



## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| European Programme Support Office Developments .....   | 2  |
| Strategic Developments - Reporting: .....  | 2  |
| Strategic Objectives: EPSO Alignment.....  | 2  |
| Progress Overview on the EPSO: Core Deliverables .....   | 3  |
| 1. Operational Developments .....  | 3  |
| Recruitment: .....   | 3  |
| CRM System: Digital Information Platform .....   | 3  |
| 2. Corporate Governance .....  | 4  |
| 3. EPSO Project Participation Appraisal Process .....  | 4  |
| 4. European Funding Opportunities .....  | 5  |
| EU Structural Funds Partnership Launched in Dublin .....   | 5  |
| Dublin City Council European Applications (2021 – 2027) .....  | 5  |
| 5. Communications .....  | 6  |
| EPSO Newsletter:.....  | 6  |
| Citidesk .....   | 6  |
| Dublin City Council European Project Brochure .....  | 7  |
| 6. Training & Development Programme .....  | 7  |
| EU Funding Webinar Series with Access Europe.....  | 8  |
| 7. Events .....  | 8  |
| Erasmus+ Projects Showcase Event Arts Office & EPSO Collaboration.....   | 9  |
| Network Developments: .....  | 10 |
| Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) & Irish Regions European Office (IREO).....                          | 10 |
| EU Committee of the Regions.....   | 10 |
| Euro Cities.....   | 11 |
| International Relations .....  | 11 |
| Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding between Dublin and City of Dublin, Ohio .....                           | 11 |
| Delegations visiting Dublin.....   | 11 |
| The Dublin Regional Session of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) Ireland – Oct 21st – 23 <sup>rd</sup> ..... | 12 |

# European Programme Support Office Developments

## Strategic Developments - Reporting:

Since the September meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (EDE SPC), the European Programme Support Office (EPSO) has delivering a number of reporting functions. Meetings and presentations were given to the EPSO Advisory Committee, The Economic Development & Enterprise's Strategic Policy Group along with presentations to the Finance Committee and Internal Audit.

Our priorities to date were set out to include resource recruitment; tender brief development to establishment a framework of European expertise; establishment of appropriate corporate governance, procedures and protocols for the operations of the office; developing a communications strategy and event programme schedule for 2022 and beyond.

The European Office's work programme for third and fourth quarters was summarised as follows:

- Analysing & Showcasing Dublin City Council involvement in European projects and Programmes developing European network connections focusing on European funding programme opportunities.
- Capacity building within the organisation
- Twenty two European project applications to date have been submitted by Dublin City Council under the current programme period 2021 – 2027 through the Horizon Europe programme, COSME programme and Just Transition. Of these, five are continuing through the evaluation process.

## Strategic Objectives: EPSO Alignment

The establishment and development of the EPSO aligns to the 7 Strategic Objectives of the Dublin City Council EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027.

1. To ensure that any participation in an EU partnership project by DCC staff contributes to the goals and policy objectives of the European Union and Dublin City Council.
2. To promote participation in EU partnership projects which will measurably contribute to the capacity of DCC to meet its mission and public obligations.
3. To cooperate with relevant bodies such as national contact points of EU Programmes, the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) and the Irish Regions European Office (IREO) that will assist with the participation of Dublin City Council staff in EU partnership projects.
4. To engage with local communities and targeted beneficiaries matching where possible intended impacts with local needs.
5. To build the international reputation of DCC and the city of Dublin through participation in EU partnership projects.
6. To use participation in EU partnership projects to promote innovation in the operations of DCC that is green and smart and that enables openness, diversity and social inclusion.
7. To ensure that participation in EU partnership projects brings additionality to the services of DCC.

## Progress Overview on the EPSO: Core Deliverables

The establishment of the EPSO and development of the core deliverables of the office has continued throughout Q3 & Q4 2022.

### 1. Operational Developments

#### Recruitment:

##### **Strategic Objective Alignment: 2; 6; 7**

The EPSO falls under the CRES Department. Resource recruitment for the EPSO took place during 2021 and 2022 with the office fully resourced now. First team members joined the EU Programme Support Office in July 2021 with the appointment of two graduates on under the Local Government Recruitment drive. Maria Julia Chicotti joins the team under the Marketing & Communications strand and Muskan Sahdev joins the team under the Economic Development & Enterprise strand. A business case was developed and submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for sanctioning of the new EPSO roles. This follows the normal procedure within Local Government for new roles as they are established. Following the approval from the Department, a number of other roles were filled. Maura Carty joins the team from the Arts Office with experience of successful Erasmus+ projects under her belt and Lesley Cowper joins the team from the Communications Department, leading the comms development of the office. The appointment of the Head of the EPSO was completed in Q4 2022 through an external competition, with Ciara O hAodha appointed as Head of EPSO.

#### CRM System: Digital Information Platform

##### **Strategic Objective Alignment: 2; 6; 7**

EPSO have gathered important content which is now available on **CitiDesk**, the City Council's new intranet staff information portal and includes:

- Information about the role of the EPSO
- Dublin City Council's EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021-2027
- Advisory Committee: Terms of Reference and Members
- List of past and existing EU projects where the City Council participated
- EU Policies and Programme information (including links to relevant Commission and Programme webpages)
- Up to date Master List of all **Calls for Proposals** including **Summary** about each Call
- Upcoming Open Days
- National Contact Points
- Potential partner organisations
- Online digital **Training Needs Survey** to assess which areas will be a priority for EPSO to provide DCC staff with the support for improving their understanding of EU Programmes and EU Projects
- Online digital **Staff self-assessment tool** to assist staff aspiring to participate in EU Projects will be a self-assessment questionnaire which could help them with identifying what preparation is needed for engaging in an EU Project
- Online **Template Concept Project Note**

City Councillors and sectoral members can view this information on [www.dublincity.ie](http://www.dublincity.ie) Economic Development & Enterprise pages.

## 2. Corporate Governance

### Strategic Objective Alignment: 5; 6; 7

Dublin City Council has consulted with a number of EU offices located in local authorities around the country and considered it best practice to adopt a cross-departmental strategic approach to the development of projects and the sourcing of funding to achieve the objectives as set out in the Dublin City Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024. This cross-departmental approach to working together and sharing information would ensure that all teams are aware of new and existing projects and funding opportunities in the wider organisation with a view to increasing efficiency. This approach will avoid duplication of work and ensure resources are leveraged most effectively; allow for prioritisation of projects where funding is limited; facilitate projects feeding into each other and allow teams to be aware of the wider scope of work happening internally.

An EPSO Advisory Committee has been established to guide the work of the EPSO. The Committee members are the Executive Managers/Director of Services of the Departments and have held its first meeting and agreed Terms of Reference for the Committee. This Committee will be supported and resourced by EPSO through direct collaboration with each of the heads of Departments. The Q3 meeting took place on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022. On the agenda at the Advisory Committee was a detailed progress report from the office along with outlined proposals for Departmental European workshops and a field trip for the committee and elected representatives.

## 3. EPSO Project Participation Appraisal Process

### Strategic Objective Alignment: 1; 6; 7

An evaluation process has been developed to examine participation in various EU Programme opportunities. The evaluation process is in line with the Dublin City Council Objectives 2020 – 2024; the Dublin City Council EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027 and the EU Goals 2021 – 2027. Elements of the evaluation process are outlined in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Evaluation of EU Involvement: EPSO Matrix Review:**

| EU Goals 2021 - 2027 | Dublin City Council Objectives 2020 – 2024 |                          |                               |                           |  |                               |                         |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                      |  | A Green, Low Carbon City | Safe, Thriving Neighbourhoods | A Strong, Diverse Economy | Compact Growth with Connected Infrastructure | Active, Inclusive Communities | A Vibrant Cultural Life |
|                      | Smarter Europe                             |                          |                               |                           |  |                               |                         |
|                      | Greener, Carbon-Free Europe                |                          |                               |                           |  |                               |                         |
|                      | Connected Europe                           |                          |                               |                           |  |                               |                         |
|                      | Social Europe                              |                          |                               |                           |  |                               |                         |
|                      | Europe Closer to Citizens                  |                          |                               |                           |  |                               |                         |
|                      |  |                          |                               |                           |  |                               |                         |

## Funding Needs Analysis

A Funding Needs Analysis is being carried out by the EPSO to identify key priority funding areas and potential sources of funding for each area and scope out project ideas / foundations of proposals and will create summary documents for each proposal. Based on the analysis, a portfolio of project proposals can be developed with a variety of cross-departmental themes.

EPSO will have a key role to play in targeting and securing external funds that will contribute to the delivery of this Plan and in achieving the objectives and will align all of its activities towards achieving the strategic objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024.

## 4. European Funding Opportunities

### EU Structural Funds Partnership Launched in Dublin

The Venue at Wood Quay hosted the EU Structural Funds Partnership Agreement for Ireland launch in Dublin for the funding period 2021-2027.

The Structural Fund includes 3 Cohesion Policy Funds, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+); as well as the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF).



The agreement sets out Ireland's investment strategy for cohesion funding to support Irish regions in promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion that align with EU priorities. Ireland will get €1.1 billion for the programme period for investment geared towards cohesion policy. With national match funding brings this value to almost €2.4 billion. European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira was at The Venue in her role on behalf of the EU to sign the Ireland's Structural Funds Partnership Agreement, along with Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath and the Directors of the 3 Regional Assemblies across Ireland.

Pictured at the launch is Lord Mayor of Dublin City, Caroline Conroy with European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira and Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath at the launch in Wood Quay of the signing of Ireland's Structural Funds Partnership Agreement

### Dublin City Council European Applications (2021 – 2027)

Under the current European funding programme (2021 – 2027), Dublin City Council has submitted 22 European Funding proposals. These projects fall under a number of European programmes, including Horizon, COSME, Just transition, Erasmus+ and InterReg North West Europe. An overview of the evaluation process of the 22 applications is outlined in Appendix 1 attached. To date 15 have been unsuccessful. 5 continue through the Evaluation process and 2 have been successful.

The 22 projects cover a range of themes and topics across the EU Agenda focus of Green, Digital and Inclusion. The EPSO continues to review and evaluate all unsuccessful projects to support the development of our capacity building for the organisation and the conversion rate to successful projects.





page to the Economic Development Office on best practice. The presentation also became a great opportunity to introduce the EPSO to staff.

The EPSO page has been a success on CitiDesk among Dublin City Council's staff since it went officially live. The engagement rate in terms of the number of views on the EPSO page has increased every month, recording 220 views in May, 292 views in June, 311 in July and 313 in August. In total, the engagement rate of the EPSO page has increased 30% since its launch on the portal.

## Dublin City Council European Project Brochure

As part of the EPSO remit to showcase the organisations success at European level, a European Project Brochure is being developed to showcase 35 previous and current projects which Dublin City Council has been involved in. The projects fall under a number of European Programmes including Horizon Europe, Life Programme, Erasmus+ and InterReg programmes. The 35 projects are from a number of Dublin City Council Departments including CRES, Environment & Transportation, Corporate Services & Transformation, and Housing and Community, amongst others. The brochure highlights the programme, the project overview, the main elements of the project and the European impact on Dublin city. The brochure will be finalised during Q4 and will be ready to be launched in Q1 2023.



## 6. Training & Development Programme

### Strategic Objective Alignment: 2; 3; 6; 7

A training and development programme has been developed for delivery to support the capacity building across the organisation. A two level approach has been developed with an introductory level to support our KPIs of enhanced new engagement of staff at European level and an advanced programme for those who are experienced at EU level projects and to support the development of European project management and partner and network development. The training & development programmes for all stakeholders will be supported by the EPSO

Core Priority 5 will be progressed in the weeks and months ahead in line with the Strategic Objective for capacity building across the organisation.

## EU Funding Webinar Series with Access Europe



A series of webinars focusing on EU Programmes and EU funding practices for staff were hosted by the European Programme Support Office (EPSO) during October and November to support staff in understanding the EU Funding journey. All training sessions were delivered by Access Europe. Access Europe, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, is a support and capacity-building programme for Irish civil society organisations, including Local Government, to better access EU funds and engage in EU policy.

The webinar series consisted of four online seminars showcasing the EU Funding application journey; beginning with an introduction to EU Programmes for those who are new to the area. The series then progressed to a detailed overview of the EU application process with designing projects, building partnerships and writing applications.

The introductory programme is part of the EPSO training & development programme for the organisation and a further series will be delivered in Q1 2023.

## 7. Events

### Strategic Objective Alignment: 4; 5; 6; 7

Research, analysis and a review has taken place on a number of upcoming EU Programme events taking place throughout 2022. Development will continue of the EPSO suite & schedule of events in line with Strategic Objective 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the EU strategy implementation.



## Erasmus+ Projects Showcase Event Arts Office & EPSO Collaboration

Over 86 delegates attended a showcase event to mark the successful conclusion of two Erasmus+ projects in The Venue, Wood Quay hosted by the City Council as lead project partner. Held jointly by the Arts Office and European Programme Support Office (European Office), it celebrated the conclusion of the Erasmus+ funded European projects which supports education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Opened by the Lord Mayor of Dublin City, Caroline Conroy, the collaborative event showcased two Erasmus+ projects, which Dublin City Council lead on. Partners from Spain, Denmark, Finland and Netherlands gathered in our iconic Wood Quay Venue.

Project 1 called Permission to Wonder: Supporting schools to implement the Visual Thinking Strategies method to enhance Learning with Visual Arts (2017-2020) gave educators an opportunity to learn to use the Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) method to facilitate learning with visual art in schools and in cultural institutions with a remit for arts education. Over the course of the project, 664 VTS lessons were given to children and young people, and approximately 2205 students were reached by educators participating in the project. 155 classes were involved in VTS sessions.



Project 2 is called Looking to Understand Inclusion (2020-2023). It looked to understand responses to research findings and needs of partners and educators, which tested the Visual Thinking Strategies training pathway with educators across different educational settings, classroom and museum based, by supporting individual educators to train in the Visual Thinking Strategies methodology. The project works with children, age 2-16, within early childhood education settings, elementary and secondary school education and will support key competencies in literacy, multilingual literacy, citizenship, cultural awareness and expression. The attendees heard from Executive Manager, Tony Flynn, Culture Recreation & Economic Services along with contributions from our Arts Officer, Ray Yeates. The Erasmus+ Programme & National Contact Point from Léargas, Deirdre Finlay also addressed the audience. She was followed by the National Council for Curriculum (NCCA) and Assessment's, Chief Executive Officer, Arlene Forster and the NCCA's Education Officer, Fred Boss. An overview of the projects and their successes was given by the City Council's Liz Coman, Project Manager, Erasmus+. The LAB Gallery's Sheena Barrett showcased Visual Thinking Strategies method.

The Erasmus+ projects showcase event, highlights the City Council's success in gaining EU funding and leading EU projects. This is the beginning of a series of analysis of EU funding applications by the European Office for the benefit of the wider organisation. Case studies on project successes will help other colleagues to learn from their counterparts on how they went about their application, the learnings along the way and the outcomes and impacts.

## Network Developments:

### *Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) & Irish Regions European Office (IREO)*

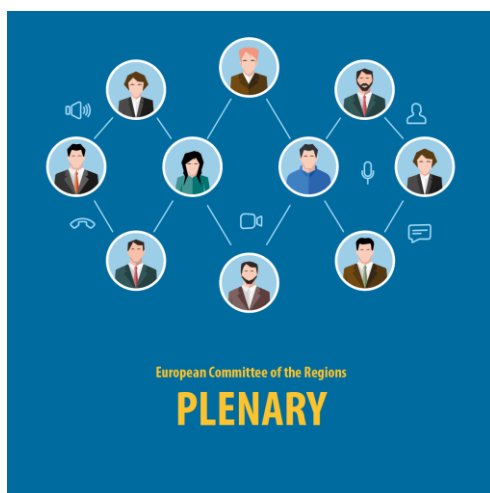
The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) undertook a two-day study visit to Brussels in late October 2022. The study visit found the delegation of seven Councillors and EMRA Director, Jim Conway, undertaking a packed two-day itinerary of policy lectures and meetings.

The delegation of Councillors met with a range of officials from the Irish Permanent Representation to the EU, the Irish Members of the European Parliament, representatives of Irish business and enterprise organisations, European Commission officials and representatives of local government networks. Dublin City Council was represented with Cllr Mary Freehill and Cllr Janet Horner in attendance.



The group were briefed on issues such as Brexit, EU / UK relations, cohesion policy, environmental policy, agricultural policy and Ireland's economic outlook. In addition, the delegation were provided with information on EU funding opportunities for local government. In addition, elected members were provided with information on how to ensure their local authority can participate and build partnerships across the EU.

### *EU Committee of the Regions*



Coinciding with the European Week of Cities and Regions, the members of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) held its 151<sup>st</sup> plenary session on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. The plenary week placed a spotlight on the power of harnessing local and regional governance.

Dublin City Councillor, Cllr. Alison Gilliland presented her opinion 'Towards a structural inclusion of Cities and Regions in UNFCCC COP27' to the plenary. Cllr. Gilliland's opinion focuses on the importance of local and regional interventions in combatting climate change. The plenary session had a packed agenda and an array of opinions voted upon. The plenary session also included opinions on

protecting industrial and craft geographical indications in the EU, Just and sustainable transition in the context of the coal and energy-intensive regions as well as an opinion on the European Chips Act to strengthen the European semiconductor ecosystem.

## Euro Cities

Dublin City Council holds active membership with EuroCities. Eurocities is the network of more than 200 cities in 38 countries, representing 130 million people, working together to ensure a good quality of life for all. The European Commission actively engage with EuroCities on policy development. With a large volume of policy forums across multiple subject matters, Dublin City Council has representation on each forum. Both in person and virtual forum meetings continue across Q4 2022 and into 2023.

## International Relations

### *Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding between Dublin and City of Dublin, Ohio*

The Protocol Committee at their meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022, agreed to renew the Memorandum of Understanding between Dublin and the City of Dublin, Ohio for a 4 year period. Areas where immediate collaboration can begin have been identified:

- Culture including a link with the Dublin Irish Festival
- Smart Cities
- Citizen Engagement
- Decarbonizing zone as part of prioritising works on a green, low carbon city

### *Delegations visiting Dublin*

- **Hanoi, Vietnam** A Delegation from City of Hanoi, Vietnam led by Mr Nguyen M goc Tuan the Vice Chairman of Ha Noi People's Committee met with the Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy, Chief Executive Owen Keegan and senior officials of Dublin City Council on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in the Mansion House. The main goal of the meeting was to enhance the cooperative relations between the two capital cities and for the delegation from Hanoi to exchange information and learn from Dublin City's experiences in planning and monitoring policy implementation, urban planning and development policies, environmental protection, high-tech application on urban governing. Amongst the items discussed was :
  - How impressed the delegation was with the urban planning, urban development and transportation in Dublin City.
  - The developing of international relationships. The relationship between Vietnam and Ireland is celebrating 26 years and an invitation was extended for a delegation from Dublin to visit Hanoi.
  - The 6 year Development Plan for the city which includes provision of new homes, infrastructure, schools and facilities.
  - Plans for a Metro and the expansion of the Bus Network and move towards walking and cycling.
  - How Councillors are elected in Dublin and the role of the Lord Mayor of Dublin.

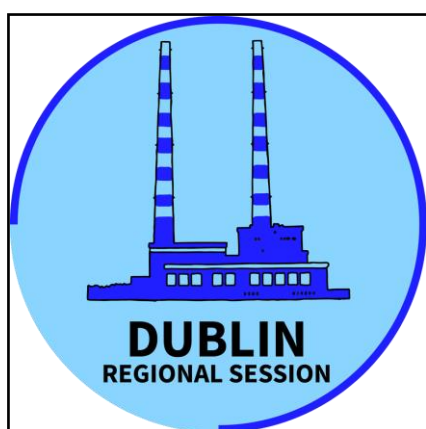




- **Poland Mazowieckie Voivodeship** (Central region of Poland which includes the Capital City of Warsaw). Two representatives from the Polish delegation met with Ross Curley and Paul Berry of Economic Development and the Local Enterprise Office on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022. The Polish guests had a brief to gain a better understanding of how cities support the economic ecosystem and had developed a questionnaire which aided their research. Dublin gave two presentations on how Dublin City promotes and supports Economic Development and provided as much detail to the Questionnaire as they could.



### *The Dublin Regional Session of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) Ireland – Oct 21st – 23<sup>rd</sup>*



Dublin City Council supported the Dublin Regional Session of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) held in Killiney from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Dublin City Council provided financial support to the DEIS delegate scheme for the Session which resulted in the attendance of 20 delegates from the Dublin City Council administrative area at the Session.

Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy attended the Opening Ceremony on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and spoke to the delegates. She praised the support of the City Council which ensured wealth is not a barrier to debating and that all students are

afforded the opportunity to find their voice through debating and discussions on important social hardships. The European Youth Parliament has helped many students find their voice and encouraged them to explore social causes, step out of their comfort zone and learn in a safe environment.



## Appendix 1: Dublin City Council European Applications 2021 – 2027



| Project        | Subject Matter   | Area / Theme / Topic | Programme    | Stage                                   |
|----------------|--|----------------------|--------------|---|
| CITIPART       | Citizen participation in European municipality affairs through human-centred and ethical use of extended reality technologies                  | Green                | HORIZON      | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| SIREU          | Start Up in Residence Europe   | Digital              | COSME        | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| GreenFlow      | GreenFlow: Mindful cities with citizens empowered through environmental awareness  | Green                | H2020        | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| DR RUBICON     | One Digital Ring to Rule and Bind all the phases of a Circular economy in the built environment  | Digital              | H2020        | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| KAİROS         | Key climate Adaptation & Innovation for RegiOnS  | Green                | H2020        | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| STARBOARD      | Smarter solutions Addressing Ring BuOy tAmpeRing anD theft   | Digital              | HORIZON      | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| SWEET          | Sustainable and contributory Wide Ethical and Ecological Territories   | Green                | H2020        | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| REBECOS        | REBECOS: REstoring coastal and marine Biodiversity and ECOSystem services  | Green                | H2020        | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| DublinCoC      | Dublin: A Champion of Change   | Digital              | HORIZON      | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| DATASHOP       | FAIR and Trustworthy Data Sharing and Monetization Platforms   | Digital              | HORIZON      | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| EDRIM          | European Drug Related Intimidation Model   | Inclusion            | JUST         | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| AICEP          | All Ireland Approach for a Circular Economy in Plastics and associated resources   | Green                | H2020        | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| LAROSI         | Local Action and Resilience through Open Social Innovation   | Inclusion            | COSME        | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| SRPP           | Socially Responsible Public Procurement  | Inclusion            | COSME        | Evaluation – Not Successful             |
| CRUISING       | Create safer Urban environments for vulnerable road users using innovative technologies  | Mobility             | HORIZON      | Evaluation – On Reserve List            |
| ACCRED         | KA120-ADU - Erasmus accreditation in adult education - Round 1   | Culture              | Erasmus+     | Evaluation - Stage 1 – Awaiting Results |
| XChange        | XChange - Cities for People  | Mobility             | HORIZON      | Evaluation – Stage 1 – Awaiting Results |
| NB4U           | Testing and demonstrating transformative solutions on climate resilience, mainstreaming nature based solutions in the systemic transformation. | Sustainability       | HORIZON      | Evaluation - Stage 1 – Awaiting Results |
| CULTIVATE      | CULTIVATE: CO-DESIGNING FOOD SHARING INNOVATION FOR RESILIENCE   | Sustainability       | HORIZON      | Evaluation – Stage 2 – Awaiting Results |
| BeProAct       | Priority: Innovation & Resilience  | Mobility             | Interreg NWE | Evaluation – Stage 2 – Awaiting Results |
| CrAft Cities   | Creating Actionable Futures Project  | Sustainability       | HORIZON      | Successful - Awarded                    |
| NetZero Cities | 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission   | Sustainability       | HORIZON      | Successful - Awarded                    |