



Climate Active Neighbourhoods

Newsletter N°3

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4th Working Group Meeting: A Short Review

CAN Partners Evaluated Their Tools and Methods

On 5 and 6 October 2017, 27 participants of the CAN project met in Arnhem, where host Hans van Ammers, Chief Officer of Public Space, welcomed them to the symbolic district of Coehoorn. The area once served as a pilot neighbourhood, where, for the first time, residents were asked by the local authority to share their wishes and ideas for the joint design of a climate-friendly Arnhem. Inspired by this environment, the CAN partners eagerly discussed the wide variety of tools encouraging behavioural change as well as the options for legal and design support that have been tested thus far. Exciting site visits made the 4th working group meeting a great success.



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More clearly than ever before, the intensive discussion of the state of work presented by a selection of partners revealed that local authorities must take the interests and objectives of local actors seriously – even if they do not correspond to their own interests at first glance. This was shown by the Transition Tour example in Worms: the topic of the tour was broadened from energy retrofits to fair lifestyles and only then became a success. Constant adaptation to the needs of the target neighbourhood is essential. The site visits to three neighbourhood initiatives in Arnhem further illustrated these

findings. The commitment of the residents relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate adaptation is strong and they have clear ideas about what needs to be done. What they are in need of, though, is a highly flexible local authority that trusts their ideas and is willing to support them as uncompromisingly as possible. Arnhem and the other local authorities were encouraged to seek even more direct exchange with their neighbourhoods – which is, fortunately, part of the CAN initiative. When it comes to communication, the partners identified cooperation with VIPs (e.g. mayors), campaigns that evoke positive feelings (rather those that preach morals) and the linking of own activities with events outside the project as keys to their success so far.

Overwhelmed by the fruitful transnational exchange in Arnhem, the partners decided to hold monthly web meetings in the future. In addition, they intend to make the fruits of their transnational work accessible to a wider audience through a “coaching framework” by spring 2018.

[Read more](#)



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Learning from One Another: Highlights



Transition Tours in Worms

On 2 September 2017, the kick-off event of the Transition Tours in Worms took place. From now on, residents and visitors of the city will have the chance to get detailed insight into how the city is transitioning towards more sustainable patterns. The tours stop at an energy efficient retrofit of an apartment building to learn about the importance of residential buildings for local climate protection. Other projects such as urban gardening, bike sharing and repair cafés complete the picture of a transforming city.



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The campaign of Worms was inspired by another German campaign called Stadtwandeln (by Climate Alliance). It was only within the framework of CAN, however, that project partners Worms and Essen, with the help of Climate Alliance, were able to develop a concept that is easily transferable to other cities. In the near future, tours will also be offered in Essen. There is further interest beyond national borders, for example in Arnhem.

For more information contact [Katharina Reinholz](#), Climate Protection Manager (Worms)

Arnhem on a Visit to Essen

As early as 2016, in the course of earlier CAN project meetings, the partners from Arnhem and Essen realised that they have many things in common: both are focusing on the systematic support of neighbourhood initiatives dedicated to energy and climate protection and both are intensely concerned with the role they should play as a local authority. Thus, on 7 September 2017, eleven representatives of Arnhem, among them neighbourhood initiatives, organisations supporting initiatives (external experts) and staff members of the local authority (with a focus on energy and climate related topic), set off for Essen. During the two-day meeting, the partners dealt with the wishes and ambitions of the neighbourhood initiatives in Essen. They investigated the problems the initiatives encounter when trying to act on those wishes and examined which other stakeholders play an active role. They elaborated best (and worst) practices and examined which aspects might be transferable to Arnhem. Arnhem's representatives were quite enthusiastic about the network of volunteers supporting the work in Essen. Their interest was further aroused by Essen's cooperation with a social housing company. The fruitful cooperation led to considerable CO₂ emission reductions through a series of energy retrofits in residential buildings. These and other aspects will be further discussed at a forthcoming meeting. The partners were overwhelmed by the synergies revealed at this meeting.

For more information contact [Hans van Ammers](#), Chief Officer of Public Space (Arnhem)



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Partners in the Spotlight: Arnhem

Interview with Hans van Ammers, Chief Officer of Public Space

Why is Arnhem participating in CAN?

Society has changed. Citizens want more responsibility. They want to actively shape their own working and living environments. In Arnhem, the city council decided in 2015 that the districts will be given more power in deciding how the municipal budget will be spent. This means a fundamental change in the role of the municipality; it is a change from a top-down to a bottom-up approach. With the help of CAN, we will try to find our new role in this process of social innovation.

What is your approach?

It's important to monitor the activities of the neighbourhood initiatives, to connect with them and let them learn from each other. As a municipality, we will create a hub/portal for this purpose. If needed, we will also provide (limited) financial support.

What are your first steps?

We have started designing the hub/portal and composing a group of professionals to support the initiatives. We call it 'AANjagers,' which can be translated as 'Encouragers.' These Encouragers are now active in 4 to 6 districts but, in due time, will be active in all neighbourhoods.

[Read more](#)



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Focus on Climate adaptation, city climate, neighbourhood initiatives regarding sustainable energy, climate and environment. Previous EU-subsidy projects: Interreg IIIB NWE Urban Water (2003-2008) and Interreg IVB NWE Future Cities (2008-2014). Currently programme manager Climate Active Neighbourhoods for Arnhem (2016-2019).

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Upcoming Events

CAN Web Meetings

12 December 2017

"Local Experiences and Challenges in Retrofitting & Citizens' Engagement" (Optivo/ Hastings)

18 January 2018

"CO₂-Monitoring at the Neighbourhood Level" (Climate Alliance)

8 February 2018

Topic to be defined (Brest)

CAN Working Group Meetings

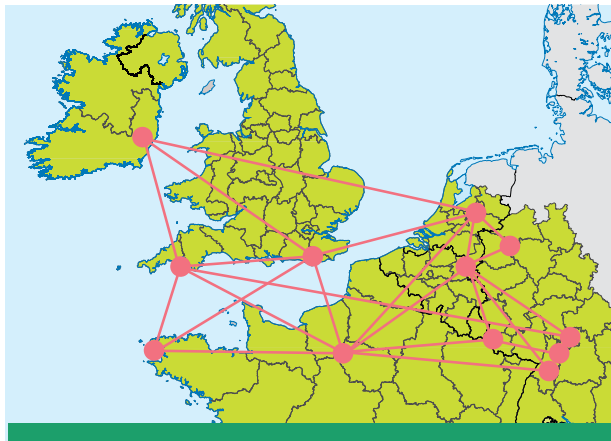
21-22 March 2018, Liège

21-22 June 2018, Brest

Further Events

30 January 2018

European Energy Transition Conference, Geneva: Climate Alliance and the CAN Partners Plymouth, Brest and Worms present the project during a workshop.



The transnational partner network of CAN

The Partners

- Climate Alliance (Lead Partner)
- Optivo
- Gemeente Arnhem
- Brest métropole with Brest Emergence
- Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz
- Stadt Essen
- Liège Energie with Ville de Liège
- Plymouth City Council
- EPAM Seine-Aval with Mantes-la-Jolie
- Stadt Worms

[Read more](#)

Project Facts

Duration

February 2016 to October 2019

€ 7.8 million total project budget
€ 4.7 million funded via ERDF



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