Integrated Action Plan 2021 - 2030 City of Opole











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INTRODUCTION TO URBACT RESOURCEFUL CITIES

RESOURCEFUL CITIES is an URBACT Action Planning Network of ten European cities. The project seeks to develop the next generation of urban resource centres, so they can serve as catalysts of the local circular economy by adopting a participative and integrated approach. The resource centres strive to promote positive economic, environmental, and social impacts, notably for the circular economy. The network thus facilitates waste prevention, reuse, repair, and recycling. The centres also work as connection points for citizens, new businesses, researchers, and the public sector to co-create new ways to close resource loops at the local level. By bringing together interested actors to work alongside, the goals to promote the change of values and mind-set.

PARTNERS: The Hague (LP), Mechelen, Patras, Ciudad Real, Zagreb, Oslo, Cáceres, Vila Nova De Famalicão, 3rd District of Bucharest, Opole



INTRODUCTION TO THE INTEGRATED ACTION PLAN

The main goal and challenge in Opole is to reduce the amount of generated household waste and increase the amount of waste collected selectively. The city wants to improve the waste management system and increase the ecological awareness of the inhabitants. The Integrated Action Plan focuses on implementing circular economy in the city especially by creating and promote a physical space in the city centre, where people, in addition to throwing away waste, can repair broken toys, furniture or replace things they no longer need. The Municipal Resource Centre is going to support effective promotional and awareness-raising activities, encouraging residents to visit and use the centre. We believe the development of this centre will accelerate the transition to a circular economy and close the resource loops at the local level.



LOCAL CONTEXT

Opole is located in the south of Poland, near the border with the Czech Republic and Germany and has a population of 120 thousand inhabitants and population density of 858 inhabitants per km2. The city is part of an agglomeration of 320 thousand inhabitants. Opole cooperates closely with other municipalities of the agglomeration to support economic growth and job creation. The city is the capital of the Opolskie Voivodeship and the cultural, educational, economic and administrative centre of the region. Opole boasts many comfortable and fast railroad connections, whose range is more than twice the national average The city can be easily reached by road thanks to the first-class road network. The motorway enables getting to the nearest international airports in Wroclaw and Katowice in less than an hour. Opole can be also easily reached by train The city has high-speed direct connections with Wroclaw (less than 1 hour), Katowice (1 hour) and Warsaw (3 hour). The city has a very efficient public transport system. The popularity of the public bicycle system is also growing.

The city has one of the highest entrepreneurship rates among Polish cities - almost 166 companies per

1000 inhabitants. It offers a highly qualified, professional workforce and has six universities. It is a very attractive location for modern business services thanks to the large number of inhabitants fluent in German. There are also many thriving industries in such sectors as: food, electrical engineering, machinery, construction materials and automotive.

The Department of Municipal Waste Management in the Opole City Office

is responsible for coordinating and supervising the proper functioning of the municipal waste management system. It manages the tender process for the provision of services and cooperates with companies responsible for the collection, processing and recovery of municipal waste. The city was divided into 5 sectors; each of them has its own container. Currently only two companies provide waste collection: Remondis and ELKOM. The collected plastic, paper, glass and metal go to the sorting installation belonging to Remondis. Organic waste goes to the composting plant and mixed waste goes to the mechanical waste processing installation, where some of it is used as an alternative fuel and some goes to a landfill. The composting plant and landfill is owned by a municipal enterprise (Municipal Plant). The Municipal Plant also operates a selective waste collection point. Residents pay monthly fee about 6.60 euros per month per person. All residents have to segregate waste from beginning of 2021. The cost of the waste management system in Opole in 2021 was 9.5 million euros.

Over the last twenty years Opole has made great progress in the municipal waste management system. Selective collection of municipal waste began in 1999 with the separation of paper and plastic waste bins in the streets. Separate collection of municipal waste began in 2006. (paper, plastic, glass, metal, organic waste). During the last decade, efforts to improve waste recovery have been intensified, and the percentage of recyclable waste is increasing year by year.

From 2020, all households collect waste broken down into five waste fractions (plastic and metal, paper, glass, biodegradable waste, other waste). Despite the fact that the total amount of waste produced by the inhabitants of Opole is increasing, the amount of waste sent to the landfill in the last 10 years decreased. This is due to the increased recovery and recycling of municipal waste.



Diagram 1 The amount of municipal mixed (non-recyclable) waste collected (from households and other sources) in [tons] in Opole in 2010-2020

As shown above in recent years, the decline in the amount of non-recyclable waste produced by residents has unfortunately slowed down. Therefore, additional efforts are needed to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.



SHORT SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POLICIES ON LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND EU LEVEL

At the end of 2015 the European Commission launched "European Action Plan for the Circular Economy", where the virtues of the circular economy were highlighted and the need to establish specific actions with a specific horizon was established. This plan was revised and expanded in 2020 with the "New Action Plan for the circular economy for a cleaner and more competitive Europe". In the documented key product value chains are mentioned: electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, plastics, textiles, construction and buildings, food, water and nutrients. In the conclusions, the document states that "the transition to the circular economy will be systemic, deep and transformative, in the EU and beyond. […] It will require an alignment and cooperation of all stakeholders at all levels - EU, national, regional and local, and international".

Climate change and environmental degradation are an existential threat to Europe and the world and to overcome these challenges, the European Commission in 2019 published the European Green Deal. Implementing of the strategy is aimed at transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, ensuring: no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, economic growth decoupled from resource use, no person and no place left behind. The European Green Deal is also a lifeline out of the COVID-19 pandemic.²

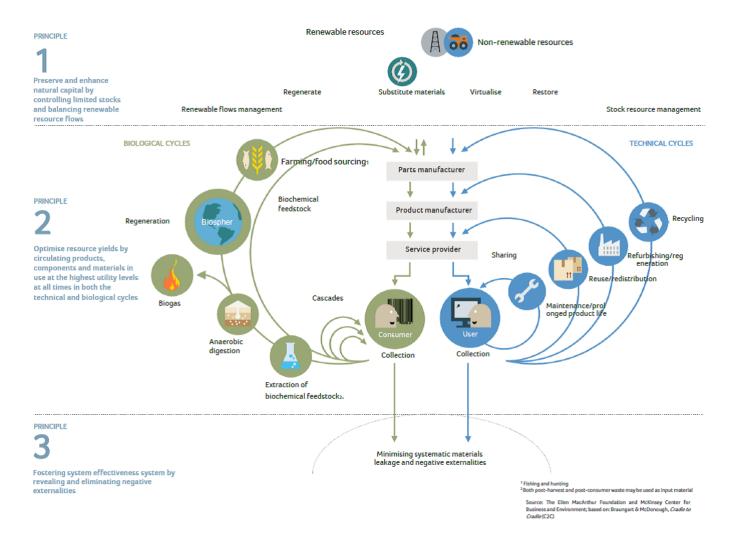
In 2019 Road Map towards the Transition to Circular Economy was adopted by the Council of Ministers. It is the first strategic document in this field in Poland. The Road Map focus on:

- "Sustainable industrial production" (the important role of industry in the Polish economy and new opportunities for its development),
- "Sustainable consumption" (the need to take action on this stage of the life cycle in the context of the transition to CE)
- "Bioeconomy" (the management of renewable raw materials the biological cycle of CE),
- "New business models" (the opportunities for reorganising functioning of various market participants based on the idea of CE).
- The implementation, monitoring and financing of CE.

The CE Road Map is based on the CE model commonly used in the EU (developed by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation) which assumes the existence of two cycles: biological (renewable rawmaterials) and technical (non-renewable raw materials).³



- $1. \qquad https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en$
- 2. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en
- 3. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en



At this time, the Opolskie Voivodeship is preparing for the implementation of the Opolskie Voivodeship Regional Operational Program for the years 2021 - 2027 co-financed by the ERDF and ESF. One of the aims of the program is to support the transformation towards a circular economy and a resource-efficient economy. The program will focus on activities aimed at recovery, recycling and implementation of systems contributing to the reduction of the amount of waste, as well as education and promotion of the circular economy.⁴

In Opole development strategy until 2030 the following vision of the city is presented "...We want Opole to be a green model city in 2030, starting with public space, through transport and energy policy, to a city with clean air, a city full of greenery, friendly to nature and attractive space, a city adapted to challenges related to climate change. We want each of us to know that environmental protection is ours common cause. We want each of the residents to prefer sustainable mobility – transport public, walking and cycling..." One of the goals included in the Strategy (2.2 priority) is Improving the waste management system.⁵

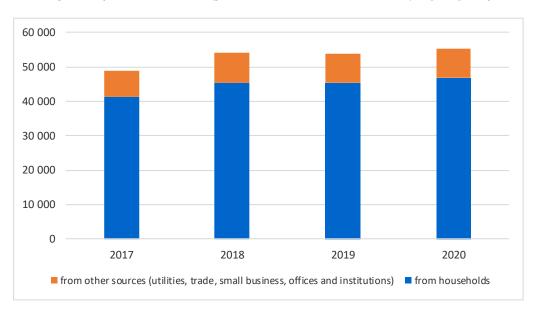


- 4. https://rpo.opolskie.pl/?p=45737
- $5. \qquad https://www.opole.pl/dla-mieszkanca/strategia-rozwoju-opola-do-2030-roku\\$



In recent years, the amount of waste generated by the inhabitants of Opole has been increasing. The Covid 19 pandemic slowed down this process somewhat, but once it has curbed, the trend is expected to continue.

Diagram 2 The amount of municipal waste collected (from households and other sources) in [tons] in Opole in 2017-2020



Despite the introduction of an advanced system of segregation and recycling of waste, since 2015 it has not been possible to significantly reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill and sent to incineration plants. Further increasing the amount of recyclable waste and reducing the amount of mixed waste produced by residents is currently a key challenge for city authorities. It is also crucial due to the enormous increase in the operating costs of the waste management system. These challenges are met by the idea of a circular economy. The city, together with public institutions, non-governmental organizations and entrepreneurs, plans to broadly implement the principles of the circular economy on local level.



SURVEY RESULTS

For the purposes of this study, a survey was conducted on a group of slightly more than 1.000 inhabitants of the city of Opole aged over 15 years on the level of awareness of city residents in the field of selective municipal waste collection and circular economy. The survey was carried out from November 26, 2021 to January 11, 2022 in electronic and paper form.

According to the survey, the vast majority of Opole residents sort waste (97.0%), and 87.0% of residents declare that they sort it regularly. Only 2.8% of Opole residents do not segregate waste in their homes.

Residents in the survey were asked to estimate what proportion of the waste in their households was mixed waste. The answers to this question were analysed in a breakdown taking into account all the criteria from

the survey record, i.e. sex, age, education and types of houses by structure. Collected data tell us which groups have the potential to produce the most mixed waste.

The largest part of the city's population - 48.3% - indicates that the share of mixed waste in total waste in their households is within the range of 11-30%. In the case of 17.4% of the inhabitants it is less than 10%, while according to less than one in 10 respondents, the share of mixed waste exceeds half (8.9%).

Detailed research results broken down by sex, age, education level and type of houses are presented in the table below.

Table 1 Answers to the question: "What proportion of your household waste is mixed waste?" in a survey on selective waste collection and circular economy among the inhabitants of Opole

Criterion	Answers	< 10%	11-30%	31-50%	>50%
in t	in total		48.3%	25.3%	8.9%
201	women	15.5%	50.5%	25.0%	9.0%
sex	men	21.5%	43.6%	26.1%	8.8%
	under 17 years of age	9.9%	42.7%	38.9%	8.4%
	18-25 years of age	6.1%	47.6%	26.8%	19.5%
age	26-40 years of age	14.3%	46.3%	27.2%	12.1%
	41-59 years of age	24.2%	50.3%	21.2%	4.3%
	over 60 years of age	25.4%	57.7%	11.3%	5.6%
	primary and lower secondary	9.0%	43.1%	38.2%	9.7%
education	basic vocational	28.0%	28.0%	28.0%	16.0%
education	secondary	17.3%	49.6%	19.4%	13.7%
	post-secondary	15.8%	60.5%	7.9%	15.8%
	higher	19.0%	49.1%	24.8%	7.1%
types of houses	single-family dwelling	22.0%	52.1%	19.5%	6.4%
by structure	multi-family	13.2%	44.6%	30.8%	11.3%

Source: survey on selective municipal waste collection and circular economy among the inhabitants of Opole.

For 38.2% of inhabitants of Opole, waste segregation is not a problem. Among the remaining ones, the most frequently indicated problem in waste segregation is the lack of conditions for its implementation at home - such an answer was indicated by 28.1% of respondents. Another 12.8% believe that they do not have adequate knowledge to segregate waste well, and 10.5% indicate too rare waste collection. Respondents were very active in giving their own answers to the question about problems in waste segregation. The answers provided by the residents themselves include the following:

- regarding waste bins and containers:
- o too small volume of containers;
- the size of containers and bins does not match the type of waste e.g. containers for glass fill up faster than others, containers for plastics are too small, the volume of the brown bin is too small (according to the respondent it should be adjusted to the area of the plot and not to the number of people in the household), the paper bin is too small;
- o poor container marking. It needs to be renewed because it is not visible;
- regarding the organization of the waste management system:
- o no price incentive for good segregation;
- o non-compliance with the rules by some residents, lack of supervision;

- regarding other matters:
- o the nuisance of collecting bio waste at home;
- o situations where one waste has several elements and they need to be placed in different bins;
- o no standardization of the marking of materials used for packaging it is still problematic to consider whether a given plastic packaging is recyclable or already mixed;
- o unavailability of ecological solutions in stores;
- o the lack of basic knowledge and information on how segregation of rainfall has a real impact on the environment on a local and regional scale.

The inhabitants of Opole were asked also about the frequency of performing various types of good habits that fit into the idea of a circular economy. The most frequently practiced habit among those proposed for assessment turned out to be walking with your own shopping bag and returning used electronic equipment to a collection point. A relatively large proportion of Opole residents always or often decide to repair broken equipment first, rather than throwing it away. Among the habits mentioned, the least popular are the use of public transport / carpooling and buying second-hand clothes.

Table 2 Answers to the question: "How often do you carry out the following activities?" in a survey on selective waste collection and circular economy among the inhabitants of Opole

Answers	always	often	some- times	rarely	never	no answer
using your own shopping bag	54.6%	35.2%	6.3%	2.3%	0.5%	0.1%
buying products "in bulk", not in packages	9.7%	52.0%	26.5%	10.0%	1.4%	0.0%
paying attention to the type of product packaging	12.8%	34.0%	25.6%	19.9%	7.2%	0.0%
returning used electronic equipment to a collection point	49.7%	20.0%	13.3%	9.5%	7.1%	0.0%
using public transport / carpooling	15.4%	26.2%	15.7%	28.6%	13.7%	0.0%
using the packaging of purchased products for another purpose	15.6%	41.1%	27.0%	12.5%	3.2%	0.0%
repairing broken equipment, not throwing it away	32.1%	41.2%	19.1%	6.0%	1.1%	0.0%
selling unused items instead of throwing them away	23.4%	34.0%	20.4%	14.0%	7.9%	0.0%
buying used clothes	7.4%	30.3%	20.8%	18.9%	22.0%	0.0%

Source: survey on selective municipal waste collection and circular economy among the inhabitants of Opole.

The respondents were asked whether they use various types of elements of the waste management system in Opole. The most popular are the Municipal Selective Collection Points (PSZOK), which are used by 59.1% of respondents (in older age groups - 41-59 years old and> 60 years old, this percentage is even higher, i.e. 74.6% and 70.4% respectively,), Municipal Electrical Waste Points (MPE), which are used by 53.9% of respondents (again more popular in the oldest age groups - 66.6% and 66.2% use Municipal Electrical Waste Points, respectively) and booklets, leaflets on the principles of municipal waste segregation, with which are used by 47.0% of the respondents (among the oldest age groups, 51.4% and 64.8% respectively). In the case of almost all elements of the system that were asked about, the involvement in the use increases with age, even in the case of such modern options as the "Opole Segreguje" application. However, the reason may be the fact that some people under the age of 25 still live with their parents and they are not directly responsible for segregating household waste. The percentage of respondents indicated that they use ReUżytkownia (15.2%) and a Book Exchange (PWK) Point (18.2%) was the lowest. It can be noticed that men more often than women use the application "Opole Segreguje" (34.5% compared to 17.7%) and PSZOK (66.1% compared to 56.1%), while women use booklets and leaflets more often (51.7% compared to 37.0%), competitions and festivals (22.2% compared to 12.1%), ReUżytkowni (19.1% compared to 7.3%) or PWK (21.6% compared to 11.5%).



SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE OPOLE CIRCULAR ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM

The project team in cooperation with ULG developed a SWOT analysis in relation to the municipal waste management system and the prospects of implementing a circular economy. The results are shown in the table below.

STRENGHT

- Increase in the share of selectively collected waste in total municipal waste;
- Relatively high share of selectively collected waste in total waste compared to the country and similar cities;
- Decreasing amount of mixed waste collected;
- Obtaining legally required levels for calculating the levels of preparing for reuse and recycling of municipal waste;
- Involvement in the sorting of waste of the vast majority of the city's residents;
- Waste segregation is considered unproblematic by almost 40% of residents;
- Concern for the environment as the main motivation for waste segregation;
- The functioning of a number of places supporting the municipal waste collection system, such as PSZOK, MPE, ReUżytkownia, which are additionally actively used by residents, and their popularity is growing;
- Practicing good habits by a large part of the inhabitants, such as walking with your own shopping bag and returning used electronic equipment to a collection point;
- Relatively high awareness circular economy is among residents;
- The multitude of ideas and postulates submitted in the survey concerning the organisation of the municipal waste management system in the city testified to the high level of involvement in this topic;
- A highly developed education and information system on municipal waste segregation, supported by a number of projects involving several public entities in the city;
- Multiple entities, both public and from the third sector, involved in the promotion of environmental attitudes and environmental education;

WEAKNESSES

- Increasing tendency of the amount of municipal waste;
- Relatively high amount of municipal waste per 1 inhabitant (431 kg in 2020);
- Higher declared share of mixed waste in total waste in the younger part of society (less than 40 years of age), as well as among less educated people;
- Greater difficulties in waste segregation for residents of multi-family housing;
- Lack of conditions for segregation at home (especially for residents of multi-family housing) and insufficient knowledge of how to sort waste are the most common problems in proper segregation;
- Mismatch between the size of the containers and the frequency of waste collection;
- The need to improve the supervision of waste segregation;
- The identification of further educational needs for children, adults and the elderly, as suggested by the residents;
- Good habits such as using public transport / carpooling and buying second-hand clothes are relatively less popular;
- The necessity to further promote modern forms of supporting waste segregation for residents - website and application in view of a moderately high percentage of users among residents;
- Relatively poor knowledge by residents of such elements of municipal waste management infrastructure as PWK and the Opole Segreguje application;
- Average cost-effectiveness of municipal waste collected services compared to similar cities and the country according to the Central Statistical Office

OPPORTUNITIES

- Inclusion of circular economy considerations in a number of strategic documents at EU and national level;
- Programs supporting environmental protection, enabling the receipt of funding for pro-environmental purposes;
- Legislation forcing the improvement of the situation in the field of waste management;
- European integration, supporting cooperation between countries and regions and the exchange of experiences and good practices;
- Fashion for ecology, increasing consumer awareness of the consequences of their decisions for the environment, evident in, for example, greater attention to the packaging of the products.
- The trend for manufacturers to change the way they package their products in response to environmental challenges and similar pro-eco trends among their customers;
- Development of new materials and production technologies influencing the potential to reduce the amount and nuisance of waste;
- Increasing access to the Internet, allowing for more effective and broader education and promotion of pro-environmental attitudes

THREATS

- Pandemic-related difficulties, such as organising meetings of various environmental groups, conducting some educational activities;
- Inflation, high labour costs, increased costs of operating the waste management system;
- An increase in the wealth of society, potentially translating into an increase in waste (increased consumption);
- The short lifespan of some products and the tendency to replace broken products with new ones instead of repairing them, insufficient commitment from manufacturers to change this;
- Instability of the law and bureaucracy, making it difficult to carry out some pro-environmental projects;
- Difficulties in transferring innovative solutions created in the field of environmental protection into the economy.





GOALS OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN OPOLE

As a city from a country in East Central Europe, we have less experience in the field of advanced solutions in recycling and circular economy than cities from Western Europe. Recent years have been marked by increased intensity

of change and improvement of the quality of the waste management system in Opole. We want the cooperation with URBACT partner cities to provide an additional impulse for the implementation of interesting ideas and initiatives in Opole.

The goals of circular economy in Opole has been prepared on the basis of a diagnosis of the situation in the area of environmental protection and waste management in Opole, taking into account statistics, the results of a survey and information about the entities and their activities currently operating in the waste management system of the city.

Strategic goals of circular economy in Opole based on the diagnosis are:

- Reduce the amount of mixed waste going to landfill;
- Increasing the amount of waste going to a closed circuit;
- Creation of an effective infrastructure supporting the creation of conditions for a circular economy;
- Increasing the knowledge of the city residents about the circular economy and building a pro-environmental attitude;
- Creation of a system for creating conditions for a circular economy.

The above-formulated goals can be reduced to one main goal, which is

Bringing the city of Opole closer to a model of a closed-cycle economy made visible by consciously minimising the amount of municipal waste generated, including mixed waste in the system in favour of waste going into a closed loop

The implementation of the main objective is to be supported by four strategic points.

1. Creation of an effective infrastructure supporting the creation of conditions for a circular economy

This goal aims at securing appropriate technical and infrastructural conditions for decreasing the amount of produced municipal waste through: conscious choices and reduction of consumerism, supporting recycling, reuse of objects so that they do not become waste, and, when municipal waste is generated, implementation of correct selective collection of it thanks to which the amount of mixed waste generated will be reduced. Currently, the infrastructure supporting the transition to a circular economy in Opole consists of a selective waste collection system, waste processing facilities, PSZOK, MPE, PWK or ReUżytkownia. Within the framework of this strategic objective, it is planned to further expand the MPE and PWK networks and to strengthen the position of the ReUżytkownia as a waste prevention centre, which is becoming increasingly popular among residents.

2. Active support of residents in the implementation of circular economy rules in order to reduce the amount of waste

It is planned to implement activities that can support the inhabitants in this task. These will be activities of advisory nature, supporting the development of knowledge on how to reduce the amount of waste in the household. The diagnosis revealed a number of difficulties faced by residents when segregating waste in their households, which is why it is planned to undertake educational activities regarding waste segregation (the "Opole Segreguje" application and the website www.smieciopolis.opole.pl - further promotion of these tools is planned), how to organise waste segregation in the household (in the form of useful and attractive guide materials), and how to give used objects a new life (by expanding the base of entities where used objects can be given away and promoting PWK or ReUżytkownia).

3. Increasing the knowledge of city residents about the circular economy and building a pro-environmental attitude

The development of ecological attitudes among inhabitants, underlying their involvement in the development of a closed-circle economy, may be implemented through educational and information activities. The activities will be directed both to the youngest inhabitants of the city - children and adolescents, as well as to adults. The children are to be target audience of festivals and competitions, as well as workshops and lectures; intensive cooperation with schools is also planned in terms of training teachers in the implementation of environmental education, e.g. through classes in the Waste Fly Workshop, as well as the extension of this Workshop to include a circular economy themed playground. It is also planned to use the Waste Fly brand to arouse children's interest in environmental protection. Information and promotion campaigns on circular economy as well as educational materials and educational offer in ReUżytkownia will be addressed to adults. The research among residents - adults as well as children and adolescents - in this area will support the determination of changes in the level of inhabitants' knowledge about circular economy.

4. Increasing the level of cooperation between various entities operating in the field of waste management, environmental protection and environmental education in the city

The activity of various entities in the city in the field of ecology is visible - not only public entities but also non-governmental organizations operate in this area. Cooperation between these entities can provide new, innovative solutions supporting the transformation to a circular economy, and joint activities and thus involve a larger number of inhabitants. There are plans to create a council for a circular economy, accumulating ideas from different backgrounds and increasing integration. Such council may also be a good place to foster cooperation between businesses and scientific entities for the development of innovative ways to support the circular economy in business.



THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY STAKEHOLDERS

Several groups can be mentioned among the stakeholders of the Strategy for transformation to a circular economy. Information about them and their role in creating a better and better model of waste management and resource use is presented in the table below.



Group	Role				
	reducing the amount of waste generated in their households;				
	 implementation of waste segregation in their households; 				
Total inhabitants of the city of Opole	giving second life to used items;				
and only of opens	• implementation of "good habits" conducive to reducing the amount of waste;				
	• developing environmental awareness and knowledge of the circular				
	economy				
0	• implementation of "good habits" conducive to reducing the amount of waste;				
Children and adolescent population	 developing environmental awareness and knowledge of the circular 				
	economy				
People under 40,	improving waste segregation habits;				
people with a lower level of education,	increasing the percentage of sorted waste in the amount of waste from				
people living in multi- family housing	households;				
(groups identified	• implementation of "good habits" conducive to reducing the amount of waste;				
as those least implementing waste	developing environmental awareness and knowledge of the circular				
segregation)	economy				
Adult residents of the	improving waste segregation habits;				
city, over 40 years of age	increasing the percentage of sorted waste in the amount of waste from				
(a group to which	households;				
the educational and promotional	implementation of "good habits" conducive to reducing the amount of waste;				
message has not been addressed in a special	 developing environmental awareness and knowledge of the circular 				
way so far)	economy				
	supervising the waste collection and processing system, including the proper				
	implementation of the waste collection, selective collection and treatment				
	processes;				
	developing infrastructure supporting the construction of a circular economy;				
Public institutions responsible for	implementation of information and promotion activities;				
waste management and environmental	research on changes in the environmental awareness of inhabitants and				
protection in the city	their practice of "good habits";				
	answering the questions and expectations of residents regarding difficulties				
	in the implementation of waste segregation;				
	• stimulating cooperation between various entities dealing with waste				
	management or ecological education in the city				
	 implementation of information and promotion activities; 				
Cohoolo and asterna	• developing environmental awareness and knowledge about the circular				
Schools and science institutions	economy among children and young people;				
	• creating new solutions, including innovative ones, that will help build a				
	circular economy				

	implementation of information and promotion activities;				
Cultural institutions	developing environmental awareness and knowledge of the circular economy				
Enterprises and	 implementation of waste collection and processing processes, taking into account aspects important for the transformation to a circular economy - selective collection, reducing the amount of waste going to a landfill; 				
public entities responsible for the implementation of	 implementation of new, also innovative solutions, favoring the reduction of the amount of waste going to the landfill; 				
waste collection and management	implementation of information and promotion activities;				
	 developing environmental awareness and knowledge of the circular economy 				
	 implementation of solutions aimed at lower consumption of materials in the production process or in the provision of services; 				
	focus on the production of durable, repairable items;				
Other companies	 aiming to reduce the amount of packaging or to change to more ecological materials; 				
	implementation of waste segregation;				
	creating new solutions, including innovative ones, that will help build a circular economy				
	implementation of information and promotion activities;				
Non-governmental organizations operating in the field	 developing environmental awareness and knowledge of the circular economy 				
of environmental protection and building ecological	 establishing advisory bodies for public institutions, communicating the needs and moods of the society in the field of waste management; 				
attitudes	 sharing knowledge and experience on good practices in terms of environmental protection 				
	implementation of information and promotion activities;				
Other NGOs and citizens' associations	developing environmental awareness and knowledge of the circular economy				
	establishment of advisory bodies for public institutions to convey the needs and feelings of the public on waste management				
Media, especially local	supporting the implementation of information and promotion activities				



THE OPOLE URBACT LOCAL GROUP (ULG)

A cross sectoral ULG has been created in Opole with representation of municipal representatives of the city hall, public institutions, non-governmental organizations and universities. The institutions and people involved deal with the issue identical to the topic of Resourceful Cities project and have numerous interests, experiences and ideas in the field of circular economy. That helps us shaping and designing concrete, most efficient solutions. The group is presented in a table below:

INSTITUTION	STAKEHOLDER STATUS	
Opole City Office	Local authority	
Municipal Education Support Center in Opole	Public institution	
Municipal Family Assistance Center	Public institution	
Senior Centre in Opole	Public institution	
"RE-Start" Centre in Opole	Public institution	
Daily Residence "Golden Autumn"	Public institution	
Children's Aid Foundation "Horyzont" in Opole	Non-governmental organization	
"Excalibur" Foundation in Opole	Non-governmental organization	
Opole City Council	Local authority	
Opole Youth Council	Representative of the residents	
Poviat Labour Office	Public institution	
Municipal Company Ltd	Company	
The Opole Agglomeration Association	Non-governmental organization	
Opole University of Technology	Education institution	
Opole University	Education institution	
The Complex of State Art Education Institutions in Opole	Education institution	



LEARNING FROM THE SMALL SCALE ACTION:

In Opole SSA we decided to carry out education activities and promotion campaign on the circular economy among adult residents of the city. The action was focused on:

- educational campaign of adult residents of the city of Opole, especially students and working people, currently not covered by the ongoing educational program,
- reducing the amount of things that become waste thanks to education and information,
- promoting the ideas of Zero Waste, Circular Economy, recycling and upcycling.

The implementation of the SSA began in mid-2021. In the first period, surveys were conducted among the residents on awareness and knowledge of the principles of waste segregation and the idea of a circular economy. At the same time, the Re-use shop was being prepared for the opening. The space for the Re-use shop were renovated and adapted, and a promotional campaign for this place was launched. In September, a profile of this place was created on social media. An awareness and educational campaign was conducted through it.

In November 2021, after months of preparation, the Re-use shop was opened. Along with the commencement of operations, workshops and other activities were launched to promote the place and the idea of a circular economy. From the opening to the end of march 2022 Re-use shop was visited by approximately 5,500 people. During this time, more than 6 tons of items were collected, and the second life received almost 5 tons of them. There were also many workshops conducted for around 200 participants.





SSA IDEA	Conducting education activities for adults					
MAIN OBJECTIVE	Increasing the ecological awareness of resid	ents in the field of the	circular economy			
BACKGROUND & INSPIRATION	During the URBACT project we learned how the Urban Resource Centers for partner cities (Oslo, The Hague, Mechellen). Similar places operating in large (Poznań, Katowice) were also visited. After learning about the experience preparation for opening our Urban Resource Centre started. The idea, go rules of how this place should function were discussed with ULG members.					
	Opole opened an Urban Resource Centre (U The aim of the centre is to provide an acce greater awareness and participation of citize	essible space that runs	activities to promote			
	The city wanted to run a series of activitie and engagement amongst the adult residen programme the city wanted to gain more inf so that they could develop an impactful and longer term.	t of the city. Before invormation about this co	vesting in a large scale hort of the population			
	It was decided to trial an educational camp specifically targeting adults. They decided t interests of the residents, like card crafting,	o trial regular worksho	ops targeting different			
	The long term goal of these workshops is economy in order to (a) reduce the amount amount of waste ending up in landfill.					
	The campaign was targeted at primarily at a not at the time enrolled in any continuing ed		ty of Opole, who were			
LEAD ORGANISATION	City of Opole					
KEY PARTNERS	ULG members, volunteers, non-government	organizations				
MONITORING	Number of workshops and other activities					
INDICATORS	Number of participants who will take part in	n workshops and other	activities			
RESOURCES & BUDGET	UE grant (URBACT), City of Opole	TWO TROTTO PO UTTO CETTE	detivities			
DURATION	9 months					
RISKS & MITIGATION MEASURES	Lack of interest among adult residents of Opole	This is a medium level risk	A good promotion campaign of Reuse shop among residents			
			Preparation of a very attractive forms of workshops and other activities.			
	COVID pandemic and risk of lockdown	This is a high level risk	Preparation of online workshop offer			
	Lack of NGOs who want to cooperate with Re-use shop	This is a medium level risk	A good promotion campaign of Re-use shop among NGOs			



RESULTS & KEY LEARNING

Results achieved:

- 210 people participated in the workshops
- An average of 60 people visited the URC each day
- On average 60kg of items were brought to the URC each day
- In a survey of 210 people 89% of respondents knew the meaning of the term "Zero Waste" and 92% confirmed that they separate waste.
- Participants expressed an interest in attending future educational activities in particular lectures, repair and DIY workshops, clothing repair and upcycling.

Interaction with city residents through the URC and the workshops and based on the survey results suggests that the majority of residents (69%) regularly repair broken items rather than buying new.

The SSA proved the URC to be a suitable and effective place to support educational activities aimed and raising citizen awareness of an participation in the circular economy. The URC has sufficient space to carry out educational activities, including workshops for about 10 - 20 people. The preferred time expressed by participants for educational activities was Saturday mornings.

The trial of educational activities at the URC proved very popular among the city's residents. The initiative was very positively received by the residents of Opole and this was reflected in the monthly number of visits to the URC, as well in the number of items dropped off and collected.

The experience demonstrated the need to open more exchange points and resource centers in other areas of the city, especially for clothes and bulky items. The existing URC does not have space for bulky items e.g. furniture.

Given the demand and interest demonstrated by citizens in this initiative the city is surprised that associations and NGOs are not already interested in and involved such initiatives. There may be an opportunity for greater collaboration here.

IMPACT ON THE IAP

Arising from the high level of interest and demand in these educational activities, related activities and services will be designed into the service delivery plan of the URC. This will be reflected in the IAP.

Space will need to be found for more exchange points and consideration is being given to launching bulky item exchanges at the municipal recycling centre points in Opole.

The city intends to actively encourage greater cooperation and invite associations and non-governmental organizations to joint initiatives.



IDEA	Expansion of Books Exchan	ge Points					
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION	The idea of bookcrossing is in line with the activities of the Circular Economy and is becoming more and more common in Poland. It is about donating books free of charge by leaving them in specially created places. You can leave your book there and take your chosen one home. As part of the action, it is planned to purchase and install display cases for book exchange in various parts of the city.						
	The action has impact on the strategic points:						
	1. Creation of an effective in circular economy	Creation of an effective infrastructure supporting the creation of conditions for a circular economy					
MAIN OBJECTIVE	To establish new Books Exch	nange Points (expansion of the	network)				
VISION	To reduce paper wastes, to	make books circulate among ci	tizens				
LEAD ORGANISATION	City of Opole						
KEY PARTNERS	Municipal and Voivodeship Schools	Library, Youth Cultural Center, F	Primary and Secondary				
MONITORING INDICATORS	Number of new Books Exch	Number of new Books Exchange Points 30.000 euro City of Opole budget, EU grant					
ESTIMATE OF COSTS	30.000 euro						
RESOURCING	City of Opole budget, EU gra						
TIMESCALE	2021 - 2023						
STATUS	Ongoing						
RISKS & MITIGATION MEASURES	Risk of the point being destroyed by residents	This is a medium level risk	Location of points in illuminated and monitored places				
	Taking books from points to sell	This is a medium level risk	Marking books with stamps, informing waste paper collection points not to accept marked books				
	Insufficient number of books to exchange	This is a high level risk	Promotion of Books Exchange Points, systematic organization of book collections among residents				
	Lack of funds for the functioning of the points This is a low level risk budget, cooper partners and seems to be partners.						
	KANALAN PARANCE	C THE STATE OF THE	partners and sponsors				

はないのでは、		ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
なるとは、大学のなどでは、 大学のできる。	1	Purchase and installation of books exchange points	City of Opole	Managers of the area/ places where the points are located (companies, public institutions, NGOs)	2021 - 2022	City of Opole budget EU grant Employees of the City of Opole
ではない。	2	Maintenance of books exchange points	City of Opole,	Managers of the area/ places where the points are located (companies, public institutions, NGOs)	2022 - 2030	City of Opole budget Employees of the City of Opole
	3	Conducting book collections	City of Opole,	Municipal and Voivodeship Library Youth Cultural Center, Primary and Secondary Schools	2022 - 2030	Employees of the City of Opole and partners

2. IDEA	Expansion of Municipal Elec	tro-Waste Points				
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION	Municipal Electro-Waste Points are specialized containers for collecting used batteries, light bulbs, ink toner cartridges, mobile phones, floppy disks, CDs / DVDs. As part of the action, it is planned to purchase and install new points in various parts of the city.					
	The action has impact on the strategic points: 1. Creation of an effective infrastructure supporting the creation of conditions for a circular economy					
MAIN OBJECTIVE	To establish new Municipal E	lectro-Waste Point (expansion	of the network)			
VISION	To reduce electro-waste bein	g dumped in landfill				
LEAD ORGANISATION	City of Opole					
KEY PARTNERS	Municipal Company (colleting	g waste from the points)				
MONITORING INDICATORS	Amount (kg) of electro-waste being collected					
ESTIMATE OF COSTS	50.000 euro					
RESOURCING	City of Opole budget, EU grai	City of Opole budget, EU grant				
TIMESCALE	2021 – 2023					
STATUS	Ongoing					
RISKS & MITIGATION MEASURES	Risk of the point being destroyed by residents	This is a medium level risk	Location of points in illuminated and monitored places			
	Lack of funds for the functioning of the points This is a low level risk Securing funds in the budget, cooperation partners and sponsor					
	Risk of environmental contamination through the release of waste from the point	This is a medium level risk	Adequate protection of the point, monitoring of points during operation			

	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
1	Purchase and installation of municipal electro-waste point	City of Opole		2021 - 2022	City of Opole budget EU grant Employees of the City of Opole
2	Maintenance of municipal electro-waste point	City of Opole		2022 - 2030	City of Opole budget Employees of the City of Opole
3	Conducting electro-waste collection	City of Opole	Municipal Company	2022 - 2030	Employees of the City of Opole and Municipal Company

3. IDEA	Composters in public space						
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION	Not everyone has the option of composting their organic waste at home. It is planned to create a system of municipal composters. They will be placed in the public space and will be available to everyone.						
	The action has impact on the st	trategic points:					
	Creation of an effective infrascircular economy	structure supporting the crea	ation of conditions for a				
	3. Increasing the knowledge of pro-environmental attitude	city residents about the circu	ular economy and building a				
MAIN OBJECTIVE	To establish composters in publ	To establish composters in public space					
VISION	To reduce organic waste and produce natural fertilizer						
LEAD ORGANISATION	City of Opole, NGOs						
KEY PARTNERS	NGOs, Municipal Company, resi	NGOs, Municipal Company, residents					
MONITORING	Amount (kg) of organic waste w	vhich will be turned into ferti	ilizer				
INDICATORS	Amount (kg) of fertilizer produc	ced in composters					
ESTIMATE OF COSTS	5.000 euro						
RESOURCING	City of Opole budget						
TIMESCALE	2024 - 2027						
STATUS	Planned						
RISKS & MITIGATION MEASURES	Risk of waste coming out of the composters						
	Placing the wrong waste in Composters	This is a medium level risk	Proper education among residents				

	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
1	Organization and running of clothes exchange	City of Opole	NGOs, residents	2022 - 2024	City of Opole budget EU grant Employees of the City of Opole and NGOs

5. IDEA	Create a Municipal Circular Econo	my Co-operation Council			
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION	There are a number of initiatives related to the circular economy in Opole. Sometimes, however, there is a lack of cooperation between the various institutions. It is planned to establish a permanent council under the patronage of the Mayor of Opole, whose task will be to exchange information and coordinate activities carried out by various entities in the field of circular economy. The action has impact on the strategic points: 2. Active support of residents in the implementation of circular economy rules in order to reduce the amount of waste 4. Increasing the level of cooperation between various entities operating in the field of waste management, environmental protection and environmental education in the city				
MAIN OBJECTIVE	Coordinate actions in the field of circular economy				
Vision	Implement new actions in the field of circular economy				
LEAD ORGANISATION	City of Opole, NGO's				
KEY PARTNERS	NGO's, residents, public institution	ıs			
MONITORING INDICATORS	Number of council meetings Number of initiatives implemented	d with the participation of the	e council		
ESTIMATE OF COSTS	1.000 euro				
RESOURCING	City of Opole budget				
TIMESCALE	2023- 2027				
STATUS	PLANNED				
	Lack of interest among potential members	This is a medium level risk	Encouraging participation in the council		
RISKS & MITIGATION MEASURES	Lack of effects of the council's activities	This is a medium level risk	support by the mayor in the implementation of ideas, providing funds in the city budget to implement the ideas of the council		

	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
1	Preparation and organization of the council	City of Opole	NGOs, public institutions	2022	City of Opole budget Employees of the City of Opole
2.	Council activities	City of Opole	NGOs, public institutions	2023 - 2030	City of Opole budget Employees of the City of Opole Members of the Council

6. IDEA	Create an educational playground				
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION	It is planned to build a playground that would be widely used to educate children and adults on waste prevention and the circular economy. It will complement the educational offer of the Trash Fly classroom. The action has impact on the strategic points:				
	3. Increasing the knowledge of city pro-environmental attitude	residents about the circular	economy and building a		
MAIN OBJECTIVE	Education of children and adults in	Education of children and adults in the field of circular economy			
Vision	Implement new actions in the field	l of circular economy			
LEAD ORGANISATION	City of Opole, Municipal Education	Support Center in Opole			
KEY PARTNERS	Schools, kindergartens, residents Playgrounds created Number of educated children				
MONITORING INDICATORS					
ESTIMATE OF COSTS	100.000 euro				
RESOURCING	City of Opole budget, EU grants				
TIMESCALE	2023- 2024				
STATUS	PLANNED				
RISKS & MITIGATION	Lack of financial resources	This is a medium level risk	Applying for and obtaining EU funds		
MEASURES	Problems with selecting a contractor	This is a low level risk	Proper conduct of the tender		

STATE OF THE PARTY OF		ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
Control of the Contro	1.	Playground design	City of Opole	Municipal Education Support Center in Opole	2022	City of Opole budget Employees of the City of Opole
	2.	Applying for EU funds, preparation and organization of the tender,	City of Opole	Municipal Education Support Center in Opole	2023 - 2024	City of Opole budget, EU grants Employees of the City of Opole
	3.	Construction of a playground	City of Opole	Municipal Education Support Center in Opole	2024	City of Opole budget Employees of the City of Opole
	4.	The functioning of the playground	Municipal Education Support Center in Opole	Schools, kindergartens, residents	2025 - 2030	City of Opole budget Employees of the Municipal Education Support Center in Opole and schools



7. IDEA	Strengthening the position of Reusing Shop as an urban center of activities in the field of circular economy				
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION	Reusing Shop is a new place in the city. The first months of operation proved that it is needed, and the inhabitants are willing to use it. In the following years, we plan to develop and expand our activities with new forms of workshops and training. We would like to involve volunteers in these new actions. It is also planned to use Reusing Shop as a place of information exchange between various entities about the activities in the field of circular economy implemented in the city. The action has impact on the strategic points: 1. Creation of an effective infrastructure supporting the creation of conditions for a circular economy 3. Increasing the knowledge of city residents about the circular economy and building a pro-environmental attitude				
MAIN OBJECTIVE	Education of adults in the field of circular economy, Exchanges information on activities in the field of the circular economy				
Vision	Implement new actions in the field	d of circular economy			
LEAD ORGANISATION	City of Opole,				
KEY PARTNERS	NGO's, Public institutions, resident	ts			
MONITORING INDICA- TORS	number of new activities impleme	nted			
ESTIMATE OF COSTS	100.000 euro				
RESOURCING	City of Opole budget, EU grants				
TIMESCALE	2022- 2030				
STATUS	PLANNED				
	Lack of financial resources	This is a medium level risk	Applying for and obtaining EU funds		
RISKS & MITIGATION MEASURES	Lack of interest of non-gov- ernmental organizations in the implementation of activities	This is a low level risk	A good promotion of the Reusing Shop, Encour- aging organizations to cooperation.		

	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
1	Establishing cooperation with organizations and public entities interested in joint activities	City of Opole	NGO's, Public institutions	2022 - 2023	City of Opole budget, Employees of the City of Opole
2.	Realizations of joint activities	NGO'S, Public Institutions,	Residents, volunteers	2024 - 2030	City of Opole budget, EU grants Employees of the City of Opole, NGO's and public institutions Volunteers

8. IDEA	Circular economy promotion camp	paign		
DESCRIPTION	As part of the action, it is planned to implement a campaign promoting the circular economy. By organizing festivals, competitions and other events, we will expand the ecological knowledge of the inhabitants.			
OF THE ACTION	The action has impact on the strate	egic points:		
	3. Increasing the knowledge of city pro-environmental attitude	residents about the circular	economy and building a	
MAIN OBJECTIVE	Education of kids and adults in the field of circular economy,			
Vision	Implement a promotion action in t	he field of circular economy		
LEAD ORGANISATION	City of Opole,			
KEY PARTNERS	NGO's, Public institutions, resident	S		
MONITORING INDICATORS	number of promotional campaign conducted number of festivals organized number of spots produced and emitted number of competitions organized number of "Circular economy city guide" printed and distributed			
ESTIMATE OF COSTS	20.000 euro			
RESOURCING	City of Opole budget, EU grants			
TIMESCALE	2023- 2030			
STATUS	PLANNED			
RISKS & MITIGATION	Lack of financial resources	This is a medium level risk	Applying for and obtaining EU funds	
MEASURES	Lack of interest of residents to take part in the events	This is a medium level risk	A good promotion of the campaign, attractive offer	

	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
1	Preparation of the campaign concept Organization of events (festivals and competitions) Production of the spots Preparation of "Circular economy city guide"	City of Opole	NGO's, Public institutions	2022 - 2023	City of Opole budget, Employees of the City of Opole
2.	Realizations of campaign (Circular economy festival, competitions in educational institutions promoting circular economy, emission of the spots, distribution of the guide "Circular economy city guide")	City of Opole, NGO'S, Public Institutions	Residents	2023 - 2027	City of Opole budget, EU grants Employees of the City of Opole, NGO's and public institutions

9. IDEA	Circular economy educational info				
	Digital media makes it easy to reach a large audience with educational content. As part of the action, it is planned to:				
	- expansion of the smieciopolis.or lated to the circular economy	pole.pl mobile application w	ith additional content re-		
DESCRIPTION	- current posting of information on	profiles in social networks			
OF THE ACTION	- creating an online waste database	e (list of places where you ca	n return waste)		
	The action has impact on the strate	egic points:			
	3. Increasing the knowledge of city residents about the circular economy and building a pro-environmental attitude				
MAIN OBJECTIVE	Education of kids and adults in the field of circular economy,				
Vision	Implement a promotion action in t	Implement a promotion action in the field of circular economy in digital media			
LEAD ORGANISATION	City of Opole,				
KEY PARTNERS	NGO's, Public institutions, resident	S			
MONITORING INDICA- TORS	number of activities in digital med	ia			
ESTIMATE OF COSTS	50.000 euro				
RESOURCING	City of Opole budget, EU grants				
TIMESCALE	2023- 2030				
STATUS	PLANNED				
	Lack of financial resources	This is a low level risk	Applying for and obtaining EU funds		
RISKS & MITIGATION MEASURES	Lack of interest of residents to take part in the events	This is a medium level risk	A good promotion of application and accounts in social medias, attractive and useful information		

	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
1.	Preparation of the concept for the development of the application	City of Opole	IT companies	2022 - 2023	City of Opole budget, Employees of the City of Opole
2.	Preparation of the waste database	City of Opole	IT companies	2022 - 2023	City of Opole budget, Employees of the City of Opole
3.	Preparing information and placing it in the application and social media, maintaining and updating the waste database	City of Opole	Residents	2023 - 2027	City of Opole budget, EU grants Employees of the City of Opole

10. IDEA	Large-size items exchange points				
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION	Many residents have old household appliances or unnecessary furniture or buildin materials in their homes. Today, most of these items end up in garbage bins and th landfilled. And yet they could still be useful to someone. To create a place where la objects can be given a second life, it is necessary to have a large space for their dis and storage. That is why open ReUse Shop is not suitable for this due to its size. As of the action, it is planned to create places to exchange large items at Selective Wa Collection Points located outside the city center. These will be places where you ca bring, for example, old furniture and take those that someone else has left there. The action has impact on the strategic points: 1. Creation of an effective infrastructure supporting the creation of conditions for a circular economy 2. Active support of residents in the implementation of circular economy rules in oto reduce the amount of waste				
MAIN OBJECTIVE	Give large –size waste a second life				
Vision	Reducing large-size waste going to	landfill as a mix waste			
LEAD ORGANISATION	City of Opole, Municipal Company				
KEY PARTNERS	NGO's, residents				
MONITORING INDICATORS	Number of large-size waste exchange points created Amount (kg) of large-size waste which will not end up in the landfill				
ESTIMATE OF COSTS	50.000 euro				
RESOURCING	City of Opole budget,				
TIMESCALE	2023- 2030				
STATUS	PLANNED				
RISKS & MITIGATION MEASURES	The risk that residents will bring to points worthless things	This is a low level risk	Good selection of the things by Municipal Company, good information on what things can be brought to the point		
	Lack of interest of residents to use exchange points	This is a medium level risk	Good promotion of the exchange points, help in transporting things		

	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
1	Preparation of the concept of the exchange point functioning, selection of the location	Municipal Company	City of Opole	2022 - 2023	Employees of the City of Opole Employees of the Municipal Company
2	Create 2 large-size waste exchange points	Municipal Company	City of Opole	2022 - 2023	City of Opole budget, Employees of the Municipal Company
3	Running exchange points	Municipal Company	NGO's, residents	2023 - 2030	City of Opole budget, Employees of the Municipal Company





LOOKING AHEAD

City of Opole with their partners wants to continue to move towards a circular economy. Based on our learning and experience in the URC new goals have been identified. We look forward to continue progressing our transition to a circular economy, implementing mentioned and other actions together with our valued partners across sectors and levels. We know that while alone we can do a little, but together we can do so much.