

RE-GEN JOURNAL #4

Time to Reflect: The midpoint of our Re-Gen Journey

Mid Term Reflection meeting

Our Mid-Term Reflection Meeting provided a crucial moment to take stock of these experiences. Cities shared insights on barriers encountered, enablers identified, and adjustments needed to strengthen their IAPs. This exchange reinforced the collaborative spirit of Re-Gen, demonstrating how shared learning enhances the capacity of each city to innovate and implement effective urban sport-based solutions.

The State of Action Report

The State of Action Report synthesized these reflections, serving as both a milestone and a roadmap for the next phase. It underscored the importance of adaptability in planning, encouraging cities to continuously refine their strategies to maximize impact. As we move forward, we embrace this approach of continuous improvement, ensuring that our IAPs remain responsive, inclusive, and sustainable.

Next

Now is the time to channel our reflections into action, leveraging the knowledge gained to make informed decisions for the next steps. The work done so far is a strong foundation upon which to build, but our journey is far from over. The coming months will be decisive in shaping urban spaces that truly serve the needs of young people, fostering participation, well-being, and community cohesion.



It is time to pose and reflect

As we reach the midpoint of our Integrated Action Plan (IAP) journey, it is time to pause and reflect on what we have accomplished and what lies ahead. The past months have been marked by dynamic progress, as each partner city has tested innovative small-scale actions to explore solutions before embedding them into the final action plan. This iterative approach has allowed us to experiment, adapt, and refine strategies that will shape the future of urban regeneration in our communities.

Through these testing actions, we have identified key commonalities across partner cities, despite the uniqueness of each local context. We have seen how each city is advancing with a clear place-based approach, addressing specific urban challenges and capitalizing on local opportunities. The commitment to stakeholder engagement has been a defining factor in this journey. By involving key actors—local authorities, youth organizations, sports clubs, and urban communities—we have initiated processes that extend beyond the project's lifespan, paving the way for long-term implementation.

The second half of our journey awaits—let's continue shaping the future, together..

Mid-Term Reflection Meeting | DOBRICH

A Crucial Moment for Reflection and Growth. Assessing Progress and Refining Strategies

WORKSHOPS, STUDY VISITS, PEER LEARNING, TEAM BUILDING

The Mid-Term Reflection Meeting in Dobrich represented a pivotal stage in the Re-Gen journey, bringing together city representatives, experts, and stakeholders to assess progress, refine strategies, and deepen the collaborative process. It was a moment to pause and reflect on achievements, challenges, and the path forward, ensuring that each city's Integrated Action Plan remains both ambitious and achievable. Over two days, partners revisited their urban regeneration strategies, exchanged lessons from their testing actions, and explored methodologies to enhance their work with young people and communities.

The meeting opened with an overview of the current state of the project, led by Lead Expert Raffaella Lioce and Lead Partner Marco Buemi. Cities shared updates on their Integrated Action Plans, analyzing the role of URBACT Local Groups in shaping the process. Discussions highlighted the importance of refining strategies as testing actions revealed both successes and areas requiring adjustment. Barriers and enablers were identified, helping cities



Mid-Term Reflection Meeting | DOBRICH

IAP PEER REVIEW PROCESS is starting

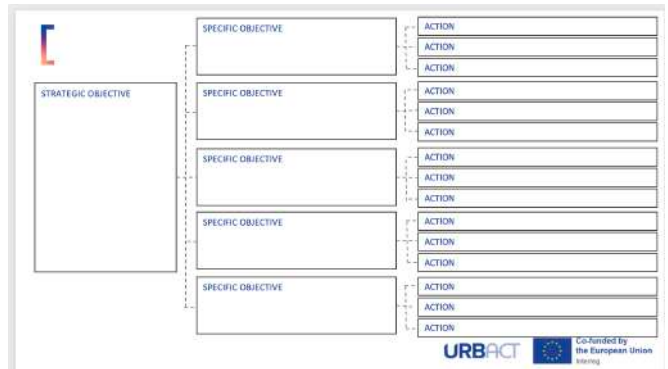
Strengthening Integrated Action Plans

A key component of the meeting was the peer review session, where partners engaged in a structured assessment of their Integrated Action Plans.

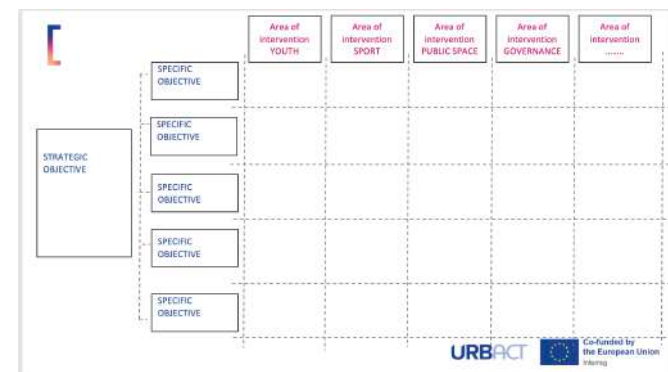
The discussion focused on ensuring coherence between different policy areas, such as public space regeneration, street sports, youth well-being, and governance.

Cities evaluated the depth of stakeholder engagement and explored strategies to sustain long-term participation from young people.

Case studies from Milan and Albacete provided inspiration, showcasing innovative approaches to co-design and youth-led urban transformation.



URBACT Co-funded by the European Union



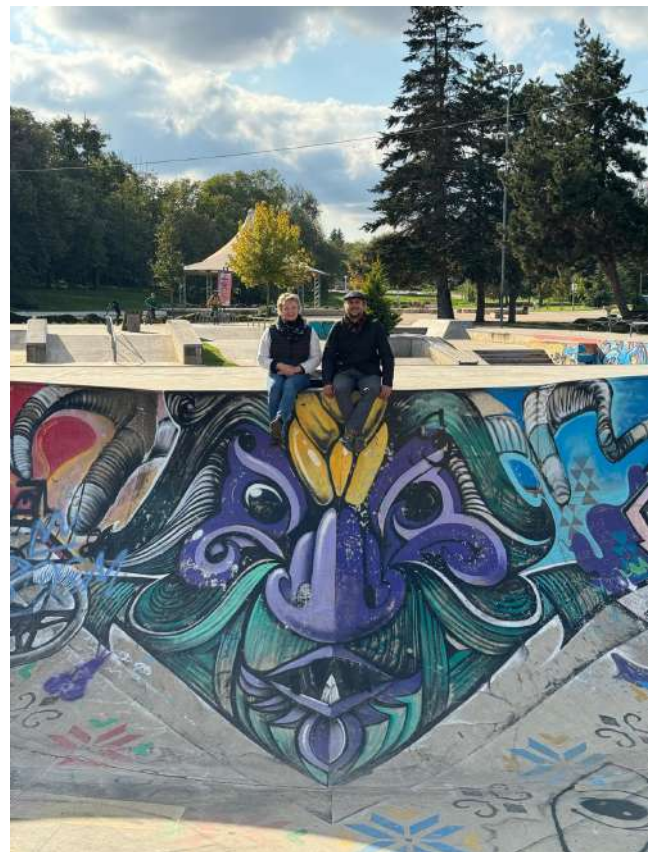
URBACT Co-funded by the European Union

Mid-Term Reflection Meeting | DOBRICH

Meeting youngsters, visiting the Pilot and discovering Best Practices

Beyond discussions and workshops, the meeting also included immersive study visits, allowing participants to experience Dobrich's innovative urban regeneration efforts firsthand. At "Apple Park", they explored the transformation of an abandoned sports ground into a dynamic space where basketball courts, calisthenics areas, and green zones are going to serve as gathering points for young people. The visit included interactions with local students who played a role in shaping the park's development and discussions on how Apple Fest integrates sports, music, and community engagement.

The Youth Center in Dobrich offered another valuable learning opportunity, showcasing how municipalities can create dedicated spaces that foster youth participation. The center combines cultural hubs, co-working areas, and structured sports programs, ensuring sustained engagement beyond temporary interventions. The study tour continued to Dobrich City Park, where participants observed a multi-sport zone featuring calisthenics equipment, skate parks, BMX tracks, tennis courts, and a swimming pool. The discussions focused on how the city integrates green spaces with sports infrastructure to promote a healthy urban environment, demonstrating how investments in public space directly contribute to the well-being of residents.



Masterclass | 15 October 2024 | DOBRICH

How can we apply SERVICE DESIGN tools for designing our IAP



Service Design for Sustainable Impact

An insightful moment was the Service Design workshop, facilitated by expert Liat Rogel and supported by LE Raffaella Lioce. The session provided cities with practical tools to transition from temporary testing actions to structured, sustainable services. Participants used Empathy Maps and User journey mapping to analyze the experiences of young people in urban sports spaces. Through this exercise, pain points and barriers to participation were identified, along with opportunities to create inclusive and long-lasting sports hubs. The workshop reinforced the importance of designing services that truly respond to the needs of young people, ensuring that engagement is not limited to one-off events but fosters a lasting connection with public spaces.

The master class focused on co-creation methodologies, highlighting how cities can integrate sports, public space revitalization, and participatory governance to create youth-friendly urban environments. Experts guided participants through practical exercises and case studies, emphasizing the role of small-scale actions in testing solutions before embedding them into Integrated Action Plans (IAPs).

The event also served as a key moment for peer learning, allowing cities to exchange insights on stakeholder engagement, governance models, and strategies for sustaining community involvement. The discussions set the stage for future activities, reinforcing the importance of continuous implementation and adaptive planning in the Re-Gen network.

Dobrich's Masterclass was a valuable milestone, equipping partners with the tools to refine their approaches and ensuring that public spaces are shaped by and for young people.

Masterclass | 15 October 2024 | DOBRICH

How can we apply SERVICE DESIGN tools for designing our IAP

Service Design is a **powerful tool** in the Re-Gen project, helping cities **co-create urban solutions** that are both **user-centered and sustainable**. By applying **service design methodologies**, cities can **generate, test, and refine ideas** before integrating them into their **Integrated Action Plans (IAPs)**.

The approach focuses on understanding the needs of end users, in this case, young people and local communities, ensuring that urban interventions are relevant, inclusive, and functional.

Through techniques such as empathy mapping, user journey analysis, and prototyping, cities can:

- **Identify pain points**—understanding the barriers that prevent young people from engaging with public spaces.
- **Test solutions**—developing **small-scale actions** that allow cities to experiment before committing to large-scale urban changes.
- **Refine strategies**—using real-world feedback to **adjust and improve interventions**, ensuring that the final IAP is practical and aligned with community needs.
- Create sustainable services—transitioning from one-off events to long-term urban initiatives, such as youth-managed sports hubs, interactive public spaces, and participatory governance models.

Embedding service design thinking into the planning process, allows Re-Gen cities to move beyond traditional urban planning, placing youngsters in the center of the design process to foster spaces that truly reflect the needs, creativity, and aspirations of young people.



DOBRICH STUDY VISIT | 15-16 October 2024

Learning from Dobrich: Study Visits and Best Practices

Building Stronger Connections and a Shared Commitment

The Mid-Term Reflection Meeting was an opportunity for learning and strategic planning and a valuable moment for strengthening the bonds between participants, cities, and experts. Through team-building activities, recreational moments, and shared meals, cooperation and trust among partners were reinforced. The informal moments, filled with good food and lively discussions, provided the perfect setting for deepening connections and fostering a genuine sense of commitment to the project's future. The exchange of ideas extended beyond formal sessions, creating an atmosphere of peer learning, mutual support, and renewed enthusiasm for the journey ahead.



DOBRICH STUDY VISIT | 15-16 October 2024

Learning from Dobrich: Study Visits and Best Practices

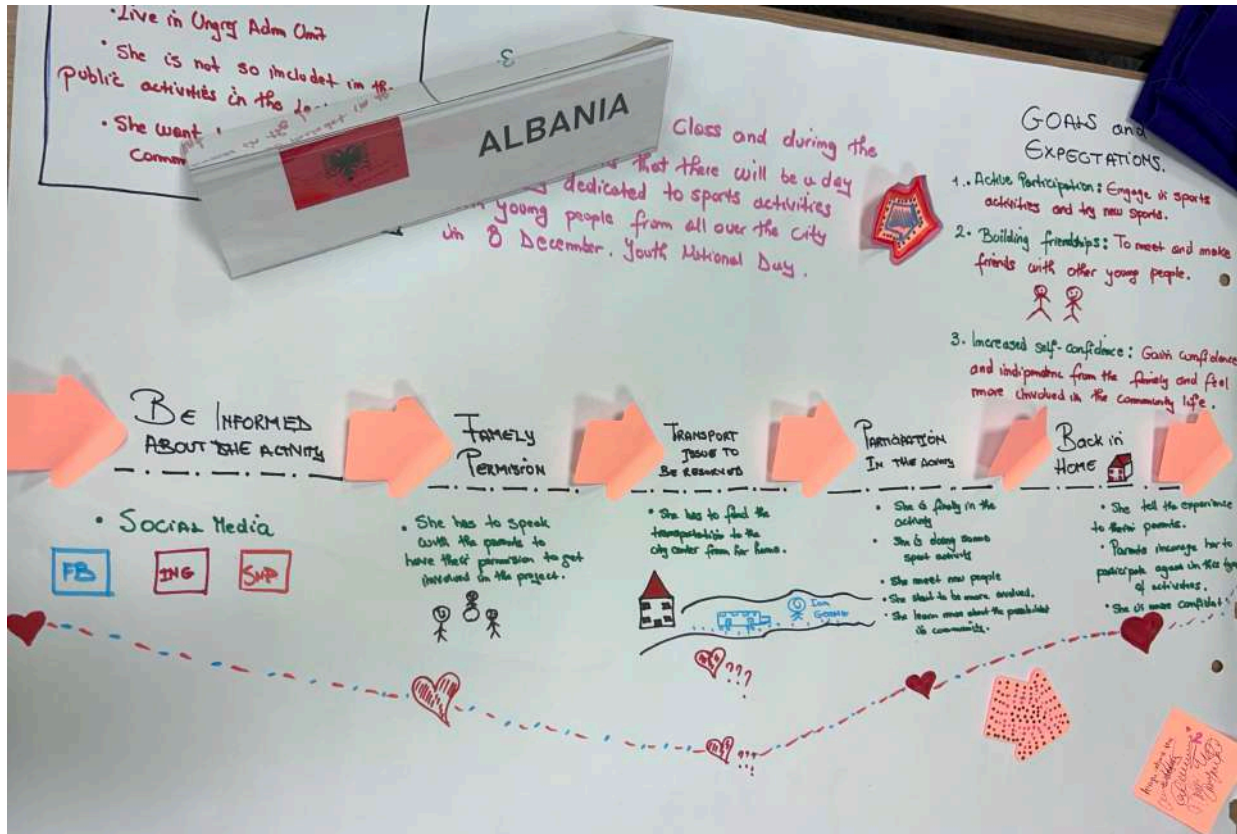


DOBRICH STUDY VISIT | 15-16 October 2024

Learning from Dobrich: Study Visits and Best Practices



Mid-Term Reflection Meeting | 15-16 October 2024



Looking Forward: The Next Phase of Re-Gen

As the meeting concluded, the focus turned to the next steps for the Re-Gen network. Partners reflected on how to further integrate key policy areas, enhance youth participation, and transition from experimental testing actions to fully developed urban sport services. The peer review insights provided a solid foundation for refining the final phase of Integrated Action Plan development, ensuring that strategies remain both practical and visionary. The meeting reaffirmed the collective commitment to creating adolescent-friendly public spaces that are inclusive, engaging, and sustainable. The energy and collaboration fostered in Dobrich will undoubtedly carry forward into the next phase, shaping the cities of the future with and for young people.

STATE OF ACTION REPORT

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC SPACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE THOROUGH SPORT-BASED SOLUTIONS

Re-Gen Cities

Across Europe, cities are facing a growing challenge: how to create vibrant, inclusive public spaces that meet the needs of young people. Too often, urban environments lack accessible and engaging places where teenagers can socialize, play sports, and feel a sense of belonging. The Re-Gen network, an initiative funded by the URBACT program, is tackling this challenge head-on, uniting nine cities in a shared mission to rethink public spaces with and for adolescents. At the halfway point of the project, the State of Action Report provides a snapshot of how these cities are progressing, what they have learned, and how their efforts are already shaping the urban landscapes of tomorrow.

A New Vision for Public Spaces

The Re-Gen project is based on a simple but powerful idea: **cities should be designed with young people in mind**. Public spaces are more than just streets, parks, or squares; they are the places where teenagers build friendships, express themselves, and develop a connection with their community. Each city in the network—**Verona, Milan, Albacete, Corfu, Daugavpils, Dobrich, Lezha, Pula, and Vila do Conde**—is working to **transform underutilized spaces** into dynamic hubs where sports, culture, and social life come together. Through a combination of **local participatory planning, testing actions, and international collaboration**, cities are finding new ways to make urban spaces **more accessible, engaging, and inclusive**. The focus is on both physical infrastructure and on **creating opportunities for young people to co-design and take ownership of these spaces**.

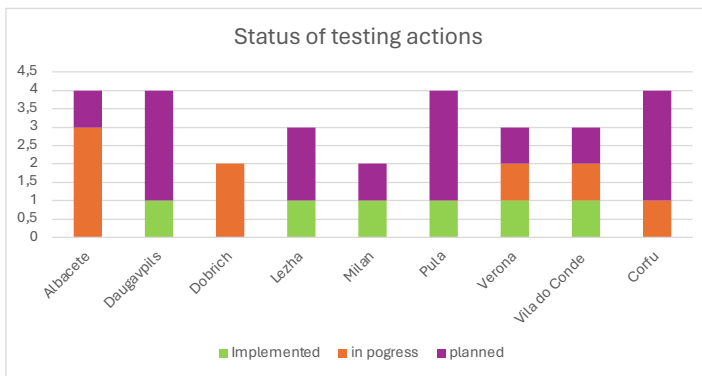
STATE OF ACTION REPORT

From Ideas to Action: How Cities Are Testing Solutions

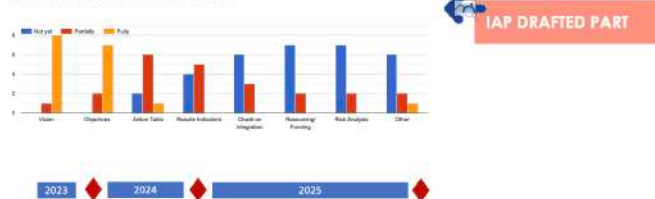
Rather than planning everything on paper, Re-Gen cities are experimenting with **real-life urban interventions**, known as **testing actions**. These small-scale experiments help cities evaluate what works before finalizing their long-term strategies.

Some cities, like **Daugavpils and Dobrich**, have launched **sports festivals and community events**, testing how informal street sports can activate public spaces. Others, like **Albacete and Milan**, have used **digital tools and social media** to involve young people in mapping out spaces they want to see improved. **Verona and Corfu** have focused on **co-design workshops and urban walks**, where teenagers work alongside city planners to shape their environment.

The testing phase has already produced valuable lessons. **Sports-based activities have proven to be powerful tools** for social inclusion, bringing together different groups and creating a sense of community. At the same time, cities have realized that **long-term success depends on governance and management models that allow young people to remain involved beyond the**



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS ARE ALREADY DRAFTED?



Key Data

9 European cities participating, each with tailored urban regeneration strategies.

72% of testing actions involved community-led events integrating sports and social activities.

24% of actions focused on direct **public space regeneration**, such as creating new sports hubs or improving existing urban areas.

Over 18 ULG meetings held in cities like Verona and Daugavpils, showing strong stakeholder engagement.

More than 60% of cities reported challenges in maintaining long-term engagement of stakeholders and young participants.

Top four thematic priorities across the network:

- Public Space Regeneration (27%)
- Sports and Street Sports (24%)
- Adolescent Health and Well-being (19%)
- Commons and Shared Governance (6%)

Challenges reported:

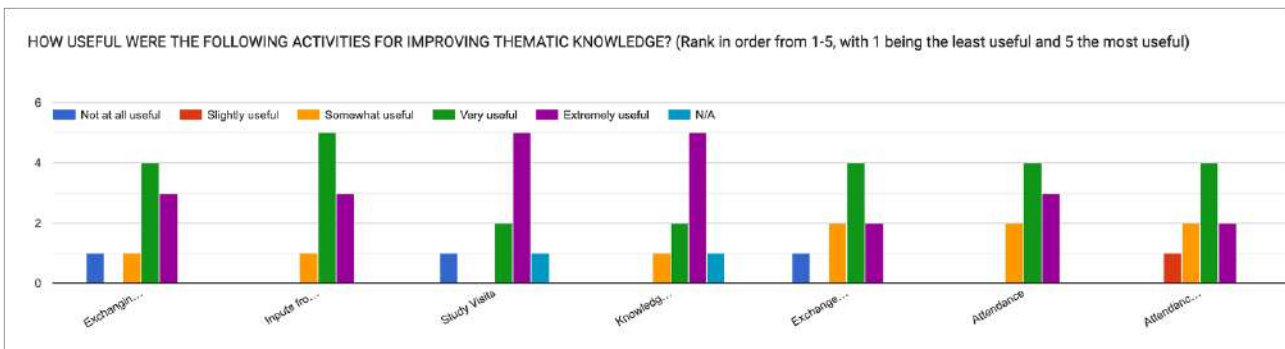
- **44.4% of cities** cited difficulties in engaging stakeholders consistently.
- **33.3% of cities** identified lack of political support as a barrier.
- **Resource limitations** remain a key challenge for at least **four cities**.
- governance models to include long-term youth participation.
- Mobilizing funding to expand successful urban regeneration strategies.

Next steps for the network

- Scaling up testing actions into permanent solutions.
- Strengthening governance models to include long-term youth participation.
- Mobilizing funding to expand successful urban regeneration strategies

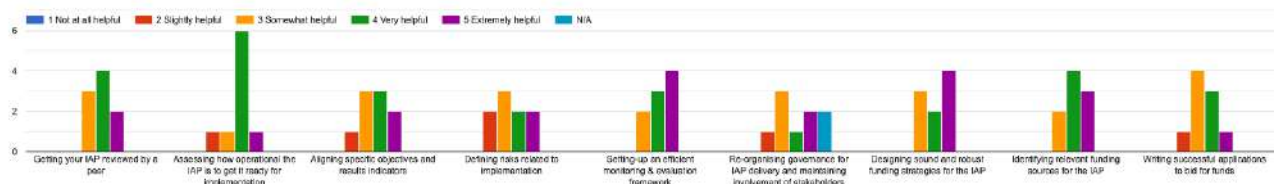
STATE OF ACTION REPORT

Challenges and Lessons Learned



Despite strong progress, cities have faced common challenges. One of the biggest obstacles is **ensuring long-term stakeholder engagement**. While many young people are enthusiastic about participating in urban planning, maintaining their involvement over time requires continuous effort. Another challenge has been **securing resources** for larger-scale interventions. While cities have been creative in testing solutions with limited funds, the next step will be to **mobilize additional investment** to ensure that successful ideas can be fully implemented. The **State of Action Report** highlights the importance of **peer learning** across cities. By sharing experiences and learning from each other, Re-Gen partners have been able to **refine their strategies and avoid common pitfalls**.

WHAT WOULD HELP YOU NOW? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN DURING CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES? Rate each of the following options on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 would be the least helpful and 5 would be the most helpful.



STATE OF ACTION REPORT | Looking forward

After this pause to reflect, we will focus on **refining and finalizing each city's Integrated Action Plan (IAP)**—the blueprint that will guide their long-term approach to urban regeneration. Key priorities will include:

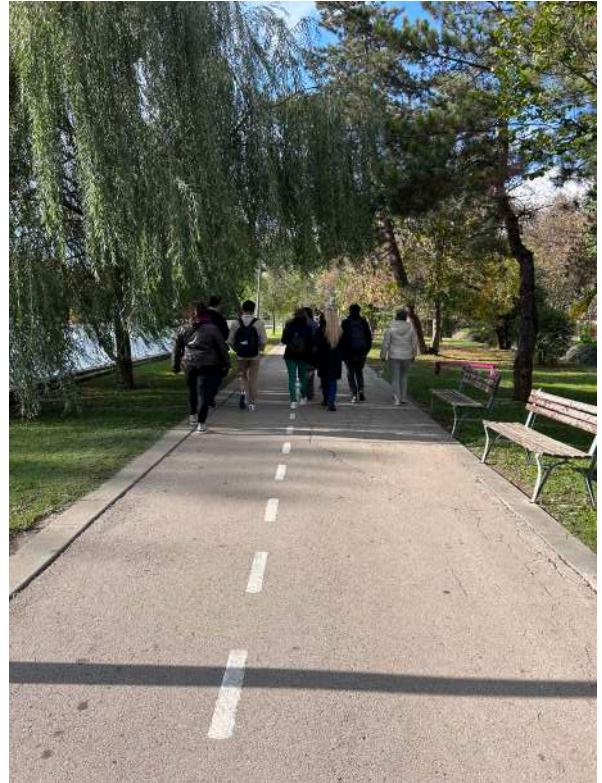
- ❖ **Expanding youth participation**, ensuring that young people remain central to decision-making.
- ❖ **Scaling up successful testing actions**, transitioning from experiments to permanent solutions.
- ❖ **Securing funding and political support**, to ensure that plans can be fully implemented.
- ❖ **Strengthening governance models**, creating sustainable ways for young people to continue shaping public spaces in the future.

Re-Gen is more than just an urban planning project; it is a movement towards a new way of thinking about cities.

By putting young people at the heart of urban development, the project is showing that public spaces can be more than just places to pass through—they can be places where communities grow, where creativity thrives, and where every citizen, regardless of age, feels at home.

As the project enters its final phase, one thing is clear: **Re-Gen cities are imagining the future—they are actively building it.** Together with the Urbact Local group and youngsters

Through bold experimentation, strong collaboration, and a shared vision, they are setting an example for cities everywhere, proving that when young people are given the space to shape their world, everyone benefits.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RE-GEN CITIES

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN **ALBACETE** | SPAIN

Rethinking Public Spaces Through Youth Participation

ALBACETE

In Albacete, the Re-Gen project is focusing on **transforming abandoned spaces** into dynamic, youth-friendly areas by engaging young citizens in innovative ways. Over the past months, the city has experimented with different approaches to increase youth participation, test urban regeneration concepts, and build awareness around the importance of public space transformation.

Instagram Contest: A Digital Approach to Urban Regeneration

One of the key initiatives launched was an **Instagram contest** aimed at involving young people in imagining the future of an abandoned silo. Participants were encouraged to take a **selfie or a creative photo** at the site and share their vision for its regeneration on Instagram using the hashtag **#REGENALBACETE**.

The initiative sought to leverage social media's potential to **amplify youth voices and generate fresh ideas** for urban renewal Albacete

Despite high engagement on social media, participation in the contest itself was **lower than expected**, with fewer than five entries submitted. The challenge highlighted a **disconnect between online engagement and active participation**, suggesting that social media contests alone may not be the most effective tool for mobilizing young people in urban planning.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN **ALBACETE** | SPAIN

Rethinking Public Spaces Through Youth Participation



Lessons Learned: Rethinking Youth Engagement

The experience provided valuable insights into how to better connect with young people. Direct engagement through **schools and in-person activities** proved to be more effective in sparking interest and encouraging participation. Future initiatives will incorporate **more interactive and gamified approaches**, such as **TikTok challenges, live Q&A sessions, or school-based competitions**.

To boost engagement, Albacete is considering offering **small incentives**, such as event tickets, discounts, or vouchers, to encourage young people to contribute their ideas. Collaboration with **youth centers and schools** will also be strengthened to integrate these initiatives into students' daily activities

Looking Ahead: Building a More Inclusive Approach

While the Instagram contest provided a useful test case, Albacete is now shifting towards a more **hybrid strategy**, combining **digital engagement with hands-on participation**. The next steps include **in-person workshops, co-creation sessions, and new urban activations** designed to bring young people physically into the spaces they are helping to reimagine.

Through continuous experimentation and adaptation, Albacete remains committed to **finding the right balance between digital and real-world engagement**, ensuring that the voices of young citizens shape the future of their urban environment.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN CORFU' | GREECE

CORFU'

Transforming Public Space Through Youth Engagement

In Corfu, the Re-Gen project is making steady progress in its mission to **revitalize an underutilized park near the city's correctional facilities**, turning it into a **vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable** space for the community. With a strong focus on **youth engagement, shared governance, and environmental sustainability**, the project is leveraging participatory approaches to ensure that local young people have a direct role in shaping the transformation.

Engaging the Community: Surveys and Stakeholder Collaboration

Between **October and December 2024**, significant efforts were made to strengthen collaboration with key stakeholders, including **local schools, municipal representatives, and correctional facility officials**. A **22-question survey** was distributed in collaboration with educators, principals, and parents to gather insights from students aged **10-16**. This initiative served as a critical **testing phase**, measuring the **effectiveness of youth engagement strategies** and assessing how well different stakeholders could collaborate in the park's redesign. Approximately **70 students from five local schools** participated in the survey and related activities. While gathering comprehensive feedback has posed challenges, ongoing engagement efforts are helping to bridge the gap. More than **ten key stakeholders**, including municipal authorities and the **Secondary Education Committee**, have been actively involved in discussions within the **Urban Local Group (ULG)**, shaping the vision for the park.

Challenges and Opportunities

One of the project's **key challenges** has been **balancing the preservation of Corfu's cultural and historical heritage**—as the site is located in a protected area—with the need for **modern, youth-oriented urban design**. This has required careful planning and negotiations to ensure that the final design meets **both conservation standards and the needs of young people**.

Additionally, while the survey demonstrated initial enthusiasm from students and schools, **securing sustained participation** has been more difficult than expected. The project team is now exploring alternative strategies, such as **co-creation workshops and direct involvement in urban sports initiatives**, to make engagement more dynamic and appealing.

Next Steps: A Community-Centered Vision for Corfu

Looking ahead, the focus remains on **deepening stakeholder engagement and refining the park's redesign plans**. The upcoming **Core Network Meeting in April 2025**, to be held in Corfu, will be a pivotal moment for aligning all partners and stakeholders, sharing best practices, and finalizing key aspects of the project. Additionally, sustainability features and youth-focused initiatives will continue to be prioritized, ensuring that the regenerated park not only serves current community needs but remains a **long-term asset for future generations**. The ultimate goal is to create a **safe, inclusive, and dynamic urban space** that fosters **physical activity, social interaction, and environmental awareness**.

Stay tuned for further updates as Corfu continues its journey toward a **revitalized public space, shaped by and for its young citizens!**

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DAUGAVPILS | LATVIA

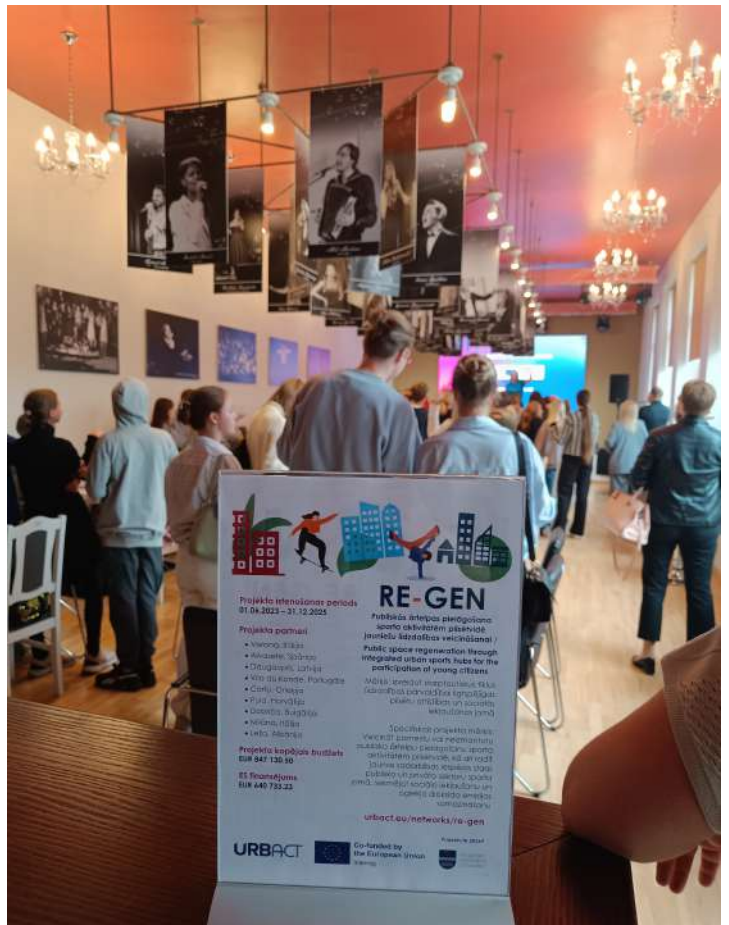
DAUGAVPILS

Empowering Youth Through Sports and Civic Engagement

Daugavpils is making significant strides in fostering youth participation and urban regeneration through the **Re-Gen project**. In the last quarter of 2024, the city focused on **civic engagement, green transition, and co-creation efforts**, ensuring that young people play a central role in shaping public spaces.

Youth Engagement and Co-Creation

Following the success of the training, a **youth-focused educational event** was held on **October 4th**, in partnership with **"Dienvidlatgales NVO atbalsta centrs"**. Young people aged **10-18** gathered at **Daugavpils Unity House** to participate in **interactive workshops, discussions, and sports activities**. The event emphasized **sustainable development, civic participation, and urban planning**, giving young participants a direct voice in the **co-creation of the IAP**. Nearly **70 students** contributed their ideas and priorities, helping shape the future of public spaces in Daugavpils.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DAUGAVPILS | LATVIA

Workshops and Training for Sustainable Development

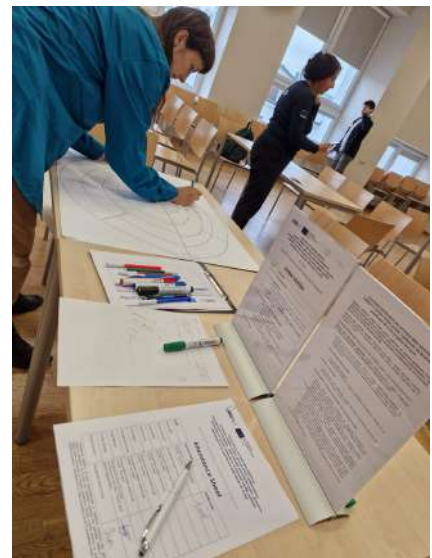
As part of the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW), Daugavpils hosted several events between September 18 and October 8, 2024, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goal No. 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. One of the key events was a face-to-face training and co-creation workshop on October 2nd, organized in collaboration with the environmental NGO "Green Liberty". This session brought together URBACT Local Group (ULG) members, municipal staff, and NGO representatives, equipping them with skills in civic participation, green transition, gender equality, and social inclusion.

Using the **World Café method**, participants engaged in discussions and collaborative exercises, ultimately identifying possible actions to include in the city's **Integrated Action Plan (IAP)**.

Integrated Action PLANNING process

Daugavpils has been steadily advancing its **Integrated Action Plan (IAP)**. The **2nd chapter** of the IAP has been drafted and is set for discussion with ULG members. Additionally, two **small-scale actions (SSA)** have been confirmed:

1. **Urban Development Hackathon - A** participatory event aimed at fostering city community, especially youth, innovation and engagement in urban development.
2. **Co-Creation Workshop & Street Sports Promotion Event -** Bringing young people together to shape the future of street sports and public space transformation.



Looking ahead Strengthening Community Involvement

Daugavpils continues to demonstrate its commitment to youth empowerment, civic participation, and sports-based urban regeneration. The upcoming urban development hackathon and co-creation workshop will further solidify young people's role in designing and revitalizing their city. As the Re-Gen project progresses, Daugavpils stands as a strong example of how collaborative planning and active youth involvement can drive meaningful urban transformation. Stay tuned for more updates as the city moves closer to realizing its vision for inclusive, vibrant, and youth-friendly public spaces!

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DOBRICH | BULGARIA

DOBRICH

Creating Youth-Friendly Spaces and Sustainable Initiatives

Dobrich has been actively shaping **youth-centered public spaces** through a combination of **architectural workshops, cultural events, and environmental initiatives**. As part of the Re-Gen project, the city has worked on engaging young people in the **co-design of urban areas**, while also promoting sustainability and creative expression.

The Apple Eco Park: A Community-Driven Green Initiative

From **October to December 2024**, Dobrich advanced its **Apple Eco Park** project, transforming an urban space with the support of **local volunteers from Urban Local Groups (ULGs)**.

The initiative, funded under the **National Program "Clean Environment - 2024"**, secured a **€7,600 grant** to promote community-led environmental stewardship. The eco-park not only enhances **green infrastructure** but also strengthens **citizen engagement**, fostering a sense of responsibility for **public spaces and natural resources**.

The project demonstrates how **sustainability and urban regeneration** can go hand in hand, making cities more livable and attractive for young people.

Sports and Well-being: Basketball for Mental Health

Dobrich also emphasized the role of sports in mental well-being, incorporating basketball activities into the school program.

The event, led by the "Unstoppable" basketball team, featured a friendly match with the High School "St. Kliment Ohridski" team. Players showcased their skills while also discussing the benefits of sports in reducing stress and improving mental resilience.

Sustainable Fashion Atelier: Turning Waste into Creativity

In parallel, Dobrich launched the **"Sustainable Fashion" Art Atelier**, encouraging students to explore **creative upcycling and environmental awareness**. After a discussion on the massive amount of textile waste generated every year, participants used **autumn leaves to print designs on T-shirts** and repurposed **old clothes into artistic posters**.

The activity sparked discussions on **responsible consumption and sustainability**, highlighting the potential for **reusing materials to reduce waste**. This initiative aligns with the broader goals of the **Apple Eco Park** project, reinforcing Dobrich's commitment to integrating **eco-consciousness into urban youth space**.

Youth Spaces: Architectural Workshop for a New Playground

A major highlight of the last quarter was the "Youth Spaces" Architectural Workshop, where students from 11th and 12th grades collaborated with guest mentor Architect Pamporov to design a multifunctional playground called "Apple". The initiative aimed at creating an active, well-used terrain where young people can engage in sports, leisure, and social interaction.

During the workshop's **official closing event**, students presented their project ideas to representatives of the **Dobrich municipality** and Re-Gen partners from **Italy, Latvia, Croatia, Spain, Portugal, Albania, and Greece**. This participatory process reinforced the importance of **youth involvement in urban regeneration**, ensuring that the playground design reflects the needs and aspirations of its future users.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DOBRICH | BULGARIA

Looking Ahead: Strengthening Community Participation

Dobrich remains focused on **expanding participatory urban planning** and ensuring that young people remain at the heart of public space transformation. The next steps will include:

- ❖ Refining and implementing the Apple Playground project, incorporating student feedback.
- ❖ Expanding sustainability initiatives, integrating eco-conscious features into urban spaces.
- ❖ **Enhancing sports engagement**, promoting physical activity as a key component of **urban well-being**.

Dobrich's **multidisciplinary approach**, combining **design, sustainability, and sports**, is setting a strong example for **youth-led urban transformation**, proving that young people can be **co-creators of their city's future**.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LEZHA | ALBANIA

LEZHA

Re-Gen as an opportunity to continue investing in the Youth Center

Testing Sports Activities: Bringing Youth to Public Spaces

On December 6, 2024, the Municipality of Lezhë organized its first sports testing activities at the Public Youth Center. The event was strategically aligned with National Youth Day, underlining the importance of active lifestyles and public space utilization. The goal was to explore how sports can activate urban spaces, ensuring they serve as hubs for community engagement and youth participation. The event brought together students from several schools, including Gjergj Kastrioti, Besëlidhja, At Shtjefën Gjeçovi, Gjergj Fishta, Rogacionistët, Kolin Gjoka, and Rraboshtë. Activities included ping pong, volleyball, basketball, sports dancing, and chess, offering a mix of competitive and recreational opportunities.

A total of 50 young participants took part in the event, providing valuable feedback on their preferred sports and activities. Basketball and volleyball emerged as the most popular outdoor sports, while ping pong was the most engaging activity overall. The enthusiasm from participants indicated a strong desire for more frequent sports events, reinforcing the need for dedicated sports

Transforming Public Spaces Through Sports and Youth Engagement

Lezhë is making significant progress in **revitalizing public spaces through sports**, aiming to create **inclusive, youth-friendly environments** that encourage active participation. As part of the **Re-Gen project**, the city has taken concrete steps to **engage young people in co-creating their urban spaces**, testing solutions that could shape future



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LEZHA | ALBANIA



Future Vision: Transforming Spaces into Permanent Sports Hubs

While the outdoor areas used for volleyball and basketball require significant improvements, the event served as a testing phase to explore how these spaces could be developed into permanent sports venues. The feedback gathered will inform future investments in sports infrastructure, ensuring that urban spaces are designed for and with young people.

The event also highlighted the potential for sports to attract tourism, with participants suggesting that basketball facilities could be developed to host tournaments and attract visitors. This aligns with the city's broader strategy of leveraging youth engagement and urban sports to create a vibrant, dynamic urban environment.

Looking Ahead: Scaling Up Youth Participation and Infrastructure Development

Lezhë's next steps focus on:

- ❖ **Developing permanent sports facilities**, incorporating youth feedback into the planning process.
- ❖ **Enhancing youth participation in decision-making**, ensuring that young people play an active role in shaping public spaces.
- ❖ Expanding sports events, organizing regular activities and competitions to maintain engagement.
- ❖ Integrating sports hubs into the city's broader urban development plans, transforming neglected spaces into thriving centers for community interaction.

With a strong commitment to youth-driven urban transformation, Lezhë is demonstrating how sports can serve as a powerful catalyst for social inclusion, urban renewal, and civic engagement. As the project progresses, the city will continue testing, refining, and implementing solutions that create lasting benefits for young people and the wider community.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MILANO | ITALY

MILANO

Integrating Sport and street sports into San Siro MOSAICO Strategy

Expanding Testing Actions: More Engagement, More Impact

As part of the **2025 strategy**, Milan is introducing a **new set of testing actions** aimed at strengthening community involvement in **public space transformation**. These initiatives build on previous experiences and incorporate fresh ideas to ensure broader participation.

"Sun Siro" - A One-Day Sports Activation (June 2025): This event will **temporarily transform a public space into a dynamic sports hub**, demonstrating how urban areas can be adapted for community-driven sports and recreation. It will engage local youth and residents in a participatory process to **co-create sports activities in underused spaces**.

"RigeNARRando" - Redefining the Narrative of the San Siro Neighborhood (January-June 2025): This initiative focuses on **shaping a new collective identity for the district**, encouraging young people to tell the story of their community through visual and digital media. The goal is to **challenge stereotypes, foster civic pride, and reinforce the connection between urban space and cultural identity**.

Hackathon (April 2025): Milan is preparing a hackathon that will explore the intersection of sports and digital innovation. The event aims to co-organize and engage more young people, while fostering collaboration between tech experts, sports organizations, and the local community. The team is currently working on the logistics, format, and participation strategy.

Reimagining Public Space Through Sport and Community Engagement

Milan is entering a new phase of the Re-Gen project, refining its approach to urban regeneration by integrating **sports, digital innovation, and community-driven storytelling**.

Over the last few months, the city has focused on planning **new testing actions, redefining stakeholder roles**, and preparing for the next stage of implementation.

Strengthening the Role of the ULG and Expanding Partnerships

Milan's **Urban Local Group (ULG)** has undergone a **strategic reorganization**, refining the **roles and responsibilities** of its members. A key focus has been on **expanding partnerships** with local sports associations, youth organizations, and community stakeholders to **enhance the long-term sustainability** of the project.

The ULG is also aligning its **Integrated Action Plan (IAP) with larger urban development strategies**, ensuring that Re-Gen's impact extends beyond the project's timeline.

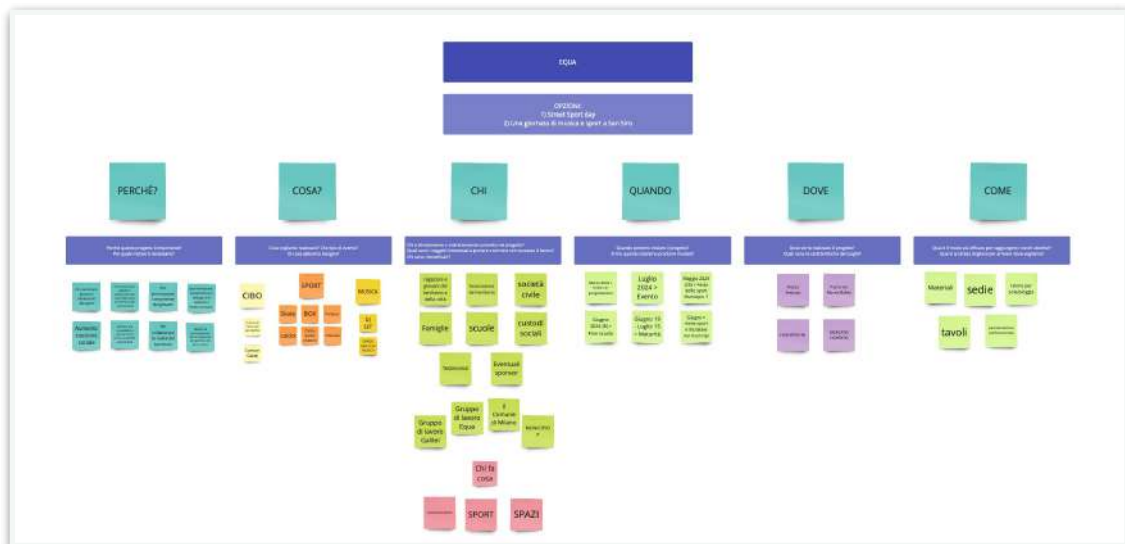
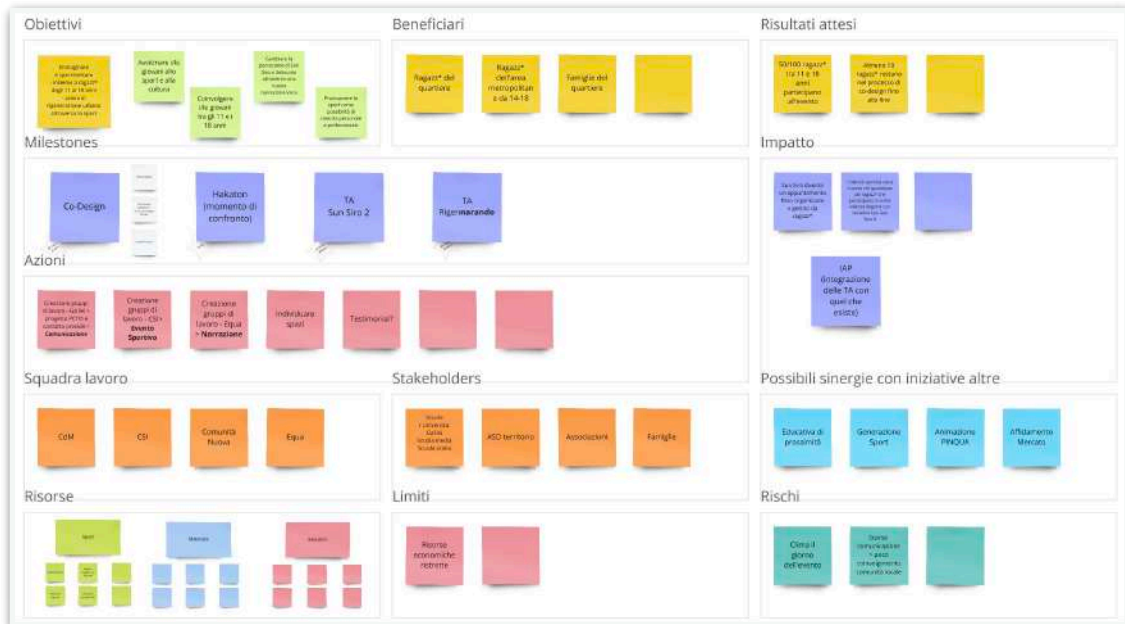
WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MILANO | ITALY

Looking Ahead: A Future of Urban Sports and Community-Led Design

With these new initiatives in place, Milan is taking bold steps toward redefining public space through participatory sports and digital engagement. The next months will be crucial in:

- ❖ **Finalizing the design of testing actions** and securing broader participation from schools, sports clubs, and local organizations.
- ❖ Hosting the hackathon, ensuring that it serves as a bridge between technology, sports, and community-driven urban planning.
- ❖ **Scaling up engagement efforts**, particularly through social media and on-the-ground activities in the **San Siro district**.

Experimenting with **new formats for participation**, allows Milan to demonstrate how cities can **blend sports, technology, and storytelling** to create **vibrant, youth-friendly urban spaces** that reflect the needs and aspirations of local communities.



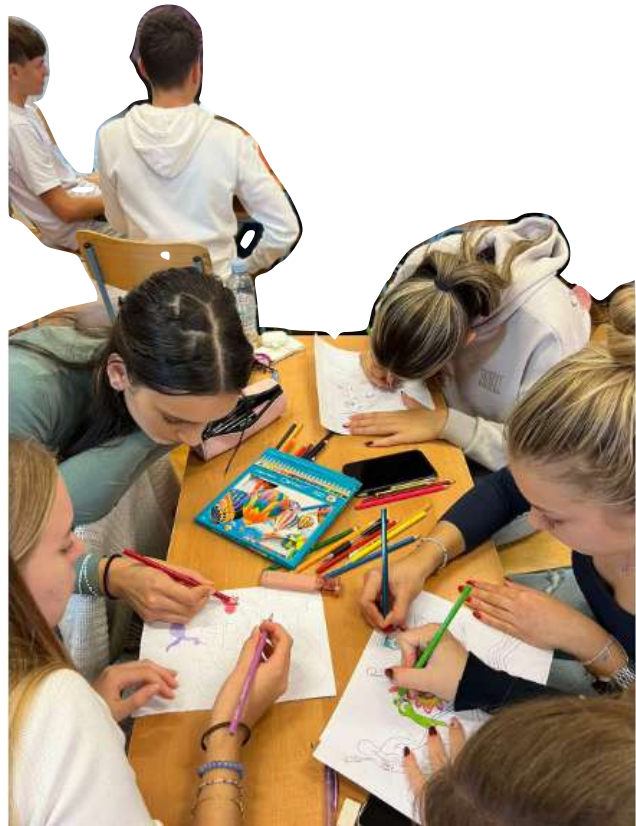
WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PULA | CROATIA

PULA

Revitalizing Public Spaces Through Creativity and Community Engagement

Pula is redefining urban spaces by integrating youth participation, creative expression, and public space revitalization.

Through the Re-Gen project, the city is focusing on two key sites: the Rojc Community Center and the Valica sports playground, both of which are being transformed into dynamic hubs for culture, sports, and social interaction



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PULA | CROATIA



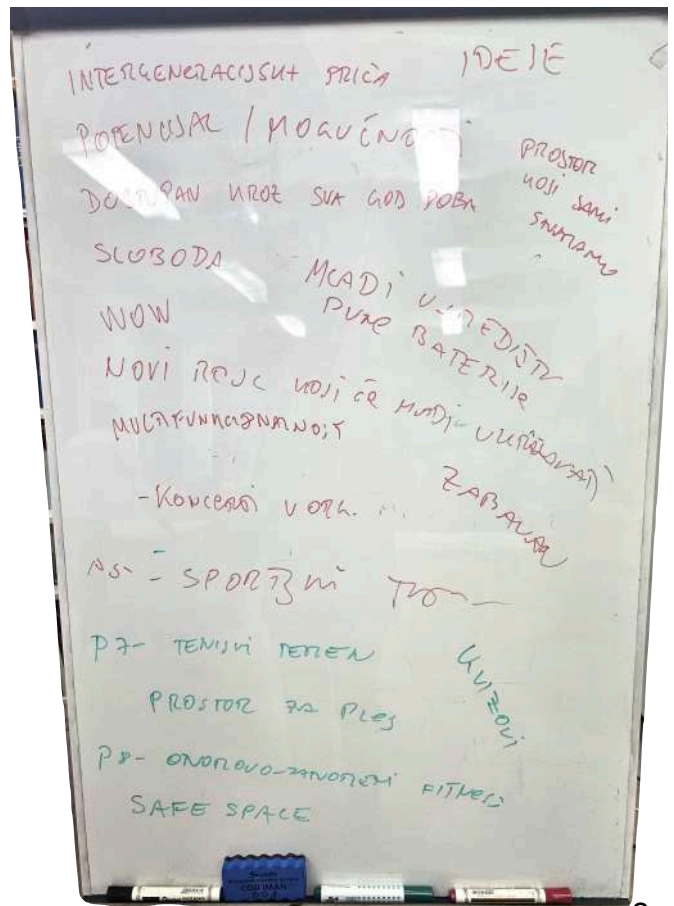
Rojc Walk: A Journey Through History and Future Visions

One of the highlights of recent months was the "Rojc Walk", an initiative that introduced young people to the historical and cultural significance of the Rojc Community Center.

This former military building has evolved into a vibrant hub for creativity, social initiatives, and youth activities. During the walk, students explored **plans for the site's revitalization**, engaging in discussions about how it could become a **cultural and artistic landmark for Pula's youth**.

The session concluded with a **co-creation workshop**, where participants imagined and designed activities they would like to see in the renewed space.

Their ideas ranged from **public art installations and street sports areas** to **youth-led music and cultural events**.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PULA | CROATIA

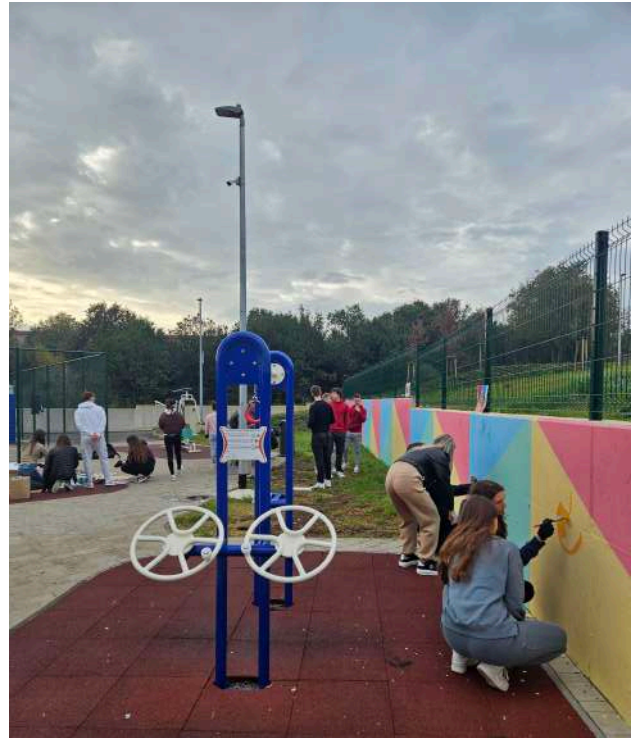
Valica Playground: A Collaborative Art and Sports Initiative

At Valica Playground, Pula is merging creativity and sports infrastructure to foster a sense of collective identity and urban renewal.

A participatory art project invited students to reimagine and redesign the playground's walls, using their artistic talents to transform the space into a colorful, youth-driven environment.

This initiative goes beyond aesthetics—it represents a **new approach to community involvement**, where young people **take ownership of public spaces** through hands-on contributions.

The project is reinforcing the connection between **sports, visual expression, and social cohesion**, making Valica a more attractive and inclusive gathering point.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PULA | CROATIA

Looking Ahead: Expanding the Impact of Youth-Driven Urban Transformation

Pula's next steps are:

- ❖ Finalizing the artistic transformation of Valica Playground, ensuring it becomes a long-term, youth-friendly space.
- ❖ **Developing a program of events at Rojc Community Center**, integrating young people's ideas into the site's cultural activities.
- ❖ Strengthening youth participation in urban decision-making, ensuring that these testing actions influence long-term city planning strategies.

Pula, by placing youth at the center of urban renewal, is setting a precedent for participatory urbanism, demonstrating how creativity, sports, and social engagement can reshape cities for and with young people



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN VERONA | ITALY

VERONA

Rethinking Urban Regeneration Through Participation and Tactical Urbanism

In recent months, Verona has taken a reflective and strategic approach to its urban regeneration efforts under the Re-Gen project. The focus has been on evaluating past actions, refining engagement strategies, and restructuring activities to enhance youth participation and maximize impact.

Urban Walk: A Creative Exploration of Public Space

On October 17, 2024, Verona hosted its first Urban Walk, a space exploration workshop designed to help participants reimagine urban areas through historical context, creative exercises, and direct engagement with the built environment.

Led by a team of experts in architecture, visual design, and life coaching, the event took participants through a journey of understanding, observing, and reinterpreting the Viale Piave underpass, a key focus area for the project.

Divided into three parts, the workshop included:

- ❖ A historical analysis of urban redevelopment, presented by the Order of Architects of Verona.
- ❖ An **on-site exploration of the Viale Piave underpass**, encouraging participants to reflect on its current use and potential transformation.
- ❖ A **collective reflection session**, where attendees shared their thoughts and proposed ideas for reimagining the space

This initiative successfully combined urban history, hands-on observation, and community-driven planning, setting the stage for more tactical urbanism interventions.

RE - GEN, YOUTH AND URBAN REGENERATION: LET'S TAKE BACK PUBLIC SPACES!

UNA GIORNATA DI ESPLORAZIONE URBANA
con il visual designer Giovanni Rozio

09 OTTOBRE 2024
DALLE 15:30 ALLE 18:30

17 OTTOBRE 2024
DALLE 9:30 ALLE 12:30

ORDINE DEGLI ARCHITETTI DI VERONA,
VIA SANTA TERESA 2

I posti sono limitati, per le iscrizioni inviare il proprio nominativo a:
associazioneefate@gmail.com

Comune di Verona | URBACT | Regione del Veneto | Comune di Verona | Comune di Verona | Comune di Verona



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN VERONA | ITALY

Restructuring the Co-Design Program to Enhance Participation

Verona's initial plan included two separate **co-design programs**:

- ❖ "Fabrica Urbana", focusing on tactical urbanism and space transformation.
- ❖ "Conoscersi per Costruire", integrating life-coaching techniques to foster community building and self-awareness.

However, **low school participation and scheduling conflicts** led to a strategic revision of the program. The two initiatives were merged into **a single, integrated co-design process**, ensuring continuity and a more cohesive experience for participants.

- ❖ In **February 2025**, an **8-hour introductory co-design session** will take place at **Einaudi School**, tailored to the school's schedule and students' needs.
- ❖ In **March 2025**, a more immersive 20-hour co-design workshop will be conducted at Association ABC, focusing on tactical urban planning and hands-on interventions in Piazza Brodolini

This revised approach ensures that young participants can actively engage in shaping their city while balancing their academic commitments

Increasing Engagement in 2025: A New Program of Activities

To deepen youth involvement and extend outreach, Verona has introduced four key activities for 2025, developed in collaboration with Nuova Acropoli Verona Odv and Le Fate ETS Association:

- ❖ **Youth Survey on Sports (January-March 2025)** - Conducting **300 interviews** to understand young people's needs and perspectives on sports and public spaces.
- ❖ **Training and Working Groups** - Providing young participants with **skills in event planning and urban activation**, empowering them to take leadership roles in city initiatives.
- ❖ **Street Sport Festival (May 2025)** - Organizing a **community-driven festival** in **Parco Santa Teresa**, blending sports, music, and social interaction.
- ❖ **Youth-Led Urban Initiatives** - Implementing projects in regeneration target areas, ensuring alignment with the URBACT 2025 objectives

Looking Ahead: Designing for the Future

The **past months have been a period of reflection and restructuring**, allowing Verona to **identify challenges and transform them into new opportunities**. By adjusting its approach to co-design, expanding outreach efforts, and integrating **youth-led activities**, the city is ensuring that Re-Gen's impact is **sustainable and deeply rooted in the community**.

With a stronger, more inclusive engagement strategy, Verona is well-positioned to make a lasting impact on its public spaces, empowering young people as active contributors to urban transformation.



 WHAT IS HAPPENING IN VILA DO CONDE | PORTUGAL

VILA DO CONDE

Co-Creation and Community Engagement in Public Space Regeneration

Vila do Conde has been actively engaging its residents in the **transformation of public spaces**, ensuring that youth and the broader community play a crucial role in shaping their urban environment. Through the **Re-Gen project**, the city has focused on **participatory planning, community dialogue, and hands-on urban regeneration initiatives**.

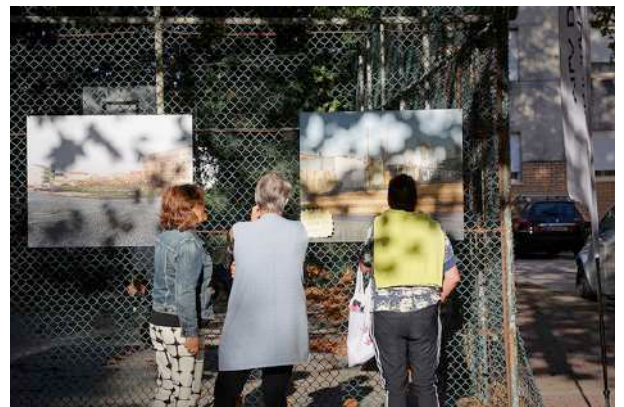


“Neighbors at the Table” – A Community-Led Reflection

One of the key initiatives during the last quarter was the event **“Neighbors at the Table”**, held on **September 27, 2024**, in **Bairro das Dálías**. The event encouraged residents to reflect on the **past, present, and future** of their local public spaces. Participants were invited to discuss and **vote on potential improvements**, identifying which **infrastructures, amenities, and activities** they would like to see developed.



The event successfully brought together **residents of all ages**, including young people, who had the opportunity to express their opinions on **how they use public space** and what changes they envision. To **deepen youth engagement**, an **online form** was also distributed, allowing teenagers to **provide feedback on their needs and aspirations** for public spaces.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN VILA DO CONDE | PORTUGAL



Looking Ahead: Preparing for Implementation

As Vila do Conde advances in the Re-Gen project, its focus remains on **turning community feedback into action**.

The city is preparing to:

- ❖ **Finalize the pilot project for public space requalification**, based on the findings from community consultations and urban planning experts.
- ❖ Host interactive workshops and events, strengthening youth engagement in decision-making and urban transformation.
- ❖ **Secure additional funding and partnerships** to support long-term sustainability in urban regeneration efforts.

Blending community dialogue, participatory planning, and youth leadership, allowed Vila do Conde to set a strong example of inclusive, citizen-driven urban renewal, ensuring that public spaces reflect the needs, creativity, and aspirations of their users.

Strategic Planning and Future Projects

Following the community consultations, Vila do Conde held an Urban Local Group (ULG) meeting on November 20, 2024, where stakeholders reviewed:

- ❖ The results of the participatory activities and community feedback.
- ❖ A proposed schedule for upcoming initiatives, including youth workshops and a talent competition.
- ❖ The available budget and funding options for future projects.

The landscape architect project, which consolidates the community's input into a concrete requalification plan for Bairro das Dálías and Parque dos Avós

Upcoming Youth Workshops: Fostering Creativity and Leadership

Vila do Conde had originally planned a **series of workshops for young people** in December 2024. However, due to scheduling constraints, these sessions were **rescheduled for January 2025**. The workshops will focus on: Discovering talents and stepping out of comfort zones.

- ❖ Sustainable development and creative urban solutions.
- ❖ Youth involvement in public space transformation.
- ❖ Social entrepreneurship and innovative approaches to community development.

These activities aim to **empower young people**, providing them with the tools and confidence to take **active roles in shaping their city's future**

**THE
ROAD AHEAD
WHAT'S NEXT
2025 A YEAR OF
CONSOLIDATION,
PEER LEARNING,
AND ACTION**

THE ROAD AHEAD

As the Re-Gen network enters 2025, the focus shifts toward finalizing Integrated Action Plans (IAPs), strengthening community engagement, and ensuring that small-scale actions (SSA) continue to activate urban spaces while supporting long-term planning efforts.

The upcoming months will be crucial in translating insights from testing actions into structured, sustainable solutions for youth-friendly urban regeneration



THE ROAD AHEAD

Masterclasses: Building Skills for Urban Transformation

The year begins with two key Masterclasses, equipping partners with practical tools to design impactful urban regeneration initiatives and foster community engagement.

Masterclass on Organizing a Hackathon (January-February 2025)

The masterclass provide cities with the methodologies and strategies needed to design and implement **hackathons and edu-hackathons** as effective tools for engaging young people in urban innovation. Participants will explore how to:

- ❖ Define a **clear challenge** linked to urban regeneration and youth engagement.
- ❖ Structure a **dynamic and inclusive event format**, ensuring that both digital and physical components are well-integrated.
- ❖ Involve local stakeholders, schools, universities, and digital innovation experts in co-creation processes.
- ❖ Ensure **follow-up and implementation** of winning ideas, making hackathons a **catalyst for real urban solutions**.

Masterclass on Health Promotion, Food, and Sport Interaction in Public Spaces (February 2025)

The interaction between urban design, health, and physical activity is at the heart of this session, which will provide cities with insights into:

- ❖ How sports infrastructure and urban food policies can contribute to healthier and more inclusive communities.
- ❖ Designing public events and interventions that combine sport, sustainability, and social inclusion.
- ❖ Case studies of multi-functional urban spaces where sport, food culture, and community well-being intersect.

These master class will ensure that cities are well-prepared to implement participatory activities that enhance urban life while promoting health, sustainability, and youth engagement.

Preparing for the IAP Peer Review in Corfu

As cities finalize their Integrated Action Plans (IAPs), they will engage in a structured peer review process, culminating in the Core Network Meeting in Corfu on April 1-2, 2025. The IAP Peer Review will be a key moment for cities to:

- ❖ **Present their draft IAPs** and receive constructive feedback from peers and experts.
- ❖ **Analyze common challenges and synergies**, refining their strategies to ensure long-term feasibility.
- ❖ **Strengthen their governance models**, ensuring that youth participation remains at the core of urban transformation efforts.

This exchange will play a fundamental role in ensuring that each city's **action plan is coherent, effective, and ready for implementation**.

THE ROAD AHEAD

March: The First Hackathons and Edu-Hackathons Begin

March 2025 marks the start of **the first hackathons and edu-hackathons**, with **Corfu and Verona** leading the way. These events will serve as **live testing grounds for digital and participatory methodologies**, engaging young people, urban planners, and community stakeholders in **co-creating solutions for public spaces**. With a mix of problem-solving, digital innovation, and real-world application, these hackathons will generate new approaches to urban challenges, offering a youth-led perspective on city transformation.

Sustaining Engagement Through Small-Scale Actions

While planning remains a central focus, testing actions will continue throughout 2025 to ensure that URBACT Local Groups (ULGs), young people, and stakeholders stay actively involved. Many cities have already scheduled additional sports events, urban interventions, and participatory activities to maintain momentum and gather further insights before finalizing their IAPs.

For instance, cities like Milan and Daugavpils are refining their hackathon concepts to generate youth-driven ideas for urban transformation, while Verona and Vila do Conde are deepening their engagement through co-design workshops and creative competitions. Meanwhile, cities such as Lezhë and Dobrich will continue testing sports-based urban activations to explore the long-term role of community sports hubs.

From Testing to Implementation:

The second half of 2025 will focus on consolidating the learnings from testing actions and embedding them into the final Integrated Action Plans. The process will involve:

- **Synthesizing insights from peer reviews** and incorporating feedback into final drafts.
- Defining governance models to ensure that regenerated spaces remain accessible, inclusive, and community-driven.
- **Identifying funding and policy mechanisms** that can **support the long-term implementation** of the action plans beyond the Re-Gen project's timeline.

The year will also include final network-wide exchanges, where cities will present their refined IAPs and showcase the most impactful actions tested over the course of the project.

A Shared Commitment to Youth-Centered Urban Regeneration

Re-Gen's 2025 agenda is structured to ensure that every city moves from experimentation to structured, scalable solutions. By balancing ongoing engagement with strategic planning, the network will lay the foundation for sustainable, youth-friendly urban policies that extend far beyond the project's official end date.

The coming months will be decisive in shaping the next generation of inclusive public spaces, proving that co-creation, urban sports, and participatory planning can redefine the way young people interact with their cities.

Stay tuned—exciting developments are just around the corner!

Credits and Disclaimer

QUARTERLY REPORT

OCTOBER | DECEMBER 2024

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