Application Form

PART 1: BASIC DATA

CATEGORIES IN WHICH YOU WANT TO APPLY THE EXPERIENCE

1: TYPE OF EXPERIENCE: *choose the most important element **(choose only one element** which you consider the most outstanding of your practice).*

A) Deliberation Citizen assembly / deliberation workshop / lottery / legislative theater / participatory planning	
B) Decision Participatory budget / referendum / consultation / participatory process with vote	
C) Citizenship Citizenship / community action / permanent council / civic education / associationism / other initiatives to reinforce local democracy	X

2: TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: *choose one only.*

A) Up to 50,000 inhabitants (towns, small cities, rural areas).	X
B) Cities between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants.	
C) Cities between 250,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants.	
D) Large cities or urban areas of more than 1,500,000 inhabitants.	
E) Supralocal, regional, provincial governments	

Experience data: *complete the information below in a clear and concise manner.*

Title of the experience: Stakeholder Participation in Community Sustainable Development
Name of the city or region: Baden bei Wien
Inhabitants of the city or territory: 30,000 (approx. 31 Dec. 2021)
Country: Austria

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Institution presenting the candidacy: SEEDIS – Social, Environmental and Economic Intersector Solutions (institution leading the candidate experience)		
Website of the experience or institution: https://buildaction.org/communities/aut-baden-bei-wien/ (experience); https://buildaction.org/seedis/ (institution)		
Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution: https://www.linkedin.com/company/seedis-org/ (LinkedIn)		
Start date of the experience: 1 May 2023		
End date of the experience: Ongoing (operational)		
Budget of the experience: (indicate the budget of the experience or the resources mobilized for its development and implementation)		
Type of candidacy *(mark with an X in the right column)*	New experience	X
	Innovation on an existing experience	
	Continuity of an experience	
Type of experience *(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)*	Participatory budgeting	
	Participatory planning	X
	Standing council	
	Workshop / meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	X
	Public hearing / forum	X
	Poll / referendum	X
	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces	X
	E-government / Open government / Digital platforms	X
	Citizen initiative	X

	Other (specify):		
Objective of the experience *(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)*	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation		X
	Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion		
	Community empowerment		X
	To empower non-organised citizens		X
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation		X
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"		X
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve any public policy through the active participation of the public		X
Territorial area *(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)*	All the territory	Local	X
		Regional	X
	District		X
	Neighbourhood		X
	Governance		X
	Education		
	Transport		X

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Thematic area	Urban management	X
(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)	Health	
	Security	
	Environment / Climate change and/or urban agriculture	X
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements	X
	Culture	X
	Housing	
	Job creation	
	Decentralization	
	Local development	X
	Training / learning	X
	Economy and/or finances	X
	Legal regulations	
	Social inclusion	
	All	
	Other (write the topic): Development of the built environment – buildings and infrastructure in communities	X
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) associated with the practice	SDG 1 - No poverty	
	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	
(mark with an X in the right column, more than one option	SDG 3 - Good health and well-being	

can be chosen, you can also add the specific target)	SDG 4 - Quality education	
	SDG 5 - Gender equality	
	SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation	X
	SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy	X
	SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth	
	SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure	X
	SDG 10 - Reduced inequality	
	SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities	X
	SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production	X
	SDG 13 - Climate action	X
	SDG 14 - Life below water	
	SDG 15 - Life on land	X
	SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions	X
	SDG 17 - Partnership for the goals	X

PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Fill in the following fields clearly and concisely. You can add links, images or graphics if you consider it appropriate.

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Context:

*In a **maximum of 300 words**, present the cultural, geographical, historical, institutional and socioeconomic context of the city, region or territory in which the experience takes place.*

Baden is an affluent town in Austria and the capital of the district of Baden in the province of Lower Austria, with a population of around 30,000. Located 26 km (16 mi) south of Vienna, it is also known as Baden bei Wien ("Baden near Vienna") to distinguish it from other towns named Baden in neighboring countries.

Baden borders the Biosphere Park Wienerwald (Vienna Woods), a landscape that is under special protection by UNESCO, and has a long tradition of garden cultivation. With the participation of the community stakeholders, the municipality is taking action to preserve the biosphere in and around Baden.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, the Romans set up the first spa in Baden. Renowned for its hot sulfur-chlorine medicinal springs, Baden became part of the transnational UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021 under the name "Great Spa Towns of Europe".

Baden has contributed significantly to European and global culture. Ludwig van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Schubert, Johann Strauss, and other classical music composers as well as world-renowned authors, playwrights, and painters spent parts of their working lives in Baden.

Beginning in the late 20th century, Baden increasingly became a suburb of Vienna and is now an important economic area of employment, retail trade, and services within the Viennese metropolitan area. As the administrative center of the district, Baden is the seat of regional authorities and public institutions, such as vocational schools and health care facilities.

The economy of Baden is characterized by the spa and conference business, winery and wine taverns in the surrounding area. The spa town is a popular health resort for curing rheumatic conditions.

See BuildAction Baden bei Wien: Official Website, Country Profile, Map Location, Corruption Alert, and Moderators; "Biosphere Park Wienerwald (Vienna Woods)".

Precedents:

*Explain the precedents and origins of the experience: if it is the innovation of an existing experience, what are its origins; if it is a new experience, what are the antecedents in participation in your city, region or territory. You can also indicate if you have been inspired by experiences in other cities/countries. (In a **maximum of 300 words**).*

Cities and local authorities lead the transformation and drive forward SDG progress to deliver a resilient and sustainable ecosystem in their communities. Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires urgent and immediate coordinated action by all stakeholders to protect our communities from further destructive and unsustainable development.

The inclusion of citizens and private-sector stakeholders in the policy-making processes and governance is essential for the implementation of the SDGs. Publicly accessible open systems are needed for the effective participation of stakeholders in the urgent and sustainable transition of our communities.

The BuildAction toolkit enables municipalities to communicate, collaborate and cooperate with all interested stakeholders in the sustainable development and operation of their communities and coordinate collective action. It is a platform that complements existing or planned citizen participation initiatives of municipalities and is targeted at local and regional governments, private- and civil-sector enablers, and individual citizens.

The BuildAction stakeholder participation toolkit complies with the OECD Guidelines for Citizen Participation Processes, which is aimed at public authorities and public institutions interested in implementing or complementing a citizen participation program. The BuildAction stakeholder participation toolkit is inspired by the initiatives of GIZ, OECD, OIPD, and UCLG and such resources as the City WORKS Toolkit and Community Tool Box.

The BuildAction toolkit is enabling stakeholders in the community of Baden bei Wien to meet their civic duty to actively participate in environmental decision-making and other community affairs. The BuildAction stakeholder participation toolkit also enables the City of Baden to fulfill its role and public duty to citizens and other stakeholders in the development and operation of the community.

See Baden bei Wien: Bürgerservice Baden; "Einladung an die Community", "SDGs und Lokale Behörden", Stakeholder Beteiligung an der Entwicklung der Gemeine"; search BuildAction for "responsibility", and "participation".

Objectives of the experience:

*What is the objective listed in Part 1 that you think is the most important, and indicate other outstanding objectives of the experience. (In a **maximum of 100 words**).*

The BuildAction stakeholder participation toolkit is intended to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of participatory democracy for municipalities and other community stakeholders. While improving the quality of public decision-making and policy, it also improves the assessability and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy.

BuildAction aims to achieve higher levels of participation in the development of Baden bei Wien and other communities with the intent to empower citizens. The BuildAction toolkit enables citizens to exercise their rights to participate in the political discourse and connects different tools within a participatory democracy ecosystem.

See BuildAction: Baden bei Wien, Cities, Collaboration, Communities, Cooperation, Participation.

Methodology:

Describe the methodology of the experience: phases of the process, participation channels. (In a **maximum of 300 words**).

For interested shareholders to collaborate, cooperate and participate in the sustainable development of communities, they:

1. Register for full use – FREE.
2. Create their personal profile (not for public display).
3. Add the Enabler profile for public display.
4. Become a community moderator – if qualified.
5. Participate and invite others to interact and engage.

The experience is illustrated by the BuildAction community of Baden bei Wien:

- Home (Dashboard) – Where the engagement of community stakeholders is initiated and the interaction of the stakeholders is communicated.
- Enablers (Facilitators) – Public institutions, companies and NGOs that facilitate and enable the sustainability of the built environment.
- Tools (Resources) – Guidelines, toolkits and reference sources that help stakeholders to realize more sustainable and circular communities.
- News (Newscasts) – Current issues of interest to the community about the development and operation of the local built environment.
- Posts (Communication) – Relevant issues of interest or concern that impact the built environment of communities and their stakeholders.
- Projects (Planning) – Communication, collaboration and coordination of the engagement of participating stakeholders for collective action.
- Events (Meetings) – The assembly of interested community stakeholders to discuss issues and the undertaking of collective effort.
- Alert! (Warning) – Where imminent threats or destruction to the local biosphere, habitat and environment of the community are reported.
- Petition (Demands) – Urgent calls for policymakers to take action on issues of concern for a sustainable community and protect it from harm.

Stakeholder participation in the BuildAction initiative and engagement on the BuildAction platform requires that the stakeholders acknowledge their commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

See BuildAction: Baden bei Wien, Code of Conduct; Communities, Enablers, Moderators, Participants.

Innovation:

Explain what you consider as the most innovative aspect(s) in the practice. (In a **maximum of 150 words**).

Taking different forms – policy innovation (participatory cities), sustainability innovation (green cities), and high-tech innovation (smart cities) – the BuildAction initiative fosters innovative participatory processes. Offering further potential for innovation, BuildAction

promotes research and facilitates its use through cooperation with policy-makers, the private sector, and civil-society enablers.

The BuildAction toolkit enables cooperation and collaborative efforts at all levels between government, science, business, and individuals. For the sustainable development of the built environment and use of resources, enablers provide the resources and solutions for the building and operation of socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable local ecosystems.

The BuildAction toolkit is a secure, comprehensive, open platform that connects different resources and tools of participation. It is an innovative system that facilitates the transparent inclusion and participation of all interested stakeholders in the sustainable development of communities.

See Baden bei Wien: "Baden FIT für die Klimaziele"; BuildAction: Cities, Companies, Countries, Featured Tools, Resources.

Inclusion:

Point out the importance of including as many groups and diverse populations as possible, and how you have achieved it. (In a maximum of 150 words).

BuildAction is a unifying platform for the exchange of experience, insights, and knowledge of interested stakeholders to accelerate the transformation towards the sustainability of communities, whether city, town, village or hamlet. It enables the stakeholders in the local built environment to contribute to the sustainable development and use of land, buildings and infrastructure.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the need for inclusive participation for the successful implementation of the SDGs. Stakeholder awareness, inclusion, and engagement drive the sustainable development and use of the built environment of communities, regions, and countries.

Collaboration encourages the development of institutional, political, legal, and financial mechanisms to broaden inclusive platforms. Collaboration strengthens cooperation and the coordination of action for a sustainable socioeconomic society for all stakeholders, especially those groups that are otherwise excluded or do not participate in the process.

See BuildAction: Add a Community, Add Enabler, Add Moderator, Add Personal Profile, Registration.

Communication:

What has been the strategy and communication channels of the experience for engaging the population. (In a maximum of 150 words)

Citizen and stakeholder participation in the development and operation of communities is critical for the protection and sustainable development of communities. BuildAction facilitates the communication, collaboration and coordination of collaborative action by stakeholders to meet their civic duty and responsibility to participate in community affairs.

The BuildAction toolkit allows for their sharing of discussion, resources, news, posts, and alerts via email and social media platforms. Projects, events and petitions provide stakeholders with an open, democratic, and transparent mechanism to engage with and address issues of concern to government policymakers and officials.

The Code of Conduct applies to all user content and communication on the platform, including all communication in BuildAction communities and any community-hosted social media groups. Note: The BuildAction platform protects and does not violate the confidentiality of communication directly between users.

See Baden bei Wien: Add Issue, Add News, Add Petition, Add Post; BuildAction: Add Alert, Add Reposting.

Articulation with other actors:

*Explain how the experience was articulated with different actors and simultaneous or pre-existing processes. What roles did these participants assume? Explain the degree of success of this articulation. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

Collaboration leads to the success of community development. To ensure the sustainable development and use of land, buildings, and infrastructure, the community stakeholders must communicate and collaborate.

Enablers are the agents of change for the sustainable development of the built environment. They take a stake in communities, collaborate with other stakeholders, and provide the needed resources and solutions.

Moderators encourage the involvement and engagement of other community stakeholders and sustainability enablers. They ensure the active participation of stakeholders and the sharing of useful information for the sustainable development and operation of communities.

Officials of the City of Baden are collaborating and cooperating to fulfill their role in the environmental and socioeconomic sustainability of the community. Together, the participating stakeholders are working toward a resilient and socially, environmentally and economically sustainable community.

See BuildAction: Code of Conduct; Collaboration, Cooperation, Enablers, Moderators, Participants, Participation; LinkedIn: Recent Activity.

Evaluation:

*What evaluation mechanisms have been implemented? Develop whether the citizenry has participated in the evaluation of the practice. (In a **maximum of 300 words**).*

The BuildAction initiative aims to foster constructive dialog between the different stakeholders, to ensure an objective, balanced and fact-based development of the local built environment, and to coordinate collective shareholder action.

Evaluation of the BuildAction initiative for stakeholder participation in community development assesses the success and effectiveness of the initiative in meeting its

objectives and its impact on the stakeholders and policymakers. Evaluation can provide a simple audit or a much deeper examination that considers what happened and why.

For an audit, a range of statistical methods are applied and data are collected to show whether targets have been met. The evaluation for internal learning uses qualitative methods to describe and illustrate the success and effectiveness of the individual projects and their impact.

Evaluation helps to clarify the objectives of the initiative and improve program management and accountability by transparently reporting the engagement by the stakeholders. Moreover, it should improve future practice and policy by developing hard facts and knowledge about what works and the impacts of the different features of the BuildAction toolkit for stakeholder participation in community affairs.

As the solution is intended for the long term, the participants are encouraged to report on their experience with the BuildAction toolkit. The tracking of the mechanisms and evaluation is an ongoing process.

In the final analysis, the effectiveness of BuildAction can be seen in the engagement of the stakeholders, their involvement and role in the community, and the action they take. Success is realized when the government authorities and officials collaborate with the private-sector stakeholders and citizenry.

See Baden bei Wien: [Home](), [Enablers](), [News](), [Posts](), [Tools](), [Projects](), [Events](), [Alert!](), [Petition]().

Impacts and results

*Describe the impacts and results of the process. How many people have participated, and what are their profiles? What have been the impacts on public policies, the functioning of the administration, and the citizenry? (In a **maximum of 300 words**).*

The experience and functionality of the BuildAction toolkit are demonstrated by the BuildAction community of [Baden bei Wien](). The toolkit is being used to support municipal services of the City of Baden, citizens and other stakeholders to take collective action for the protection of the local built environment and the sustainable development of the community.

For how the BuildAction stakeholder participation toolkit is being used by the public, private and civil sectors in the community of Baden, see:

- [Enablers]() – The profiles of community enablers.
- [Tools]() – Recommended resources and toolkits.
- [News]() – Local newscasts of interest and relevance.
- [Posts]() – Issues of significant importance and impact.
- [Planning]() – Coordination of shared stakeholder action.
- [Meeting]() – The assembly of community stakeholders.
- [Alert!]() – Postings of warnings for community attention.
- [Petition]() – Requests for action addressed to authorities.

Active participation of the City of Baden is called for in public discussions, meetings, and petitions addressed to the relevant government authorities. In addition to the mayor and

city officials, all members of the city council are called upon to engage with the community stakeholders in discussion and the coordination of collective action.

The petitions request specific action by the relevant government authorities and officials. Once received by the authority in proper form, the application is processed at their discretion. Moreover, the status of the application or other information is not disclosed to the applicant or the public until the matter has been decided.

The municipality collaborates and cooperates with the community citizens and other stakeholders, which is the intended impact. However, the BuildAction initiative and toolkit are not intended to impact the community's public policy.

See Baden bei Wien - Petition: "Ein Aufruf zum sofortigen Handeln – bevor es zu spät ist!", "Antrag auf Schutz von schützenswerten Bäumen in Baden".

PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

*A summary of the experience: origins, objectives, operation, results, monitoring, and evaluation. (Do not hesitate to repeat aspects that have already been written before. This summary will be shared on the digital platform for open evaluation and in the publication of the award). (In a **maximum of 500 words**).*

BuildAction is an initiative of SEEDIS – Social, Environmental and Economic Development Intersector Solutions – for the sustainable development and use of land, buildings and infrastructure. SEEDIS supports citizens and other stakeholders in the built environment to encourage the sustainable development and operation of their communities.

Public participation in public policy processes and governance tends to be low and citizens are generally not included in what is being discussed and decided about their communities. BuildAction is an initiative to support communities to involve citizens and other interested stakeholders in the sustainable development of their communities.

The BuildAction participation toolkit enables municipalities to communicate, collaborate and cooperate with all interested stakeholders in the sustainable development and operation of communities and to coordinate collective action. It is a platform that complements existing or planned citizen participation initiatives of municipalities and is targeted at local and regional governments, private- and civil-sector enablers, and individual citizens.

In collaboration and cooperation with the City of Baden, BuildAction is enabling stakeholders to meet their civic duty to actively participate in community affairs. While facilitating citizen participation, the BuildAction toolkit also helps the local authorities and governments to fulfill their role and public duty to citizens.

Illustrated by the experience of the community of Baden bei Wien, the BuildAction toolkit demonstrates:

- High innovation – New methodologies, tools, and approach;
- High inclusivity – For the participation of all stakeholders;
- High transferability – Duplicable experiences and adaptable use;
- High feasibility – Free and without financial obligation (affordable);

- High availability – Turnkey, relatively unrestricted access and use;
- High co-responsibility – Sharing the duty to participate in public affairs; and
- High transparency – Improves community openness and accountability.

Citizenship (e.g., community action) is the category chosen for the Baden bei Wien experience because the primary purpose of BuildAction is to enable citizens and other community stakeholders to take civic action. However, elements of deliberation (e.g., citizen assembly and participatory planning) are also significant aspects of the solution.

We are extending an open invitation to community stakeholders and municipalities around the world to participate in their sustainable development. The BuildAction platform is provided to the municipalities and all other interested stakeholders free of charge and without any financial obligation, to enable the relatively unrestricted and transparent participation of all stakeholders.

Besides our moral obligation to meet our civic duty to participate in community affairs, we must also set an example for other communities – both where local government is fragile and in the more stable democracies.

Baden is the city chosen for the experience because of our personal relationships with the City of Baden. Not only is Baden where SEEDIS is based but it is also where we live and work. We are fully committed to contributing to its sustainable development for this and future generations and are participating in collective action taken in the community.

BuildAction enables stakeholders to take their commitment beyond words. BuildAction helps make this happen.

See BuildAction Featured Tools: City WORKS Toolkit, Community Tool Box, OECD Guidelines for Citizen Participation; SEEDIS.

We invite you to share annexes that allow you to better illustrate your experience: videos, photographs, documents... These can be sent through a file transfer service, such as WeTransfer, Dropbox or Google Drive.

Thank you for participating!