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PLASTIX

AI4Citizens

Experiences based on projects PLASTIX and AI4Citizens - LP point of view

Finnish Info Day, 3rd Call
Helsinki, 4 April 2024

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The Baltic Institute of Finland

- a non-profit foundation, established by the City of Tampere in 1994
- part of the Tampere City Group - the city's in-house entity for EU project development and management in Tampere (under supervision, and funded by the City of Tampere)
- a leading collaborative body for the Baltic Sea region in Finland, and among the region's leading organizations for macro-regional and European regional cooperation
- a network-based organization, with the principal focus on planning and coordinating tangible collaborative projects and developing and maintaining an extensive network of collaborators in the Baltic Sea region and Europe-wide
- a special focus and strong references and networks on European innovation cooperation between cities and regions

The Baltic Institute of Finland

- has extensive experience of acting as a lead partner and partner in EU- and other publicly financed projects, and strong expertise in project management
- since its establishment in 1994, has led or partnered in more than 200 international projects, and organized hundreds of events in the Baltic Sea region and Europe
- has been responsible for preparation and management of dozens of urban and regional innovation and economic development related EU-projects for the City of Tampere and Tampere region
- cooperates in Tampere and Tampere Region with key organisations such as Business Tampere, Visit Tampere, Council of Tampere Region, universities and companies
- has actively contributed to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its flagship projects since the initiation of the strategy in the European Parliament in 2005

Interreg Europe pro- jects

PLASTIX: Plastics Revolution for European Regions

Interreg Europe 1st call project led by The Baltic Institute of Finland

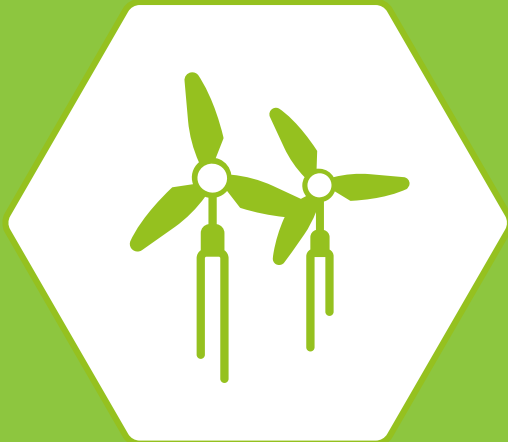
- Aim is to improve and create policy mechanisms which facilitate industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, and enhance more efficient plastic collection and recycling technologies and services.

AI4Citizens: Supporting ethical and effective AI governance in European cities and regions

Interreg Europe 2nd call project led by City of Tampere

- Aims at helping local and regional policy makers to improve and create policy mechanisms (e.g. AI governance models) which facilitate safe and ethical adoption of AI in the public sector, thus increasing people's well-being and the vitality of the cities and regions.

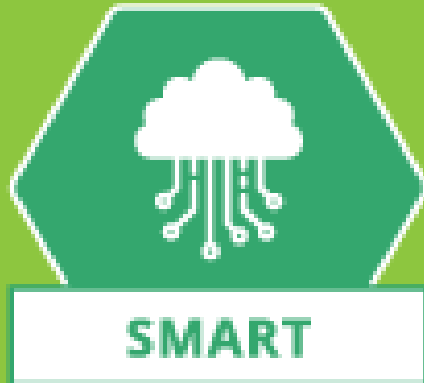
Project approach



PLASTIX interregional learning process concentrates on the following focus areas related to the project's main issue addressed:

- plastic recycling solutions and waste prevention
- new bioeconomy-based materials and products
- business innovations
- circular economy metrics related to policy instruments
- raising awareness of environment and social aspects

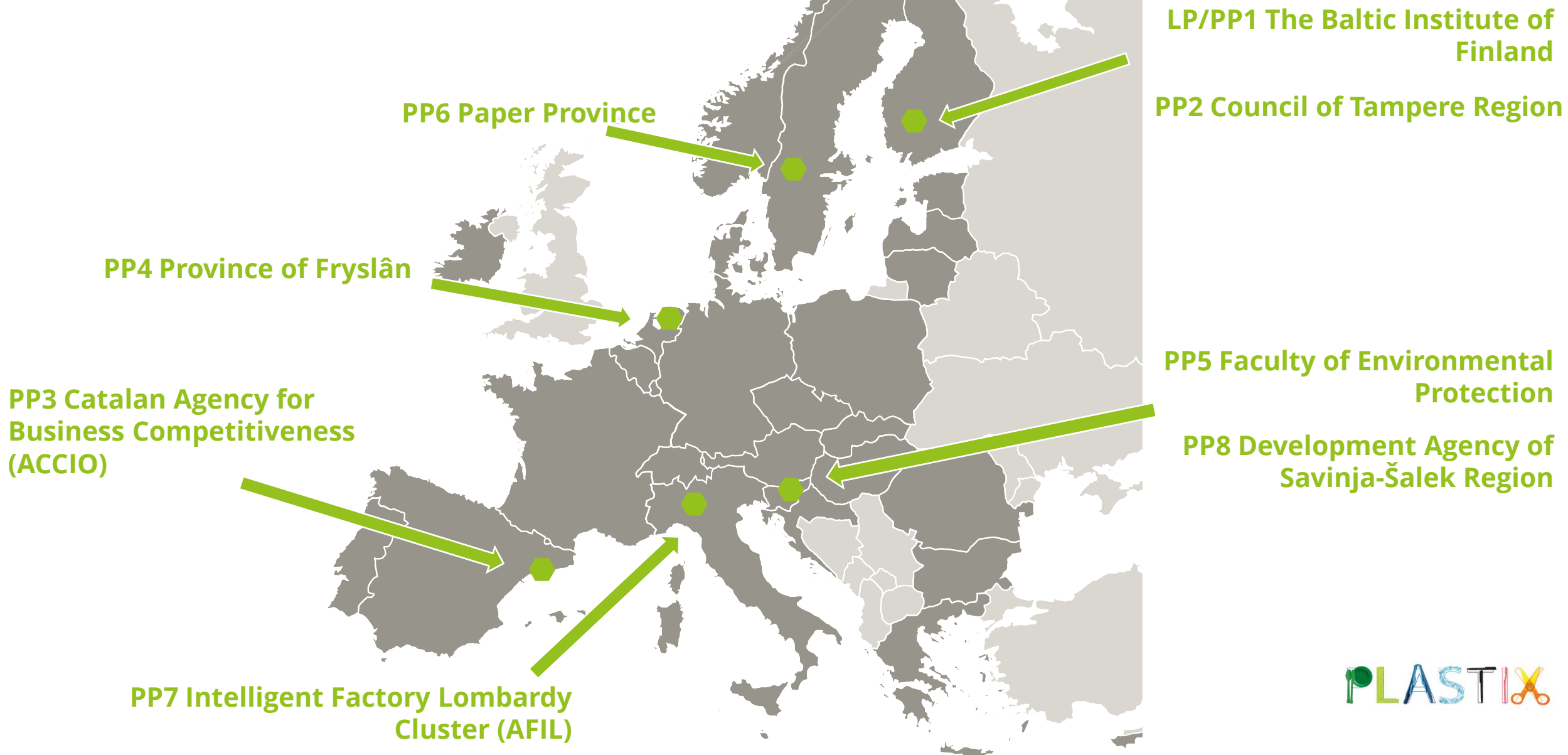
Project approach



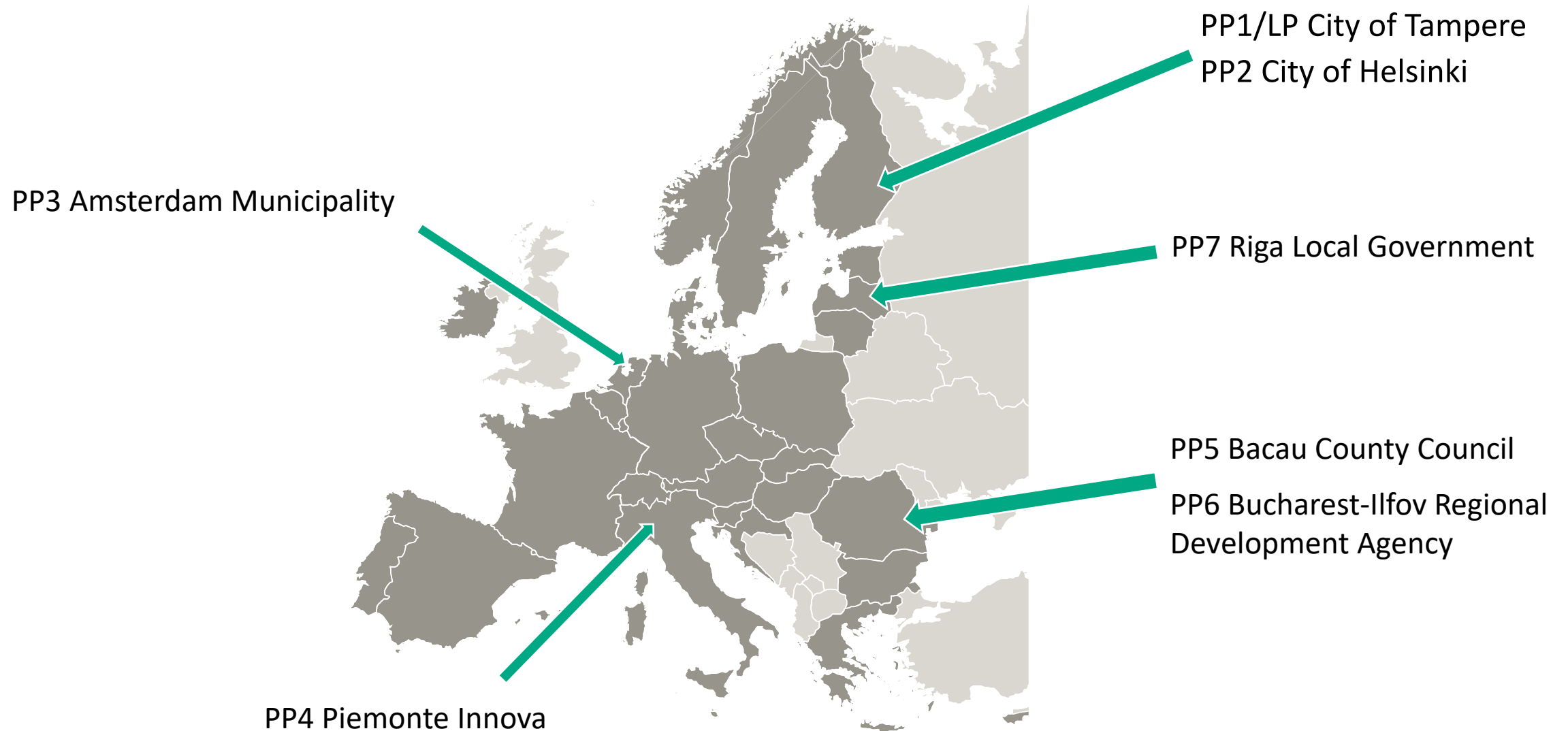
AI4Citizens interregional learning process concentrates on the following focus areas related to the project's main issue addressed:

- key elements and cross-cutting issues of the AI governance model: legal issues, ethical issues, AI foundational drivers (data readiness and awareness-raising), human capital, access to finance, networking and collaboration, governance strategy
- challenges of applying AI to government operations
- the new EU AI ACT and its implications for government
- business innovations

PLASTIX partners



AI4Citizens partners



Experiences and tips - project preparation

Starting point

- **Genuine and topical need for policy improvement, and favorable policy framework**
 - right policy instrument and its time span, resources, commitment to long-term learning process and policy change
- **European-wide relevance and topicality of the expected policy change**
 - connection to topical EU policy or legislation; in PLASTIX, the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy (2018) and the EU circular economy action plan (2020), in AI4Citizens, the EU AI Act
- **LP has the privilege to set the agenda/stage/goals for the policy improvement**
 - strong own commitment, example and clarity and relevance of the description of the aimed policy improvement help in making European partners interested and committed

Experiences and tips - project preparation

Point two, find the right/best partners

- partners who share your policy improvement goals
- use your existing European networks and cooperation experiences, and even build on them, if possible
- with potential new partners, invest in getting on the same page and knowing them (there isn't a shortage of organisations eagerly looking for IE project partnership opportunities)
- do not content yourself with just fulfilling the minimum IE partnership requirements, *"four out of the five IE geographical areas are represented in the partnership with at least one project partner"* (try to find a candidate country area partner)
- be careful and pedantic with requirements for policy instruments addressed
 - are they for sure eligible "policy instruments", as defined in IE, and are partners policy responsible authorities
 - *"at least one of the policy instruments addressed in a project must be an Investment for jobs and growth goal programme"* can sometimes be a tricky requirement

Experiences and tips - project preparation

Points on application preparation

- invest in Part D of the application form (descriptions of policy instruments and expected policy improvements)
 - most important (and substantial) part of the application
 - coherence between partners' policy improvement goals
 - LP guidance, support and supervision crucial in the preparation of Part D
- if you have two partners from the same country, explain why and added value of having those two partners from the same country
- in the work plan, all activities must be strictly about policy learning and improvement
 - be careful with learning methods and terms used so that no activity refers to policy implementation
 - semesters 7-8 just about monitoring, no more policy learning and improvement
- balanced budget
 - typical mistake: too big partner budgets proposed
 - no partner with a very limited role/budget
 - be specific with external expertise and service cost descriptions

Experiences and tips - project implementation

- prompt start is important, do not linger
- build and strengthen coherence and team spirit within the partnership
- IE project is very much about collegial exchange, cooperation and community
 - meet and be in contact frequently/often, also outside eventual project events
 - long-term collegial networks are one of most important by-results of IE projects
- invest in active engagement of regional stakeholders, also interregionally
 - IE project is also about connecting European regional ecosystems
- react promptly to challenges and changes
 - use budget flexibility
 - make possibly needed bigger budget, even partner changes, early enough
 - be open, ready and prepared for pilot actions

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