



ReGenWest

Climate-neutral district guided by just transition principles

THESSALONIKI, GREECE

Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



Consumption of non-electricity energy for thermal uses in buildings & facilities



Multi-sector waste management & disposal



Land use (agriculture, forestry & other land uses)



Consumption of electricity generated for buildings, facilities & infrastructure



All vehicles & transport (mobile energy)

Key Terms

Local Green Deal | Just transition | Multimodal mobility | Renewable energy production | Nature-based solutions | Heat islands mitigation | District-level regeneration | Participatory governance | CoLab framework | Data spaces | Social cohesion

Levers of Change

Democracy and participation | Financing and funding | Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities | Social innovation | Technology/infrastructure

Description of the Pilot Activity

This pilot project develops a Local Green Deal framework through participatory mechanisms implementing (1) four mobility pillars (green routes, park-and-ride, smart urban logistics, and a mobility data space), (2) integrated local renewable energy production and nature-based solutions, and (3) a just transition roadmap ensuring equitable benefits for the area's diverse communities.

Year 1 laid strategic and technical foundations across all workstreams. Stakeholder and community mapping was completed for the pilot area, multimodal mobility plans were developed for all four pillars, and an initial masterplan focusing on renewable energy sources (RES) and nature-based solutions was designed. An analysis of 35 European Climate City Contracts and a social mapping exercise identified key vulnerabilities and opportunities to inform the renovation master plan and just transition roadmap.

Year One Highlights

A kick-off conference gathered 300 participants including mayors, national funds, international finance institutions, and civil society — establishing ReGenWest as a flagship district-level pilot. Detailed plans were completed for all four mobility pillars taking into account feedback from stakeholders, through three workshops conducted. A digital display installed in the district providing citizens with real-time air quality and mobility information.

Work on the renovation of the ReGenWest District, based on renewable energy systems and nature-based solutions, identified 11 areas for renovation and 13 types of projects. These were reviewed and further developed in a first ideation workshop, which concluded the 1st cycle of the master plan design. Social mapping established the evidence base for a just transition roadmap integrating inclusiveness, social protection, and community resilience. Coordination across diverse municipal departments was identified as the central governance challenge, addressed through a dedicated cross-departmental steering group.

Innovation Highlights

The CoLab participatory framework is designed for replication from the outset, with a replication manual and training sessions built into the process. Combining a mobility data space, nature-based solutions masterplan, and just transition roadmap within a single district demonstrates how different climate interventions can be coordinated rather than delivered in isolation. The sensemaking methodology creates iterative capacity-building rather than one-off consultation.

Twinning with Valongo and Porto (Portugal)

The exchange is structured as a triangular learning partnership. Thessaloniki is sharing Local Green Deal methodologies and social mapping approaches. Porto is contributing inclusive governance models, energy transition experience in social housing, and nature-based solutions in public space. A study visit to Porto exposed the team to community-driven energy communities and multi-stakeholder nature-based solutions delivery — lessons now being reflected in Thessaloniki's participatory framework design.

