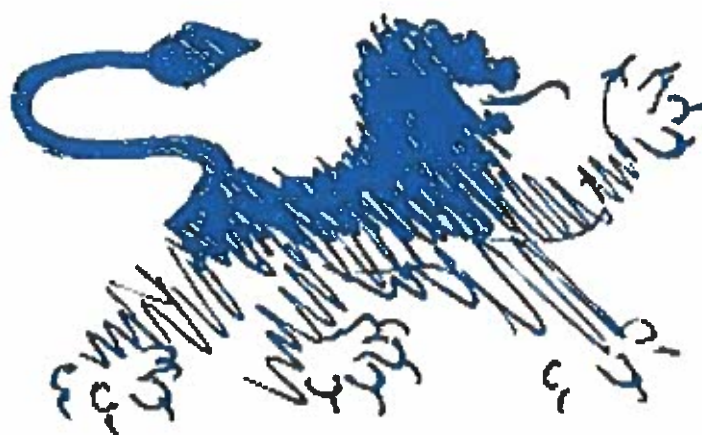


Communication on Engagement

Municipality of Leeuwarden

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

January 2017 - December 2019



Gemeente  **Leeuwarden**



Statement of Continued Support

His Excellency Antonio Gúterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
760 United Nations Plaza
New York NY 10071 USA

December 10, 2019

Dear Secretary-General, Mr. Gúterres,

The city of Leeuwarden is proud to continue to extend its support to the 10 UN Global Compact Principles and the Sustainable Development Agenda. We understand the important role that municipalities can play in involving the private sector to contribute to a better world. Therefore, we will continue to actively engage our community in the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this document, we report what activities we have undertaken in support of the UN Global Compact Program.

In 2018 Leeuwarden was European Capital of Culture (LF2018). The many initiatives and actions related to LF2018 have greatly contributed towards the SDGs. The central theme of LF2018 was “Iepen Mienskip” (open community) and the program focused specifically on participation and the improvement of the quality of life. Most notably, culture was used as a driver for change; social as well as physical and economic change. The community-engagement and soft space research and development initiated during LF2018 have provided Leeuwarden with new alliances and methods to work towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, LF2018 has given us the opportunity, and pushed us, to show Europe what Leeuwarden has to offer. It has created a new sense of self confidence that we would also like to bring to the Global Compact Community.

Starting in 2016 Leeuwarden stimulates bottom-up initiatives in the field of circular economy through our involvement in the Vereniging Circulair Friesland (Circular Friesland Association). Over 70 circular initiatives have been initiated in the region, of which the Circular Quarter in Leeuwarden is one of the most recent additions.



Previously, Leeuwarden committed itself to the level of Innovating City with a project focused on Water Technology and the Innovative Ecosystem created at the WaterCampus. WaterCampus Leeuwarden is still at the core of our efforts towards the SDGs. At the WaterCampus solutions for world wide problems are being developed.

We would like to contribute our knowledge and expertise in the fields of social innovation, circular economy and water through the UN Global Compact and are very much looking forward to explore the opportunities for renewing our status as Innovating City.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. S. Van Haersma-Buma
Mayor of Leeuwarden

Actions taken in support of the 10 principles and the SDG's

As a signatory to the UN Global Compact Cities Program since 2010 and an Innovating City since 2015, Leeuwarden has actively promoted the SDG's and the 10 principles of the UN GCCP. For the past two years, this has meant both a continuation of ongoing projects as well as the development of new initiatives. This section will describe the actions the city has undertaken to champion the SDG's and the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact Program.

Leeuwarden as the European Capital of Culture 2018

From the central theme of "Iepen Mienskip" (open community), the Cultural Capital year (LF2018) was used to promote participation, decrease differences, enhance the quality of life and strengthen the image of Leeuwarden and Fryslân as the leading region in agriculture and water, as well as an attractive destination, particularly for the cultural and experiential tourist. By doing so, the Cultural Capital year was also expected to contribute to economic growth and more jobs (SDG8). LF2018 made largely true on its promise. The participation of the community in cultural projects has been tremendous. In addition, international contacts have increased dramatically. Finally, the number of visitors and visitor spending was higher than predicted in the preparation for LF2018.

Leeuwarden as the Capital of Water Technology

As it has done for the past 9 years, Leeuwarden continues to specifically target SDG 6: 'CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION'. Through its lasting partnership with the WaterCampus, the city of Leeuwarden has become an important actor in connecting businesses and governments with the leading experts in the field of water technology. In doing so, the city contributes to the development of innovative technologies that improve the quality of water systems all over the world. The city of Leeuwarden remains very active in connecting the WaterCampus with those that require its expertise. A fine example of this is the ongoing project to tackle the pollution of the Pinheiros river in Brazil. As a result of Leeuwarden's efforts, scholars of the University of Sao Paulo have teamed up with the experts at the WaterCampus in a project to clean up the heavily polluted river. The university of Sao Paulo is only one of the 22 international partners of the WaterCampus, in addition to 126 Dutch partners. These partners include SME's, knowledge institutions and governments.

The WaterCampus has also been Leeuwarden's partner in its Innovative City project since 2015. This project, which ended in 2018, had three goals: to internationalize the WaterCampus' activities, to increase social awareness on the importance of water quality and to raise the number of demonstration projects the WaterCampus was involved in. As the project was a success on all three dimensions, both parties have expressed the desire to continue the partnership and are currently developing a project that will develop the WaterCampus' network and activities even further. This new project will also extend Leeuwarden's status as an Innovating City within the UN GCCP until at least 2022.

Another way in which Leeuwarden tries to stimulate businesses to contribute to cleaner water is by subsidizing innovative projects. For instance, in 2019, the city provided funding for a pilot project by



SusPhos that aims to retrieve phosphate from some of Leeuwarden's. The retrieved phosphate can then be reused to produce flame retardant additives, amongst others. If this pilot proves to be a success, it can be applied on a larger scale.

Leeuwarden as an Anticipator in the Energy Transition

As the world faces the challenge of climate change, Leeuwarden wants to do its part in the replacement of fossil energy sources with cleaner means of energy production. However, Leeuwarden also understands that this transition will have a great impact on the businesses and people operating in the energy sector. Without any preparation, hundreds of people will be at risk of losing their jobs and a considerable amount of businesses would have to close down when the old ways of energy production cease to exist. Therefore, Leeuwarden is taking the lead in a taskforce by the Northern Netherlands that aims to prepare businesses and employees for the upcoming energy transition, while simultaneously creating a sense of urgency to switch to renewable energy sources. The taskforce, which has teamed up with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, seeks to actively involve the private sector in the energy transition. For example, representatives from businesses, unions and knowledge institutions have been invited to jointly work on an Action Roadmap for the upcoming transition during an international conference in December 2019. The resulting Roadmap will describe the steps that need to be taken to transition to renewable energy in an economically responsible way. This way, Leeuwarden hopes to preserve and even increase jobs in the energy sector while contributing to a cleaner world.

Another way in which Leeuwarden tries to stimulate the transition to renewable energy sources is through its continued support to the Energy Campus Leeuwarden. The Energy Campus, which is located on a former garbage dump, is a place where innovators come together to develop, create, showcase and market renewable energy technologies. To do this, they can use the Campus' testing grounds. Interesting concepts that are being tested on these grounds include energy production technologies that blend in with the landscape, amongst others. To use the Campus' to its full extent, the grounds will also be used to produce green energy for almost 4000 households in Leeuwarden.

Leeuwarden as a Frontrunner on Circular economy

To achieve the ambition of becoming the most favourable development region for a circular economy, Leeuwarden has increased its efforts to facilitate local entrepreneurs who want to eliminate their waste streams. Initiated by a request from a local pub manager who wanted to know how she could apply circular entrepreneurship, the city has started a project in which she connects entrepreneurs with students from the local university of applied sciences, NHL Stenden. The aim of the project is the development of a so-called 'circular quarter' in the inner city, in which all businesses have eliminated their waste streams. At the opening of the circular quarter on November 7th, more than 50% of the entrepreneurs in the district were involved in the project, including restaurants, hotels, cafés, (non-)food retail shops and art galleries. This percentage is expected to grow in the near future as other knowledge institutions have expressed interest to become involved as well, which would increase the project's capacity to guide entrepreneurs and organizations in the quarter.

Leeuwarden has also provided financial incentives for businesses to apply more circular production techniques. For instance, a local manufacturer of doors, Van Vuuren, received funding to innovate their production process in such a way that it produces less waste. The costs that will be saved

through this improved way of producing will be used to employ extra people in other departments of their company (such as Marketing), thereby also contributing to SDG 8 'Decent Work and Economic Growth'.

Leeuwarden as an Innovator in Healthcare

Through its Innovation Fund, Leeuwarden has stimulated the clever use of digital innovations in Healthcare. For example, the city has subsidized a project by RelieVR, which uses VR-technology to aid patients with chronic pain at home. By doing so, patients who would otherwise have to visit pain clinics to get treatment from pain psychologists, can now be treated at home. Another innovative Healthcare project that Leeuwarden is stimulating has been developed by Indiveo. Indiveo is creating a digital platform on which patients can find information about the their ailments, the hospital they're being treated in, their doctor and their treatment. This information will be made as accessible as possible by shaping it in different forms: text, video, audio and animation. By using the platform, patients can easily inform themselves about every step of their treatment process. This means that less time in the doctor's office will be spend on transferring information, which leaves more time for actual treatment. By supporting innovations like these two, Leeuwarden helps to make Healthcare more accessible and effective for every patient.

Leeuwarden as a Promoter of Local Initiatives

To celebrate Leeuwarden's appointment as an official Dutch 'Global Goals municipality', the city has started the tradition of annually honouring local companies, organisations and citizens that have contributed to the SDG's. The first edition took place on the 25th of September 2019, exactly four years after the SDG's were established. During this event, 6 representatives of local organizations received a certificate and were named 'Local Heroes' by the Mayor. By doing so, Leeuwarden hopes to increase public knowledge of the SDG's and to inspire more organizations and citizens to make a contribution to the SDG's.

Already, the local heroes have started to cooperate among themselves and by doing so increased their reach and impact.



Mayor Sybrand Buma raises the SDG-flag in the company of 6 Local Heroes

Measurement of outcomes & Monitoring

In November 2019, Leeuwarden's city council accepted a resolution that called for the increased monitoring of the city's progress on the SDG's. As a result, the city is scaling up its efforts to develop suitable monitoring methods.

The 2019 SDG Index and Dashboards Report for European Cities

In May 2019, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Brabant Centre for Sustainable Development (Telos) published the SDG Index and Dashboards Report for European Cities. This year's edition did not cover Leeuwarden, as it focused on the 45 metropolitan areas in Europe. However, Leeuwarden took the initiative to use the same format as SDSN and Telos had used to evaluate its own progress on the SDG's. Even though this tool is not completely applicable to Leeuwarden, using it has gained Leeuwarden the insight that it is currently lacking much of the required data to make a solid assessment of its progress on the SDG's. Therefore, the city has decided to become involved in a project by the Dutch Association of Municipalities (VNG), which is exploring the possibilities of developing a SDG-monitoring tool that can be easily applied by Dutch municipalities specifically.

In addition, Leeuwarden has also offered to serve as a pilot city for a new City Scan tool that is being developed by the UN GCCP. In addition, since September 2019, Leeuwarden is partnering up with the local University (RUG Campus Fryslân) as 'Living Lab Partner'. The aim of this project is to work together with academic students, who will be monitoring Leeuwarden's progress on four of the SDG's. By doing so, Leeuwarden aims to make sure that its commitment to the SDG's is translated into concrete actions. The municipality will provide the students with a 'Living Lab' by giving them access to all the resources necessary to evaluate Leeuwarden's SDG-related efforts. As a part of their assignment, the students will then be asked to advise the municipality on how it can improve its contribution to the SDG's.

In addition to more general SDG-monitoring the municipality specifically monitors the output/outcome of the WaterCampus.

The WaterCampus Monitor

The results of Leeuwarden's largest project in support of the 10 principles, the WaterCampus, are annually being reported upon in the WaterCampus Monitor. In these reports, the WaterCampus is being evaluated in regard to several aspects, such as: R&D activities, scientific impact, innovative power, economic impact and internationalisation.

The latest edition of the WaterCampus Monitor shows that the WaterCampus is becoming a very impactful institute on various levels. Not only has it grown in size (becoming a network consisting of 258 companies and 26 knowledge institutions), its scientific impact has developed as well. For instance, since its inception in 2005, the WaterCampus has produced 634 scientific articles, which were cited 2.4 times more often than the average article in the field of water technology.

Additionally, by 2018, the WaterCampus was cooperating in almost 130 research projects and has been involved in over 80 schooling projects in primary and secondary education. Finally, the WaterCampus has led to the establishment of over 120 international partnerships to improve the quality of water systems. These results show that WaterCampus has not only flourished, but that it also has a huge potential for growth.