

EcoRIS3

Policies & Measures to Support Local & Regional Innovation Ecosystems

**How cities outside the partnership adapted to
Covid-19**
Bretagne, France
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1 Foreword

Formerly known as the Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities, [Atlantic Cities](#) is a territorial cooperation network, based on the specific identity of the Atlantic Arc Cities, which currently brings together 18 members from 4 European countries: France, Ireland, Portugal, and Spain (Figure 1).

Atlantic Cities represents the interests of the European Atlantic Arc Cities towards the European institutions. Its main objective is to support and help Atlantic cities to develop through territorial cooperation, promoting cohesion and strengthening the competitiveness of the territories.

Another activity of the European network Atlantic Cities is the promotion of dynamic and direct relations between cities through cooperation with other networks.

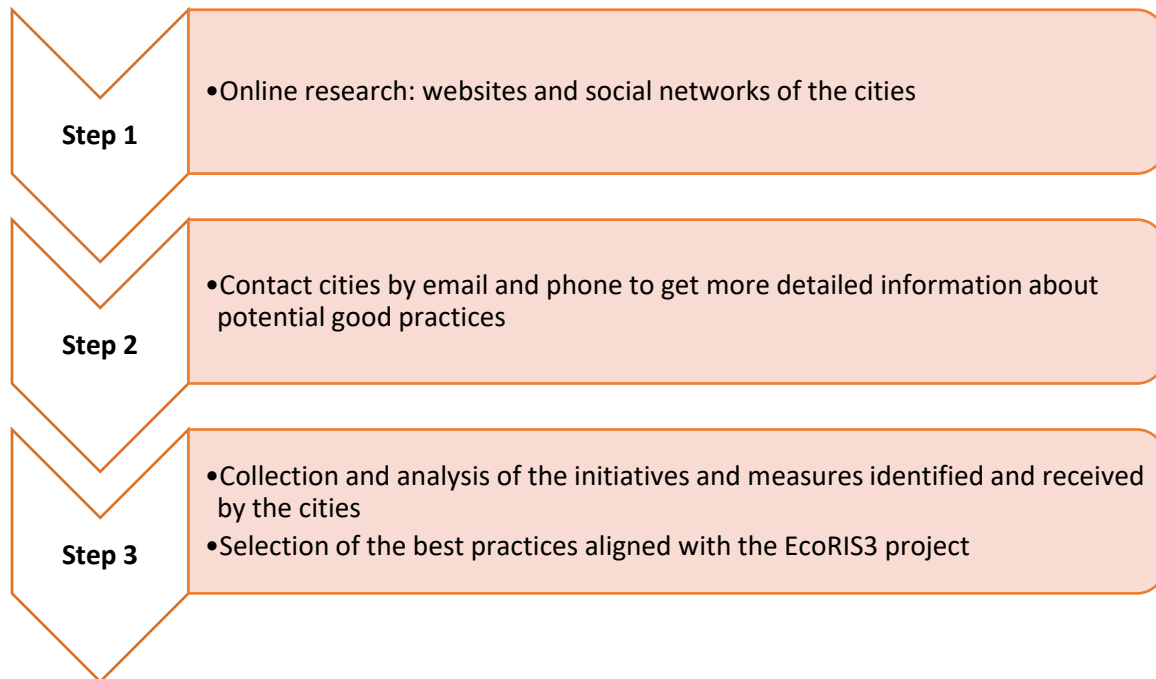


Figure 1. Members of the Atlantic Cities. Source: Google Earth (Adapted by Atlantic Cities).

Following this context and in the framework of the EcoRIS3 project, Atlantic Cities has as mission, to **identify a set of Good Practices of innovative character of its member cities, in the context of Covid-19**, namely the initiatives carried out **between 2020 and 2022**.

This mission also aims to **share these Good Practices with the other partners of the EcoRIS3 project and potential stakeholders**. In particular, such as the initiatives of transformation and digital innovation that allowed, in this context, the promotion of sustainable enterprises, contributing to regional economic growth and employment.

Therefore, Atlantic Cities implemented the following work methodology:



This document is the culmination of the work methodology described above, presenting the main good practices identified in recovery in a Covid context of some of Atlantic Cities member cities, namely from the following cities:

- [Cork](#), Ireland
- [Viana do Castelo](#), Portugal
- [Lisbon](#), Portugal
- [Faro](#), Portugal
- [A Coruña](#), Spain
- [Gijón](#), Spain
- [Brest](#), France
- [Rennes](#), France

In the next chapter, we present each of these good practices in detail.

2 Good practices of the Atlantic Cities

2.1 Cork, Ireland

Title of the practice	“Re-imagining Cork City” Initiative
Specific objective	“Re-imagining Cork City” represents an immediate response to social distancing requirements resulting from Covid-19 but also an acceleration of the City Council’s vision for a city of sustainable urban growth.
The main institution involved	Cork City Council
Location of the practice	Cork, Ireland
Period of implementation	2020-2022
Detailed information on the practice	<p>The main “Reimagination” interventions undertaken since 2020 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrianisation interventions in the city centre on 17 streets; • New bike parking facilities - 50 locations; • Extended Street Furniture Licenses; • Enhanced cycling infrastructure; • CityTrees moss walls (with sensors/IoT) to improve air quality; • Urban parklets – new community interaction spaces; • “Greening” the City – attractive spaces to visit; • Temporary footpath extensions to facilitate reimagination; • City Centre branding initiative – friendly & welcoming signage. <p>The city also carried out the direct engagement with communities and businesses and with wide stakeholders through the portal consult.corkcity.ie.</p>
Sources of the information	Cork City Council

2.2 Viana do Castelo, Portugal

Title of the practice	Economic measures to combat COVID-19 by the Municipality of Viana do Castelo
Specific objective	Within the scope of the COVID-19 disease, the municipality of Viana do Castelo has implemented a wide range of mitigation and incremental actions and measures for the various sectors of economic activity in the municipality as a way of boosting activities and guaranteeing income for economic agents, employees and families.
The main institution involved	Municipality of Viana do Castelo
Location of the practice	Viana do Castelo, Norte, Portugal
Period of implementation	2020-2022
Detailed information on the practice	<p>Creation of the portal "Work In Viana" that brings together various opportunities for companies, thus enabling the capture of new talent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platform that provides information bringing talents and companies together: information about companies, employment opportunities, as well as news and information about schools, courses, and training in the city. • Platform that provides data for statistical analysis of job matching success rates. <p>Set of mitigation and enhancement actions and measures, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension and Enlargement of the "<i>+ Viana à Esplanada</i>" Programme to provide operating conditions and ensure the sustainability and economic viability of micro and small businesses in the catering, drinking, and pastry sectors; • Incentive Regulation for 2022: various tax reductions and exemptions.
Sources of the information	Viana do Castelo City Council

2.3 Lisbon, Portugal

Title of the practice	Economic measures to combat COVID-19 by the Municipality of Lisbon
Specific objective	Exceptional measures to be able to respond on time to the coronavirus crisis
The main institution involved	Municipality of Lisbon
Location of the practice	Lisbon, Metropolitan area of Lisbon, Portugal
Period of implementation	2020-2022
Detailed information on the practice	<p>Creation of the portal "Mercado Made of Lisbon". A platform that brings together the challenges of companies or institutions with the skills and solutions of Lisbon's entrepreneurial ecosystem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of the Lisbon Entrepreneurial Ecosystem which allows finding all the innovators, companies, and innovation spaces in the city; • Directory of places, people, and companies that belongs to the Lisbon Entrepreneurial Ecosystem; • Publication and consultation of articles from the "Made of Lisbon" community; • Calendar of events, meetings, and gatherings scheduled in the city. <p>This initiative was suspended and was limited to the acute and initial period of the pandemic.</p> <p>However, the support service of the "Lisboa Empreende + Programme (LE+)" is still active. LE+ offers, free of charge, together with a wide group of partners, specialised support to help companies to reinforce internal competencies at the management level (HR, digitalisation, communication, marketing, operational areas, etc.) to get through the current crisis and start preparing the economic recovery in the post-COVID19 period.</p> <p>More information from the programme LE+ here.</p>
Sources of the information	Lisbon City Council Made of Lisbon Team

2.4 Faro, Portugal

Title of the practice	Support measures adopted by the Municipality of Faro
Specific objective	Exceptional measures to be able to respond on time to the various requests from local and national authorities and to contain the economic and social damage that the crisis imposed on the municipality, its families, companies, and associative movement.
The main institution involved	Municipality of Faro
Location of the practice	Faro, Algarve, Portugal
Period of implementation	2020-2021
Detailed information on the practice	<p>Set of measures to prevent and combat the pandemic, to support companies and to support families, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative "Algarve + digital", acceleration of the implementation of online procedures to obtain licenses; • Initiative "Simplex 2", acceleration of the implementation of dematerialization of administrative procedures in general; • Implementation of the Wi-fi network in the entire Historic Centre of Faro; • Creation of a municipal regulation to support private renting, seeking to minimize the effects of the crisis on the economy of families with fewer resources; • Municipal Regulation on Support for the Rehabilitation/Beneficiation of the Degraded Housing of Disadvantaged Social Strata; • Reinforcement of the municipal support program for associations; • Various tax reductions and exemptions; • Among other measures to stimulate the economy.
Sources of the information	Faro City Council

2.5 A Coruña, Spain

Title of the practice	Plan Economic and Social Reactivation Plan of the City Council of A Coruña
Specific objective	Economic reactivation program aimed at boosting consumption in local establishments and supporting small and medium-sized businesses in the city of A Coruña
The main institution involved	Municipality of A Coruña
Location of the practice	A Coruña, Galicia, Spain
Period of implementation	2020-2021
Detailed information on the practice	<p>2nd edition PRESCO plan vouchers in A Coruña to be redeemed for purchases in local shops, hairdressing and beauty salons, hotels, cultural events, and taxis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a free Wallet-type application, as the voucher will have a digital format via a QR code. This code will be displayed in those participating establishments so that the merchant can read it through a particular App. Merchants have to enter the amount of the purchase in the app and the discount will automatically appear to apply. <p>According to data from the City Council of A Coruña, more than 50,000 people downloaded the activated discount vouchers in 2021. A total of 40 small shops reached the peak of €5,000 in discounts in 2021.</p>
Sources of the information	A Coruña City Council website

2.6 Gijón, Spain

Title of the practice	Support measures adopted by the Municipality of Gijón
Specific objective	Exceptional measures to be able to respond on time to the coronavirus crisis
The main institution involved	Municipality of Gijón
Location of the practice	Gijón, Asturias, Spain
Period of implementation	2020-2021
Detailed information on the practice	<p>Set of measures to prevent and combat the pandemic, to support companies and to support families, such as:</p> <p>Suspension of payments from companies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The city council has suspended the payment of loans granted by “Gijón Impulsa” as well as the payment of the rental and services provided to the companies located in municipal buildings. <p>Support to small shops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The city council has launched a campaign to support the small grocery shops during the confinement period. <p>Other social measures are described here.</p>
Sources of the information	EUROCITIES : City overviews of measures

2.7 Brest, France

Title of the practice	Support measures adopted by the Brest metropolis
Specific objective	Exceptional measures to be able to respond on time to the coronavirus crisis
The main institution involved	Brest metropolis
Location of the practice	Metropolitan area of Brest, Brittany, France
Period of implementation	2020-2021
Detailed information on the practice	<p>Set of measures to prevent and combat the pandemic, to support companies and to support families, such as:</p> <p>Staying with locals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brest metropolis and its local partners have created a support system to sustain the local economy <p>Culture is online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brest's population has digital access to books, films, music, cartoons, art collections, and sports and language courses. The city's cultural sector was also mobilized for educational purposes, such as creating educational online games, or scientific experiments <p>Other social measures are described here.</p>
Sources of the information	<p>EUROCITIES: City overviews of measures</p> <p>Brest metropolis</p>

2.8 Rennes, France

Title of the practice	Support measures adopted by the Rennes metropolis
Specific objective	Exceptional measures to be able to respond on time to the coronavirus crisis
The main institution involved	Rennes metropolis
Location of the practice	Metropolitan area of Rennes, Brittany, France
Period of implementation	2020-2021
Detailed information on the practice	<p>Set of measures to prevent and combat the pandemic, to support companies and to support families, such as:</p> <p>Reading corner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Rennes has compiled an online ‘reading corner’ full of publications, long stories, podcasts, interviews with inhabitants, videos, and links to cultural sites among other items. <p>Citizen factory platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An online platform has been offered to residents to shared good practices to improve people’s lives during confinement. The site hosts a collection of current and proposed initiatives. <p>Other social measures are described here.</p>
Sources of the information	EUROCITIES : City overviews of measures

3 Conclusions

This chapter presents the main final considerations of the Atlantic Cities regarding the work done.

It should be noted, on the one hand, that most of the measures and policies carried out by the Atlantic Cities have a socio-economic character, especially the initiatives carried out in 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic.

On the other hand, we identify other types of initiatives of an economic character, namely:

- urban planning – city sustainable urban growth;
- Communication and territorial branding;
- Support for the entrepreneurial ecosystem and associations, including through digital solutions and virtual events;
- Housing support;
- Financial support for micro and small businesses;
- Support for the cultural and creative sector;
- Various tax reductions and exemptions for citizens and companies;
- Creation of virtual platforms for citizens' involvement in public policies.

In this sense, Atlantic Cities consider that some of these good practices could be good examples of mitigation and adaptation to Covid-19. This context has allowed us to rethink cities, making them more pleasant, safer, greener and resilient.