

# Circular city governance: opportunities and challenges



## OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Develop and communicate a long-term, holistic vision about the circular ambitions of the city
- 2 Introduce cross-thematic coordination and promote a culture of cooperation and knowledge exchange and creation within the own municipal organisation.
- 3 Identify, address and include non-municipal stakeholders early on in the transition process (e.g. businesses, knowledge institutes, citizens) - in order to craft the process to come to circularity within an urban context, together.
- 4 Analyse the urban metabolism (material and energy streams, bio-sources and sinks) as a basis for developing a strategic plan for the CE transition with contextualised priority sectors.
- 5 Use circular public procurement to create demand for circular innovations.
- 6 Educate consumers (and other stakeholders) in civil society and more in particular cities based on an inclusive and participatory approach. In order for the CE to thrive in an urban context, co-creation from the start with citizens is crucial.
- 7 Identify external sources of funding/financing for CE initiatives and projects available at EU and/or national level to complement the cities' own budgetary sources and get acquainted with their rules and procedures.
- 8 Facilitate appropriate spaces and funding for experimentation, (private) innovation, knowledge transfers and match-making in the field of CE for businesses, research institutions and interested citizens.
- 9 Create forums with like-minded cities at the national (and possibly also at EU) level to lobby for necessary changes in EU and national legislation that currently block the transition to a CE.
- 10 Continuous monitoring and evaluation of implementation of circular projects and initiatives, with the aim to develop a solid knowledge base and provide feedback to guide/adjust the transition process.

## CHALLENGES

- 1 Political support is key in creating a common long term vision on circular economy developments.
- 2 Confusion and a wide range of interpretations on what the circular economy is, what the transition to a circular economy requires, and why it is relevant.
- 3 The circular economy is often only regarded from a waste or environmental management perspective, instead of from a wider multi-sectoral economic development perspective.
- 4 Circular projects require new and far-reaching levels of cooperation and coordination amongst all stakeholders involved. This is difficult to organise and maintain.
- 5 Citizens awareness and participation is very low.
- 6 There are insufficient funds available to support circular projects and programmes.
- 7 Private innovation power for circular companies can be insufficient.
- 8 City development strategies are currently often made in silos.
- 9 The current tax system obstructs circular development.
- 10 Current (waste) legislation hinders innovative reuse and/ or recycling of products and materials.

