

CASE STUDY

Vila Nova de Famalicão & Maia
(Portugal) – Seberang Perai
(Malaysia)

IURC – Asia & Australasia



14 Dec 2022 until 31 May 2023

Thematic Network(s): Ecological Transition – Green Deal

Thematic Cluster(s): Circular Economy Waste Management

Cross-cutting challenge(s): (1) Digital Transition – Smart City &

(2) Energy Transition – Climate Change

Topic keywords: Closing the Loop with Community (e-waste and food waste)

Vila Nova de Famalicão & Maia – Seberang Perai

IURC – CASE STUDY

Seberang Perai have successfully replicated two circular economy waste management models post-study visits to Vila Nova de Famalicão & Maia: (1) Bagan Ayam Market and (2) eco-school vocational training (citizen centric community programmes)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Circular Economy Waste Management, Urban Agenda/Planning, Education, Jobs & Skills *The relationship between Portuguese-Penang cities is very much focused on playing a very active role in the dynamism of their cities, defining, promoting and implementing actions in different key areas where sustainable development is one of the top priorities addressing economy, waste management, energy consumption, climate change, citizen awareness and social engagement. In relation to the transition to a circular economy model, it is of paramount relevance to promote cooperation by exchanging best practices with a view to improve the established system of circular economy waste management in all cities. The cluster approach is meant to facilitate all cities, to exchange methodologies, systems thinking created by the network, and also share and exchange knowledge and expertise. The completed operation design of two pilot projects is below:*



MAIN CHALLENGE AND SOLUTION

Seberang Perai's Urban challenges/priorities: food waste and food security, single-use plastics, water security, construction & demolition waste, e-waste and hazardous waste. The **Seberang Perai Action Plan 2023 – 2030** was launched in **January 2023** and the collaboration with **Maia and Vila Nova de Famalicão (VNF)** will contribute towards the targets of the [Seberang Perai Circular Economy Action Plan 2020 - 2030](#) focusing on (a) exploring the private sector CSR funding for the eco-schools' vocational programmes where Monster Hospital model in VNF was localized to fit the local community needs, (b) operational design of the pilot projects related to zero waste markets (c) activate the Local Action Groups (bottom-up approach) in the engagement process and citizen centric campaigns and approaches on activating a circular economy and sustainable lifestyle and (d) create win-win opportunities for capacity building, knowledge exchange and to showcase the pilot actions as a best practice cooperation between all cities.

“We took a proactive action by exploring a new circular model which focuses on closing the loop and increasing resource efficiency”

YBhg. Dato' Azhar bin Haji Arshad, Mayor Seberang Perai City



Pilot Project 1: tackling food waste Pilot Project 2: upskilling/ repair of e-waste





RESULTS AND IMPACT



KEY FIGURES

72 vendors
trained to compost
organic waste daily on
site

~30-40kg
compost is generated
daily from market,
Sunday carnival &
nearby markets

**No plastic
bag day**
is practiced every
Monday, Tuesday &
Wednesday weekly



"A facility would be set up in Penanti, where organic waste would be used to feed millions of black soldier flies."

YB Phee Boon Poh, State Environment Committee Chairman

- The activities during the study visits in collaboration with private sector and community gardens have been incorporated within the joint pilot actions involving the wet markets in Penang cities in tackling food waste and establishing the eco-schools vocational training programme to reduce the volume of e-waste.
- The joint pilot actions for 2023 have incorporated elements of quadruple helix cooperation with key actors along the value chain.
- The joint pilot actions were all self-funded by the city council and contributed towards lessons learned, translating the knowledge exchange sessions and on-site visits in Portugal to actions on the ground.
- The formulated capacity building programmes related to closing the loop on food waste & e-waste coupled with citizen-centric campaigns in the Penang cities enhanced the EU visibility at community levels and promoted a circular lifestyle amongst Penangites.

Maia: "A unique experience and an excellent opportunity to exchange know-how and to impact people's life and the planet because we believe that the most powerful change happens when we work together."

Ms. Susana Pinho, Senior Technician, Environment Division, Municipality of Maia

Vila Nova de Famalicão: "An inspiring experience of international cooperation with key results on circular economy and sustainability, local public policies and a very good insight to going in depth during a long-term timeline."

Mrs. Paula Peixoto Dourado, Head of International Relations, City Council of Famalicão, Portugal



LESSONS LEARNED

Empowering the community groups using a quadruple helix model (public-private sectors, academia & civil society) accelerates the adoption of circular economy lifestyles

Mobilising and inspiring the community groups with practical solutions resulted in tangible outcomes, created a win-win at the national level, spotlight the EU visibility & support during citizen centric campaigns to reflect the international collaboration

Local Action Groups are key facilitators in implementing pilot projects on the ground to meet the targets of Seberang Perai Circular Economy Action Plan 2020-2030

Two pilot projects can be replicated in other cities in Malaysia which demonstrates strong city leadership in collaboration with community groups

THE IURC PROGRAMME

The International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) programme enables cities in different global regions to link up and share solutions to common problems. It is part of a long-term strategy by the European Union to foster sustainable urban development in cooperation with the public and private sectors, as well as representatives of research and innovation, community groups and citizens. Through engaging in IURC, cities will have the chance to share and exchange knowledge with their international counterparts, building a greener, more prosperous future.

The IURC programme is an opportunity for local governments to learn from each other, set ambitious targets, forge lasting partnerships, test new solutions, and boost their city's international profile. Its activities will support the achievement of policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the EU Urban Agenda, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement.

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Links to related outputs: To be provided later.

