

Communication on Engagement

Municipality of Leeuwarden

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement
From 2015 to 2017



Gemeente Leeuwarden



Part 1: Statement of Continued Support

December 11, 2017

Dear Secretary-General,

I am pleased to confirm that the municipality of Leeuwarden is committed to the ten UN Global Compact Principles with respect to human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption, as well as the new Sustainable Development Agenda. It is our intent to continue to participate in the activities of the UN Global Compact and to advance its principles through ongoing communication with our community.

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the UN Global Compact is the bi-annual preparation and posting of a Communication of Engagement (COE) that comprises of a statement of continued support for the UN Global Compact, a description of practical actions with regard to the principles of the UN Global Compact, and a measurement of outcomes or expected outcomes.

At this point, the municipality of Leeuwarden has committed itself to the level of Innovating City with the Smart Specialization on Water Technology and its Innovative Ecosystem. A lot of our efforts are invested in creating, realizing and managing our designated project at the Water Campus Leeuwarden. We will report on the progress of this project in the spring of 2018.

Furthermore, in 2015, the municipality of Leeuwarden participated in the City Scan initiated by the Global Compact Cities Program. As we have understood the City Scan has recently been updated and we have volunteered to participate as a pilot city for the further development of the City Scan diagnostic and reporting tool.

We also pledge to take part in the activities of the UN Global Compact where appropriate and feasible. We believe there will be opportunities to participate in Country/Local Networks; specialized initiatives and work streams; engagement in partnership projects, and reviewing and providing commentary to participating companies on their Communications on Progress.

We look forward to continue our cooperation on the ten UN Global Compact Principles and the new Sustainable Development Agenda.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Ferd. J.M. Crone
Mayor of Leeuwarden

Part 2 & 3: Description of Actions and Measurement of Outcomes

This document shortly summarizes a selection of the actions and their outcomes that were undertaken as part of the dedicated project of WaterCampus Leeuwarden – UN Innovating City within the UN Global Compact Cities Program. This document is an appendix to the Statement of Continued Support by the City of Leeuwarden, signed and issued in December 2017.

1. The municipality of Leeuwarden participates as Innovating City within the UN Global Compact Cities Program. The municipality is committed to the ten UN Global Compact Principles and particularly targets SDG6: 'WATER' and its relations with the other sustainable development goals with a dedicated project as Innovating City.
2. Together with its most important stakeholders at WaterCampus Leeuwarden, the dedicated project is focussing on water and water technology and covers three main pillars: internationalisation, demonstration and social awareness. With this project the municipality of Leeuwarden is aiming at supporting activities of the WaterCampus and water technology SMEs providing innovative solutions for water quality issues. The project will be finished in May 2018. The municipality of Leeuwarden is aiming to developing a second dedicated project running until 2021.
3. As part of the internationalisation pillar, WaterCampus Leeuwarden has expanded its partnerships for academic and applied research. To increase SME matchmaking and internationalisation support, WaterCampus closed a MoU with a French Cluster, a partnership agreement with two French, two Spanish, one UK and one Danish cluster, and supported a MoU between the province of Fryslân and Daegu region in South-Korea. This all resulted in an increase in internationalisation activities. The annual national WaterLink congress, became an international congress in 2017. In 2018 WaterCampus launches the first European Water Technology Week, as a follow-up on the successful international WaterLink and Wetsus congress.
4. As part of the demonstration pillar, the last three years, dozens of new demonstration projects with a project turnover of ca. MEur 10,= were initiated and realized. These projects were aiming at supporting the regions innovation capacity by stimulating Triple Helix cooperation. The majority of the projects were funded by private funding and public subsidies, in some project the municipality acted as a launcher customer. Furthermore, the municipality made capacity available in order to stimulate and initiate these demonstration projects. Furthermore, WaterCampus supported these projects with its ecosystem for innovative water technology with excellent knowledge, testing and demonstration facilities and business support.
5. As part of the social awareness pillar, the municipality of Leeuwarden and the province of Fryslân are working in close collaboration with stakeholders towards the year 2018, when Leeuwarden|Fryslân is European Capital of Culture. A special programm on Water had been launched, called WATER CONNECTING. This program is aimed at creating social

awareness, as well as demonstrating the ecosystem for innovative water technology. As part of the demonstration pillar, several innovative projects on social awareness were performed.

6. For its new Innovating Project and its cooperation in the field of water, the city of Leeuwarden is developing its Leeuwarden Water Agenda. Besides a Water Agenda, the city is simultaneously developing a Climate Agenda, that will be based on the cities climate stress test. An Energy Agenda is already developed. The Water, Climate and Energy Agenda will be aligned.
7. The basis of the Water agenda was launched at the European Innovation Partnership Conference on Water in 2016, where the city of Leeuwarden took initiative to develop the Leeuwarden Declaration on Cities & Water. Now several European cities, including Leeuwarden, are collaborating to bring this Declaration to a Water Agenda for European Cities, supported by ICLEI. Furthermore, Leeuwarden intends to collaborate with other regional stakeholders to apply this Water Agenda on a regional level.