



NORO GREEN CITIES
Smart Future

NORO GREEN CITIES Event Report – 20.01.2025

Capacity Building Workshop in SINAIA city

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NORO GREEN CITIES Event Report – January 20, 2025

Overview

The NORO GREEN CITIES

1. Capacity-Building Workshop Report: "Smart Cities Development – Technology Adoption, Project Management, and Sustainable Urban Development"

Event Overview

On January 20, 2025, a capacity-building workshop was held at the Cultural Centre Carmen Sylva in Sinaia, as part of the NORO Green Cities project. This hybrid event, supported by EDIH Wallachia eHUB and Sinaia City Hall, welcomed both online and on-site participants.

Link for online participants:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89294045662?pwd=fQ2FXqwrVaES6M0o6c5weXeEPtNaK0.1;>

Meeting ID: 892 9404 5662, Passcode: 889972

The workshop focused on enhancing participants' knowledge and skills in smart cities, particularly in the areas of technology adoption, project management, and sustainable urban development.

The event brought together representatives from the public sector (including participants from **Sinaia, Breaza, Azuga, Blejoi**), the private sector, project partners, and other stakeholders, fostering meaningful collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Facilitators and Contributors:

- **Bjarne Uldal (Nordic Edge):** Facilitator for Strategy development using Design Thinking process
- **Judith Pretty (EDIH Oceanopolis):** Funding opportunities expert

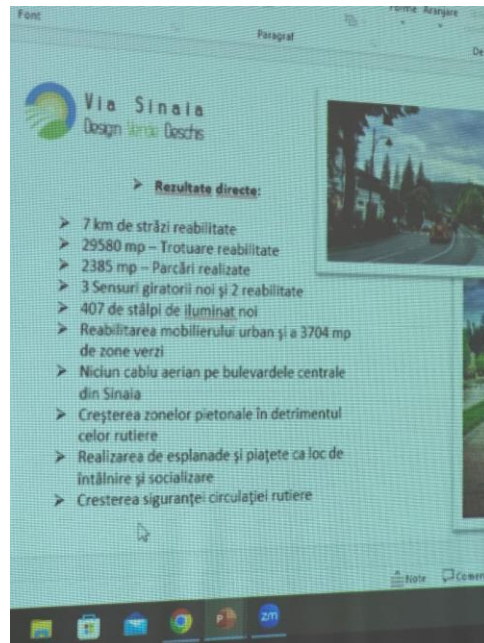
With support of Costin Lianu, Coordinator of Wallachia eHUB - EDIH

Workshop Agenda

- **Welcome and Introduction (10:30 – 12:00):**
 - Overview of the NORO Green Cities project.
 - Participant introductions.
 - NORO project presentation and inviting participant to fill in the second survey prepared within the project – survey link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1oTB055uwtlCqkBzmSpQP4yAnjr5Ee1eA5Yg_e5xJrVg/viewform?edit_requested=true
 - Introduction to vision and objectives of NORO GREEN CITIES project – speaker **Valentina Vasile, Director, Institute of National Economy**

- Ms. **Cristina Gheaus from Sinaia City Hall** delivered a presentation on the smart city projects implemented by the Sinaia administration, guided by the motto “**Space, Light, and Order**” (as inspired by Le Corbusier). **Key Projects:**

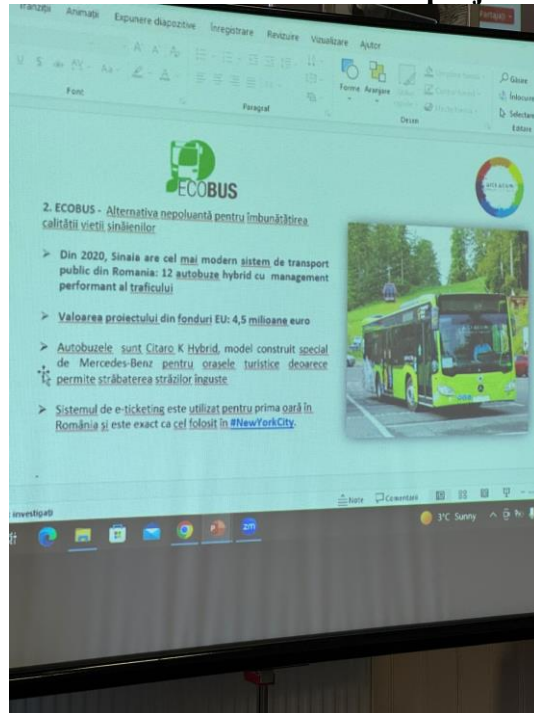
a. Urban Regeneration of a Tourist Resort – A €20 million initiative.



- 7 km of roads rehabilitated
- 29,580 sqm of sidewalks rehabilitated
- 2,385 sqm of parking areas created
- 3 new roundabouts and 2 rehabilitated roundabouts
- 407 new lighting poles installed
- Rehabilitation of urban furniture and 3,704 sqm of green spaces
- No overhead cables on the central boulevards of Sinaia
- Expansion of pedestrian zones at the expense of vehicular areas
- Creation of esplanades and squares as spaces for meeting and socialising
- Increased road safety

The issue of funding guidelines in Romania was raised, highlighting that they are entirely theoretical and lack any connection to the realities of the country or its regions. This problem applies equally to both national and regional funding programmes. At the same time, it is no longer possible to develop integrated projects that combine elements such as roads, sewage systems, and other infrastructure.

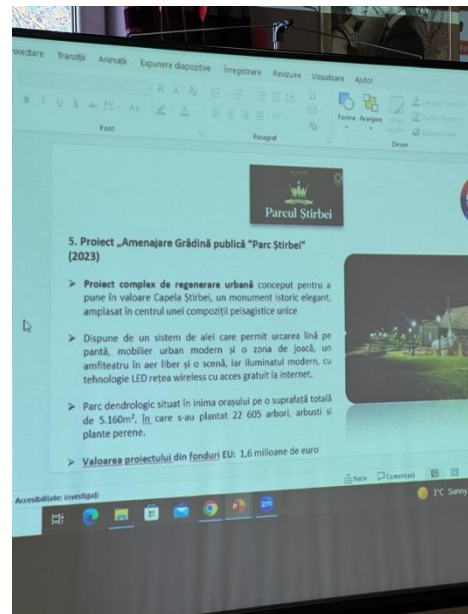
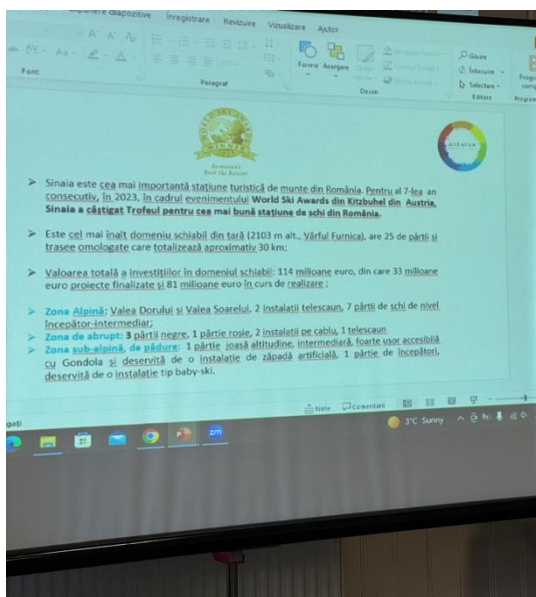
b. ECOBUS – A non-polluting alternative to improve the quality of life for Sinaia residents – €4.5 million project

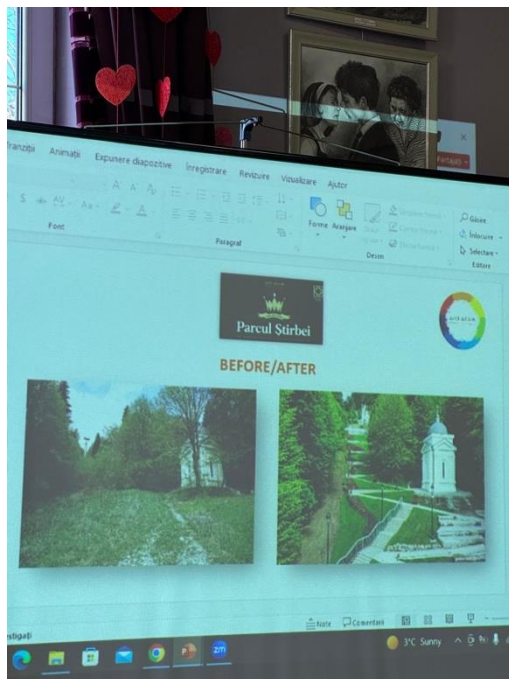


c. NOCO2 – Pedestrian pathways – €6.3 million project

d. Ski Area – Sinaia boasts the largest ski area in the country – €115 million project

e. Development Project for Stirbei Park Public Garden 2023 – €1.6 million project





Other big Projects under construction/development:

- The New Hospital (lipsa spatiu de joaca)
- Day Centre for Senior Recovery (near the old hospital)
- Photovoltaic Panels
- Thermal Insulation of Residential Buildings
- Education: new schools equipped with new technologies, one with a large swimming pool.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, and more
- **Interactive Working Session (12:00 – 13:30):**

The building block to a smart city roadmap comprising the following, as presented by Bjarne Uldal:

- **Presentation of Nordic Edge** entity and its role
- **Presentation of the first results of survey no 1**
- **Best practices** / successfully projects developed in Norway
- **The building blocks to a smart city roadmap**
- **Design Thinking Process:** Facilitated by Bjarne Uldal, participants were introduced to Design Thinking and its relevance to smart city development.

Summary of Bjarne's Presentation: "Developing a Smart City Roadmap for Ploiești City – study case"

Presented by **Bjarne Uldal (Nordic Edge)**, this session focused on creating a structured approach to transforming Ploiești or any other city into a smart and sustainable city through collaboration, innovation, and citizen-centered planning.

Key Highlights:

1. **The Smart City Roadmap:**

- A 7-step framework emphasizing meaningful purpose, stakeholder engagement, action areas, and implementation plans.
- Focuses on creating a common language and shared values for collaboration across sectors.

2. **Core Components:**

- **Body (Future Place and Environment):** Addressing climate change, reducing emissions, and enhancing liveability through efficient transport and inclusive public spaces.
- **Soul (Future Community):** Promoting health, inclusion, and access to community services.
- **Mind (Future Economy):** Supporting innovation, economic development, and digital transformation.

3. **Principles and Challenges:**

- Advocates for a holistic approach to address societal inequalities and environmental concerns.
- Emphasizes co-creation and quadruple-helix collaboration (public sector, private sector, academia, and citizens).

4. **Implementation Plan:**

- Prioritizing projects that enhance quality of life, reduce environmental impact, and foster innovation.
- Serving as a guidebook and platform to inspire other cities globally.

2. Summary of Presentation by Judith Pretty: Funding Opportunities for Smart Cities

Judith Pretty from **EDIH Oceanopolis AS** presented funding avenues under the NORO Green Cities initiative to support smart and sustainable urban development.

Key Highlights:

1. **Relevant EU Programmes:**

- Explained opportunities available through EU Work Programmes like Horizon Europe, including the importance of the call identifier, such as:
 - HORIZON-CL5-2021-D1-01-01
 - HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-ACCESS-01-01 (two-stage).

2. **Types of Funding:**

- **HE Funding:** Support for research and innovation.
- **Cascade Funding:** Distribution of funds through intermediary projects.

3. **Finding Partners:**

- Emphasized the importance of collaboration and provided resources like the **EU Funding and Tenders Portal** for identifying partners and opportunities.

4. **NORO Green Cities Project:**

- Highlighted as a model of success, funded under the “Open Call for Bilateral Cooperation in the Green Transition.”

Key Takeaway: Local administrations can leverage EU funding programs to implement innovative solutions for smart city projects, focusing on sustainability, collaboration, and impactful transformation. Tools like the EU Funding and Tenders Portal are critical for navigating and accessing these opportunities.

Exemplification of how to apply to Bauhaus Prizes for Municipalities in case of:

- SINAIA
 - COMARNIC
- <https://prizes.new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/guide-applicants-municipalities>

To align with the requirements of the **New European Bauhaus Prizes for Municipalities**, the following aspects must be highlighted:

Existing Project:

- Detail the progress achieved in the previously launched project.
- Clarify the remaining objectives for which additional funding is required.

Community Involvement:

- Propose clear and relevant activities to mobilise citizens.
- Demonstrate a participatory, community-led approach that reflects local values and priorities.

Eligibility for Funding:

- Highlight how the requested amount (up to EUR 30,000) will be used to achieve the project's objectives, particularly through citizen involvement.
- Present a detailed action plan, including a timeline and estimated impact.

Relevance to the Principles of New European Bauhaus:

- Emphasise the project's alignment with the Bauhaus themes: sustainability, inclusivity, and aesthetics.

It is crucial to focus on **community transformation through sustainable and collaborative initiatives**, in line with the purpose of this call.

1. Proposed Project for Sinaia: "Play and Relaxation Space for Children – The New Hospital in Sinaia"

To align with the requirements of the New European Bauhaus Prizes for Municipalities, the following aspects must be highlighted:

1. **Existing Project:**
 - Detail the progress achieved in the previously launched project.

- Clarify the remaining objectives requiring additional funding.
- 2. **Community Involvement:**
 - Propose clear and relevant activities for mobilising citizens.
 - Demonstrate a participatory, community-led approach reflecting local values and priorities.
- 3. **Eligibility for Funding:**
 - Highlight how the requested funds (up to EUR 30,000) will be used to achieve the project's objectives, particularly through community involvement.
 - Present an actionable plan, including a timeline and estimated impact.
- 4. **Relevance to New European Bauhaus Principles:**
 - Emphasise the alignment of the project with Bauhaus themes: sustainability, inclusivity, and aesthetics.

The focus should be on **community transformation through sustainable and collaborative initiatives**, in line with the call's objectives.

Example Project: "Play and Relaxation Space for Children – The New Hospital in Sinaia"
(as discussed with Ms Cristina Gheaus)

The project aims to create a **play and relaxation space** for children admitted to or visiting the New Hospital in Sinaia, designed to enhance their experience and reduce the stress associated with the hospital environment.

This space, developed in line with **New European Bauhaus values – sustainability, inclusivity, and aesthetics**, will be implemented through a participatory process involving the local community:

1. **Community Consultation:**
 - Organise workshops with parents, children, medical staff, and local designers to identify the users' needs and preferences.
2. **Sustainable Design:**
 - Use eco-friendly materials and integrate natural elements, such as wood and plants, to create a welcoming and healthy environment.
3. **Citizen Engagement:**
 - Mobilise local volunteers and artisans to implement the space, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility within the community.

Expected Results:

- A **safe and attractive space** providing children with opportunities for play and socialisation.
- Increased satisfaction and comfort for families interacting with the hospital.
- Strengthened connections between the hospital and the community through active citizen participation.

The requested budget of **EUR 30,000** will be used for participatory design, sustainable material procurement, and space development. This project will contribute to creating an inclusive and

welcoming environment for all hospital users, fully aligned with the **New European Bauhaus** principles.

2. Another Bauhaus project idea was proposed by representatives of Comarnic City Hall. This initiative addresses the need to develop a sports field, the size of a handball court, at **School No. 2**, where a rehabilitation project is already underway.

Project Title: Sustainable Sports Field Development at School No. 2, Comarnic

This project aims to develop a **sustainable sports field** the size of a handball court at **School No. 2 in Comarnic**, enhancing the school's infrastructure while promoting community well-being. The initiative aligns with **New European Bauhaus principles** by integrating:

- **Sustainability:** Using eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient solutions for construction.
- **Inclusivity:** Creating a space accessible to all students and fostering community engagement through sports.
- **Aesthetics:** Designing a visually appealing and functional sports area that complements the ongoing school rehabilitation project.

Through a participatory approach, the project will involve students, parents, teachers, and local stakeholders in the design and implementation phases, ensuring the sports field becomes a hub for **active and inclusive community life**.

With the requested funding of up to **EUR 30,000**, the project will focus on sustainable materials, participatory design, and creating a lasting positive impact for the school and the broader community.

Event dissemination

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/danube-engineering-hub_join-our-cloud-hd-video-meeting-activity-7285982375031754752-YEMh?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

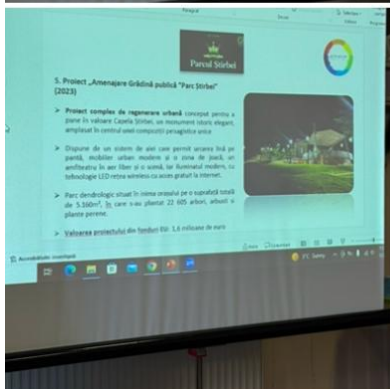
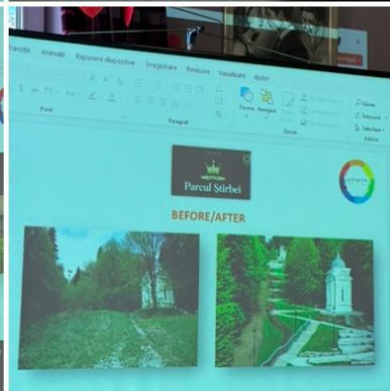
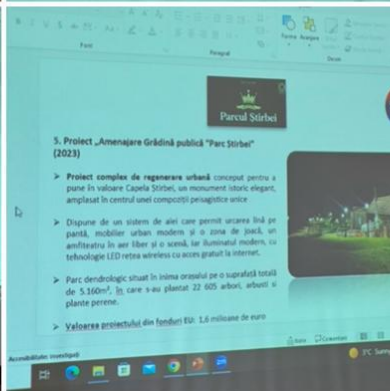
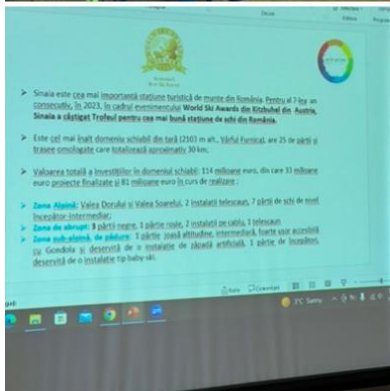
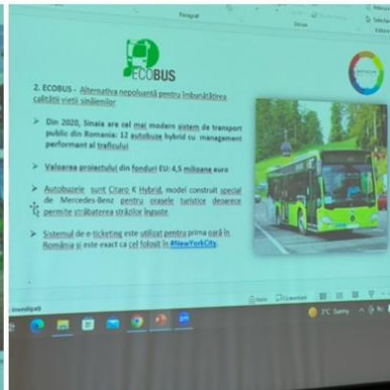
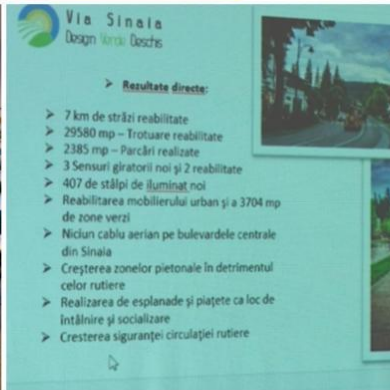
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https://www.linkedin.com/posts/audit-emanuela-modoran-9679243_norogreencities-greentransition-sustainability-activity-7287560016465682432-wr?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

Photos from the workshop







Invitation and agenda



NORO GREEN CITIES
Smart Future

Stimate Domnule/Doamnă,

Suntem încântați să vă invităm să participați la atelierul "**Dezvoltarea Capacității Orașelor Inteligente – Adoptarea Tehnologiei, Managementul Proiectelor și Dezvoltarea Urbană Durabilă**", organizat în cadrul proiectului **NORO GREEN CITIES**.

Evenimentul va avea loc pe 20 ianuarie 2025, la sediul **Centrul Cultural Carmen Sylva din Sinaia**, Strada Mihail Kogălniceanu 80.

Atelierul va beneficia de prezența reprezentanților din Norvegia – [EDIH Oceanopolis](#) și [Nordic Edge](#), care își vor împărtăși expertiza în dezvoltarea soluțiilor de orașe inteligente și dezvoltare urbană durabilă, inclusiv oportunitățile de finanțare pentru aceste inițiative.

Agenda Atelierului de Dezvoltare a Capacităților in Domeniul Smart Cities

10:30 – 10:45	<p>Bun venit și introducere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proiectul <u>NORO Green Cities</u> <p>Prezentarea participanților - reprezentanți ai sectorului public și privat, parteneri ai proiectului și părți interesate.</p>
10:45 – 13:30	<p>Sesiune interactivă de lucru</p> <p>Facilitator: <u>Bjarne Uldal, Nordic Edge</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introducere în procesul <u>Design Thinking</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Prezentarea procesului de tip <u>Design Thinking</u> și relevanța acestuia pentru dezvoltarea orașele inteligente. 2. Studiu de caz interactiv: <u>Primăria Sinaia</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Aplicarea abordării în <u>3 faze Diamond</u> pentru dezvoltarea unui plan strategic pentru orașul inteligent. o Soluționarea <u>colaborativă</u> a problemelor pentru identificarea provocărilor și a soluțiilor inovatoare. 3. Dezvoltarea <u>colaborativă</u> a planului strategic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Implicarea participanților în utilizarea uneltelor și metodologiilor pentru crearea unor strategii aplicabile pentru orașe inteligente. 4. Oportunități de finanțare pentru implementarea soluțiilor de orașe inteligente de către administrațiile publice locale – prezentare susținută de <u>Judith Pretty, EDIH Oceanopolis</u>.

13:30 - 14:30	Pauză de prânz & oportunități de <u>networking</u> în timpul prânzului.
14:30 – 15:30	Networking și discuții deschise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sesiune de <u>networking</u> facilitată pentru a încuraja colaborarea între participanții din sectorul public și privat.• Oportunități pentru părțile interesate de a împărtăși idei și de a discuta despre parteneriate potențiale pentru inițiativele de orașe inteligente.

Vă invităm cu drag în construirea unui viitor mai verde și în explorarea unor noi oportunități de colaborare!

Cu stimă,

Irina Rădulescu

Executive Director

Danube Engineering Hub Cluster

Parteneri in consorțiul proiectului:



Sustinut printr-un grant din partea Islandei, Liechtensteinului și Norvegiei prin Granturile SEE România 2014-2021, în cadrul Programului de Creștere a IMM-urilor România. Apel Deschis pentru Cooperare Bilaterală în Tranziția Verde.

Supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants Romania 2014-2021, in the frame of the SME Growth Programme Romania, Open Call for Bilateral Cooperation in the Green Transition

**Working together for green, competitive
and inclusive Europe**

Follow up email

From: Emanuela Modoran <emanuela.modoran@auditco.ro>
Date: Monday, 20 January 2025 at 13:23
To: "registratura@primariacomarnic.ro" <registratura@primariacomarnic.ro>, "contact@primariabreaza.ro" <contact@primariabreaza.ro>, "nicolau.alexandru@primariaazuga.ro" <nicolau.alexandru@primariaazuga.ro>, "gheaus.cristina@primaria-sinaia.ro" <gheaus.cristina@primaria-sinaia.ro>, "anghelalexandracatalina@yahoo.com" <anghelalexandracatalina@yahoo.com>
Cc: Pretty Judith <Judith@dihoceanopolis.com>, Irina Radulescu <irina_radulescu@yahoo.com>, Costin Lianu <clianu@gmail.com>, Bjarne Uldal <bjarne@nordicedge.org>, Trandafir Costin <ct@heveco.ro>, Valentina Vasile <valentinavasile2009@gmail.com>, Marius Surugiu <surugiumarius@gmail.com>
Subject: Materiale de la evenimentul din 20 ianuarie 2025, Sinaia/ Funding calls materials presented by Judith

Stimați participanți,
Vă mulțumim pentru participarea la evenimentul din 20 ianuarie 2025, desfășurat la Sinaia.
Vă rugăm să găsiți atașate două materiale:

1. Prezentarea susținută de Judith Pretty - despre surse de finanțare.
2. Detalii referitoare la o serie de apeluri de finanțare pregătite de către Judith.

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații suplimentare sau doriți clarificări pe baza materialelor, vă rugăm să ne transmiteți întrebările dumneavoastră. De asemenea, dacă aveți nevoie de detalii suplimentare de la Judith Pretty, ne puteți contacta în acest sens.

Vă mulțumim încă o dată pentru participare și implicare!

Cu stimă,

Emanuela Modoran
Managing Director | AUDIT SRL
Executive Board | European DIH Wallachia eHUB

M: +(40)722 416 210
Emanuela.modoran@auditco.ro

Dear Participants,

Thank you for attending the event on 20 January 2025, held in Sinaia.

Please find attached two materials:

The presentation delivered by Judith Pretty on funding sources.
Details regarding a series of funding calls.

If you require additional information or have questions based on the materials, please do not hesitate to send us your inquiries.
Additionally, should you need further details from Judith Pretty, feel free to reach out to us for assistance.

Thank you once again for your participation and engagement!

Best regards,
Ema

Key Takeaways and Needs Assessment from the Workshop in SINAIA

Key Takeaways:

- **Interactive Learning:** Participants actively engaged in discussions on smart city development, focusing on **community-led approaches**, sustainability, and the use of technology for urban transformation.
- **Showcasing Success:** Exceptional projects by Sinaia City Hall, such as the **ECOBUS initiative**, **NOCO2 pathways**, and urban regeneration projects, demonstrated the practical application of smart city principles.
- **Strategic Insights:** Judith Pretty and Bjarne Uldal provided actionable strategies on **EU funding opportunities** and roadmap development for smart city initiatives, fostering a structured approach to planning and implementation.
- **Collaborative Frameworks:** The session emphasised the importance of co-creation and **quadruple-helix collaboration** (public sector, private sector, academia, and citizens) to address urban challenges and promote inclusive development.
- **Innovation in Action:** The workshop introduced participants to the **Design Thinking Process**, enabling the development of citizen-centred solutions for smarter cities.

Needs Assessment:

1. **Community Engagement:** A need for more participatory activities involving citizens to ensure projects are reflective of local needs and priorities.
2. **Tailored Funding Guidance:** Practical support for navigating and accessing EU funding opportunities, customised to the local and regional context.
3. **Capacity Building:** Further training and workshops are required to strengthen skills in project management, digitalisation, and smart city technologies.
4. **Integrated Project Planning:** Participants highlighted the need for holistic approaches that combine infrastructure development (e.g., roads, energy efficiency) with sustainability and aesthetic goals.
5. **Local Infrastructure Improvements:** Specific needs were identified, such as:
 - Play and relaxation spaces for children (e.g., at Sinaia's New Hospital).
 - Sustainable sports fields in educational institutions (e.g., School No. 2 in Comarnic).
 - Expansion of eco-friendly urban mobility solutions.

These insights and identified needs underscore the workshop's role as a catalyst for innovation and collaboration, paving the way for smarter and more sustainable cities under the NORO Green Cities initiative.