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PROMOTER



PROMOTER aims at promoting territorial strategies for sustainable mobility through green energy prosumer hubs.

Study visit N°3 report

Rēzekne- LATVIA



Partner name and number: Rēzekne City Municipality (PP2)

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Rev.1

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1. OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY VISIT

Project Name	PROMOTER		
Study Visit (SV)	N°3 Rēzekne		
Good Practices (GP)	<p>GP1: Local cogeneration system in Rezekne Olympic Centre</p> <p>GP2: Citizen-oriented planning of public transport system in Rezekne City</p> <p>GP3: Local energy management and monitoring system in Rezekne City</p> <p>GP4: Educational program of vehicle driving skills for children in Rezekne City and development of Cycling route in the project EuroVelo 11</p> <p>GP5: Infrastructure projects in Rezekne City aimed to energy efficiency and RES</p>		
Period	09/07- 11/07/2024		
Partners	<p>Province of Livorno (IT)</p> <p>Rezekne City Municipality (LV)</p> <p>Central Finland Regional Council (FI)</p> <p>AG MOBIL-O (BE)</p> <p>DEX Innovation Centre (CZ)</p> <p>Federation of Municipalities of the Region of Murcia (ES)</p> <p>Sintra Municipality (PT)</p> <p>South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency (HU)</p> <p>City of Bystřice (CZ)</p> <p>Brasov Agency for Sustainable Development (BASD) (RO)</p> <p>Municipality of Kocani (MK)</p>		
Stakeholders			
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	Mihaela Damian	PP10	Romania
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	Zujica Angelova	PP11	North Macedonia

1.1. General introduction

The third SV of the PROMOTER project took place in Latvia in Rezekne City from 9th to 11th of July. PROMOTER project focuses on promoting the establishment of prosumer energy hubs and facilitating their spread across urban areas. These hubs would allocate a portion of their energy output to meet the demands of green mobility. The final objective is to facilitate or augment the production of green energy, supporting environmentally sustainable urban mobility to advance towards a carbon-neutral economy. This aligns with the European Union’s objectives of achieving climate neutrality and rejuvenation. The project is grounded in a bottom-up approach. The goal is to improve policies identified by each partner and this is done by sharing knowledge and expertise. SVs are used as a tool for disseminating GP. The third of these visits was organized by Rezekne City Municipality (PP2).

The SV3 included the presentation of five GPs which were further explored and discussed during the SV3 primarily centered around environmental sustainability and green mobility. Before the SV3, project partners had the opportunity to receive descriptions of four GPs to get acquainted with the hosting partner's territorial context and the Policy holding authority.



The three-day event began with a comprehensive presentation of the development of Rezekne City in last years as well as implemented infrastructure projects and the goals municipality has regarding energy efficiency in public buildings. The next presentation about monitoring of consumed energy in public buildings in a smart way illustrated practical approach how to use analyzed data for future decisions and sustainable building management. The day ended at Olympic Center Rezekne (OCR) where project partners and their representative stakeholders explored advices of local cogeneration system to be used

for reconversion of waste energy produced by ice rink compressors into heating system at swimming pool.

The focus shifted to presentations about green mobility and systemic behavioral approach in local community on the second day. Participants heard more about e-buses, benefits of Rezekne resident's card, developments of EuroVelo 11 route, youth activities in order to get legal cycling license. Participants interacted in simulation game and tried to put themselves in youngsters' position and passed successful bicycle exam. The day ended with an expedition to the zero-waste farm to discover green farming approach at national level.

The third and final day of the SV3 featured a workshop where participants in round table sessions evaluated the experiences gained, considering potential replication and adaptation in their respective regions. Each participant received a survey to gather their opinions and impressions on each GP and the overall SV3 (Please refer to the Appendix for further details). These responses will offer valuable insights for organizing upcoming SVs scheduled for September and October 2024 in Czech Republic and Romania.

1.2. First day

The Study Visit started on the 9th of July, with partners and stakeholders gathering at Concert Hall "Latgales vēstniecība GORS" (The Embassy of Latgale GORS) in the first morning. The session began with registration and networking opportunities, allowing participants to connect with each other. Department of Urban Environment and Development presented the development of the Rezekne city in last years and implemented infrastructure projects aimed to the energy efficiency in public buildings.



GP5 Infrastructure projects aimed to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources (RES)

GP5 presentation followed the introduction and official opening of the Event was conducted by project manager M.Smirnova. She indicated the achieved indicators within the projects. 10,6 million euros have been invested by Rezekne City Municipality in the renovation of public buildings in the period 2018-2022 for the provision of energy efficiency. Eight projects were implemented thanks to support of EU available funds and following project activities were provided:

- insulation of building facades and plinth;
- insulation of roofing and floor;
- basement insulation;
- replacement of windows and exterior doors;
- construction and reconstruction of the ventilation system;
- renovation of the heating system and reconstruction of the heating unit;
- rebuilding of infrastructure with the use of renewable energy resources;
- replacement of lighting with new LED lights.

Project conceptions represented by M.Smirnova correspond to the strategic goals of planning documents of Rezekne City Municipality and projects are implemented according to the set objectives in the City Investment plan and City Development program:

- to reduce consumption of primary energy;
- to increase energy efficiency;
- to reduce municipal expenses for heat supply.

Some of implemented projects include integrated solutions for the use of renewable energy sources (RES). Solar collectors installed on the roof of building for social services in Zemnieku street 16A with a total capacity of 43.22 kW and 56 solar panels with a total capacity of 18.08 kW convert the sun's energy into electricity for self-consumption, while the solar collectors convert it into heat energy for water heating. Both systems are not interconnected, ensuring their parallel operation and maximizing their efficiency. The solar power plant has a capacity of 18.08 kW and it is capable to produce approximately 13 000 kWh of energy per year. In 2023, the amount of energy produced by the solar panels covers approximately 43% of the building's annual energy consumption. The building's power plant is already connected to the energy distribution network named AS "Sadales tīkls". The obtained energy is used for self-consumption, and the excess energy is fed into the shared energy network, which can be used later. The energy used for self-consumption replaces the energy purchased from the energy network, its value can be equated to the full price of network energy, including network transmission and mandatory procurement costs.



Following benefits from implemented projects were summarized:

- decreased municipal expenses for lighting and heat supply (savings >50%);
- outcome indicators reached in the project - reduction of annual primary energy consumption in buildings, the reduction of greenhouse (carbonic acid) gases and the additional energy

capacity produced from RES as a result of investments made in the project (the annual average consumption of primary energy in public buildings has reduced to 2,8 – 3,7 thousand kWh per year and the rate of carbon dioxide emission reduced to 41 – 56 CO² equivalent tons per year);

- comfortable study and work place for employees, clients, students and staff.

In Latvia, the annual radiation of solar energy on a horizontal surface is 900-1200 kWh/m², depending on the geographical location. Solar panels produce energy only during daylight hours, the most influential period for the productivity of solar power plants is from March to September in Latvia.

GP3 Local energy management and monitoring system (EMMS) in Rezekne City

EMMS was the next GP represented by energy manager D.Bārdule showcasing the municipality's investment in supporting the improvement of energy efficiency in public buildings within its territory. According to the Energy Efficiency Law (03.03.2016.), Latvian municipalities have the right to develop and adopt an energy efficiency plan, which includes energy efficiency targets and measures. The Law requires the implementation of a certified Energy Management System (EMS) in the municipalities of national cities, i.e. the ISO 50001 international certificate must be obtained.

The main goal of EMMS is an efficient and sustainable management of energy resources in municipality. It is the systematic management of energy consumption with the aim of reducing it, resulting in the most technically cost-effective solutions for the management of municipally owned facilities, improving energy efficiency and reducing financial costs and emissions in the long term. The EMMS includes various tools, guidelines and procedures that allow the municipality to optimize the use of energy sources by planning and implementing energy-saving measures, and to do so with minimal environmental impact. In order to promote changes in the Energy policy in the city, on 23 November 2018 the Rezekne City Council adopted Decision N°548 "On the launch of the development of the Rezekne City Sustainable Energy Action Plan and the implementation of a certified energy management system" and an agreement on cooperation with TUV NORD Baltik Ltd. was signed. Within the framework of the contract, several activities in the field of energy management were implemented (creation of a data summary, training for municipal staff, development of an energy policy etc.), which will ensure the timely implementation of a certified EMMS in the Rezekne City Municipality.



EMMS ensure monitoring of energy consumption in 38 municipal buildings: offices, museums, cultural and sports buildings, schools, kindergartens. Monitoring of street lighting to reduce energy consumption is also included in this program. Digitization of data obtained from objects (*digital tool allows to see incoming and outgoing temperature in heating unit and has connection to installed clock in each object, which shows whether set goals can be achieved on an annual basis (future forecasts) by current energy consumption*) and monitoring of energy consumption 24/7 help to assess whether and how efficiently heating and light were consumed, whether the consumption corresponds to the functions and using aims of the definite building. Hourly data recording allows to "catch" technical problems within 1 day.

A summary of why an EMMS is needed:

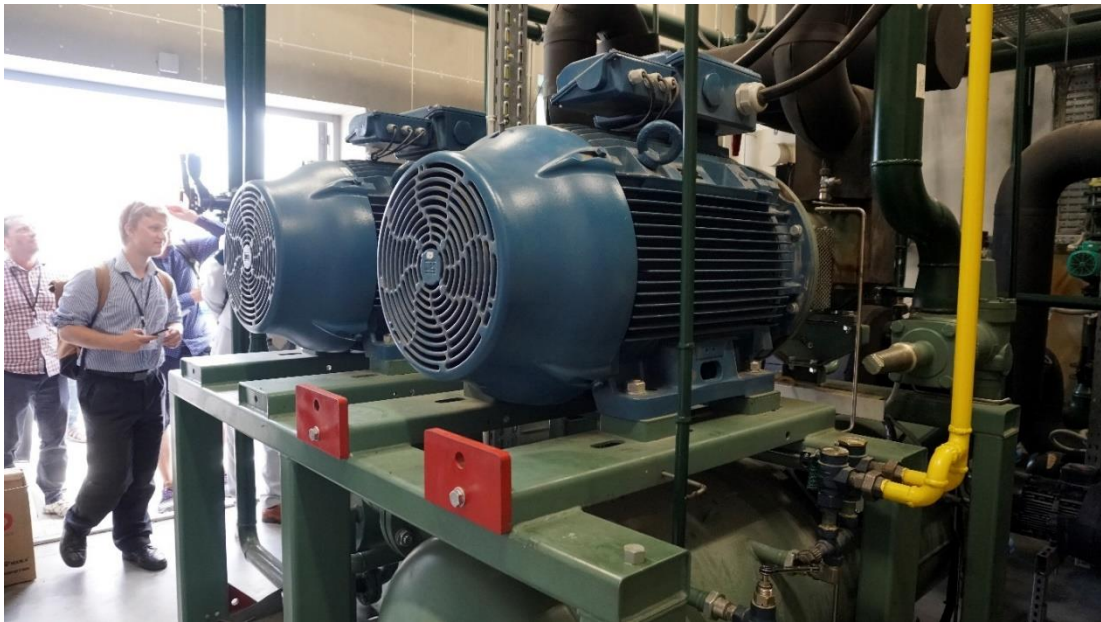
- enforcement of the requirements;
- information on the current situation collected and organized in public buildings;
- reduced energy consumption and pollution;
- decisions based on data and facts and confidence in decisions taken by the municipality;
- educated local community, collective thinking toward energy saving;
- financial savings.

GP1 – Local cogeneration system in Rezekne Olympic Center (OCR)

After the morning presentations, hosting partner provided for project staff and stakeholders a tour to get to know the Rezekne city and the objects related to the GP presentations. One of the lately implemented established objects - the new multifunctional sport center (OCR) - is developed as a modern place of public infrastructure for training, championships and cultural events. OCR provides soccer field, swimming pool with SPA area, sports hall, ice rank, hotel and café. The ice rank is equipped with local cogeneration system delivering technical solutions to ensure energy efficiency. Heat volume produced by ice rink compressors is transferred for raising temperature in the outdoor swimming pool. Cogeneration system ensures efficient use of both heat and electricity: it merges the production of usable heat and electricity into a single process that can substantially reduce carbon emissions and energy costs. This system integrates an internal combustion engine, an electricity generator, and heat recovery to generate electricity and supplement heating demand. This method captures heat that would be otherwise wasted and uses it to provide hot water in outdoor swimming pool.



Sports facilities are very energy-intensive infrastructure. For example, energy is used in an ice rink for ice freezing as well as for ventilation, lighting and heating in different areas of the arena. It means we are heating and cooling at the same time and is a great example of conditions, where smart energy optimization and refrigeration technologies can be used to avoid wasting valuable energy. The price for energy consumption and heating supply goes steadily up. Heat produced by the condenser of the ice rink can be used to heat the swimming pool, and the energy balance is automatically monitored to achieve optimal conditions for both the ice rink and the swimming pool.



By managing of heating and cooling process in one system we can reach self-sufficient sports facility in terms of energy efficiency. As part of the smart city, any energy surplus can be transferred in the future to the district heating network. Monthly energy savings are ~70-80 MWh (8500-10000 EUR).

1.3. Second day

On the 10th of July, the agenda for the second day of SV3 activities began with morning presentations focusing on the green mobility and measure set to promote a green-minded lifestyle in local community: city public transport oriented to the citizens need, educational program for children to get bicycle license, development of cycling infrastructure in the framework of project EuroVelo 11. Warming-up and flash mob activities were conducted continuing with the visit to zero-waste farm KOTIŅI in eastern part of region Latgale.

GP2 - Citizen-oriented planning of public transport system in Rezekne City

V.Borcovs (member of the board of public transport operator in Rezekne City "Rēzeknes Satiksme"- RS) introduced examples of citizen-oriented planning approach in public transport system and modernizing the bus fleet towards a more sustainable mobility. Rezekne city as the 7th largest city in Latvia faces acute pressures due to increased motorization and urbanization. Citizen-oriented planning of public transport system can help to reduce use of private cars, air pollution and traffic congestion in the streets during peak hours. Targeted urban transport planning system can fuel healthy city and provide transport logistic even to areas outside of the city center according to citizen's needs.

The area of Rezekne city comes only to 1748.0 ha (approximately 18 km²) and can be crossed on foot in an average of 30 minutes. In 2023, RS was able to serve 22 routes covering the entire territory of

Rezekne city. Since 2012 RS provides the opportunity to use public transport and the value of the company is to ensure for passengers convenient, comfortable transports that take place according to route schedules, provide convenient movement of passengers in the city and surrounding area.

RS is corresponding to the needs of the whole community, including women and vulnerable groups such as children, people with reduced mobility, older persons, low-income households etc. In cooperation with municipality and the financial support of the government the company considered important questions regarding public transport service: does the transport system guarantee equal access, is it affordable and available, how to provide demand for passenger transport calculating transport costs. RS has developed the "Rezekner's card" system to improve the quality of the public transport service. Thanks to this card using public transport has become much easier. "Rezekner's card" is the document certifying the fare reduction not only in public transport, but also buying tickets for cultural and sports events.



The development of sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions in the field of passenger transport is the second priority of RS. In 2016, the company completely updated the bus fleet by purchasing 25 SOR brand buses produced in the Czech Republic. RS has implemented project "Environmentally friendly development of public transport in the city of Rezekne" in order to purchase also 4 electric buses. Last year public transport service was evaluated by inhabitants of Rezekne city positively at 73%, which indicates that the planned development needs to be further improved until 2029.

GP4- Educational program of vehicle driving skills for children in Rezekne City and development of Cycling route in the project EuroVelo 11

The day concluded with two presentations centered around the activities aimed to the promotion of cycling culture in local community. Project manager I.Opincāne showcased GP regarding educational program for youngsters at Creative Youth Center named ZEIMUĻS. In 2015, in cooperation with the State Fire and Rescue Service, the Road Traffic Safety Directorate and the State Police, was opened a "Safety Education Class" with the aim of carrying out active preventive work, educating children and young people about safety-related issues. In this regard, from 2022 Center ZEIMUĻS organized training for

obtaining a bicycle driver's license. The program fully justifies itself, raising a great interest of children. Approximately 30-40 children attend each course. The average age of the children is from 10 to 16 years. In less than two years, were organized 7 training courses, as a result of which more than 200 students received the right to drive a bicycle. In cooperation with innovative bicycle park in the urban environment BTA VELOZINIS, a bicycle track has been created for the smallest cyclists to have opportunities to learn and improve their riding skills.



J.Kijaško (Head of Rezekne Tourism development centre & Tourism association of Latgale region) introduced experience during implementation of project “Development of Cycling Tourism in Eastern Latvia by Connecting to the International Cycling Route Network “EuroVelo11”” and highlighted reached project outcomes:

- capacity building in seminars with experts;
- designed Development Strategy 2021-2027 of Latgale Cycling Tourism;
- marking process of the route ~370 km;
- organized training for entrepreneurs;
- published brochure “EuroVelo 11 Latgale route”;
- established EuroVelo 11 Latgale route – Opening of Cycle Tour;
- participation in international conference and skills improving.

This project demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability, with a focus on green mobility and changing of behavioral habits. A sustainable cycle route promotes environmental health, social equity and economic development, making it a valuable asset to any community. Development cycling route needs to be permanent improved and completed with daily activities in order:

- to monitor users on the route (counters, GIS),
- to apply marketing tools (promoting place as a tourist destination),
- to attract maintenance resources,
- to develop small-scale cycling infrastructure,
- to encourage local community to use more bikes instead of cars (promoting of cycling culture).

The second day ended with a visit to the green farm KOTINI organized as an expedition to highlight the approach to waste-free farming in Latvian rural areas. The company KOTINI has added value thanks to its products and zero-waste farming technologies, where secondary products can be used in another sector or field of farm activities. KOTINI as a local farm has grown into a national level company which can ensure quality biologically pure products and contributes to the promotion of the national culinary heritage.



Following the presentations, the questions and answers (Q&A) sessions were organized by moderator J.Pampe on first and second day to provide partners and stakeholders with the opportunity to engage with speakers and dive deeper into key topics showcased GPs - to ask questions about specific areas of interest or to request some additional information on particular topics.

2. WORKSHOP SESSION IN THE THIRD DAY

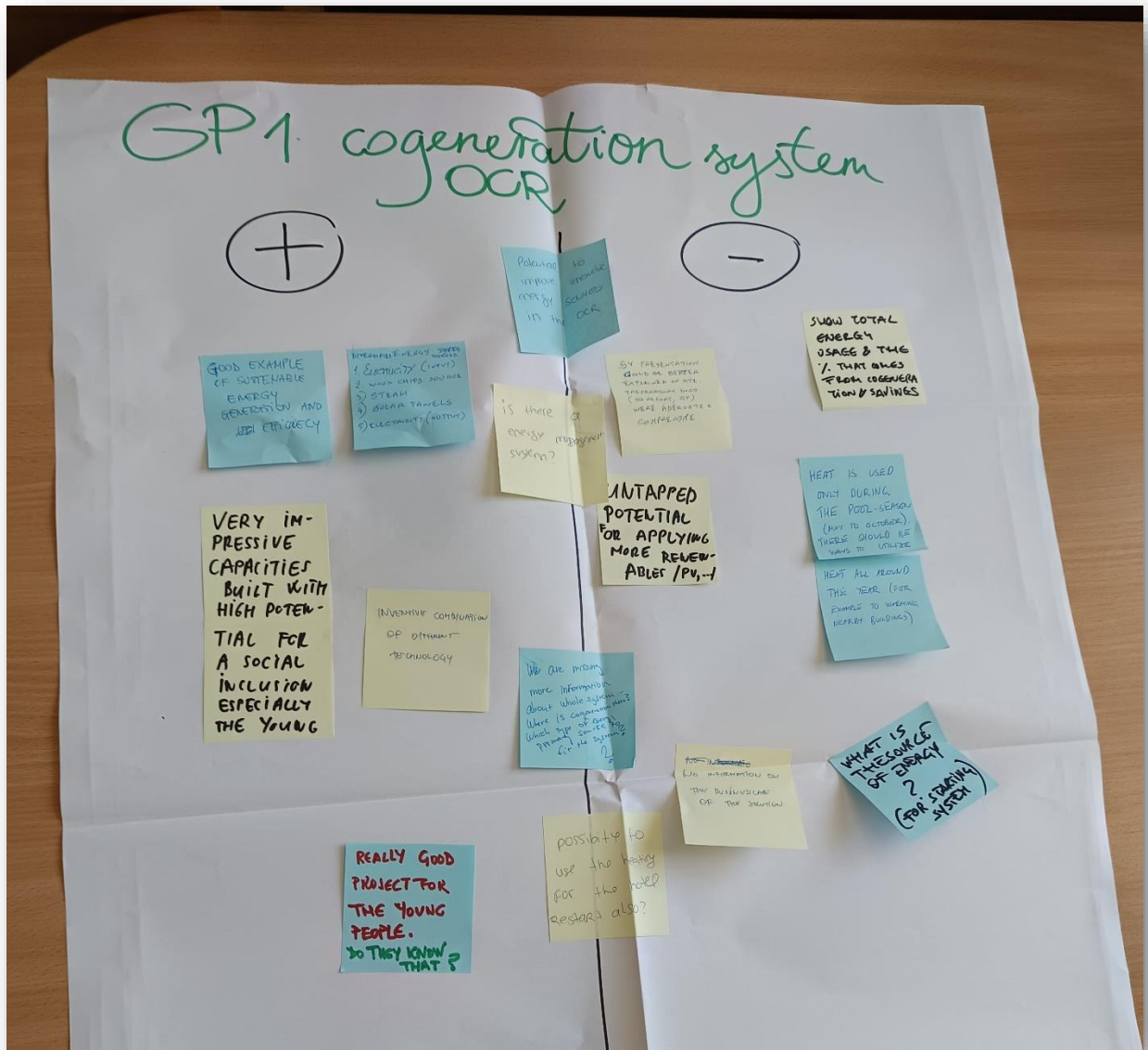
2.1. Group activities

On the third day, all partners and stakeholders convened at OCR conference room. Participants were presented with a brief overview of the upcoming SV4 scheduled in Czech Republic. This allowed partners and stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the agenda and key focal points of the forthcoming visit. Subsequently, project partners and stakeholders were challenged to participate in roundtable discussion organized in 5 groups according to 5 showcased examples of GP with limited time to move to another station. Participants had the GP lists, divided into two columns and marked by “-“ and “+” signs as focus on success factors and barriers for potential transferability in partner regions. The roundtable was chosen as one of the most result-producing moderating tools where everyone is welcomed to participate actively in discussion, to share own opinion and to evaluate every GP observed during the SV3.

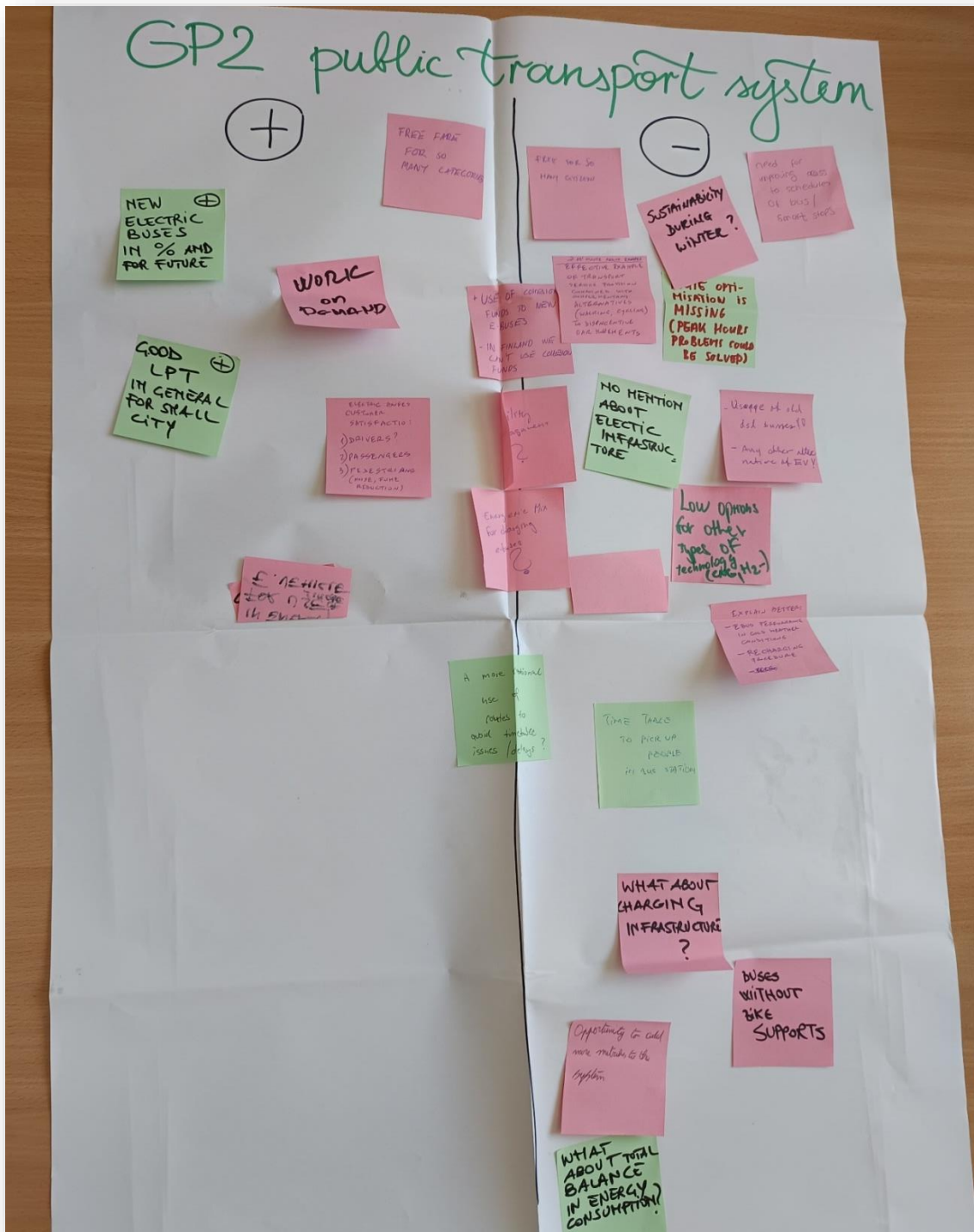


Participants actively worked in each station towards two specific outcomes depending on the scope of the topic, the relevance of the GPs was tested by assessing different macro-categories. Lastly, significant attention was devoted to examining the potential transferability of the GPs. After the roundtable session, a concise summary of all recommendations and references noted by discussion participants and stakeholders to every case of GP was provided by facilitator J.Pampe to get overall objective of this SV3.

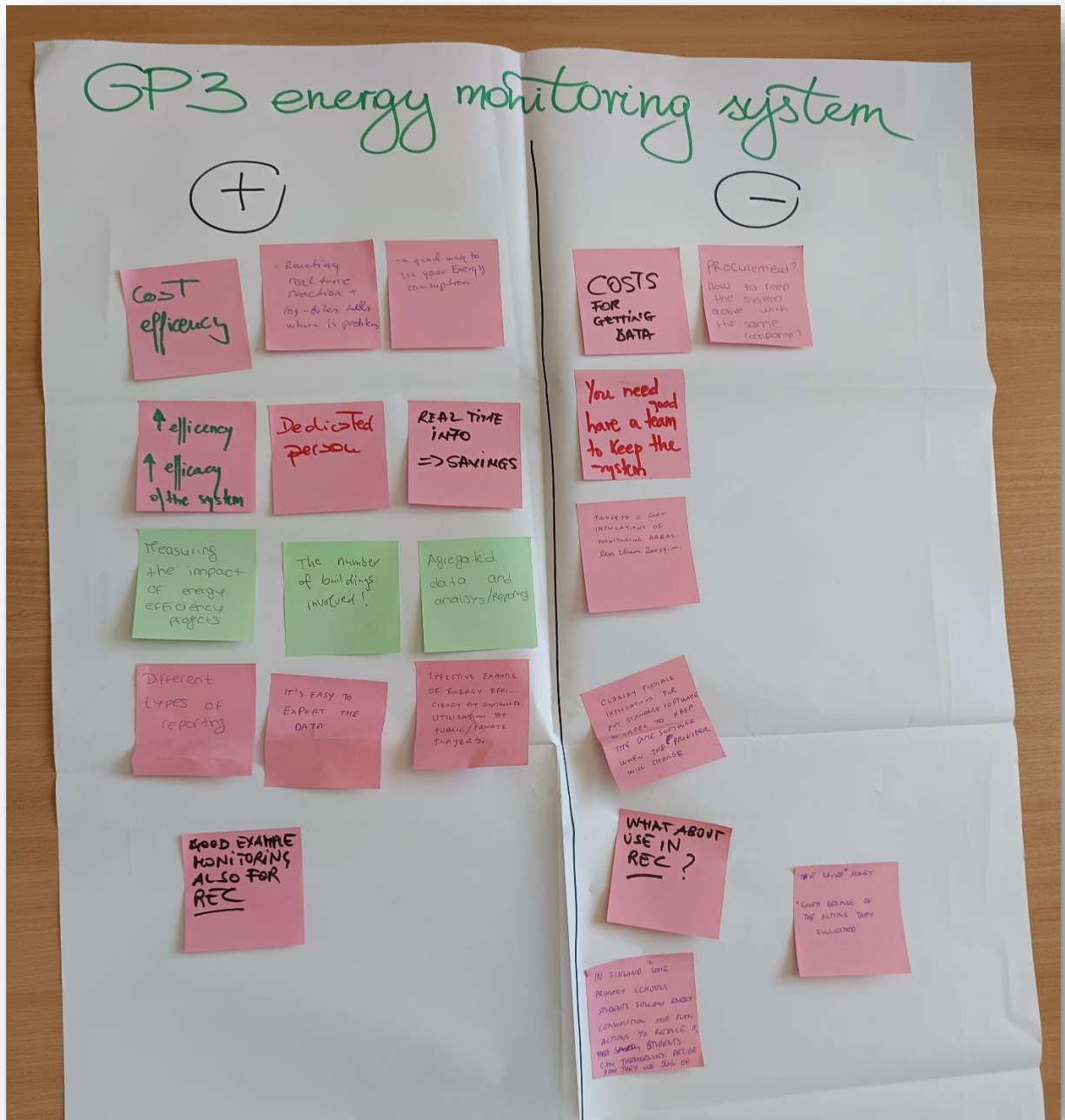




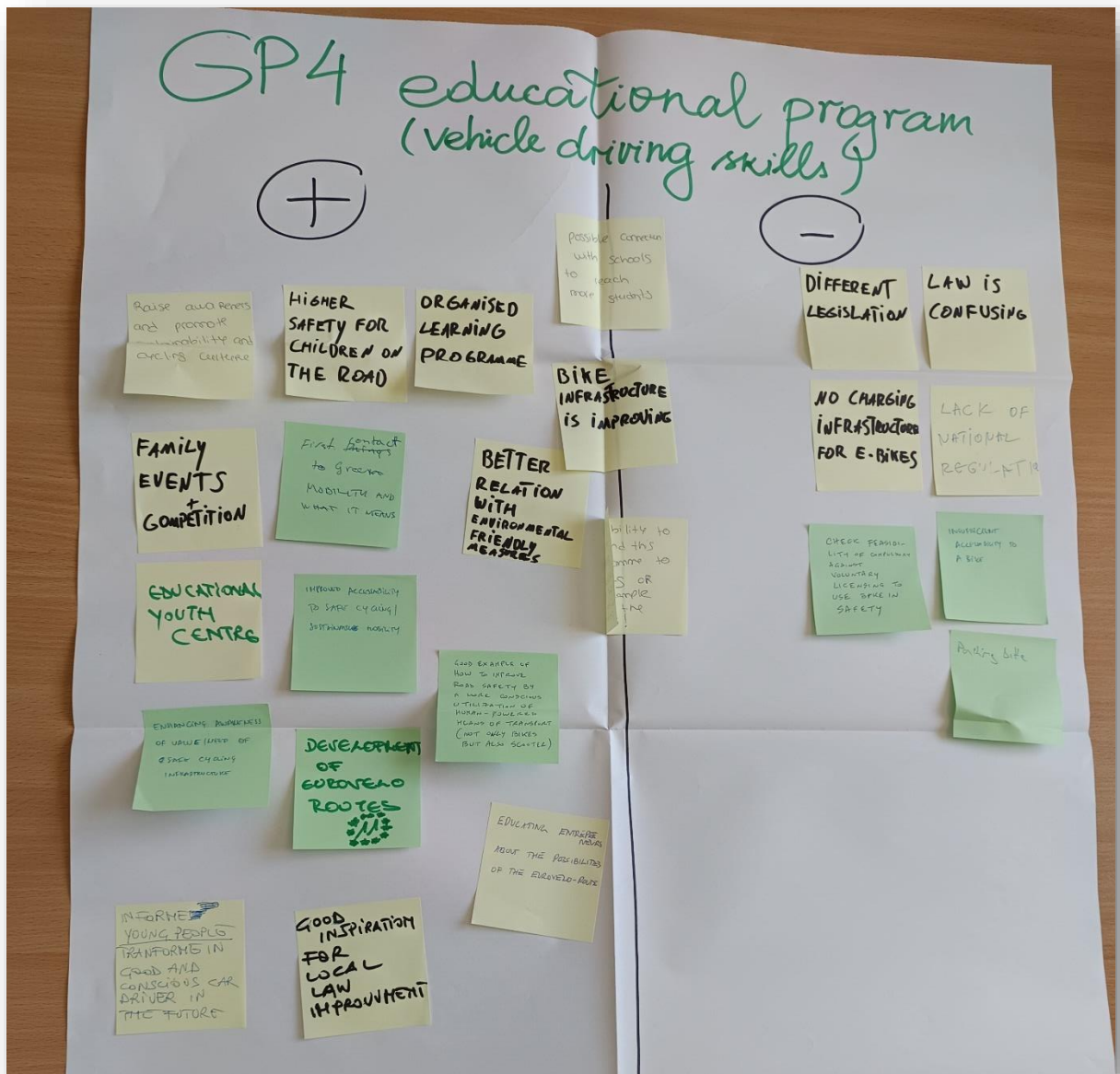
On the side of advantages regarding GP1, the partners highlighted the successful model how to reuse energy in order to ensure maximum efficiency from a waste heat recovery system in OCR. This is a good example of sustainable energy generation and can be improved using solutions of diversified energy sources (electricity / input), wood chips, steam, solar panels, electricity output. Certain questions, which basically refer to the operational part of waste heat recovery system, unfortunately were not answered, so they ranked in the right sector "-": utilization of waste energy during off-season, transfer possibility of this energy to the nearby building namely hotel RESTART. Clarifications of saved energy and its utilization are summarized in separate presentation which is attached to the SV3 report.



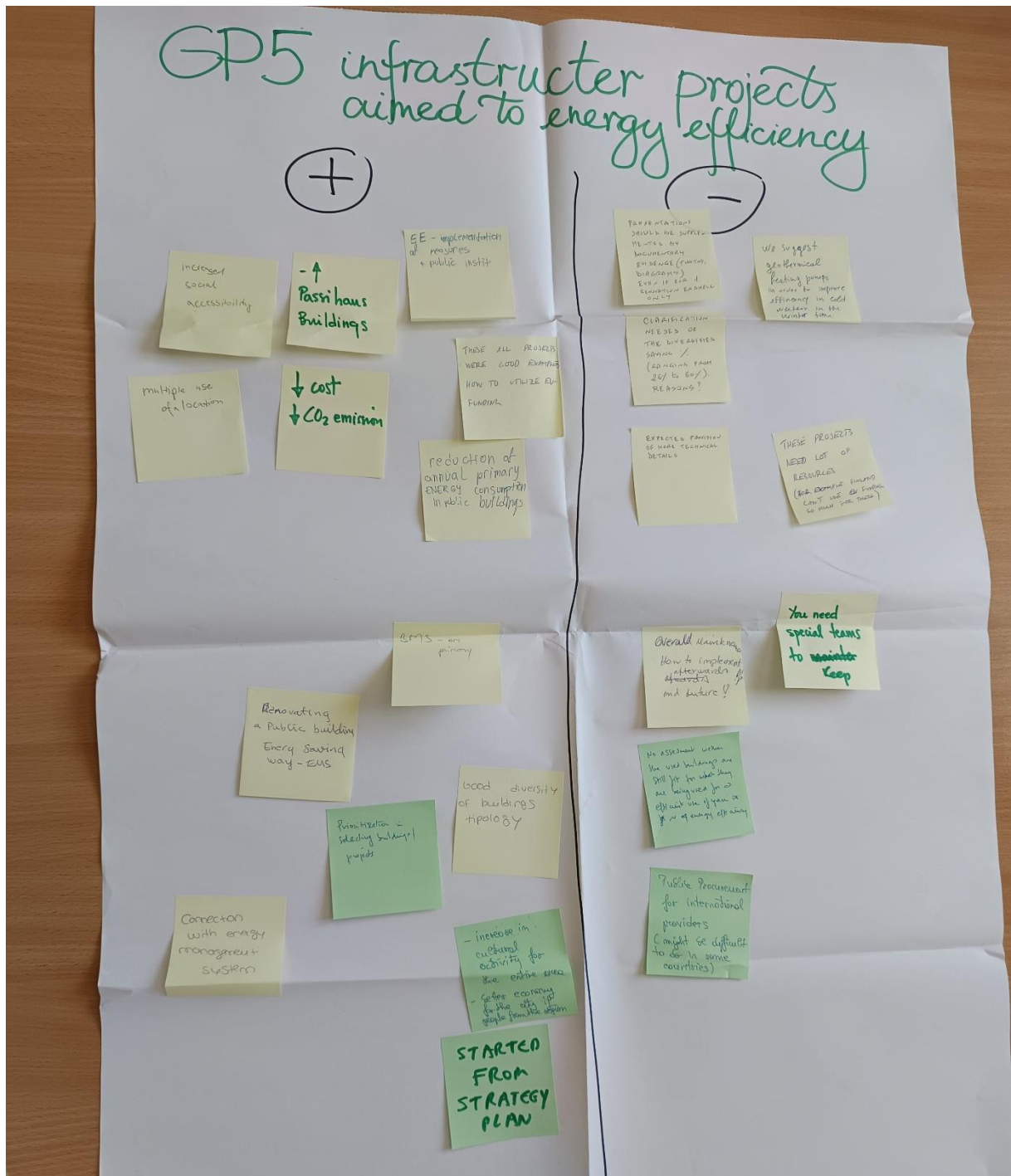
Analyzing GP2, the working groups came to the conclusion that Rezekne City Municipality has successfully developed the public urban transport sector for such small city, focusing on sustainable management (replaced bus fleet in order to purchase e-transport in the framework of EU projects), on the needs of local residents (free fare for many categories and regular evaluation of passenger’s satisfaction level). But there are still areas to be improved: e-charging infrastructure, optimization of standard routes, provision of smart stops and information panels, improvement of schedules.



The GP3 has left the greatest impression on the partners because of the benefits the EMMS can offer: tools to measure impact of energy efficiency in renovated public buildings, to follow energy consumptions, savings and changes in real time, cost efficiency, to export the data from system and prepare reports. The hottest question in the discussions turned out was regarding software costs, monitoring areas, maintenance of system and responsible staff, consequences during procurement process to obtain this software and conditions/terms of its use.



Summarizing group opinions on success factors and barriers for potential transferability of GP4 in partner regions, the partners confirmed that these two initiatives are perceived as a good example how to improve road safety by a more conscious utilization of human powered means of transport (not only bikes but also scooters). Family cycling events, competitions in the framework of organized learning program are raising awareness and promote sustainability and cycling culture in society. This GP pointed out possible improvements: infrastructure accessibility to bikes (charging stations for e-bikes), lack of national regulation regarding licensing to use bike in safety. The educational program has potential to be expanded to schools to reach more students and their parents.



Regarding listed success factors and barriers recommended by partners for potential transferability of GP5 in other regions, participants emphasized the importance of targeted use of EU funds to reduce annual primary energy consumption in public buildings. Good diversity of buildings typology based on strategy plan and priority selection for project implementation sequentially are linked to the GP3 for monitoring of these public buildings. However, there are areas that remain open to debate and require additional clarifications: differences among partner countries are regarding the public procurement for international providers and availability of EU funds. Many participants expressed an interest for clarification of diverse savings in mentioned public buildings and documentary evidence for renovation examples, reasons that were not as apparent during presentation. It should be noted that this example of GP was not documented.

Furthermore, each delegation was asked to fill out online the questionnaire form to provide feedback on the overall experience gained during SV3 and to produce the suggestions set some of which could be used for next SVs as well as a tool for improving of GPs and related policies.

2.2. Study visits feedback form

This section of the report presents summary of the comments provided by participants at the end of the SV3. An evaluation questionnaire was administered to elicit participants’ feedback on diverse aspects of the SV3. The summary presents an account of 9 responses received from each country delegation.

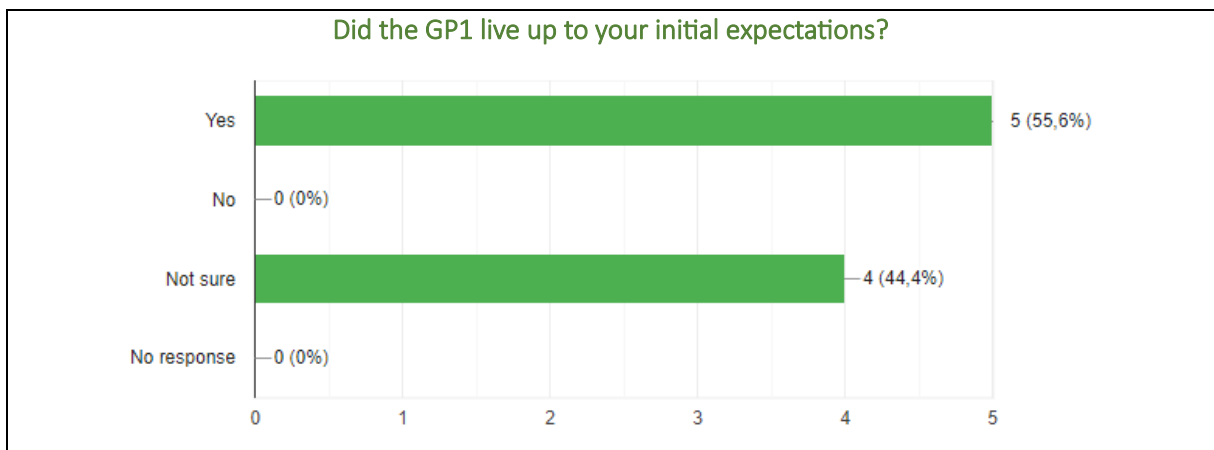
The primary objective of such feedback form is to employ a trial-and-error approach, which involves identifying and rectifying errors or failures encountered during the SV to determine the most effective methods for structuring future SVs and implementing GPs. This post-project assessment ensures a comprehensive understanding of partner and stakeholder satisfaction and aids in refining future project strategies. A detailed survey is essential for this purpose.

The questionnaire was focusing on individual GPs – both documented and non-documented, and the final section of the form centered on an overall evaluation. Evaluation of the GPs involves considering various elements such as the level of agreement on different aspects of the GPs and the identification of key issues including success factors and constraints. Furthermore, the relevance of the GPs was tested by assessing different macro-categories. Lastly, significant attention was devoted to examining the potential transferability of the GPs, as this aspect is crucial for achieving the PROMOTER goal of searching for solutions capable of enhancing the delivery of regional development policies and increasing their effectiveness and sustainability.

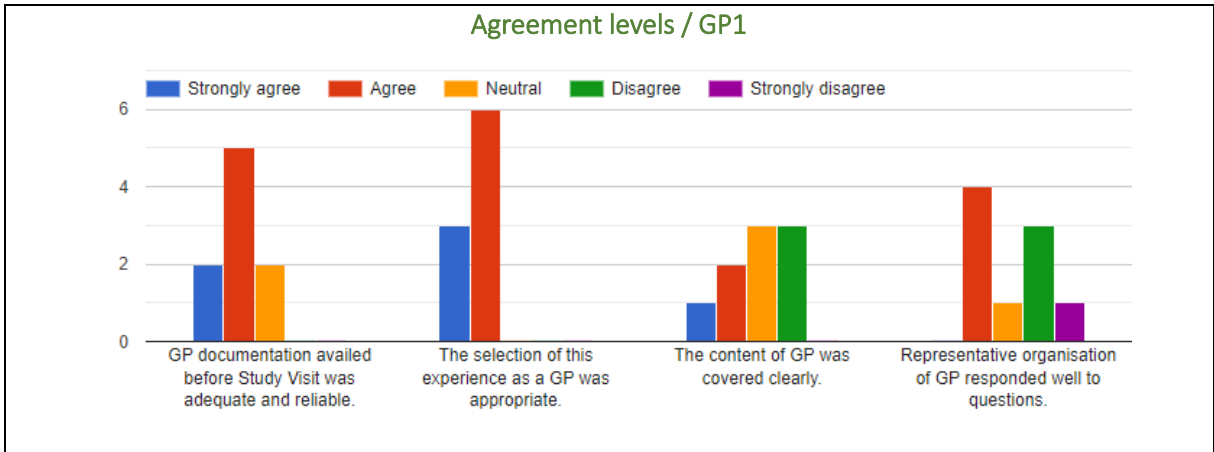
2.2.1. GP1 Summary of evaluation

GP1 Local cogeneration system in Rezekne Olympic Centre (OCR)

In response to the overall rating of the initial expectations regarding GP1, 5 delegations stated that this GP met their expectations, while 4 partners were not sure about it. Given responses directly refers to the weak presentation of GP1-responsible organization considering technical issues and reduced ability to provide comprehensive and visually demonstrable information to explain the ice rink and swimming pool system operations. This problem was immediately identified after the overall presentation about OCR activities and as an acceptable solution offered by hosting partner should come as additional information on technical issues and system operations submitted after the SV3.



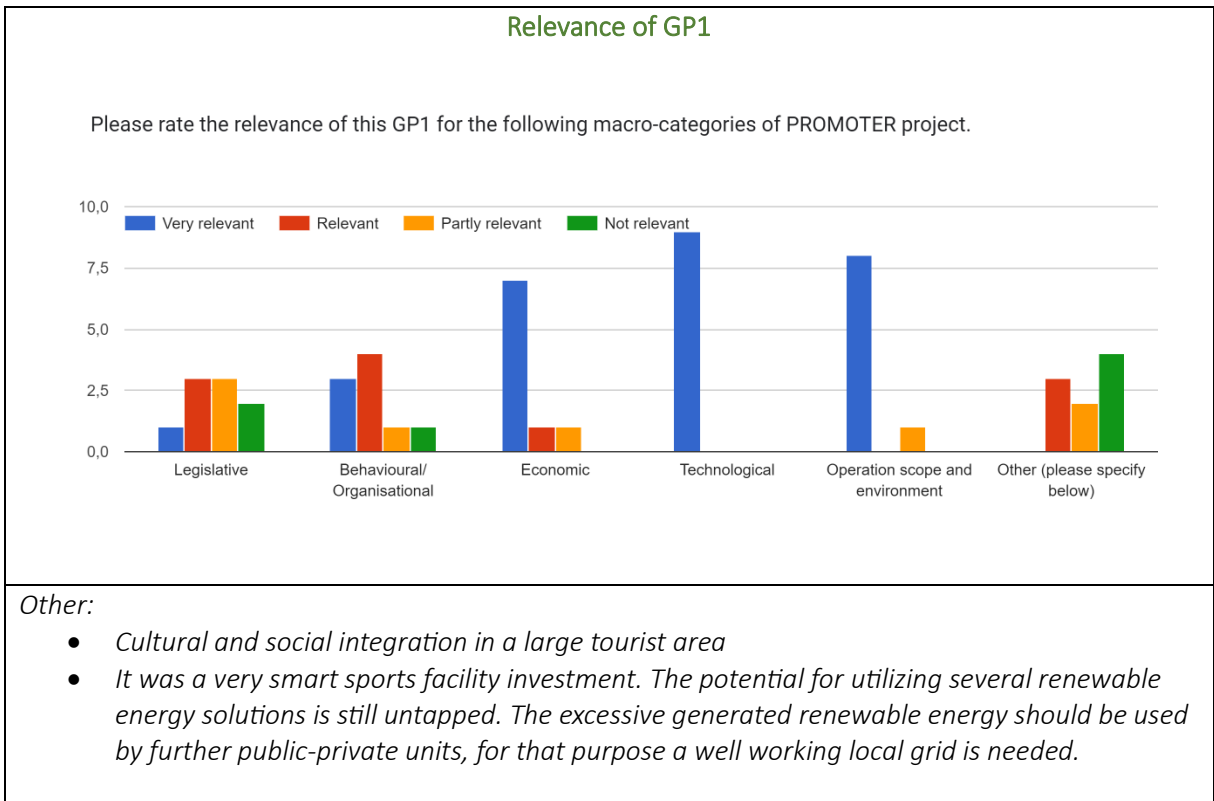
Most of the respondents believed the GP1 documentation was available (in 7 cases, the responses agree with the statement) and selection of this experience was appropriate (in 9 cases, the responses agree with the statement). Doubts for the participants have formed regarding covered content and Q&A part, considering the poor performance during SV3: 6 partners opted not to agree with the statement about clearly covered content of GP and 5 responses, indicated by “neutral”, “disagree” and “strongly disagree”, highlight a need to receive missing explanation about operations at cogeneration system.



Participants were tasked with outlining both the success factors of the local cogeneration system in the OCR and the obstacles to its potential replication:

<p>Were success factors of GP1 highlighted to be transferred to your Region?</p>	<p>Did you identify barriers for possible replication of GP1 in your Region?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good sport complex for healthy youth and adults promoting sport. • Building of whole project (hotel, pool, hall) like one project. • Good energy and technological mix, good maintenance team and program. • We think that technological solution itself is a success factor and can be transferred also to our region. We have something quite similar- we use the data centers' heat in our district heating. • Integrated system, reconversion of energy which results in energy efficiency. • Very good utilisation involving different sources of energy without waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole system was not fully explained to the extent of possibilities which poses as a barrier to fully understand how to transfer it. Although as a principle the cogeneration system is a good idea and a good take on heating possibilities. • Space to realise projects that combine swimming pool and ice-piste. • Identification of similar conditions (ice skating rink and pool that would be placed near to each other) and having property over the two buildings. • Availability of funds.

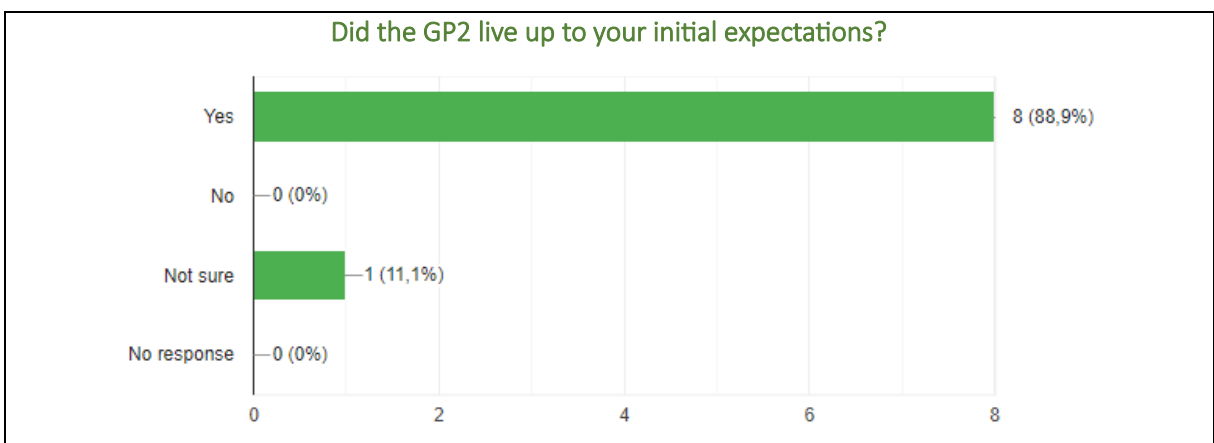
The feedback form also aimed to evaluate the relevance levels across five macro-categories of the PROMOTER project. As depicted in the graph below, the relevance levels graph dominant emphasizes the economic (7 responses), technological (9 responses) and operation scope & environment (8 responses) aspects of GP1. Participants pointed out that OCR project as a smart established sports facility infrastructure has still untapped potential for utilizing solutions of several RES which should be developed as a local grid for public needs according to legislative framework.



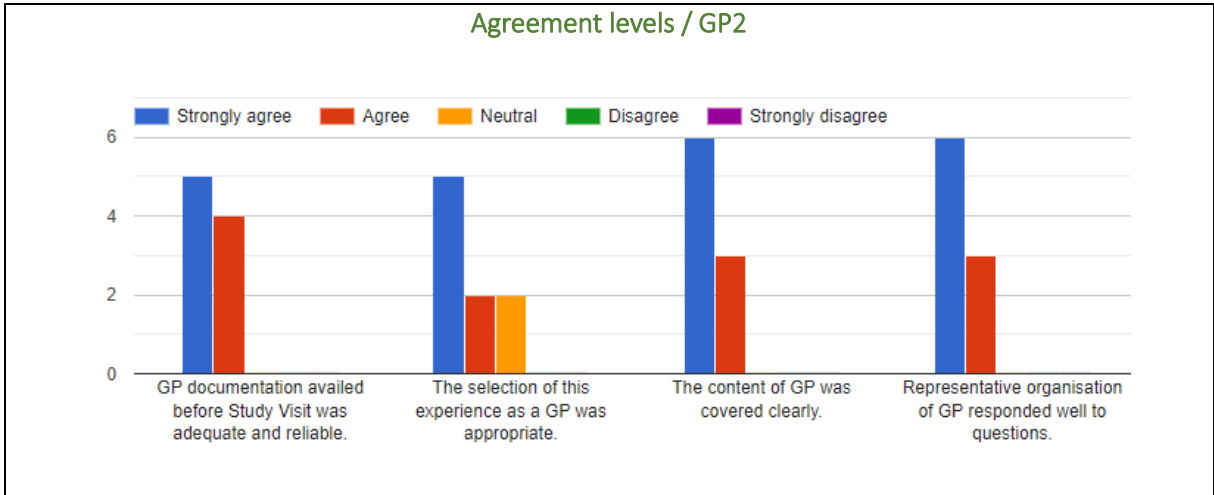
2.2.2. GP2 Summary of evaluation

GP2 Citizen-oriented planning of public transport system in Rezekne City

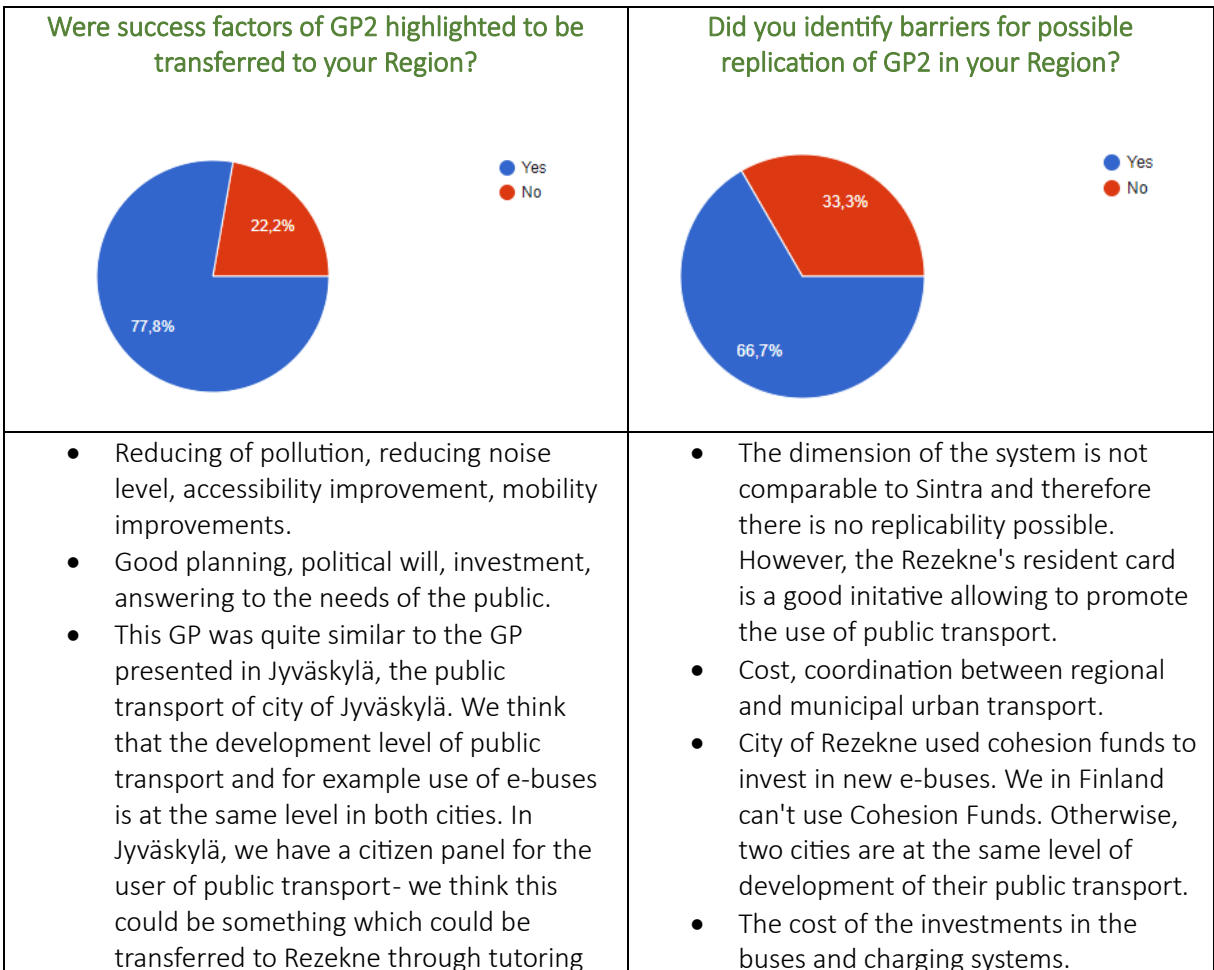
In response to the overall rating of the initial expectations regarding GP2, 8 delegations stated that this GP met their expectations, while 1 partner country was not sure about it.



It was generally stated that areas related to the availability of GP2 documentation before SV3, the content covered during presentation of GP2 and ongoing the Q&R session were completely appropriate (8 responses indicated by “strongly agree” and “agree”) while 1 partner could not refer to the selection of this GP2 whether this experience as a GP was appropriate, staying “neutral”.



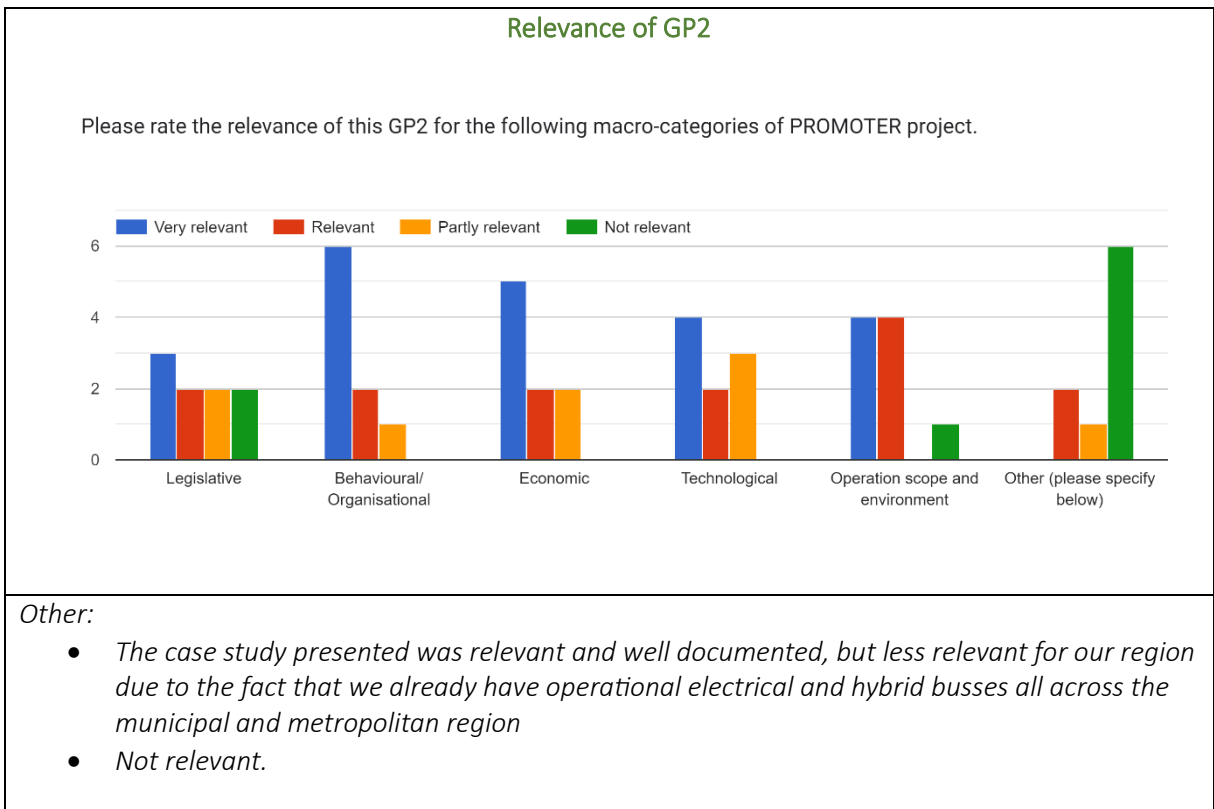
Participants were tasked with outlining both the success factors of the public transport service and management in Rezekne city and the obstacles to its potential replication:



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<p>sessions, and we should discuss more about it with LP, PP2 and PP3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting with limited number of buses and then expand. Availability of funds for services covered by the municipality; environmental impact and effects; improvement safety in general on the road. Several ones: 1) providing the finance for e-bus deployment, 2) timetable and ticketing should be done wisely, 3) route planning should be aligned with urban planning, 4) connecting local energy generation with the provision of energy to electric buses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In our case it is difficult to find additional resources from local budgets to cover difference between costs and revenues. Yes, the lack of the 4 success factors mentioned before under GP2.
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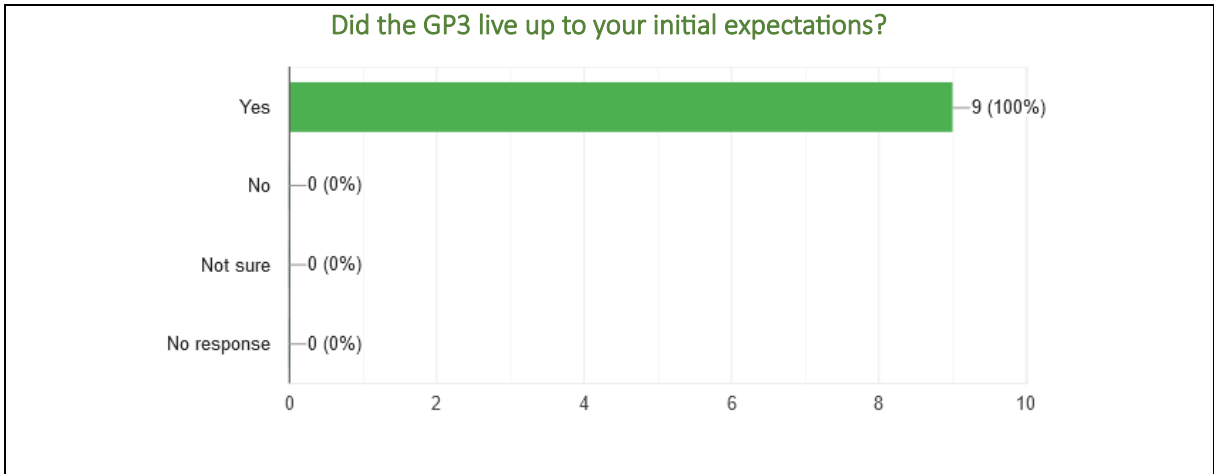
The respondents were asked further specify the type of macro-category for GP2, 6 partners classified this GP into a behavioral/organizational category.



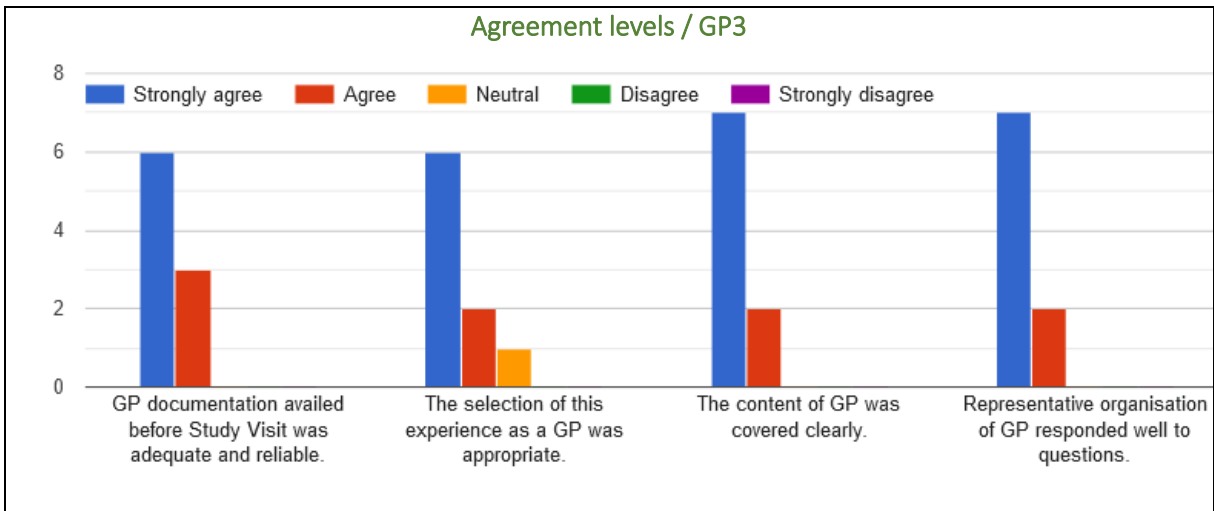
2.2.3. GP3 Summary of evaluation

GP3 Local energy management and monitoring system in Rezekne City

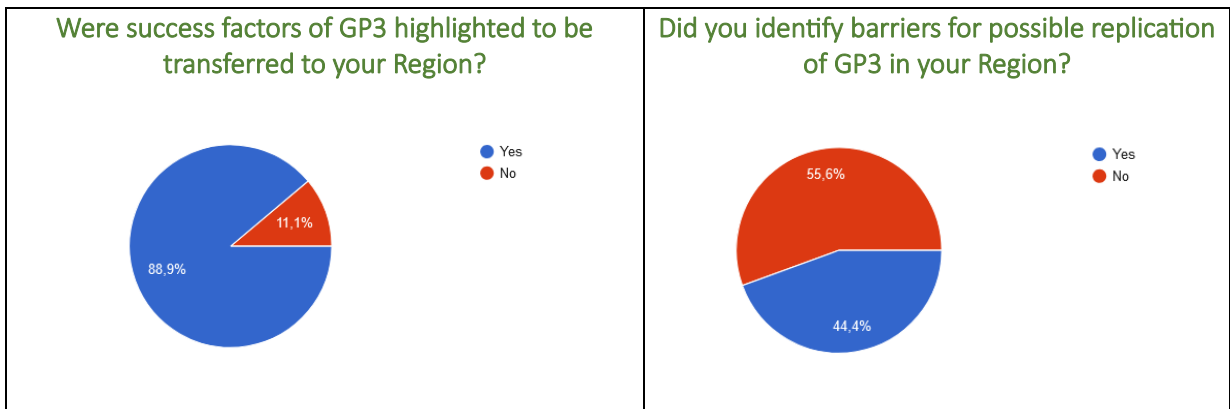
In response to the overall rating of the initial expectations regarding GP5 all 9 delegations stated that this GP met their expectations.



It was generally stated that areas related to the availability of GP3 documentation before SV3, the content covered during presentation of GP3 and ongoing the Q&R session were completely appropriate (8 responses indicated by “strongly agree” and “agree”) while 1 partner could not refer to the selection of this GP whether this experience as a GP was appropriate, staying “neutral”.



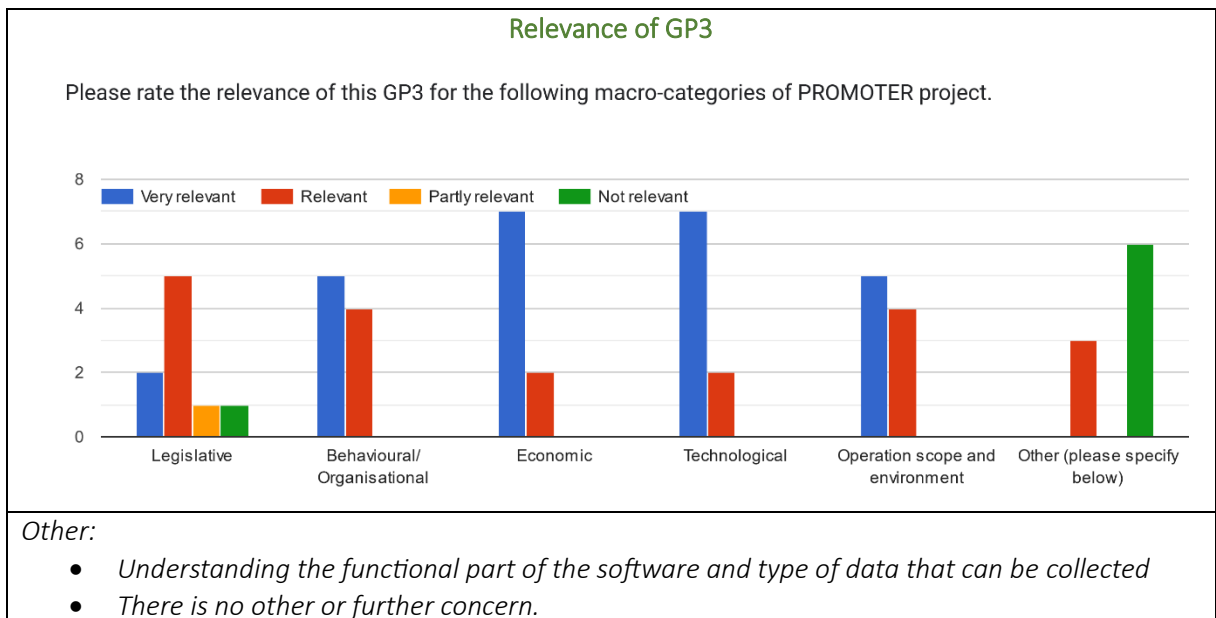
Participants were tasked with outlining both the success factors of the local EMMS in the municipality and the obstacles to its potential replication:



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better management and savings achieved. • Systems are relatively easy in transferring because a lot of providers in our country. • The success factors relate to the accessibility of data and to implement corrective measures whenever needed. The fact that there is a building manager analysing the information is also a success factor. • Good specific software to implement the idea, good team to maintain and update it. • Good selection of the monitored buildings. • Overall data availability on multiple factors that helps reduce energy loss. • Management system could be adapted to ongoing REC. • Proper data collection, proper grid making activities are needed. Use and analysis of data collected is a must. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System fully developed by only one local company which make it difficult the transferability even though the inspiration to develop such system is interesting. Would be good to establish what happens in case the company is no longer able to provide for the system: does it transfer to the municipality the possibility to keep the system active? • Costs for soft, operationability on large scale integrated system, as well as costs for operating with an external provider (might work better with internal specialists in our case). • To be a customized software; availability of funds to manage and update the platform. • The missing tools for connecting data measuring units and the lack of using the data analysed.
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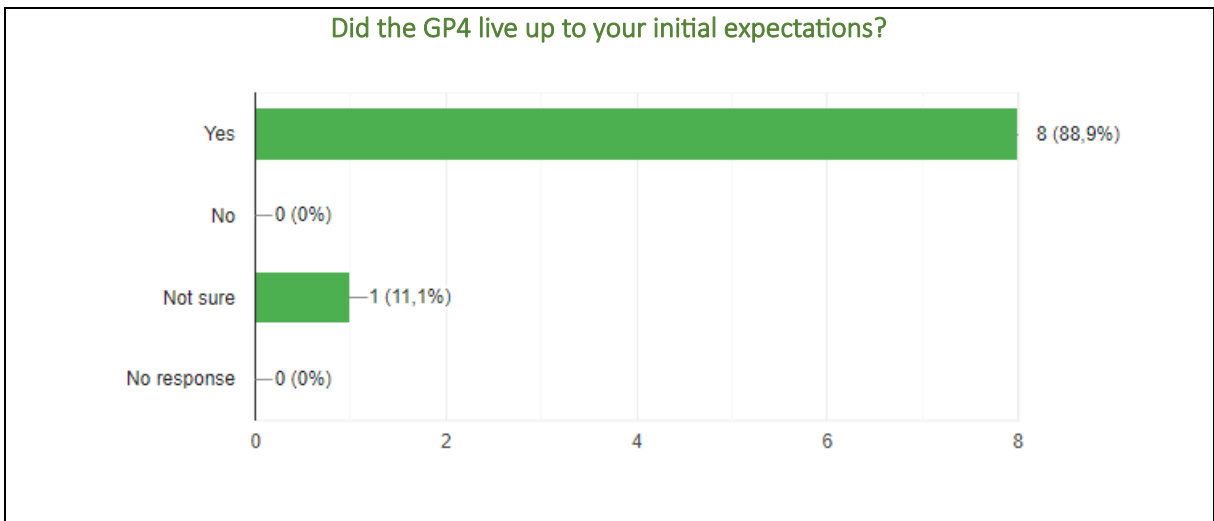
The respondents were asked to further specify the type of macro-category for GP3; economic and technological categories received the highest number of responses (7).



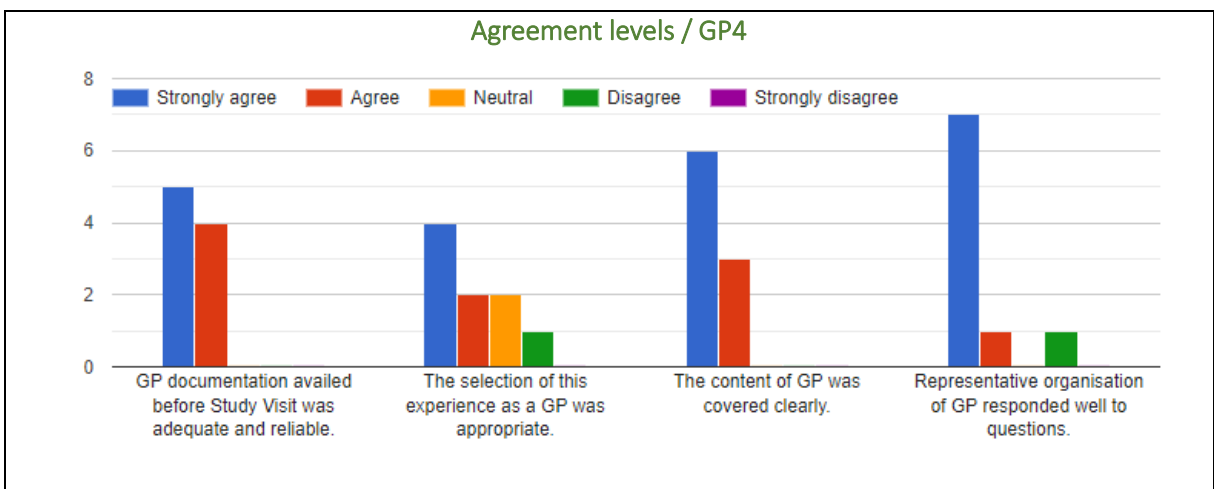
2.2.4. GP4 Summary of evaluation

GP4 Educational program of vehicle driving skills for children in Rezekne City and promotion of cycling culture in the framework of the project EuroVelo11

In response to the overall rating of the initial expectations regarding GP5, 8 delegations stated that GP4 met their expectations, while 1 partner country was not sure about it.



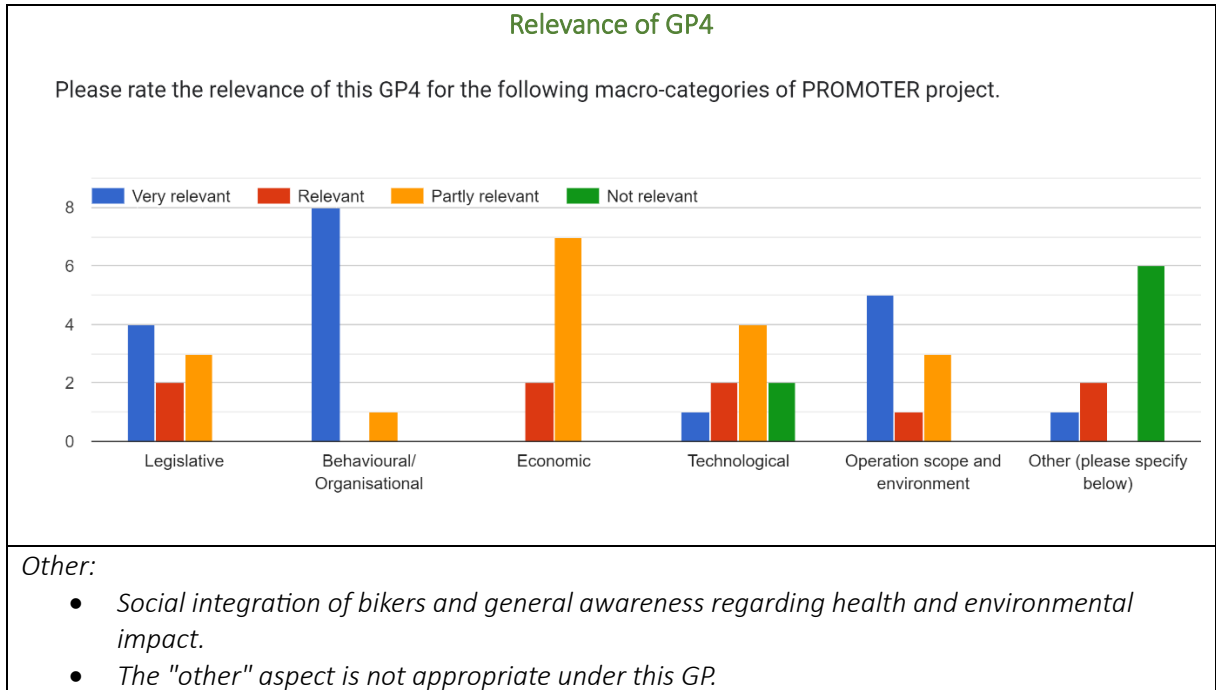
The statement receiving the highest level of agreement (8 responses – “strongly agree” and “agree”) were sections regarding the availability of GP4 before SV3 and the covered content. Respondents also expressed satisfaction with the quality of responses provided by the GP4 organization (7 responses – “strongly agree” and 1 “agree”). However, it's important to highlight area for potential improvement where 1 partner country would like to get more comprehensive responses on this topic. The third part of respondents is convinced that GP4 do not directly address the PROMOTER objectives (2 –“neutral”, 1 - “disagree”).



Participants were tasked with outlining both the success factors of the promotion of cycling culture in the framework of educational program for cycling skills and EuroVelo 11 project and the obstacles to potential replication of GP4.

<p>Were success factors of GP4 highlighted to be transferred to your Region?</p>	<p>Did you identify barriers for possible replication of GP4 in your Region?</p>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging usage of bicycles, raising of awareness, mobility improvements, promotion of the city as a suitable bike tourist destination with stable infrastructure and trained and educated representatives of business sector, also part of Euro Velo. • Great support from the community center, law about cycling license in Latvia. • The fact that the children have free access to this program is an interesting factor and it seems like a good way to promote the cycling culture as it was mentioned is not fully developed yet. • By working with the youth, we change the behavior for the future. • This practice is good and can be replicated in Finland. We have something similar and, in many schools, it is part of the schools' own program. This could also be a way for Rezekne to improve their GP. If education could be executed during school hours, all students would participate. We think that the presentation of EuroVelo 11-route was very interesting. The same route goes through Central Finland and we are currently discussing how to execute the route. For example, educations to entrepreneurs were very interesting idea. • It is mandatory to have the certificate. • Integration of soft measures and awareness in the community with infrastructure development of bike lanes, setting the premises for behavioral change in future generations in relation to responsible usage of bike lanes. • Positive impact on safety on the road of future driver; promoting human powered mobility. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not mandatory by law in our country • legislative barriers to release driving licenses to bikers

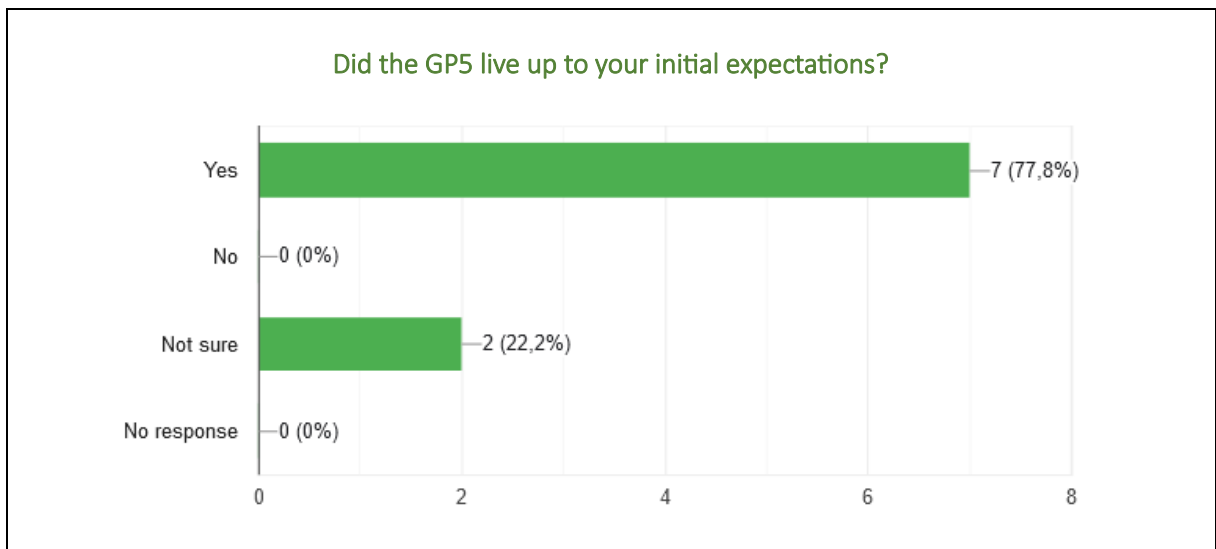
The respondents were asked to further specify the type of macro-category for GP4. According to the graph, the category "behavioural/organisational" received the highest number of responses (8) as very relevant. This was followed by "economic" category (7) indicated as partly relevant.



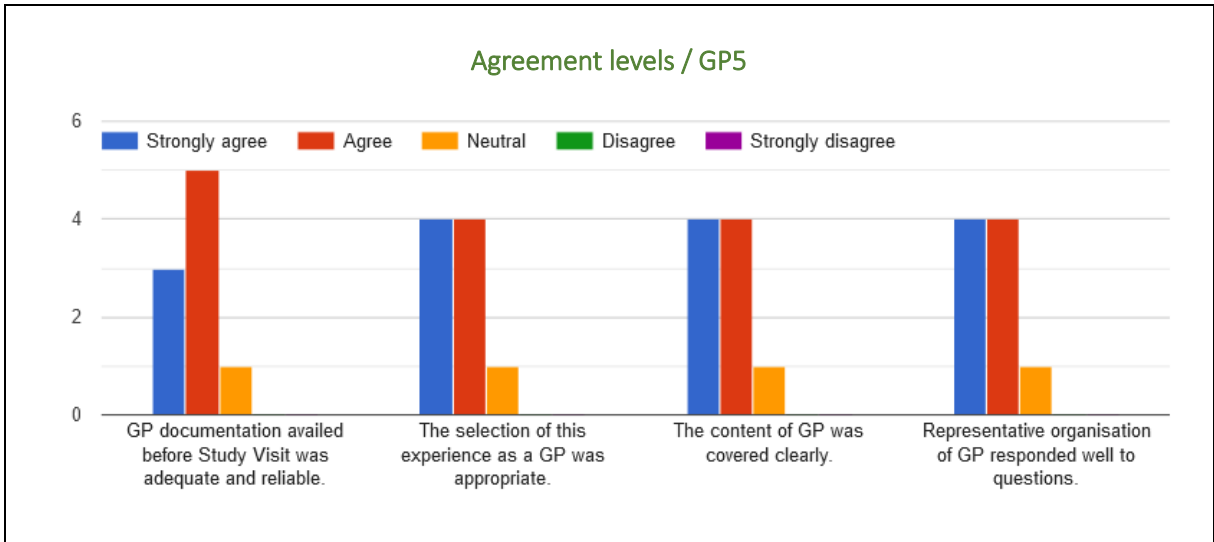
2.2.5. GP5 Summary of evaluation

GP5 Infrastructure projects aimed to energy efficiency and RES

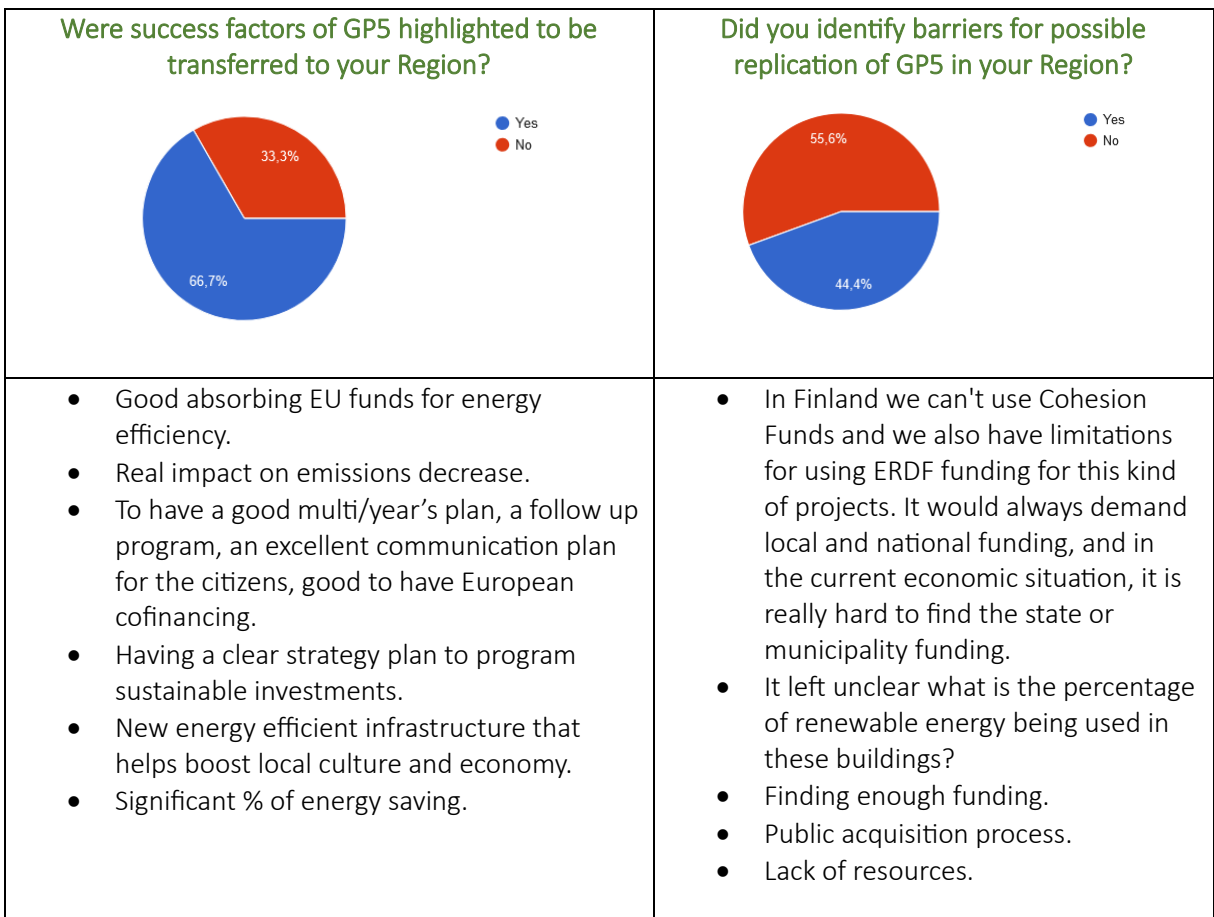
In response to the overall rating of the initial expectations regarding GP5, 7 delegations stated that this GP5 met their expectations, while 2 partner countries were not sure about it.



In response to the ranking of the agreement levels considering the availability of GP5 documentation, appropriation of selected experience, covered GP-content and presentation quality, the responses matched almost in 8 cases were "strongly agree" and "agree" while one partner preferred "neutral" position.



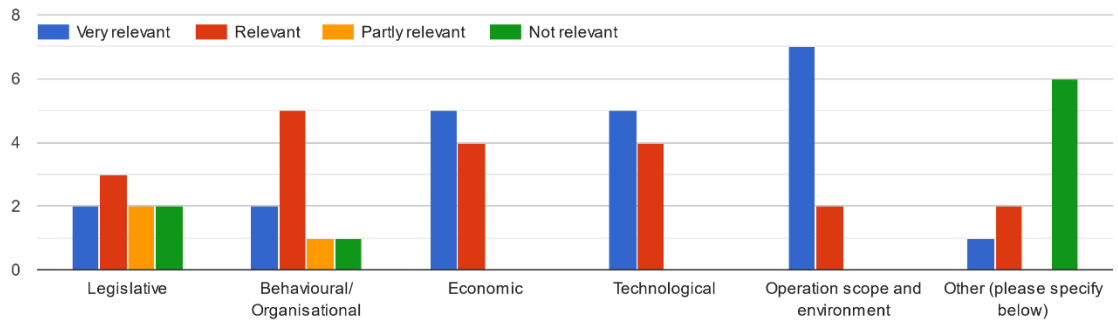
Participants were tasked with outlining both the success factors of the GP5 and the obstacles to its potential replication:



In response to the ranking of the relevance of GP5 respondents primarily emphasized the operation scope and environment aspects, aligning well with the project's focus on legislative assessment. In their explanations, guests emphasized the positive impact of biogas production and biowaste circulation as a technology benefit.

Relevance of GP5

Please rate the relevance of this GP5 for the following macro-categories of PROMOTER project.

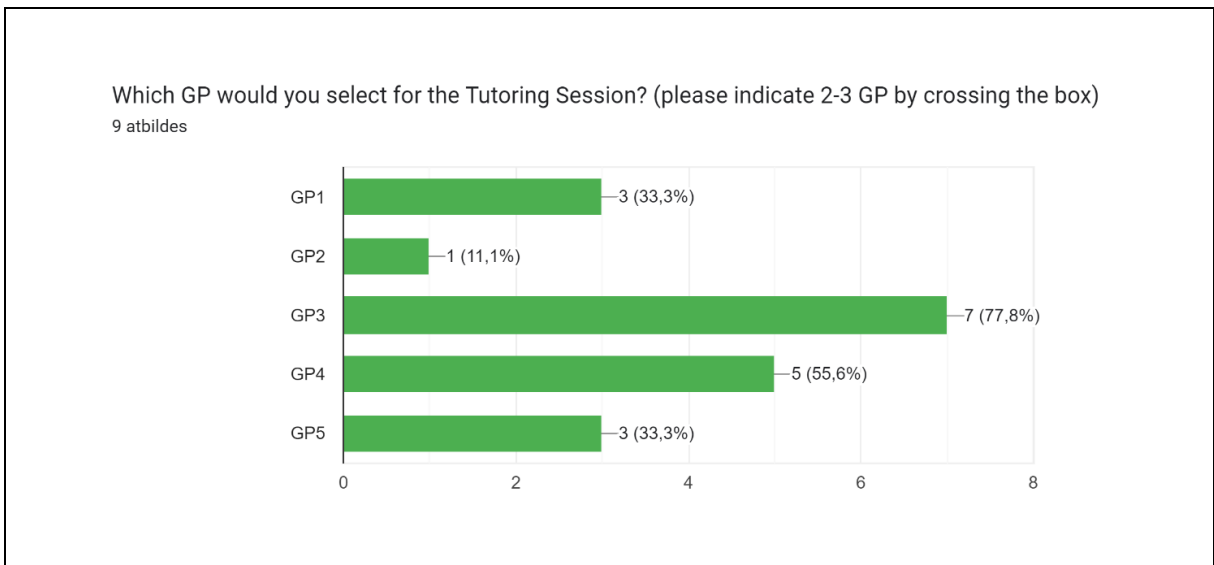


Other:

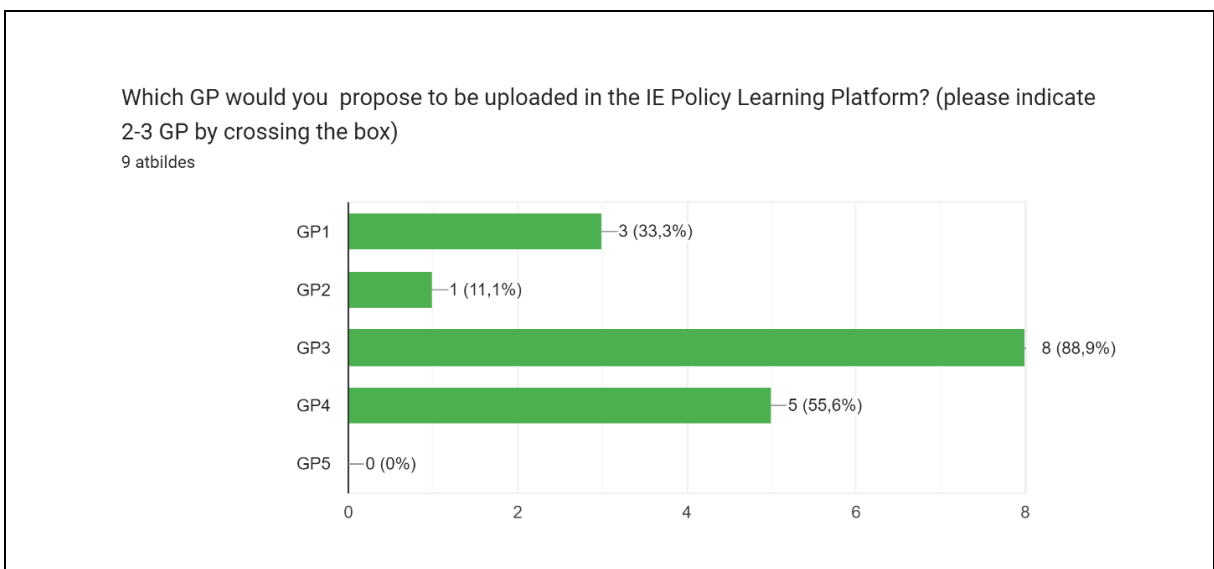
- *Good practice on specialized solutions and multifunctionality.*
- *Indication of other was not a good choice, but I could not erase the radio button pushed.*

3. RECOMMENDATIONS OF GPs FOR THE TUTORING SESSION AND POLICY LEARNING PLATFORM

The PROMOTER project must deliver various outputs, one of which includes four tutoring sessions. Hence, respondents were given the opportunity to select a GP for tutoring sessions. According to the data presented in the graph, 7 partner countries indicated a preference for the GP3 (Local energy management and monitoring system), followed by GP4 (5 responses). The partners showed their interest in the GP3 topics already during the presentation and actively participated in Q&A session. Energy efficiency in public buildings and energy savings are closely aligned with the goals of the PROMOTER project and holds significant potential for replication in their respective regions.

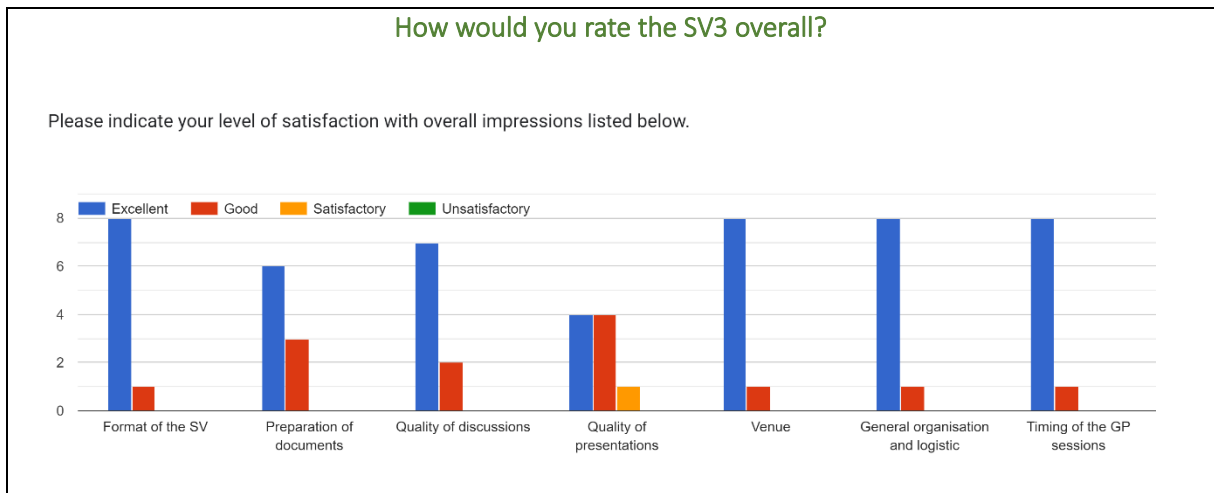


In accordance with the goals of the PROMOTER project, a minimum of 18 documented GPs will be identified, tailored to the specific needs of each partner, and effectively integrated into Policy Learning Platform of the Interreg Europe Programme. Once again, in response to this question, GP3 emerged as the most preferred GP among the others preferred by 8 partners. These results echo those of the previous question, validating a trend indicating the most successful and impactful GP presented during the SV3.



In the conclusion section, an important aspect is the recommendations provided by participants to enhance the organization of future SVs. Guests were asked to select one or more suggestions or provide additional feedback through the "other" option.

Overall, the SV3 was deemed successful, with many participants highlighting the smooth execution of all activities. Nevertheless, there is a space for improvements, namely a quality of presentations and a content of GP documentation.

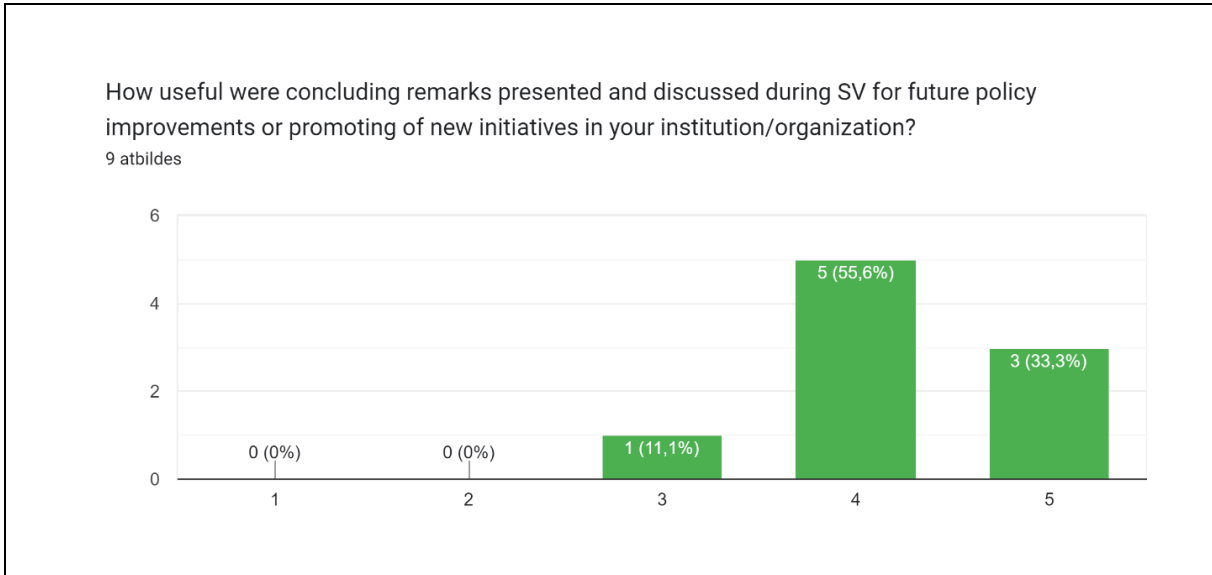


The partners were asked to point the highlight of the SV3:

What was the highlight of this SV? (What did you like about it the most?)

- The last 5 years the Municipality, although it is a small municipality, had successfully implemented 9 EU funded projects for EE and RES. Good examples which can be followed and can have multiples effects.
- Whole organisation of the event, WhatsApp group and sharing all relevant information there.
- The animation and moderation having moments to refocus and learn facts about Latvia and where we are in order to better understand the practices visited. Everything was very on time and well organized!
- Teamwork by the hosting team, the facilitation and ice breaks of the meeting.
- Presentation of development of EuroVelo 11-route was very interesting and something I will use in my work at home.
- Overall hospitality of our hosts. Visit in Kotini green farm was an amazing experience.
- The combination of the relevant GP's and the time for getting to know the partners and stakeholders.
- Barriers and challenges discussions.
- Moderator's role, organisation of final round tables, transferable to future SVs, effective time keeping.
- The fact that the 2004 "newcomer" EU member state, Latvia could report and undoubtedly impressive development during 20 years is the true mark of the Eastern Latvia or Latgale PROMOTER SV in Rezekne.

Most of respondents expressed their satisfaction with the concluding remarks presented and discussed during SV3 for future policy improvements or promoting of new initiatives in represented institutions/organizations and they were largely accepted as being either “very useful” (3) or “useful” (5).



The participants recounted the most significant outcomes of the SV3 in the following comments:

Were there any parts of the SV that you found especially useful?

- EE and RES for public utilities and infrastructure and the example for the monitoring EE system, platform. The new constructed public buildings with regional dimension for different purposes (sport, recreation, culture and creative industry for youngsters).
- The final workshop.
- The Olympic center and hotel, a successful farm representing European fundings by the Russian border, the logistic.
- The workshop in the third day and possibility to give feedback of GPs were a useful exercise. The moderator kept presentations and discussions flowing smoothly, it was a good idea. Presentation of EuroVelo 11-route was very interesting.
- The monitoring system on building level.
- It was an overall added value as to the advantages and challenges that may appear in case of replicability of the GPs. Seeing some of the GPs on site is an added value in itself.
- Organization of final round table; communication management and well-balanced combination of heavy and soft part of activities.
- GP2, its presentation and the question and answers section following that.

The following were suggestions that partners proposed to take in account for next SVs as well as other related comments:

Do you have any topic suggestions for future similar events or other comments / feedback?

- More practical and sustainable examples of elaborated and implemented projects for Geothermal water storage and management system, sustainable use. Examples of management and monitoring of local energy.
- Thanks a lot for amazing event!

- Perhaps there could be more working as a group moments to debate the GP also with the stakeholders holding the practice present.
- no one
- We want to thank Latvian team for hospitality and excellent SV. Everything was organized perfectly.
- Thank you for all the efforts!
- We were happy with the event overall, but more specialized personell on the technical operational structure during the presentations might be useful. Many thanks
- To keep this kind of organisation in future study visits, in particular final round tables.
- Keeping up this high quality and heart-warming, friendly organisation of the further study visits will be challenge to future SV hosts.

4. CONCLUSION

The SV3 in Rezekne showcased a range of innovative initiatives with potential to be considered in PROMOTER project. These GPs were in close alignment with the project's overarching goals, emphasizing renewable energy, environmental sustainability, and sustainable mobility. Through detailed presentations and immersive on-site visits, participants gained invaluable insights into the practical implementation and potential adaptability of these initiatives to their respective regions.

Furthermore, the feedback received from participants underscored the success of the SV3 in fostering knowledge exchange and creating networking opportunities. This positive engagement reflects the efficacy of the event in promoting collaboration and sharing best practices among project partners.

In conclusion, the SV3 not only provided significant insights into ongoing projects but also served as a source of inspiration for future endeavors. The lessons learned and experiences gained during the visit will enhance the planning and organization of future SVs, contributing to the continued success and impact of the PROMOTER project.

The presentations delivered are available here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SDcFX8ffSrJW84K-E2JIVGMrhhXtL4P8?usp=sharing>

*For more information on the contents of this report and supporting documentation, please contact:
promoter.rezekne@gmail.com*

5. APPENDIX

- A1 Agenda of the SV3
- A2 List of participants with signatures
- A3 Logistic note of the SV3
- A4 Template of SV feedback form

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/promoter>