

Reykjavik hosts GuiDanCe second work-shadowing visit

After being hosted by Edinburgh for GuiDanCe first work shadowing visit, Reykjavik gives its experience back to another city in need for peer-learning. On Tuesday 30 January 2018, two GIS experts from the city of Bratislava were walking through the different buildings of the municipality of Reykjavik.

This second GuiDanCe work shadowing visit was focus on citizen participation in local decision making and how ICT can support democratic deliberation and participatory budgeting.

Bratislava shows willingness to engage with its citizens, but the administration is still facing major challenges in changing its attitude towards active citizens.



Having spotted the ‘Better Reykjavik’ project showcased in the Green Digital Charter 2016 catalogue of case-studies, Bratislava expressed its strong interest in learning more on ‘My Neighbourhood’, the participatory budgeting initiative developed by the city of Reykjavik in partnership with the Citizens Foundation. Learning from Reykjavik’s participatory budgeting tool was seen by Bratislava as an opportunity to better connect with its citizens, in particular when managing green areas and transportations, road services and city planning.

Presentations in each session sparked lively discussions and Reykjavik also got the opportunity to hear from the situation in Bratislava. An additional meeting was organised the day after to deepen some topics touching democracy and participatory budgeting.





Once back in Bratislava, the two visitors presented the project to their own administration and discussed whether this approach could be included in the smart city strategy currently being drafted as part of the Urban Development department. The objective is to change the department's mindset towards a more collaborative culture within the administration.

More information can be found at <http://bit.ly/2GfLWMg>.

