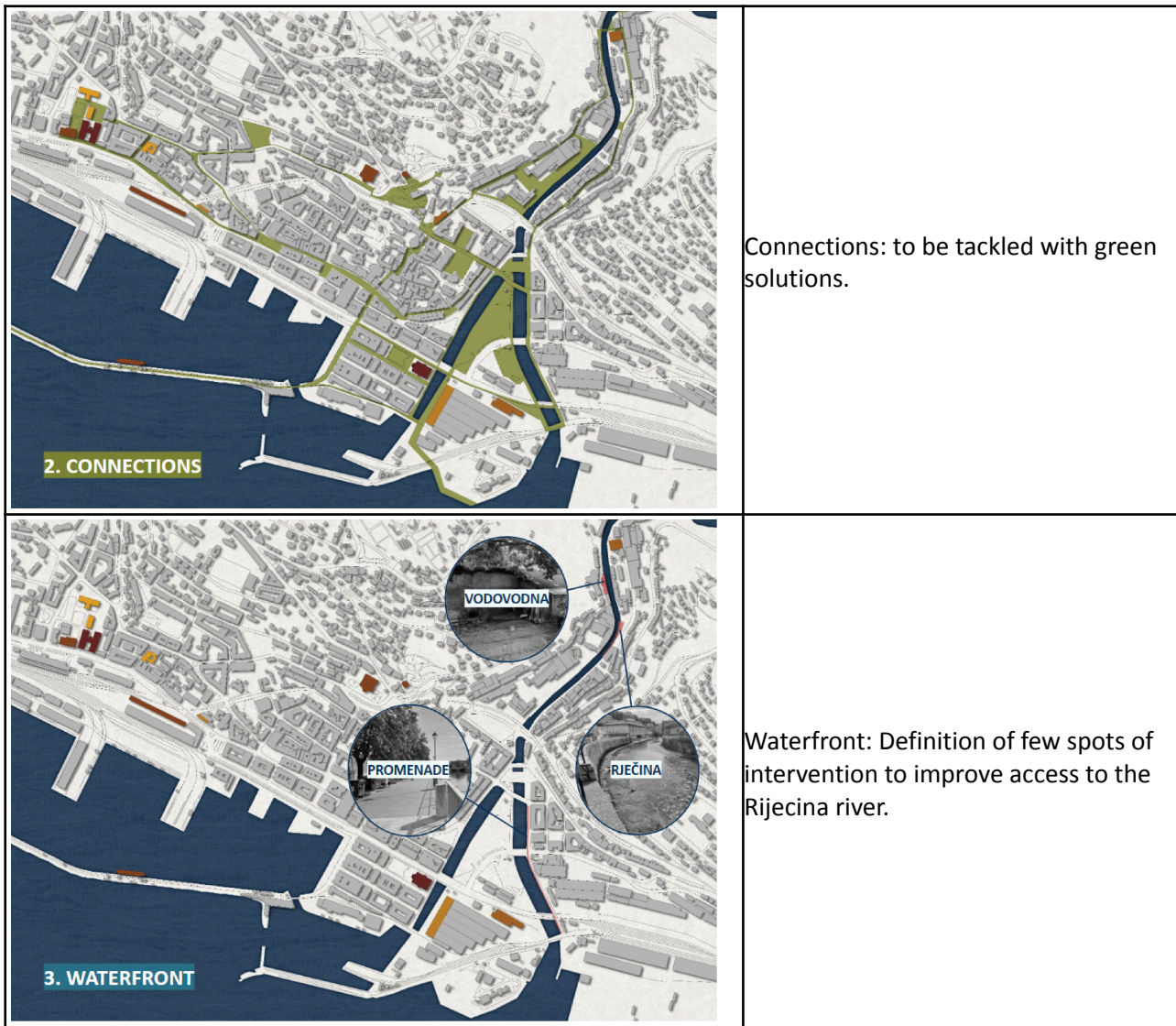


Figure 16: Rijeka Cultural Corridor concept, as defined in the city's Detailed Roadmap. It proposes connecting cultural spots through a pedestrian zone that allows new access to the previously inaccessible waterfront.

Rijeka envisions transforming its industrial and port heritage into a driver of sustainable urban regeneration, through adaptive reuse and heritage valorization as well as small scale tactical urbanism interventions. It also seeks to boost quality of life, strengthen local identity, and promote year-round cultural and economic activity.

Rijeka's key strategic goals that promote inclusive, sustainable urban development are in line with Re-Value objectives:

- **Healthy, inclusive living:** Rijeka aims to be a socially sensitive city that supports all generations, prioritizes health, and fosters active lifestyles. Technology is used to monitor and respond to the needs of vulnerable groups, ensuring social equity and community wellbeing.
- **Cultural identity & revitalization:** Building on its "Cultural Capital 2020" legacy, the city integrates culture into everyday life through heritage-based projects and coastal revitalization. Culture is seen as a driver of social cohesion, economic development, and international visibility.

- **Engaged citizenship & smart governance:** Rijeka promotes active civic participation and transparent governance through digital tools and community programs. It aims to further empower citizens to shape the city's future, enhancing avenues for communication between residents and the city government by leveraging new technologies.

The Roadmap further identified Exportdrvo (but also Ivex building for example, where partners worked to imagine a new vision for it in the waterfront) as the focus point of the Waterfront Pilot in Re-Value. This former industrial warehouse located in the city center, has recently been repurposed for cultural and public events and is now slated for further transformation into a multifunctional community space. Due to its strategic location in Rijeka's city center and its potential for adaptive reuse, its transformation aligns both with the Rijeka 2030 and Re-Value goals.

Activities continue within the Re-Value Innovation Cycles and with the Innovation Camps to further refine and plan the actions that will be implemented within the project's timeframe and beyond, which will be described in the next phases of the Roadmap. In specific:

1. On 29-31 October 2024, the city hosted partners for a city visit, after an experience at the Biennale Venice on 27-28 October. At the Biennale the topics of waterfront industrial buildings have been discussed presenting several cases from cities and introducing some focuses of the city of Rijeka. In Rijeka, beyond the visit of the Exportdrvo and conversation on its adaptive reuse, partners worked in the Ivex Complex, which is considered another crucial asset for the regeneration of the Delta and the Waterfront.
2. UNG and Rijeka are planning a coordination meeting in February 2025, to take important decisions regarding potential developments of the roadmap as designed by UNG.
3. In April 2025 Rijeka will also host its 3rd Innovation Camp.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Since the beginning of the project, the Exportdrvo pilot has become a strategic project of the City of Rijeka, and it also aligns with strategic goals at the national level. By 2025, the building will be formally managed by a municipally owned company, enabling more stable and integrated governance—a necessary step, as the five-year concession period for its use ends for the City of Rijeka.

During the preparation of the first draft of the Detailed Roadmap, the municipality, together with the local partner UNG, have mapped the regulatory framework for the development of the pilot. Exportdrvo is situated within areas identified as priority zones for urban regeneration and green infrastructure expansion, according to the Strategy for Green Urban Renewal of the City of Rijeka (2023). The building's reuse is consistent with measures to strengthen multifunctional green spaces, improve microclimates, and foster nature-based solutions that serve both environmental and social goals. The strategy specifically calls for the adaptive reuse of underused public assets to deliver green, inclusive outcomes. Furthermore, Exportdrvo is part of a corridor where ecological and social connectivity can be enhanced through coordinated interventions. Recommendations from the Green Infrastructure Strategy (2020) include the activation of brownfields like Exportdrvo for public use, ecological function, and social inclusion — all central themes of

the pilot. Finally, the project contributes to several strategic goals of Rijeka's Development Plan 2021-2027, related to cultural continuity, sustainable reuse, and urban identity, and is aligned with the city's 2030 Vision for a smart and resilient city. In fact, to align with the above, and as a result of the sense-making phase of Re-Value, the vision of Exportdrvo shifted from a cultural activation site toward a multifunctional, climate-resilient civic infrastructure, capable of testing and showcasing green retrofitting, participatory governance, and socially inclusive business models.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

Initial work towards deployment of the Waterfront Pilot

The City of Rijeka has already taken concrete initial steps toward deploying the Waterfront Pilot, advancing the planning process while incorporating stakeholder engagement, including an Impact Model Workshop and Innovation Camps with youth. Planning efforts have defined the Rijeka Cultural Corridor—a pedestrian-friendly route connecting cultural and green spaces to the waterfront—and introduced tactical urbanism concepts, like urban seeding through “green carnival” installations and floating platforms, to activate public space. The city has also conducted detailed analyses of green areas, mobility, and waterfront access, identifying specific plots along the Rječina River for interventions. Furthermore, an action plan has been defined in the Roadmap that includes three main actions to be tackled within the project:

- Completing the Mobility and Accessibility Plan by the end of 2025, based on the (almost) finished analysis of the city.
- Developing prototypes for Urban Seeding by the end of 2026 in two forms: the green carnival and floating platforms.
- Publishing a catalogue of nature-based solutions with location and context-specific solutions for the City of Rijeka by the summer of 2026.

The action plan further foresees ways in which the proposed solutions and tested prototypes will inform the municipality's long-term space transformation plan, continuing the legacy of the Re-Value project in the future.

Fit for 55 objectives

Since 2009, the City of Rijeka has been a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors, being among the first Croatian cities to join. In February 2019, it committed itself to reduce CO₂ emissions (and, if possible, other greenhouse gases) in the territory by at least 40% by 2030, through more efficient energy use and increased use of renewable energy sources; and to increase its resilience by adapting to climate change consequences. Its initial SECAP was adopted by the City Council in December 2020, containing an inventory of initial emissions, as well as a climate change risk and vulnerability assessment. Next to that, the City Council adopted in 2020 the Action Plan for Energy Efficiency of the City of Rijeka for the period 2020-2022. Pursuant to that plan, annual implementation plans are adopted every year. The revision of that document was made again in 2023.

Additionally, the Green Urban Renewal Strategy, adopted in July 2024, outlines a more integrated and updated roadmap towards achieving EU climate neutrality goals, in line with the Fit for 55 package. The

strategy emphasises the decarbonisation of urban infrastructure, green mobility, energy renovation of buildings, and nature-based solutions. It serves as a guiding framework for future investments and actions that directly support Rijeka's transition towards climate neutrality and increased climate resilience.

These developments contribute to the following outcomes and results:

O1.1: Re-Value cities reach Fit for 55 objectives

Contribution to intended outcomes and impacts

The City of Rijeka had the opportunity to use the Impact Model as a participatory framework to align the Exportdrvo pilot and the extended area of the cultural corridor and the Delta with shared community values, governance innovation, and climate-neutral transformation goals. During the Impact Model Workshop held in April 2024, the city convened a wide range of stakeholders—artists, youth, NGO representatives, planners, and entrepreneurs—to collaboratively explore the future of Exportdrvo. Participants used the NEB Impact Model Dominoes to map co-benefits across identity, environment, and economy, and the Impact Model Wheel to visualize stakeholder dynamics, financing pathways, and key indicators. The process surfaced both creative energy and structural tensions, especially around governance, visibility, and long-term ownership. A central theme was Rijeka's need to better showcase its progress. Participants proposed visibility strategies like youth-led storytelling, open design processes, and turning the transformation into a living exhibition. The Impact Model tools helped structure and deepen these reflections, with many participants calling them useful—even if new or challenging to use. Crucially, the workshop fostered a sense of ownership and urgency, revealing both critique and commitment, and reaffirming Exportdrvo's role as a catalyst for inclusive urban transformation. It marked the city's first practical steps in applying the Impact Model, laying the groundwork for its long-term integration into participatory planning and strategic urban governance ([O3.1](#)).

During the first sense-making phase of the Re-Value project, through the Impact Model workshop and Innovation Camps—including one in April 2024, Rijeka engaged a diverse network of stakeholders. The stakeholder groups involved represent more than one dimension of the Pilot combining the administrative/governmental decision and policy makers, the citizens directly impacted by the space in and around Exportdrvo, the cultural actors who are reflecting both the existing urban complexity and ambitions for climate-sensitive, as well as the commercial sector thinking about the potential of the Exportdrvo. This broad mix of participants not only reflected the complexity of urban life around the pilot area but also laid the foundation for Rijeka's long-term adoption of inclusiveness and diversity as guiding principles in city planning ([O3.2](#)). The participatory process enabled stakeholders to see their input reflected in the pilot's emerging direction, particularly in shaping narratives, priorities, and concerns around governance and accessibility ([O2.2](#)).

Rijeka has further begun the work to integrate the participatory and multi-layered approach supported by the three Innovation Cycles of the Re-Value project ([O2.1](#)). In Innovation Cycle 1, the city is planning to co-develop narratives for Exportdrvo's future through storytelling workshops and design labs with citizens, creatives, students, and planners—ensuring community values, aspirations, and cultural identity shape the vision.

For Innovation Cycle 2, Rijeka will build scenarios that balance ambition and public benefit, using both qualitative insights from past engagement (like Innovation Camps and workshops) and quantitative data (mobility studies, green infrastructure maps). This participatory design process will include scenario-building workshops, mapping exercises, and youth validation to ensure alignment with lived realities.

In Innovation Cycle 3, the city aims to prototype governance and investment models informed by stakeholder feedback gathered during the Impact Model Workshop. These include a framework for civic-institutional partnerships and a hybrid financing model, co-created through focus groups, legal feasibility studies, and financial simulations, with a strong emphasis on affordability, transparency, and long-term access. These will constitute useful examples for the city to integrate circular and participatory value chains in the design of future Investment and Partnership Plans ([O5.2](#)).

Collectively, these activities have contributed to several intended outcomes and impacts of Re-Value:

O2.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities take up the participatory Re-Value Story building, Scenario building and Investment & Partnership building strategies

O2.2: Citizens/professional stakeholders feel they contributed to the outcomes

O3.1: Leading Cities and Replication Cities use the Re-Value Impact Model long-term

O3.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities adopt the Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol long-term

O5.2: Leading Cities and Replication Cities fully embed the participatory, circular and shared value chains in their Investment and Partnership Plans

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation measures

Rijeka prepared its Re-Value Communication and Dissemination Plan in June 2024 (M18), which was submitted as deliverable D8.2³⁴ ([CDE6](#)). An update is scheduled in 2025. Rijeka's communication ecosystem provides a strong foundation for citizen engagement within the Re-Value project. The city relies on a combination of official channels such as the press service and municipal website, alongside social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X, and YouTube, to disseminate information and promote dialogue. These tools are complemented by participatory mechanisms already in place, including community meetings and public consultation, thematic workshops and focus groups, online surveys and polls, as well as larger community events. Although most engagement formats traditionally target specific groups, their reach and structure present valuable opportunities to scale participation and embed the project more deeply into citywide initiatives.

In 2024, Rijeka organised two local workshops in connection with Re-Value and the Nova Gorica European Capital of Culture 2025 ([CDE1](#)). In April, the Impact Model workshop explored how to evaluate progress within the Re-Value framework, followed on 25 April by a thematic session linking Re-Value to green cultural projects emerging in Nova Gorica. These workshops provided opportunities for stakeholders across cultural, environmental, and urban sectors to converge and discuss shared goals.

³⁴ [D8.2: Local Communication and Dissemination Plans by Re-Value Cities](#)

Date	Activity	Participants
24/04/2024	Impact Model Workshop: Rijeka	22
25/04/2024	Re-Value meets Nova Gorica Capital of Culture 2025 and its green projects	15

The city also hosted an Innovation Camp on 24 April 2024, marking the second implementation of this entrepreneurial youth challenge under the Re-Value project ([CDE9](#)). Organised in collaboration with Junior Achievement Serbia, the City of Rijeka has embraced the Innovation Camp (InnoCamp) model as a core tool for youth engagement, demonstrating how even high school students can contribute meaningfully to the city’s vision for a climate-neutral, inclusive, and vibrant waterfront. After the 2023 camp introduced Re-Value’s themes to young participants, the second edition shifted the focus to site-specific urban innovation. Thirty students from eight high schools in Rijeka and Opatija were challenged to create a product or service that would “enhance the city’s relationship with the sea,” directly linking their ideas to the future of Exportdrvo and the broader waterfront area. Proposals included floating cultural stages, modular public spaces, and educational sea hubs—highlighting the students’ desire for greater access, sustainability, and creativity in coastal areas. The event benefited from strong municipal involvement, with the Deputy Mayor opening the camp, and local professionals serving as mentors and jury members. Despite some logistical issues—such as a smaller number of participants than planned—the Innovation Camp succeeded in combining entrepreneurial learning with concrete contributions to urban planning, and its outputs are now being considered in the city’s pilot scenario development.

In 2024, Rijeka continued its engagement in the European Re-Value Capacity and Exchange Programme. The city participated in Study Visits to Ålesund (digital tools), Burgas (nature-based solutions), and Constanța (tactical urbanism and heritage), before hosting its own visit in October 2024 on the theme of industrial heritage and adaptive re-use ([CDE2](#)). These exchanges fostered mutual learning among cities and strengthened Rijeka’s position as a leader in cultural regeneration aligned with sustainability goals.

Rijeka is also active in numerous European initiatives and networks, including the Covenant of Mayors, ENERGIE CITES, EUROCITIES, the European Healthy Cities Network, the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns, and several other cultural networks. Its participation in thematic groups covering sustainable energy, digital innovation, port cities, and youth engagement offers valuable synergies with Re-Value and supports its integrated approach to urban transformation.

3. Progress on Project Key Performance Indicators

In this section, the progress during the second project year (January 2024 to December 2024) is reported for each KPI. When relevant, also lessons learned are shared. For the definition of the KPIs and more details regarding the responsible and contributing partners, as well as the means of verification, D7.3: Re-Value M&E Model (first intermediate version)³⁵ can be consulted.

3.1. Results

R1: Inclusiveness Protocol

In 2024, work on the Inclusiveness Protocol continued to build on insights and experiences gathered during the previous year. A key lesson from 2023 was the recognition that each organisation involved in the Re-Value project brings a distinct understanding of inclusiveness and diversity (I&D). These variations reflect the institutional, cultural, and regional contexts of the partners, highlighting that there is no single, unified approach to I&D across the consortium.

As a guiding framework for our work throughout and beyond the four-year project, we developed the Re-Value Inclusiveness & Diversity Protocol, documented in D9.2: Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 1³⁶. This protocol builds on the local experiences of cities and partners and is enriched with existing tools.

Following the development of the initial version of the Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan, NTNU focused on creating spaces for dialogue and reflection. One method employed was story-building, aimed at capturing individual and organisational experiences with inclusiveness. On 15 May 2024, Re-Value hosted an online Community of Practice Round on “Inclusiveness and Diversity”, coordinated by ICLEI. This thematic arena for knowledge exchange showcased concrete stories of how Re-Value cities interpret and implement I&D in their local contexts. This work is being compiled into D9.5: Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 2³⁷, which presents a qualitative overview of how inclusiveness is being addressed and experienced across Re-Value cities.

Through these activities, we noticed that partners could benefit more from concrete, practical tools that support implementation in their local contexts. Future versions of the I&D plan need include materials such as checklists, indicators, and mapped risks with corresponding mitigation strategies to better translate principles into practice.

The R1 KPI is 1 Inclusiveness Protocol (4 versions). D9.2 and D9.5 were both submitted in 2024. The next iteration, D9.9: Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 3, will be developed in 2025.

³⁵ [D7.3: Re-Value M&E Model \(First Intermediate Version\)](#)

³⁶ [D9.2: Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 1](#)

³⁷ [D9.5: Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 2](#)

R2: Impact Model addressing six systemic challenges

In the project's second year, WP1 continued to refine the Impact Model. The goal was to further explore the application of the Impact Model, highlighting its role as a “tool to talk, and map” while addressing six systemic challenges (see also D7.2: Re-Value M&E Report 1³⁸).

The output of this work was formalised as deliverable D1.3: Re-Value Impact Model - intermediate version³⁹.

Most of the work done consisted of testing the Impact Model in specific workshops, where it was used to get hold of challenges and to identify potential development scenarios for a given district of the city where the workshop was organised. A serious game was developed in order to support the workshops. In this way, participants in the workshops would play the game and go ‘from practice to theory’, starting from their practical knowledge and expertise to arrive, step by step and in a collaborative manner, to structured input according to the methodology of the Impact Model. The approach thus also assured covering the six systemic challenges as they would appear in the case study areas, with different nuances.

In this way, Impact Model workshops were organised in all Re-Value cities in 2024:

- Ålesund (22/03/2024)
- Bruges (15-16/04/2024)
- Rijeka (25/04/2024)
- Rimini (23-24/05/2024)
- Burgas (11/06/2024)
- Constanța (20/06/2024)
- İzmir (25/11/2024)
- Cascais (27/11/2024)
- Písek (2-3/12/2024)

The results and learnings of the Impact Model workshops are extensively described in D1.3: Re-Value Impact Model - intermediate version⁴⁰, and included in the city journeys presented in Section 2.

The general uptake of the workshops and the serious game was positive. Participants appreciated the way of building a whole-systems view with regard to a given project or challenge. Being tasked with identifying site qualities based on the stack of Impact Model game cards, and then discussing potential co-benefits and conflicts between these, helped unearthing aspects and possibilities that workshop participants would otherwise not directly think of.

The workshops intended to gather stakeholders that would usually not meet and discuss together. The participants tended to perceive these joint workshops as enriching. The card games appeared to pull participants out of their usual roles and perspectives, which helped to create new insights; it even supported respectful discussions between stakeholders that had conflicting roles. In the first part of the serious game, being asked to identify site qualities and discussing how these qualities could mutually reinforce each other - or where they generated potential conflicts - helped the participants to find common

³⁸ [D7.2: Re-Value M&E Report 1](#)

³⁹ [D1.3: Re-Value Impact Model \(Intermediate Version\)](#)

⁴⁰ [D1.3: Re-Value Impact Model \(Intermediate Version\)](#)

ground. In the second part the participants were invited to explore concrete pathways towards addressing a prioritised challenge on which they had agreed in the first part.

The work conducted during the project's second year provided additional insights into ongoing processes within cities. The goals stated in the first Monitoring and Evaluation report were reached by organising the series of Impact Model workshops. The workshops not only helped urban stakeholders to undertake next steps in particular development processes, but allowed the project partners also to extract a wealth of feedback from participants, which will help to further improve the Impact Model towards its final version for Re-Value, i.e. D1.5 Re-Value Impact Model, final version (M42).

It is worth noting that similar Impact Model workshops were organised in the framework of the Horizon Europe projects CrAft and NEB-STAR. Learnings and insights from these projects will of course be included in the work and output of Re-Value, and vice versa.

R3: Innovation Cycles co-generating and co-qualifying Stories, Scenarios and Investment- and Partnership-building strategies

All three Innovation Cycles (IC) have started at the kickoff meeting and have been operational since then.

- IC1: Story building (NTNU); Aligning climate neutrality and urban quality, participatory story-building to identify co-benefits
- IC2: Scenario building (ECOTEN); Co-creating data-driven transition scenarios, empowering cities to use better data / data better
- IC3: Investment & partnership building (GIB); De-risking investments, through value-based financing and partnerships

IC1: Story building

After the first year of the project, IC1 focused on helping cities develop three thematic “stories”:

1. **Artistic Mission** – together with Sladovna Písek and Teatret Vårt, this aims to integrate an artistic mission into each study visit.
2. **Challenging Perspectives** – supporting cities to move away from “business-as-usual” thinking and explore new approaches.
3. **Connecting with Other ICs** – a story that can feed into other ICs.

The work has been both enriching and challenging. Many cities already have established agendas, which can make it difficult to introduce new perspectives. However, the story-building process has been eye-opening for several cities—for example, some discovered the historical dimension in their cities that could inspire change, others started to explore stakeholder engagement from a cultural sector point of view, integrating creativity and artistic methodology.

A key lesson learned is that the connections among all ICs remain weak, which limits the potential to fully unleash their collective strengths. A stronger coordination could help bring all ICs together and make the most of collaboration opportunities.

IC2: Scenario building

In 2024, the three IC2 partners ECOTEN, VITO and Augment City organised a series of workshops with Re-Value partners during the consortium meeting in Ålesund. This involved presentations and follow up discussions on specific data-driven solutions by ECOTEN, VITO, Augment City and NTNU Ålesund campus. The technologies available by each partner were introduced with demonstration at the consortium meeting and the responses and reactions of such tools from the cities and other Re-Value partners were recorded and assessed. The results were very interesting and encouraging to move forward towards scenario building.

Following the consortium meeting, the three IC2 partners searched for various ways to formulate a framework to support cities in their mission to reach their climate neutrality goals through data-driven cocreation and scenario building. This proved to be more challenging than anticipated. The Grant Agreement does not specifically define “scenario” or “data-driven cocreation”, and these terms were found to be confusing for project partners and the cities, especially as different digital tools are available to each city and because different types of “scenarios” may be more useful for each of them. For example, Burgas started working with their digital twin of the Sarafova site to assess the level of biodiversity in that area. For IC2, it became therefore important to define a common understanding of “scenarios” and “data-driven cocreation” in order to approach and offer support to innovate with data. For this, IC2 worked with other members of WP1 towards a scope definition of IC2 activities in connection with other WP1 activities. This was a very challenging endeavour and we made limited progress in 2024. In the meantime, IC2 started searching and collecting usable data on climate change with respect to the Re-Value cities, to help them with any respective modeling efforts. A data repository was created and a web portal to access and play with this data was developed, however the usability for cities remains limited at this moment.

IC3: Investment & partnership building

After the first year of the project, it became clear that the Waterfront Pilots were still in the early stages of urban planning and development. While there is a critical need to clearly define project measures and their scope in order to engage relevant stakeholders, cities continue to explore different scenarios and themes such as land and social value capture.

During the second year, IC3 has held a series of City Finance Dialogues with those cities ready to engage and reflect on their financing and partnership strategies. These dialogues have provided a platform to better understand the cities' evolving ambitions and challenges. The focus in many cities remains on building partnerships, especially to bring the right stakeholders together and address cross-cutting issues such as land ownership, political silos, legal constraints, civil society engagement, and coordination amongst interest groups from both public and private sector.

Most cities are not yet in a position to define concrete projects, as they continue to navigate legal and planning considerations, with many efforts evolving around the set up of a Special Purpose Vehicle or Public–Private Partnership, or some other form of urban development implementation unit. Adding to this complexity, it has become evident that the strong cultural focus and the deeply local nature of the Re-Value pilot projects pose challenges and do not allow for a linear and transferrable approach. In particular, cities' needs and capacities shift with their own dynamic roadmaps, resulting in difficulty of defining

climate-related projects, where ambiguity around ownership, outcomes, and strategic alignment often persists.

Given these circumstances, IC3 tailors its support to reflect each city's stage of development of their pilot area and records learnings from cities to share among the Re-Value community. Research as well as realistic and agile guidance on financing and partnerships strategies are aligned with long-term urban development goals and the realities on the ground. The City Finance Dialogue approach is the foundation for the continuous collaboration with and amongst Re-Value cities in the coming years of the project, which will allow the team to document relevant findings and learnings where models cannot yet be fully developed, while co-creating financing and partnership strategies where there is a clear basis to do so.

The R3 KPI is 3 Innovation Cycles, 27 Stories (3/city), 23 Scenarios (2/LC, 3/RC) and 18 Investment- and Partnership-building concepts (2/city). While work started in all Innovation Cycles, the results are expected later in the project to be developed with the cities. The first respective deliverables, D1.2: Re-Value Innovation Cycles Experience-Based Report 1⁴¹, and D1.4: Re-Value Innovation Cycles Experience-Based Report 2⁴² summarise the processes and activities, however, the detailed results are expected to come at a later stage of the project.

R4: Re-Value Portfolio of Urban Design and Planning Approaches

The Re-Value Urban Planning and Design Approach Portfolio (D6.3) is a collaborative work-in-progress and will be updated for the duration of the project. The initial version (D6.3⁴³) seeks to harvest and document the good and emergent practices that are aligned with Re-Value's core principles, drawing from the Re-Value Impact Model (WP1), Innovation Cycles (WP1), Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol (WP9), and the Re-Value's Cities experiences to date (WP2-WP6). It requires making sense of the various workflows and collectively defining what a "Re-Value Values-Based approach" means in the context of the cities' work and the Cities Mission. This harvesting work continued throughout the second reporting period in WP meetings, Re-Value Rounds, in-person Study Visits, reading the initial drafts of the cities' Waterfront Pilot Roadmaps, the yearly Consortium Meeting, and Technical Board Meetings.

The Portfolio is a living collection of good and emergent urban planning and design practices, approaches, methods and tools being implemented in Re-Value Cities. It aims to inform, inspire, and encourage collaborative learning within the Re-Value Community of Practice, and eventually with all European cities as they work to update their urban policies, processes, and practices to help achieve the European Green Deal's goal to become the first climate-neutral continent in the world.

The Portfolio is organised into six sections by the previously articulated principles. Specific tools, methods, approaches and case studies from Re-Value Cities (and others) are presented under the best-fit principle to illustrate how the principle can work in practice. The Re-Value Approach is optimised when all of the principles are engaged simultaneously and many of the examples include more than one principle. In these cases, the entry is noted with a hashtag (#) if it clearly includes elements of other principles.

⁴¹ D1.2: Re-Value Innovation Cycles Experience-Based Report 1

⁴² [D1.4: Re-Value Innovation Cycles Experience-Based Report 2](#)

⁴³ [D6.3: Urban Planning and Design Approaches Portfolio \(Initial Version\)](#)

From collecting input from cities for the Portfolio, we noticed the following points.

- Urban planning and design is a very broad practice, covering a range of thematic areas, including land use, mobility and logistics, energy systems, environment and greenspaces (including water systems), demographics and economics, policy and regulations, landscape architecture and urban design. Urban planning and design occurs at a territorial/regional scale as well as a neighbourhood scale. It is multi-disciplinary and systemic. It is, in a word, complex.
- Complexity takes time to understand and digest, particularly in nine different city conditions.
- The partners assigned to the Re-Value project may not have an urban planning and design background, and so a lot of time is spent making sense of the terminology, practice, and how urban planning and design actually functions in each city. Furthermore, urban planning is also highly localised, so many of the key documents and regulations are only available in the local language. This has slowed down the harvesting process from the city partners.
- A local urban planner should be on the local replication team for each Re-Value city and ideally be part of the core team.

The R4 KPI is 1 Portfolio (2 versions) with 48 approaches. The first version of the Portfolio, D6.3: Re-Value Urban Design and Planning Approaches (initial version), was due in M18. The Deliverable was submitted in M23 showcasing 49 approaches.

R5: Detailed Roadmaps for Waterfront Pilots & update of Long-term Territorial Transformation Plans

During the project, each city will develop a Detailed Roadmap and report detailing strategies for the update of the long-term Territorial Transformation Plans (TTP). All cities have worked on their Detailed Roadmaps during the second project year, with the work described in the relevant city journeys in [Section 2](#). The Detailed Roadmaps of the Leading Cities have been developed and are available in deliverables D2.1 (Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Ålesund), D3.1 (Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Bruges), D4.1 (Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Burgas) and D5.1 (Detailed Roadmap for the Waterfront Pilot in Rimini). Replication Cities are working towards delivering their Detailed Roadmaps in two phases, an Explore phase by June 2025 (M30), and an Implement phase by June 2026 (M42).

Delivery of all Roadmaps was postponed (by 6 months for LCs and 12 months for RCs), because the initial sensemaking phase took longer than planned and the RCs needed more time to learn through the Capacity Building and Exchange Programme. The roadmap process followed a stepwise approach to better support the cities, with the initial mapping of activities, stakeholders, and data completed in the initially planned timeframe. This first step resulted in an internal report that allowed peer-to-peer review and exchange between the cities. The second step of designing the Roadmaps includes aligning with other evolving city plans and processes, which needs additional effort and time. To be able to achieve the desired outcome, an extension was therefore needed. For the more mature LCs, an extension of six months was sufficient. For the RCs, this step was further split into two phases, an Explore and an Implement phase, with a longer extension, in order to allow time for learning and transfer between the cities. This further highlighted how important differences are between the cities, but also that sufficient time for exchange is necessary to learn from each other.

The TTPs are scheduled later in the project (M42), while the exact content of those deliverables is still being elaborated. Any initial work performed related to those is however also described in Section 2.

From this year's work, we have learned the following points for the year ahead.

- A clear roadmap structure was helpful, but it could have been provided earlier to better guide data collection and alignment with project phases.
- Splitting the roadmap into past and future sections worked well, but the first part could have been completed sooner to inform early project work.
- Peer review of roadmaps was useful, but occurred too late for meaningful input; short presentations or exchanges early in the writing phase would improve alignment and learning.
- Summarizing numerous overlapping plans and policies was a challenge. However, this mapping was necessary to understand the local context.
- Writing the roadmap helped structure and reflect on both past and future actions, serving as a valuable internal coordination and communication tool.
- The roadmap process is replicable and can serve as a model for other areas, especially in planning nature-based and climate adaptation actions.

The R5 KPI is 9 Detailed Roadmaps and 9 strategies to update long-term territorial transformation plans. The Detailed Roadmaps for Leading Cities were all finished by M24, and the Detailed Roadmaps for Replication Cities are expected to be finished by M30. The strategies for updating the TTPs are currently planned for M42 (June 2026).

R6: Full-Scale Deployment in Leading Cities' Waterfront Pilots

In each of the four Leading Cities (Ålesund, Bruges, Burgas, Rimini), the municipality, local partners, associates and stakeholders have been working together to implement the Impact Model, identify prioritised urban design and planning approaches, develop Detailed Roadmaps, and carry out activities and projects for the Full-Scale Deployment. Work performed in this reporting period related to this is reported in the city journeys in Section 2. While this KPI (and relevant deliverables) mainly concerns the Leading Cities, relevant implementation work has also been reported for the Replication Cities in the same section.

The R6 KPI is 4 Full-Scale Deployment reports. These are due in M45.

R7: Co-created Capacity Building and Exchange Programme

During the second year of Re-Value, the co-created Re-Value Capacity Development and Exchange Programme (CD&E Programme) completed Programme Year 1 (September 2023 - July 2024), and co-created and launched Programme Year 2 in September 2024 (M20). The activities, outputs, results and lessons learned from this task are documented in detail in D6.2: Re-Value Capacity Development and Exchange Programme, Version 2⁴⁴ (submitted M18).

The Re-Value CD&E Programme consists of interactive monthly online webinars (Re-Value Rounds), co-created in-person Study Visits, and a Peer-to-Peer Review of each city's initial draft of their Detailed Waterfront Pilot Roadmap. From M12-M24, the CD&E Programme delivered seven Re-Value Rounds

⁴⁴ [D6.2: Re-Value Capacity Development and Exchange Programme, Version 2](#)

(Financing the Ambition, New European Bauhaus, Co-Creation, Inclusiveness and Diversity, Tactical Urbanism, NEB Compass workshop and Energy Transition) and four Study Visits (Ålesund, Norway; Burgas, Bulgaria; Constanța, Romania; and Rijeka, Croatia), as well as one Peer-to-Peer Review process for the cities' in-progress draft of their Waterfront Pilot Roadmap (M15) The Re-Value Community of Practice has over 90 members, and a very engaged core community of about 50 city practitioners, researchers, topical experts and small and medium-sized enterprises.

From this year's work, we have learned the following points.

- The programme's co-creation and established feedback process is working well, allowing for the Capacity Development and Exchange Programme to be continually adjusted to best respond to the participants' needs and desires.
- The diversity of the partners' backgrounds and expertise level in the topics makes it challenging to provide very specific or deep dives into topics during webinars and workshops.
- Capacity and limited assigned effort (e.g., two person-months for each city for four years) limits how much each city can contribute to and participate in the programme.

The R7 KPI is 1 Capacity Building and Exchange Programme. The Re-Value CD&E Programme is described in the deliverables D6.1, D6.2 (submitted) and D6.9 (to be submitted in M30) of WP6.

R8: Peer-to-Peer Collaboration Space and capacity building support

An invitation-only [Re-Value Cities group](#) on the [NetZeroCities Portal](#) for peer-to-peer collaboration, online sharing, and access to the 112 selected Mission Cities (as well as 181 registered cities and 1 333 registered users) and NetZeroCities resources like the [Knowledge Repository](#), [Finance Guidance Tool](#), [Engagement Strategy Tools](#), [Events](#) (including capacity building webinars), was created as part of the Re-Value Capacity Development and Exchange Programme in M6. Partners who registered were granted access to both the Portal and the private Re-Value Cities peer-to-peer collaboration group. Over 60 partners have registered and joined the Re-Value Cities group by M24. Further details are found in D6.2: Re-Value Capacity Building and Exchange Programme 2⁴⁵ and subsequent versions of the deliverable.

The NetZeroCities (NZC) Portal offers a highly integrated online collaboration opportunity, but it is still another platform in a crowded space of existing online tools that are already familiar to cities and partners. Despite successfully registering and on-boarding 55 Re-Value members to the NZC Portal to activate the private Re-Value Cities group, the platform has been seldom visited or used to its full potential.

Initial efforts to host the Re-Value Rounds on the NZC Portal also failed, due to the overall lack of administrative control, a buggy interface with the event creator / calendar, and no access to the cloud recordings created with the in-platform communication tool (Jitsi). It did not make sense to host events on the NZC Portal with an existing third-party communication tool, like Teams or Zoom, because it added yet another access barrier to the event. Alternative means of exchange are therefore explored, to complement the NZC Portal Re-Value Cities group when necessary.

⁴⁵ [D6.2: Re-Value Capacity Development and Exchange Programme, Version 2](#)

The R8 KPI is 1 Collaboration space, 100 cities reached. The collaboration space was set up in M6, and while there is the potential to reach more than 100 cities through the portal, engagement with them has not yet started in this reporting period.

R9: Re-Value Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and dialogues with NetZeroCities

The M&E Framework was updated at the end of 2024 based on insights gained in the project, through the process of reporting on the project KPIs (D7.2: M&E Report 1⁴⁶ submitted in September 2024), and via consultations with all WP7 partners. The changes to the Framework in this period were limited, focusing mainly on the KPI descriptions and means of verification, as updated in D7.3: Re-Value M&E Model (first intermediate version)⁴⁷.

Through the process of reporting on the KPIs and updating the Framework, it became clear that since longer-term wider impacts fall outside the timeframe of the project, it remains difficult for partners to monitor and report on these KPIs. Furthermore, Re-Value impact on other cities cannot be fully tracked as replication may happen without the project's knowledge. Therefore, regarding expected Outcomes in the Re-Value cities, reporting focusing on city journeys was deemed more appropriate, leading to the restructuring of the framework and report. Additionally, the project will work to make it more likely and plausible that replication will happen, and will follow up with cooperating cities and check, where possible, whether they are using the Innovation Cycles, the Impact Model and other Re-Value resources. Meanwhile, progress tracking has been challenging, which led to delays, also cascading from delays in other WPs. Generally, a small shift in the M&E reporting deadlines relevant to the covered reporting periods would make more sense. Nevertheless, WP7 will develop a more active way of tracking activities and progress with cities and cross-cutting WP partners, to avoid dependence on other deliverables to the extent possible.

Further, D7.4: Re-Value Impact Dialogues with NetZeroCities 1⁴⁸ (submitted in M21, September 2024) reports on the exchanges between NetZeroCities and Re-Value regarding two actions: coordination and collaboration between both projects based on the memorandum of understanding, and dialogues about both project's monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

As a follow-up of the ongoing contacts between NetZeroCities and Re-Value regarding their respective monitoring and evaluation frameworks, coordination meetings with NZC (Nikhil Chaudhary, Han Vandevyvere) were organized on 1 and 28 March 2024, and on 3 May 2024 (including Annemie Wyckmans).

D7.4 describes in detail the similarities and differences between both M&E systems. It has meanwhile become clear that both systems develop in similar, but complementary ways. This could be summarised as:

- Both systems consider similar sets of impact categories, structured in comparable ways;
- Hereby, NetZeroCities having a clear focus on carbon emissions (and energy) with a specific indicator set for cities to follow up on their progress towards reaching climate neutrality;

⁴⁶ [D7.2: Re-Value M&E Report 1](#)

⁴⁷ [D7.3: Re-Value Monitoring & Evaluation Model \(First Intermediate Version\)](#)

⁴⁸ [D7.4: Re-Value Impact Dialogues with NetZeroCities 1](#)

- While Re-Value's Impact Model being a more open 'tool to talk and plan' for integrated sustainability, with flexible inputs. In this way, what was previously labelled as 'indicators' in the IM has, based on input by stakeholders, been renamed as 'topics'. Topics are aspects that can be uploaded with one or more specific indicators, already in use by the cities or to be defined on purpose.

In that sense, the complementarity between both systems implies that NZC indicators can be used in Re-Value's Impact Model, whereas the Impact Model can be used as a low-threshold entry towards having an integrated approach for the interventions undertaken within the framework of NZC and the Cities Mission.

The R9 KPI is 4 versions of the M&E Framework (D7.1 and D7.3 submitted), 4 open-access M&E Reports (D7.2 submitted) and 3 reports of the Dialogues with NetZeroCities (D7.4 submitted).

R10: Improvement of Societal Readiness Levels

Progress on this indicator will be identified and described in the Deliverable series of T8.3 Re-Value Stories (D8.6: Re-Value Exploitable Results 1, and following ones), supported by WP1 (Impact Model and three Innovation Cycles), WP6 (Portfolio of Value-Based Urban Design and Planning Approaches), and WP9 (e.g. T9.3 Inclusiveness and diversity management) tasks. T8.3 work will also integrate into the project, for example by:

- Regular city dialogues & coaching (continuation of city dialogues in Year 1, coaching sessions in Year 2, and city space sessions in Year 3)
- Regular cross-cutting replication team meetings
- Review of and feedback to project activities and reports
- Low-threshold feedback from participants in Re-Value workshops and events

The project intends to measure the Societal Readiness Levels (SRLs) through the categories developed by Innovation Fund Denmark⁴⁹. The project has been searching an actionable framework for the increase of the SRLs, starting to assess The NewHorizon Societal Readiness Thinking Tool⁵⁰ which uses principles of Reflection, Inclusion, Anticipation, and Responsiveness. A more detailed description is developed linked with the Inclusiveness and Diversity work in the project (see for example the upcoming D9.9: Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 3).

The R10 KPI is 29 initiatives to SRL 9, 3 to SRL 8, 2 to SRL 7, 3 to SRL 6 and 1 new action to SRL 4. This is a longer term impact, expected to be attained later in the project.

⁴⁹ https://innovationsfonden.dk/sites/default/files/2019-03/societal_readiness_levels_-_srl.pdf

⁵⁰ <https://newhorizon.eu/thinking-tool/>

3.2. Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation measures

CDE1: Local workshops

Between January (M13) and December (M24) 2024, the waterfront cities have been engaging directly with local stakeholders through various means. In the project, we aim to organise at least 216 local workshops defined as “local stakeholder engagement activity (i.e., meeting, workshop, event booth/table, interviews, focus group, etc.) hosted by the local project team that enables a two-way dialogue to 1) inform stakeholders about the project and its approach, and 2) collect input and feedback/facilitate collaboration about planned interventions/innovations in the local Re-Value Waterfront Pilot and/or project study area” engaging about 6480 locals across the cities. This does not include the local engagement done in the Innovation Camps, artistic missions, nor Study Visits, but does include the Impact Model Workshops engaging the local stakeholders. This comes at around 24 workshops of different types per city.

In the period, a total of 57 workshop activities have taken place, with around 5 700 participants. These activities range from large-scale engagement such as a workshop inside the annual "Festa de Borg" in Rimini San Giuliano, to engagement activities in partnership with relevant local stakeholders such as the Intercommunal Organisation of West-Flanders in Bruges, allowing for more holistic urban planning and design. Below is a summary of the activities organised in each city, while more details are given in the progress section for each individual city in Section 2.

City	Number of local workshops	Total participants
Ålesund	5	356
Bruges	18	681
Burgas	3	80
Rimini	9	3728
Cascais	12	299
Constanța	4	172
İzmir	1	31
Písek	3	316
Rijeka	2	37

One takeaway from the local activities to bear in mind going forward is a generally positive reception of the workshops, particularly because they are strongly geographically anchored in the demonstration sites.

A few lessons learned from the cities follow:

- The more the cities communicate about Re-Value, the more their stories start to live in the minds of the stakeholders.
- Stakeholders prefer having face-to-face conversations rather than reading mails. Door-to-door visits are very time consuming but also very valuable.
- Stakeholders like to be involved, if you give them the feeling that they have choices, the right to decide, even if, in reality, their margins for manoeuvring are not so large.

- The whole process of community building takes a lot of time. Extra people working on the project were very welcome.
- Digital initiatives typically offer the advantage of reaching a larger audience, but in-person events foster a stronger commitment to the project.
- Although larger events obviously help to involve more stakeholders, smaller events promote greater involvement. When it's not possible to organise small events, it's beneficial to divide the participants into sub-groups.
- Informal events tend to create a more comfortable environment, encouraging participants to share their experiences and opinions.
- Regarding local community involvement, few adults are more curious and enthusiastic than children. Promoting family initiatives helps to reach out to the community.

One insight specifically on monitoring and reporting is the challenge of what cities themselves perceive as a workshop. In Re-Value the definition has been fairly loose, but discussions are ongoing about whether for example inter-departmental meetings in the metropolis of İzmir (easily with a municipal working force bigger than all of Písek) should be considered as stakeholder work. So far, this has been answered with a preference for “external” workshops.

The CDE1 KPI is 216 local workshops (24 per city) over four years with 6480 Stakeholders. With 57 workshops and 5 700 participants in the second year of the project, this KPI is on a steady course for success.

CDE2: Travel Punch Card for Re-Value Cities to visit each other

The Re-Value CD&E Programme highly values in-person interaction. As such, Re-Value Cities have financial resources (allocated via each city's “Travel Punch Card”), to travel to and participate in Study Visits to support this cross-cutting approach. Three representatives from each Replication City have an allocated budget to travel to larger capacity development events in each of the four Leading Cities: Ålesund, Bruges, Burgas and Rimini. Conversely, two members from each Leading City have a budget allocated to join three capacity development events in any of the five Replication Cities: Cascais, Constanța, İzmir, Písek, or Rijeka. However, the Travel Punch Card funds are flexible and can be used to participate in as many Study Visits as feasible, depending on shared interests and challenges between cities. For more details, see D6.1: Re-Value Capacity Development and Exchange Programme, Version 2⁵¹.

Four Study Visits occurred between M13-M24:

- Ålesund, Norway (March 2024): In combination with the annual Consortium Meeting, focused on digital tools for data-driven decision-making
- Burgas, Bulgaria (June 2024): Lead City Study Visit focused on Nature-Based Solutions
- Constanța, Romania (June 2024): Replication City Study Visit focused on Tactical Urbanism and Cultural Heritage
- Rijeka, Croatia (October 2024): Replication City Study Visit focused on Industrial Heritage and Adaptive Re-Use

⁵¹ [D6.1: Re-Value Capacity Development and Exchange Programme, Version 1](#)

Summary of Re-Value City Participation in Re-Value Study Visits (SV), which are in some instances combined with the Consortium Meeting (CM):

Destination / Host	Ålesund CM	Bruges SV	Burgas SV	Rimini SV	Cascais SV	Constanța SV	İzmir CM	Písek SV	Rijeka SV
Participants									
Ålesund	host		0	0		0			5
Bruges	2	host	2	2		2			2
Burgas	4		host	3		3			4
Rimini	2		0	host		2			2
Cascais	1		0	0	host	0			2
Constanța	5		4	5		host			4
İzmir	4		1	3		0	host		2
Písek	3		3	2		3		host	2
Rijeka	1		1	2		1			host
Total	22		11	17		11			23

The Study Visits were initially conceived as short exchange visits only for Re-Value Cities with little scientific or outside expert involvement, but they have become a very popular central exchange and learning moment for most of the partnership. Each Study Visit usually has about 40 active participants. Cities and project partners have been using their flexible budget to participate in as many Study Visits as possible, instead of the initially-conceived format of Replication Cities to Lead Cities and vice versa.

The CDE2 KPI is 84 ($6 \times 4 + 12 \times 5$) person-visits. During the second project year, 67 person-visits were made from other city representatives for the four Study Visits. This brings the total to 82 person-visits.

CDE3: Re-Value website and social media

In the second year of the project, the website was updated with cities' relevant activities, news, events and publications. At the beginning of the project, three social media pages were created on Instagram, X/Twitter and on LinkedIn. While LinkedIn and Instagram have proven to be extremely valuable to engage the community of practice and external stakeholders, X/Twitter has not been as successful, perhaps due to increasing disinformation sharing and consequent shift of practitioners and academics to other platforms. Social media content about study visits, innovation camps and local workshops has been shared on LinkedIn and Instagram. Pictures and videos from October 2024 Venice Biennale Workshop and Rijeka Study Visit have been and will be used to create Instagram Stories and Reels.

From January 2024 (M13) until the end of December 2024 (M24), the website had 16 630 pageviews spread over 8 205 visits. The LinkedIn account accumulated a reach of 18 400 impressions. The CDE3 KPI requires that Re-Value achievements are shared across all selected channels, which has been achieved in the second reporting period.

From this year's activities, we observed that the website was never envisioned to be the most powerful tool in the first phase of the project but following positive experiences in the first reporting period, plans are underway to increase the exploitation of the channel and set more specific KPIs to guide the wider work

going forward. On Social Media, LinkedIn has been (and we expect will remain) by far the most powerful outlet on the EU-level.

The CDE3 KPI is 1 Re-Value website, Re-Value presence on social media. Deliverable D8.1 (submitted), D8.4 (submitted) and D8.8 describe the status of these measures.

CDE4: Newsletters

In the period, one newsletter was sent by Re-Value from the [Informed Cities Newsletter](#) in September 2024. The CDE4 KPI is 8 published newsletters and two have been sent out so far, meaning this was below the expectation for the full project. The remaining issues have been mapped in an editorial calendar including three issues in 2025 and three issues in 2026. However, this is in line with the plan, as all EU-funded projects tend to deliver more results, and thus higher value for readers, later in the project.

CDE5: Scientific open access publications

Based on the work in 2023, the Re-Value team continued to develop scientific publications in 2024. Since scientific papers take time for thorough analysis and revision, first publications are expected in the next project year and will be available on the project website.

The CDE5 KPI is 9 open access scientific publications. At M24, December 2024, multiple publications were under development and two peer-reviewed articles will be published in conference proceedings in 2025.

CDE6: Re-Value CDE Plan & Local Communication Plans

The first overall CDE plan was submitted in M9 of the project as D8.1: Re-Value Communications, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan⁵², and the local CDE Plans were submitted in M18 as D8.2: Local Communication and Dissemination Plans by Re-Value Cities⁵³. The overall CDE Plan has been updated and submitted by M24⁵⁴, while the local CDE Plans are to be updated by M29. In pure numerical terms, this means two CDE plans and nine local plans have been submitted, but work will continue both to evaluate, adjust and deliver updates.

The CDE plan (and work on the other plans) supported the sense-making phase well, but following versions of these plans will benefit from clearer roadmaps in each of the nine Re-Value cities and for the project as a whole.

CDE7: Local-language “Urban Transformations” webinars

During this reporting period, ICLEI established a collaboration channel with NetZeroCities and CSA CapaCITIES (and hopefully CapaCITIES 2.0) partners to map emerging national platforms and identify potential collaboration opportunities. The results of this work were shared with CINEA during the Periodic Reporting Meeting in September 2024, and are available in the Periodic Report. This effort is also to be coordinated with the sister projects through the Urban Design and Planning Cluster.

⁵² [D8.1: Re-Value Communications, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan 1](#)

⁵³ [D8.2: Local Communication and Dissemination Plans by Re-Value Cities](#)

⁵⁴ [D8.4: Re-Value Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan 2](#)



Task 6.7 EU replication beyond Replication Cities - Connection with Cities Mission

Emerging Cities Mission National Platforms & Networks

- **Italy** – Expert Working Group / Italian Mission Cities network (city initiative)
- **Romania** - Mirror Mission Cities Hub (M100)
- **Norway** - Norwegian Cities Mission Forum (emergent)
- **Portugal** - Cities for Climate Network (city initiative)
- **Türkiye** - emergent Ministry-level engagement by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye

KPI: 3 webinars per Re-Value City in local language

- National network / platform context or with informal Mission City Cluster
- Networking, info sharing, challenges, policies & regulations, funding, capacity building



Figure 17: Connection between Re-Value and Cities Mission.

Constanța was selected to participate in the Romanian Mirror Mission Cities Hub (M100) in October 2024, which should enable the city to better engage and share with Mission Cities, as well as have access to national level funding, capacity building and expertise.

One lesson learned during this reporting period is that national-level platforms to support the Cities Mission have been very slow to develop, and are not available in most of the Re-Value countries.

The CDE7 KPI is at least 9 webinars (up to 3 per Re-Value City). The “Urban Transformations” webinars are foreseen in 2025 and 2026.

CDE8: Participants in Urban Planning and Transitions Forum

The CDE8 KPI is 1 Urban Planning and Transitions Forum with 150 participants. The Urban Planning and Transitions Forum is planned before M40. Discussions on this topic have started at the Cluster level with UP2030 and CLIMABOROUGH. There is a strong shared interest in finding ways to organise a common event during the Cities Mission Conference will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania from 6-8 May 2025.

CDE9: Upskilling/capacity building with the youth through Innovation Camps

Following the first round of nine Innovation Camps in 2023, the second round of nine took place in 2024. Building on the learnings and established partnerships between municipalities, educational institutions, and community stakeholders from the first round, the new round offered several improvements. These included stronger integration with municipal urban planning efforts, greater emphasis on structured methodologies, and more actionable, locally relevant challenges to improve implementation potential. Overall, it marked a shift from general exploration to more practical, place-based problem-solving. An overview of the nine new

Innovation Camps is given in the table below. The Innovation Camps are also thoroughly described in relevant deliverables, the second one being D8.5: Re-Value Innovation Camps, Report 2⁵⁵.

City and date	Participants	Thematic area
Ålesund (Norway) 05/11/2024	124	Transform Kiperviktorget or Dronning Sonjas Plass into youth-friendly spaces in a sustainable and innovative way
Bruges (Belgium) 14/03/2024	130	Science and technology urban planning – 4 urban challenges within Kaaidistrict
Burgas (Bulgaria) 06/06/2024	52	New European Bauhaus, with an emphasis on connecting people to the sea and enhancing community spaces
Cascais (Portugal) 21/11/2024	50	Sustainable water use efficiency in urban settings (individual and/or collective)
Constanța (Romania) 17/01/2025	55	Science and technology urban planning (to improve both the aesthetics and functionality of the Constanța Peninsula area with minimal interventions)
İzmir (Turkey) 07/10/2024	63	Urban planning, applied AI solutions for the defined challenges of the city
Písek (Czech Republic) 18/11/2024	55	Tactical Urbanism
Rijeka (Croatia) 24/04/2024	32	Sustainable tourism
Rimini (Italy) 13-14/03/2024	39	Sustainable mobility

The 2024 Innovation Camps highlighted several important lessons. Engaging youth in co-creation requires more than just inviting them—it needs structure, relevance, and respect. When students saw their ideas taken seriously, especially in public forums like City Halls, their motivation and creativity increased. Visibility and recognition also sparked broader community interest in urban development.

Teacher involvement proved crucial. Early onboarding helped teachers guide students and connect the camps to the curriculum. Where teacher engagement lagged, students felt less prepared and outcomes suffered. Mentor roles also need clarity and consistency; frequent changes and lack of context hindered some teams. Strong communication and early planning are essential.

Post-camp follow-up is another challenge. Many student ideas were strong and aligned with city goals, but lacked pathways for continuation. Without follow-up, camps risk becoming isolated events. Cities and JA partners should create light-touch strategies—like internships, workshops, or participatory budgeting—to sustain momentum.

Moving forward, the next step is ensuring these outcomes lead to lasting impact through better preparation, stronger partnerships, and continued youth involvement.

⁵⁵ [D8.5: Re-Value Innovation Camps, Report 2](#)

The CDE9 KPI aims for 28 Innovation Camps (3 per city, 1 European) in 9 countries, reaching 1400 participants from the youth. In the first two years, 18 Innovation Camps were organised with 1210 participants in total, confirming that these targets are well on track.

CDE10: Re-Value Policy Briefs

Preparatory work on outreach by different partners has started, but no specific results were yet expected.

Pilots and long-term TTPs in 9 Re-Value cities will be translated into 9 Policy Briefs and follow-up meetings to influence these European programmes. The goal is to give the cities a direct voice. With the development of the pilots and TTPs, policy briefs will be delivered in a later stage of the project.

The CDE10 KPI is 9 Policy Briefs. These are planned for later in the project, when more results are available to be shared.

CDE11: Contribution to regulatory, policy and standardisation initiatives, on national and European level

Preparatory work by different partners or initial participation in initiatives began, but no specific results have been obtained yet.

The CDE11 KPI is 13 initiatives. These are planned for later in the project, when more results are available to be shared.

CDE12: Participation in emergent national platforms

Task 6.7 was specifically designed to ensure peer exchange and multi-level cooperation with NetZeroCities, the EU Cities Mission and any corresponding national platforms, as part of Re-Value's participation in the CIT-02-01 Cluster. It intends to showcase the Re-Value cities' journeys to the Cities Mission community (including Mission Cities, NetZeroCities Pilots, and the NetZeroCities Platform) and provide an opportunity to join policy discussions with relevant national-level platforms serving the Cities Mission (where available). At the time of proposal writing, we did not know which Re-Value Cities would be selected to participate in the Cities Mission (only İzmir was ultimately selected), the NetZeroCities platform was still in its early development phase, and there were only two fledgling national-level support structures for the Cities Mission (Sweden and Spain). The Cities Mission CSA [CapaCITIES](#) was not operational at the time. We knew that we wanted to help Re-Value Cities engage with any emergent national or regional-level platforms / groups / networks supporting the Cities Mission, but we were not sure exactly how this engagement would manifest—or when.

From M13-M24, we continued to observe NetZeroCities' evolution and deployment of additional funding to deepen their support offer to Mission Cities, but the "scale out" mechanisms to support non-Mission Cities has not manifested and is not foreseen to be operationalised until at least 2025—if at all. National-level support structures are developing organically from the inertia of the Cities Mission and more formally through existing or emergent networks or platforms (e.g., CapaCITIES and CapaCITIES 2.0).

These support facilities will be formally engaged in early 2025 to develop regional “Urban Transformations” webinars (milestone M25 and [CDE7](#)), when all of the Re-Value Cities have published their Waterfront Pilot Roadmaps and have identified the key policy transformation areas for engagement.

Despite our effort, this task was speculative during the proposal phase, and is difficult to put into practice due to the dynamic and sometimes chaotic Cities Mission landscape.

The CDE12 KPI is 9 national platforms. In the second project year, there have only been small possibilities to engage in 5 national platforms affiliated with the Cities Mission. Involvement of Re-Value cities with those platforms will be pursued in the following reporting periods.

CDE13: Exploitable Results

Since project Phase 1 (understanding & sense-making) took longer than planned, exploitable results are not yet expected and will be harvested later in the project.

The CDE13 KPI is 27 Exploitable Results. The upcoming D8.6: Re-Value Exploitable Results 1 will summarise the expected types of results and later versions will start describing the achieved ones. Exploitable Results will include policies, tools, guidance, societal innovation.

3.3. Outcomes

01.1: Re-Value cities reach Fit for 55 objectives

Throughout the second project year, Re-Value guided its Leading Cities through the development of their Detailed Roadmaps. Part of these Roadmaps also consisted in taking stock of the city’s energy systems and the plans and policies related to climate objectives. The latter have been reported for each city in [Section 2](#). Specific targets or emission estimations for the pilot areas alone were not available though, making an assessment of the impact of Re-Value on the cities’ commitments to Fit for 55 objectives rather impossible. Furthermore, while measures that contribute to emission reduction have been included in the Roadmaps for the pilot areas, quantification of their exact impact could not be made at this point. It is expected, however, that through the work done in the Pilots with Re-Value, positive impacts will be achieved in terms of local energy savings, but also by influencing public opinion as well as policies towards more climate action. The Re-Value tools contribute to that, namely the Impact Model, participatory story and scenario building, advice on partnership strategies, the Portfolio of urban planning approaches, and the monitoring indicators.

The O1.1 KPI is 4 Re-Value cities reaching their Fit for 55 objectives. A quantitative assessment of this KPI is not possible due to lack of supporting data, however initial steps within the Pilots towards achieving these goals are being monitored.

01.2: Active cooperation with other Mission/NEB initiatives

In order to contribute to the implementation of European Programmes, Re-Value aims to align with other relevant Mission/NEB initiatives, platforms and projects, to showcase Re-Value cities’ journeys and gain

feedback for improvement. During the first year of the project, Re-Value started cooperating with the following initiatives and projects:

- NetZeroCities: multiple ways of collaboration, see D7.4: Re-Value Impact dialogues with NetZeroCities 1⁵⁶
- UP2030: Sister project in CIT-02-01 Cluster
- CLIMABOROUGH: Sister project in CIT-02-01 Cluster
- CrAft: several interactions and contributions relating to the NEB Impact Model
- NEB-STAR: interaction relating to the NEB Impact Model

The O1.2 KPI is 17 initiatives. In the second project year, Re-Value has continued cooperation with the five initiatives and explored new cooperation with other initiatives.

01.3: Re-Value Policy Briefs inform policies at EU/national level

Re-Value will learn from on-the-ground experiences of the Waterfront Pilots and will produce Policy Briefs for national and European authorities, programmes and communities, disseminating our findings.

The O1.3 KPI is 13 policies. This impact is expected later in the project, once results have been produced and translated into Policy Briefs ([CDE10](#)).

02.1: LCs and RCs take up the participatory Re-Value Story building, Scenario building and Investment & Partnership building strategies

Through the Innovation Cycles ([R3](#)), the Re-Value cities jointly develop and adopt participatory methods, including Story-building, Scenario-building using data-driven methods for analysis, and Investment- and Partnership-building strategies. These are contributing to the development and fine-tuning of city Roadmaps, and will be further utilised for the update of long-term TTPs ([R5](#)), and the Full-Scale Deployment of the Waterfront Pilots ([R6](#)). [Section 2](#) has highlighted how each city worked with the Innovation Cycles to improve their current approaches and develop their Roadmaps.

Based on the experiences so far, a key lesson we have learned is that a comprehensive approach for developing a framework where all the innovation cycles and work packages collaborate to produce valuable results for the city can be quite challenging. Together with WP1 and cities, innovation cycles need to explore new approaches to tackle this challenge in the next two project years.

The O2.1 KPI is 9 Re-Value cities. Ongoing progress related to this KPI has been reported in [Section 2](#). However, as this is a longer-term impact, quantitative evaluation of the KPI will only be attempted at the end of the project.

⁵⁶ [D7.4: Re-Value Impact dialogues with NetZeroCities 1](#)

02.2: Citizens/professional stakeholders feel they contributed to the outcomes

Each of the Re-Value cities has held initial local workshops ([CDE1](#)) in their local contexts. This KPI is intended to compare project and city outcomes against the participation, including but not only individual meetings or engagements.

Each city operates in a unique local context and engages target groups differently. Supported by the Re-Value Inclusiveness Protocol, cities are encouraged to use various modes of engagement (e.g. surveys, workshops, outreach efforts) tailored to their needs. These methods are still under refinement and will evolve over the course of the project. Deliverables associated with Task 9.3 (Inclusiveness and Diversity Management) will provide further guidance and documentation of practices across cities.

To support monitoring, an indicator framework aligned with the Re-Value monitoring strategy (WP7) and Societal Readiness Levels (SRL) has been developed under Task 9.3. This framework helps assess inclusiveness in engagement processes, evaluate the accessibility and relevance of tools and governance models, and monitor diversity of participation.

Building on the Re-Value Inclusiveness Protocol, a set of sample indicators has been developing to guide cities in tracking progress and will be included in D9.9: Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 3.

The O2.2 KPI is 70% of participating project target groups.

03.1: LCs and RCs use the Re-Value Impact Model long-term

Re-Value is working with the cities to familiarise them with the Impact Model and identify ways in which it can be used to support city processes on one hand, and to improve the Impact Model itself on the other hand (see [R2](#)). Already Key Performance Indicators, co-benefits, and other key elements of working with the Impact Model have inspired the development of the cities' Roadmaps, and are expected to further contribute to the implementation of the Waterfront Pilots and updating of long-term TTPs in the future ([R5](#)). An overview of the work undertaken with the Re-Value cities can be seen in the relevant description under [R2](#), as well as in the progress reported by the cities in [Section 2](#).

Based on this year's efforts, Re-Value cities reported some lessons learned when working with the Impact Model as below:

- After identifying the current positive and negative impacts in the pilot areas, it is easier to create medium and short-term solutions that are achievable.
- When brainstorming, it's important to include different expertise that bring real value to the solutions presented.
- A collaborative governance model is the key to ensure cohesive management and decision-making.
- Organizing a study visit to the pilot areas after the Impact Model Workshop provided new perspectives and allowed the opinions/suggestions given to be consolidated.

The O3.1 KPI is long-term adoption of Impact Model by 9 Re-Value cities. Ongoing progress related to this KPI has been reported in Section 2. However, as this is a longer-term impact, quantitative evaluation of the KPI will only be attempted at the end of the project.

03.2: LCs and RCs adopt the Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol long-term

I&D activities so far are described under [R1](#), in this document. Each Re-Value city incorporates I&D in their work, as detailed in the I&D Baselines described in D9.2: Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 1. By showcasing the value of working inclusively, and extracting opportunities for replication in the Detailed Roadmaps, it is expected that each city takes up other various aspects of I&D. In D9.5: Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 2⁵⁷, LCs and RCs present concrete stories of how they interpret and implement I&D in their local contexts.

The O3.2 KPI is 9 Re-Value cities. Ongoing progress related to this KPI has been reported in Section 2. However, as this is a longer-term impact, quantitative evaluation of the KPI will only be attempted at the end of the project.

04.1: Exploitable Results are embedded in Re-Value cities

Re-Value aims to develop participatory Exploitable Results, which will be tested by the project's cities in their Roadmaps and Pilots, and embedded in their decision structures through the updating of the long-term TTPs (see [CDE13](#)). First results are therefore expected later in the project.

The O4.1 KPI is 27 Exploitable Results. This is a longer-term impact that needs to be linked to the cities' Detailed Roadmaps ([R5](#)). Since the delivery of Detailed Roadmaps of LCs and RCs are postponed, the exploitable results will therefore be evaluated in project year 3.

04.2: LCs and RCs embed long-term Re-Value's data-driven co-creation and scenario-building in decision support

Through the work initiated in Innovation Cycle 2 (IC2) on data-driven co-creation, Re-Value cities will explore data-driven strategies to involve citizens, provoke thought, and assist decisions in their development of Detailed Roadmaps, strategies for updating long-term TTPs, and the full-scale implementation of the Pilots.

In 2024, IC2 still tried to define a scope and develop definitions for terminologies, such as “scenarios” and “data-driven co-creation” with a broad and diverse set of stakeholders within Re-Value, which turned out to be a challenging task. Since each city has a unique context, IC2 realized that a singular integrated framework for scenario building will not work for all cities. Therefore, the IC is planning to offer tailored consultancy for each city in the upcoming project years.

The O4.2 KPI is 9 Re-Value cities. These outcomes are expected later in the project along with the progress of Innovation Cycle 2.

05.1: LCs and RCs embed in their strategies for updating long-term Territorial Transformation Plans a universal design of climate neutrality, including energy and mobility poverty

Through its Inclusiveness Protocol, which will incorporate universal design of climate neutrality, including energy and mobility poverty, Re-Value will help its cities to identify concrete opportunities for upgrading

⁵⁷ [D9.5: Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 2](#)

their local environment with higher quality for all members of the community, while lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

The O5.1 KPI is 9 Re-Value cities. This is a longer-term impact that needs to be linked to the cities' Detailed Roadmaps and strategies for updated TTPs ([R5](#)), and will therefore be evaluated when the latter are completed.

05.2: LCs and RCs fully embed the participatory, circular and shared value chains in their Investment and Partnership Plans

Activities of Innovation Cycle 3 on investment and partnerships aim to provide the necessary knowledge and tools that will allow cities to identify investment and partnership opportunities that revolve around participatory, circular and shared value chains. In the second project year, the Innovation Cycle supported the cities with financing expertise in the context of various ongoing activities in Re-Value, conducting tailored City Finance Dialogues. Within these dialogues, the cities were given the opportunity to explore their specific financing needs and identify strategic partners. Given the evolving nature of the Roadmap and changing priorities, these dialogues remained largely explorative, aiming at supporting cities in prioritising potential projects, and contextualising lessons learned. In addition, we found that cities were at varying levels of readiness to engage with the City Finance Dialogues, as well as displayed a variety of objectives and priority sectors from financing cultural activities, through exploring governance structures, to looking at renewable energy solutions. The City Finance Dialogues revealed the very high complexity and size of value chains embedded within the cities' ecosystems. The above mentioned activities in combination with the Re-Value Inclusiveness and Diversity Protocol and Impact Model key principles create a strong foundation for integrating participatory and circular value chains into future transition and investment plans by identifying key stakeholders and exploring funding models that support cities' ambition.

The O5.2 KPI is 9 Re-Value cities. Ongoing progress related to this KPI has been reported in Section 2. However, as this is a longer-term impact, quantitative evaluation of the KPI will only be attempted at the end of the project.

3.4 Impacts

Several of the Impact KPIs are closely related to each other. While they contribute to a different Impact expected by the Mission, the means of achieving them is the same. Therefore they are here reported as a group. This concerns:

- I1.1, combined with I2, I3, I4, I5, I6 and I7
- I1.2, combined with I8

For the two groups above, a common description is provided, combining the common aspects. For more details on the specific contribution of each KPI to the different Mission Impacts, the reader is referred to deliverable D7.6: Re-Value M&E Model (second Intermediate Version), or the previous version D7.3⁵⁸.

⁵⁸ [D7.3: Re-Value M&E Model \(First Intermediate Version\)](#)

11.1: Other European cities use Re-Value results

Also incorporating:

- I2: Other cities/projects take up participatory Re-Value Story building, Scenario building, and Investment & Partnership building methods
- I3: Other cities/projects embed participatory, circular and shared value chains in their Investment and Partnership strategies
- I4: Other cities take up a universal design of climate neutrality, including energy and mobility poverty
- I5: Other cities/projects take up Re-Value Portfolio of Urban Planning and Design Approaches
- I6: Other cities/projects take up the participatory Re-Value Impact Model and Innovation Cycles
- I7: Other cities/projects take up Re-Value's data-driven co-creation and Scenario building

Re-Value aims to promote the uptake of project results by cities beyond the project, by connecting with the Cities Mission and its Mission Platform (NetZeroCities), the corresponding national platforms and other related initiatives ([O1.2](#) & [CDE12](#)). Project results will also be integrated in the Mission Portal knowledge repository (see also [I1.2](#)) and presented at the Re-Value Urban Planning in Transition(s) Forum ([CDE8](#)), while recommendations derived from the work of replication teams will be included in Policy Briefs ([CDE10](#)). A key component of Re-Value's offer to other cities is the Re-Value Urban Planning and Design Approaches Portfolio ([R4](#)), which aims to collect and present best practice approaches that align with Re-Value's core principles. Insights and lessons from the cities' Re-Value innovation journeys are captured throughout the duration of the project and will be included in the final version of the Portfolio (D6.10). The Portfolio aims to inform, inspire, and encourage collaborative learning within Re-Value and eventually with all European cities as they work to update their urban policies, processes, and practices to help achieve the European Green Deal's goal to become the first climate-neutral continent in the world (see also [I1.2](#)). While the collection of best practice approaches for the Re-Value Portfolio has started, other dissemination activities depend on the production of sufficient results, and are therefore expected to take shape later in the project.

The target value is 9 other cities/projects for all KPIs I1.1, I2, I3, I4, I5, I6 and I7. These are longer-term impacts linked to dissemination activities and are planned to be evaluated later in the project.

11.2: Re-Value Portfolio, Impact Model and Innovation Cycles are integrated in Mission Portal Knowledge Repository

Also incorporating:

- I8: Re-Value's data-driven co-creation and scenario-building is integrated in the Mission portal knowledge repository

To help with capacity building among European cities, Re-Value will share key results on the NetZeroCities Portal. The transformation taking place in the Re-Value cities, through the co-creation of the Impact Model ([R2](#)) and the implementation of the Innovation Cycles ([R3](#)) will be documented and shaped into concise, practice-oriented outputs that can be useful for other cities. Together with ICLEI, responsible partners will

identify relevant results from produced deliverables to be uploaded to the NetZeroCities Portal's Knowledge Repository, making them accessible to a broad range of cities and stakeholders. This is expected later in the project, when those results are available. Furthermore, the Re-Value Portfolio of Urban Planning and Design Approaches ([R4](#)) will be shared, summarising the main principles of the Re-Value approach to urban design and planning to help achieve Europe's climate neutrality ambitions. The tools, methods, approaches and case studies included in the Portfolio will be also made available on the Re-Value Cities website as individual, searchable components that are tagged with the appropriate principle accordingly for easy browsing and querying functionalities. This should help facilitate and enable better take-up of the material.

The KPI for I1.2 is 5 relevant resources and 1 relevant resource for I8. Work on the relevant tasks and Work Packages has started, but the resources are planned to be produced later in the project, after which they will be made available on the NetZeroCities Portal's Knowledge Repository.

I9: EU policies, programmes and initiatives linked to cities incorporate Re-Value results

Re-Value aims to inform EU, national and regional policies, programmes and initiatives linked to cities with the innovations it will test in its cities and the results it will produce (see [CDE13](#)). The majority of this work is expected later in the project.

The I9 KPI is 17 EU policies, programmes or initiatives. This is a longer-term impact, linked to dissemination activities, that is planned to be evaluated later in the project.

4. Conclusion

This deliverable reports on the progress of the project's impact during the second project year (January 2024 to December 2024) in terms of the defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). Also lessons learned are reported, when relevant.

The previously developed Re-Value M&E Framework distinguishes between short-term project Results, Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation (CDE) measures, mid-term Outcomes and long-term Impacts of the project. While the first two types of KPIs are readily observable from the start of the project, following specific timelines, the latter two require that project results are previously obtained to proceed with engagement and dissemination activities that would allow to create mid- and longer-term impact. For this purpose, this second version of the M&E progress report directly documented the first two types of KPIs, the Results and CDE measures, and how these directly observable KPIs contribute to Mid-term Outcomes and long-term Impacts, which are expected to take shape in later stages of and beyond the project.

After the initial stage exploring and sense-making in project year 1 (2023), the second project year has been a period of co-creation and contextualization with leading and Replication Cities. In this phase, all nine Re-Value cities worked together as a Community of Practice to identify common design principles and a Portfolio of Urban Planning and Design Approaches. Based on the intensive work with the Impact Model and Innovation Cycles, Leading Cities developed their Detailed Roadmaps for the Full-Scale Deployment that will follow in project years 3 and 4. The Replication Cities continued their efforts from project year 1, progressing toward a Detailed Roadmap.

A first lesson learned throughout years 1 and 2 is about time management and the innovation dynamics. Delays experienced in both project years 1 and 2 have showcased the non-linear nature of innovation processes. Rather than just being setbacks and detours of the Re-Value journey, these delays have offered us insights about the dynamic and iterative characteristics of systemic urban transformation. To better manage time and the complexity in future phases, we would try to break the project into smaller, manageable phases with regular reviews. This allows for flexibility and quicker adaptation to changes or setbacks. Moreover, we would try to build buffer time into the schedule. This would reduce pressure and allow time to address unforeseen challenges without disrupting the project timeline.

Another important lesson that has been learned through several of the project's tasks is the complexity of multidisciplinary collaboration. The project brings together partners from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. This diversity, while enriching, has also led to ambiguity around key terms such as Roadmap, Value Chain, and Territorial Transformation Plan. In response, a process was initiated to identify and clarify such terms, which will continue into year 3. This effort is essential to ensure a shared understanding and to support effective collaboration across disciplines and cities.

Finally, our experiences with locally-anchored workshops and Innovation Camps so far have been very positive, highlighting the need to engage local stakeholders, and particularly also the youth, in decision-making processes and to promote climate neutrality in cities. Several specific learnings from the planning and execution of Innovation camps have been further summarised in the respective KPI.

Re-Value

Following this report, the Re-Value M&E Framework will be updated to mirror some of the identified challenges and adaptations needed regarding the KPIs. The new version is foreseen in the upcoming deliverable D7.6: Re-Value M&E Model (second intermediate version). The next reporting of project impact progress in the third year will be included in the following deliverable D7.8: Re-Value M&E Report 3, due in December 2025.

Glossary of Terms

General Terms

AHP	Analytic Hierarchy Process
AI	Artificial Intelligence
CD&E	Capacity Development and Exchange
CDE	Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation
EU	European
IC	Innovation Cycle
I&D	Inclusiveness and Diversity
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LC	Leading City
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NEB	New European Bauhaus
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NZC	NetZeroCities
RC	Replication City
SECAP	Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan
SRL	Societal Readiness Level
TTP	Territorial Transformation Plan
WP	Work Package

Partner names

AC	AugmentCity AS
AK	Ålesund Kommune
BRG	STAD Brugge
BUR	OBSHTINA BURGAS
CM	Municipiu Resedinta de Judet Constanța
ECOTEN	Ecoten urban comfort s.r.o.
EMAC	Empresa Municipal de Ambiente de Cascais Em Sa
GIB	Stiftung Global Infrastructure Basel
ICLEI	ICLEI EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT GmbH
IFLA	International Federation of Landscape Architects Europe
IMM	IZMIR BUYUKSEHIR BELEDIYESI
IZTECH	İzmir Institute of Technology
JAE	JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT EUROPE
LNEG	Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia
MP	Město Písek / Městský úřad Písek
NTNU	Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet
RIJ	Grad Rijeka / City of Rijeka
RIM	Comune di Rimini
SP	Sladovna Czech cultural organisation
SU	Sofia University
SUAS	Sørsida Utvikling AS
TV	Teatret vårt
UNG	Univerza v Novi Gorica
UNIBO	Università di Bologna
VITO	Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek N.V.
ZMC	Asociația de Dezvoltare Intercomunitara Zona Metropolitana Constanța

About Re-Value – Re-Valuing Urban Quality & Climate Neutrality in European Waterfront Cities

The Re-Value partnership consists of nine European waterfront cities and selected European organisations that work to make the urban transition irresistible for everyone. This is done by demonstrating how climate neutrality and urban quality can be aligned, by re-valuing the cities' connection to their waterfronts, strengthening co-benefits and mitigating potential adverse impacts.

Ålesund (Norway), Bruges (Belgium), Burgas (Bulgaria), and Rimini (Italy) demonstrate how integrated urban planning and design can be optimally deployed to achieve climate neutrality and significantly reduce GHG emissions by 2030. In addition, Cascais (Portugal), Constanța (Romania), İzmir (Türkiye), Písek (Czechia), and Rijeka (Croatia) learn, replicate and develop their own participatory story-building, data-driven scenarios, and financial and partnership models on integrated urban planning and design to accelerate their journeys to climate neutrality.

The partnership is coordinated by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and is funded by the European Union's Research and Innovation funding programme Horizon Europe under grant agreement 101096943.

Learn more about the partnership and the outcomes on re-value-cities.eu.

Partners



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