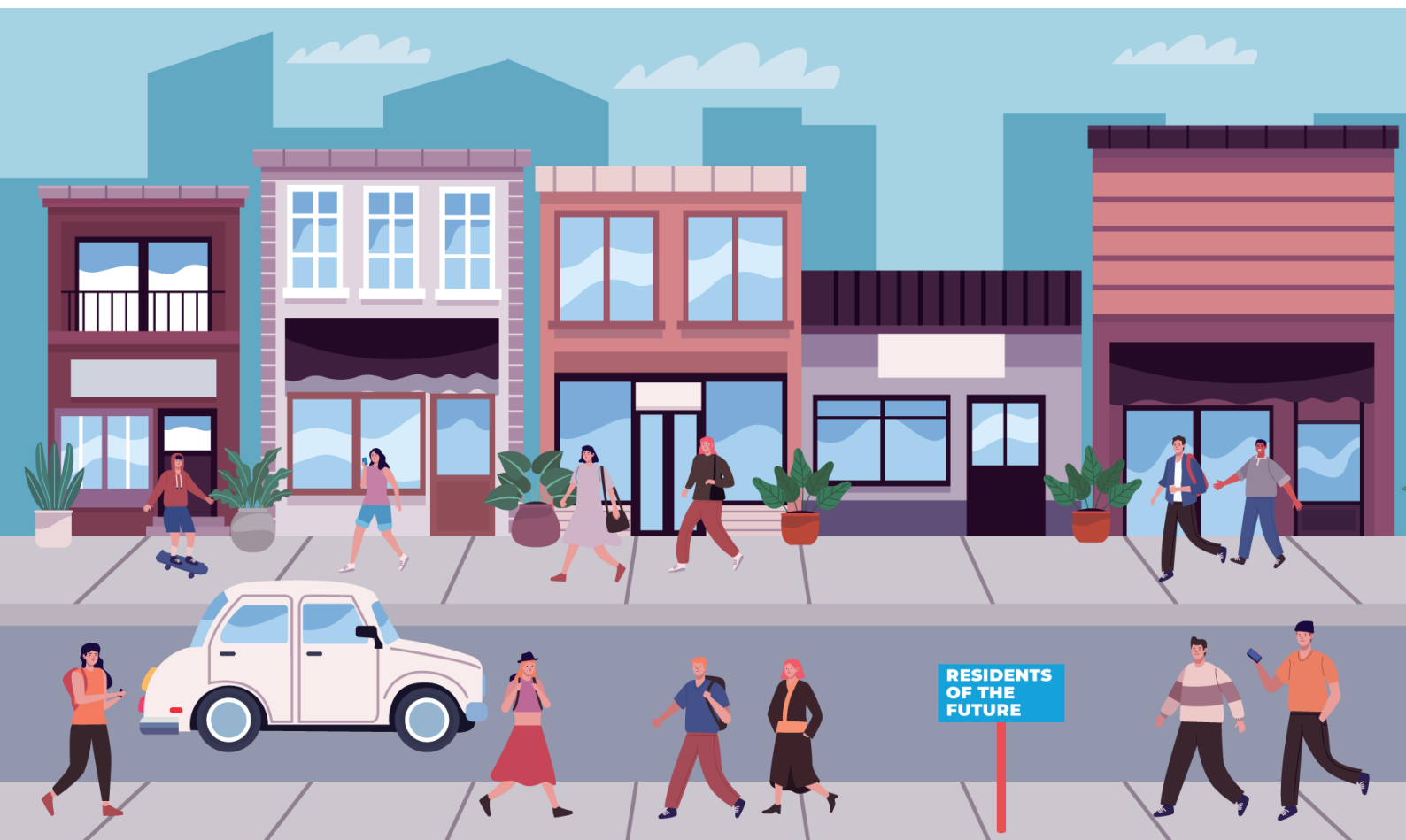


1st Quarterly Report

Residents of the Future



URBACT



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Index

- 1. Welcome to Residents of the Future4
- 2. What's new on Residents of the future?.....5
- 3. What's Next on Residents of the Future?9
- 4. Final remarks9

1. Welcome to Residents of the Future

Residents of the future wants to address the issue of urban depopulation within small and medium-sized cities. By focusing on digital transformation, economic diversification, and city branding, it will explore innovative approaches towards evolving trends in work, lifestyle, and communication, to enhance the cities' attractiveness for prospective investments and inhabitants. The network enables cities to redefine their advantages in comparison to larger metropolitan areas, and develop holistic, citizen-centric solutions that support demographic revitalisation and sustainable urban growth.

Network:

Alba Iulia - Romania

Iisalmi - Finland

Mangualde - Portugal

Mantova - Italy

Plasencia - Spain

Saint-Quentin - France

Saldus – Latvia

Sibenik – Croatia | **Lead Partner**

Trebinje - Bosnia-Herzegovina

RESIDENTS OF THE FUTURE NETWORK



2. What's new on Residents of the future?

Residents of the Future is starting the implementation phase this quarter. After the activation phase, the project partners were dedicated this period to the conclusion of the Baseline Study and to the implementation of the Urbact Local Groups.

2.1 Baseline study is concluded.

The conclusion of the Baseline Study was a major task on the beginning of this period. It was important to the possibility of having the final document reviewed by each partner, especially on each city content.

One of the next challenges about the Baseline Study will be to use it on the Urbact Local Groups to promote its dissemination.

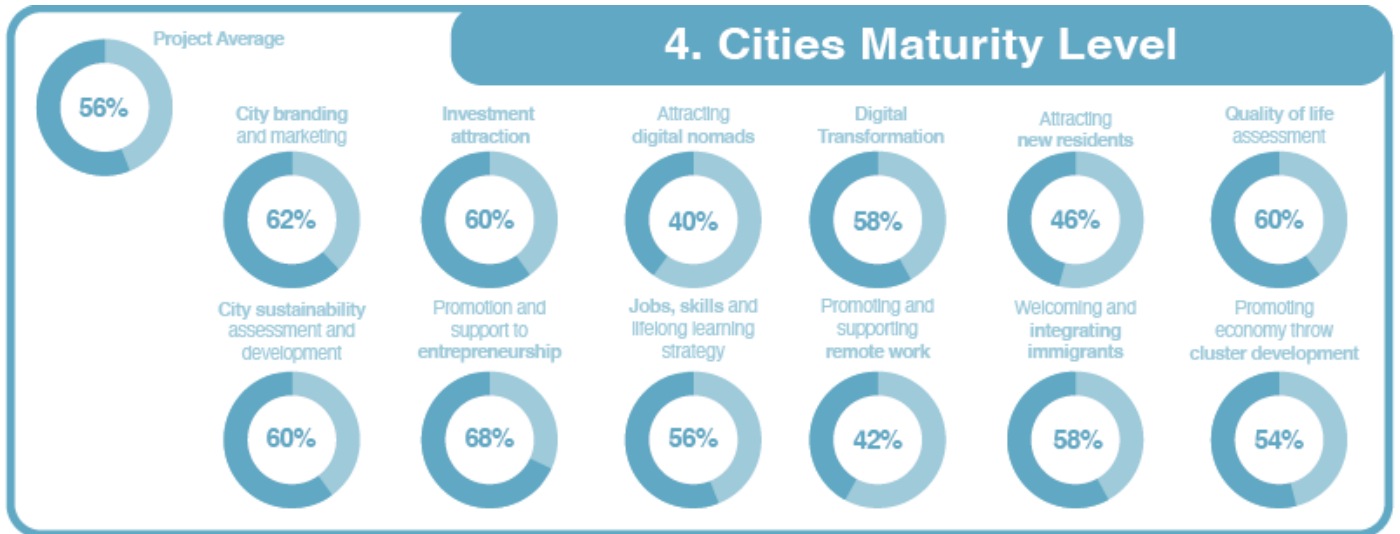
RESIDENTS OF THE FUTURE BASELINE STUDY



The document is now an important source of information about the state of the art on the project topic, the shrinking of the European cities. It is also a resource to the partners, that could use it to manage their participation on the network, and in the end of the project to compare their evolution on the preparation to fight the urban shrinkage.

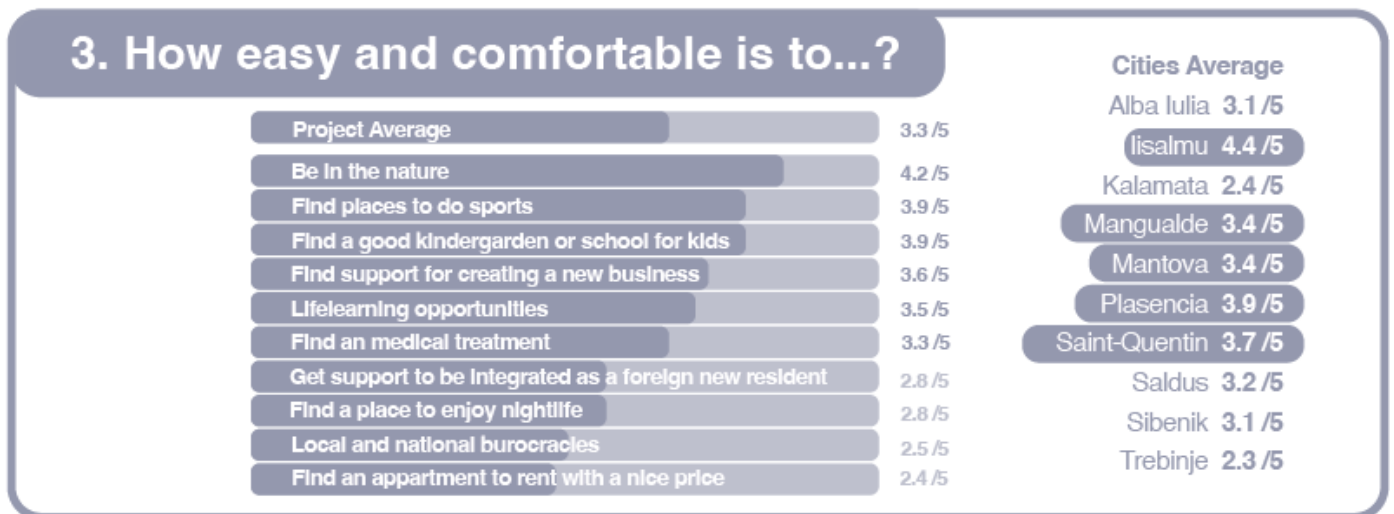
One of the dimensions that was focused on the Baseline Study was the preparation of the partner cities to work on the areas that are deeply connected with the urban shrinkage.

THEMATIC NETWORK MATURITY LEVEL - AVERAGE



Other dimension that was studied and is present on the document is the life opportunities that a resident could benefit living at each city. These dimensions are fundamental for the capacity of the small cities to retain and attract new residents.

NETWORK LIFE OPPORTUNITIES CHARACTERIZATION - AVERAGE



The document will have its final discussion on the first transnational meeting on the implementation phase, that will be at Saint-Quentin, France, in April 2024.

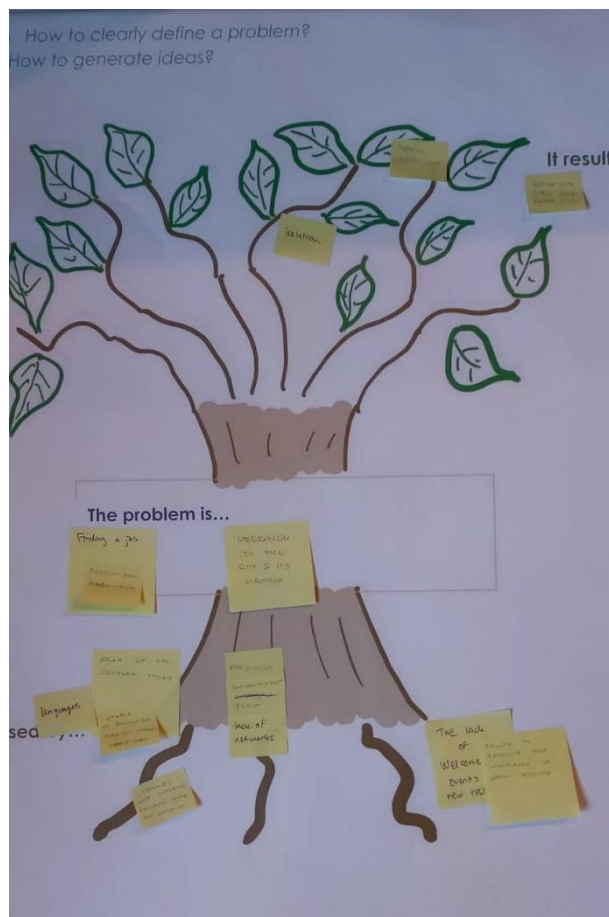
2.2 ULGs are now all operating to stop the urban shrinking.

This period was also the consolidation period for the implementation of the ULGs (Urbact Local Groups). Most of the partners organized the second or the third ULG meetings, already focused on going deeper on the project challenge, but also on defining the vision to the future.

There were several tools used by the partner at this phase. Some of them were introduced on the Urbact Summer University 2023, namely the “Problem Tree” and “The Newspaper of Tomorrow”.

The “Problem Tree” was used on understanding the problem why small cities are losing population. The tool allows the deeper comprehension of the problem, the causes why the problem exists and the effects that are created the problem existence.

PROBLEM TREE TOOL BEING USED BY IISALMI ULG



“The Newspaper of Tomorrow” was used by some ULGs as a tool to collaboratively design the desired future for each city, within the project theme.

It consists of identifying what are the news that the ULG members would love to see on the first page of their favorite journal, on the Residents of the Future conclusion day.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FUTURE TOOL BEING USED BY SAINT-QUENTIN ULG



This period was the set-up period of the implementation phase with the Urbact methodology. There weren't transnational meetings, but only the ULG work, the Keep-in-touch Calls between partners and the conclusion of the Baseline Study.

3. What's Next on Residents of the Future?

On the next quarter of the Residents of the Future project, the most important moment will be the transnational meeting at Saint-Quentin. This meeting is planned to be the foundation of the partners capacity to work at local level on strategic and priority topics.

PLANNED LEARNING OBJETIVES TO THE SAINT-QUENTIN TRANSNATIONAL MEETING

TNM 3 Time to ideate & test	
Location	Saint Quentin
Date	April 2024
TNM Objective	Preparing the partnership with tools to explore and test solutions. Leverage the know-how on economic development promotion.
TNM Contents	Network@work: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Baseline Study presentation▪ Tech-free Hackathon on cities problems and solutions using Saldus previous experience.▪ Remote work and digital nomadism. Training sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Economic Diversity & Grow▪ Testing Action: design & implementation (ad-hoc) Good practice visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Euratechnologies – Robonumérique, example of a public-private partnership on developing entrepreneurship.▪ Parc d'Isle, example of an attractive park to the use of families. Tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hackathon Framework Steering Committee



The planned agenda includes several interesting contents, but it is important to highlight the training session on the Testing Actions, that is a key step of the Urbact methodology. This training session aims to prepare the partners to design and implement testing actions, that is a methodology that creates enthusiasm on the ULGs, potentially already some impact at the local reality and an opportunity to learn with the reality that will allow better Integrated Actions Plans.

4. Final remarks

Dear reader,

It is great to have you with us following the evolution of the Residents of the Future. The project has a noble mission, and a high potential network of cities that could create important learning insights to the Europe's challenge on stopping the small cities urban shrinkage.

As lead expert, it is a pleasure and an honor to work with such stimulant cities and important mission.

We hope to continue having your attention to our work.

Tiago Ferreira
April 2024