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Newsletter



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ADVancing Municipal Circular Economy

PROJECT NUMBER – 2021-1-EL01-KA220-VET-000033247



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meetings - 13

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Advancing Municipal Circular Economy

In this third newsletter of the ADVANCE project we want to give you an overview of

- ✓ the Transnational Partner Meetings that were held in the 5 participating countries
- ✓ some of the Multiplier Events organised by the partners
- ✓ some Stakeholder meetings.

1st Transnational ADVANCE Meeting in Greece

On 11th and 12th May 2022, Sigma Business Network, a partner of the “ADVANCE- Advancing Municipal Circular Economy” project, hosted the consortium at its offices where it held the 1st Transnational Meeting. The ADVANCE partnership is composed by 7 partners from 5 EU countries: The NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS and SIGMA BUSINESS NETWORK and D-WASTE LTD from Greece, E.G. EUGENE GLOBAL LTD from Cyprus, the HORECA Partners from Belgium, the GRAD ZADAR from Croatia and GRADA NOVOG SADA from Serbia.

During these two-days, participants discussed extensively the Project Management overview, the Baseline Assessment (PR1), the Gap Analysis Methodology and the Tool (PR2).

The outcome of this two-year (2022-2024) project – funded through EU “Strategic Partnership” program – is the preparation of a learning package and methodology to support HORECA SMEs and Municipalities to access and improve their food waste management practices.



2nd Transnational ADVANCE Meeting in Cyprus

The 2nd transnational meeting of the EU project “ADVANCE – Advancing Municipal Circular Economy” was hosted by EUGENE GLOBAL LTD in Cyprus on October 6-7, 2022. During the two days of the meeting and following the welcome of the participating partners by the Project Coordinator NTUA, the participants reviewed the progress of the main vertical and horizontal activities of the project.

On the first day the partners discussed the main elements of the surveys conducted in households, municipalities and HORECA SME’s, and the requirements regarding the evaluation of the current waste management assessment. All partners agreed that the baseline assessment should be based on the results of the above local best practice driven surveys (PR1). The participants also discussed the challenges and weaknesses as stated by the target groups and decided to define their structure and content in the next transnational meeting (PR2).r As a last subject of the first day, the existing methodologies on SMEs regarding food waste management (PR3) were presented and reviewed.

The second day started with SIGMA presenting the factors of food waste management that need to be considered, and the basic methodological framework of the assessment. The following topics addressed were the description of the main objectives that the Curriculum aspires to achieve (PR4) and the presentation of the main features of the training platform (PR5). The next meeting topic was an update on the development of the horizontal activities, such as project management issues. Last, the partners scheduled the next online meeting and voted on the evaluation of the current meeting and its results.



3d Transnational ADVANCE Meeting in Belgium

On 16th and 17th March 2023, Horeca Partners hosted the 3rd transnational meeting for the partners of the EU project “ADVANCE – Advancing Municipal Circular Economy”. Due to a general strike in Greece, the meeting took place in hybrid format. More specifically, NTUA, SIGMA, EUGENE (whose staff was supposed to travel via Athens) and some members of D-WASTE participated remotely. HORECA PARTNERS as organizers, ZADAR, NOVI SAD and Ms. Katerina Karalegkou from D-WASTE were physically present.

On the first day of the meeting, the progress made so far with respect to the Gap Analysis Tools was presented by EUGENE. Furthermore, D-WASTE presented the draft contents of the Roadmaps and the plans for the external testing of both the Gap Analysis Tools and the Roadmaps was discussed. Finally, NTUA gave an overview of the contents and the template for the training content.

At the start of day two, the partners made arrangements regarding the transformation of the ADVANCE course in a digital form and the collection of all the materials for the platform. During the remainder of the day attention was primarily given to the planning and organization of the internal and external tests of the ADVANCE course as well as of the online platform as a whole. Lastly, some project management and administrative issues were discussed and the next online meeting and Transnational Project Meeting were scheduled.



4th Transnational ADVANCE Meeting in Serbia

NOVI SAD FAIR - CONGRESS CENTRE , Hajduk Veljkova 11, Novi Sad

The 4th Transnational Project Meeting was held in Novi Sad, Serbia, on October 5-6.

The meeting was very successful as a lot of topics were discussed and plans for the future actions were made.

On the first day it was discussed about Design and Development of the Gap Analysis Tool, Internal tests of the Gap Analysis Tool and Design and Development of Roadmaps.

The second day the main topics were ADVANCE Online Platform and Testing of the ADVANCE Course-

All participants got there certificates for attending and participate in this meeting.



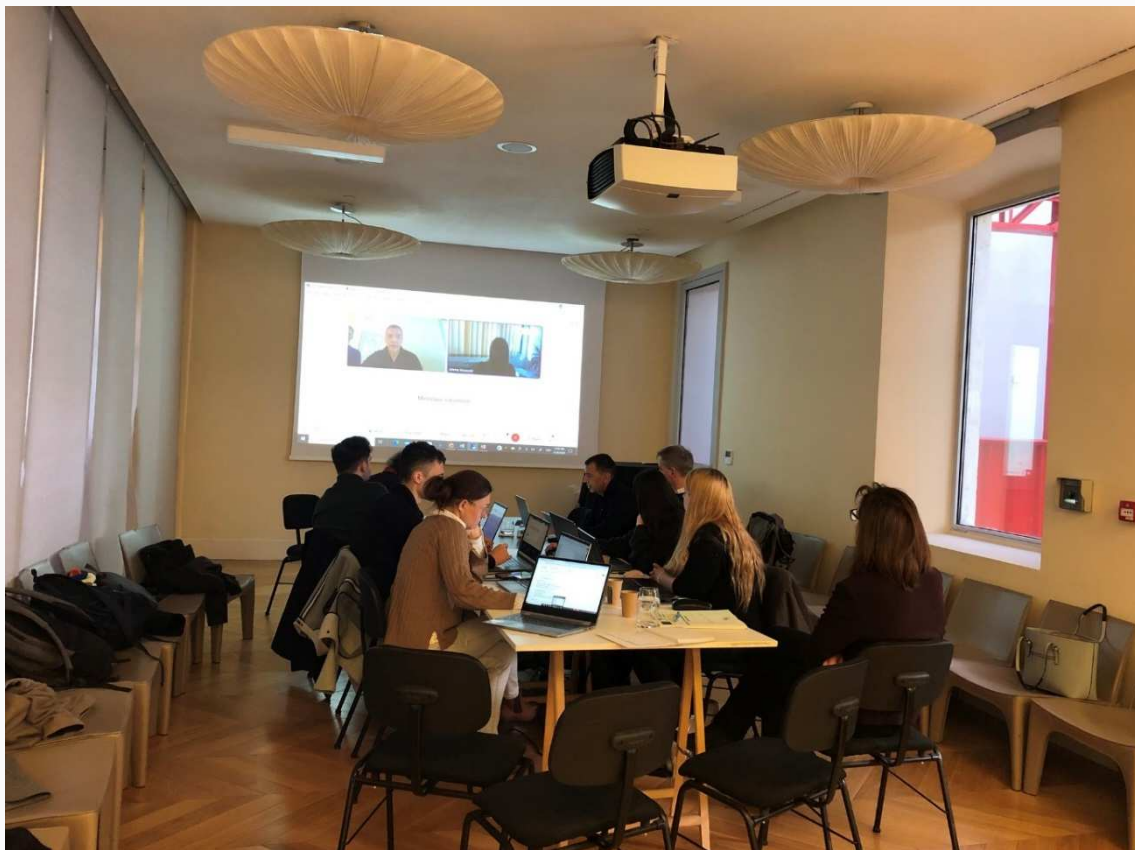
5th Transnational ADVANCE Meeting in Croatia

On January 29 and 30, the City of Zadar hosted the 5th transnational meeting of partners of the EU project “ADVANCE – Advancing Municipal Circular Economy”.

Besides partners who were hosts, the meeting was attended by representatives of other partners: NTUA (National Technical University of Athens), D-Waste LTD and SIGMA Business Network from Greece, Eugene Global LTD from Cyprus, Horeca Partners from Belgium and the City Administration for Protection of the environment of the City of Novi Sad (Serbia), who were unable to travel to Zadar and participated in the meeting online.

The meeting discussed the activities carried out so far, with special emphasis on the results of testing of developed materials and tools (Gap Analysis Tool, Roadmaps, ADVANCE Course). Additionally, the meeting discussed further possibilities for improving the ADVANCE platform, past and future educational and informational activities and guidelines for the preparation of the final report.

This meeting was the last transnational meeting of the partners during the two-year duration of the project.



Multiplier Event of Horeca Partners, Belgium

On February 26th, Horeca Partners organised a Multiplier Event for an interested audience in Restaurant Jerom, Antwerp, to present the results of the ADVANCE project. The attendees were horeca professionals, business owners and representatives of both VET organisations such as Horeca Forma and the sector federation Horeca Vlaanderen. By means of some very telling figures and statistics, Steve Van Uytbergen and Filip Nicasi from Horeca Partners first demonstrated the magnitude of the worldwide issue of food waste, as well as its environmental, societal and financial consequences. Subsequently, the participants were guided through a large number of useful tips with a view to preventing, reducing and dealing with food waste in both horeca SMEs and households. Finally, extensive attention was given to the presentation of the objectives and outcomes of the ADVANCE project, with a specific emphasis on the deliverables that have been developed in the course of the project and which can be found on the ADVANCE Online Platform: a baseline assessment on waste management, gap analysis and knowledge assessment tools, roadmaps and a training course. After the presentation, there was ample room for further discussion and networking over a delicious dinner.



Multiplier event in Zadar, Croatia

On February 19, 2024 Multiplier event of the ADVANCE project was held in Zadar.

The aim of the conference was to present the goals and results of the project, to point out the issue of food waste and to inform about prevention and sustainable management of food waste.

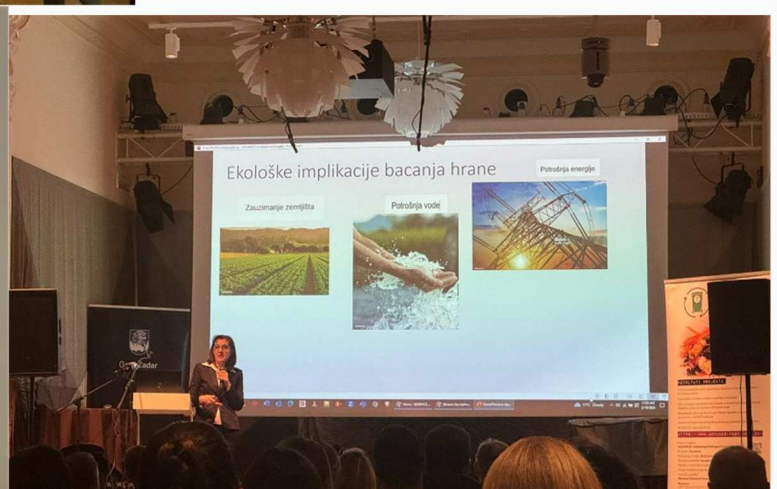
Žana Klarić, the Head of the Sector for Environmental Protection of City of Zadar and member of the ADVANCE project team, presented the project and its final result: ADVANCE platform.

Special emphasis was put on the "Gap analysis tool", as a part of ADVANCE platform which was developed for two main target groups: municipalities and HoReCa sector.

Special emphasis was also put on Roadmaps, individually for each target group, which, using a step-by-step methodology, guide the local administration or HoReCa to achieve the goals regarding the prevention and reduction of food waste.

After the presentation of the ADVANCE project, prof. Aleksandra Anić Vučinić conducted an education on food waste management, with special reference on the current state of waste management in the Republic of Croatia and Zadar County and impact of the tourism on food waste production. She also pointed out the importance of education and awareness raising for achieving goals prescribed by legislations.

The event was attended by a large number of participants, including employees of local/regional authorities, HORECA, University, high schools, waste management companies, NGOs, media and owners of small rentals.



Multiplier Event in Novi Sad, Serbia

Advancing Municipal Circular Economy – MTP event in Novi Sad, 23.02.2024.

The final conference of the project "Advancing Municipal Circular Economy", co-financed by the European Union, within the Erasmus + program, was organized by City of Novi Sad – City Administration for Environmental Protection in the Congress Center of the Novi Sad Fair.

Welcome speech was held by Mira Radenović Bojić, member of the City Council for property and property-legal affairs, environmental protection, sustainable development and energy efficiency and manager of Project team Novi Sad.

Improvement of the city's circular economy within the Erasmus + program presented Jelena Moravski, assistant to the head of the City Administration for Environmental Protection.

In order to thematically complement this conference, additional lectures were held on the following topics:

- Monitoring and prevention of food waste generation from facilities near the University campus in Novi Sad, Faculty of Technical Sciences, Department for Environmental Protection and Occupational Safety
- Preparation of a study for the development of a system for the separate collection of food waste, Faculty of Technology Novi Sad, Department of Chemical Engineering
- An example of good practice, green waste management - compost PUK "Gradsko zelenilo" Novi Sad
- Compost, don't throw it away!, Novi Sad Knowledge Factory Association



Multiplier Event of NTUA, Sigma Business Network and D-Waste in Greece

On Thursday, February 15th, 2024, stakeholders gathered at the Cultural Centre "Theodoros Angelopoulos" in the Municipality of Moschato-Tavros to celebrate the achievements of the ADVANCE ("Advancing Municipal Circular Economy") Project's Results Multiplier Event.

The presentation, titled "Reducing food waste production in municipalities and HORECA SMEs," brought together over 60 participants for a day of insightful discussions and strategic planning.

Distinguished speakers, including industry experts and municipal leaders, shared their perspectives on tackling food



waste across the supply chain. From Mr. Antonis Mavropoulos, Founder & CEO of D-Waste, who analyzed global food loss to Ms. Nasia Barka, Head of Food Waste Prevention at the Municipality



of Halandri, who presented research outcomes and municipal actions, each presentation shed light on innovative

approaches to waste reduction. Furthermore, Ms. Dia Chorafa, Project Manager of the Organization "BOROUME," highlighted holistic strategies, while Mr. Vangelis Terzis, Scientific Officer at D-WASTE, emphasized the importance of cooperation between municipalities and HoReCa businesses.



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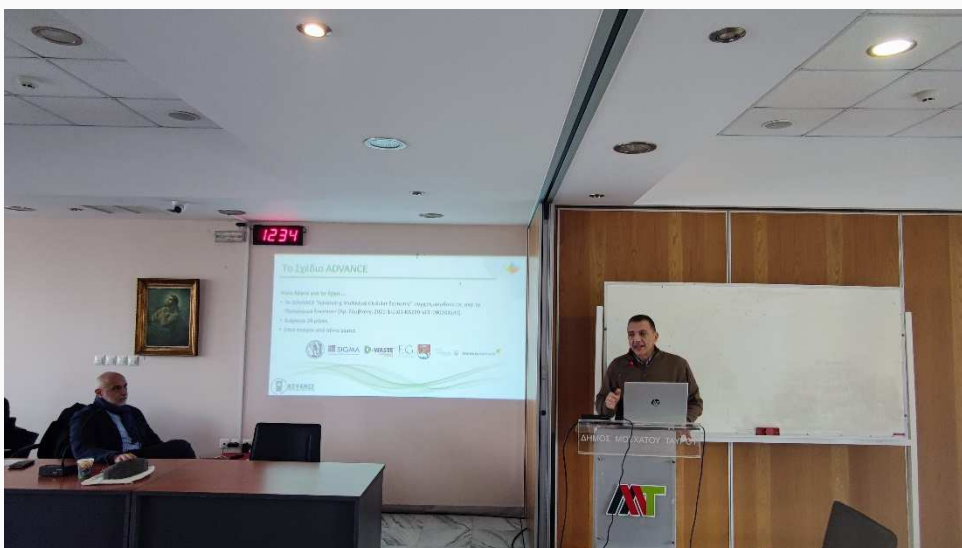


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The event concluded with Mr. Dimitris Damigos, Professor at NTUA and the leader of the ADVANCE project, sharing the methodology and results of the ADVANCE Project, underscoring the importance of education and collaboration in achieving ambitious targets on food waste. Throughout the event, engaging discussions and contributions from attendees showcased the collective dedication to a greener, more sustainable future. As we reflect on the challenges faced and the progress made, we look forward to continual collaboration and innovation in our shared mission to reduce food waste and promote circular solutions.

The results of the ADVANCE Project presented were the following:

1. Baseline assessment (PR1) of the current waste food waste management practices in Municipalities and HORECA SMEs.
2. Gap Analysis methodology and tool (PR2) between current and required, according to the EU targets, waste management practices relevant to food waste.
3. Development of Roadmaps (PR3) – The Roadmaps developed in two different types, one for Municipalities and one for HORECA SMEs.
4. ADVANCE Course (PR4) – A training material broken down into certain learning modules for waste management adapted to the needs of target groups.
5. Open Education Resource (OER) (PR5) – An Online Platform, which includes and host interactively all the above.





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Multiplier Event of Eugene Global LTD in Cyprus

The ADVANCE Project is a European initiative that aims to transform food waste management in the HORECA (Hotel, Restaurant, and Catering) sector. The project has concluded with various events held in Greece, Serbia, Croatia, and Belgium. As the tourism industry in Cyprus is strong, it can contribute significantly to the transition of Europe's tourism sector. On February 8th, a Multiplier Event was held in Limassol, Cyprus, attended by distinguished representatives from prominent hotels and tourism operators who showed their commitment to environmental protection and adopting sustainable practices.

The event brought together essential stakeholders from the country's thriving tourism industry and helped to further the cause of sustainable practices. The Multiplier Events served as a dynamic platform to unveil the project's outcomes, with a spotlight on Food Waste Reduction Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) delineated in the ADVANCE Roadmaps. The insightful presentation sparked lively discussions. After the presentation, the attendees had the opportunity to network with each other during a networking cocktail. The goal was to create deeper connections and synergies that promote a sustainable ethos within the HORECA sector. This occasion highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts towards reducing food waste and championing sustainability principles.

One of the pivotal outcomes of the ADVANCE Project is an innovative open learning platform. Tailored specifically for hospitality workers, this platform offers comprehensive training on effective food waste management practices. By leveraging this platform, hospitality establishments can enhance their sustainability efforts while fostering a culture of environmental responsibility. For those interested in accessing the training content or learning more about the ADVANCE Project, we invite you to connect with one of our representatives.



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Stakeholder Meetings in Zadar, Croatia

Zadar held 6 stakeholder meetings between 2/10/2023 and 06/02/2024. Four of meetings were held in premises of the City of Zadar while two meetings were organised in stakeholder's premises. Two of the SH meetings were attended by management staff (Chamber of Trades and Crafts of Zadar County and waste management consultant) while four of them were attended by employees (public waste management company, regional waste management centre, technology company for entrepreneurs support and Association of Zadar's craftsmen).

On all stakeholder meetings ADVANCE team members presented to the participants the scope, objectives and results of the ADVANCE project with a special focus on ADVANCE platform. ADVANCE team members also observed the stakeholder possibilities for dissemination and promotion of educational materials. Besides, meetings also had a specific topics and discussions regarding to the stakeholder competence. Additional discussions were held, as follows:

- possibilities of implementation of separate food waste collection in Zadar's area, including possible financial, technical and organizational issues – meetings with waste management company and waste management centre;
- possibilities and issues of implementation of Ind 4.0 technologies in HORECA businesses – meeting with technology company for entrepreneurs support.





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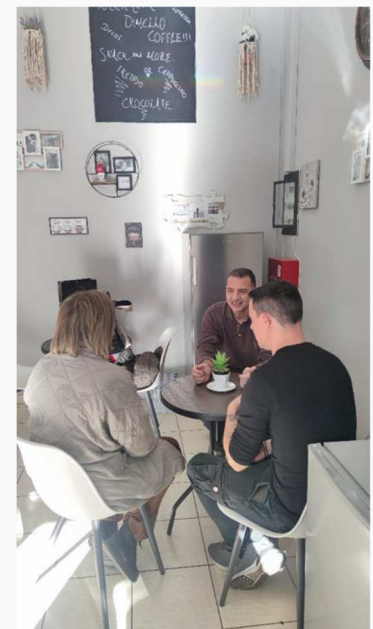
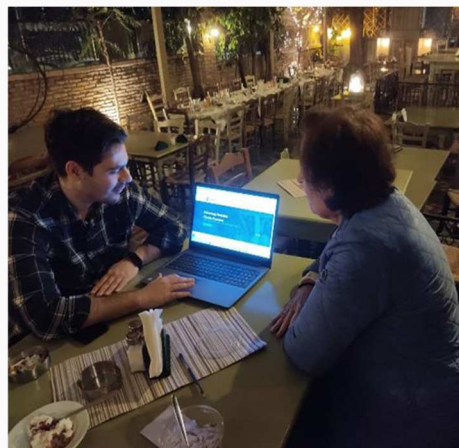
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Stakeholder Meetings at NTUA, Greece

The NTUA held a total of 7 meetings with stakeholders (SH) between 21/12/2023 and 25/02/2024. Five of the SH meetings were held in person, at the participants' businesses and the remaining two were held online. Three of the SH meetings were attended by business owners (in a hotel, a restaurant and a café, respectively), two were attended by management staff (in a restaurant and a university restaurant) and two were attended by business employees (in both cases restaurants). Five of the businesses were located in Greece and two abroad (Malta - restaurant and Croatia - hotel).

During the SH meetings, the ADVANCE team members presented to the participants the scope, objectives and products of the ADVANCE project and then its main results (i.e., the Gap Analysis Tools, the ADVANCE course and the ADVANCE Roadmaps). After the end of the detailed presentation, the participants accessed the project website and were asked to browse and use the Gap Analysis Tools, the ADVANCE course and the ADVANCE Roadmaps. The participants tested their knowledge using the Self-Assessment tool and then followed different modules of the ADVANCE Course, based on their interests. Finally, to a lesser extent, they explored the ADVANCE Roadmaps (mainly the owners and the management staff).

Overall, the feedback provided by the participants was very positive. In particular, they mentioned that they found the educational material very interesting. They also said that they liked the fact that additional resources, of different type, were provided, as well as that at the end of each educational unit the user had the ability to test the knowledge gained through the self-assessment questions.





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Stakeholder Meetings in Novi Sad, Serbia

The City of Novi Sad held a total of 7 meetings with stakeholders (SH) between 21/12/2023 and 25/02/2024. Six of the SH meetings were held in person and one were held online. Three of the SH meetings were attended by local public utility companies, two were attended by local stakeholders form company, one were attended by students and one by NGO.

During the SH meetings, the ADVANCE team members presented to the participants the scope, objectives and products of the ADVANCE project and then its main results. After the end of the detailed presentation, the participants were asked to browse and use the Gap Analysis Tools, the ADVANCE course and the ADVANCE Roadmaps after the meeting and send us feedback.

The all participants were very interested in this topic as it was connected to the field they are dealing with. The general impression is that this topic through this Project came out in public and tickle local stakeholders.





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Stakeholder meetings at Sigma Business Network, Greece

SIGMA BUSINESS NETWORK held a total of 6 meetings with stakeholders (SH) between December 20, 2023, and February 27, 2024. Three of the SH meetings were conducted in person during multiplier events with significant participation from HoReCa businesses, while the remaining three were held online. Among the online meetings, one was attended by a business owner (Vocational Training Centre), and two were attended by employees from different businesses (a restaurant and a metalworking business). All three enterprises are located in Greece, specifically in Athens, Thessaloniki, and Amalida.

During the SH meetings, the scope, objectives, and products of the project, including the gap analysis tools, the ADVANCE course and the road maps were presented. Participants then explored these resources on the project website, using the self-assessment tool to test their knowledge and selecting modules based on their interests. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting their interest in the learning materials and the quality of the information and additional reading resources.





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Stakeholder meetings at Horeca Partners, Belgium

Horeca Partners held a total of 6 meetings with stakeholders (SH) between 20/12/2023 and 20/02/2024. All of the SH meetings were held in person at the participants' businesses, all located in Belgium. Three SH meetings took place at non-profit organisations which operate as a social economy entity, with 'horeca' as one of their main activities and were all attended by management staff. One was attended by representatives of hotel schools (one secondary and one higher education institute) and a representative of the official VET training center of the Flemish hospitality employees and teachers, and two were attended by horeca business owners.

During all stakeholder meetings the ADVANCE team members presented the scope and objectives of the ADVANCE project as well as its main results to the participants. Some of the attendants accessed the project website and were asked to browse and use the Gap Analysis Tools, the ADVANCE course and the ADVANCE Roadmaps. Additionally, there were specific topics and discussions during the SH meetings regarding the SH's activities, for example:

- an open discussion on important topics regarding the approach of a food waste strategy for a horeca business;
- a discussion on the impact of food waste in the context of the items on the menu for a new outlet;
- additional advice on how to include food waste management in specific courses;
- a discussion about the importance of food waste in horeca outlets;

Overall, the feedback provided by the participants was very positive. One of the horeca business owners was so interested in the project and its results he wanted to adapt things immediately in his restaurant. Other meetings created more awareness about food waste among the participants and most of them decided to take actions in the nearby future.



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Stakeholder Meetings of Eugene Global LTD in Cyprus

EUGENE held a total of 6 meetings with stakeholders (SH) between 12/10/2023 and 20/02/2024. All of the SH meetings were held in person. One of the SH meetings was attended by a restaurant owner, one was attended by hotel employees, three were attended by workshop participants (workshops regarding sustainability) and one meeting was held during a conference and attended by the chairman. All SH meetings were held in Cyprus.

During the SH meetings, the ADVANCE team members presented to the participants the scope, objectives and products of the ADVANCE project, and subsequently its main results. After the end of the detailed presentation, the participants were asked to browse and use the Gap Analysis Tools, the ADVANCE course and the ADVANCE Roadmaps after the meeting and to send feedback.

Overall, the feedback provided by the participants was very positive.

Let's work towards a shared vision of a greener waste-free world!



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FACEBOOK

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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/86036392/admin/feed/posts/>

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