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Abstract

This deliverable contains a list of the best practices and lessons learnt during the project compiled from the experiences and contributions of the project partners.

Changes History

VERSION	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	31/10/2019	First Draft

REVIEWERS' FEEDBACK	PAGES MODIFIED	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
<p>Spelling: On page 5 "Figure 1 shows a tag cloud of the keywords" On page 6 "recall that they are working and minimal attention thief is a "requirement", On page 13 "29 best practices were filled by 7 partners of the GreenSoul project"</p>	Along the document	The document has been reviewed by native speakers
The executive summary should be shortened	5	The executive summary has been shortened
Please re-write the "Use of different technical solutions "subsection of section 3 so that it is easier for a non-technical audience to understand	14-15	The section has been shortened and simplified to improve their understanding for non-technical audience.

Executive Summary

This document details the different best practices and lessons learnt from the GreenSoul project. Developers of the GreenSoul Things, technical staff as well as the pilot leaders were asked to complete a form in which they provide a description of the different problems detected. Moreover, they were asked to provide advice and recommendations in order to prevent the problem from appearing or minimizing its consequences.

In total 29 best practices were recorded from the different project partners covering all the stages and components. Figure 1 shows a tag cloud of the keywords reported in the best practices.

Technical solutions
Planning in advance
Involvement of stakeholders
Clear commitment
Pilot planning

Figure 1. Best practices found in the corpus of interviews and questionnaires done with IT staff, managers, and GreenSoul-ed things designers.

The main learnings have been:

- Involvement of right stakeholders at the right time
- Careful planning of the interventions
- Have a clear commitment from the different stakeholders
- Use of different technical solutions
- Make the pilots uniform
- Create good documentation from the start
- Ensure that the technical staff of the partners are present in the architectural discussions
- Propose a different pilot planning reducing the number of pilots, their length, size and their complexity

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1. Introduction

Learning from the failures and successes of others that have been exposed to identical or similar situations is one of the most important attitudes towards achieving successful actions. To this end, this deliverable contains a list of the Best Practices and Lesson Learnt gathered by the GreenSoul consortium when putting into practice a large scale intervention on energy efficiency in buildings of public use. The objective is to help others in the same or very similar situation to increase the probability of success of their interventions.

2. Methodology

In order to collect the best practices and lessons learnt in GreenSoul, we have carried out a survey among the project partners. Section 2.1 presents a description of the profile of each of the stakeholders consulted. This inquiry was performed through an online questionnaire that was sent to all the stakeholders. Section 2.2 contains a description of the questionnaire form, while Annex A describes its actual implementation. Since the questionnaire includes two textual questions, a coding task was carried out. The results of this action are presented in Section 3 together with a statistical analysis of the answers. Finally, Annex B contains the RAW information collected (including the coding scheme devised).

2.1. Description of the stakeholder consulted

2.1.1 Pilot Leaders

The following sections describe the profiles of the persons that answered the questionnaire in representation of the pilots.

2.1.1.1 ALLIA

Head of Project Management and Efficiency. EU Programme and projects manager at Allia with over 10 years experience is administering EU funding grants. In charge of overseeing EU stakeholder relationships, ensuring project compliance, and co-ordinating expertises related to deliverables such as IT and facility support services.

2.1.1.2 MPH

Head of the Information & Communications Technology Department (ICT) at the Municipality of Pilea-Hortiatis from 2011 until today and a graduate of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering with an M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from Northeastern University, Boston, USA. He has worked for 5 years as a Project Manager and a Consulting Engineer in a Technical Company responsible for time planning, timetable control, financial attendance, planning and supervision of electromechanical (mainly telecommunications) installations, and generally the management of construction projects. From 2002 to 2010 he worked in the Division of Technical Services at the Municipality of Pilea responsible for planning and supervision of electromechanical (mainly telecommunications) projects.

2.1.1.3 SEVILLE

R&D Area Manager. Telecommunications Engineer with more than 8 years of experience in R&D and specialist in funding acquisition for innovative products and services. His main role is coordination tasks for projects and the R&D team and also participating in the strategic decisions of the product's evolution (R&D roadmap) in order to align the developments with the achievement of new proposals.

R&D Project manager, Dr. in Environment and Society, specialist in the field of environmental impacts, data analysis and system modelling. More than 8 years of experience in R&D projects, working as EU R&D project manager, developing new proposals and managing projects mainly in the fields of ICTs, energy and environment.

2.1.1.4 UDEUSTO

Research associate with 15 years of experience in R&D tasks. His main role is the definition and deployment of research projects in the field of the smart grid. For the collection of the Best Practices and lessons learned, the financial manager of the building and the rest of the research staff of the project were also contacted.

2.1.1.5 WEIZ

Managing director and head of energy agency. Head of the innovation Centre WEIZ since 1999, with over 20 years of experience in EU funded projects. His main role is to manage the building concerning the energy issues and coordination EU projects.

2.1.2 GreenSoul Things developers

The following sections describes the profiles of the persons that answered the questionnaire in representation of the developers of the GreenSoul things.

2.1.2.1 CERTH

Computer Scientist with a PhD in Computer Sciences and related studies with more than 10 years of experience in the development of software related to IoT and decision support systems used in building automation and energy efficiency systems.

Electrical and Computer Engineers with more than 5 years of experience in the development of software and hardware related to IoT, decision support systems, embedded programming, edge computing and PCB design, used in distributed networks, building automation and energy efficiency systems.

2.1.2.2 UDEUSTO

Telecommunication and Software Engineers with a PhD in Computer Science and related studies with more than 10 years of experience in the development of software and hardware related to IoT system used in distributed networks and energy efficiency systems.

2.1.2.3 WSC

Telecommunications Engineer and Master in Automatics, Robotics and Telematics, in charge of Technological Innovation within the Product Development Department of Wellness TechGroup. More than 11 years in the areas of IP network (fixed and wireless) design and deployment, data traffic engineering, radio coverage analysis, systems security, IT systems administration and virtualization, etc. The experience in the industry is complemented with active involvement in the academic community, collaborating in the Telecamics Department of the University of Sevilla.

Computing Engineer with a strong background in data acquisition and data processing from electrical energy networks and the development of software for embedded devices. More than 8 years of experience in the implementation of R&D and commercial projects in the fields of IoT and Smart Cities, in the development of both the devices and the system (backend and frontend).

2.1.2.4 CERES

Commercial manager with 10 years mobile IT project development experience.

Competition, IT, Telecoms lawyer with 10 years Data-Privacy experience

Mobile application developer with BA degree in Mathematics from university of Sophia, Bulgaria and M.A. from Oxford University.

2.2. Description of the template

The template used to collect the information is composed of 7 questions. A description of each is provided next:

- **Title of the best practice:** just the name of the best practice or lesson learned.
- **Stakeholder:** identification of the stakeholder completing the best practice or lesson learned.
- **Role:** there are stakeholders that have multiple roles in the project. In this field, each stakeholder filled it in with the role they played in this best practice. Possible values are: *pilot leader* or *developer*.
- **Pilot:** the pilot where the best practice or lesson learnt was inferred from. Possible values are: *ALLIA*, *ECOLUTION*, *MPH*, *SEVILLA*, *UDEUSTO*, *WEIZ* and *ALL*.
- **GreenSoul thing:** GreenSoul Thing that is affected by the best practice or lesson learnt. Potential values are: *{IC, SP, SL, GIM, APP, UMD, WeSave and ALL}*.
- **Phase:** the experimental phase when the best practice or lesson learnt should be applied. Potential values are: *preparatory actions*, *development*, *deployment*, *maintenance* or *phase out*.
- **Problem detected:** short description of the problem detected that leads to the lesson learnt or the best practice.

- **Description of the best practice or lesson learnt:** short description of the action carried out.
- **End results:** short description of the result of applying the best practice or the lesson learnt.

3. Best practices & Lessons Learned

29 best practices were filled by 7 partners of the GreenSoul project. WSC, UDEUSTO and CERTH have contributed with more than 75% of the best practices (see Figure 2).

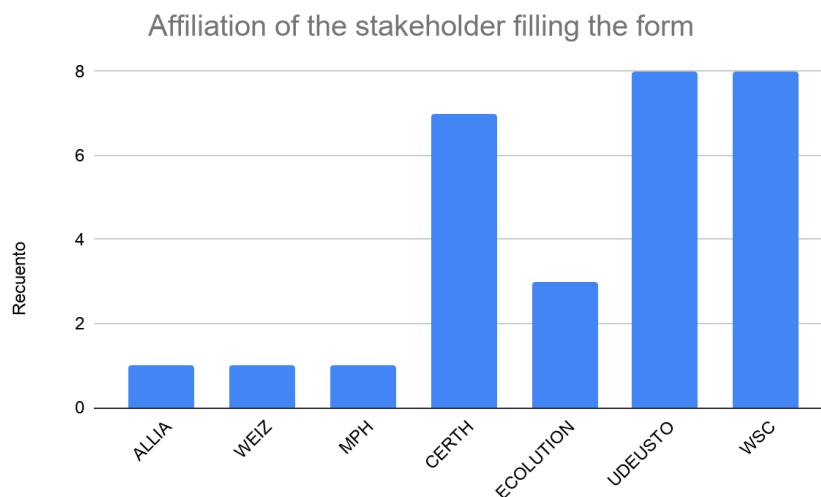


Figure 2. Distribution of best practices by the partner that provide it.

The distribution of answers between pilot leaders and developers was quite even: less than 60-40% (see Figure 3).

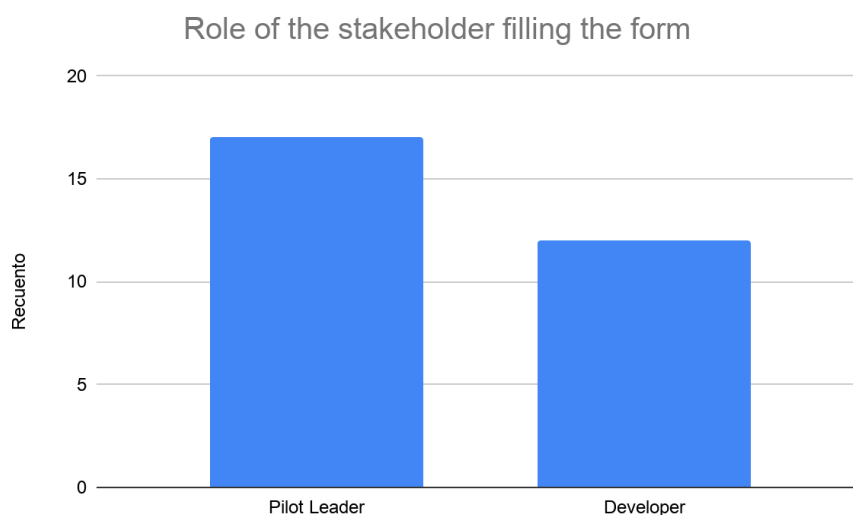


Figure 3. Distribution of best practices by the role of the writer.

Best practices that only affect particular pilots have been filled in by all pilots but the majority of them (42%) affect all of them (see Figure 4).

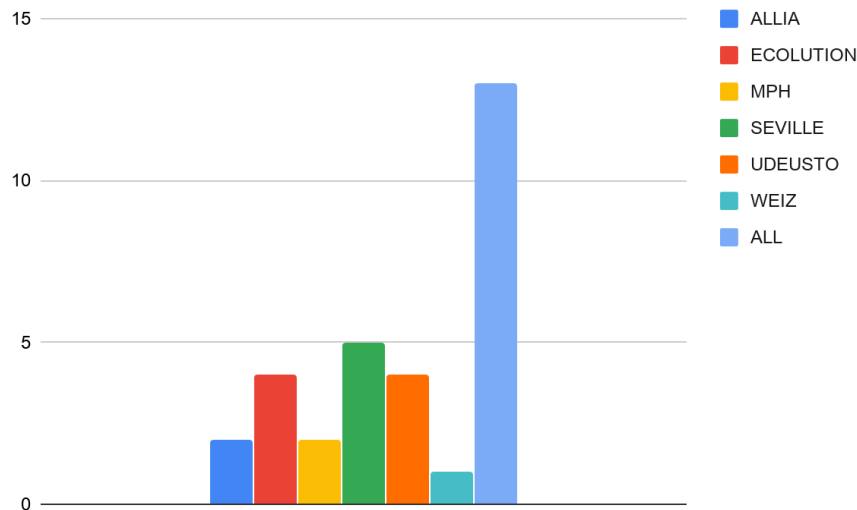


Figure 4. Distribution of best practices by the pilot that affect.

As before, best practices that affect only a particular component of the GreenSoul system have been presented (see Figure 5). Nevertheless, the majority of the information provided affects the overall GreenSoul system (37%).

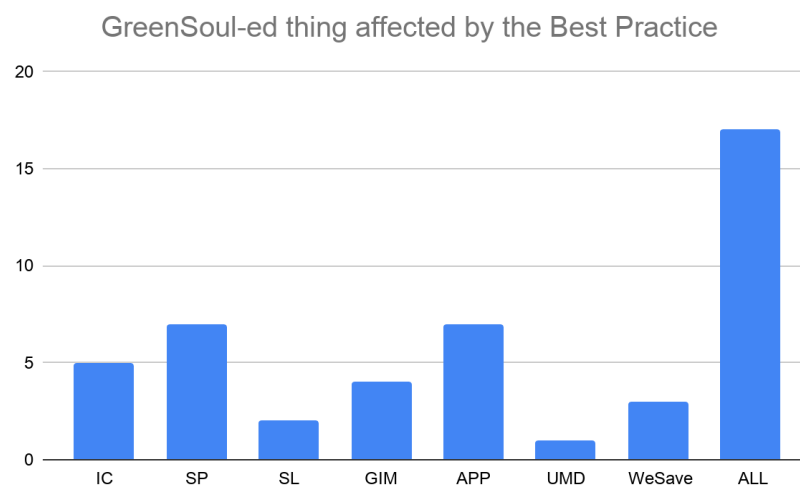


Figure 5. Distribution of best practices by the component of the GreenSoul System affected.

These results combined suggest that partners consider that the problems and best practices have been **global** and not **particular** to any pilot.

Best practices for all phases have also been filled in but deployment and maintenance seem to be the critical points (61%) while the phase out the less problematic (see Figure 6). This is, most probably, due to the fact that the project has not reached the phase out yet and the problems and best practices have not arisen.

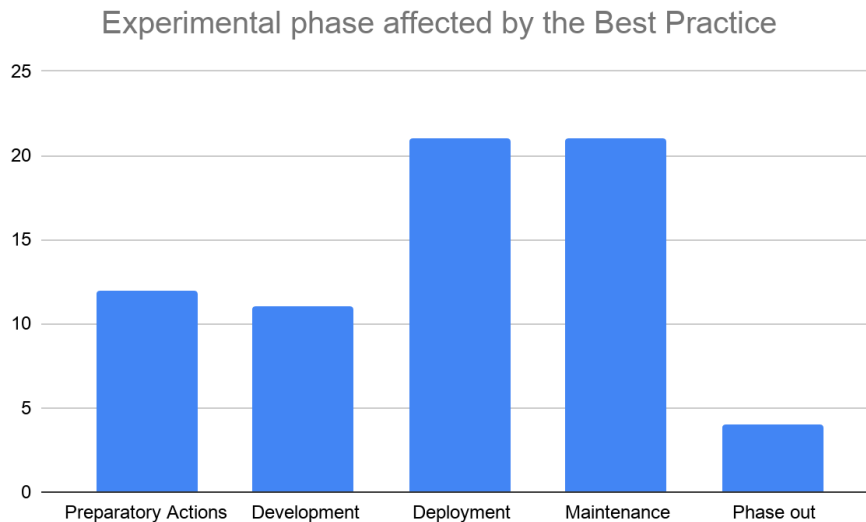


Figure 6. Distribution of best practices by the phase where it appears.

The description of the problems detected were coded and the following categories of answers were found:

- **Technical problems during the installation or deployment:** several components do not work as expected. Integration of the APP with the GIM and connectivity problems of different components were cited several times.
- **Recruitment and user participation:** obtaining and maintaining the engagement of end users was also a recurrent problem found.
- **Institutional problems and other legal problems (i.e. GDPR):** several different problems were found in the different pilots with the managers (in several cases changes in the decision chain were applied which left the project without a clear point of contact at the pilot). The entry into force of the GDPR was also a main source of problems.
- **Delays for technical reasons or lack of commitment:** several aspects suffer delays in the project. Some technical components were delayed due to the unexpected complexity. The installation of others was delayed due to difficulties with external problems.
- **Planning problems:** the delays combined with the modification on the first pilot plan are quite interlinked. Nevertheless, other planning problems were identified: the components of the implementation and maintenance teams, the number of small interventions needed to be carried out, the complexity of the different architectures, etc.

The distribution of best practices on the different categories of problems was quite even (between 14-30%). Nevertheless, the technical problems and the delays are the most typical comments (see Figure 7).

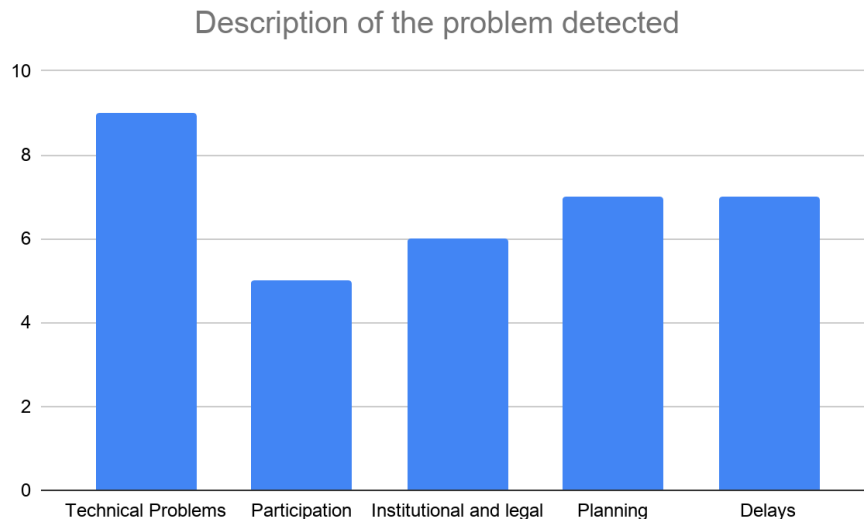


Figure 7. Distribution of best practices by category of problem detected.

With respect to the solutions to overcome the problems, the following categories were found:

- **Involvement of right stakeholders at the right time:** several best practices suggest that different stakeholders have to be involved at the right time to maximize the engagement. Normally, early in the project but not too early as their motivation and involvement could decrease as time passes. In essence, the design-insight would be to involve them whenever project partners have very clear what they want to deploy, a rough idea of the roadmap and the effects they want to observe. In particular, managers, IT staff and end users mentioned such need. In the case of GreenSoul pilot plan, DEUSTO and WSC partners agree that the different changes undertaken in the plan during the project execution did not help in this regard. On the one side, managers sometimes struggled to explain in an assembly to participants, the different interventions as delays in the deployment occurred due to unexpected technical issues. On the other side, some pilots lacked the support of the managers (either their engagement was low because they were not physically present at the building - e.g. Clarion, UK - or there was no pilot manager - e.g. Seville, Spain).
- **Careful planning of the interventions:** one of the biggest problems addressed during the project was the delay in the delivery of several hardware components and issues encountered during the deployment phase which did not allow to keep with the initial schedule of the interventions. Different best practices refer to these problems and suggest different planning or better organization among the involved parties (managers, pilot leaders, technical staff, IT staff, and users) that could have mitigated or reduced some of the issues. Our general lesson learnt is that for research-based projects, it is better to either have the pilots already equipped with ambient and energy sensors or consider to not undertake a large pilot installation by just focussing in small zones of the buildings. Another lesson learnt in this regard, is to fully understand from the very beginning the actions that have to be taken in the pilots as they directly affect not only

employees (recall that they are working and minimal attention thief is a requirement), but also technical and IT staff with usually is not part of the pilot personnel (usually third parties or subcontracting companies).

- **Have a clear commitment from the different stakeholders:** several stakeholders (including partners of the consortium) have not shown a clear commitment and have delayed several stages of the project. Ensure the proper commitment of these people by including them as partners, or provide the project coordinator with instruments to solve these issues were cited as potential solutions.
- **Use of different technical solutions:** During the project, the definition of the solution architecture resulted into a difficult and lengthy process, as we wanted to ensure a modular and versatile solution, well fitting all scenarios. Examples of these discussion were:
 - APP: develop for for the majority (Android) or to all (Android + iPhone)?
 - Back-end: what communication technologies and security profile to access the platform should we use?
 - Architecture: should we use a centralized control and storage architecture or a distributed one?
 - Integration: should we integrate with the previous legacy infrastructure or deploy an isolated but plug and play solution?

In essence, working with different teams, addressing different technical challenges, or treating with different cultures when having to solve issues, it is something that was already foreseen in the project proposal and the ways to mitigate them. But, we realized that this usually takes more time to solve than what is written in the DoA. The best practices in this regard are:

- **Try to make the pilots uniform:** this simplifies the technical deployment and eases the maintenance due to economy of scale.
- **Create good documentation from the start:** do not take for granted that having good internal communication is enough. Teams change and produced artefacts must be well documented to be understood by third parties.
- **Ensure that the technical staff of the partners are present in the architectural discussions:** this way problems and misunderstandings could be quickly detected and solved in initial stages.
- **Propose a different pilot planning:** several aspects of the pilot planning were identified as problematic:
 - **the number of pilots:** in some occasions we found that there were too many to maintain overall when there was not a technical partner close to the building to sustain the issues and doing the maintenance;
 - **their size:** we found that some pilots were too small to really extract conclusive data from them - only having one or two people interacting with the coasters or

having a poster in their office did not help much to obtain relevant and impactful insights;

- **complexity:** we did not have a uniform building architecture across pilots. Thus, some of them were open spaces and some of them office-based workplaces. Dividing the buildings in zones, isolating the treatments to not have contamination effect or devising the planning was hard as no homogeneity occurred. This hindered the paired tests, as there are many hidden factors that occurs in one pilot and not in others,
- **length of the interventions:** here we found an interesting paradox; the literature on behaviour change interventions suggests that there are little pieces of research that provide long-term actions to demonstrate real behaviour change and that we need to put more emphasis on that in the research agenda. However, we did the pilot plan with this idea in mind but we witnessed that providing a long-term intervention did not change the behaviour of the users as much from the initial months of the feedback compared to the final stages of the intervention. Conversely, we found more engagement at the beginning and a decrement of interest as time and months went by. Of course, we took into account the novelty effect¹, but after this initial period passed, we still found cues of engagement that were decreasing with time. The design-insight for future research would be, either to plan the interventions tightening them to one-two months or providing more features and incentives within the experimental phase to maintain the engagement and avoid energy-efficient behaviour relapse.

The distribution of best practices in the different categories (Figure 8) is even more evenly distributed as the previous case (between 13-24%). In fact, the improvement of the pilot plan and the use of different technical solution seem like less prone to be considered as the most important aspects of a solution with respect to the involvement, planning and commitment of the partners.

¹ Mutsuddi, A. U., & Connelly, K. (2012, May). Text messages for encouraging physical activity Are they effective after the novelty effect wears off? In *2012 6th International Conference on Pervasive Computing Technologies for Healthcare (PervasiveHealth) and Workshops* (pp. 33-40). IEEE.

Which action(s) do you think could help prevent this problem?

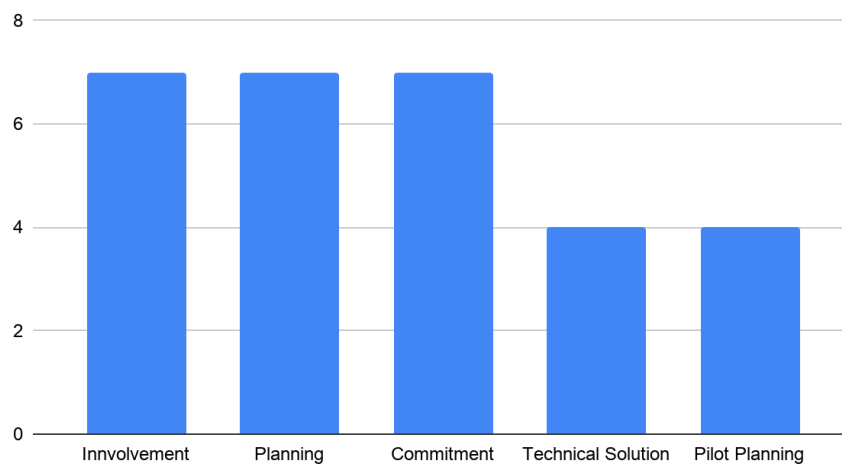


Figure 8. Distribution of best practices by the phase where it appears.

Annexes

A. Best Practices Form

The purpose of the following questionnaire is to collect a) all the problems detected by the stakeholders during the experimental phase of the project, and b) possible solutions that could have avoided the appearance or minimized the effect of these problems.

*Mandatory

1. Description of the problem detected (i.e., administrative difficulties concerning the installation of physical equipment on the premises) *

2. Which action(s) do you think could help prevent this problem? (i.e., involve building managers from the start) *

3. Role of the stakeholder filling the form *
Select only one.

- Pilot Leader
- Developer of GreenSoul treatment/instrument

4. Affiliation of the stakeholder filling the form *
Select only one.

- WSC
- UDEUSTO
- CERTH
- CLEANTECH
- CERES
- ALLIA
- 4ER

-
- WEIZ
 - MPH
 - ECOLUTION

5. Pilot affected by the problem *

Select all needed.

- ALLIA
- ECOLUTION
- MPH
- SEVILLE
- UDEUSTO
- WEIZ
- ALL

6. GreenSoul-ed thing affected by the problem *

Select all needed.

- Interactive Coaster (IC)
- Smart Plugs (SP)
- Smart Lighting System (SL)
- Greensoul Information Model (GIM)
- GreenSoul APP
- Universal Measuring Device (UMD)
- WeSave
- ALL
- Otro:

7. Experimental phase affected by the problem *

Select all needed.

- Preparatory Actions
- Development
- Deployment
- Maintenance
- Phase out
- Otro:

B. RAW data

