



To be released immediately

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EURE starts investigating solutions to the new urban challenges faced by low populated urban areas in Europe towards resource efficiency and sustainability

While many actions aiming to improve resource efficiency and sustainability in Europe are implemented by cities of small dimensions, low populated urban areas are relatively underrepresented in the European debate aiming to define the EU agenda for urban policies. Partners of the EURE project gathered in Brest, France, on 19-20 November 2019 to draw a map of upcoming actions to be implemented under this European-funded project.

Brest, France – After two days of meeting, partners of the Interreg Europe [EURE](#) project concluded that **small and low populated cities have a central role to play at European level to solve the new urban challenges requiring the investigation of innovative strategies of sustainable development.** For that, collaboration is fundamental, not only to improve local urban policies but also to get the attention low populated urban areas deserve from European bodies when it comes to environmental management and improved resource efficiency.

Cooperation was indeed at the core of this **second meeting of the project**, hosted on 19-20 November 2019 by Atlantic Cities, the French partner of EURE. Project partners and a pool of selected experts gathered in Brest to work on one of the first outcomes of EURE: **a joint report detailing how the funds allocated by article 7 of the European Regional Development Fund Regulation are being used on partners' territories.** This catalogue of **policies, actions, good practices, and recommendations** will be fed by **regional reports describing the state of play of the urban environmental policy instruments** in each territory covered by EURE. In addition to defining a common structure for the regional reports, participants of the meeting highlighted urban issues to be tackled by the project. The identified topics, which will be adapted to the priorities of each territory, cover waste and water management, sustainable mobility, cooperation between local authorities within the same regions and social issues.

Thanks to this meeting, the EURE partners got the opportunity to better apprehend the urban issues identified as central in **the sustainable development of the Brittany region.** **Energy transition** was in particular highlighted, with efforts being made on increasing the share of renewable energies and reducing the carbon footprint of both public and private buildings. A study visit was included in the meeting to show solutions developed to face these challenges. **Brest is among the first local authorities in France to develop an Integrated Climate Plan** with four dimensions (Local Urban Plan, Local Habitat Program, Urban Travel Plan and Territorial Climate-Energy Plan), a climate strategy that afterwards inspired the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) of the Covenant of Mayors. Partners visited some of the actions developed under this strategy, namely a large urban renewal operation at the “Capucins” eco-neighbourhood, the Technopole Brest-Iroise and the biomass boiler in the Spennot area. In this way, local stakeholders could also take part in the exchange process and share their experiences with the EURE project.

More information:

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The [EURE project](#) – **Effectiveness of Environmental Urban policies to improve Resources Efficiency** – proposes the exchange of experiences as a way to improve the environmental performance management of EU urban spaces, including the urban areas with a low population density.

