

# **Green Local Councillors Networking and successes**

**Monika Vana**

**EGP Committee, Greens in Vienna**

**Thessaloniki, June 30, 2012**

## Why?

### Why networking of Green local councillors?

- Cities (capitals and University cities) are strongholds of Green parties in municipal elections;
- Greens score over 15% of the votes (Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, Helsinki, etc.);
- Victories in national and EP elections are unthinkable without strong Greens in the cities.
- Greens take part in city governments and co-design local policy (Brussels, Helsinki, Malmö, Munich, Paris, Vienna, Zurich, etc.).
- Green mayors' initiatives are well-known far beyond their cities (e.g. Tübingen).

# Green Strongholds

Some „Green Strongholds” in local elections:

Frankfurt/Main	25.8%
Stuttgart	25.3%
Helsinki	23.2%
Copenhagen	22.2%
Cologne	21.7%
Utrecht	20.7%
Brussels (Region)	19.2%
Innsbruck	19.1%
Luxemburg	18.5%
Lausanne	17.7%
Berlin	17.6%

# Greens in City Governments

Some cities with Greens in executive functions:

## AMSTERDAM (Netherlands)

Coalition Social Democrats-Liberals-Green Left. Green city government members in charge of labour & diversity and urban planning & housing.

## Region of BRUSSELS (Belgium)

Coalition of several parties. Green minister Evelyne Huytebroeck (environment & energy), 2 state secretaries in charge of traffic and equality.

## PARIS (France)

Red-Green majority since 2001, 4 green city gov. members in charge of sust. development, disabled, green spaces and children.

# Greens in City Governments

Some cities with Greens in executive functions:

## **COPENHAGEN (Denmark)**

Since 2009 coalition Social Democrats-SF, SF city government members in charge of health (Ninna Thomsen) and environment (Bo Asmus Kjeldgaard).

## **HELSINKI (Finland)**

Green city government members since 1992, deputy mayor Pekka Sauri since 2003, in charge of public works and environment.

## **MALMÖ (Sweden)**

Red-red-green coalition since 2006, deputy mayor Lari Pitkä-Kangas.

# Greens in City Governments

Some cities with Greens in executive functions:

## MUNICH (Germany)

Since 1990 red-green majority, since 1996 Third Mayor Hep Monatzeder (Die Grünen).

## VIENNA (Austria)

Since 2010 red-green majority, deputy mayor Maria Vassilakou, in charge of urban planning, traffic, climate protection, energy planning and public participation.

## ZURICH (Switzerland)

Green city government members in charge of construction (Ruth Genner) and police (Daniel Leupi). Red-green majority since 1990.

## Causes for Green Successes in Cities

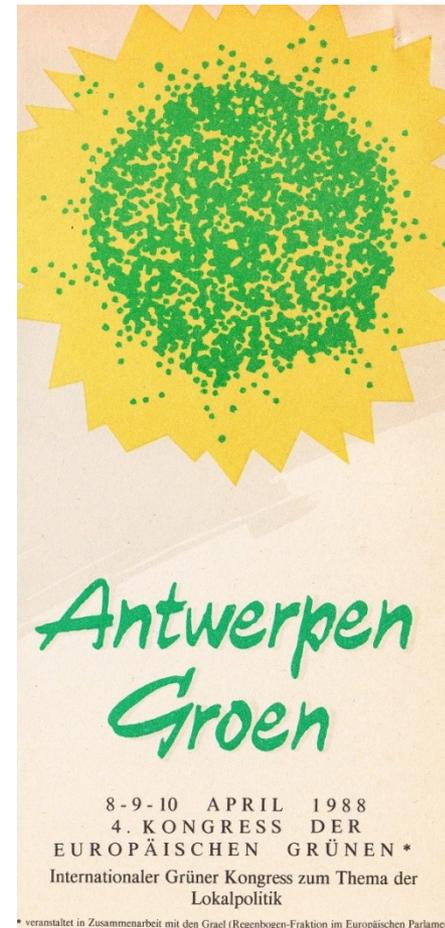
- Conflicts can directly be felt on local level (social exclusion, migration/integration, traffic & environment...),
- as well as chances and perspectives for the future (diversity, cultural development, innovation...).
- Local topics concern citizens directly: traffic calming, public space, cultural expression, accessibility of public services, affordable housing – Greens offer the concepts!
- Greens can show that they are able to put their concepts into practice People/voters can be directly attracted to Green ideas and projects.
- In cities, towns and urban districts the local councillors often are the first to be addressed by citizens. Their performance and experience thus notably contributes to the success of Greens in elections.
- And finally: Cities and urban areas are a good ground for „open minded“, alternative, innovative solutions.

## The first European conference

April 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, 1988,  
Antwerp (Belgium):

4<sup>th</sup> Congress of  
European Greens

Main topic:  
**LOCAL POLITICS.**



# 15 years of networking

**1996: Vienna I:** Initiative for Europe-wide networking.

**2003: Vienna II:** 300 participants, many from Central and Eastern Europe.  
Topic: public services.

**2006: Barcelona:**  
„Greening the streets“.  
Topic climate protection.

**2009: Stuttgart:** Topics energy,  
„Green New Deal“.

**2011: Berlin:** Topics local democracy,  
migration/integration, struggle against corruption.



# Existing networks

## **Greens in Big Cities:**

Founded in 2001, c. 20-40 participants, issue-oriented.

Meetings in Berlin (2005) , Amsterdam (2006), Vienna (2007), Istanbul (2009), Budapest (2010) and Thessaloniki (2012).

## **Central European Round Table of Green Local Councillors Vienna:**

Founded in 2005, annual meetings in Vienna Town Hall.

Participants: Greens from Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia etc.

Forthcoming CERT: October 5/6, 2012.

## **Northern Capitals Exchange:**

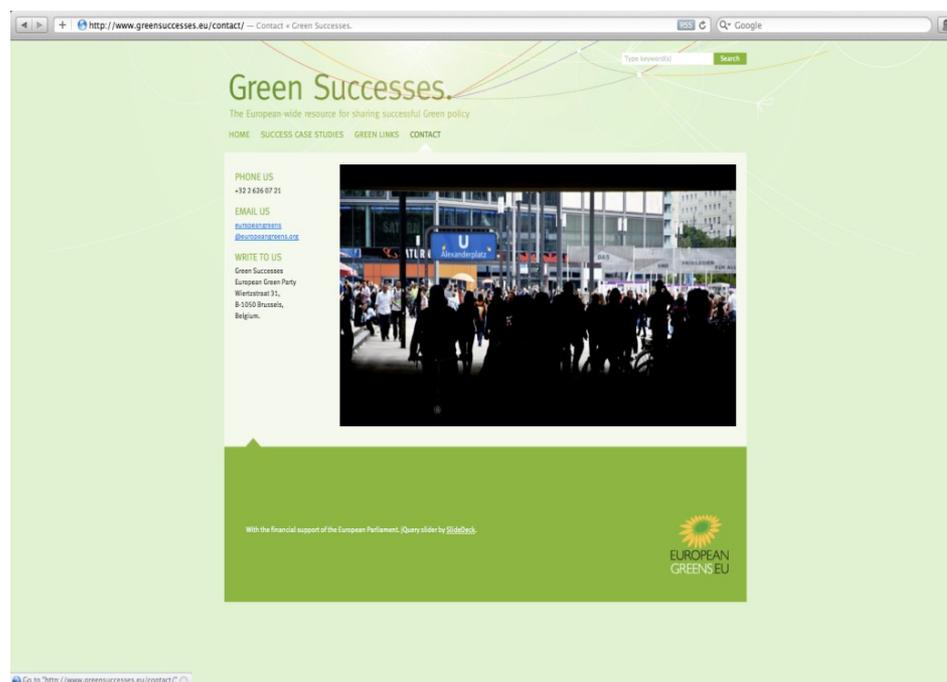
New initiative by GEF and Finnish Green Foundation.

2012 first meeting of Greens from Copenhagen, Helsinki, Oslo, Stockholm and Tallinn.

**Global Greens Parliamentarian Network, Local Government Network (Dakar)**

# The Website [www.greensuccesses.eu](http://www.greensuccesses.eu)

Budapest, Setubal, Prague, Frankfurt, Helsinki, Vienna, Paris...  
And where is **GREEN** in your city?



# Website, Screenshot

## homepage

Green Successes.  
The European-wide resource for sharing successful Green policy

HOME SUCCESS CASE STUDIES GREEN LINKS CONTACT

The network for sharing local Green successes.

LATEST SUCCESS CASE STUDIES

**BUDAPEST / HUNGARY**  
**SAVING ART CINEMAS**

Cuts to the budget for culture and the arts by the Mayor of Budapest threatened to force the closure of a unique network of art cinemas that had been serving the public of the capital for decades. Just as other cultural institutions such as museums and theatres, art cinemas are unable to rely on ticket...

**BUDAPEST / HUNGARY**  
**ADVERTISING ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

In Budapest, the advertising on vehicles and in public spaces controlled by BKV, the city-owned public transport company, is managed by a sub-contractor, which keeps most of the income from the adverts. With around 10,000 advertising spots, the city only receives an income of around €178,000 per month (50 million Forints).  
Local councillors from LMP...

**PORTUGAL / SETÚBAL**  
**HEARING THE POPULATION, BUILDING THE FUTURE**

The main goal of this project is to cultivate direct contact between the municipality and the local population, organisations and others, and to collect information in order to find solutions to the problems that these groups face.  
This project began in February 2010, with councillors, including the Mayor and Vice-Mayor (who is a green member)...

# Website, Screenshot

## project overview



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HOME SUCCESS CASE STUDIES GREEN LINKS CONTACT

**FEATURED CASE STUDIES**  
Increasing the share of public transport in urban traffic  
Heat pump is using heat from wastewater from the sewerage network  
GHP-Pubb

**LATEST CASE STUDIES**  
Saving Art Cinemas  
Advertising on Public Transport  
Hearing the Population, Building the Future

**LIST CASE STUDIES**  
List by location  
List by issue  
List all Case Studies

**SEARCH CASE STUDIES**  
Type keyword(s) Search  
ADVANCED SEARCH

**ALL CASE STUDIES**

**BUDAPEST / HUNGARY / SAVING ART CINEMAS**  
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**AUSTRIA / VIENNA / CAR-FREE HOUSING**  
This car-free housing pilot project with 244 apartments was constructed for tenants who commit themselves contractually not to possess a car.  
The space not used for cars (and the money saved) has been dedicated to common infrastructure, such as a bicycle repair shop, car-sharing services, a sauna, a fitness room, playgrounds for children, a youth...

**AUSTRIA / UPPER AUSTRIA / ENERGY 21**  
The Project  
The "Energy 21" strategy was adopted by the Upper Austrian Government, in which the Greens are in coalition government, with the aim of producing all of the region's electricity from renewables by 2030. The plan focuses on the following four areas: improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewable energy sources, utilising hydro...

**FRANCE / PARIS / A NEW POLICY FOR GOODS TRANSPORT IN PARIS**

# Website, Screenshot

## Best practice Frankfurt



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HOME SUCCESS CASE STUDIES GREEN LINKS CONTACT

**FEATURED CASE STUDIES**  
Increasing the share of public transport in urban traffic  
Heat pump is using heat from wastewater from the sewage network  
CHP-Push

**LATEST CASE STUDIES**  
Solving Air Climas  
Advertising on Public Transport  
Hearing the Population, Building the Future

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**FRANKFURT / GERMANY**  
**PASSIVE HOUSES-PUSH**



Efficient use of energy instead of wasting energy is the essential principle in Frankfurt am Main. This strategy contributes to reach the Climate Alliance's target of reducing the CO2 emissions by 50% until 2030. Known as city of banks, industry and the international airport Frankfurt am Main intends to become a "Green City" with its "Green Belt" in nature and landscape and its "Green Buildings". Even with 15% more living space and 80% more office space since 1990 CO2 emission could be cut by 10%.

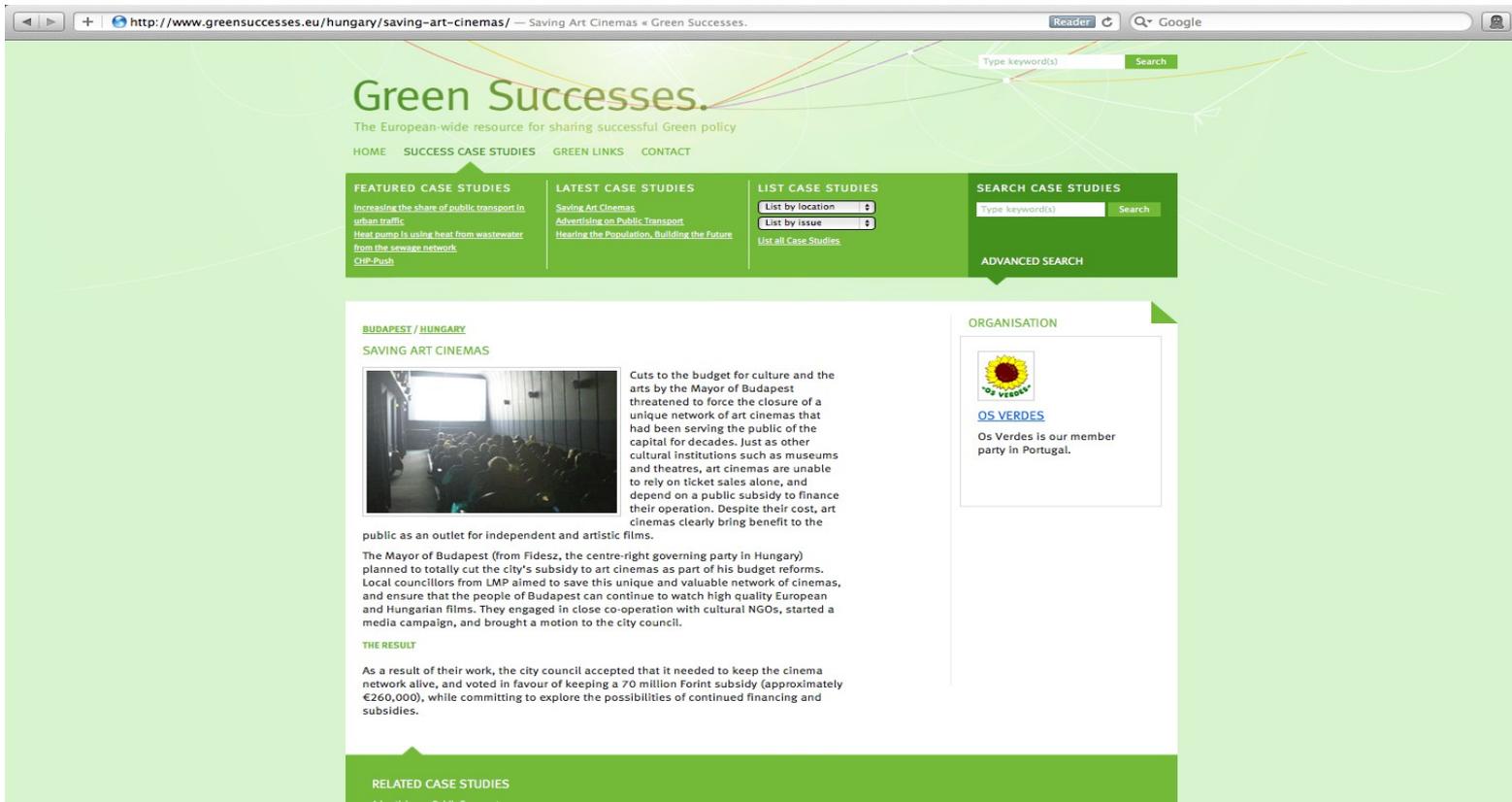
**EUROPE'S CAPITAL CITY OF PASSIVE HOUSES**

In passive houses you can enjoy silence with good air quality and 90% less energy consumption. Frankfurt am Main has more than 100.000 m2 dwellings, two schools, kindergartens – constructed as passive houses. The same principles have been realised in office buildings of some prominent banks. The energy demand of new and modernised bank buildings is 4-10 times lower. The City has launched the "Green Building Frankfurt" award for energy efficient and sustainable buildings.

Im Jahr 2007 wurde durch die Stadtverordneten beschlossen, dass neue städtische Gebäude nur noch als Passivhaus gebaut werden, da dies hohen Komfort des Innenraumklimas mit einer auf die Lebensdauer der Gebäude gesehenen Wirtschaftlichkeit verbindet. Ferner sind die Investoren beim Kauf städtischer Grundstücke zum Bau von Passivhäusern verpflichtet. Auch die Wohnungsbauförderung soll nur noch für die Passivhausbauweise gewährt werden. Man sieht – eine Idee bricht sich Bahn – schließlich sind Passivhäuser im Neubau und „fast-Passivhäuser“ in der Sanierung komfortabel, energiesparend und kosteneffizient. Mit steigenden Energiepreisen werden die Vorteile von Passivhäusern immer offensichtlicher. Für das Jahr 2010 ist ein Stand von über 120.000 Quadratmetern Gebäudefläche in PH-Bauweise mit über 1000 Wohneinheiten zu erwarten.

# Website, Screenshot

## Best practice Budapest



http://www.greensuccesses.eu/hungary/saving-art-cinemas/ — Saving Art Cinemas « Green Successes.

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- Hearding the Population, Building the Future

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Cuts to the budget for culture and the arts by the Mayor of Budapest threatened to force the closure of a unique network of art cinemas that had been serving the public of the capital for decades. Just as other cultural institutions such as museums and theatres, art cinemas are unable to rely on ticket sales alone, and depend on a public subsidy to finance their operation. Despite their cost, art cinemas clearly bring benefit to the public as an outlet for independent and artistic films.

The Mayor of Budapest (from Fidesz, the centre-right governing party in Hungary) planned to totally cut the city's subsidy to art cinemas as part of his budget reforms. Local councillors from LMP aimed to save this unique and valuable network of cinemas, and ensure that the people of Budapest can continue to watch high quality European and Hungarian films. They engaged in close co-operation with cultural NGOs, started a media campaign, and brought a motion to the city council.

**THE RESULT**

As a result of their work, the city council accepted that it needed to keep the cinema network alive, and voted in favour of keeping a 70 million Forint subsidy (approximately €260,000), while committing to explore the possibilities of continued financing and subsidies.

**ORGANISATION**



**OS VERDES**

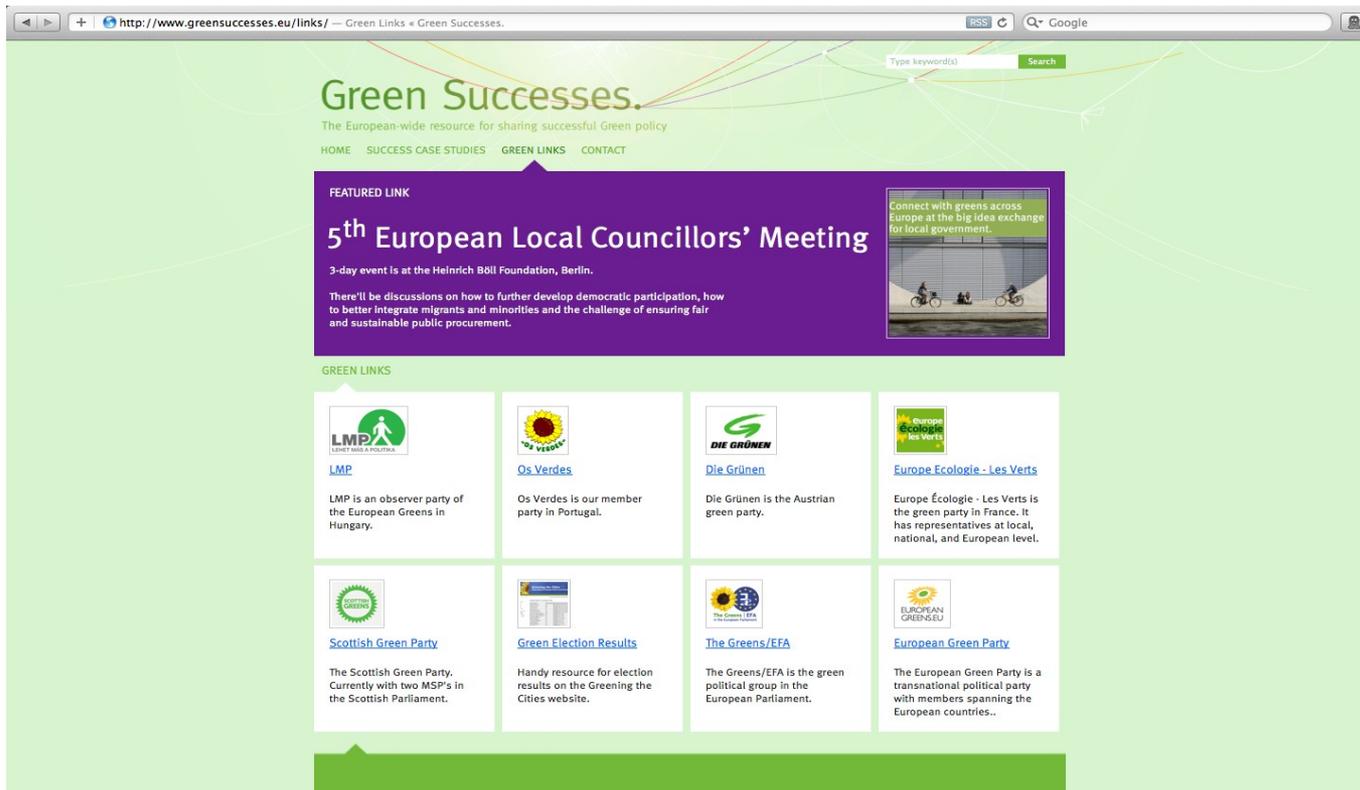
Os Verdes is our member party in Portugal.

**RELATED CASE STUDIES**

Advertising on Public Transport

# Website, Screenshot

## Links



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FEATURED LINK

### 5<sup>th</sup> European Local Councillors' Meeting

3-day event is at the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin.

There'll be discussions on how to further develop democratic participation, how to better integrate migrants and minorities and the challenge of ensuring fair and sustainable public procurement.

GREEN LINKS

 <p><a href="#">LMP</a></p> <p>LMP is an observer party of the European Greens in Hungary.</p>	 <p><a href="#">Os Verdes</a></p> <p>Os Verdes is our member party in Portugal.</p>	 <p><a href="#">Die Grünen</a></p> <p>Die Grünen is the Austrian green party.</p>	 <p><a href="#">Europe Ecologie - Les Verts</a></p> <p>Europe Écologie - Les Verts is the green party in France. It has representatives at local, national, and European level.</p>
 <p><a href="#">Scottish Green Party</a></p> <p>The Scottish Green Party. Currently with two MSP's in the Scottish Parliament.</p>	 <p><a href="#">Green Election Results</a></p> <p>Handy resource for election results on the Greening the Cities website.</p>	 <p><a href="#">The Greens/EFA</a></p> <p>The Greens/EFA is the green political group in the European Parliament.</p>	 <p><a href="#">European Green Party</a></p> <p>The European Green Party is a transnational political party with members spanning the European countries..</p>

# Website, Screenshot

## Link to updated election results



http://archiv.wien.gruene.at/greeningcities/election\_results/ — Election Results Cities – Die Grünen Wien

Greening the Cities  
Networking for European Green Local Councillors

Suche  »» archiv.wien.gruene.at/archiv.wien.gruene.at

**Election Results in European Cities**

city/country	Green seats	year	percentage, party
Vienna/Austria	11	2010	12.6%, Die Grünen
Graz/Austria	8	2008	14.6%, Die Grünen
Linz/Austria	7	2009	12.3%, Die Grünen
Salzburg/Austria	7	2009	16.4%, Die Grünen
Innsbruck/Austria	8	2006	18.5%, Die Grünen
Brussels Region/Belgium	16	2009	17.9%, Ecolo
Brussels Region/Belgium	2	2009	1.3%, Groen!
Antwerp/Belgium	2	2006	4.7%, Groen!
Ghent/Belgium	6	2006	12.1%, Groen!
Charleroi/Belgium	4	2006	8.1%, Ecolo
Liège/Belgium	6	2006	12.2%, Ecolo
Bruges/Belgium	2	2006	6.5%, Groen!
Sofia/Bulgaria	0	2007	0.5%, Green Party
Zagreb/Croatia	0	2009	2.8%, Green List
Nicosia/Cyprus	1	2006	c. 3%, Greens
Prague/Czech Republic	0	2010	5.9%, Green Party
Brno/Czech Republic	3	2010	5.7%, Green Party
Copenhagen/Denmark	13	2009	22.2%, SF
Århus/Denmark	5	2009	17.5%, SF
Tallinn/Estonia	0	2009	2.2%, Estonian Greens
Tartu/Estonia	0	2009	4.9%, Estonian Greens
Helsinki/Finland	21	2008	23.2%, Vihreä Liitto
Espoo/Finland	11	2008	15.9%, Vihreä Liitto
Tampere/Finland	11	2008	15.7%, Vihreä Liitto
Vantaa/Finland	9	2008	13.9%, Vihreä Liitto
Turku/Finland	11	2008	15.9%, Vihreä Liitto
Paris/France	9	2008	6.8%, Les Verts
Berlin/Germany	30	2011	17.6%, Die Grünen
Hamburg/Germany	14	2011	11.2%, GAL
Munich/Germany	11	2008	13.0%, Die Grünen
Cologne/Germany	20	2009	21.7%, Die Grünen
Frankfurt/Germany	24	2011	25.8%, Die Grünen
Stuttgart/Germany	16	2009	25.3%, Die Grünen

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 » 3rd Meeting 2006  
 » 4th Meeting 2009  
 » 5th Meeting 2011  
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 » Central Europ. Round Table  
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## Proposals for next steps

### 5 year action plan EGP Local Councillors network:

including developing a plan for supporting Green local councillors in countries with weak Green parties

July 6th: Meeting in Brussels

Decision by EGP Council: November 2012

### Building up Global networks (Dakar):

- Parliamentarians
- Greens in Government

New regional networks (Scandinavia, ...):

Role of Balkan Greens Network?

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**Thank you**  
**for your attention!**

**Monika Vana**

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Greens in Vienna: [monika.vana@gruene.at](mailto:monika.vana@gruene.at)