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EdiCitNet

D1.3 – International Network established (31.05.19; M9; ANDERNACH)

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Abstract: We here document the current state of the Edible City Network. We report the different levels and strategies to towards an international, sustainable and constantly growing networks of Edible Cities. We summarize the EdiCitNet strategy on internationalisation and the process oriented procedure to amplify the 'Network of network'.

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Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary.....	3
2. Introduction.....	4
3. Main Section.....	5
3.1 Strategy on Internationalisation of Edible Cities Network	5
3.1.1 An overall two-step Approach	5
3.2 Process-oriented procedure to establish ‘Network of Network’	5
3.2.1 Tools for facilitating EdiCitNet Strategy on Internationalisation.....	7
4. State of the Art International ‘Network of Network’ established	9
4.1 Current development	9
4.2 Existing Networks and the use of them	9
5. Conclusion	10
6. Appendices	11

Glossary

Abbreviation	Description
CMT	Community Management Tool
FRC	Front Runner City
FC	Follower City
ECS	Edible City Solutions
LL	Living Lab
WP	Work Package
DoA	Description of Action
CtA	Call to Action Button

1. Executive Summary

The EdiCitNet strategy on internationalisation strategy addresses the observed lack of mainstreaming knowledge on ECS technologies, experiences and provided ecosystem services. We aim to strengthen the co-creation and diffusion of expertise and knowledge on ECS, spread successful methodologies and replicable strategies. Innovative solutions and best practice related to ECS to drive socially inclusive urban regeneration processes worldwide based on mutual learning and thus benefits. EdiCitNet uses an integrated, cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to built up the Edible City Network.

The international network will be established in an ongoing expanding manner and documented. The current establishment of the international network is documented by an online platform (CMT), that was going live already at the beginning of the project. Each of the EdiCitNet City Teams constitutes an active node in an international 'Network of Networks' and is therefore the smallest yet most important element of a truly sustainable Network actively working on a global Edible Cities Network.

Nevertheless, the CMT provides a virtual space for knowledge exchange and participation. Accordingly, the measures foreseen in Deliverable 7.1 (Refinement of plan for Dissemination, Knowledge exchange and Education) and listed in the appendix focus on different types of networking measures to integrate international stakeholder of ECS.

2. Introduction

Urban planning is challenged to react to unavoidable densification trends and to growing pressure on environmental justice, social cohesion, livability, well-being, and resilient communities and neighborhoods already leading to increased criminality, segregation, violence against foreigners and refugees, abandoned areas and radical political streams, that are observed with growing concerns worldwide. Enhancing the provision of overall ecosystem services is proved to be an adequate instrument to foster urban livability, local identity, and social resilience. Around the world and across all socio-economic groups, cultural and generational differences Edible City Solutions (ECS) are booming and demonstrate a high potential for a participatory development of social cohesion.

Short term actions within election periods, the sectoral functioning of city administrations and the current lack of integration of ECS into the urban planning process and of strategic support through urban policies limits exploitation of ECS benefits world-wide. Co-planning, co-designing, and co-implementation of ECS are crucial methods to avoid green gentrification and to foster the strong involving and activating momentum of ECS. The holistic approach on multifunctional productive urban landscapes is the base for self-sustained cities. Strategic implementation of ECS raises the individual and public awareness for the paradigm shift of urban lifestyle needed to face successfully the challenges of the 21st century.

Consequently, EdiCitNet develops an international, sustainable and constantly growing network of *Edible Cities*. The overall objective of the **EdiCitNet strategy on internationalisation** is to provide an *action framework to convert the opportunities* provided by the EdiCitNet project *to stakeholder beyond the project stakeholder*. The implementation measures address international cooperation within the consortium (internal) of EdiCitNet and among the associated partners (City Teams; other cities, ECS initiatives and SME that are joining the Edible City Network within the European Union and beyond) and the growing Edible City Network (external). The implementations comprise both ECS knowledge and practice for the target audiences that EdiCitNet aims to involve, that are citizens & civil society; city administrations; SMEs and NGOs related to ECS.

3. Main Section

To achieve the EdiCitNet objectives we set up more international joint actions and coordination of ECS research and innovation agendas. In this sense, we see EdiCitNet as an example of a global multilateral initiative inviting all (potential) partners to join actions for a sustainable urban development.

3.1 Strategy on Internationalisation of Edible Cities Network

In order to expand an international and sustainably growing Network of Edible Cities we

- I) expand international **strategic partnerships** of different ECS stakeholders (e.g., city administrations, ECS initiatives, NGOs, SMEs);
- II) conduct, connect and communicate **cutting-edge research, innovation and actions** at local, regional and global level in order to strengthen the outreach of the ECS concept, the EdiCitNet framework and the transfer and application of EdiCitNet results.
- III) use ECS research and implementation to **build bridges** between ECS knowledge, practice and policy as tools for **innovation diplomacy** concerning international dialogues in both directions ‘Diplomacy for ECS Innovation’ and ‘ECS Innovation for Diplomacy’.

The EdiCitNet strategy on internationalisation is in line with the EU role in global multilateral fora and focuses on the geographic priorities of Horizon 2020 such as the partnerships EU-African, Union EU-China and EU-CELAC. We also focus on an expansion of the Edible City Network into the Near- and Middle- East and to Russia.

3.1.1 An overall two-step Approach

We understand internationalisation for EdiCitNet project to represent:

1. The first step is the established internal network enhancing and guiding ‘trial and error’ processes in order to elaborate opportunities and also risks and barriers in order to produce results to integrate them into a final yet proved transferable strategies. This is also supported by task 1.5 in WP1 aiming on an ascertaining institutional context and thus assessing the current situation with a SWOT and stakeholder analysis (report: Del. 1.4 Institutional Context Summary Sheet).
2. In a second step, we provide “ready to use” strategies based on holistic EdiCitNet findings on: a) ECS anchoring and implementation concerning legal and administrative aspects; b) extending ECS anchoring in urban societies and thus empowering stakeholder from civil society and NGO and c) foster ECS business and entrepreneurship on global level. This strategy will both, support and complement the Del 7.1 as the strategy itself turn operational via communication measures.

3.2 Process-oriented procedure to establish ‘Network of Network’

The network of network is created at different scale: a) local level: each **EdiCitNet City Team** with members of the whole ECS related stakeholder landscape; b) regional level (**EdiCitNet Edible Regions**) to develop regional clusters and networks among stakeholder; c) European level (**Edible Cities in Europe**) and d) Global level (**Edible Cities Network**) integrating existing and future Edible Cities into our network of network (see Fig.1).

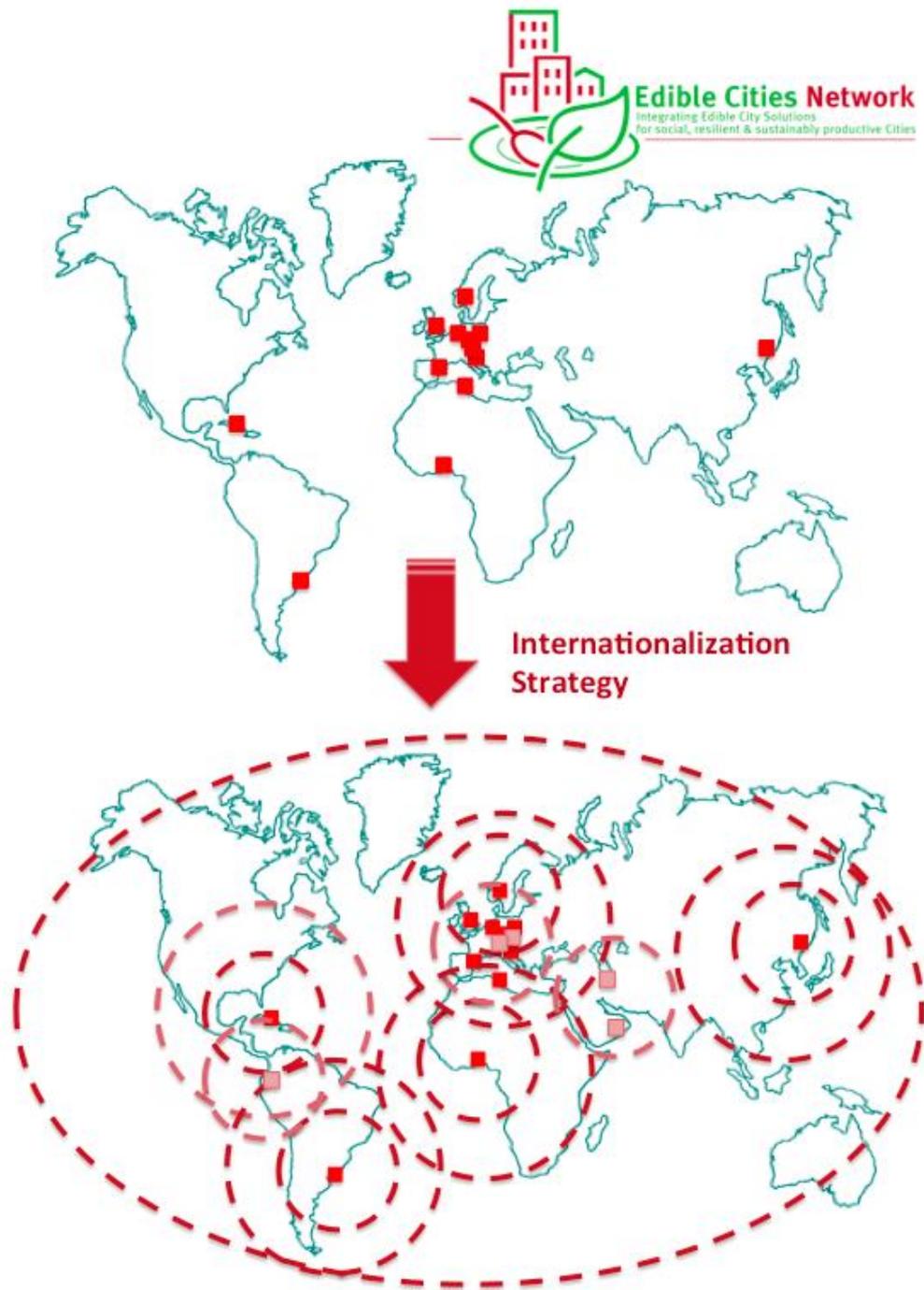


Fig. 1 Growing Network of Edible Cities: red: current members of the network; light red: Cities that expressed their interest to be part of the Edible Cities Network

This strategy on internationalisation will be implemented by the EdiCitNet project (especially WP1 and WP7 and WP8) adjusted to the needs and demand to foster international networking (measures will be conceptualized according to target group specific communication; see examples in the appendix and Deliverable 7.2: Refinement of Dissemination, Communication and Education).

3.2.1 Tools for facilitating EdiCitNet Strategy on Internationalisation

The overall structure to provide possibilities to network for individuals is priority CMT, Twitter and the EdiCitNet Webpage. The CMT provides also information and the opportunity for knowledge exchange on a more detailed manner allowing to stripe research results and conferences for experts and very engaged parts of the society. The EdiCitNet Consortium here provides a large expertise on the field of ECS and the entire value chain and thus is able to answer questions and demand for knowledge as well as practical issues from stakeholder beyond the project. As documented in Figure 2 widgets like google calendar and iframes support the need for a first “global and general” information exchange. These widgets provide announcement of project and ECS related conferences and other communication measures (see appendix) and can be adjusted to the needs of the project and the stakeholder beyond the project. Relevant files and documents as well as open access publications are posted to give deeper insight on cutting-edge research and support transfer of knowledge to create communities of knowledge and practice. Furthermore, Twitter (see Fig. 3) draws attention on the project and ECS in general for a broader community that is active on Twitter. The attention of the society as a whole is ensured through a webpage (see Fig.4) that is very much specifically designed for the target group society. This webpage contains so called Call to Action buttons (CtA), which seek to empower the global society, and thus enables local networks to be widened to regional and after that also reach out to a global scope.

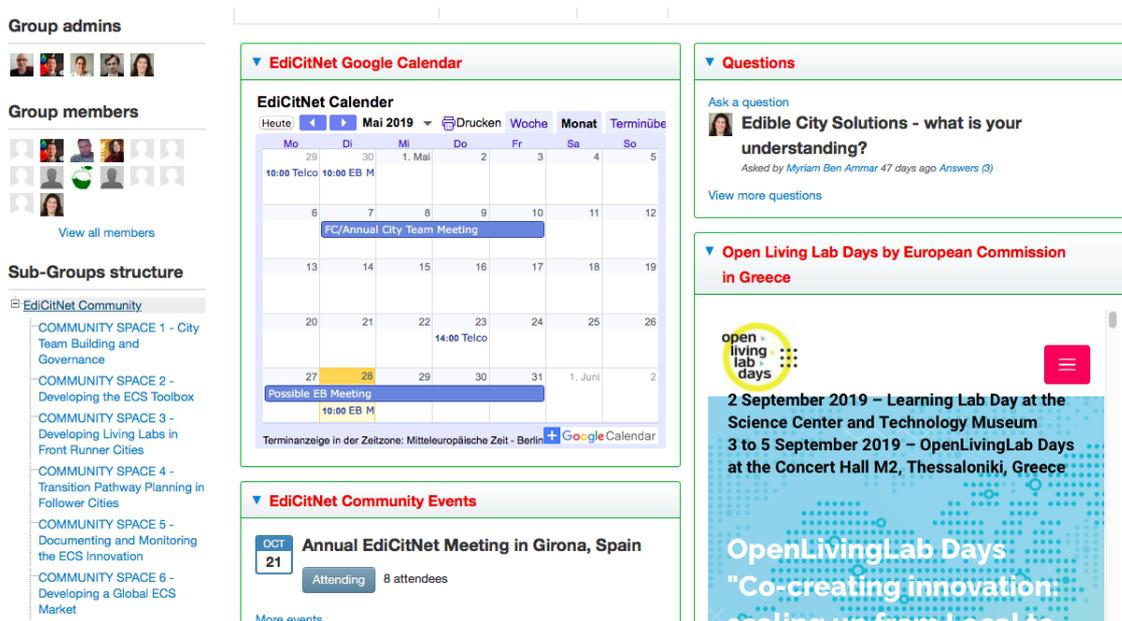


Fig. 2: EdiCitNet Community Management Tool (CMT) (Screenshot 28.05.2019)



Fig. 3: EdiCitNet Twitter Account (Screenshot 29.05.2019)

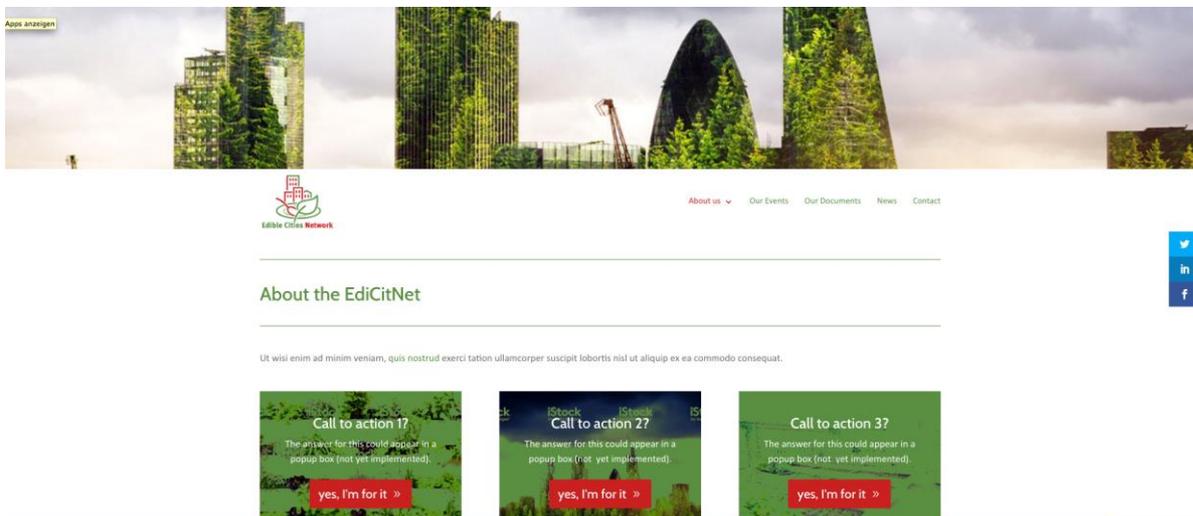


Fig. 4: EdiCitNet Webpage Draft (Screenshot 29.05.2019), 3-4 Cal To Action Buttons

4. State of the Art International ‘Network of Network’ established

The establishment of the international network is already documented by an online platform (EdiCitNet CMT), that was going live at the beginning of the project. In the beginning of the project the CMT was used to enhance already the participation of people involved to the project. This encompassed e.g. ambassadors who were representing the cities or launched contacts to the city’s administration and facilitated the implementation of the project EdiCitNet. During this phase of the project first knowledge exchange took place by a format feeding into the strategy on internationalisation by providing a stage to present the own City (Market Booth at Kick-Off Meeting) and their network as well as their current involvement in other similar projects. Additionally, personal contact from other projects as well as cluster meetings with sister project support the strategy on internationalisation (see appendix under “Research partners”).

4.1 Current development

Referring to chapter 3.2 in this document we consider the City Teams as being the smallest but most important element to form a sustainable ‘Network of Networks’. EdiCitNet is currently experiences delay in establishing the City Teams. The City Teams as the backbone of the Network are already established only on an operational level (so called core teams). The EdiCitNet objectives and tasks are already introduced into all core teams. Process-oriented measures like analysing the status quo of the City Teams have been implemented in first meetings. The transdisciplinary City Teams are composed based on a stakeholder analysis provided by Nabolagshager for Oslo, WUR for Rotterdam and UBER for Andernach and Berlin. This process-oriented approach gives a base for the City Team building in all Follower Cities as well.

To tackle the delay of the City Team building we installed several measures to reveal the barriers: On the measure level we enhanced communication and meetings in order to find co-created solutions suitable for tackling specific challenges in the Front-Runner Cities. These formats (e.g. world café) provide insight to current challenges and solutions also discussable on our CMT and thus flow into the strategies fostering an international network.

4.2 Existing Networks and the use of them

Nevertheless, we experienced that rare engagement in certain already existing networks have a limited impact on the identified levels (see 3.2). Additionally, it remains often unclear who is the contact person within the cities coordinating the network activities. Hence, EdiCitNet is targeting on existing **active networks and facilitators** within these networks to foster the goals of an international network established. The strategy on internationalisation also foresees to move beyond the appointing of a contact person which is in charge of taking care of huge networks which apparently have only low impact. This again is based on very local networks going global very slowly and naturally.

5. Conclusion

The City Teams are the initial crystal to make the network grow. A core team does already provide first insights to procedures and barriers in implementation of City Teams with stakeholder from ECS related stakeholder landscape. Nevertheless, the CMT, Twitter and the Webpage provide a virtual space for knowledge exchange. An adjusted event management plan based on the structure in the appendix will support and in the same time will also be the core of applicable measures to make the strategy go live.

Accordingly, the measures foreseen in Deliverable 7.1 and listed in the appendix focus on different types of networking measures to integrate international stakeholder. The EdiCitNet strategy on internationalisation is also supported by the Terms of Reference and Letter of Commitment as framework to orient at but is also aiming to stabilize a structure which stays beyond the project time. To achieve this the 'trial and error' approach in line with the Grant Agreement serve as base to elaborate the different strategies to anchor ECS in Cities and then guide EdiCitNet cities and associated cities on their way to enter bigger networks.

6. Appendices

Target Group Related Measures:

Internal component of 'Network of Network'

Citizens and Civil Society and Cross stakeholder measures

- Annual EdiCitNet Meeting (established)
- ECS Award (Award to honour best practice examples for City Teams)
- Content development for EdiCitNet Webpage to foster easy and quick access to applied knowledge about ECS processes and procedures as well as events for facilitating the creation of local ECs Communities of knowledge and practice (e.g: Call to action buttons¹ on Webpage: "ECS in my City").
- Communication Measures (established, see D7.1 Concept for Communication)

City administrations and policy makers

- Annual City Team Meeting (established)
- Content development for EdiCitNet Webpage (Call to Target Action button: "Create your own ECS" and "Join your Edible City" with links to the upcoming database on ECS, WP2 and WP1; ongoing)
- Communication Measures (established, established, see D7.1 Concept for Communication)
- Visit the co-creational Workshop cascade among FRC (ongoing)
- Staff exchange and visit-the-lab (forthcoming)

SMEs

- SME Cluster meetings (forthcoming)
- Content development for EdiCitNet Webpage (Call to Action button: "Make Bizz with ECS" with links to the upcoming database on ECS, WP2 and results from WP6; ongoing)
- Communication Measures (established, see D7.1 Concept for Communication)
- Staff exchange

NGOs & ECS initiatives

- Annual General Meeting (established)
- ECS Award (established)
- Content development for EdiCitNet Webpage (Call to Action buttons: "Create your ECS" and "Join your Edible City" with links to the upcoming database on ECS, WP2; ongoing)
- Communication Measures according to Communication and Dissemination Plan (established, see D7.1 Concept for Communication)
- visit-the-lab (forthcoming)

Research partners

¹ Call to Action Button (CTA): A button providing a call to act for the visitor. A CTA enhances participation and the active use of knowledge from the Webpage)

- Annual EdiCitNet Meeting (established)
- Content development for EdiCitNet Webpage (Call to Action buttons: “Create your ECS”, “Join your Edible City” and “Make Bizz with ECS”, “ECS in my City” with links to the upcoming database on ECS, WP2 and results from WP7 and WP5; ongoing)
- Communication Measures (established, see D7.1 Concept for Communication)
- Development of Monitor the-lab (forthcoming)
- Graduate and post graduate research (ongoing)
- Development of EdiCitNet Education and Training Taskforce for Implementation of educational knowledge and dissemination on School, High School and University Level
- collaborative scientific publications on ECS and project results (focus on high impact journals with Open Access Option, provide at least an application related abstract/key messages, translated to main languages in the project (Spanish, French, Chinese,..), (ongoing)
- collaborative new research and development projects involving the personal and institutional network of the research partners (e.g. Ina Säumel currently involves partners from the Near East and Latin America to join the Edible City Network via collaborative research programs) (ongoing)
- Campaign Edible campus at research partner institutions (e.g. Berlin Edible Campus²)(ongoing)
- adoption to existing internationalisation strategies of the research organisations (ongoing, e.g. International Office Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

External component of 'Network of Network'

Citizens and Civil Society and Cross stakeholder measures

- to establish local clusters between towns and cities (**Edible Regions**) to develop networks amongst similar stakeholder on a geographical basis (e.g. Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Barcelona, Girona; Region Berlin-Brandenburg; Sempeter pri Gorici, Nueva Gorica (partner in the sister project UrbiNat), Gorizia (Italy)) (Webpage Call to Action button: “ECS in my City” (ongoing)

City administrations and policy makers

- To open up the EdiCitNet Awards to cities outside the project (ongoing)
- Content development for EdiCitNet Webpage (Call to Action button: “Join your Edible City” with links to the upcoming database on ECS, WP2 and WP1) to establish a process for welcoming new members to the EdiCitNet Network, e.g. through a mentorship/twinning program (ongoing)
- Campaign to invite Cities with existing Partnerships with EdiCitNet Cities to become edible via existing exchange programs in EdiCitNet Cities (ongoing)
- Campaign to link existing networks of EdiCitNet Cities to the Edible City Network by communication measures (D7.1, ongoing)
- visit-the-lab offers (forthcoming)
- To explore strategic alliances and external funding to ensure the sustainability and to enable to expansion of the EdiCitNet network (forthcoming).

² <https://www.campus-in-transition.de/nachhaltiger-campus/institutioneninitiativen/essbarer-campus-tu-berlin/>

SMEs

- Global ECS Market place: Content development for EdiCitNet Webpage (action button: “Make Bizz with ECS” with links to the upcoming database on ECS, WP2 and results from WP6, ongoing)
- To open up the EdiCitNet Awards to SMEs outside the project (forthcoming)
- Communication Measures (established, see D7.1)
- International cluster meeting on ECS once Market Place is online (forthcoming)
- Web based conference on ECS Market place (forthcoming)

NGOs & ECS initiatives

- To open up the EdiCitNet Awards to ECS initiatives outside the project (forthcoming)
- Content development for EdiCitNet Webpage (action buttons: “Create your ECS” and “Join your Edible City” with links to the upcoming database on ECS, WP2, ongoing)
- Communication Measures (established see D7.1)

Research partners

- Submitting EdiCitNet related proposals for thematic sessions in international conferences together with research partners of other NBS EU projects (ongoing, e.g. IALE 2019 symposia 35 on Planning and Design for sustainable and healthy cities: mainstreaming urban ecological measures beyond demonstration projects, organized by Ina Säumel (Berlin, EdiCitNet) and Federica Larcher (Turino, proGReg)³)
- Content development for EdiCitNet Webpage (action buttons: “Create your ECS”, “Join your Edible City” and “Make Bizz with ECS” with links to the upcoming database on ECS, WP2 and results from WP7 and WP5, ongoing)
- Linking ECS databases with other existing databases (forthcoming)
- Communication Measures (established, see D7.1)
- monitor ECS labs and ECS master planning by graduate and post graduate research on EdiCitNet implementations (ongoing, e.g. Student Project on healthiness of ECS products at TU Berlin⁴)
- exchange and visits among other ECS related research partners outside of the EdiCitNet project (forthcoming)
- collaborative scientific publications on ECS and project results with partners outside of the EdiCitNet project (focus on high impact journals with Open Access Option, provide at least an application related abstract/key messages, translated to main languages in the project (Spanish, French, Chinese, English, etc. ongoing)
- Connect Edible Campi at research institutions outside of the EdiCitNet project (e.g. Berlin Edible Campus⁵, forthcoming)

³ http://www.iale2019.unimib.it/proposed-symposia/symposium_35/

⁴ <https://www.futurelandscapes.tu-berlin.de/menue/news/>

⁵ <https://www.campus-in-transition.de/nachhaltiger-campus/institutioneninitiativen/essbarer-campus-tu-berlin/>