

Cities After Dark

Network Journal #01

→ Network Highlights & Progress



Cities After Dark

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Final version

May 2024

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Thanks to all the Cities After Dark partners who contributed to this Network Journal with their answers to the questionnaire and their participation in online seminars, study visit and transnational meeting. Thanks also to the speakers and the Ad Hoc Experts involved in the activities of the network.

Graphic Design

HUND® - Brand Guiders

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Cities**AfterDark**

The first Network Journal of Cities After Dark reports on the activities carried out at transnational and local level between January 2024 and April 2024.

In the first months of the Planning Action phase the partners of Cities After Dark are familiarizing themselves with **solutions and good practices that provide useful inspiration for the creation of a shared vision on night-time economy** and the definition of possible actions to be tested at local level through the active engagement of local stakeholders.

Discussion and solutions

A safer night-time economy for all

The transnational meeting hosted by Paris and the study visit to Berlin gave the opportunity to all the partners to deep-dive into some of the most interesting policies to support business and cultural vibrancy at night. They also delved into strategies fostering the reuse of public spaces and unused buildings, and actions for ensuring a safer and more respectful night-time economy for all.

Thematic webinars explored interesting approaches to the integrated governance of the night-time economy and the promotion of gender equality at night. These webinars combined presentations of case studies with the exchange of views on how to integrate these practices into different local contexts, utilizing the Marketplace of Solutions tool.



Different dimensions

Engagement of new stakeholders

At the same time, the partners of Cities After Dark shared the knowledge gained from the transnational exchanges with their local stakeholders at URBACT Local Group meetings and public events. These events are contributing to popularize the discourse on the different dimensions of the night-time economy at local level. They are promoting the active engagement of a series of new local stakeholders who are active in the different dimensions of the night-time economy explored by Cities After Dark or who are willing to develop pioneering partnerships and activities at night.



URBACT Action Planning

Stronger attention towards the night.

Furthermore, many partners of the network are promoting the focus on night-time economy at the occasion of national gatherings of the cities involved in the URBACT Action Planning Networks, stimulating stronger attention towards the night as a possible testing ground for collaborative and innovative solutions.

28 February 2024 – 1 March 2024

The Transnational Meeting of Paris



Why a local authority decides to create a night-time policy?

This question guided the reflection on the night policy of Paris, which represents one of the most advanced and integrated models of thematic policy dedicated to different aspects related to night-time economy available at European and global level.

As a partner of Cities After Dark, Paris hosted the first transnational meeting of the Planning Action phase for showcasing initiatives and projects carried out in the last decade to promote different dimensions of the night-time economy. These initiatives could serve as an inspiration to the network's partners while paving the basis for a joint reflection on how to create a shared vision on night-time economy and how to connect it to the integrated action planning process.



BOX

The Nightlife of Paris in a nutshell

Capturing the essence of Parisian nightlife, one of Europe's foremost capitals, is akin to distilling a kaleidoscope of experiences into a single snapshot. From its iconic bistros to pulsating clubs, each facet contributes to a vibrant nocturnal tapestry that defines the city's allure after dark.

Paris After Dark:

15,000 Bars and Restaurants (25% of the shops)

170 Night clubs

+600 Venues open after 2AM

83,000 Nightlife workers (13% of those working after 9PM)

“In recent years, the City of Paris has proactively addressed the development of its nightlife. However, there's still much to be done, particularly in terms of diversification. To ensure a good quality of life for all, it's crucial that nights are not just about increased consumption, but also about sharing, culture, debate, and social interaction. After all, it's often at night that we reimagine the world.”

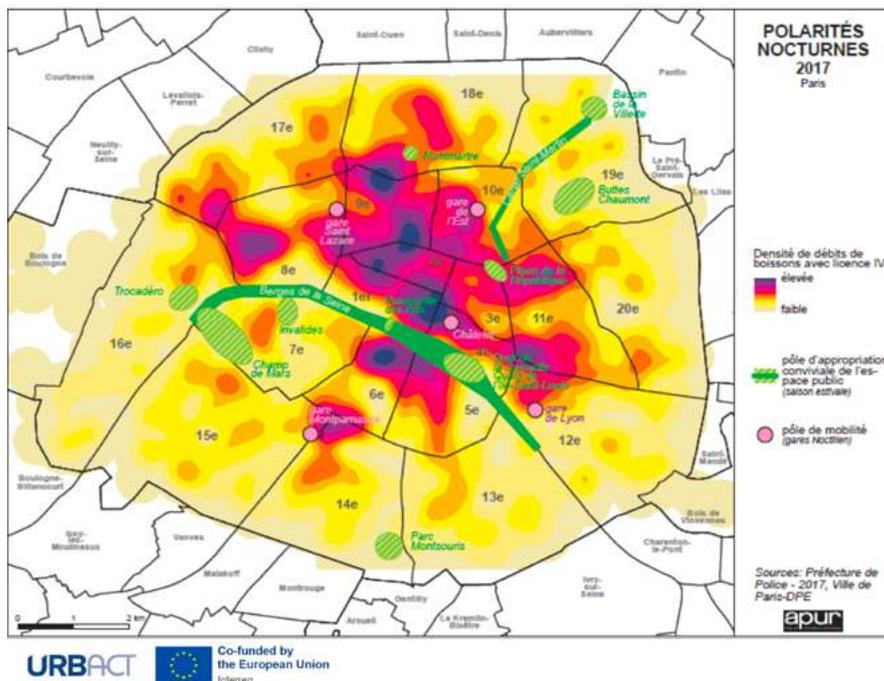
Frédéric Hocquard, Deputy Mayor of Paris
in charge of tourism and night-time economy



The Night-time Council of Paris

Balance between needs and offer

Launched in 2014, the Night-time Council of Paris highlighted balance between the needs of different night-time users, diversification and accessibility of the offer, inclusion, and sustainable development as main principles upon which the creation of a participatory and integrated strategy was focused.



Areas of focus:

- To develop
- To promote
- To regulate
- To cooperate

The **Night Policy of Paris 2014-2020** is an action plan composed of 37 actions and 4 areas of focus (to develop; to promote; to regulate; to cooperate), implemented through the active involvement of stakeholders in thematic working groups focusing on operational objectives and specific proposals.



BOX

The working groups of the Night-Time Council of Paris

The creation of an innovative system of management of the night-time economy across different city departments and in active collaboration with the city districts is another factor of success of the Paris' experience. The night policy is led by Thierry Charlois as project manager and single point of contact for night-time policy in each administrative department and by Frédéric Hocquard as Deputy Mayor for tourism and nightlife, dealing with elected representatives responsible for night-time economy in each district.

The working groups:

New spaces and activities for the nightlife

Preventing risky behaviors at night

For an inclusive nightlife

Mobilities at night

Public safety at night

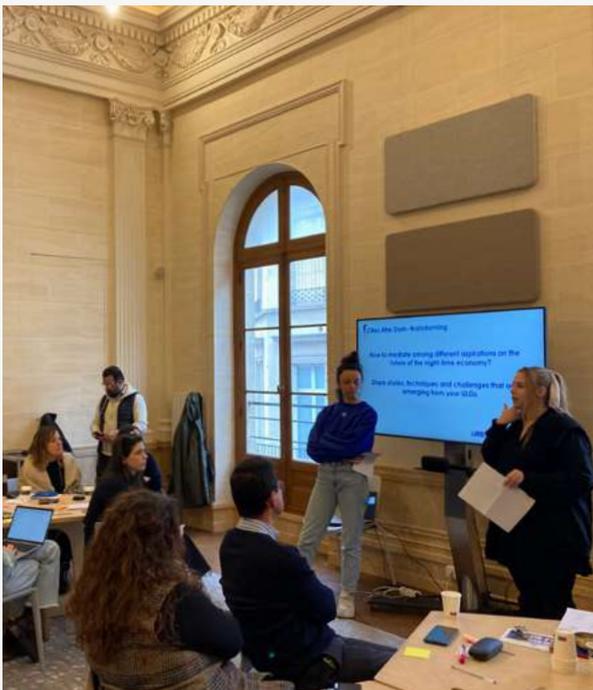
Trade and labour at night

Promoting nightlife

Green transition of the nightlife



Paris developed a series of initiatives to develop and promote different dimensions of the nightlife, in line with the main layers focused by Cities After Dark (Economic and Cultural Vibrancy; Creation of Services; Safety and Contrast to Noise; Use of Public Spaces).



In line with the main layers focused by Cities After Dark (Economic and Cultural Vibrancy; Creation of Services; Safety and Contrast to Noise; Use of Public Spaces).

Initiatives

→ the measures for co-financing investment for **soundproofing accessibility, security of music venues** (with a total budget of 1.5 M€ per year, co-financed by the Centre Nationale de la Musique)

→ the **activities for green transition**, such as the Clubs Zéro Plastique which regrouped a series of night venues banning single-use plastique or having been involved in training activities and workshops on re-use and recycling for event organizers and unions

→ the **connection with the tourism promotion strategy** of Paris, for increasing the number of repeater tourists visiting the city for its vibrant night-life

→ the launch of **awareness campaign and activities of animation** (such as Les Pierrots de la Nuit) for more respectful behaviors and noise reduction

Flagship projects

Harm reduction and sexual consent in nightlife

Harm reduction and promotion of sexual consent in nightlife were targeted by some flagship projects, that were presented by representatives of the NGOs who recreated the informative stands installed out of night venues every weekend in the transnational meeting's venue, the QJ - Quartier Jeunes.

- **Fêtez clairs** launched more than 100 on-site interventions of harm reduction in clubs, festivals, public spaces and student parties, contributing also to train night venues and event organizers on the topic.
- **Consentis** promoted communication campaigns on sexual consent, combining on-site interventions to training activities to venues' staff and party organizers.



Among all the innovative practices implemented by Paris, the Marketplace of Solutions populated by the partners highlighted the ones with a stronger potential in terms of replicability and/or inclusion in the Integrated Action Plans of Cities After Dark's partners

Innovative practices:

Creation of the Night Council

Establishment of the Night Users Committee

Introduction of financial schemes for supporting music and night venues

Meeting with managers

Understanding the challenges

The night site visits immersed the participants into the vibrancy and diversity of the cultural offer of Paris. The meetings with the managers of different night venues were particularly useful to understand the challenges that Paris is tackling for improving the quality of spaces and functions available at night, but also to make them more sustainable at social, economic and environmental level.



Lessons learned from Paris:

Multifunctional spaces are decisive for attracting different types of public and create new services for night users.

Le Bar à Bulles in the Machine of the Moulin Rouge, which hosts weekly meetings of night activists advocating for a more inclusive nightlife, and **Le Point Éphémère**, which combines an eclectic cultural offer to spaces available for artists and creative people, are great examples in this sense.

These venues don't just host music shows and art exhibitions but foster a stronger awareness on the transformational power of the night-time economy.



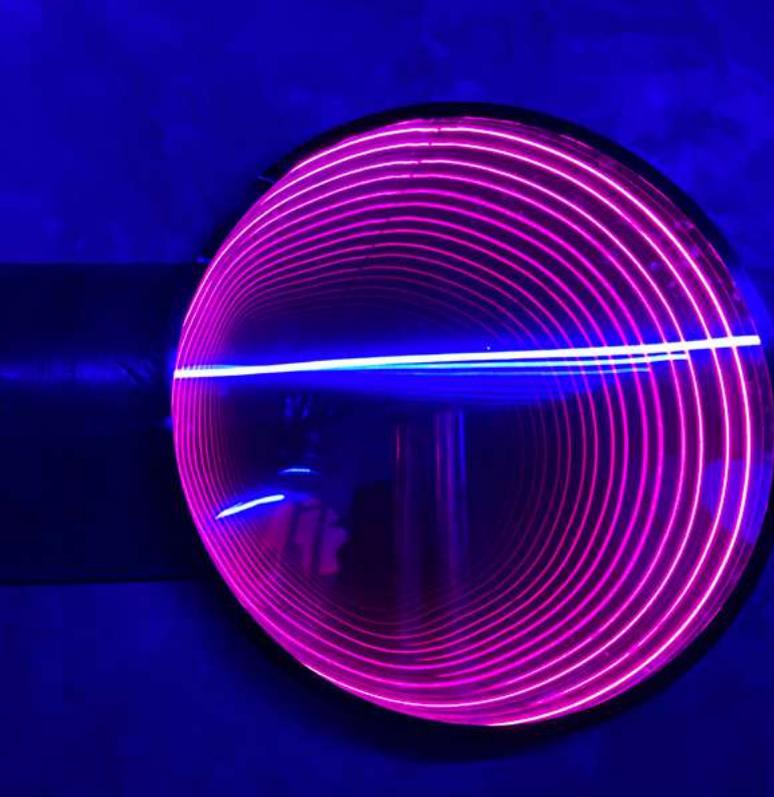
Night venues can revive public spaces, creating new opportunities for business and cultural vibrancy

Le Rosa Bonheur sur Seine and **Le Bateau Phare** are two great examples of péniche which revive the banks of the Seine where are anchored with live DJ sets and concerts, and more in general with a cultural and dining offer that is contributing to make different areas of the city more vibrant at night.

Clubs and night venues can play a crucial role for a safer and more inclusive nightlife

Badaboum is one of the clubs more committed to the creation of enjoyable spaces for all the partygoers. The collaboration with NGOs active on sexual consent and harm reduction was useful not only for training the staff but also for improving the perception of the venue as a safe space for all.





Public event at the City Hall of Paris

Making night-time economy a space/time dimension for innovation.

During the transnational meeting, the City Hall of Paris hosted a public event with the participation of the elected representatives of the partners of Cities After Dark. The event was an interesting opportunity for sharing the innovative approaches on night-time economy that the network is developing while fostering the collaboration between public, private and community.

The importance of a strong political commitment for making night-time economy a space/time dimension for innovation was emphasized by all the elected representatives who intervened in the event.



“During the night, cities continue to move, requiring a continuous response to the challenges that arise. This increases the responsibilities of public authorities that manage essential services, such as transport, security, civil protection and other fundamental services for the community.”

Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga

Public event at the City Hall of Paris

A dialogue on the different dimensions

The meeting, which saw also the participation of the director of the URBACT Secretariat Teofil Gherca, was attended by several members of the URBACT Local Group of Paris. It stimulated the dialogue on the different dimensions of the night-time economy targeted by the network, which Paris will elaborate in its Integrated Action Plan with a particular focus on the behavioral change of night users.



The first steps leading to the definition of integrated night policies

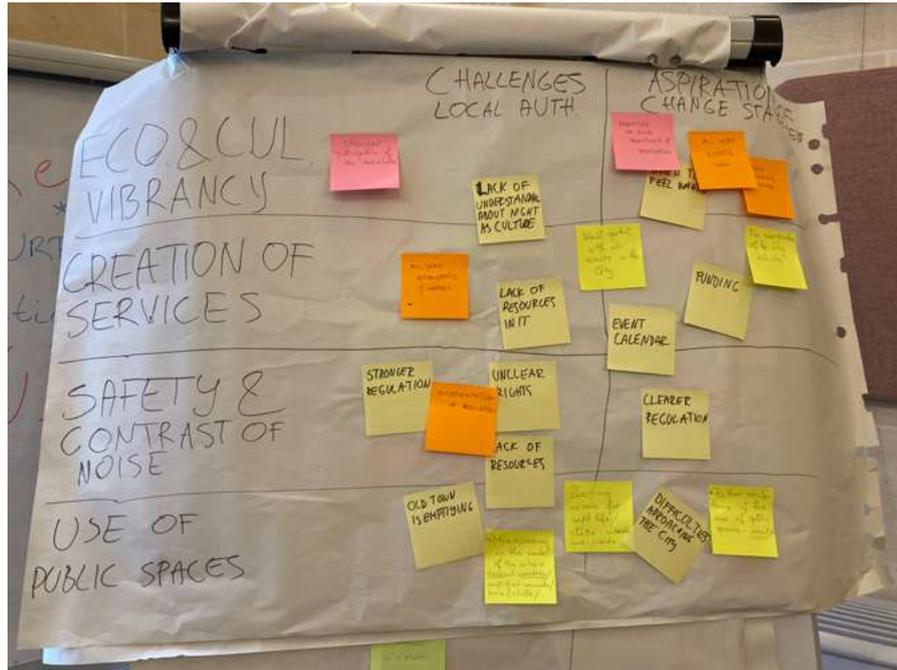
The development of a vision on night-time economy and its connection with integrated action planning and testing actions were the topics of the interactive sessions of the Transnational Meeting. Here, the partners discussed the first steps leading to the definition of integrated night policies as the main outcome to be developed within Cities After Dark.

The connection between the aspiration for change that local authorities and stakeholders want to see in the main strands of Cities After Dark were explored in a session that highlighted the importance of creating a synthesis among different needs and views on night-time economy to create a collaborative vision.

Creating a shared vision

Developing and adapting the tools

The exploration of different tools for participatory visioning gave the partners of Cities After Dark a valuable opportunity to understand strengths and weaknesses of each tool, allowing them to adapt it to their internal group dynamics. It also highlighted a series of elements that proved particularly useful for creating a shared vision on night-time economy, including a focus on concrete actions and the comparison with examples of action on night-time economy from other cities.



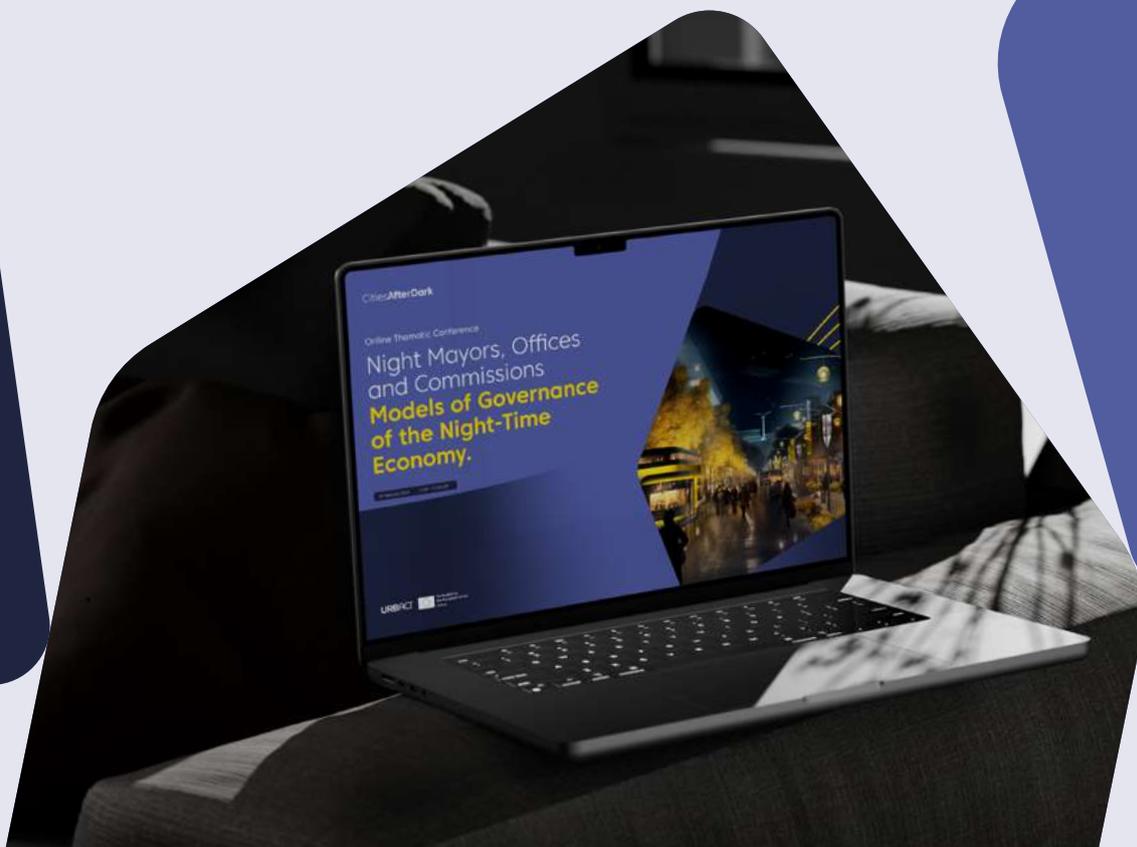
QJ-Quartier Jeunes

Co-creating Integrated Action Plans

The sessions held at the QJ-Quartier Jeunes kicked off the process of co-creation of the Integrated Action Plans. They provided useful information on the structure of the plans and on the steps to be undertaken with the URBACT Local Groups in view of the next transnational meeting of Piraeus, foreseen for July 2024. During this meeting, a first check on the evolution on production of the IAP is going to be organized in plenary sessions and thematic discussions among the partners.

22 February 2024

Night Mayors, Night Offices and Night Commissions: **Models of Governance of the night-time economy**



The first online thematic seminar of Cities After Dark

Night mayors, acting as mediators between local authorities and night stakeholders, and commissions of night operators helped to popularize the discourse on the governance of night-time economy in the early 2000s.

The first online thematic seminar of Cities After Dark explored different models of management implemented by major European cities, such as London, Berlin, Vienna and Mannheim, which were among the main actors of the debate on night governance in the last decade.

February 22nd

The different management models

The first online thematic seminar of Cities After Dark explored different models of management implemented by major European cities, such as London, Berlin, Vienna and Mannheim, which were among the main actors of the debate on night governance in the last decade.



URBACT Local Groups Collaborative forms of governance

Even though the consolidation of the URBACT Local Groups into stable forms of participatory governance on specific urban challenges is a topic generally discussed at the end of the network activities, Cities After Dark has decided to start this reflection at network and local level at a very early stage. The objective is to give as many useful elements as possible to the partners of the network for orienting the action of the URBACT Local Group towards the creation of collaborative forms of governance of the night-time economy, reinforcing the connection with other urban policies at city level.



ABOUT: NIGHTTIME ADVOCACY COMMISSIONS

Table 1: The eighteen comparative cases categorised by our typology of forms and functions

City	Country	Case study Name	Years active	Form				Functions
				Commission	Council	Board	Panel	
Aberdeen	UK	Night-Time Commission	2018-present		✓		✓	Advice and Bridge
Amsterdam	Netherlands	Night Council	2018-present		✓			Represent and Incubate
Barcelona	Spain	Comissió Nocturna de Barcelona	2018-present			✓		Advice (possibly represent)
Barcelona	Spain	Taula ciutadana per una nit cívica i segura	2021-present	✓				Represent, Bridge
Berlin	Germany	Club Commission	2001-present			✓		Represent and Incubate
Geneva	Switzerland	Grand Council of the Night	2011-present				✓	Place
Ghent	Belgium	Nightlife Council Gent	2021-present		✓		✓	Bridge, Advice
London	UK	Night Time Commission	2016-2019	✓				Represent, Evidence, and Advice
Manchester	UK	Night-time Economy Panel	2018-present	✓			✓	Bridge and Advice
Melbourne	Australia	Nighttime Economy Advisory Committee	2021-present	✓	✓		✓	Advice, Evidence and Bridge
Montreal	Canada	Night Council	2020-present		✓	✓		Incubate, Advice and Represent
Nantes	France	Night Council	2014-present		✓			Represent
New York	USA	Nightlife Advisory Board	2018-present	✓				Represent and Bridge
Orlando	USA	Downtown Nightclub Taskforce	2018	✓				Place and Bridge
Paris	France	Nightlife Council	2014-present		✓			Represent
Rennes	France	Nightlife Council	2018-present	✓	✓			Represent and Place
Sydney	Australia	Nightlife & Creative Sector Advisory Panel	2018-present				✓	Advice and Bridge
Vienna	Austria	Vienna Club Commission	2020-present	✓				Represent
Zürich	Switzerland	Nightlife Council	2015-present			✓		Incubate, Evidence, and Represent

Models at a global level

Berlin's Clubcommission

The models presented in the framework of the thematic seminar offered interesting insights into the evolution of local debates on night-time economy, as well as on the challenges that the cities are tackling in terms of regulatory frameworks and coordination within the local authorities.

Founded in 2001, the **ClubCommission is the main network of the Berlin club culture and the world's largest association of club operators** with around 350 members.

Internationally renowned as one of the first forms of coordination among night-time actors, the ClubCommission is contributing to the preservation and recognition of the club culture of the city at different levels.

Main fields of action of Berlin's ClubCommission:

Networking

Education

Research

Discussion

Mobilization

Protection of the spaces

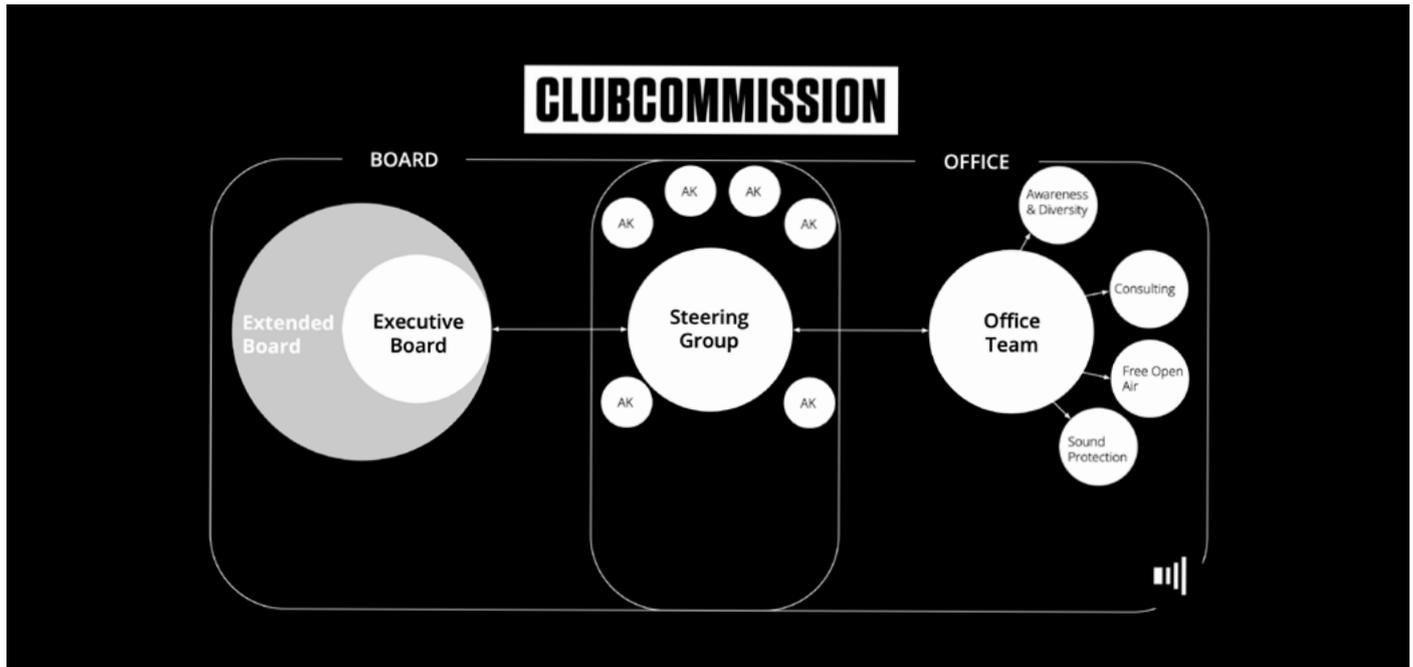
Soundproofing

Making spaces

Nourishing the scene

Go up and never stop

The ClubCommission is supported by a series of funding tools of Economy and Culture departments of the Berlin’s Senate and some city districts (Kreuzberg, Mitte, Prenzlauer Berg), which are funding a series of thematic projects covering different fields of the Berlin’s night-time economy.



ClubCommission is contributing to

→ The update of the **night-time strategy** of the city

→ A reflection on **mental health** in clubs

→ International **club exchanges**

→ Raising awareness on the club culture of the city through events like the **Day of the Clubbing Culture** (Tag der Clubkultur) and a thematic academy

The organizational structure of the ClubCommission, presented at the webinar by Lutz Leichsenring, who served as the commission’s spokesperson since 2009 and now is the co-founder of the consulting agency Vibelab, is an interesting example of co-governance of the night-time economy. The commission has extended and executive boards working side by side with thematic steering groups and supported by an office team focused on a series of priority topics, such as awareness and diversity, consulting, free open air and sound protection.



Business Friendly Licensing

24 HOUR LONDON

London

Night Czar and 24 Hour London Team

In a city like London where 1.6 million people work at night, the creation of a **Night Time Commission** was fundamental for ensuring that the City Hall's work consider its impact on the 24-hour city.

Instead of just focusing on the night-time economy, London is working on ensuring the 24-hour functioning of a series of services and functioning, taking into account that night work happens in all industries.

Planning a city on 24-hour basis requires the capacity of improving several aspects of the everyday life of people, from working and doing business to getting a good sleep or having access to leisure, health and wellbeing facilities.



“We consider night as broadly as we would the day. We use a wide lens, looking at the wealth of activities that happen from 6am to 6 pm”

London Night Time Commission, Think Night Report 2019

London Night Time Commission

Improving people's lives and change the night

The governance of the night-time economy in London evolved from the London Night Time Commission, which ran from 2017 to 2019, to the collaboration between the Mayor of London, the Night Czar and the 24 Hour London Team, based on four main objectives:

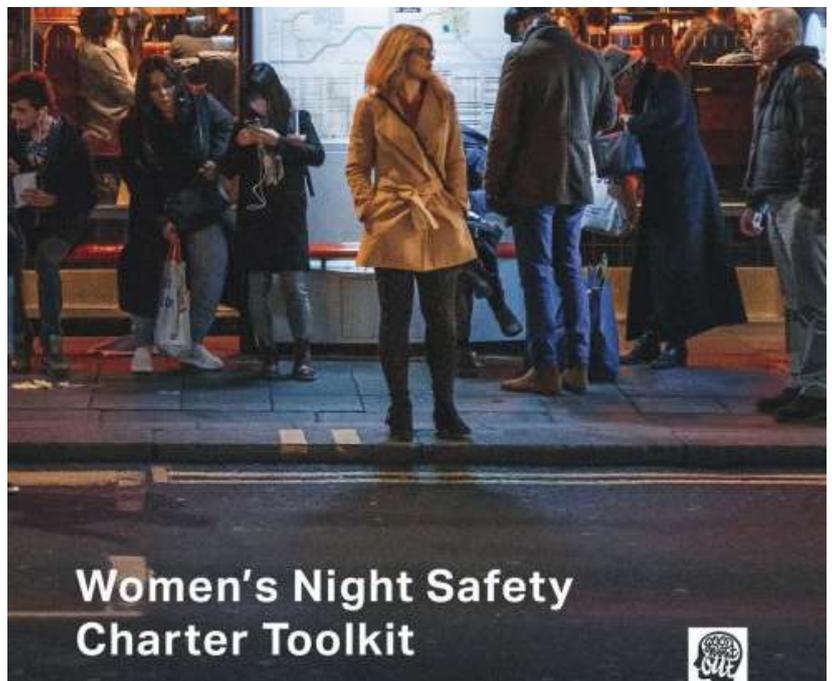
→ Improve the understanding of London at night

→ Ensure planning and policy take all 24-hours of the day into account

→ Invest in innovation, collaboration and reduction of night-time inequalities for communities, workers and businesses

→ Highlight the opportunities to improve people's lives and change the narrative of the night

The Night Czar championed a series of initiatives, such as the creation of **night-time strategies in every borough**, the launch of **Women's Nights Safety Charter**, the definition of night-time enterprise zones and the implementation of a "night-test", performed for every policy, fund or project of the Greater London Authority to consider its impact on the night.



The night-time governance of London, presented at the webinar by Paul Broadhurst of 24 Hour London, is holistic and collaborative. It features a series of thematic forums, such as the LGBTQ Forum, or regular roundtables with industry representatives, councils and police and a network of Night Time Champions appointed by each borough.



Vienna

Club Commission

Between 2022 and 2026 Vienna is consolidating its Club Commission, which emerged after a series of previous initiatives, the N8BM supporting urban creativity at night (2017-2019) and the pilot project for a **Vienna Club Commission** that ran in 2020-2021.

The Club Commission has launched a series of surveys for assessing the state of the art of the night-time economy in the Austrian capital, with focus on the needs of the club scene, the existing services and the international practices.

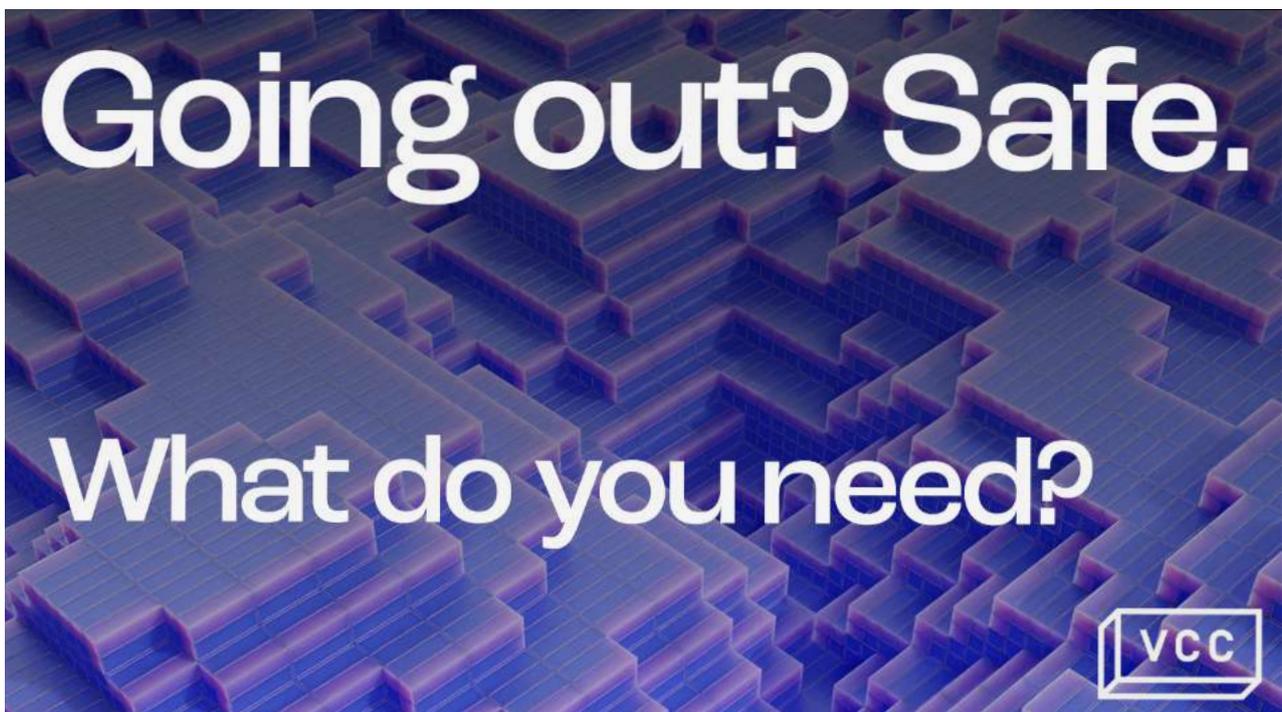
Consultation, network and communication are the key-words of an action, presented at the webinar by the executive director, Martina Brunner. It is based on the combination of different tools. From the organization of thematic workshops to the launch of communication products (website, newsletter, social media etc.) and the creation of an international network of relations, the Vienna Club Commission explored the main challenges of the night-time economy with 3 main Focus Groups

Focus Group Social

Focus Group Culture

Focus Group Economy

The Focus Groups developed a series of initiatives, such as the promotion of the club culture in public spaces, the infrastructure support for clubs and events and the development of guidelines for a greener night-time economy. This follows an articulated internal governance system that ensures the collaboration between the Commission and the club and events scene of the city.



Club Commission is contributing to

The voluntary support given by volunteers of Vienna's clubs and event organizers to the team members of the Club Commission ensures a fair share of responsibilities. This group explored also some of the most advanced approaches to creating a **safer nightlife**, such as the introduction of the Agent of Change principle, or Green Club Support for the implementation of Club Commission's sustainable guidelines (summarized in the Green Club Guide).

With an annual budget of 300,000€, financed by different business groups (culture and science, finance and economy, education and youth, integration and transparency), the Vienna Club Commission is creating a tangible impact while supporting the development of different sectors of the Vienna's night time economy.



Mannheim

Night Mayor

Main cultural centre of the Rhein-Neckar metropolitan region, Mannheim introduced the Night Mayor position for **strengthening the night culture of the city and co-creating innovative night culture formats.**

The lobbying action started by the regional club association (EventKultur Rhein-Neckar) and the cultural urban development department of Mannheim (NEXT Mannheim) started in 2017 resulted into the creation of a permanent position of Night Mayor formally established in 2020.

Even though the budget available for projects and activities is very limited (between 5,000 and 10,000€ per year), the Night Mayor has begun mediation efforts to address potential conflicts. This role is also legitimized by a strong political support.



MANNHEIM
N I G H T M A Y O R

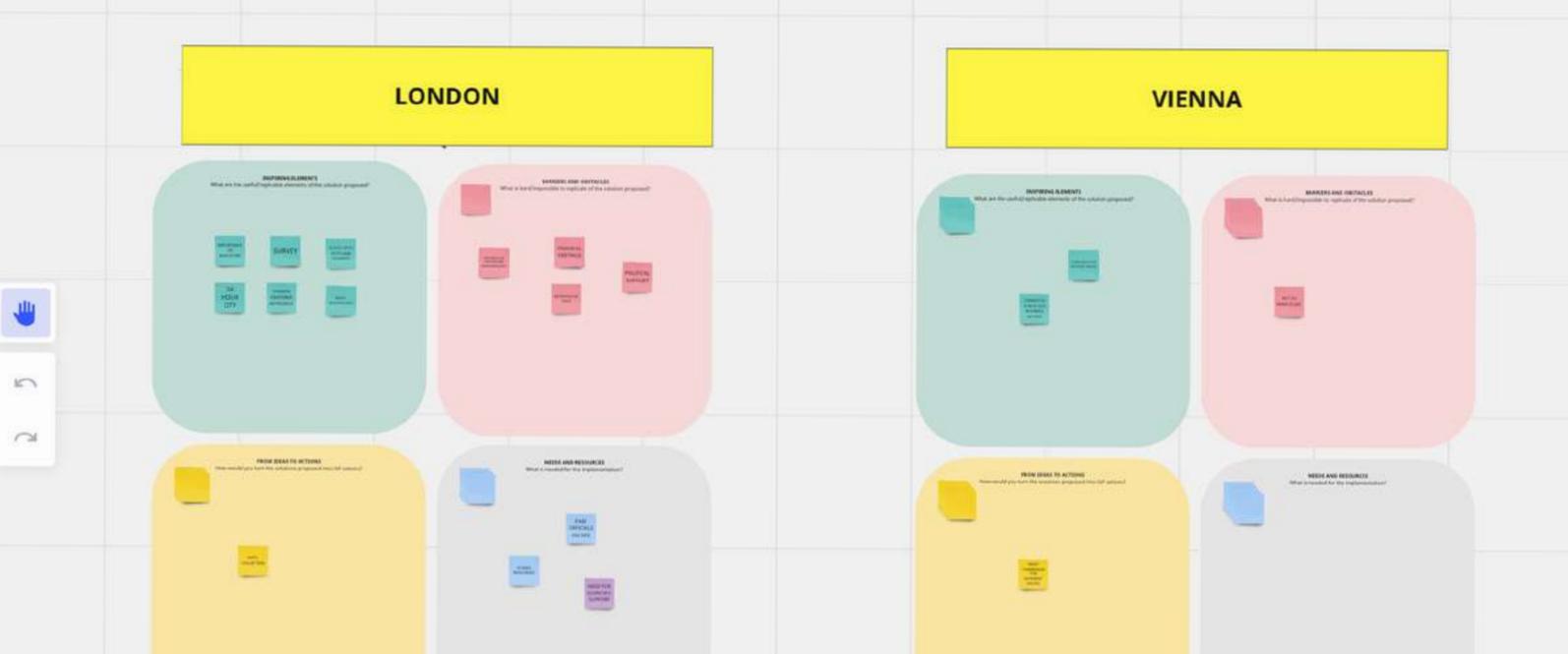
Mannheim

Robert Gaa

According to Robert Gaa, the night mayor of Mannheim who spoke at the online thematic seminar, the visibility of the position and the attention of the local media have contributed to **activating the local night scene and promoting the creation of new projects and activities**, in coordination with other night mayors and commissions across Germany.

Positive collaboration with local stakeholders and effective management of the night policies for recovering the sector after the Covid pandemic are common elements in many experiences carried out by night mayors in Germany. However, collaboration with different city departments is not always smooth and the expectations created by strong media attention towards these pilot projects can only be fulfilled if budget for staff and activities are increased.





Experiences of other cities

What can Cities After Dark learn?

The partners of Cities After Dark highlighted both the most inspiring elements and the potential barriers to replicating of the experiences showcased in the Marketplace of Solutions within their urban contexts.

The **use of data and indicators made by London** for assessing the state of the art of the night-time economy, the **strong support of all the political parties towards the night policies** of Berlin and the **communication strategy with venues and general audience** adopted by Vienna were stressed as the most inspiring elements of the solutions proposed.

The lack of adequate resources highlighted by London and Mannheim, **bureaucracy burdens and slowness of the decision-making process** mentioned by Berlin were underscored as **some of the obstacles** to the implementation of innovation solutions on night-time economy.

Improving how **data on night-time economy are collected and used**, the institution and extension of funding schemes for soundproofing and the active involvement of a wider number of night venues into the night commissions were highlighted by the partners as possible solutions for turning innovative ideas emerged during the online thematic seminar into actions of the IAP.

In terms of resources needed for the implementation of the solutions showcased, the need for more staff in charge of managing night-time offices within the local authorities but also the need for scientific support for collecting data on night-time economy emerged as prevailing in the dialogue among the partners of Cities After Dark.

Even though the solutions showcased in the online seminar were applied at urban and metropolitan scales definitely huger than the average of the network partners, **the online thematic seminar paved the ground for a wider reflection on bold actions** that was then examined in depth with the transnational meeting of Paris and the study visit to Berlin.

28 February 2024 – 1 March 2024

The study visit to Berlin



Why visiting Berlin?

Berlin is one of the most interesting examples of city that has invested in its night-time economy as a driver for cultural and economic growth in recent years.

The recent inclusion of Berlin's club culture into the Germany's list of intangible cultural heritage protected by UNESCO attracted global attention to a key element of the city's identity. Electronic music was undoubtedly the soundtrack of liberation following the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989 and since then this music style contributed to the regeneration of abandoned warehouses or formerly occupied buildings.

A delegation of Cities After Dark partners visited the city to learn more about public policies to support creativity and the night-time economy. They also dialogued with cultural curators, club owners and managers to understand the current challenges faced by the city at night and potential solutions that could be adapted and replicated in different city contexts.



MUSICBOARD

Public Support to Creativity and Pop Music

Founded in 2013, **Musicboard** is a public-funded organization that **supports pop music and cultural production in new, creative ways**. It accomplishes this through a series of projects strengthening the diversity of the Berlin's cultural scene.

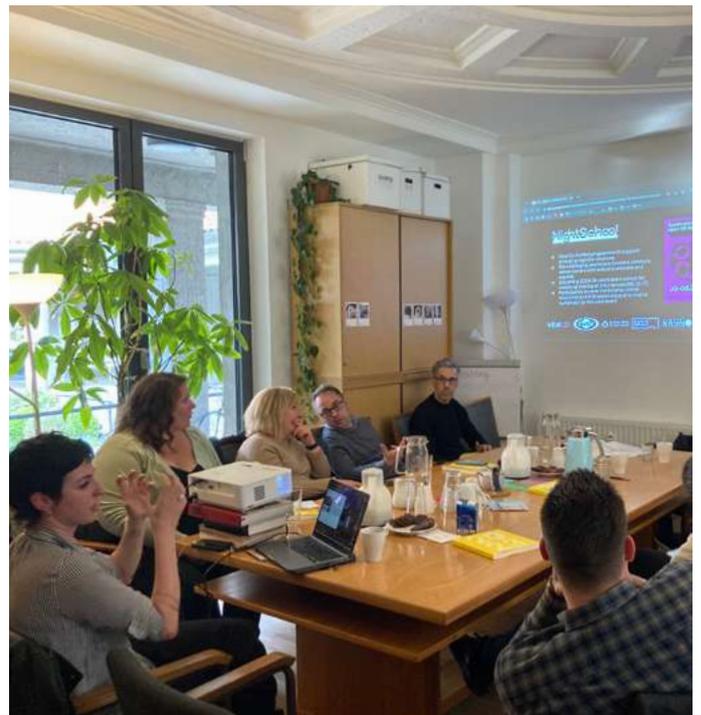
While Berlin has benefited greatly from its music scene in terms of city marketing and tourism (with 50% of repeat tourists returning to the German capital for its nightlife), Musicboard was conceived as a way to give back to the cultural industry with the active support of two different Senate departments (Culture and Economy).

With a total budget of 3 million € per year, Musicboard **supports six programs**, ranging from scholarships to artists living in Berlin to programs for festival organizers. These programs support the realization of several boutique festivals and events while connecting the community of artists and organizers to similar events across Europe.

The **Pop Kultur** festival, organized directly by Musicboard, has boosted collaborations between music managers and artists. This fosters the growth of a sector including electronic music played in the Berlin's clubs which is crucial for the city's cultural and economic development.



The **ClubCommission** is one of the entities **funded by Musicboard**, with the objective of preserving and developing the club culture of Berlin.



What is ClubCommission contributing to?

The organization of the **Day of the Club Culture (Tag de Club Kultur)** is **one of the initiatives supported by Musicboard**. More than just raising awareness on the importance of clubs for local economy, the ClubCommission is mapping the clubs located in different areas of the city and asked to intervene in case of new real estate development threatening the survival of existing music venues.

The **strong political support and the unionization process** carried out by the clubs in the last decades are distinctive elements that the Cities After Dark partners particularly appreciated. They recognized the importance of financial tools for supporting artists and soundproofing of clubs as useful elements for bridging the gap between public authorities and the night-time economy community while tackling concrete challenges.



RAW Gelände

How to save night venues from speculation?

The visit to the **RAW Gelände** in Friedrichschain was particularly illustrative of the urban regeneration processes that threaten the survival of complexes of clubs and cultural venues that emerged in the 1990's and still play a considerable role in the everyday life of the city.

Several post-industrial areas were used for experimenting with innovative cultural reuses. This involved also the creation of new functions open to the surrounding areas, such as the **House of Music**, a creative hub for musicians hosted by RAW, or skateparks and other sport facilities open after dark.

The RAW area is still hosting some of the most interesting clubs of the city. However, since the entire 150.000 square meters area was taken over by an investment fund, the dialogue with the residents of this neighbourhood was particularly fruitful in saving the identity of this part of East Berlin which is resisting with a cultural gentrification process which hopefully will save other post-industrial areas of the city as well.





The Clubs of Berlin

A model of cultural, economic, environmental, and social growth for the city

More than 12,000 jobs are attributed to the night-time economy of Berlin, with an annual turnover of €1,8 billion. The clubs play a crucial role in this framework. Most of the 250 Berlin's clubs are characterised by music curation and the adoption of technical solutions which led to the creation of supporting industries for lighting, graphic design, communication, and several other functions.

The visit to iconic places such as **Tresor**, **Kraftwerk**, **SAGE beach**, **SchwuZ** (the oldest queer club of Berlin) and **Club der Visionaire** provided the Cities After Dark partners with the opportunity to deep-dive into different cultural and business models. These models were based on common elements such as the regeneration of brownfield and unused industrial structures, the creation of a community spirit among partygoers, the organization of raising awareness initiatives for improving sustainability, tolerance and contrast to any form of harassment within the venues.





The dialogue with club owners and cultural managers was a great opportunity to retrace the steps leading to the creation of the ClubCommission in 2001. It also provided insights into the current challenges faced by Berlin which is not anymore “poor, but sexy” as the former Mayor Klaus Wowereit said in 2003, but it still struggling with the consequences of the post-Covid crisis and is experimenting innovative ways to deal with the stronger pressure from real estate developers, all in order to sustain the cultural value of music and cultural venues.

HOLZMARKT 25

A positive example of urban regeneration led by night-time actors

The alliance among club owners led to the regeneration of **Holzmarkt 25**, a complex located on the Spree River banks. Initially created around clubs and restaurants, it has become a 24-hour hub for the neighborhood, with the opening of new public spaces and functions such as bakery and cafeteria.





Lessons learned from Berlin

The original business model of the area, managed by a cooperative of actors, is an interesting example of how to **convey investments in actions of cultural gentrification** which are creating an added value for the quality of life in the area, while preserving alternative culture and nurturing economy after dark.

The exploration of **different models for enhancing cultural and business vibrancy** at night was the most important takeaway for the partners of Cities After Dark from the visit to Berlin. The visit highlighted how the dialogue with night actors can be decisive for enhancing public support to fields not usually considered for public action (such as support to music and creativity). This support is crucial for creating connections with different fields of the city action (tourism promotion, city branding, cultural growth), with a multiplier effect on the local economy.

The action of **mediation among the needs of different parties** is another remarkable element of the Berlin's experience. This is something that the partners of Cities After Dark may include in their respective Integrated Action Plans.



22 May 2024

Gender Equality in the Night-Time Economy



The second online thematic seminar of Cities After Dark

Gender equality is one of the cross-cutting themes of the URBACT Action Planning Networks and particularly relevant in the case of Cities After Dark for its impact on several dimensions of the debate on night-time economy, from improving the access of women to cultural and economic activities at night to the action on public spaces, green areas and urban mobility systems for enhancing safety after dark.

The online seminar led by the Ad Hoc Expert Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse, who is also Lead Expert of the FEMACT Cities network, was a valuable opportunity for highlighting different perspectives on gender equality at night and involved the partners in a discussion about existing solutions and possible actions to be included in the first draft of the Integrated Action Plan.

Safety and **public transport** were among the topics most associated with gender and night-time economy by the Cities After Dark partners in an initial brainstorming. This led to the exploration of several gender topics related to night-time economy, such as access to work, mobility, feeling of safety, recreation and use of public spaces.

Mentimeter

What topics do I associate with gender and the night-time economy?

34 responses



The different perception of the same spaces and services by women and men were explored, as well as the connection between gender-related issues and night-time economy, such as the gender care gap or the safety concerns in public spaces and mobility infrastructures.

A series of examples and solutions were presented, taken from the experience of cities that implemented innovative actions on the topics globally.

Some examples

- **On-demand stops** on all bus routes after 10pm in Paris
- **Ask for Angela** campaign active in several European cities
- **No-catcalling signs** in New York and Philadelphia
- **Women's Night Taxis** in Munich
- **Women's Night Safety Charter** and the **Good Night Campaign of London**
- **24/7 daycare** service in Schwerin





The discussion on the inclusion of similar solutions within the Integrated Action Plans of the partners led to connecting successful experiences and approaches tested across the globe to the main areas of action of Cities After Dark. It also highlighted several points of contact with practices already tested by the partners.

Economic and cultural vibrancy

The organization of networking activities for women active in local industries that operate after dark (artists, venues managers, event organizers, etc.) and the creation of cultural opportunities also for elderly women who want to experience interesting cultural activities at night (such as night opening of museums and exhibition) were highlighted as possible practices for improving the vibrancy of cities at night while guaranteeing the right to the city at night for all.

Creation of services

The extension of childcare services and the opening of grocery stores on 24-hours basis are some of the services that, according to the partners of Cities After Dark partners, would improve gender equality in the night-time economy. The launch of taxi vouchers for women and the introduction

of the on-demand stops on bus routes at night implemented by Paris are some of the measures suggested for making public transport more gender-friendly after dark..

Safety and contrast to noise

Initiatives such as anti-catcalling signs, the Ask for Angela campaign and the Women's night safety charter could be easily replicated for improving safety at night for women. The introduction of training modules for drivers at night, suggested by the partners, can be considered as an extension of the training programs already implemented for staff and managers of night venues in some cities of the network.

Use of public spaces

The introduction of better lighting solutions in streets, public gardens and parks is considered crucial for improving how public spaces and green areas are used by all at night. At the same time, the organization of cultural events for keeping these spaces lively also after dark is another element that combined to design solutions (such as the installation of more public toilets that are also available at night) can improve their functionality after dark.

Under the Spotlight

The Action of the Cities at Local Level



This is what is going on

The active participation of the partners of Cities After Dark in both onsite and online transnational activities increased their familiarity with the main themes of the European and global debate on night-time economy. This participation also stimulated discussions within local authorities and with local stakeholders on innovative approaches and disruptive actions to adopt in the medium and long term.

The organization of the URBACT Local Group (ULG) meetings in the first quarter of the year was an important step. It not only helped prepare useful contents for the Transnational meeting of Paris, but it also allowed to share bold initiatives and strategies showcased in meetings and online seminars aimed at improving cities at night.

Prior to organizing meeting with all the stakeholders conveyed into the ULG, nearly all the cities organized internal meetings with elected representatives and city departments. This was done to better focus on the priorities to be targeted by the participatory action.

Nicosia promoted cross-departmental collaboration focusing on a series of key topics, such as noise pollution reduction, improved mobility options for residents and visitors and the creation of new cultural events and night-time openings of museum and other facilities. These internal meetings were not only useful for discussing emerging trends of the urban nightlife (such as the rise of night street parties in different neighborhoods of the Cypriot capital), but also for exploring possible connections with other urban strategies, such as the plan for the install additional noise sensors in high-risk areas. This action can be useful for improving evidence-based decision-making processes, while bringing new elements that can be discussed with local stakeholders during the development of the Integrated Action Plans (IAP).

Genoa organized several meetings with different departments of the municipality to gain more information about

the infrastructural projects for revitalizing the historic city centre. These projects are mostly funded by the Next Generation EU, and the goal of the city is to connect the regeneration of public spaces to the action on the night-time economy which is focusing on expanding spaces and services available at night in that specific part of the city. Acting in a coordinated way on the city centre will also contribute to addressing one of the main challenges that emerged from the first ULG meetings, that is the combination between a focus on Genoa's territorial identity (well represented by its city centre) and the creation of more opportunities at night for the residents of different areas of the city, first of all improving urban mobility services.

Finding a balance between the needs of tourists and partygoers gathering in the city centre and the needs of the residents is also a major topic on which **Malaga** is dialoguing with different city departments and the members of the ULG. The launch of communication campaigns for raising awareness on night-time economy and foster behavioral change is one of the solutions discussed in the first ULG meetings that are harmonizing different visions and points of view on night-time economy.



Promoting respectful behaviors at night is a top priority for many network partners



The dialogue with stakeholders and residents for a respectful night-time economy

Promoting respectful behaviors at night is also a top priority for **Paris**. The city has set up a partnership with the Psychosocial Laboratory of the University Paris 8 (LAPPS) which is supporting the URBACT Local Group in organizing focus groups and surveys to identify possible levers for promoting a change in habits among different categories of night-time users.

This priority topic is also tackled by a series of other local activities which are having an impact on the evolution of the debate on the night-time economy, such as the awareness session on nightlife regulation in public spaces organized in for 140 municipal police officers in February 2024. The meeting with associations active on mediation and harm reduction but also of night-time venue managers fostered an interesting dialogue among actors who will collaborate in the implementation of the actions to be included in the IAP. The second meeting of the ULG of Paris highlighted public spaces and transport, venues and festivals and private parties at home as the main contexts on which generate ideas for actions. The meeting also evaluated the steps needed for development or feasibility, opportunities and obstacles.

In some cases, dialogue with stakeholders and city departments on night-time economy was also an important opportunity to begin defining integrated governance structures on the topic. The **ULG meetings of Braga** held in February and March 2024 highlighted the need for a governance framework that could coordinate and regulate activities during night hours. This framework would also aim to reduce the abundance of regulations on night-time activities, which often hinder the full deployment of the sector's potential. Strengthening the connection with international experiences and enhancing mobility infrastructure and services at night were identified as priority fields on which Braga has to intervene with its vision on night-time economy.

Engaging local stakeholders in discussions over the strategic priorities of the IAP

Collaborative visioning for the future of the night-time economy

The development of a shared vision on night-time economy was also a major focus of some ULG meetings organized after the Transnational meeting of Paris. **Budva** is focusing on becoming a sustainable night-time destination with activities spread in different areas of the city and promoting the connection with the Sveti Nikola Island, which aspires to become a dynamic hub of cultural and entertainment life on the Adriatic.

The ULG used tools such as the Newspaper of Tomorrow and the Vision Statement for co-defining a vision that will be structured in a series of action to be included in the IAP. Among these actions, the example offered by the Night Council of Paris is inspiring the definition of a Night-time Council. This council will govern the evolution of the night-time economy in a city that aims to invest on a series of small, sustainable events and festivals for creating new opportunities at night for all.

Local stakeholders were engaged in discussions over the strategic interventions to be included in the Integrated Action Plan of **Piraeus**, that choose noise pollution management and night-time urban security as main priorities. Piraeus is working on a combination of interventions. These include those requiring the use of technology, such as the implementation of soundproofing measures to mitigating noise at night or enhancing lighting infrastructure to improve visibility at night. They also include softer actions, such as the organization of training activities for nightlife staff and the support to business owners willing to create new venues out of the city centre is the recipe on which Piraeus is working, coordinating the action of different city departments to ensure a coherence between night-time economy strategies and other thematic strategies.

The aspiration of Piraeus for a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable night-time economy ensuring safety and well-being of residents and visitors (a statement that is at the core of the city 's vision) is also supported by a series of trends and projects in night-time economy emerging at the local level. These include the extension of operating hours of the public transport system, the introduction of new bus lines, the increase of galleries and cultural spaces located in the industrial area of the city, which are contributing to expand the cultural offer at night (also including electro and techno parties previously predominantly found in Athens).



The original approach developed by the partners of Cities After Dark and more in general the topics related to the development of a vibrant night-time economy are also at the core of several public events and exchanges of knowledge organized in these months.

On 12 April 2024 Tallinn hosted a seminar on “How to organize nightlife?”, aimed at training students whose future careers may involve organizing nightlife activities. The panels on “Ensuring Safer Nightlife”, “Exploring Nightlife”, “Harassment-Free Nightlife” and “Who shapes Tallinn’s Nightlife?” were useful opportunities not only for discussing problematic situations that event organizers and urban planners might encounter in nightlife, but also to present innovative initiatives recently launched by Tallinn. Among these, the sexual harassment campaign and the training sessions for nightlife establishment staff were introduced by the city of Tallinn following the examples set by cities such as London and Bristol, that mobilized cultural and business venues while providing guidance on how to intervene and assist.

On 22 April 2024, Paris organized a session with two roundtables about the role of the women in the city’s nightlife. The event, titled Elles font vivre la nuit (literally “they make the night come alive”) was attended by DJs, journalists, festival and nightclubs manageresses who shared their personal experiences and discussed about the place of gender in entrepreneurship in night-time economy and sexual and gender-based violence in nightlife. The elements that emerged from the discussion, which also focused on the safety of artists and employees, will be important inputs for the IAP development process that is fostering a stronger collaboration between stakeholders, empowerment and creation of a safer nightlife for all.

Many partners of Cities After Dark presented their commitment to night-time economy in the framework of national gatherings of URBACT cities and at the occasion of the presentation of the **URBACT Call for Innovation Transfer**. That was the case for Budva, which attended both types of meeting with Montenegrin cities, but also for Nicosia and Piraeus which presented their experience respectively at the national Infodays on the new URBACT call held in Cyprus and Greece.



The strategies to promote night-time economy were also among the topics presented at the occasion of the site visits of the European Urban Initiative City-to-City Exchanges carried out respectively by Braga and Avellino (Italy) and Piraeus and Corigliano-Rossano (Italy). Both the exchanges had **sustainable tourism** among the main topics, and the visit to night venues was presented as an original approach for improving the vibrancy of the Italian municipalities involved in the exchanges.



Methodological Tools



Exchanging knowledge

Developing a strategy has been part of a shared work in order to find common ground

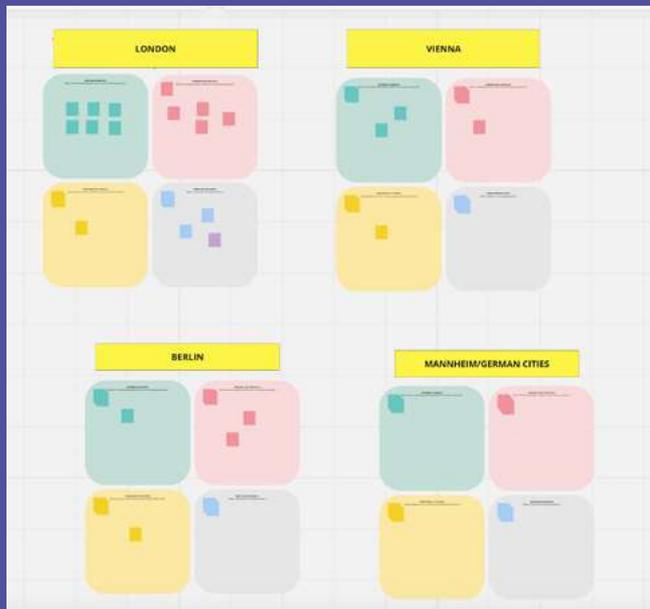
The partners of Cities After Dark are testing different tools for the exchange of knowledge and the development of a shared vision on night-time economy



Tool 1

Marketplace of solutions

The tool was used at the occasion of online thematic seminars and at the Transnational Meeting of Paris for exploring in four quarters the following aspects:



Inspiring elements

What are the useful/replicable elements of the solution proposed?

Barriers and Obstacles

What is hard/impossible to replicate of the solution proposed?

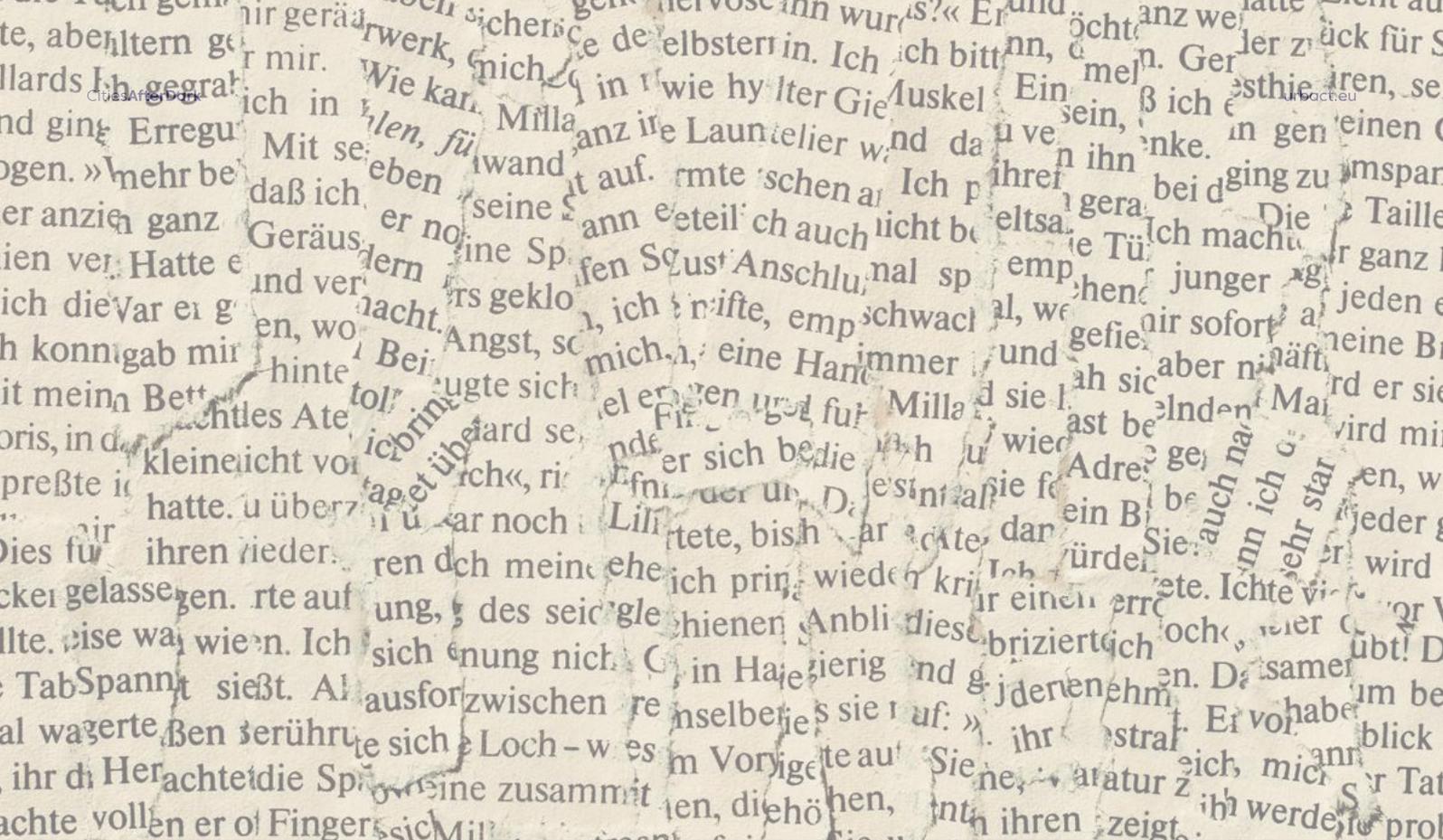
From Ideas to Actions

How would you turn the proposed solutions into IAP actions?

Need and Resources

What is needed for the implementation?

The tool was reproduced on MIRO or on flipcharts and proved its efficacy in stimulating a collaborative analysis of specific solutions of night-time governance, business and cultural vibrancy and gender equality, highlighting possible practices of interest and detailing steps and resources needed for the implementation.



Tool 2

Newspaper of Tomorrow



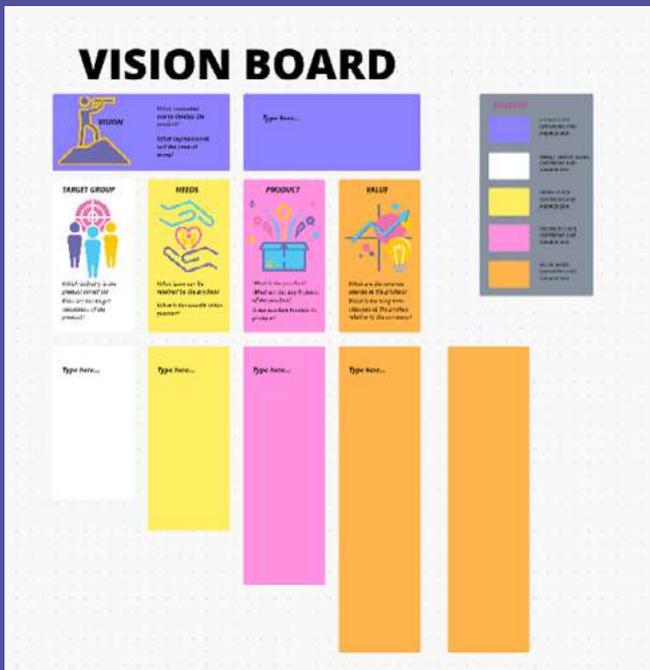
The tool was presented at the occasion of the **Summer University of Malmo** and at the Transnational meeting of Paris as a useful ally for the definition of a shared vision on night-time economy.

The partners tested its use with the creation of the **frontpage of a newspaper of January 2026** (or beyond) with texts and pictures resuming a tangible result achieved with the implementation of a vision on night-time economy.

This envisioning technique for imagining desirable futures was tested by some of the partners in the ULG meetings dedicated to the creation of the vision.

Tool 3

Vision Board



The tool was introduced at the occasion of the **Transnational meeting of Paris** as a structured way for promoting mutual collaboration as result of a forecasting session.

The vision board clearly defines vision, target groups, needs, action and potential impact, as result of a brainstorm and synthesis of different positions.

Tool 4

Vision Statement



The tool was presented in Paris during the Transnational meeting of Paris and used by many partners in the meetings of the ULG dedicated to the creation of a vision on night-time economy.

In a **sentence shorter than a tweet** (280 characters) the groups of stakeholders were asked to answer to an ambitious question on night-time economy, and then use this sentence as shared vision but also as a powerful communication tool resuming the scope of action achievable with the network activities.

Next Steps



What is coming up

The development of the first sections of the Integrated Action Plans will be the core activity of the next quarter (May 2024 – August 2024). A series of URBACT Local Group meetings will take place before or after the Transnational meeting of Piraeus (3-5 July 2024).

The Piraeus meeting will be the first opportunity for a progress review of the IAP. It will also focus on using ICT for improving safety and public spaces at night, one of the cross-cutting topics addressed by Cities After Dark.

Furthermore, the meeting will encourage a reflection on how to apply the integrated approach to the development of strategies on night-time economy. This will enrich the co-creation process of the Integrated Action Plans with useful elements for analyzing the current level of integration and the current approach to key URBACT cross-cutting themes.

The online thematic seminar on the **active involvement of business actors** and **local communities** and conflict mediation through the use of urban planning tools will highlight useful practices and elements which may inspire the partners to promote further reflections on participation and **regeneration of spaces and structures**, that are some of the main targets of existing night policies.



Summer '24

The best time to refine ideas

Last but not least, many cities will use the summer period to refine their ideas on testing actions to be implemented before the end of 2024, with the objective of refining the approach to night-time economy developed by the Integrated Action Plans.

The experiences visited in Paris and Berlin fueled the reflections among the partners, who are sharing the key elements of the solutions visited with their local stakeholders activating them in the definition and implementation of innovative proposals aimed at improving nighttime experience for all.

Cities After Dark

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