



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

**Commission for  
the Environment,  
Climate Change and Energy**

**ENVE**

# **Towards sustainable neighbourhoods and small communities – Environmental policy below municipal level**



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Catalogue number: QG-02-20-110-EN-N; ISBN: 978-92-895-1032-5; doi:10.2863/818680

**This report was written by Marco Cuevas, Carlo Miani, Hugo Ruiz and Evelyn Clara Rosenberg (adelphi consult GmbH, Germany).**

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# List of Abbreviations

<b>CLI</b>	Community-led Initiatives
<b>CoR</b>	Committee of Regions
<b>ENVE</b>	Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>SMU</b>	Sub Municipal Units
<b>ORP</b>	Municipalities with extended powers (Czechia)
<b>SIG</b>	Special Interest Group
<b>SMIG</b>	Sub Municipal Initiatives Grid
<b>SV</b>	Smart Village
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference

# Summary

The present study has been undertaken in the frame of the Draft Opinion “*Towards sustainable neighbourhoods and small communities - Environment policy below municipal level*”. It took place from late October 2019 until early January 2020 and seeks to enrich the policy analysis on the sub-municipal level that was prepared by the secretariat of ENVE<sup>1</sup>, and thereby provide further material to support preparation and presentation of the Draft Opinion mentioned above.

This document is the Final Report of the study and corresponds to Deliverable 2 of Specific Contract Nr CDR.9437, framework contract CDR/TL1/68/2016/2.

The scope and content of this document follows the terms of reference provided to adelphi consult GmbH by the Committee of the Regions, Directorate for Legislative Works 1, and has been tailored in accordance with the consultations sustained with Mrs. Iris Urban and Mr. Stefano Panozzo.

The study comprises four parts. Research for each part of the study is summarized in the following paragraphs of this section.

## **Part 1a: List of Formal Structures at the Sub Municipal Level and Their Role in Environmental Policy.**

Preparation of the list of formal structures at the sub municipal level was accomplished through the review of existing legal structures in the 28 EU Member States. Review focused on two sets of legal instruments: i) the national constitution and ii) specific laws on self-government (i.e. Self-Government Act, Municipal Government Law), of each Member State. Detailed research was used to prepare the list shown in Part 1a, which centres on the formal structures foreseen by the Law at sub-municipal level, their role in the implementation of environmental policy and links to sources of information.

The list permits an overview of the existing situation of legislation for the sub municipal level in the 28 EU member-states and realization of a policy gap analysis (see table in the following page). This analysis shows that 22 Member States have in place legislation pertaining to formal structures at the sub municipal level (79%), while the remaining 6 member states don't yet have legislation in that matter (21%).

<sup>1</sup> Commission on the Environment, Climate Change and Energy, <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Pages/enve.aspx>

A summary of the gap analysis is contained in the following table

		<b>SMU Legislation</b>			
		<b>Constitution</b>	<b>Other Law</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1	<b>Austria</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
2	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
3	<b>Bulgaria</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
4	<b>Croatia</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>1</b>	
5	<b>Cyprus</b>				<b>1</b>
6	<b>Czechia</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
7	<b>Denmark</b>				<b>1</b>
8	<b>Estonia</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>1</b>	
9	<b>Finland</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
10	<b>France</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
11	<b>Germany</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
12	<b>Greece</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
13	<b>Hungary</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
14	<b>Ireland</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
15	<b>Italy</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
16	<b>Latvia</b>				<b>1</b>
17	<b>Lithuania</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
18	<b>Luxembourg</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
19	<b>Malta</b>				<b>1</b>
20	<b>Netherlands</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
21	<b>Poland</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
22	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
23	<b>Roumania</b>				<b>1</b>
24	<b>Slovakia</b>				<b>1</b>
25	<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
26	<b>Spain</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
27	<b>Sweden</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
28	<b>United Kingdom</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>1</b>	
				<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>

Except for the cases of Croatia and Estonia, there are functioning sub municipal units in all the 22 member states whose law foresees formal structures at the sub municipal level. However, in most cases, it is left to the discretion of municipalities to determine the powers of their sub municipal units. Nevertheless, in the cases of Finland, Italy and Portugal, sub-municipal units have a clearly delineated role in the implementation of environmental policies.



## Part 1b: Specific Arrangements and Conditions of Particular Communities

Identification of possible arrangements was attained by first looking at conditions in particular communities, such as urban neighbourhoods, mountain hamlets, rural villages and small islands and then by identifying the challenges affecting these communities, especially regarding the environment. Based on research for part 2, it could be inferred that most particular communities get organised into neighbourhood groups to confront challenges. These groups could be either associations that promote the general improvement of the neighbourhood, or special interest neighbourhood groups, which target a specific environmental challenge. Some of these groups remain informally organised and some others evolve into more formal structures such as cooperatives. To exemplify and summarize the possible arrangements at the sub-municipal level, the following grid was prepared:

Specific Environmental Challenge	Particular Community				Examples of Special Interest Group (SIG)
	Urban Neighbourhood	Mountain Hamlet	Rural Village	Small Island	
Transport	x				Urban Neighbourhood SIG for Transport
Energy		x			Mountain Hamlet SIG for Energy
Water			x		Rural Village SIG for Water
Food				x	Small Island SIG for Food (self-sufficiency)
Air Quality	x				Urban Neighbourhood SIG for Air Quality
Community		x			Mountain Hamlet SIG for Community (strengthening)
Biodiversity			x		Rural Village SIG for Biodiversity
Pollution				x	Small Island SIG for Pollution

Green Areas	x				Urban Neighbourhood SIG for Green Areas
Waste		x			Mountain Hamlet SIG for Waste
Circular Economy			x		Rural Village SIG for Circular Economy
Agriculture				x	Small Island SIG for Agriculture

## Part 2: Typologies of Environmental Participatory Activities Organized by Municipalities and Civil Society Below the Municipal Level

Locally generated structures, or community-led initiatives (CLI) have become an important force for the implementation of environmental actions and in the fight against climate change, evidence of which is provided by their large numbers and widespread presence throughout the EU. According with a recent study prepared by TESS<sup>2</sup>, it is difficult to estimate the number of CLIs in Europe. Recent surveys, such as the SUSY survey<sup>3</sup> on the social solidarity economy revealed up to 2 million CLIs in Europe. Bearing in mind that many of these figures are based on partial data and may omit large numbers of initiatives, the scope and diversity of community-led action on sustainability and climate change in Europe, while unknown, is vast. In order to provide a wide sample of participatory activities, a sectoral grid was prepared, based on the specific arrangements identified in Part 1b. Following, a summary table of the initiatives selected, which are described in greater detail in Part 2.

Name of the Initiative	Sector
Cycloperativa	Transport / Waste / Circular Economy
Alhambra Kitchen Garden	Food / Community / Green Areas
Ethel Street Friends and Neighbours Community Alliance (F.A.N)	Community / Green Areas
The Kilfinan Community Forest Company	Green Areas / Biodiversity
BeeUrban (urban bee conservation)	Biodiversity
Antwerp Circular South	Waste / Circular Economy
Repair Café	Waste / Circular Economy
Leeds Community Cloth Exchange	Waste / Circular Economy

<sup>2</sup> Report from TESS (Toward European Societal Sustainability) cited by ECOLISE (European Network for Community-led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability) in its Status Report 2019

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sdgwatcheurope.org/susy-map-mapping-the-social-solidarity-economy-initiatives-all-over-europe/>

Liege in Transition	Food supply / Circular Economy
Aardehuis	Energy/ Community / Circular Economy / Other
Quartier Durable Citoyens	Community
TAST'in Fives – urban redevelopment and neighbourhood kitchen	Community

### **Part 3: Environment Programmes, Projects and Networks Organized at European, National and Regional Level for Neighbourhoods and Small Communities.**

Cases identified for this part of the study correspond to five categories: urban neighbourhoods, mountain hamlets, rural villages, small islands, following the same categorization used in Part 1b, plus one additional category to include some examples of digital platforms and social sustainability/solidarity platforms. Following, a summary table of the programmes, projects and networks identified, which are described in greater detail in Part 3.

Community	Case
Urban Neighbourhood	Positive Energy Districts (PED)-Programme
	Climate Active Neighbourhoods (CAN)
	MUV – Mobility Urban Values
	Cities-4-People
	Metamorphosis
	SUNRISE - Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods - Research and Implementation Support in Europe
Mountain Hamlets	Euromontana
Rural Village	Smart Villages – Rural Areas
Small Island	Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat
Other	ECOLISE – European Network for Community-led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability



# Part 1a: List of Formal Structures at the Sub Municipal Level and Their Role in Environmental Policy

According with ToR, this part of the study *compiles a list of existing typologies of structures below the municipal level in all Member states and their role in environmental policy. This list includes structures formally foreseen by the Law.* To prepare this list, the consultant has reviewed existing legal structures of all Member States, focusing on two sets of instruments: i) the national constitution and ii) Specific laws on self-government (i.e. Self-Government Act, Municipal Government Law). This includes for Member States: the formal structures foreseen by the Law at sub-municipal level, their role in the implementation of environmental policy and links to sources of information.

<b>1. AUSTRIA</b>
<b>1.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level</b>
At the sub-municipal level, the constitution foresees the formation of <i>self-administering bodies</i> to “take care of public interests being in their exclusive or preponderant common interest”. Vienna, Graz, and Klagenfurt are statutory cities divided into districts, which are subdivisions of local administration contemplated by local laws. These municipal districts could be seen as SMUs. There are 15 statutory cities in Austria. Constituencies of districts elect a district assembly (Bezirksvertretung), which in turn elect the district’s commissioners (Bezirksvorsteher).
<b>1.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy</b>
There is no specification of the role of formal structures at the sub-municipal level in national laws. Devolved functions to the sub-municipal level are defined by municipalities.
<b>1.3 Sources of Information</b>
<a href="https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Erv/ERV_1930_1/ERV_1930_1.pdf">https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Erv/ERV_1930_1/ERV_1930_1.pdf</a> <a href="http://constitutionnet.org/sites/default/files/Austria%20FULL_%20Constitution.pdf">http://constitutionnet.org/sites/default/files/Austria%20FULL_%20Constitution.pdf</a> <a href="https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_member_state_law-6-at-en.do?member=1">https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_member_state_law-6-at-en.do?member=1</a>

## 2. BELGIUM

### 2.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Generally, the municipal level in Belgium is the smallest administrative subdivision. However, the Law foresees that in municipalities of more than 100.000 inhabitants, administrative entities with elected councils could be created on the initiative of the local council. So far, only three cities – Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges – have set up the legal framework to do so. Antwerp counts with nine districts, which are in fact SMUs.

### 2.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

In Belgium, SUMs in Antwerp are responsible for maintenance, design, redesign, and local traffic interventions of streets and public spaces. They are also responsible for youth programmes and infrastructure, including design, redesign and maintenance of playgrounds<sup>4</sup>. At present, no role is foreseen in environmental policy.

### 2.3 Sources of Information

[https://www.dekamer.be/kvvcr/pdf\\_sections/publications/constitution/GrondwetUK.pdf](https://www.dekamer.be/kvvcr/pdf_sections/publications/constitution/GrondwetUK.pdf)

[https://www.belgium.be/en/about\\_belgium/government/Communes](https://www.belgium.be/en/about_belgium/government/Communes)

<sup>4</sup> Hlepas et Al (2018), “Sub-Municipal Governance in Europe : Decentralization Beyond the Municipal Tier”

## 3. BULGARIA

### 3.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

There are 264 municipalities in Bulgaria, which are sub-divided into smaller administrative subdivisions. There were 5.267 sub-municipal divisions in 2015, of which there are around 2.500 mayoralties defined as “deconcentrated municipal units”. SMUs with at least 350 inhabitants could be set up by the municipal council, governed by elected councils. The three primary Bulgarian cities are sub-divided into districts or *raions* (24 in Sofia, 6 in Plovdiv and 5 in Varna).

### 3.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

The Local Self-Government and Local Administration Act (1991) define competences of municipalities, which are divided into two categories: competencies delegated by the State and municipal own responsibilities. As such, it is possible that SMUs (mayoralties and districts) perform actions linked to environmental policy.

### 3.3 Sources of Information

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/law-reference/constitution-republic-bulgaria-24>  
[https://e-justice.europa.eu/content\\_member\\_state\\_law-6-bg-en.do?member=1](https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_member_state_law-6-bg-en.do?member=1)  
[https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/main-executive-and-legislative-bodies-12\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/main-executive-and-legislative-bodies-12_en)  
[https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR\\_structures\\_and\\_competences\\_2016\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR_structures_and_competences_2016_EN.pdf)

## 4. CROATIA

### 4.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

According to the 2006 Act, Croatia has 127 towns/cities and 428 municipalities<sup>5</sup>. There is no specific mentioning of sub-municipal units in Croatian Law. However, article 134 of the constitution foresees that “Forms of community-level self-government may be established in a community or any part thereof”. Article 134 does not specify the way these community-level entities should be governed.

### 4.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

Community level self-government structures, which are in practice SMUs, are foreseen in Croatian Law. Therefore, it is plausible that these structures could be used for the implementation of environmental policy, possibly under supervision of the municipalities concerned.

### 4.3 Sources of Information

<https://croatia.eu/article.php?lang=2&id=30>

<https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/hr/hr060en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/default.aspx>



## 5. CYPRUS

### 5.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Municipal government in Cyprus is ruled by the Municipalities Law of 1985 which does not foresee a sub-municipal level. However, there existed in Cyprus, until 1974<sup>6</sup>, an old system of parishes or *enories* with full civil and religious administrative organization. Some cities, such as Laphitos, still keep the old division of *enories*, but without any significant administrative capacity.

### 5.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

Cypriot Law does not foresee a role for formal structures at the sub-municipal level.

### 5.3 Sources of Information

<http://www.partylaw.leidenuniv.nl/party-law/4c8b8962-6c8c-43fb-8c95-19057287acdc.pdf>

[http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country\\_profiles/Cyprus.pdf](http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Cyprus.pdf)

[https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR\\_structures\\_and\\_competences\\_2016\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR_structures_and_competences_2016_EN.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Turkish invasion of Cyprus

## 6. CZECHIA

### 6.1 5.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Municipal Law defines SMUs as “territorially subdivided statutory cities” that are governed by binding regulations or bylaws and are directly elected representative bodies. The SMUs in Czechia function as quasi municipalities, similar in institutional setting to municipalities. All SMUs are similar. Only their scope of responsibility varies according to the statutory city to which they belong. Scope of responsibilities is defined in the Statute of the statutory cities<sup>7</sup>.

### 6.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

Municipalities in the Czech Republic are responsible for implementation of some environmental aspects, such as flood protection, management of unbuilt areas and infrastructure (which may include waste management). Some of these responsibilities could potentially be transferred to SMUs by municipalities.

### 6.3 Sources of Information

[https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Erv/ERV\\_1930\\_1/ERV\\_1930\\_1.pdf](https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Erv/ERV_1930_1/ERV_1930_1.pdf)

<http://constitutionnet.org/sites/default/files/Austria%20FULL%20Constitution.pdf>

[https://e-justice.europa.eu/content\\_member\\_state\\_law-6-at-en.do?member=1](https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_member_state_law-6-at-en.do?member=1)

<sup>7</sup> Hlepas et al (2018), Sub-Municipal Governance in Europe: Decentralization beyond the municipal tier.

## **7. DENMARK**

### 7.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Danish Law does not foresee formal structures at the sub-municipal level at present.

### 7.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

A role of formal structures at the sub-municipal level, for implementation of environmental policy, is not foreseen.

### 7.3 Sources of Information

[https://www.thedanishparliament.dk/~media/pdf/publikationer/english/my\\_constitutional\\_act\\_with\\_explanations.ashx](https://www.thedanishparliament.dk/~media/pdf/publikationer/english/my_constitutional_act_with_explanations.ashx)

[https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR\\_structures\\_and\\_competences\\_2016\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR_structures_and_competences_2016_EN.pdf)

[https://www.kl.dk/ImageVaultFiles/id\\_38221/cf\\_202/Background\\_Paper\\_-\\_Local\\_Government\\_in\\_Denmark.PDF/](https://www.kl.dk/ImageVaultFiles/id_38221/cf_202/Background_Paper_-_Local_Government_in_Denmark.PDF/)

## 8. ESTONIA

### 8.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

There are no functioning SMUs at present and there is no explicit legal framework for the sub-municipal level. However, article 155 of the Constitution foresees that "...other units of local government may be formed on the basis of and pursuant to procedure provided by law." This could eventually be used as a legal basis for the formation of SMUs.

### 8.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

The functions of a local authority do not include implementation of environmental policy at present. The Environmental and Nature Protection Inspectorate are responsible for the application of environmental legislation. Therefore, there is no role for SMUs in the implementation of environmental policy.

### 8.3 Sources of Information

<http://www.partylaw.leidenuniv.nl/party-law/4c8b89f5-0ed4-43aa-a2e6-194a7287acdc.pdf>

<https://www.rahandusministeerium.ee/en/local-governments-and-administrative-territorial-reform>

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/9478/->

[Environmental Policy in Estonia-](#)

[1998Estonia\\_ENVIRONMENTALPOLICY.pdf.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y](#)

## 9. FINLAND

### 9.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

The country has 18 regions, 70 sub-regions and 311 municipalities<sup>8</sup>. At the sub-municipal level, the Local Government Act (410/2015) lays down in Section 36 the possibility for local councils to “establish sub-area local authority committees and sub-area management boards”, which are in fact SMUs that act as a link between municipalities and citizens. Some or all members of these SMUs are elected by local residents.

### 9.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

Local authority committees and sub-area management may have a role in environmental policy, in the sense that they are created to influence municipal activity. Therefore, it is possible that these SMUs do affect decision making and implementation of environmental policy.

### 9.3 Sources of Information

<https://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/2015/en20150410.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.2

## 10. FRANCE

### 10.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

The French Constitution or the *NOTre Law* (territorial organization) do not foresee formal structures at the sub-municipal level. However, the General Code for Territorial Collectivities (*Code général des collectivités territoriales*) foresees that in municipalities of more than 80.000 inhabitants, the municipality must subdivide into *quartiers*, each of which must have a council or *conseil de quartier*<sup>9</sup>. These *conseils de Quartier* are in fact SMUs whose existence, functions and organization are determined by the municipality. An example would be the case of Lille, where the *conseil de quartier* is presided by a municipal officer, designated by the municipality, and an assembly of voluntary or designated citizens, including representatives of the political groups that seat at the Municipal Council<sup>10</sup>.

### 10.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

*Conceil de Quartier* acts as a link between the municipality and citizens and its main role is as a consultative body for decisions or initiatives of the municipality. Also, the *Conceils de Quartier* could be associated by the municipality for implementation of municipal policies, including environmental actions.

### 10.3 Sources of Information

[https://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/sites/default/files/as/root/bank\\_mm/anglais/constiution\\_anglais\\_oct2009.pdf](https://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/sites/default/files/as/root/bank_mm/anglais/constiution_anglais_oct2009.pdf)

<https://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/profile-France.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.collectivites-locales.gouv.fr/conseils-quartier>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.lille.fr/Participer/La-democratie-participative/Conseils-de-quartier/Conseils-de-quartier-fonctionnement>

## 11. GERMANY

### 11.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Germany has a three-tier system of local governments consisting of 294 rural districts (Landkreise) and 107 “district-free cities” (Kreisfreie Städte)<sup>11</sup>. At the lower level there would be the municipalities. Below the municipalities, there are two main types Sub-municipal units (SMUs): municipal districts (Ortsbezirke) and metropolitan districts in bigger cities (as in Berlin). Organisation of SMUs vary from one Land to another given that they are governed by their Länder. SMU councils are directly elected bodies<sup>12</sup>

### 11.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

In Berlin, Hamburg and Munich, the metropolitan districts fulfil various rights and functions of “quasi-municipal self-government”. At the Sub-Municipal level of these districts, the councils and the mayors have a strong political and financial function, as they hold their own budget. On the contrary, in the rest of the federal states (“Länder”), the majority of the sub-municipal councils are subordinated to the municipal council. In these federal states, the sub municipal councillors are elected directly. Nevertheless, they do not dispose over strong political power, they have an advisory role focusing mostly on transport and urban planning. A few of the councils have also secondary administrative functions. The SMUs are seen as “intermediaries between citizens, the city council and the city administration”. At the present they are gaining importance and relevance in more recent decentralization strategies for neighbourhood development. However, at present they do not have a clearly defined role in the implementation of environmental policy.

### 11.3 Sources of Information

<https://www.btg-bestellservice.de/pdf/80201000.pdf>

[https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch\\_gg/englisch\\_gg.html#p0148](https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_gg/englisch_gg.html#p0148)

<https://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/profile-Germnay.pdf>

**Sub-Municipal Governance in Europe: Decentralization Beyond the Municipal Tier** - Nikolaos-Komninos Hlepas, Norbert Kersting, Sabine Kuhlmann, Pawel Swianiewicz, Filipe Teles.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.2

<sup>12</sup> N. Kersting and S. Kuhlman in Hlepas et Al, “Sub-municipal Units in Germany: Municipal and Metropolitan Districts”

## 12. GREECE

### 12.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Greece has a historic tradition of deconcentrated entities at the sub-municipal level. This structure was maintained and streamlined by the Kallikratis reform, which allows intra-municipal decentralisation. Municipalities in Greece are divided into local communities (less than 2.000 inhabitants, denominated “topiki kinotita”) and municipal communities (more than 2.000 inhabitants, denominated “demokiti kinotita”). Both SMUs have elected councils. Smaller local communities only elect a local Head<sup>13</sup>

### 12.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

The Law enumerates certain duties for SMUs, mainly referring to management of roads, real estate and participation in urban planning. It also authorizes municipalities to delegate additional responsibilities. There is no specific mentioning of implementation of environmental policy.

### 12.3 Sources of Information

<http://www.hri.org/MFA/syntagma/artcl120.html#A101>

[https://www.eetaa.gr/en\\_pages/Structure\\_and\\_operation\\_Greece\\_2012.pdf](https://www.eetaa.gr/en_pages/Structure_and_operation_Greece_2012.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> N. Hlepas, “Between Identity Politics and the Politics of Scale: Sub-municipal Governance in Greece” in Hlepas et al “Sub-Municipal Governance in Europe: Decentralization beyond the Municipal Tier”



## 13. HUNGARY

### 13.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

In accordance with the 2011 Law on Local Self-Government, local government in Hungary comprises 19 Counties (*megyék*) and 31.175 Communities (*települések*). The community level includes settlements, such as municipalities, towns, towns with county rank and the capital city of Budapest. This latter is further divided into 23 Districts which could be regarded as SMUs since they are below the municipal level<sup>14</sup>. Each district in Budapest has its own government. Mayors of the districts are directly elected by citizens on elections held at the same time as that for electing the Mayor of Budapest.

### 13.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

At present, Hungarian Law does not foresee responsibilities for formal structures at the sub-municipal level.

### 13.3 Sources of Information

<https://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/profile-Hungary.pdf>

[https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Hungary\\_2011.pdf](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Hungary_2011.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Hungary-Intro.aspx>

## 14. IRELAND

### 14.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Under the provision of the Local Government Reform Act of 2014<sup>15</sup>, local government is carried out by local authorities or councils, which could be subdivided into municipal districts (also known as metropolitan districts and borough districts, depending on the jurisdiction). There are 31 local authorities, of which 25 are subdivided into municipal districts. At present there are 95 municipal districts which could be regarded as SMUs since they are one level below the local authorities. Municipal districts could incorporate one or more local electoral areas (LEA). Boundaries of municipal districts and LEA are defined by the Ministry for Housing, Planning and Local Government<sup>16</sup>. Members of local authorities or councils are called “councillors” and are elected directly by citizens for a 5-year term. Councillors are simultaneously responsible for local authorities and for municipal districts<sup>17</sup>.

### 14.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

Local authorities are responsible for the provision of public services such as planning, environmental protection, fire services support for local economic development and electoral services, and infrastructure, including housing and roads. As sub-divisions of the local authority, municipal districts could carry some of the attributions of local authorities (which may include implementation of environmental policy)<sup>18</sup>.

### 14.3 Sources of Information

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/cons/en#part1>

<https://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/profile-Ireland.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2014/act/1/enacted/en/html>

<sup>16</sup>

[https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/government\\_in\\_ireland/local\\_and\\_regional\\_government/councillors.html](https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/government_in_ireland/local_and_regional_government/councillors.html)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.lgma.ie/en/irish-local-government/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://lgiu.org/local-government-facts-and-figures-ireland/>

## 15. ITALY

### 15.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

The Single Act on Local Entities (Art. 18) foresees the existence of sub-municipal districts called “Circoscrizioni” (or districts) in cities with more than 250.000 inhabitants, as well as in certain cities with special status. Further decentration measures may be implemented in cities with a population over 300.000 inhabitants. Previously, districts also existed in cities of smaller size, before being suppressed in 2009 in cities with less than 250.000 inhabitants (except cities with special status). Moreover, virtually every Italian municipality is made up of Standard territorial subdivision at sub-municipal level called “*frazioni*” (“fractions”). In most cases, these subdivisions are merely territorial and do not correspond to any administrative body, but there are also specific cases where municipalities have granted their fractions with a statute, elected officials and policy competences. Districts are governed by a council headed by a chairman. Council members are elected by residents, whereas the chairman may be an official named by the Municipality. After the abolition of the neighbourhood councils for cities below 250.000 inhabitants in Italy, some municipalities on their own initiative have created some forms of neighbourhood councils (i.e. neighbourhood councils in the city of Brescia, formed by initiative of the Comune di Brescia<sup>19</sup>)

### 15.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

National legislation does not define any legal provision regarding competences to be assigned to sub-municipal units. The statute, composition, specific local denomination (there are various possible options: *Municipio*, *Minicipalità*, *Quartiere*) and competences of sub-municipal districts are defined by their municipality. Whereas districts in some cities are decentralized government entities, other cities foresee districts as merely representative bodies without any specific governing competence.

Some examples of environmental policy competences delegated to sub-municipal districts in various cities: Rome: sewage maintenance; irrigation of local gardens; construction and preservation of public fountains and fire hydrants; planning, construction and preservation of public green areas; Milan: planning, construction and maintenance of public green areas.

### 15.3 Sources of Information

Massarenti, F. (2017), *Le circoscrizioni di decentramento in Italia. L'evoluzione normativa, i fattori di crisi e le prospettive future*, Osservatorio Regionale Emilia-Romagna, Istituzioni del Federalismo 1.2017, URL: [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/affari\\_ist/Rivista\\_1\\_2017/Massarenti.pdf](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/affari_ist/Rivista_1_2017/Massarenti.pdf)  
[https://dait.interno.gov.it/documenti/testo\\_unico\\_febbraio\\_2019.pdf](https://dait.interno.gov.it/documenti/testo_unico_febbraio_2019.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.comune.brescia.it/servizi/partecipazioneediritti/ConsigliQuartiere/Pagine/I-nuovi-Consigli-di-Quartiere.aspx>

[http://www.rgs.mef.gov.it/\\_Documenti/VERSIONE-I/Selezione\\_normativa/L-/L26-03-2010\\_42.pdf](http://www.rgs.mef.gov.it/_Documenti/VERSIONE-I/Selezione_normativa/L-/L26-03-2010_42.pdf)

[https://www.comune.roma.it/PCR/resources/cms/documents/MUN15\\_2.regolamento\\_decentramento\\_amministrativo.pdf](https://www.comune.roma.it/PCR/resources/cms/documents/MUN15_2.regolamento_decentramento_amministrativo.pdf)

<https://www.comune.milano.it/documents/20126/0/Regolamento+dei+Municipi+aggiornato+al+1+agosto+2019.pdf/5c49f179-ff51-3abd-dc13-49b09f975533?t=1564663227584>

<http://www.comune.bologna.it/media/files/decentramento.pdf>

## 16. LATVIA

### 16.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

There is no provision in Latvian Law for formal structures at the sub-municipal level.

### 16.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

Latvian Law does not foresee responsibilities for formal structures at the sub-municipal level.

### 16.3 Sources of Information

<https://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/profile-Latvia.pdf>

<https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Latvia.aspx>

[https://www.mruni.eu/upload/iblock/409/2\\_a.vanags.pdf](https://www.mruni.eu/upload/iblock/409/2_a.vanags.pdf)

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/282751468758734763/Latvia-Beyond-territorial-reform>

## 17. LITHUANIA

### 17.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Lithuania is composed of 10 regions (with purely statistical purposes, after regional administration were abolished in 2010), 60 municipalities and 546 elderships.

*Elderships* are a local administrative unit at sub-municipal level established by municipalities in their territory and regulated by the national Law on Local Self-Government (2017), Articles 33, 34 and 35.

Elders (representatives of the local community at sub-municipal level) are elected for a three-year mandate, work on a voluntary basis and participate in meetings and decision making at municipal level.

Elderships are highly heterogeneous in terms of size, ranging from villages with fewer than 500 inhabitants to urban areas with a population of over 70,000 (as in the case of Šilainiai and Dainava).

### 17.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

Environmental competences of municipalities include: Environmental protection, Sanitation, Household waste management, Cemetery maintenance, Maintenance of local roads and public areas. The tasks of elderships are usually defined by their municipality, which therefore may include environmental policy implementation.

### 17.3 Sources of Information

Constitution of Lithuania, 1992:

<https://www.lrs.lt/home/Konstitucija/Constitution.htm>

Law on Territorial Administrative Units and their Boundaries, 1994:

<http://www.litlex.lt/>

Law on Local Self-Government, 2017:

<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.D0CD0966D67F/KOvWuQDrjs>

English translation:

<https://e->

[seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/98efa592d8fc11e782d4fd2c44cc67af?jfwid=-2y4hgzwo4](https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/98efa592d8fc11e782d4fd2c44cc67af?jfwid=-2y4hgzwo4)

## 18. LUXEMBOURG

### 18.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Luxembourg consists of 105 Municipalities (Communes). Sub-municipal governing bodies (although not foreseen by national law) exist in Luxembourg city, which is further divided into 24 *Quarters*. These Quarters are unofficial subdivisions used to simplify administration and do not have an elected body apart from the city's municipality.

### 18.2 Role of Sub-Municipal Level in Environmental Policy

The role of Quarters in implementation of policies and actions is defined at the municipal level. This includes implementation of environmental policy.

### 18.3 Sources of Information

Constitution of Luxembourg:

[https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Luxembourg\\_2009.pdf?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Luxembourg_2009.pdf?lang=en)

## **19. MALTA**

### 19.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

The 1964 Constitution was amended in 2001 and now includes provisions on the system of local government (Article 115A). However, the sub-municipal level is not foreseen by Maltese law.

### 19.2 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

The sub-municipal level is not foreseen by Maltese law.

### 19.3 Sources of Information

Constitution of Malta:

<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8566&l=1>



## 20. NETHERLANDS

### 20.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

A reform of the Law on Municipalities abolished the sub-municipalities, which officially ceased to exist with the 2014 municipal elections.

Although not anymore systematically foreseen by national law, sub-municipal Districts (stadsdelen) are present in most major cities, such as Amsterdam, the Hague, Maastricht, Rotterdam, Eindhoven, etc. Districts in Amsterdam and the Hague are administrative entities at sub-municipal level where a part of governance is decentralised. In Rotterdam and other cities, districts are used as territorial subdivisions merely for statistical purposes. These sub-municipal divisions do not have an elected government different from that of the city's municipality.

### 20.2 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

The characteristics and functions of districts (where they exist) greatly vary depending on the municipality. Districts in Amsterdam and the Hague, for instance, are administrative institutions at sub-municipal level where a part of governance is decentralised. On the other hand, Rotterdam and other cities use districts as territorial subdivisions merely for statistical purposes.

The environment falls traditionally among the competences of the provincial level. However, in addition to their specific competences, Municipalities have the power to pass their own laws and policy in any policy area, provided they are not in conflict with the laws and policies of the higher level that is usually competent for these matters. From a purely theoretical point of view, it is not impossible that a municipality could delegate the implementation of one of its policies to the sub-municipal level.

### 20.3 Sources of Information

Constitution of the Netherlands:

<https://www.government.nl/documents/regulations/2012/10/18/the-constitution-of-the-kingdom-of-the-netherlands-2008>

Law of the Municipalities:

<https://www.government.nl/documents/regulations/2014/09/25/municipalities-act>

Districts of Amsterdam:

<https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/districts/> ;  
<https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/governance/governing-bodies/#h42115cf7-9b57-4856-bb44-3e414794cee0>

Districts of The Hague:

<https://www.denhaag.nl/nl/in-de-stad/stadsdelen.htm>

## 21. POLAND

### 21.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

A strong principle of self-government is embedded in the Polish Constitution (1997) and in the 1990 Law on local government. Municipalities are therefore awarded a high degree of autonomy concerning the organisation of their competences and tasks, including creating and maintaining sub-municipal units and establishing their structure, election modes and tasks. There are generally two kinds of units at sub-municipal level: *Sołectwo* (“village”): Sub-municipal unit built and organised by the municipality in rural areas; *Dzielnica, Osiedle*: Sub-municipal unit built, organised and funded by the municipality in urban areas. The set of competences delegated, and the budget assigned by the municipality to sub-municipal units are usually limited. The villages have a long tradition of self-government, since the middle-ages. Villages normally elect a village leader (*soltys*), which then represents the village at the municipal level and defends the village’s interests. There is a National Association of Village Leaders, which is very active at the national level. SMUs in urban areas are not very active or significant politically despite neighbourhood councils being elected, albeit by a low turn-out (less than 40% in most cases)<sup>20</sup>

### 21.2 Responsibilities of Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

According to the national legislation, environmental competences at the municipal level include: Protecting the local environment; Adopting local protection plans for implementing the national guidelines; Zoning, property division and environmental impact decisions

National legislation does not define any legal provision regarding competences to be assigned to sub-municipal units. However, it is assumed that implementation of environmental policy could be possible through SMUs, in coordination with municipalities.

### 21.3 Sources of Information

Swianiewicz, P. (2018), New Experiments of Maintenance of Old Traditions? Dual System of Sub-municipal Units in Poland, featured in Hlepas, Kersting, Kuhlmann, Swianiewicz, Teles (2018), Sub-Municipal Governance in Europe. Decentralization Beyond the Municipal Tier, Palgrave MacMillan

<http://www.sejm.gov.pl/prawo/konst/angielski/kon1.htm>

<https://www.global-regulation.com/translation/poland/3353885/the-act-of-8-march-1990-on-the-municipal-government.html>

<http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU19900160095>

<http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20090520420>

<sup>20</sup> Hlepas et Al – Sub-Municipal Governance in Europe : Decentralization beyond the Municipal Tier.

## 22. PORTUGAL

### 22.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Historically, Portugal has had a well-developed sub-municipal level of *Freguesias*, or administrative civil parishes. *Freguesias* are recognised in article 236 of the Portuguese Constitution as administrative entities at the local level. National laws provide a more detailed definition of organisation and powers (Law No. 75/2013), as well as the size of parish councils (Law 169/1999). The *Freguesias* are formed by an assembly and an executive. First one, the parish assembly, is the main deliberative body elected by universal suffrage, equivalent to a legislative body. The Executive (*Junta de Freguesia*) is formed by the president and different cabinet members during the executive's term in office, such as the secretary and the treasurer. The president, as the first candidate on the list, receives the majority of votes to the parish council<sup>21</sup>.

The Presidents of parishes seat at the council of their corresponding municipality and exert political influence in favour of their parishes' interest and on the overall political steering of their corresponding municipality. Parishes are usually small entities, in terms of both geographic area and population. Although a reform reduced the number of parishes in 2013, over 45% of parishes have a size below 1000 registered voters.

### 22.2 Responsibilities of Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

According to the Law No. 75/2013, environmental competences at the sub-municipal level include: Rural and urban infrastructure, Water supply, Civil protection, Environment and well-being, Urban and rural planning. However, due to their small size of *Freguesias*, their tax revenue is limited, which makes them depend on external sources, such as grants or the municipality's discretionary power to allocate further budget.

### 22.3 Sources of Information

Constitution of Portugal, 1976: <https://dre.pt/part-iii>

Law No. 75/2013:

<https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/500023/details/maximized>

Law 169/1999: <https://dre.pt/pesquisa/-/search/569886/details/maximized>

Tavares, A.F., Tele, F. (2018), *Deeply Rooted but still striving for a role: the Portuguese Freguesias under reform*, featured in Hlepas, Kersting, Kuhlmann, Swianiewicz, Teles (2018), *Sub-Municipal Governance in Europe. Decentralization Beyond the Municipal Tier*, Palgrave MacMillan

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.11

## **23. ROMANIA**

### 23.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

The Constitution of Romania of 1997 recognises “communes” and “towns” as (municipal) public administration entities at the local level (Article 121). These two different kinds of municipal entities are considered at the same level by law. The only form of sub-municipal units in Romania are present in Bucharest, where the city is decentralised and divided into 6 Sectors. Residents of each sector elect their own mayor and the local sector council every 4 years.

### 23.2 Responsibilities of Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Romanian Law does not consider competences of sub-municipal units.

### 23.3 Sources of Information

<http://www.cdep.ro/pls/dic/site.page?id=371&idl=2&par1=3>

<https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/950/file/20fe61792d723a1bd6d25c0f882219f0.pdf>

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/72024>

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/53040>

## **24. SLOVAKIA**

### 24.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

No provisions on entities below the municipal level are included in the Constitution nor in other laws in Slovakia.

### 24.2 Responsibilities of Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

There are no responsibilities foreseen for formal structures at the sub-municipal level, in Slovakian Law.

### 24.3 Sources of Information

<https://www.ustavnysud.sk/ustava-slovenskej-republiky>

<https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/1996/221/>

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/72024>

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/53040>

## 25. SLOVENIA

### 25.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

The 1994 Law on Local Self-Government replaced the old socialist communes with municipalities (there are currently 212), which can establish smaller entities at the sub-municipal level to decentralise some of their functions. There are currently 1.220 sub-municipal units in 138 municipalities. According to the Law on Local Self-Government, Sub-municipal units are established after either a local referendum or an assembly of local citizens (Art. 18). The sub-municipals main body is a council elected by the citizens (Art. 19) or a committee of residents appointed by the municipality, if the statutes of the municipality does not allow a sub-municipal council (Art. 30).

### 25.2 Responsibilities of Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Each municipality can choose whether to establish sub-municipal units and which tasks to decentralise to them. Sub-municipal units are usually consultative bodies with no formal executive competences; however, municipalities can assign them some executive competences and the implementation of environmental tasks.

### 25.3 Sources of Information

Bačlija Brajnik, I., Lavtar, R. (2018), Sub-Municipal Units in Slovenia: Experiences from the Past and Policy Advice for the Future, featured in Hlepas, Kersting, Kuhlmann, Swianiewicz, Teles (2018), Sub-Municipal Governance in Europe. Decentralization Beyond the Municipal Tier, Palgrave MacMillan  
Constitution

<https://www.us-rs.si/en/about-the-court/legal-basis/>

Law on Local Self-Government (št. 94/07)

<http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO307>

## 26. SPAIN

### 26.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Two forms of sub-municipal units are present in Spain, EATIM and urban districts. EATIMs (*entidad de ámbito territorial inferior al municipio*) are SMUs in rural areas. According to national legislation (Local Government Act, Law 7/1985), they are regulated by autonomous communities. 13 out of 17 autonomous communities have so far included EATIMs in their regulations, thus providing them with a clear legal framework. Districts are the SMUs in urban areas, which are compulsory in municipalities with over 250.000 persons and capitals of provinces with a population over 175.000. National legislation provides very generic guidelines, as municipalities are responsible for determining the structure and powers of their districts. Political structure of EATIMs is regulated by the General Electoral Act (Law 5/1985), Article 199. This law defines some criteria and requirements for elections while recognizing the capacity of EATIMs to develop a different process. All EATIMs hold in common the following features: the president is directly elected by residents of the EATIM. Elections take place on the same day as municipal elections. There is a council, or collegiate body, in each EATIM, which works together with the president, and whose members could be directly nominated by political parties in accordance to results of the election<sup>22</sup>.

### 26.2 Responsibilities of Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Municipalities determine the powers of their sub-municipal subdivisions. Therefore, there is a highly heterogeneous variety of situations ranging from purely consultative ETIMs, or districts, to municipalities that decentralise a significant number of tasks to their sub-municipal units.

### 26.3 Sources of Information

Navarro, C., Pano, E. (2018), *Rural and Urban Sub-municipal Governance in Spain: the contrasting worlds of Lilliput and Brobdingnag*, featured in Hlepas, Kersting, Kuhlmann, Swianiewicz, Teles (2018), *Sub-Municipal Governance in Europe. Decentralization Beyond the Municipal Tier*, Palgrave MacMillan Spanish Constitution:

<https://www.boe.es/legislacion/documentos/ConstitucionINGLES.pdf>

Local Government Act (Law 7/1985)

<https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-1985-5392>

Royal Decree 2568/1986

[http://noticias.juridicas.com/base\\_datos/Admin/rd2568-1986.html](http://noticias.juridicas.com/base_datos/Admin/rd2568-1986.html)

General Electoral Act

<https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-1985-11672>

Law 27/2013 <https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2013-13756>

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.11

## 27. SWEDEN

### 27.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

The national legal framework does not have any provision regarding governance at the sub-municipal level, however there are a few cases of sub-municipal districts established by large municipalities according to their statutes. Sub-municipal districts are present in Stockholm (14 districts), Gothenburg (21 districts), Malmö (5 districts)

The organisation and competences vary among districts, but their degree of administrative autonomy is generally limited. Their council members are not elected directly but appointed by the municipal council depending on the result of municipal elections.

### 27.2 Responsibilities of Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Responsibilities of sub-municipal districts in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö are limited and do not include environmental policies.

### 27.3 Sources of Information

Constitution of the Kingdom of Sweden:

<http://www.parliament.am/library/sahmanadrutyunner/Sweden.pdf>

Local Government Act, Ds 2004:31:

<https://www.government.se/legal-documents/2004/09/ds-200431/>

Local governance in Stockholm:

<https://international.stockholm.se/governance/city-governance/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malm%C3%B6\\_Municipality#City\\_districts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malm%C3%B6_Municipality#City_districts)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boroughs\\_and\\_districts\\_of\\_Gothenburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boroughs_and_districts_of_Gothenburg)



## 28. UNITED KINGDOM

### 28.1 Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Parishes (and Communities, in Wales) are the most widespread type of SMUs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They were abolished in Scotland in 1926. Their creation and the definition of their organisation, tasks and election/appointment modes are up to the discretion of their municipality. Parishes are very heterogeneous in size and population, ranging from a few hundred to several thousand inhabitants (the most populous being Weston-Super-Mare with 76,143). Citizens can petition in order to ask their councils to establish a parish in their area. Parishes are generally statutory bodies directly elected by voters. They have powers regarding rising local tax and spending budget and further have a range of duties and responsibilities.

### 28.2 Responsibilities of Formal Structures at the Sub-Municipal Level

Although the responsibilities of sub-municipal entities are determined by their municipality, the range of tasks that they perform (according to the Localism Act 2011) include some environmental tasks such as cleaning and drainage of ponds, watercourses and ditches. Parishes are also extensively used by municipalities as consultative bodies.

### 28.3 Sources of Information

Copus, C. (2018), *Decentralisation, Democratisation and Delivery: English Sub-municipal Devolution*, featured in Hlepas, Kersting, Kuhlmann, Swianiewicz, Teles (2018), *Sub-Municipal Governance in Europe. Decentralization Beyond the Municipal Tier*, Palgrave MacMillan

Local Government Act 1894

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/56-57/73/contents>

Local Government Act (Scotland) 1929

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo5/19-20/25/contents>

Local Government Act 1972

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/contents>

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/28/contents>

Localism Act 2011

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>



# Part 1b: Specific Arrangements and Conditions of Particular Communities

For Part 1b, ToR states that *the study include examples of typologies of possible specific arrangements for particular communities: urban neighbourhoods, mountain hamlets, rural villages, islands and others. This part lists formal structures and arrangements that differ from the general national model.*

The methodology used by the consultant for identification of possible arrangements in particular communities has two steps. Step 1 consists on establishing challenges of four kinds of *particular communities*: urban neighbourhoods, mountain hamlets, rural villages and small islands. Step 2 attempts to develop a typology of specific arrangements that could be applied to all four kinds of *particular communities*, for environmental problems that the community wants to address.

## Main Challenges of Particular Communities (Step 1)

### A. Urban Neighbourhoods

Urban neighbourhoods confront challenges which are normally present in most urban areas in the EU, such as population ageing, widening income disparity and migration.<sup>23</sup> These problems produce growing strain on the cities' administrations and serves as incentive for growing involvement of citizens in search of solutions. Many of these initiatives come from municipal governments and many others have come from grassroots and neighbour's organisations at the sub-municipal level.

According with the European Environmental Agency<sup>24</sup>, neighbourhoods in the EU are faced with challenges such as the urgent need to reach a decarbonized way of life (which includes sustainable ways of transport, sustainable energy supply, sustainable water supply, air quality, sustainable food supply, sustainable construction), green areas and biodiversity, pollution and the pressing issues related to waste, waste reduction and waste disposal, including other important aspects as sustainable packaging, recycling and the circular economy.

<sup>23</sup><https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/system/files/ged/eprs-briefing-633160-demographic-trends-eu-regions-final.pdf>

<sup>24</sup><https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/92-827-5122-8/page014.html>

## **B. Mountain Hamlets**

Populations of mountain areas face two main sets of challenges: restricted access to infrastructure (including energy supply, ICT, water supply, waste disposal and housing) and the decline of economic activity, which is one of the main drivers of population decline. The loss of jobs, but also bad living conditions, impact in particularly rural women and young couples<sup>25</sup>.

## **C. Rural Villages**

Rural villages are affected by the diminishing population in rural areas in the European Union, which is a consequence of the growing concentration of economic activity and employment in urban areas<sup>26</sup>. Another challenge for rural villages is the growing digital divide, with “less than two thirds (62 %) of the EU-28 population living in rural areas accessing the internet daily in 2016, compared to 75 % for people living in towns and suburbs”.<sup>27</sup>

From the environmental viewpoint, rural villages confront many challenges also found in urban areas. Long-term sustainability of rural villages will depend on the adoption of sustainable energy technology (i.e. hydro, wind, solar and tidal power), as well as a sustainable approach to agricultural practices, water and energy supply and waste disposal and protection of biodiversity.

## **D. Small Islands**

According with ESIN (European Small Island Federation) there are 1,640 small islands, in the European Union, inhabited by 359,357 islanders.<sup>28</sup>

EU's small islands share some issues that affect them in various ways: “limited access to transport and a lack of connections with other territories, and the vulnerability of their ecosystems”<sup>29</sup>. Moreover, due to their small territory, small islands do not usually allow economies of scale, may lack human capital and have limited public resources in health, education, research and innovation. In most cases, small islands are not self-sufficient and rely on imports from the mainland, which increases the cost of living and affects long-term sustainability.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>25</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/montagne/mount1.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/montagne/mount1.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> *Shrinking Rural Regions in Europe*. ESPON 2020, 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.espon.eu/sites/default/files/attachments/ESPON%20Policy%20Brief%20on%20Shrinking%20Rural%20Regions.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistics\\_on\\_rural\\_areas\\_in\\_the\\_EU](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistics_on_rural_areas_in_the_EU)

<sup>28</sup> <https://europeansmallislands.com/members/>

<sup>29</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS\\_BRI\(2016\)573960](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI(2016)573960)

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/573960/EPRS\\_BRI\(2016\)573960\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/573960/EPRS_BRI(2016)573960_EN.pdf)

Based on the general overview of challenges faced by urban neighbourhoods, mountain hamlets, rural villages and small islands, it is possible to identify two distinct sets of challenges: environmental challenges and other types of challenges, which have been summarized on the table shown in the following page. The list presented in that table does not pretend to be an exhaustive list of the challenges confronted by particular communities. Its purpose is to provide a guiding framework for research and a basis for the identification of possible structures and cases occurring at the sub-municipal level, in response to a set of challenges. For the purpose of this part of the study, focus will be kept on the environmental challenges.

**Exhibit 1: Non-exhaustive list of challenges faced by Particular Communities**

Particular Community	Environmental Challenge	
	Environmental	Other
Urban Neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Energy Supply/Saving</li> <li>- Water Supply/Saving</li> <li>- Air Quality</li> <li>- Food Supply</li> <li>- Construction</li> <li>- Green Areas/Biodiversity</li> <li>- Pollution</li> <li>- Waste disposal/reduction</li> <li>- Circular Economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social Exclusion</li> <li>- Economic stagnation/access to jobs</li> <li>- Population Ageing</li> <li>- Affordable Housing</li> <li>- Migration</li> </ul>
Mountain Hamlet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Energy Supply/Saving</li> <li>- Water Supply/Saving</li> <li>- Waste disposal/reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to infrastructure and ICT</li> <li>- Loss of economic activity/jobs</li> <li>- Sub-standard housing</li> </ul>
Rural Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Energy Supply/Saving</li> <li>- Water Supply/Saving</li> <li>- Waste disposal/reduction</li> <li>- Sustainable agriculture and safe ward of biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Depopulation and demographic shift</li> <li>- Digital divide</li> <li>- Loss of jobs</li> </ul>
Small Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vulnerable ecosystems</li> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Energy Supply/Saving</li> <li>- Water Supply/Saving</li> <li>- Waste disposal/reduction</li> <li>- Food self sufficiency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited public resources and infrastructure</li> <li>- Not self-sufficiency in agricultural, industrial or tertiary products.</li> </ul>

## **Possible Specific Arrangements at the Sub-Municipal Level (Step 2)**

Research conducted for this study shows that communities at the sub-municipal level tend to organise as “neighbourhood groups” (see part 2). These groups then may evolve into initiatives focused into a particular issue and request, or not, municipal support to accomplish the goal. There are also specific arrangements fostered by Municipal Administrations. These arrangements could centre around a specific issue within the municipal political agenda which would require active involvement of people living within the municipal territory, or within a particular neighbourhood. A good example of this is the *Contrat de Quartier*<sup>31</sup> used by Communes in Brussels to accomplish specific goals (see part 2).

Online research reveals that the most common types of neighbourhood groups are<sup>32</sup>:

- Neighbourhood Associations
- Special Neighbourhood Interest Groups
- Ethnic Associations<sup>33</sup>
- Homeowners Associations
- Condominium Associations
- Resident Councils

At the sub-municipal level, Neighbourhood Associations and Special Neighbourhood Interest Groups are the types of neighbourhood groups that are broadly used for the implementation of environmental policy, or in response to specific environmental challenges (see examples in Part 2). Of the two types, the Special Neighbourhood Interest Groups target implementation of environmental actions, because these are groups focused on a particular issue.

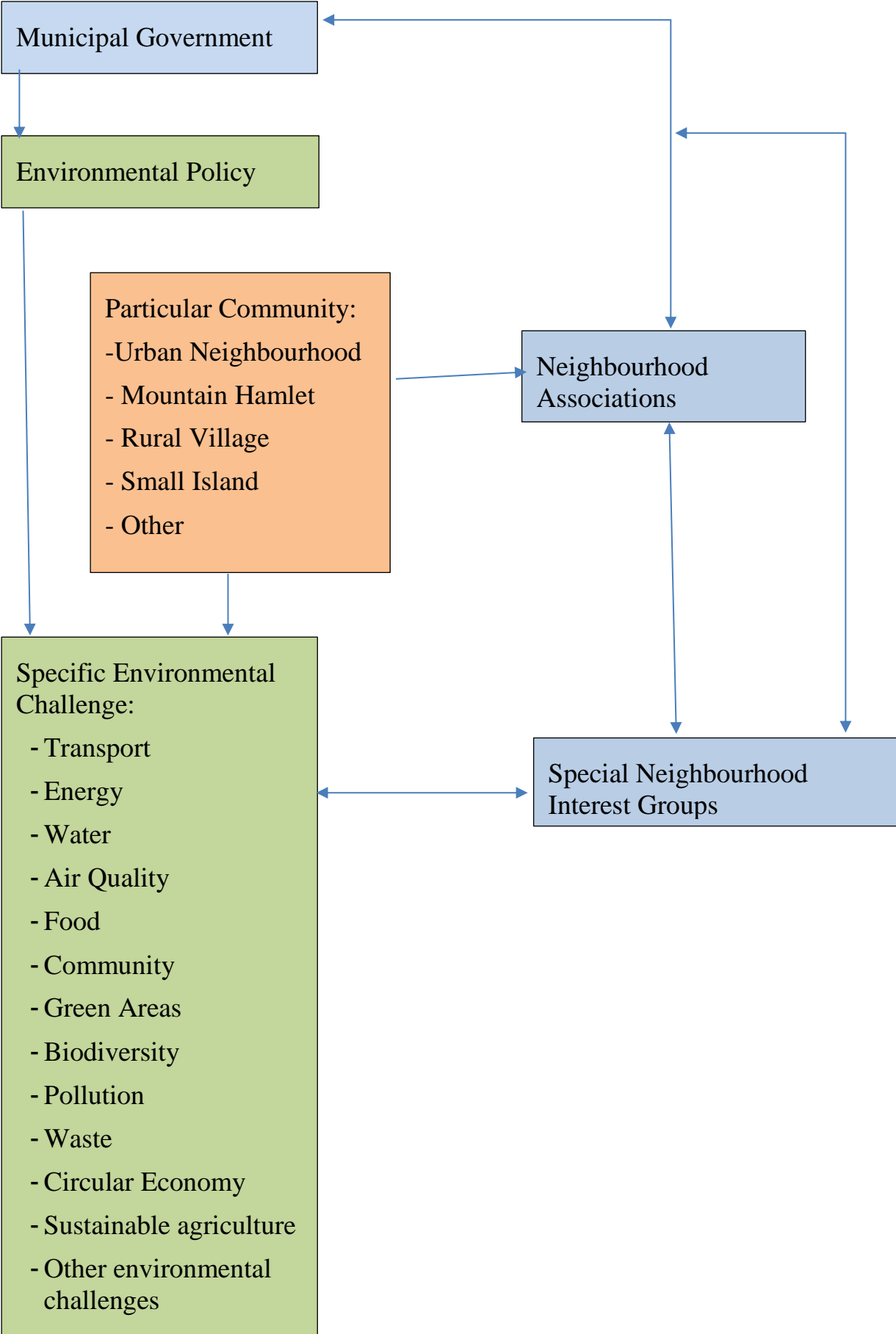
The diagram shown in exhibit 4 illustrates possible specific arrangements at the sub-municipal level. The scheme considers two main actors: municipal governments and particular communities (organised into neighbourhood associations and special interest groups). Environmental policy is the tool for guiding the action to address specific environmental challenges.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.bruxelles.be/contrats-de-quartier>

<sup>32</sup> [https://www2.bgky.org/neighborhoods/types\\_of\\_neighborhood\\_organizations.php](https://www2.bgky.org/neighborhoods/types_of_neighborhood_organizations.php)

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.zdaarau.ch/dokumente/SB-03-Neighbourhoods-ZDA.pdf>

**Exhibit 2: Possible Specific Arrangements at the Sub-Municipal Level**



The following table illustrates the way the concept expressed in exhibit 4 could be applied to general different possible arrangements for particular communities, at the sub-municipal level.

**Exhibit 3: Grid of Possible Specific Arrangements at the Sub-Municipal Level**

Specific Environmental Challenge	Particular Community				Examples of Special Interest Group (SIG)
	Urban Neighbourhood	Mountain Hamlet	Rural Village	Small Island	
Transport	x				Urban Neighbourhood SIG for Transport
Energy		x			Mountain Hamlet SIG for Energy
Water			x		Rural Village SIG for Water
Food				x	Small Island SIG for Food (self-sufficiency)
Air Quality	x				Urban Neighbourhood SIG for Air Quality
Community		x			Mountain Hamlet SIG for Community (strengthening)
Biodiversity			x		Rural Village SIG for Biodiversity
Pollution				x	Small Island SIG for Pollution
Green Areas	x				Urban Neighbourhood SIG for Green Areas
Waste		x			Mountain Hamlet SIG for Waste
Circular Economy			x		Rural Village SIG for Circular Economy



## Part 2: Typologies of Environmental Participatory Activities Organized by Municipalities and Civil Society Below the Municipal Level

As required in the ToR, part 2 of the study entails *descriptions of locally generated structures and participation mechanisms related to environment below municipal level that go beyond the formal official structures, which are created by municipal authorities or by grassroots efforts of the local civil society, for example a participatory forum on environment in a neighbourhood promoted by the municipality and/or by civil society. This part will not cover all existing solutions but describe at least some typologies that could be considered best practices to provide a basis for the CoR for further research. These typologies include also examples based on digital solutions. This is particularly important for communities physically separated from the centres of their municipalities.*

Locally generated structures, or community-led initiatives (CLI)<sup>34</sup>, have become an important force for the implementation of environmental actions and in the fight against climate change, evidence of which is provided by their large numbers and widespread presence throughout the EU.

However, the exact number of CLIs in Europe remains unknown since nearly a quarter of them lack formal legal structure.<sup>35</sup> As already mentioned in the summary, according with a recent study prepared by TESS, it is difficult to estimate the number of CLIs in Europe. A possible way to assess the magnitude of this movement is through affiliation to specific networks. For instance, the Colibris network lists nearly 20.000 CLIs in France alone. The REScoop network of energy cooperatives estimates there to be 3.000 such initiatives in the EU<sup>36</sup>. Recent surveys, such as the SUSY survey on the social solidarity economy<sup>37</sup> revealed up to 2 million CLIs in Europe<sup>38</sup>. Furthermore, a survey of community-supported agriculture and related forms of community food initiatives across Europe identified around 6,300 projects. Bearing in mind that many of these figures are based on partial data and may omit large numbers of initiatives, it is clear that the scope and diversity of community-led action on sustainability and climate change in Europe, while unknown, is vast.

<sup>34</sup> CLI is a different ways of denominating SMU. Therefore, the terms may be used interchangeably.

<sup>35</sup> Report from TESS (Toward European Societal Sustainability) cited by ECOLISE (European Network for Community-led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability) in its Status Report 2019

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.rescoop.eu/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.sdwatcheurope.org/susy-map-mapping-the-social-solidarity-economy-initiatives-all-over-europe/>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.solidarityeconomy.eu/susy-map/>

*SMUs not foreseen by the law but organized only by municipal initiative play also an important role.* These structures could be not just specific CLIs but also neighbourhood councils with significant functions that are appointed by municipal structures, in some cases with some form of consultation of the people (see the Brescia example in chapter 1a or the TAST'in Fives – urban redevelopment and neighbourhood kitchen example in the table below).

To meet ToR requirements, and to provide a wide sample of examples, a Sub-municipal Initiative Grid (SMIG) has been prepared by the consultant, based on the possible specific arrangements shown in exhibit 4. While serving as a tool for guiding research for examples of sub-municipal structures related to the environment, the SMIG also constitutes a first sketch for a possible categorization of sub-municipal structures.

#### **Exhibit 4: Sub Municipal Initiative Grid (SMIG)**

	<b>Sector/ Environment Challenge</b>	1. Urban Neig.	2. Mountain Ha.	3. Rural Village	4. Small Island	5. Other
1	Transport	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5
2	Energy	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5
3	Water	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5
4	Air	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5
5	Food	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5
6	Community	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5
7	Green Areas	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5
8	Biodiversity	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5
9	Pollution	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5
10	Waste	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.5
11	Circular Economy	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.5
12	Agriculture	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5
13	Other	13.1	13.2	13.3	13.4	13.5

In the following, a non-exhaustive listing of examples is presented, classified by sector, indicating the category to which the example could be applicable.

Typologies of Environmental Participatory Activities	Sector	SMIG	Type/Sponsor	Member State	Description as per the entity's website and Source
<b>Cycloperativa</b>	Transport/ Waste/ Circular Economy	1.1- 1.4, 10.1, - 10.5, 11.1, - 11.5	Neighbourhood association (asbl)	Belgium	A neighbourhood association in Brussels whose objective is to teach bicycle repair and to work as a cooperative with the purpose to end the domination of automobile as a way of transport and to foster access to mobility for all, social cohesion, local savoir-faire, social mixite in the neighbourhood and solidarity. It helps finance itself with its own branded beer (Cycloperativa, Zinne Bir). Source: <a href="http://cycloperativa.org/">http://cycloperativa.org/</a>
<b>Sustainable Urban Renewal: Alhambra Kitchen Garden</b>	Food/ Community/ Green Areas	5.1- 5.5, 6.1- 6.5, 7.1,- 7.5	Neighbourhood association	Belgium	In April 2015, 1000Bxl in Transition <sup>39</sup> , the Alhambra neighbourhood committee and residents of the Alhambra district (downtown Brussels - between Rogier and Yser) started the construction of a collective kitchen garden. The aim of this vegetable garden is, above all, to create a meeting point as well as to boost the positive image of the neighbourhood. Source: <a href="http://1000bxltransition.be/all-project-list/potager-alhambra/">http://1000bxltransition.be/all-project-list/potager-alhambra/</a>

<sup>39</sup> <http://1000bxltransition.be/>

Typologies of Environmental Participatory Activities	Sector	SMIG	Type/Sponsor	Member State	Description as per the entity's website and Source
<b>Sustainable Urban Renewal: Ethel Street Friends and Neighbours Community Alliance (F.A.N.)</b>	Community /Green Areas	6.1-6.5, 7.1-7.5	Neighbourhood association	UK	The Kilfinan Community Forest Company (KCFC) purchased a track of land on behalf of the residents of the Kilfinan parish, and transformed it from a simple commercial forestry operation into a valuable community asset, which delivers benefits to the community, including the development of recreational facilities, creation of new employment opportunities and the provision of affordable housing. Source: <a href="https://www.globalnpo.org/GB/Neath/957153271050204/F.A.N-Community-Alliance">https://www.globalnpo.org/GB/Neath/957153271050204/F.A.N-Community-Alliance</a> <sup>40</sup>
<b>BeeUrban (urban bee conservation)</b>	Biodiversity	8.1-8.5	Neighbourhood association	UK	"BeeUrban" is a honeybee social enterprise based in Kennington, South London. The aim of this company is to make a positive impact on the urban environment. For this they support local people and promote positive, environmentally sound practices around urban greening, construction, agriculture and in particular beekeeping. They have worked mainly at two locations: Bee Barn at the Keeper's Lodge in Kennington Park and in Camberwell Subterranea. Before their work these sites were abandoned and abused. Through the project they transformed them

<sup>40</sup> See also: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/sep/10/how-neighbourhood-scheme-ended-nightmare-on-ethel-street-halloween>

Typologies of Environmental Participatory Activities	Sector	SMIG	Type/Sponsor	Member State	Description as per the entity's website and Source
					into thriving community spaces. Together with local volunteers they cleared away waste and old structures and replaced them with environmentally friendly, horticulturally valuable buildings and farmland. Source: <a href="http://beurban.org.uk/sample-page-2/">http://beurban.org.uk/sample-page-2/</a> <sup>41</sup>
<b>Antwerp Circular South</b>	Waste/ Circular Economy	10.1- 10.5, 11.1- 11.5	Neighbourhood association	Belgium	Based on the establishment of a new residential districts denominated as 'New South', the project seeks "to guide a growing new community in co-creating their own local circular economy". In order to achieve this goal, the project follows a community-driven approach, whereby the city of Antwerp and its inhabitants will test advanced technological solutions, through different online and offline activities (see website). Source: <a href="https://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/antwerp-call2">https://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/antwerp-call2</a> <sup>42</sup>
<b>Repair Café</b>	Waste/ Circular Economy	10.1- 10.5, 11.1- 11.5	Neighbourhood association	Several EU member- states	Repair Café organises meetings at fix locations where people meet to repair various electrical and mechanical items. The overall objective of these repair cafes is the prevention and the reduction of

<sup>41</sup> Also see: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/sep/16/why-beeurbans-hives-are-creating-a-buzz-across-the-capital>

<sup>42</sup> Also see: <https://vito.be/en/news/antwerp-european-living-lab-circular-economy-circular-south>

Typologies of Environmental Participatory Activities	Sector	SMIG	Type/Sponsor	Member State	Description as per the entity's website and Source
					<p>waste. They also encourage people to maintain or gain repair skills and to strengthen social cohesion. According to Postma, in March 2016, there are over 1,000 Repair Cafés worldwide, from which 327 are located in the Netherlands, 309 in Germany, 22 in the UK, 21 in the US, 15 in Canada, four in Australia and one in India.</p> <p>According to the source consulted, “all Repair Cafés in the world together prevented around 350,000 kilos of waste in 2018”.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://repaircafe.org/en/repair-cafes-prevent-350000-kilos-of-waste/">https://repaircafe.org/en/repair-cafes-prevent-350000-kilos-of-waste/</a></p>
<b>Leeds Community Cloth Exchange</b>	Waste/ Circular Economy	10.1- 10.5, 11.1- 11.5	Neighbourhood association	Several EU member-states	<p>Leeds Community Clothes Exchange Is a community project with the aim of reducing consumption and raise awareness of the consequences of “unethical” consumer habits. According to the entity's website, “Leeds Community Clothes Exchange was started by a group of friends in Hyde Park and has grown to over 2500 members. They are a not-for-profit unincorporated association run by a volunteer management committee and team of volunteers”.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://leedscommunityclothesexchange.com">https://leedscommunityclothesexchange.com</a></p>

Typologies of Environmental Participatory Activities	Sector	SMIG	Type/Sponsor	Member State	Description as per the entity's website and Source
<b>Liege in Transition</b>	Food Supply /Circular Economy	5.1-5.5, 11.1-11.5	Neighbourhood association/ cooperative	Belgium	Launched in 2011 by 70 neighbours in Liege, it has evolved into self-organized thematic groups and projects in the area food sustainability and food autonomy projects such as the Ceinture Aliment-Terre Liègeoise (CATL), seeking to create a sustainable food supply through community supported farms and urban agriculture, coupled with a local currency (the Valeureux) as a mechanism to help nurturing the local economy. Source: <a href="https://www.catl.be/">https://www.catl.be/</a> <a href="https://www.reseautransition.be/">https://www.reseautransition.be/</a> <a href="https://www.valeureux.be/">https://www.valeureux.be/</a>
<b>Aardehuis</b>	Energy/ Community / Circular Economy/ Other (affordable housing)	2.1-2.5,6.1 - 6.5, 11.1-11.5; 13.1-13.5	Neighbourhood association/ Municipality	Netherlands	A project of 23 “green” affordable houses developed by residents and volunteers through a partnership with the Municipality of Olst, a social housing provider and a recycling company. The project was built with recycled materials and local building materials sourced within a radius of 50 kilometres. Source: <a href="https://www.aardehuis.nl/">https://www.aardehuis.nl/</a>
<b>Quartier Durable Citoyens</b>	Community	6.1,6.2,6.3,6.4,6.5	Neighbourhood association/ municipalities/ regional government	Belgium / Brussels	This is a program led by the Brussels Capital Region to support community initiatives and facilitate collaboration between urban neighbourhoods and municipalities. Support includes coaching for capacity building and collaboration with

Typologies of Environmental Participatory Activities	Sector	SMIG	Type/Sponsor	Member State	Description as per the entity's website and Source
					<p>municipalities; project development assistance; networking and exchange of knowledge with other neighbourhoods; and financial support. There are currently 200 projects under way and more in the pipeline that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement of resource management and reduce waste,</li> <li>• Promotion of a healthier diet,</li> <li>• Protection and regeneration of biodiversity in the city,</li> <li>• Promotion of soft modes of transport,</li> <li>• Reclaiming public spaces for citizen use</li> </ul> <p>Source: <a href="http://quartiersdurablescitoyens.brussels/">http://quartiersdurablescitoyens.brussels/</a></p>
<p><b>TAST'in Fives – urban redevelopment and neighbourhood kitchen</b></p>	<p>Community/ other</p>	<p>6.1,6.2,6.3,6.4,6.5,13.1,13.2,13.3,13.4,13.5,13.6</p>	<p>Partnership between the City of Lille, public and private actors and neighbourhood residents</p>	<p>France/ Lille</p>	<p>Brown field redevelopment in Lille conceived to reduce poverty and ghettoization while providing a sustainable and inclusive urban environment. An urban kitchen was created to serve as a link between the project and the beneficiary community, using cooking as a vehicle of communication and for providing a platform for capacity building and citizens participation in the brownfield redevelopment.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/lille">https://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/lille</a></p>



## **Part 3: Environment Programmes, Projects and Networks Organized at European, National and Regional Level for Neighbourhoods and Small Communities**

*According with ToR, Part 3 of the study includes possible examples of actions, programmes, projects and networks at European, national or regional level dealing with neighbourhoods and small communities below municipal level. This includes for example a regional project for urban neighbourhoods or national programme for small islands. This part does not cover all existing solutions but focuses on best practices that involve communities below the municipal level. It should provide a basis for the CoR for further research.*

The examples identified by the consultant for this part of the study correspond to five categories: urban neighbourhoods, mountain hamlets, rural villages, small islands, following the same categorization used in Part 1b, plus one additional category to include some examples of digital platforms and social sustainability/solidarity platforms.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description as per the entity's website and Source</b>
<b>Positive Energy Districts (PED)- Programme</b>	A.Urban Neighbourhood	20 EU member states have gathered efforts in the “Positive Energy Districts and Neighbourhoods for Sustainable Urban Development”. By 2025, the programme aims at having contributed to the planning, implementation, and replication of one hundred “Positive Energy Neighbourhoods”. Such neighbourhoods form an essential part of comprehensive approaches for sustainable urbanisation (including spatial, technological, financial, legal, regulatory social and economic perspectives). Positive Energy Districts are characterised by annual net zero CO <sub>2</sub> emissions and net zero energy import. Their aim is to achieve a surplus renewable energy production that is integrated in an urban and regional energy system. Source: <a href="https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/ped/">https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/ped/</a>
<b>Climate Active Neighbourhoods (CAN)</b>	A.Urban Neighbourhood	The Climate Active Neighbourhoods (CAN) project explores new approaches for an energy-efficient refurbishment for residential spaces. Underprivileged neighbourhoods of varying sizes in north-western Europe that need refurbishment are the main focus of CAN. To be able to soon capitalise on capacities in these participating municipalities, the project introduces and builds approaches and synergies based on new governance models. A bottom-up approach ensures that citizens themselves can find appropriate funding for planned energy efficiency measures. Lastly, exemplary renovations, behavioural changes, and investment programmes for residents provide a tailor-made package of solutions. Source: <a href="https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/climate-active-neighbourhoods-can/">https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/climate-active-neighbourhoods-can/</a>
<b>MUV – Mobility Urban Values</b>	A.Urban Neighbourhood	MUV (Mobility Urban Values) – is a Research and Innovation Action that promotes sustainable and healthy mobility choices. It does so by raising citizen awareness concerning the quality of their urban environment. This Horizon2020-funded Action includes a mobile app which tracks daily routes of users and allocates points for sustainable conducts as well as a network of sensing stations

Name	Category	Description as per the entity's website and Source
		<p>crafted by the makers' community. <i>Urban commuters</i> will co-design and subsequently test divers game dynamics. MUV rewards success by a range of local businesses that profit from the advertisement that is indicated on the MUV platform. Six diverse urban neighbourhoods take part: Buitenveldert in Amsterdam, Sant Andreu in Barcelona, the historic district of the Portuguese county of Fundao, Muide-Meulestede in the harbour of Ghent, the new area of Jätkäsaari in Helsinki, and the area of Centro Storico in Palermo.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.muv2020.eu">https://www.muv2020.eu</a></p>
<b>Cities-4-People</b>	A.Urban Neighbourhood	<p>The H2020 project “Cities-4-People” focuses on sustainable, people-centred transport with a view to solving various mobility challenges that urban and peri-urban areas face today. With a people for people approach the project harnesses participatory methods of social innovation and neighbourhood governance. Cities-4-People is based on three main pillars: community empowerment, civic participation, and sustainable urban planning.</p> <p>Cities-4-People is present in five European areas: Altona in Hamburg, Oxfordshire County, Budapest and Trikala, Üsküdar in Istanbul. The project together with citizens, city authorities, mobility providers, and innovation experts establish mobility communities in these areas. Supporting services and tools provided by Cities-4-People enable these communities to actively shape their local mobility innovation ecosystems without disregarding a people-oriented transport and mobility approach (POTM). POTM includes various new digital and social technologies under an inclusive and multidisciplinary umbrella. It aims at developing solutions with a low environmental impact, a shared mindset, and which potentially solve real urban and peri-urban mobility-related problems.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://cities4people.eu/#">https://cities4people.eu/#</a></p>

Name	Category	Description as per the entity's website and Source
<b>Metamorphosis</b>	A.Urban Neighbourhood	<p>The project Metamorphosis contributes to the transformation of neighbourhoods into more liveable public spaces. It builds on the following assumption: “when a neighbourhood has many children on its public spaces, its well-designed”. Its main objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transform car-oriented neighbourhoods into children-friendly ones (e.g. pedestrianisation, street design elements, better and equitable shared common spaces, child oriented “Share Points”)</li> <li>• Develop a shared vision for such transformations by encouraging children, end-users, and stakeholders to participate</li> <li>• Answer research questions concerning neighbourhood transformation</li> <li>• Achieve creative breakthrough innovations for squares, streets, and further public spaces in urban districts and neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Assess take up, process and impacts, and involvement utilising innovative evaluation methods</li> <li>• Promoting a scale-up: Development and implementation of innovative transfer instruments introduce Metamorphosis-innovations to further cities and countries, also beyond the project duration</li> </ul> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.metamorphosis-project.eu/">http://www.metamorphosis-project.eu/</a></p>
<b>SUNRISE - Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods - Research and Implementation Support in Europe</b>	A.Urban Neighbourhood	<p>SUNRISE develops, implements, evaluates, and facilitates learning about new, cooperative ways to tackle mobility challenges on the neighbourhood level. To this end, six cities, so-called "Neighbourhood Mobility Labs", advocate for cooperative processes in neighbourhoods aiming at implementing innovative solutions for and with residents, businesses, etc. All cities strongly committed to sustainable mobility principles and co-creation. They all use city-wide mobility strategies (particularly SUMP), however, are aware that at the level of neighbourhoods, great potential for innovation remains untapped requiring the proactive engagement of</p>

Name	Category	Description as per the entity's website and Source
		<p>local communities in order to achieve durable and publicly accepted solutions that tackle challenges of urban mobility.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://civitas-sunrise.eu/about/what-is-sunrise">https://civitas-sunrise.eu/about/what-is-sunrise</a></p>
<b>Euromontana</b>	B.Mountain Hamlet	<p>Euromontana, the European multisectoral association for co-operation and development of mountain territories, has the main objective of encouraging the exchange of information and experience between regional and national mountain organisations across Europe. Such organisations could be regional development agencies, local authorities, farming organisations, environmental agencies, forestry organisations and research institutes. Euromontana works for integrated and sustainable development and aims to improve the life quality in mountain areas. The association organises seminars and major conferences; conducts studies; develops, manages and participates in European projects and also works with the European institutions on issues taking place in various mountain territories.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.euromontana.org/en/">https://www.euromontana.org/en/</a></p>
<b>Smart Villages – Rural Areas</b>	C.Rural Village	<p>The European Network for Rural Development (ENRD), defines Smart Villages as “communities in rural areas that use innovative solutions to improve their resilience, building on local strengths and opportunities.” With the aim to ameliorate their economic, social and/or environmental conditions, Smart Villages use a participatory approach and solutions based on digital technologies: The communities enhance cooperation and alliances with other communities in these areas and build on already existing initiatives. The financing of such solutions can originate from public and private sources.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/smart-and-competitive-rural-areas/smart-villages/smart-villages-portal_en">https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/smart-and-competitive-rural-areas/smart-villages/smart-villages-portal_en</a></p>

Name	Category	Description as per the entity's website and Source
<b>Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat</b>	D. Small Islands	Based on the "Political Declaration on Clean Energy For EU Islands" .signed by the European Commission together with 14 Member States under the Maltese Presidency in May 2017, the undersigned recognize and committed to ensuring that the energy concerns of island communities are at the forefront of the energy transition and related policy developments. Islands and island regions face a number of energy challenges and opportunities due to their specific geographical and climatic conditions. In cooperation with the European Parliament, the Commission has established a Secretariat in 2018 to implement the objectives of the Clean Energy for EU Islands initiative. The secretariat acts as an exchange platform of best practices for island stakeholders and provides specific capacity building and advisory services. The aim is to facilitate the bottom-up transition to clean energy in the EU islands. Source: <a href="https://www.euislands.eu/">https://www.euislands.eu/</a>
<b>ECOLISE – European Network for Community-led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability</b>	Other	“ECOLISE” is a European network for community-led initiatives on climate change and sustainability” by supporting solutions that are being continuously developed by community-led initiatives across Europe and the world. In this context ECOLISE’s purpose is to engage in, support and facilitate accelerated learning and collaboration among community-led initiatives, their networks and partners in order to catalyse systemic transformation within and across society. Source: <a href="https://www.ecolise.eu/">https://www.ecolise.eu/</a>

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ISBN 978-92-895-1032-5  
doi:10.2863/818680

QG-02-20-110-EN-N



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