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GreenPlace

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Let's do it together!

Quarterly Network Report #1
January – March 2024

Este árbol ha sido plantado durante el segundo "GreenPlace. Let's do it together" network, with URBACT IV, proyecto cofinanciado por el Fondo Regional y el municipio de Onda.

Onda, 12 de marzo de 2024

This tree was planted during the second "GreenPlace. Let's do it together" network, with URBACT IV programme, a project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the municipality of Onda.

Onda, 12 March 2024

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The GreenPlace network

GreenPlace is an URBACT network consisting of ten partners who aim at developing a set of activities for "recycling" unused urban areas, using social participation tools. The project takes into account not only the regional specificities and conditions of each of the partners but also introduces greenery as a key factor in limiting climate change in urban areas. It is running from July 2023 to December 2025.

It is led by the City of Wrocław (Poland) and is composed of 9 project partners:

- Boulogne-sur-mer Développement Côte d'Opale - France
- Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association - Romania
- Cehegín - Spain
- Limerick - Ireland
- Löbau - Germany
- Nitra - Slovakia
- Onda - Spain
- Quarto d'Altino - Italy
- Vila Nova de Poiares - Portugal



GreenPlace areas

Each of the GreenPlace network's Project Partners will focus on one area which will be central to its Integrated Action Plan (IAP).

Partner	GreenPlace area
Abandoned buildings	
Löbau	Noodle Factory
Quarto d'Altino	Civic Centre
Forgotten buildings	
Wroclaw	Former Tram Depot Popowice
Bucharest	Victorei Tram Depot
Unused green areas	
Limerick	Medieval wall
Vila Nova de Poiares	Green Zone
Cehegin	Ejidos
Unused built area	
Onda	Green Lung
Boulogne-sur-mer	Station-Bréquerecque area
Nitra	Martin's Hill



Highlights of the first three months of the Planning Actions Phase

- Project partners embarked on the URBACT journey
 - A whole new discovery of what this means!
- Project partners met again physically:
 - Kicking off the Planning Actions Phase in person
 - Consolidating the network
 - Starting the IAP work
- Project partners have started co-creating the local work with their ULGs

In this quarterly Network report, you will find details about the following:

1. Where we are in the life of GreenPlace
2. The specificities of GreenPlace
3. The launch of the work in person
4. The Peer review of the GreenPlace areas
5. Exchange of thematic practices
6. The URBACT Methodology journey
7. The work with ULGs
8. The steps towards the IAPs
9. Envisaged study visits



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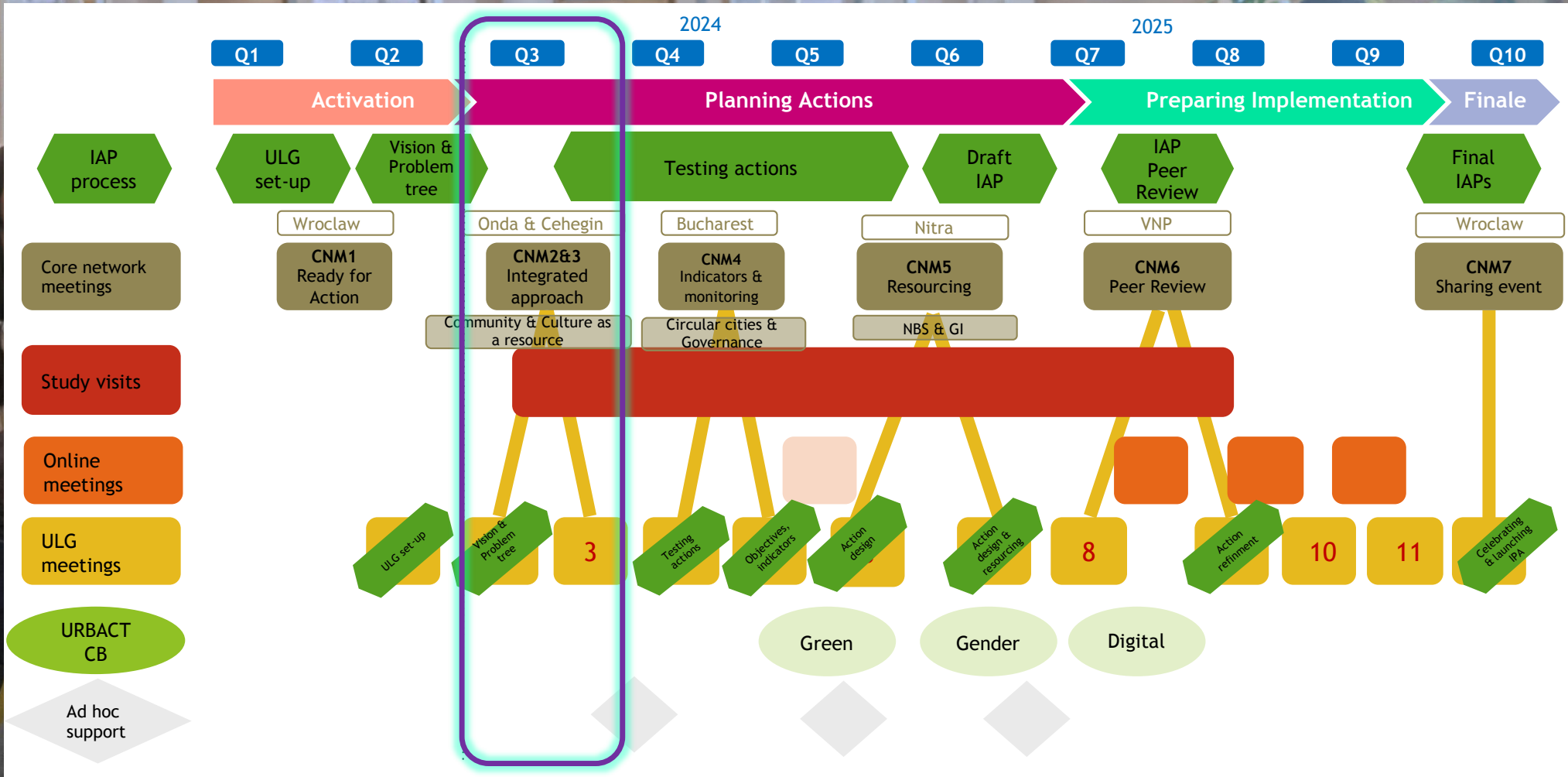
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A group of approximately ten people are seated around a long, dark table in a meeting room. They are engaged in a discussion. The room has white walls with several framed posters or photographs hanging on them. The people are dressed in a mix of casual and business-casual attire. There are blue plastic chairs around the table. On the table, there are some drinks, a smartphone, and some papers.

1. WHERE ARE WE IN THE LIFE OF GREENPLACE?

The current GreenPlace state of play



Finalising the Activation Phase

During the Activation Phase, the GreenPlace network accomplished the following:

- Project partners
 - Attended the URBACT Summer University , in Malmö, 28-30 August 2023
 - Attended the First Core Network Meeting – Ready for Action – in Wroclaw, on 26-27 September 2023
 - Set-up their ULGs
 - Organised first ULG meetings
 - Prepared their stakeholder analysis tools
- Lead Partner :
 - Designed the Communication Plan
 - Set up the GreenPlace webpage
 - Shared the first article
- Lead Expert :
 - Prepared the Baseline Study
 - Published the Roadmap



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2. THE SPECIFICITIES OF GREENPLACE

Varied project implementation timelines

Some of the IAPs are planned to be implemented as early as 2027, whereas others will be fully implemented after 2035. The majority plan to have it implemented by 2030/2031.



Almost non prior URBACT Experience

Only two people, the representatives from Boulogne-sur-mer and Nitra, have been involved in an URBACT network previously.

None of the representatives from Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association, Cehegín, Limerick, Löbau, Onda, Quarto d'Altino, Vila Nova de Poiares nor Wroclaw, took part in a previous URBACT network.



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3. LAUNCHING THE WORK IN PERSON

Two Core Network Meetings in one

CNM2 in Onda – 12.03.2024

Topic covered: Community engagement

• **Places visited:**

- GreenLung (IAP Focus)
- Intergenerational community Garden
- Olympic garden

• **URBACT methodology covered:** Integrated approach

CNM3 in Cehegin – 13/14.03.2024

• **Topic covered:** Cultural heritage as a resource

• **Places visited:**

- Ejidos (IAP focus)
- Ecological park
- El Coso
- Artistic places in empty buildings

• **URBACT methodology covered:** Testing Actions

What our Project Partners say about it:

- *“During the Peer Review, we are inspiring not only the hosts of the meetings, but also each other in general”*
- *“We had the opportunity to talk with people who are directly engaged in solving the problems”*
- *“I gained so much knowledge during these meetings!”*
- *“The Project Partners have similar problems in implementing different projects activities – we can face them together!”*
- *“We saw smart and concrete ways to deal with challenges”*
- *“We got lots of inspirations for our area”*
- *“Interesting to see how other cities face and cope with their problems”*

Sharing experiences

- Preparing and following-up on Core Network Meetings:
 - Pre Core Network Meeting notes, preparatory meeting and homework
 - Post Core Network Meeting note and homework
- Using different supporting tools:
 - Snapshot presentations
 - Learning grids
 - Takeaways cards
 - Site visits
- Combining multiple methodologies
 - Site visits
 - Presentations
 - Workshops
 - Critical friend
 - OPERA
 - Timeline



£

MAIN IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

MODER

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OWNERS

WIDER CITY GREEN NETWORK

BUILDINGS

CIRCULAR CITY

PEER REVIEW MAIN IDEAS AND SU

TILE HERITAGE

SLACKLINE BETWEEN CHIMNEYS

ONDA IN A POST HUMAN AGE

4. PEER REVIEWS OF GREENPLACE AREAS

CONSTRUIR VARIAS PRODUCCIONES E INSTALACIONES EN LOS PERIFEROS REPRESENTATIVOS DE CADA UNO DE LOS SECTORES DE ACTIVIDADES DE INTERES PARA EL PROYECTO, Y ASÍ MISMO, CON UNO DE LOS SECTORES...

- low cost
- updated
- a community

MAKE SPACE TO...
If the owners receive enough money per day they will sell the land parcel.
They don't want to be paid per day.

THE IDEA OF TRADING BUILDING RIGHTS (COINTEGRATED WITH THE TOWN) THAT ARE GOING TO BE EXPLOITED IN THE FUTURE YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DO IT WITH THE TOWN.

EXPLORE THE CHIMNEYS WITHOUT THE OTHER INDUSTRIAL ELEMENTS, THEY BE COLORED PRODUCTIONS...
- IN POSSIBLE ALSO COPY PARTS OF THE FACADES OR AT LEAST MAKE INSTALLATIONS INTERIORS LIKE TILES...
- ALSO TRY TO MAKE A CULTURAL ROUTE WITH...

make a "tile" topic for the area and find partners in "tile industry"

WHEN THEY DO ARCHITECTURAL DIGGS THEY ALWAYS FIND CERAMICS...
RECYCLE THE...

USE THE MATERIALS FROM THE DESTRUCTION TO CREATE THE BUILDING

- Popular at top of chimney...
Sustainable

INSPIRATION

URBAN PLANNING

GreenLung - Onda, Spain

Context

Ceramic activities came to their peak in the 19th century in Onda, up to the 20th century. At the beginning of the 20th century, Onda hosted 49 tile factories. These activities were located at the outskirts of the city, nowadays they form part of the city. With the decline of the industry, most of the area behind the castle has been abandoned or become derelict: some buildings are not in use anymore and have become ruins, some are partially in use but with a bad shape. Many of the older buildings have asbestos-cement coverings making them unhealthy as well as polluting the land around them. There are currently 16 Moorish ovens, 1 passage oven, 1 chamber oven, 1 inverted flame oven, 1 enamel oven, enamels deposits and 8 high industrial chimneys. Three former factories are of particular interest: La Campaneta, La Fabriqueta and El Bólido.

Some buildings were constructed in the last couple of years, with a temporary permit, making use of the available space, but with the obligation to be removed when requested. In addition, a black spot exists on one of the main roads of this territory, leading to regular fatalities.

The degraded area makes difficult to connect the peripheral neighbourhoods and distances them from leisure, sports, education, health facilities, etc., thus creating more disadvantaged groups compared to the rest of the city.

As such, the municipality has launched a process to revitalise the entire place, between the Monteblanco and Tossalet neighbourhoods. An urban design has already been drafted, with several options for residents. It is open to consultation during the entire month of November 2023 online.

GreenLung - Onda, Spain

IAP Focus

As part of its urban design, the Municipality will purchase the lands which are not his yet and wishes to investigate concrete solutions to make the most out of its potential. In particular, the area is also composed of a central church and adjacent social centre which will remain and could form the centre of this process and new project. The heritage elements (such as the 6 chimneys) will also be the visual highlights of the place. Other heritage elements can be reused in the redevelopment of the area. For example, stones from the enclosures can be used to build walls. Some green areas already exist which will be further maintained, connected and emphasised. New mobility plan, including new roads, pedestrian paths and cycling lane will be designed. Last but not least, some houses on the outskirts of the site will remain.

Taking into the consideration the very early stages of the redevelopment process of the GreenLung, the IAP will focus on the roadmap to design and identifying solutions, as well as on communicating to and engaging with local communities and tourists.

Generic objectives	Potential actions
Roadmap for the Green Lung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phases for development • Integrative and inclusive solutions • Innovative solutions • Nature-base solutions • Mobility • Social policy • Touristic strategy
Communicating (to attract interest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking the park to the rest if the community • Attracting tourists
Participatory process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-creating solutions (beyond legally binding participation)

GreenLung - Onda, Spain

Project Partner's perceived main challenges

Owners of buildings on the GreenLung:

- Coordinating efforts to work with private property and land owners

Buildings:

- Strictly divided between green and residential area

Circular city:

- Water for the greenery

Related to community engagement:

- Finding solutions which will please everyone and not the urban aspirations with regards to property
- Coordinating local people for their own benefits and not for what the government wants

Wider city / green network:

- Combining different activities in one project
- Being more than just a neighbourhood park
- Potential for transforming and reinventing itself
- Engagement of environmental groups
- Developing a conscience regarding pollutants and potential to develop biodiversity and reduce carbon impact
- Very big for a small city – very large area for a park

Tile heritage:

- Giving visibility to heritage through green spaces

GreenLung - Onda, Spain

Project Partner's proposed ideas and solutions

Owners of buildings on the GreenLung:

- Offering landowners compensation for their property on residential land.
- Paying more for the purchase of land
- Not forcing the owners to sell all the land. For example, only 50%.
- Inviting some the owners to participate as member of the ULG
- Trading building rights with the owners
- Working with green experts to develop proposals which might be attractive to owners
- Bringing public opinion to influence ultimately the masterplan through local politicians and sporting groups, with an ultimate compulsory purchase.

Buildings:

- Regulating sustainable construction.
- Building several models of the final project and place them in representative locations in Onda so that citizens can get excited about the project and see the benefits of its implementation.

Circular city:

- Producing circularly, installing school gardens
- Using the materials from the demolition to create the green lung
- Recycling water from residential areas for the park

Community engagement:

- Co-creating a local identity and local community
- Presenting the urban design project to other communities of the city to create awareness about the opportunities
- Raising the profile of the school to make it more acceptable to citizens (It is better if they see it as a project that will help families rather than just a green lung)
- Involving children, creating activities in the new park to develop the area

Wider city / green network:

- Being brave and developing all the area as green, incl. with green corridors
- Making it municipal orientated as well as a green lung: playing pitches, bike parks, etc
- Creating cycling lanes to link the green areas
- Linking open greens with bike lines
- Increasing the planned greens by creating small parks between housing areas

Tile heritage:

- Paying attention not to erase the industrial heritage
- Making "tiles" the topic for the area and find partners in the "tile industry"
- Creating slack lines between the chimneys
- Keeping just the chimneys, without the other industrial elements, might be counter productive
- Keeping parts of the factories or at least relevant installations like furnaces.
- Creating a cultural route with remains of factories
- Recycle the ceramic factory logos & advertisements and using them in the park. E.g. BOPI SA
- Taking out toxic materials that is in danger of collapse but keep all the rest, wild: Nature will make it work → Overgrown post human landscape + Nature taking over industrial buildings and infrastructure (→ see [Bucharest Delta](#))
- Finding a good point for the development of the park
- Fostering a transdisciplinary approach (with technical, artistic and scientific contributions)
- Check out [Natur Park Schöneberger Südgelände](#) in Berlin.
- Check out [Bundesgartenschau](#) and [Landesgartenschau](#)
- Check out [Landesgartenschau](#) in Löbau

Ejidos - Cehegin, Spain

Context



The Ejidos of Cehegin are spaces that in the past were at the service of the community and were used mainly for agricultural purposes and located outside walls, outside the medieval city: they hosted both agricultural fields and buildings. In the middle of the 20th century, they were abandoned and the existing buildings collapsed. Some of the ejidos were regenerated (see box above), whereas others are in despair, abandonment, with no ownership or ownership ceded to the City Council.

The two ejidos concerned in GreenPlace are located in the old quarter which is depopulating quickly and concentrates vulnerable people, in low quality houses and neighbourhoods, urban heat, with no services nor infrastructure nor green space. Then orography is also a challenge for residents and visitors.

One private house is located on one of the ejidos, with its private garden in the public area, but with no activity performed there.

They are located in a protected area, and therefore, each intervention is subject to revision by regional authorities. Yet, as part of its Urban Agenda 2030, Cehegin wishes to embrace these areas to make greener the city centre based on the needs of the neighbours and the local actors, in order to define the social uses for the unused soils. The revitalization of the city centre is a need that can be achieved through a better use of abandoned spaces, making it attractive to residents and tourists. This will support the recovery of the identity of the old town. A new Urban Mobility Plan is also proposed for the city centre and a touristic car park is planned at the entrance of the city by the ejidos.

Ejidos - Cehegín, Spain

IAP Focus

Cehegín would like to improve the natural connection that the historic centre has with its surrounding environment, so improving the connection of the urban space with peri urban areas, especially with other green areas – creating a green infrastructure, as well as providing space for the generation of renewable energy.

The city also wishes to investigate several future uses: public gardens, a sport area, an open space in nature for the artisans and craftsmen/women, a place to install/share photovoltaic panels, a shared orchard, etc...

As such, the IAP will focus on providing a space for the local community while improving the environment and addressing climate change and creating local links.

Generic objectives	Potential actions
Providing a space for the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space for communities • Space for exhibitions • Space for sport
Improving the environment and tackling climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy production • Space for biodiversity • Water recuperation • Solutions to fight erosion
Creating links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between different neighbourhoods • Between green and blue infrastructures • Between small and big (hi)stories

Ejidos - Cehegin, Spain

Project Partner's perceived main challenges

Community engagement

- Agreeing on a solution that satisfies all
- Engaging with the residents of the neighbourhood
- Convincing the neighbours
- Unknown priorities of local residents

Buildings:

- Onwerhsip

Design:

- Managing such a steep terrain and growing vegetation on it
- Little space
- Ensuring sustainable development within ejidos requires navigating complex social, legal and economic dynamics

Greenery:

- Rocks – hard to work with, especially for plants

Energy:

- Integrating solar panels or any other form of energy harvesting → is it necessary?

Arts, culture and heritage:

- Traditional communal land ownership with modern economic and environmental pressures

FOCUS ON

A PHOTOVOLTAIC
ROOF (TILOS)
ARE THE BEST

TO PRODUCE EN

THE IDEA OF
GARDENS ON
TERRACES MAKE
THINK ABOUT
CIE, A TO
NE, COAST O
BULGARIA

LET PLANTS GROW
UNFINISH-
EDS.
IN FACEDS

Set up one and
reduced electricity to rent
of old town → makes old
town more attractive to
live
It must have to be there
to have any option to
continue it in very close

why with
design and material
no it doesn't
clash with the
arrangement

(Children)

integrate
playground
elements for
climbing for
kids

use different
ways of getting
over the steep
slopes:
- slides
- cableway/ziplines

safety!
being steep it
can be dangerous
especially for
vulnerable people
find ways to
make it accessible
for old people
and people with
disabilities

cable car
for accessibility

MAIN IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS

stability
say
and
either side
safety

RESTAURANT
SLOPS
Lo TERRACES
(WING ORGANS)
DIFFERENT USES

the
ejidos with
a path and
some points
at along



- Specific grants
for footing the area
(eg facades...)

- Reversible processes
with the local
community

- Promenade at the top
that will stabilize the
soil and can be
connected to Cehegin
Rio

- Recreative spaces for
the neighbours

side
dining
station of
ruggles)

community
place
Solar panel
also shade
for sitting

cultural heritage

INSTALLATIONS

Ejidos - Cehegin, Spain

Project Partner's proposed ideas and solutions (1/2)

Community engagement

- Developing a bottom-up approach to co-designing the project with residents
- Maintaining existing population first
- A place for people from the neighbourhood to meet, not so much for tourists.
- A place where participatory meetings can take place
- A place where people have meeting places such as picnic areas, a cafeteria, a fountain, garden areas.
- Recreational spaces for the neighbours
- Addressing the ejidos challenge necessitate fostering community empowerment, promoting inclusive decision-making and supporting innovative land management practices

Buildings:

- Making a catalogue of what is protected in each building.
- "cleaning" all destroyed buildings
- Renovating housing
- Forcing people to take responsibility for plots or buildings, e.g. by charging a fee, forcing them to sell it to the municipality if they do not renovate it.
- Making a local regulation to force them to maintain them (→ see the examples of Ireland and Romania where the regulation that obliges owners to sell their houses if they have not been occupied for a certain period of time.)
- Seeking out the heirs and forcing them to implement the law and improve the property.
- Providing public funding to restore the building

Design:

- Making a climbing space by making use of the rocks
- Creating children's play space
- Creating shadows
- Using materials similar to the environment
- Making a terraced design
- Space for animals
- Paying attention to tourism that can destroy the atmosphere.
- Designing trails and routes
- Make it suitable for vulnerable people
- Linking the two Ejidos with a promenade, from the top to connect with the river. → connecting to the Cehegin Rio project

Safety

- A ropeway
- Finding a way to make it accessible to the elderly and people with reduced mobility problems..

Greenery:

- There are problems with planting in rocky areas: planters can be created.
- Planting bougainvillea
- Creating terraces with crops, such as vines, with zigzag paths.
- Creating social gardens
- Turning unkept facades into vertical gardens.
- Fruit trees, native species
- Leaving open spaces free

Ejidos - Cehegin, Spain

Project Partners' proposed ideas and solutions (2/2)

Energy:

- If the project was done without incorporating the energy issue it would work the same. Energy could be generated outside the historic city centre to reduce the bill for the residents. For example, solar farms outside the city, using the sheds of the agricultural areas, ...
- Watch out: Solar panels destroy the landscape → Focus on the design of solar panels (paths, artistic, tiles, pergolas) + there are mobile solar panels, such as flower-shaped, which open in the morning and close in the evening.
- Combine solar energy with wind energy
- Power banks can be set up to charge mobile phones or laptops.
- Not only produce clean energy but also encourage less consumption
- Use rainwater from the roofs of buildings to irrigate the new green area.

Arts, culture and heritage:

- Heritage can be used to raise awareness of the city
- Respect the history of the site and try to preserve the natural aspect of the area
- Creation at the heart of the town's identity
- Hold exhibitions of artists in the Ejidos, such as in the Parque Ecológico. In this way, the residence of artists in the municipality can be encouraged, thus attracting people to the municipality
- Membership of a network of historic towns could leverage more finance

Special insights from Iulian Canov from Bucharest:

The botanical gardens of Balchik (Bulgaria):

« The second ejidos, inside the neighbourhood, gave me a strong Balchik feeling: situated on a very steep cliff looking towards the sea, the terrain was organized as an almost vertical park. There is an outdoor botanical garden, partly was terraced, partly very inclined slopes. There are also, several stairs and foot-paths, plus belvedere points for wonderful views to the sea. It was built by the Romanian Queen as a pleasure garden for spending long afternoons. »

The Gardens in Vatican (and the Papal Gardens, near Rome):

« I thought about them because of two somewhat unrelated motives:

1st thought: Medicinal Garden.

The popes have built medicinal gardens in the Vatican since the 13th century. I thought this would be a nice direction to explore for Cehegin ejidos: the garden should not only be but als medicinal garden, completed with plants that have various curing properties. These plants can be used communally by people in Cehegin, they could be transformed into all sorts of extracts, oils etc. Maybe in time, this could even develop this into a local brand of Cehegin. I know honey is a strong local product. Why not medicinal plants also? In order to grow plants for medicinal use, you don't need a lot of land – so good for the limited area of the ejidos.

2nd thought: The ejidos landscape made me think of some movie scenes.

In „Godfather, Part III“, there is a scene where Michael Corleone takes a walk in Vatican gardens with a cardinal and he ends up confessing to this priest. In „The Two Popes“, the movie's most significant moments take place in the Papal Gardens (which are actually in Castel Gandolfo, near Rome, not Vatican). And there are several images there that look similar to what the ejidos could be: check [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

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5. Exchanging on thematic practices




Exchanging on practices related to Community Engagement and Cultural heritage as a resource

Project partners exchanged on their practices related to Community engagement and cultural heritage as a resource. The table summarises all those exchanged, where the next pages highlight those which raised the highest interest.

City	Community engagement	Cultrual heritage as a resource
Bucharest-Ifov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dâmbovița Delivery • Changing the ways to design urban spaces through social mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using coloured pavement stones to make ancient walls visible
Limerick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limerick Tidy town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembering the wall by a colour
Löbau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting personal stories • Collecting needs and ideas from the public for future uses • An open-air cinema for residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making the past visible with integrated information boards • Making references to the heritage with visual artefacts • Creating a topography of similar buildings • Artists to put life into sleeping buildings
Nitra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design, co-development, and co-management • Pumpkin carving to reach out to marginalised communities • A bottom-up multifunctional place addressing locals' needs • Co-creation with architects and sociologists • Hackathon for the co-design of a public square • A transitional parklet towards pedestrianisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween in the military barracks • Martin's hill's creative centre for heritage, creativity and sustainability • Combining art and environment
Quarto d'Altino	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-creating new religious symbols with the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking and cycling while discovering nature and heritage
Wroclaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tree for each newborn • Fighting anti-social behaviour through green revitalisation • Green revitalisation for and with inhabitants • Relying on volunteers to make a place alive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A former tram depot to remember the local history • Creating a brand around past public transport: WRO-TA • Organising an art festival: Putting light on the tram depot • A day to celebrate and gather: Open Days of the Popowice depot

Dambovița delivery – Bucharest, Romania



Dâmbovița Delivery is an effort to temporarily recover the public space adjacent to the Dâmbovița river, organized by members of the creative community in the Cotton Industry, Timpuri Noi neighbourhood. Its main goal was to test the interest of Bucharest residents for such events through specific actions such as: the water activities / rowing boat rides, artistic intervention on the facade of the Cotton Industry, improving in the garden of “La firul ierbii” and the online debate about “The role of the river in the city”.

More information [here](#).

Tidy Towns – Limerick, Ireland



Limerick Tidy Towns groups are made up of committed and civic minded volunteers who take on a range of sustainable and environmental planning and actions with and on behalf of their area. It wants to create a cleaner, brighter city centre for all to live, work and visit.

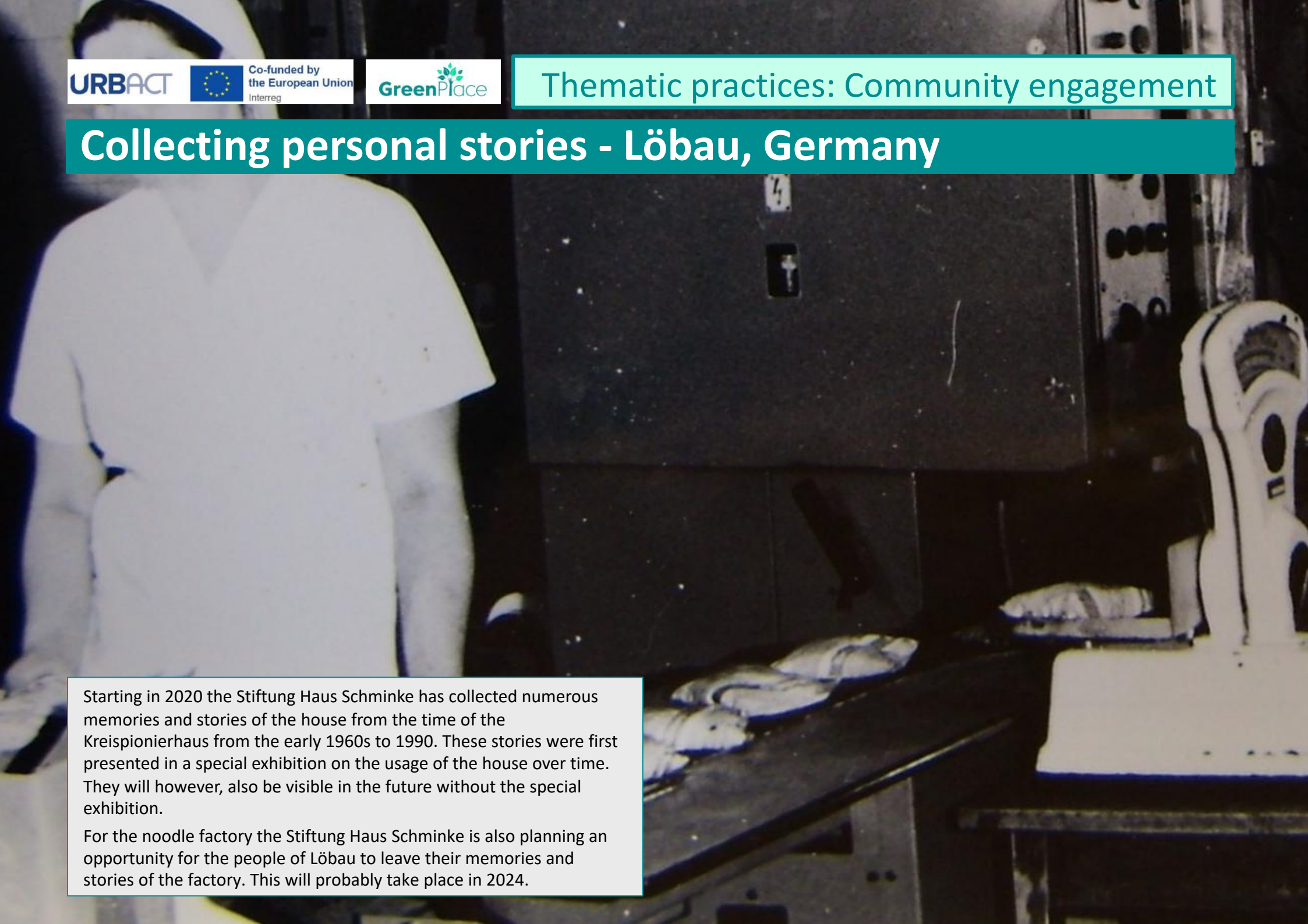
More information [here](#).

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Thematic practices: Community engagement

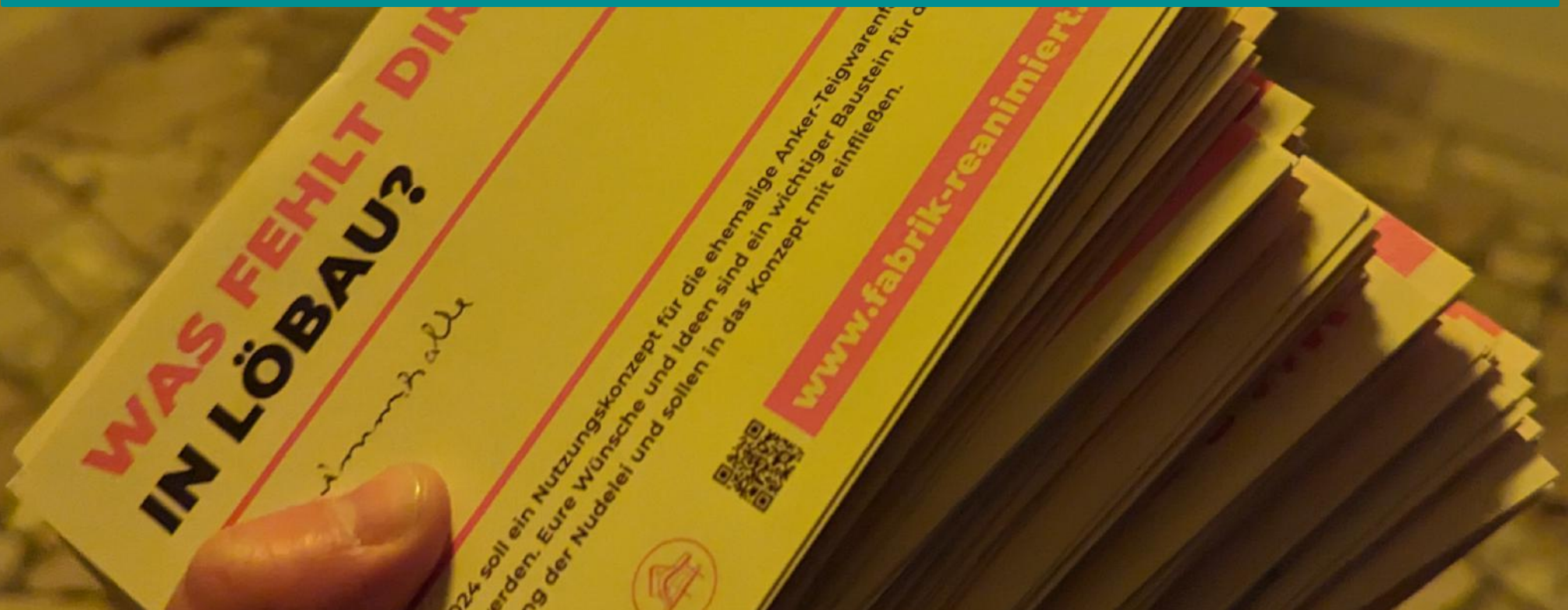
Collecting personal stories - Löbau, Germany



Starting in 2020 the Stiftung Haus Schminke has collected numerous memories and stories of the house from the time of the Kreispionierhaus from the early 1960s to 1990. These stories were first presented in a special exhibition on the usage of the house over time. They will however, also be visible in the future without the special exhibition.

For the noodle factory the Stiftung Haus Schminke is also planning an opportunity for the people of Löbau to leave their memories and stories of the factory. This will probably take place in 2024.

Collecting needs and ideas from the public– Löbau, Germany



As part of a nationally funded project called “Fabrik reanimiert”, the Stiftung Haus Schminke in cooperation with the city of Löbau has started to work with residents on the future of the Noodle Factory with different approaches:

- 4 so called “Spotlight-events” in front of the factory, to pull the people of Löbau back on the property and bring the factory back into everybody’s minds
- A 3 month phase of testing out different uses of some of the rooms inside the factory
- A public planning workshop

More information [here](#).

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Thematic practices: Community engagement

An open-air cinema for residents - Löbau, Germany



In June 2023, an open-air movie night was organised on the courtyard of the Noodle factory, celebrating the end of an exhibition on the former Anker pasta factory with a picnic, and camping chairs. The event was successful and called for a repetition.

Urban Agenda 2030 - Onda, Spain




The Spanish Urban Agenda (AUE) is a strategic document, without normative character, and therefore of voluntary adhesion, which, in accordance with the criteria established by the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations and the Urban Agenda for the European Union, pursues the achievement of sustainability in urban development policies. The methodology for the Urban Agenda is participatory, ranging from a pre-diagnosis to the identification of actions, via survey of residents, SWOT analysis, challenges identification, action identification, with residents, internal and external stakeholders.

The Urban Agenda of Onda has been elaborated in 2021 in using for the first time this working method and a process for all public and private actors involved in cities that seek equitable, fair and sustainable development in their different fields of action.

More information [here](#)

Hackathon for the co-design of a public square - Nitra, Slovakia



In 2019, the City of Nitra organised a hackathon to transform the Svätoplukovosquare. Over three days, the possibilities of effective modifications of the pedestrian zone and the square were discussed by groups of experts at the Hackathon before residents could decide how to turn the pedestrian zone and square into a pleasant place pulsating with life.

The Hackathon was organised by the city of Nitra in cooperation with the Department of Garden and Landscape Architecture of SPU in Nitra. The participation was open to: authorized architects, students of garden and landscape architecture, designers, landscape designers and other professionals. 18 participants took part in it.

More information [here](#) and [here](#).

ec. 2022

URBACT

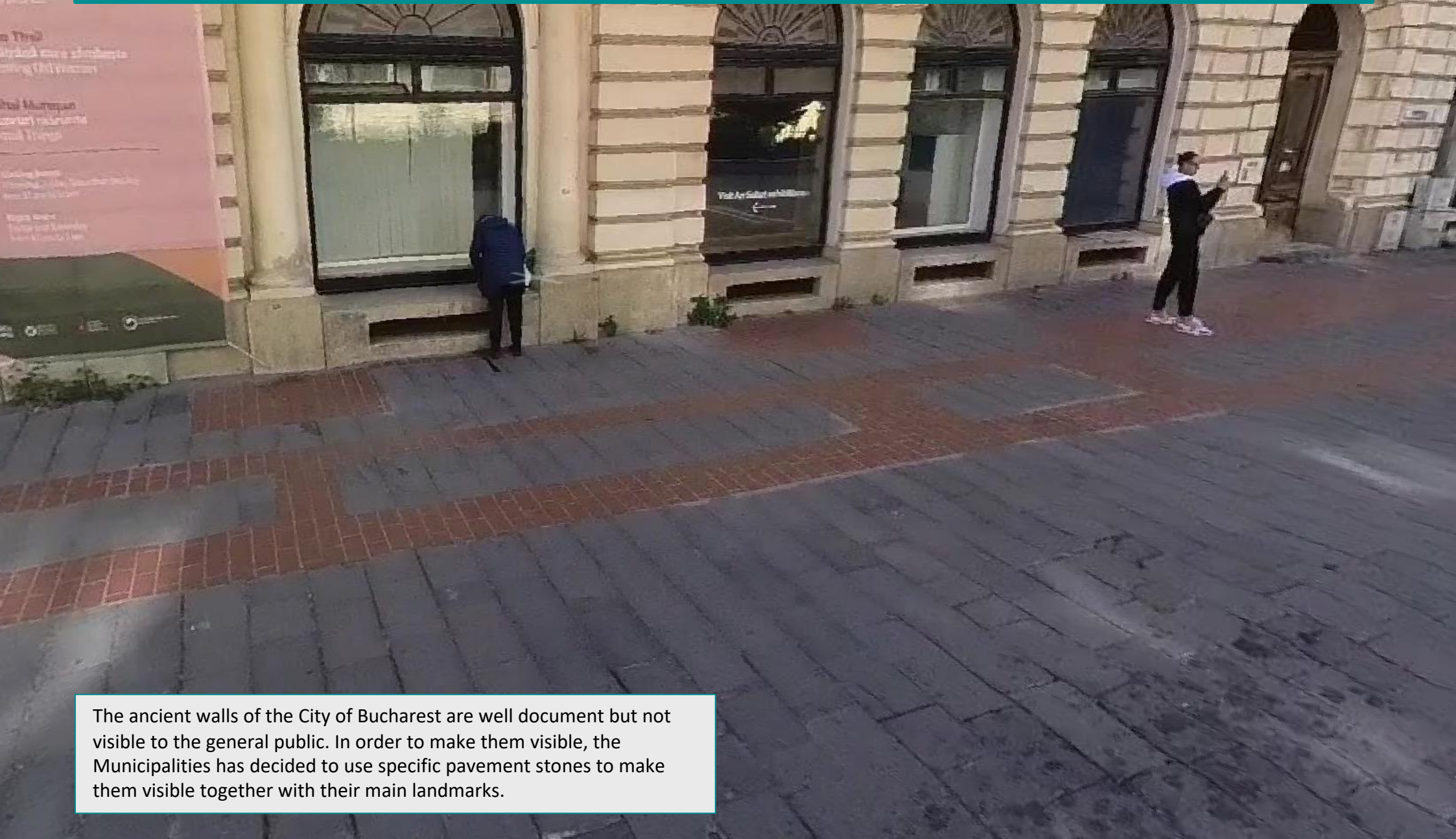


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Thematic practices: Cultural heritage

Highlighting archeological walls - Bucharest, Romania



The ancient walls of the City of Bucharest are well document but not visible to the general public. In order to make them visible, the Municipalities has decided to use specific pavement stones to make them visible together with their main landmarks.

Making the past visible with integrated information boards – Löbau, Germany

2008

... begann der Abriss der Fabrikanlagen, um Platz für die Flächen der Landesgartenschau zu schaffen. Als eines der wenigen Gebäude blieb das Zuckerlager stehen, in welchem wir uns hier befinden und was zur LGS als Blumenhalle dient.



1994

Übertragungsansprüche der Gemeinschaft der Spinnerlei Raben erforderten nötige Investitionen, so dass Betriebsstil geschlossen wurde.

215.000 Arbeitsplätze der deutschen Textilindustrie waren 1992 mit 25.000 übrig geblieben.

Die Textilindustrie bestand ursprünglich auf Erhaltung, Fortschritt und Innovation. Die Arbeiter hatten ein Interesse an der Erhaltung der Arbeit und der Gesundheit. Die Arbeiter wollten die Arbeit behalten und die Gesundheit der Arbeiter.



1990

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In the Neuer Stadt Park, the story of the sugar and textile factories which used to be on the site are exemplified by didactic boards explaining the industrial processes. These in turn refer to the actual state of the landscape, as much as possible keeping the same layout (If not function) as in the past.

Making references to the heritage with visual artefacts - Löbau, Germany



In the Neuer Stadt Park, some installations, notably playgrounds, refer to the industrial past by using similar forms: piles of sugar, cubes of sugar... By linking recreation and highly strong visual effect, together with explanation boards, these areas ensure the memory of the local industrial past remains.




Halloween in the military barracks - Nitra, Slovakia

NA MARTINSKOM VRCHU

In order to bring life to the military barracks, the City of Nitra organised a Halloween party on the site on 31 October 2018. Two activities were organised: a guided tour for pedestrians and a ride on the touristic train. The event was a success with 2000 people coming, mostly dressed up and bringing life (!) to the military barracks in the city. More information [here](#).



Combining art and environment – Nitra, Slovakia



The INclusive Health And wellBeing In small and medium size ciTies (IN-HABIT) is an EU Horizon 2020 project that aims to identify visionary and integrated solutions to promote inclusive health and wellbeing in small and medium-sized cities. In Nitra, the project researches the way art and environment, might contribute to boosting health and wellbeing, with a focus on gender, diversity, equity and inclusion. Through a participatory approach and artists residences, inhabitants were involved in co-creating solutions for improving their well-being.

More information [here](#).

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A large group of people, including men and women of various ages, are seated around several round tables in a well-lit meeting room. They are engaged in discussion, with some looking at documents on the tables. The room has a modern feel with green chairs and white tablecloths. In the background, there are whiteboards with charts and posters on the wall. A man in a dark suit is standing near a whiteboard on the right side of the frame.

6. A JOURNEY THROUGH THE URBACT METHODOLOGY

Integrated Approach

Project Partners were trained to understand and use the Integrated Approach at the heart of the URBACT method, together with a practical exercise on a fictional Testing Action, using the URBACT Self-Assessment on grid on Integration.



What our Project Partners say about it:

- *“It’s inspiring: we hope to be able to involve more relevant stakeholders”*
- *“I’m already used to think and in an integrated way”*
- *“This is very complex and we have disagreements about the way to work on this*
- *“By embracing URBACT’s approach, cities can enhance their capacity for collaboration, innovation and sustainable urban growth.”*

Testing Actions

Project partners were trained to understand and design meaningful testing Actions for their GreenPlace Areas. They became familiar with Testing Action Cards and Testing Action Learning Cards.

What our Project Partners say about it:

- *“I like the idea of creating something with few resources, use of creativity to do something visible, of importance, that involves a lot of people”*
- *“We want to use it to convince the more sceptical stakeholders of the usefulness of the project”*
- *“It’s a great opportunity to test something and see the response to it”*
- *“it may be effective to energise the local community and reach out to more isolated elements”*
- *“it’s a development of something we already planned to do”*
- *“it will be realised according to the ULG”*
- *“As an arts and culture designer, I am used to working with prototypes and this approach is similar. The good practice to test the idea through concrete actions is very powerful”.*



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7. WORKING WITH ULGs

Starting the co-creation with ULG members

During the Activation phase of GreenPlace, the Project Partners have organised between 1 and 2 meetings with their ULG members in order to:

- Get to know each other
- Refine ULG members' interests and opportunities
- Become familiar with the GreenPlace area
- Get ready for the Core Network Meetings in Spain
- Co-create the Problem and the Vision
- Kick-off the work on the Testing Actions

What our Project Partners say about it:

- *"The URBACT method is new and tricky : it's new for us to have people sharing different ideas, listening to each other."*
- *"The URBACT tools are fun and interesting, they are a better form of work than boring presentations. The best one so far has been the vision : it was the end of the meeting and people stayed to cut and paste images (even directors)."*
- *"The URBACT method is a tool that guides, prevents form being dispersed. We study them and put them in practice. We also check what the others do and compare with them on BaseCamp."*
- *"The URBACT method is fun to use. We have a good atmosphere, people come from different organisations and ways of working but we work together very well. There is a good participation. The ULG members have already expressed original points of view, perspectives are opening up"*



Understanding the role of the ULG

Project Partners were trained to understand and embrace the different rationales and ways of working with ULG members. Almost all the PP are at the stage of information and consultation and are aiming to move higher in the participation ladder.



Information

Stakeholders receive one-way insights into what is happening

Consultation

Stakeholders provide their ideas, opinion, concerns to feed into policy-making

Concertation

Solutions are negotiated with different interest groups

Co-creation

Shared responsibility for creating projects and solutions together since the beginning

Co-decision

Shared responsibility for taking decisions

Delegation

Stakeholders have power to create or decide. They are accountable

Citizen control

Stakeholders handle the entire job of planning, policy making and managing a programme.

→ Varied groups of stakeholders/citizens

→ Can all be at different stages of the process!

Moderating the ULG

Overall, the Project partners are happy about the moderation and general atmosphere of the ULG. This works especially well if concrete meetings, given themes, agendas – to identify if they should definitely attend or not – are shared in advance. People are very curious, see that some things are happening.

Some difficulties have arisen though where the group does not abide by the URBACT methodology, learning and exchange and wants to focus on technicalities only, where the group is large, where some of the members take too much speaking space.

The following needs for training have been identified at this stage:

- Going beyond passive presentations
- Managing people
- Managing different points of view
- Managing the space some people take (too much of it)
- Managing time
- Ice-breakers
- Implementing the URBACT tools
- How to get more ULG members engaged and understanding the importance of intervention projects, doing together is importance, to make it happen.

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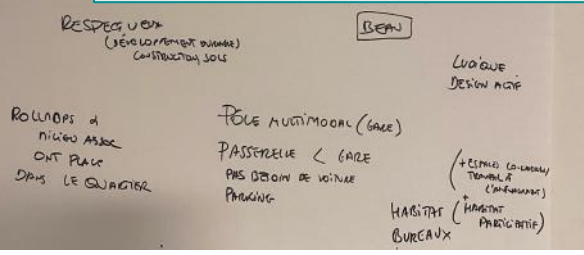
8. TOWARDS THE IAP

Beyond physical renovation, the initiative spurred economic growth and social revitalization. The deployment of smart solutions for depot operations over the first seven years paved the way for economic development, job creation, and



Visions

All the Project Partners have finalised their Visions.



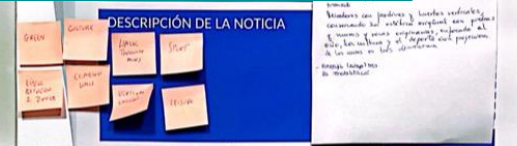
of a transportation museum within the depot's historic halls and the establishment of a training center, both of which have become cornerstones of cultural and educational enrichment in the city.

inclusion of a broader range of activities. This period was marked by the integration of

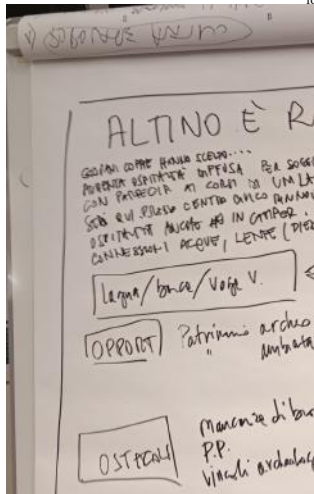
Victoria Depot was es. In the initial depot's operations, allowing the

A Legacy of Inclusivity, Sustainability, and Community Pride

Today, the Victoria Depot stands as a model of community-driven development, blending the past, present, and future into a cohesive and vibrant urban tapestry. The area's transformation into a cultural, ecological, and social hub has established it as a source of local and international pride, power of collective vision and action.



Green Spaces and Urban Connectivity



Celebrating Limerick as a Walled City – join us for the launch of our new medieval culture trail and city linear park in Irishtown.

Limerick City and County Council set out in June 2020 with a strategic goal to help revive a walled 'European' urban area into a walkable city and to help restore its status as a part of the URBACT-20 Green Place award.



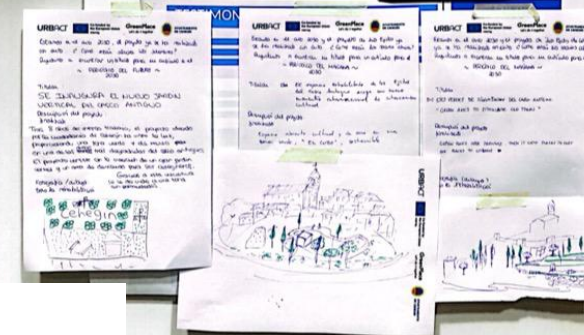
The goal has now been achieved. The City of Limerick has celebrated with URBACT Local Group and the local community, the success of the GreenPlace award in the awarding of the award in the area of the city.

It is an achievement that has been the result of local community engagement and the support of the URBACT-20 award. The award has been granted to the City of Limerick for its work in creating a new medieval culture trail and city linear park in Irishtown, which will bring and promote a new urban address, a new sense of place.

A strategic priority to become a green city that has been achieved for Limerick, Ireland, and which demonstrates the connection to the history of Limerick for local residents and the general public.

The new medieval culture trail and city linear park in Irishtown is a key element of the city's strategy to become a green city and to improve the quality of life for its residents.

from automation and reorganization to the y-centric activities, it's evident that "Green Place, is more than a project—it was a transformative of the essence of urban living. By prioritizing the community, Bucharest has charted a course for cities the potential for urban areas to evolve in harmony of the environment. The Victoria Depot's ascent to the enduring spirit of collaboration and era of urban renewal that is sustainable, inclusive, and to the needs of its community.



News of Löbau

The old pasta factory is back in business

After the start of renovation works in 2026, now the first tenants are moving inside the former "Anker-Teigwarenfabrik" next to the iconic Schminke House. Part of the new concept is - among others - a research hub for eco-friendly heating and green energy systems for cultural monuments.



GREEN PARK VILA NOVA DE POIARES

In 2030, the Green Park of Vila Nova de Poiares stands as a symbol of transformation and sustainability in the region. What was once an ambitious idea has become a vibrant reality and essential for the local community. Upon entering the park gates, visitors are greeted by a lush landscape where nature and functionality blend harmoniously.

The visionary landscape project, presented in 2024, now unfolds into a tangible reality. Areas of leisure, sports, and environmental education intertwine in a tapestry of activities that captivate people of all ages. Families gather in picnic areas, while sports enthusiasts enjoy the various facilities available, from football fields to running tracks.

The commitment to environmental preservation is evident in every aspect of the park. Native tree species beautify the paths, providing not only shade and freshness but also natural habitats for local wildlife. The streams that meander through the park are now biodiversity havens, where plants and animals flourish in balance.

The integrated vision of the project allows for a holistic approach to park development. The cycle track, inaugurated years ago, is now a vital backbone for sustainable mobility in the region, connecting neighborhoods and facilitating access to the park. Partial interventions over the years have ensured that each area of the park develops in a balanced and carefully planned manner.

As the Green Park of Vila Nova de Poiares enters its second decade of existence, it is more than just a green space. It has become a dynamic community center, a natural sanctuary, and an inspiring model of sustainable urban development. Its legacy resonates not only with present generations but also with future ones, reminding us of the power of vision and determination to shape a better future for all.



Green education outside and traditional craftsmanship inside

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Ideas from a process of public participation

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Vizja 2030

V roku 2030 je areál kasární ...
Miesto sčítaných domovov
Miesto sčítaných domovov
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Breaking News

FEBRUARY 2034



ATES ITS GREEN LUNG: IAL HERITAGE COME TOGETHER

ing, an innovative project for the recovery of ge that also promotes the decarbonisation and een Lung is a reality thanks to years of work

ONDA BREATHES HEALTH

anks With the Green Lung, Onda aims to achieve a significant improvement in various aspects, such as better air quality, social gatherings, sports activities or educational spaces for environmental education. In short, Onda wants to improve the biopsychosocial health of its citizens.



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9. STUDY VISITS

Offers and planned study visits

Online

- Boulogne-sur-mer, for Cehegin, Löbau, Nitra, Quarto d'Altino, Wrocław, on **slow tourism** – 2024
- Boulogne-sur-mer, for anybody interested, on **solar panels** – 2024
- Boulogne-sur-mer, for all those interested, online: discussion with the Office National des Forêts to **manage forest taking into account the adaptation to climate change** (experimental re-introduction of more resistant species to climate change) – 2024/5
- Löbau, for Boulogne-sur-mer, Bucharest, Cehegin and Onda, on **community engagement tools** – 2024

In person

- Nitra, for Wrocław and Löbau, on **Nature-Based Solutions** after CNM5 in Nitra - 2024
- Bucharest, for Nitra, after CNM in Bucharest - 2024
- Löbau for Boulogne-sur-mer and Onda on **Landesgartenschau**
- Limerick for Löbau and Wrocław on **temporary use activities and mobile tree nursery** - 2025
- Boulogne-sur-mer for Wrocław on **temporary gardens and post-industrial sites** – 2025

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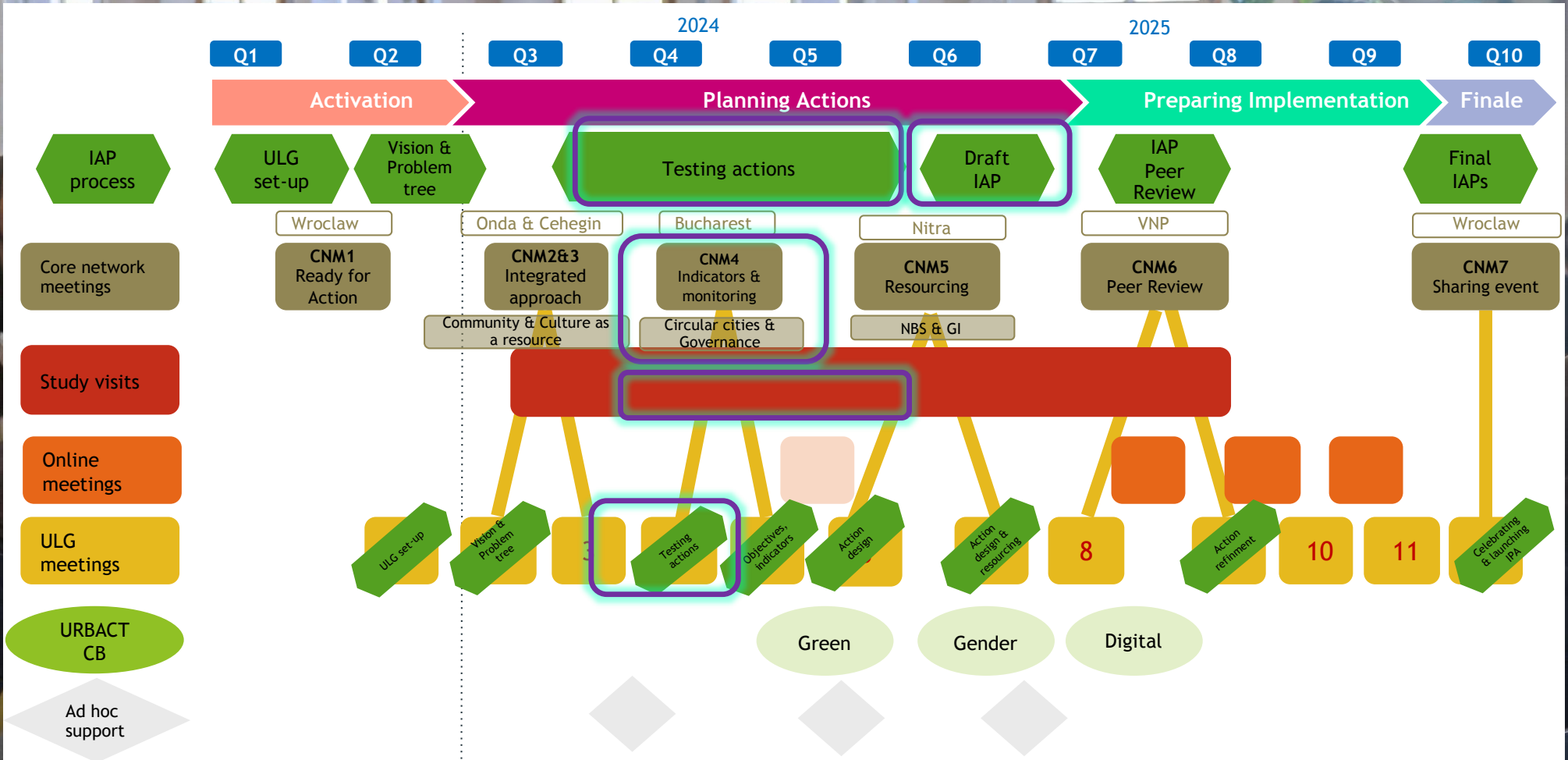


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9. What's next?

Where are we heading towards?



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Este árbol ha sido plantado durante el segundo "GreenPlace. Let's do it together" en el marco del programa URBACT IV, proyecto cofinanciado por el Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional y el municipio de Onda.

Onda, 12 de marzo de 2024

This tree was planted during the second "GreenPlace. Let's do it together" network, within the URBACT IV programme, a project co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the municipality of Onda.

Onda, 12 March 2024

URBACT Co-funded by the European Union Interreg

GreenPlace

Let's do it together!

Quarterly Network Meeting Report #1
January – March 2024

Prepared by GreenPlace Lead Expert:
Marcelline Bonneau
Marcelline@Resilia-solutions.eu

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Let's do it together!

Quarterly Network Report #1
January – March 2024
Annex – Site visits during Core Network
Meetings 2 and 3

Este árbol ha sido plantado durante el segundo "GreenPlace. Let's do it together" en el marco del programa URBACT IV, proyecto cofinanciado por el Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional y el municipio de Onda.

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Onda, 12 March 2024

URBACT Co-funded by the European Union Interreg

Recycling hearts for urban furniture - Onda, Spain



The Municipality of Onda installed several collecting points in the shape of hearts, for bottle caps. They are in turn recycled into urban furniture, such as benches or chairs. At the moment, the success is such that the Municipality does not have where to install new urban furniture produced out of the collected caps.

More information [here](#)




Local market wall - Onda, Spain



The walls of the local market were renovated with ceramics – a typical local artefact – telling the story of the products which can be found inside the market: from the field to the table.

The Synagogue Square - Onda, Spain



In 2016, during the renovation of the Synagogue Square, used as a parking lot, some archeological works uncovered an enclosure of medieval rammed earth walls reinforced with stones and the rests of a stair and pilasters of arches 5 meters deep in the ground. The renovation sought to recover the interest and urban life of the neighborhood with an evident depopulation, from the reintegration of the archaeological site to the rest of the square and restoring the connections to the streets that were lost during years in the archaeological works.

Amongst others, the architects played with visual aspects, for example connecting the ancient staircase to a new one, making it both beautiful and useful.

More information [here](#).


Intergenerational gardens - Onda, Spain

At the outskirts of the Municipality laid a brownfield. While the site had been abandoned for years, the municipality rented it out in 2022). It is now let to residents wishing to grow their own fruits and vegetables, with a focus on intergenerational activities.

In addition, the urban garden improves the quality of life of the population, promotes biodiversity and the ecological connectivity of habitats, which benefits the balance of ecosystems. The garden will be a participatory space for the youngest to learn the techniques of working the land with the elders.

More information [here](#)

The Olympic Forest - Onda, Spain

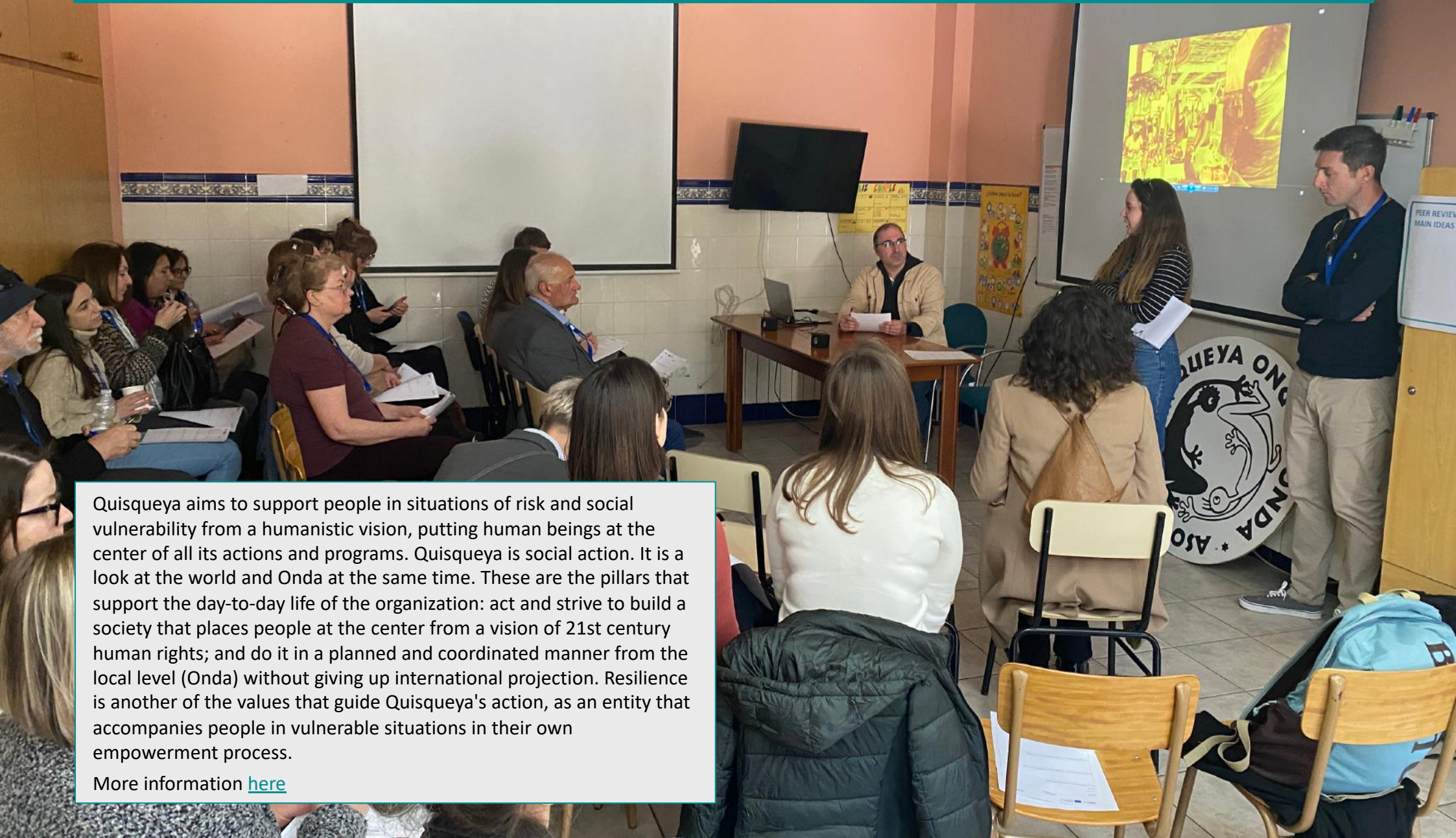


In 2023, an old public area has been transformed into a green space, creating an Olympic Forest in collaboration with the Spanish Olympic Committee. By planting native trees, this project aims at leaving a legacy of sustainability, marks an important step in the fight against climate change and the promotion of biodiversity. It will absorb approximately CO₂ which will be used in part to offset the carbon footprint generated by the Spanish delegation at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

A third of the site is dedicated to activities for schools.

More information [here](#)

The Social Centre Quisqueya - Onda, Spain



Quisqueya aims to support people in situations of risk and social vulnerability from a humanistic vision, putting human beings at the center of all its actions and programs. Quisqueya is social action. It is a look at the world and Onda at the same time. These are the pillars that support the day-to-day life of the organization: act and strive to build a society that places people at the center from a vision of 21st century human rights; and do it in a planned and coordinated manner from the local level (Onda) without giving up international projection. Resilience is another of the values that guide Quisqueya's action, as an entity that accompanies people in vulnerable situations in their own empowerment process.

More information [here](#)

A scaled model of the GreenLung - Onda, Spain



Quisqueya organised a workshop with the children it takes care of in order to co-create a scale up model of the GreenLung as it is today.

La Campaneta - Onda, Spain

La Campaneta is a former ceramic factory located on the site of the future Green Lung. It was renovated in 2022 to transform it into a cultural centre. The place kept visible from the outdoor heritage from its industrial past such as a chimney and ovens, but also kept other elements of the production inside (moulding, colouring,...) as well as illustrated the place with pictures of the ceramics' workers.

More information [here](#).

Cehegin Rio - Cehegin, Spain

The Argos River is one of the two rivers of Cehegín. Yet, it has been invaded by common reed, which is extremely difficult to remove and prevent from spreading. In order to combine environmental, well-being, touristic and urban planning needs, the municipality has started a project in 3 phases to remove the invasive species: through a series of cuts, cover with plastic over 8 months, planting indigenous species, repeated in several parts of the river, it wishes to uncover the river and emphasize the city blue infrastructure.

More information [here](#).

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Site visits

From toilets to a pocket art gallery - Cehegin, Spain



An innovative way of reusing former medieval public bathrooms has been to transform them into a pocket art gallery, Espacio Interior. More information [here](#).

Digitising Cehegin



Through digitisation Cehegin converted its landscape into a model it can be used for managing its Historical Centers in a sustainable way. Indeed, digitization turns reality into a virtual model, formed by geometries with information. The capture of reality occurs through points in space with remotely sensed technology.

More information [here](#)

Ecological park - Cehegin, Spain

In 2023, the Municipality of Cehegin launched a call for artistic projects to embellish the Coto de las Maravillas: 50 projects were submitted by local and international artists. 10 of them will be showcased every two years, starting in 2023, adding to one another, with the hope to reach 100 in 10 years. Private sponsors support the project.

The pieces of art are made out of recycled materials and/or of natural material (wood, paper) and are linked to the natural environment of the ecological park, thereby answering the need to illustrate nature, as well as to find a place for artistic exhibitions.

More information [here](#).

Projet Partners were inspired by...

- Intersection/fusion of arts and nature and the way it relates to context
- Circularity of art, very thought provoking in philosophical terms but even more relevant for climate change
- The use of artwork in public parks
- Low threshold, easy to develop
- Lunch in nature
- Walk paths, natural material
- Nice atmosphere
- Increasing greens in our cities
- Collaboration between artists and the municipality

Projet Partners would do differently...

- From the city: would connect it in a clear way, with maps and/or events, make it more visible.
- Increasing the accessibility: from the city and for disabled people
- On site: would increase signposting, use a map (→ see example of Cote d'Opale's [Land Art Festival](#) with a map of the sites : people are attracted /do the walk and look for the pieces of art along their walk).
- Providing information as to why it is an ecological park and why it is protected.
- Providing yearly residencies on site
- Improving the internet/phone connection (for reading QR codes) – or providing alternatives (see above-mentioned maps)

El Coso - Cehegin, Spain

In 2015, "El Coso" garden project was created to recover a degraded area of the old town while at the same time contributing to mitigating climate change, using natural resources and providing green spaces. While the site was slowly abandoned in the 1950s and became totally derelict in the 1980s, the project sought to reconnect this area with the city centre, while providing a compact solution in an area with strong height differences.

The solution was the creation of a green space around a central square, with a series of platforms and ramps to connect the lower and upper areas, improving accessibility to the site, as well as the creation of parking spaces and a municipal office building. The garden has a series of ponds, which are used to purify waste water from the adjoining dwellings. This water, together with rainwater, is used to irrigate the green areas, which in turn attract fauna, forming an ecosystem of its own within the urban fabric.

More information [here](#).

Project Partners were inspired by...

- Creation of a park in a very dense and crowded area
- Good use of space
- Green walls
- Surface colour – also as a guide to visitors
- Intertwined paths
- Organic shapes of design
- Accessibility for disabled people
- Interesting and inspiring water system
- Complex and integrated project (accessibility, water reuse, social housing, business incubator)

Project Partners would do differently...

- Using a different filtering solution system.
- Having a reflexion on shades: with iron supports and canvas, pergolas
- Using another material for the promenade: maybe wood or gravel + cactus plants all along instead of concrete everywhere.
- Blending more with surroundings and past/modern history (e.g. with other materials and fences)
- Increasing the number of (resilient) plants
- Installing a playground for children
- Installing some benches under the shades.



Artistic places in empty buildings- Cehegín, Spain

As part of an initiative called “Descubre tu interior” (“Discover your inside”) to dynamise the city centre, the Municipality of Cehegín has been granting access to empty buildings to local projects. Owners of these unused buildings give the lease to the Municipality who take care of the renovation and either lets for free the space to local NGOs or against a fee for commercial activities. The rent runs for 4 years, when the NGOs might be asked to move out if they cannot compete against a rent proposed by an external party. There are currently 9 available locals providing a range of artistic, educational and promotion activities.

More information [here](#).

Projet Partners would do simiarly...

- Place for art research from local and international artists
- Growing community
- Without opening hours – looking at art at any time
- Communication campaign
- Interesting way to revitalise the old town
- Reanimating an abandoned area
- Making the area an artistic hotspot in the region

Projet Partners would do differently...

- Bringing science and technology into the artistic sphere

