



Challenge support cycle 2022 – City of Turku, Finland

Equitable circular transitions: Tools and interventions for a fair and inclusive Circular Turku

During the 2020 challenge cycle, the Urban Transitions Alliance supported Turku in identifying preliminary social equity risks and opportunities related to the actions planned under the [Circular Turku Roadmap](#). Released in November 2021, the Roadmap included recommendations across the three dimensions of the Urban Transitions Alliance equity framework (access, participation, opportunities) for each of the five thematic areas of the Circular Turku project. The city is now interested in expanding on these recommendations and identifying concrete actions that would increase the social equity outcomes of specific interventions planned in the Circular Turku Roadmap. The city is partnering with the Urban Transitions Alliance and Valonia, an expert organization for sustainable development in the municipalities of Southwest Finland, to engage with local actors and collect best practices to inform the future development of the Circular Turku Roadmap. As the city of Turku aims at being a thought-leader on circularity, the hope is also that the learnings from this process will benefit other cities across world regions and support more equitable design of circular economy plans.

Urban Transitions Alliance Support

The Urban Transitions Alliance will support the city of Turku in:

- Accessing international best practices on social equity planning along the three dimensions of social equity through a three-part webinar series with inputs from Alliance cities;
- Compiling learnings from these best practices into a guidebook to inform equitable planning of circular economy activities; and
- Partnering with local actors to identify local civil-society initiatives already delivering on circularity goals and assess how the city could best support them (in alignment with the second dimension of the Urban Transitions Alliance equity framework focused on participation).

Key Questions

- What are concrete intervention points Turku can implement to support social equity and circularity at the regional level?
- How can Turku support existing civil society initiatives active in the circular economy and empower them to scale their impact?
- What can be learned from other cities on planning for social equity outcomes across the three dimensions of the Urban Transitions Alliance equity framework?

Expected Outcomes

- Release of the Equitable transitions guidebook with a focus on the priority thematic areas of the Circular Turku Roadmap and the social equity challenges identified during the first UTA challenge cycle.
- Identification of concrete tools and interventions to operationalize the recommendations of the Equitable transitions guidebook in the context of Turku.