

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg

GreenPlace

INSPIRING ACTIONS

October 2025

INTRODUCTION

The GreenPlace network

From July 2023 till December 2025, the nine partners of the GreenPlace URBACT network developed a series of activities for "recycling" unused urban areas, using social participation tools and greenery as a key factor in limiting climate change in urban areas. The network was led by the City of Wrocław (Poland) and was composed of 8 project partners: Boulogne-sur-mer Développement Côte d'Opale (FR), Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (RO), Limerick (IE), Löbau (DE), Nitra (SK), Onda (ES), Quarto d'Altino (IT), and Vila Nova de Poiares (PT).

More information and contacts : <https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace>.

Overview of the Inspiring Action Fiches

During the GreenPlace network, the partners carried out various activities in order to: analyse the state of the art, give visibility to their sites, remember local history, engage the community, collect needs & feedback, co-create with the general public, co-create with their ULG members, work with students, testing uses and implement green solutions.

Pick and chose the activities of your interest from the table below!

City	Practices	Page	Analysing the State of Art	Giving visibility	Remembering local history	Engaging the community	Collecting needs & feedback	Co-creating with the general public	Co-creating with ULG members	Working with students	Testing uses	Green Solutions
Boulogne-sur-mer	Using cards to work with ULG members	3	x						x			
	Collaborating with students to foresee the future	4	x							x		
Bucharest	A multi-phased approach to ULG engagement	5		x					x			
	Surveying public opinion	6				x	x					
Limerick	Tree planting for community engagement	7		x		x	x					x
	A medieval may fair to raise awareness	8		x	x	x						
	The Irishtown festival to celebrate	9		x	x		x					
	Baby steps: community clean up and community planting day	10		x		x						
	Testing indoor uses	11		x		x	x		x		x	
Löbau	Testing outdoor uses	12		x	x	x	x		x		x	
	Experimenting real-life the concept of use	13		x		x	x		x		x	
	Getting inspired by student's projects and ideas	14	x	x	x	x	x			x		
	Clean-up day and apple harvest as a kick-off to transform an area	15		x		x						
	Open days on martin's hill, "nitra, milá nitra"	16		x	x	x	x				x	
Nitra	Days of architecture on martin's hill	17		x						x		
	Martin's hill path - wandering on foot and by bike	18		x	x	x					x	
Onda	Creating solutions with a circular architecture marathon	19						x	x	x		
	A mural co-created by children	20		x		x	x	x				
Quarto d'Altino	Enlightening Altino to better collaborate	21		x	x	x	x			x		
	Towards places, people, stories	22		x					x			
Villa Nova de Poiares	Open days to take a tour of the future green park	23		x		x	x					
Wrocław	Inventory of the territory	24	x									
	Walking and studying together	25	x					x	x			
	Surveying inhabitants	26				x	x					
	Co-creating during a hackathon	27				x		x		x		
	Testing a green leisure zone	28		x		x		x	x		x	x

Boulogne-sur-mer, FR

USING CARDS TO WORK WITH ULG MEMBERS

Identity

- Boulogne-sur-mer, France
- 40,900 inhabitants, 8.42 km²
- <https://urbact.eu/how-involve-your-ulg-members-using-card-game>

Initial challenge

The initial challenge was to engage with ULG members in an efficient and long-lasting way.



Proposed solution

In July 2024, a card game was produced to facilitate interaction, and create a workplan for the GreenPlace site. The set of 24 cards presented various activities that can be organised on-site: they were classified in different categories (cultural, environmental, related to students' projects, general, specific to the site, involving inhabitants, a Joker card). Each card was composed of four questions: *Who is in charge of the action? Which audience are we targeting by this action? When and how long? What are our goals?*

The ULG members were divided into three groups and were given a two-year calendar. First of all, each group got acquainted with the cards. After the first phase, each group had to select the activities they would deliver over the next 2 years and suggest the leader for each activity. After 20 minutes, each group presented their vision of a 2025/2026 calendar. This work resulted in a selection of actions to be implemented on the site with the commitment of local actors and a schedule for completion.

This activity was funded out of the Boulogne-Developpement Côté d'Opale's and GreenPlace's budgets.

Changes it brought

Thanks to this card game, ULG members were very motivated to do the work and provided many ideas in a short period of time. It allowed creating a debate between them, they got more involved from this game. It also allowed to create a bond between some ULG members who had never worked together before.

Moreover, they are happy to come to the meetings when they are invited. It allowed defining the majority of the actions as well as their scope and a potential timeline for completion. Some of the ULG members are now very involved in the activities to be launched in 2025. Some of the selected activities will be implemented in 2025 and beyond.



Transfer potential

This is a replicable game card for many urban design projects, enabling local stakeholder involvement.

Main takeaways

- The playful aspect is important to maintain the interest of ULG members over a long period.
- At the same time, it is more difficult to identify volunteers for the implementation of the proposed actions.



COLLABORATING WITH STUDENTS TO FORESEE THE FUTURE

Identity

- Boulogne-sur-mer, France
- 40,900 inhabitants, 8.42 km²
- michel.carrard@univ-littoral.fr,
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l.epifanie@boulogne-developpement.com

Initial challenge

There was a need for an outsider's perspective to make a transitional urban planning proposals and to enrich the work done since the beginning of the project with the ULG members.



Proposed solution

A group of eight students from Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale worked from September 2024 to March 2025 on the GreenPlace site. They identified challenges and opportunities for the implementation of transitional urban planning and proposed various scenarios, based on a benchmarking exercise. The work was presented to ULG members.

Changes it brought

ULG members were particularly interested in the work carried out by the students and were numerous to participate during each presentation of the students (first intervention in December 2024 at the mid-point of the work and second intervention in April 2025).

This work reinforced the idea that it will be necessary to work more with the local population when the project becomes more concrete.

The students published a recommendation document: Urban Wasteland Bic County/ Wasteland and transitional urbanism.

This activity was funded out of GreenPlace's budget.

Transfer potential

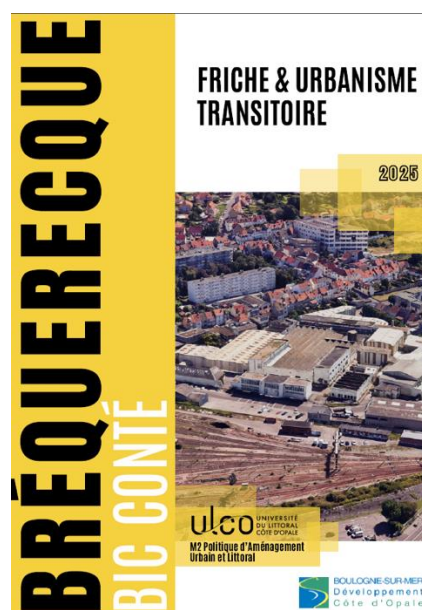
Working with students is easily transferable. It is helpful though to have an entry point to a university through a ULG member.

This work is especially useful for cities of similar configuration wishing to implement transitional urban planning actions.

Main takeaways

The project benefited from insights on various transitional urban planning projects transferable to our site.

The site has been identified by students as a key location with high potential for cultural development. Yet, it is not easy to obtain the funding allowing the implementation of the proposed actions.



A MULTI-PHASED APPROACH TO ULG ENGAGEMENT

Identity

- Bucharest, Romania
- 1,883,425 inhabitants, 412 km²
- <https://www.adizmb.ro/>



Initial challenge

The focus of Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (ADIZMB)'s IAP is a still functioning Tram Depot, Victoriei Tram Depot. Many stakeholders could potentially be engaged in its transformation, yet, they did not know about this opportunity, about the location, nor about each other, which prevented a real co-creation of the future development of the site.

Proposed solution

ADIZMB sought to evaluate the feasibility of regenerating the Victoriei Tram Depot by fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, identifying challenges and opportunities. For this, it used a structured, multi-phase process. A visit to the Victoriei Tram Depot was organised for stakeholders, including the URBACT Local Group (ULG) and the Urboteca Fellowship Team, to provide firsthand exposure to the site's historical, spatial, and environmental context. After the visit, a detailed document was drafted, summarising the challenges, opportunities, and insights gathered during the visit, ULG meetings, and additional analyses. A follow-up workshop focused on drafting principles for the terms of reference for the site's Zonal Urban Plan (PUZ), ensuring that it is evidence-based, inclusive of community needs, and aligned with environmental, historical, and metropolitan objectives.

The project took place over a period from May 2024 to March 2025. The project used budget internal to ADIZMB such as for digital tools for surveys as well as logistical support from the Municipality of Bucharest and the Victoria Tram Depot management.

Changes it brought

This action helped to better define and imagine future actions for the more general project of Victoria Depot revitalisation. Starting the discussion about a proposed action facilitated the understanding of other smaller or bigger actions possible for the project. The structure, objectives and actions inside the IAP changed after the testing action, as people gathered new insights and could better imagine possible uses and modes of intervention after experiencing the space.

This action brought in a structured and collaborative approach to the regeneration of the Victoriei Tram Depot, fostering active stakeholder participation, identifying actionable solutions for green regeneration and historical preservation, and laying a foundation for evidence-based, inclusive urban planning aligned with community and metropolitan objectives.

Transfer potential

Other cities can transfer this action by organising stakeholder site visits, conducting participatory workshops to draft tailored solutions, using digital tools for feedback and visualization, and aligning the outcomes with specific local goals such as creating green spaces, preserving heritage, and improving urban accessibility.

Main takeaways

It is crucial to foster clear communication among diverse stakeholders, balancing varying priorities such as heritage preservation and green regeneration, effectively managing logistical challenges during site visits and workshops, and utilising digital tools to ensure broader and more inclusive participation in the planning process.



SURVEYING PUBLIC OPINION

Identity

- Bucharest, Romania
- 1,883,425 inhabitants, 412 km²
- <https://www.adizmb.ro/>

Initial challenge

The Victoriei Depot, focus of the Bucharest's IAP, was not integrate in the public debate. Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (ADIZMB) identified the need to test participatory tools and communication strategies, including media outreach, social media, and professional engagement.

Proposed solution

A large-scale public survey was co-designed with the stakeholders in the ULG. It was shared via one prime-time TV segment, 17 news articles, 5 social media posts and 2 blog posts. The questions covered the knowledge, needs and interest of the general public related to the Victoriei Tram Depot.

ADIZMB, Bucharest City Hall, the Association for Urban Transition (ATU), Chambers of Architects, and Asociația Metroul Ușor worked together on the design of the survey, its dissemination, and the interpretation of the results.

No dedicated resources were engaged in the process: it required a lot of volunteering work from the partners.

Changes it brought

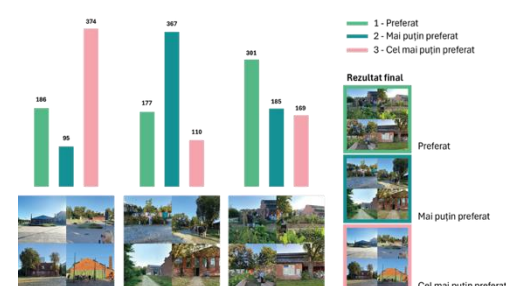
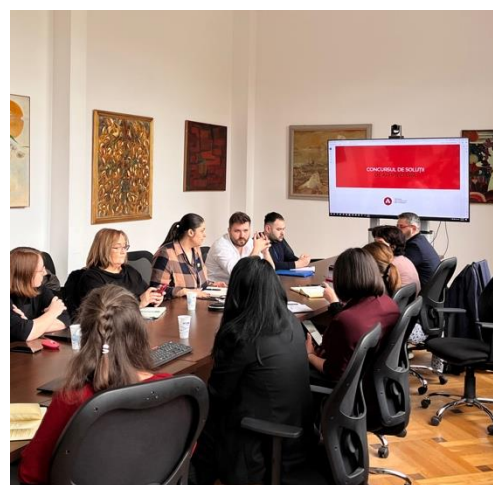
Between October 2024 and May 2025, 658 responses were received. The survey sparked professional and institutional dialogue, leading to meetings with Bucharest City Hall and the Chamber of Architects to integrate results into future planning documents. It has also served as the basis for the future Competition for the Depot. The snowball effect led to the creation of a citizen petition requesting depot relocation.

Transfer potential

A well-promoted survey (using several and varied media sources) to check the opinions of the public is easily replicable for virtually any initiative, no matter the subject or scale and is a very good method to get the people on board, to support the idea. It also promotes the project and brings a lot of valuable new ideas.

Main takeaways

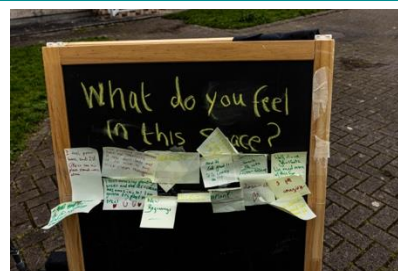
- A survey that is **co-designed with stakeholders** can help define future uses of Victoria Depot.
- **Survey results can influence planning** by informing the Zonal Urban Plan (PUZ) and competition terms.
- Structured participation demonstrates the way **surveys can mediate diverse stakeholder views**.



TREE PLANTING FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Identity

- Limerick , Ireland
- 102,287 inhabitants, 61.3km²
- <https://www.live95fm.ie/news/live95-news/community-to-celebrate-rebirth-of-limerick-city-estate/>



Initial challenge

The Old City Walls of Irishtown had been forgotten and abandoned, leading to various degradations. The area was prone to anti-social behaviour and not well maintained by local residents. While there was green growth it was not necessarily beneficial to the wall nor for good usage for the local inhabitants.

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) was working to make connections with the community using as a neutral factor to engage, the inhabitants of Irishtown. The hope was to receive ideas for the project that reinforce community buy-in for future events. It was an opportunity to explore how and what way future events could enhance the community's connection with the Old City Walls and guide the design if the project.

Proposed solution

A tree planting day was held in March 2024 as part of National Tree Week. The Johnsgate community came together to plant 7 Heritage Apple Trees in their greenspace as well as flowers. A group of between 30 -40 residents came together for this hands-on event to bring colour and biodiversity to their greenspaces. It was a social opportunity for neighbours to meet each other and enjoy time outdoors. The local children were helped by the LCCC parks staff to dig the holes and position the apple trees in place. They were also asked to share about the place and what they'd wish to see different, while writing post-its on a black board.

It was funded by URBACT GreenPlace budget.

Changes it brought

Following the success of this event, additional flowers and trees have been planted. There is now a very positive outlook on the space , with residents taking pride in their area. Some of the initial trees were vandalised, but the resident's association replaced them, replanting the apple trees in the same location, this was a strong message that these trees were important to the community.

Transfer potential

Easily transferred , planting is an effective and cost friendly way to bring people together in a relaxed setting. Any group with a green area and permissions could enhance their greenspace with trees and flowers.

Main takeaways

Small social events with an activity can be useful to form connections with residents and to allow neighbours an opportunity to interact.



A MEDIEVAL MAY FAIR TO RAISE AWARENESS

Identity

- Limerick , Ireland
- 102,287 inhabitants, 61.3km²
- <https://urbact.eu/celebrating-limerick-walled-city>



Initial challenge

The Old City Walls of Irishtown had been forgotten and abandoned, leading to various degradations. The area was prone to anti-social behaviour and not well maintained by local residents. While there was green growth it was not necessarily beneficial to the wall nor for good usage for the local inhabitants.

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) was working to make connections with the community using as a neutral factor to engage, the inhabitants of Irishtown. The hope was to receive ideas for the project that reinforce community buy-in for future events. It was an opportunity to explore how and what way future events could enhance the community's connection with the Old City Walls and guide the design if the project.

Proposed solution

In May 2024, a Medieval May fair was organised in Grattan Court. It aimed to celebrate the Old City Walls and included a guided walk/talk by the Council Archaeologist. LCCC want to further explore the views of the community regarding the city wall and connecting with Limerick's history.

These social events are child friendly community events, with medieval pop-up re-enactors , sword play, music, theatre, face painters and historical walks/talks, games with ULG member Limerick Sports Partnership. Questionnaires were handed out to attendees to obtain feedback on the wishes, wants, and needs of the local community. LCCC hope through these social events to receive ideas for the project that reinforce community buy in for future events. It is an opportunity to explore how and what way future events like this could enhance the community's connection with the wall.

A leaflet drop was carried out in the Johnsgate, Watergate, Grattan Court area and surrounds to notify residents and raise awareness of the event. Approx 30 local residents attended, a mixture of both young and old. These social events are also an opportunity to update the community on the GreenPlace Project. To bring Limerick's history to life in the community's backyard.

It was funded by URBACT GreenPlace budget.

Changes it brought

The event highlighted issues on the ground in this area, such as a lack of gardens/green space for people to call their own. The space is predominantly tarmacked and this event allowed for revision of the potential design for the space to incorporate new play elements , as well as the potential removal of tarmac to create garden spaces.

Transfer potential

These events are very transfer friendly , the use of music and games create a fun space for people to collerate in.

Main takeaways

To advertise events well in advance , with leaflet drops and posters on site. Allow for all weather conditions. Provide elements for all ages from games to music to history.



THE IRISHTOWN FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE

Identity

- Limerick , Ireland
- 102,287 inhabitants, 61.3km



Initial challenge

The Old City Walls of Irishtown had been forgotten and abandoned, leading to various degradations. The area was prone to anti-social behaviour and not well maintained by local residents. While there was green growth it was not necessarily beneficial to the wall nor for good usage for the local inhabitants.

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) was working to make connections with the community using as a neutral factor to engage, the inhabitants of Irishtown. The hope was to receive ideas for the project that reinforce community buy-in for future events. It was an opportunity to explore how and what way future events could enhance the community's connection with the Old City Walls and guide the design if the project.

Proposed solution

In August 2024, as part of the Irish Heritage Week, a Street Feast was organised on Old Clare Street. The street was closed off to traffic, and the Irishtown community were invited to come out meet their neighbours, give their feedback on designs for the area. They could learn to dance the walls for Limerick on the walls of Limerick, on live music. Colourful bunting was hung on the street and temporary seating/planting was put in place. The location of the former walls was also painted collectively on the pavement.

Events were advertised on social media, on local radio, posters were displayed in the area and there were door to door leaflet drops. URBACT budget was used.

Another event was organised in August 2025, and it is planned to reorganised it every year.

Changes it brought

The event raised interest of the community and gathered feedback about follow-up activities. It stressed the works required in relation to integration, gender and digitalisation, e.g. the history of the wall could be highlighted for both locals and tourists.

The community shared key feedback about the need for additional lighting is required to make the area more comfortable to transverse for everyone, the need for additional features, like /seating and play areas or for removing the Watergate sheds.

Transfer potential

It is easily transferable. Though, start off small and then build on your success with a medium sized event before holding a larger event. The key is consecutive events and that it takes times.

Main takeaways

- It is was difficult to get different communities within Irishtown to mix outside their own individual area.
- Learnt historical placenames for the area that are important locally and the local community want them brought back.
- Music and dance can bring people together.



BABY STEPS: COMMUNITY CLEAN UP AND COMMUNITY PLANTING

Identity

- Limerick , Ireland
- 102,287 inhabitants, 61.3km2



Initial challenge

The Old City Walls of Irishtown had been forgotten and abandoned, leading to various degradations. The area was prone to anti-social behaviour and not well maintained by local residents. While there was green growth it was not necessarily beneficial to the wall nor for good usage for the local inhabitants.

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) was working to make connections with the community using as a neutral factor to engage, the inhabitants of Irishtown. The hope was to receive ideas for the project that reinforce community buy-in for future events. It was an opportunity to explore how and what way future events could enhance the community's connection with the Old City Walls and guide the design if the project.

Proposed solution

In June 2025, using their own budget and resources, the Housing, Cleansing, and Parks LCCC Departments organised an intensive community clean up of the area. The area was power washed, and the rubbish removed, by a professional contractor and with the help of residents.

Small green areas were also tidied, and flowers were planted by the local community. The cleaning of the area first was essential for the community planting event to take place, it energised the community to see the difference in the appearance of the space. Posters and flyers promoting the gardening event were circulated in advance inviting all to take part in this hands-on event.

Changes it brought

As a result, the area improved visually, around the standing section of the Old City Wall. The green space has become usable, and it has changed the overall outside appearance and feeling towards the area: it feels it can be respected, residents can be proud of it. Another result of this action was the creation of a landscape drawing created for the area providing a visual for improvement works. The area around the standing section of the old city wall highlighted and improved by community planting scheme.

It is supporting the parallel actions taking place in the area to make it more known and attractive. Each person that took part in the gardening workshop received a window box, planted with flowers to take back to their homes and green their spaces. Around 30 window boxes filled with flowers were given to residents and two new flower beds were created

Transfer potential

This action carries out what should be standard activities of municipalities (cleaning) and as such it easily transferrable. It does require to focus on prioritised areas.

Main takeaways

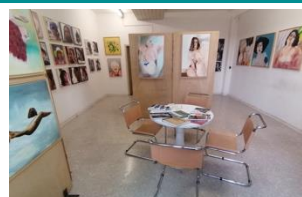
Simple actions such as the powerwashing of pavements can have a huge transformative effect on a space, every action does not have to be elaborate. The cleaning of the space allowed for a greater level of engagement with the community, as they could see the huge visible change in the area



TESTING INDOOR USES

Identity

- Löbau, Germany
- 14,000 inhabitants, 78.9 km²
- www.fabrik-reanimiert.de



Initial challenge

The “Anker-Teigwarenfabrik” (Anker pasta factory), was built at the end of the 19th century, and functioned throughout political changes until 1992. After some new usages, the buildings fell empty after 2010, and in 2018 the City of Löbau was able to acquire it. In 1933, the neighboring Schminke House was built for the that day’s factory owner linking both buildings. At the beginning of the project, the visibility and knowledge about the former “Anker-Teigwarenfabrik” (Anker pasta factory), was limited. There was no concept for the future of the factory, neither for the refurbishment nor for a future use of the place.

Proposed solution

Indoor trial uses took place from April to June 2024 to, on one hand, test which uses would be conceivable at all, which uses would work in parallel and for which uses there is a need or a supply in the city; on the other hand to ask residents to try out what it would be like to attend activities there rather than in the location where they usually take place.

A wide range of activities for different target and age groups were offered during the test uses, which were open to everyone, low-threshold and with free entry for most activities. Over 30 public formats with almost 800 participants took place: 5 workshops, 3 yoga courses, 2 music courses, 2 sports courses, 4 catering offers, 7 creative courses, 3 exhibitions, 1 church mass, 2 children's offers. The activities were funded under the grants of the project „Fabrik reanimiert“ for public participation, granted by the Saxon State Ministry of Justice, Democracy, Europe and Equality.

All test uses were equipped with the same feedback posters to ask whether people enjoyed the activity and to assess whether the activity worked well at the Pasta Factory.

Changes it brought

The diversity of the test uses (yoga, music lessons, senior sports, children's art, creative courses, temporary gallery, radio, digital workshops, café, garage bar, etc.) showed that the future of the Nudelfabrik will also lie in the establishment of mixed use. The activities created a basis for a future local stakeholder network and brought the factory back to people's attention.

Transfer potential

The test uses can be transferred to other locations as long as the uses are authorised, the location does not pose a risk to safety and has basic infrastructure (toilets, electricity, water). Bureaucracy can be difficult, but with enough time (start early!) there are always chances of special permits or a compromise.

Main takeaways

The feedback from users was largely positive, but individual offers would have deserved a larger audience. Communication and advertising need to be further improved here.

Temporary use in a vacant building in Germany is more complicated than expected in terms of building regulations. It is necessary to obtain all authorisations at an early stage, as the process can take a long time.

The envisaged mixed use with partly public and partly rented space is well suited to the building and the size of the city. It is the declared goal for the future in order to ensure that the operation remains economically independent and functions without external funding.



TESTING OUTDOOR USES

Identity

- Löbau, Germany
- 14,000 inhabitants, 78.9 km²
- www.fabrik-reanimiert.de



Initial challenge

The “Anker-Teigwarenfabrik” (Anker pasta factory), was built at the end of the 19th century, and functioned throughout political changes until 1992. After some new usages, the buildings fell empty after 2010 and in 2018 the City of Löbau was able to acquire it. In 1933, the neighboring Schminke House was built for the that day's factory owner linking both buildings. At the beginning of the project, the visibility and knowledge about the former “Anker-Teigwarenfabrik” (Anker pasta factory), was limited. There was no concept for the future of the factory, neither for the refurbishment nor for a future use of the place.

Proposed solution

Outdoor trial uses took place from December 2023 to August 2024, on one hand, to test which formats work on the courtyard of the factory and which local associations and initiatives are willing to cooperate in organizing the events; and on the other hand, make the people of Löbau aware of the factory and “entice” them to participate on the site. 4 spotlight events were organized with a total of 750 guests, as well as additional 150 guests at 4 events that were held by external stakeholders. In total, almost 1000 guests attended the outdoor events and engaged with the factory in this way. In particular, postcards were used to gather opinions and ideas from the people of Löbau, 380 were collected.

Changes it brought

The ideas and opinions collected from the people form the basis for an initial utilization concept that was later developed. The updating of this utilization concept was also taken into account in the IAP (area of intervention 5, objective 5.1.2).

The activities also created a basis for a future local stakeholder network.

Further events are to be held on the courtyard of the Nudelfabrik in the coming year in order to maintain interest among the people of Löbau.

Transfer potential

It can be transferred to any place that you are allowed to use, as long as the place is safe and offers basic infrastructure (toilets, electricity, running water).

Main takeaways

The feedback from users was mostly positive, but several events would have deserved a larger audience. Communication and advertising need to be further improved.

Cooperation with local associations and initiatives was almost always very positive. This is the basis for establishing a local network of stakeholders

The organization of the events required a lot of man/womanpower, even closer cooperation with the emerging local network of stakeholders is very much desirable for the future.



EXPERIMENTING REAL-LIFE THE CONCEPT OF USE

Identity

- Löbau, Germany
- 14,000 inhabitants, 78.9 km²
- www.fabrik-reanimiert.de



Initial challenge

The “Anker-Teigwarenfabrik” (Anker pasta factory), was built at the end of the 19th century, and functioned throughout political changes until 1992. After some new usages, the buildings fell empty after 2010 and in 2018 the City of Löbau was able to acquire it. In 1933, the neighboring Schminke House was built for the that day's factory owner linking both buildings. At the beginning of the project, the visibility and knowledge about the former “Anker-Teigwarenfabrik” (Anker pasta factory), was limited. There was no concept for the future of the factory, neither for the refurbishment nor for a future use of the place.

Proposed solution

A specific activity was organised to present Löbau's residents with the concept for the use of the Anker pasta factory. The activity was organised on a Sunday afternoon on 23 March 2025. People could enter the different rooms and were able to check out the uses that could potentially happen in real life.

The objective was to let people experience the ideas on site instead of reading the concept on paper.

The organisation of the day was implemented in cooperation with numerous local stakeholders.

Around 500 people attended the event, including several former employees of the factory.

A microgrant for rural areas in east Germany (“Zukunftswege Ost”) was used to cover the 1700€-cost of the event.

Changes it brought

The feedback was very positive. People could get in touch with possible future users and tenants, explore their utilization plans on site and get a tangible idea of what the factory could become in the future. The event confirmed that a local practical stakeholder network could be implemented and is in fact very important for organizing events like this.

Transfer potential

We highly recommend to present any results/ideas/concepts in an interactive, fun and “tangible” way. Letting people literally try out future ideas or plans can work in different locations if it is adapted to the place and content.

Main takeaways

As soon as a project ends (f.e. “FABRIK reanimiert”) there is a need to keep the momentum up while applying for new grants. Otherwise, people will lose interest.

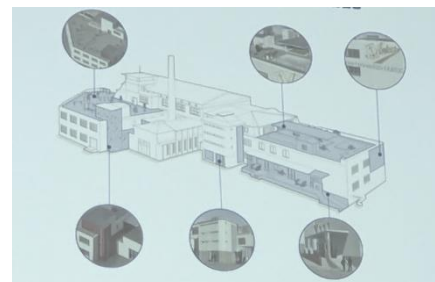
Events can turn out great, even on a «low-fi» level. The organisation of the event was a lot of work but needed only very little money. For the workload you definitely need support from your local network!



GETTING INSPIRED BY STUDENT'S PROJECTS AND IDEAS

Identity

- Löbau, Germany
- 14,000 inhabitants, 78.9 km²



Initial challenge

The “Anker-Teigwarenfabrik” (Anker pasta factory), was built at the end of the 19th century, and functioned throughout political changes until 1992. After some new usages, the buildings fell empty after 2010 and in 2018 the City of Löbau was able to acquire it. In 1933, the neighboring Schminke House was built for the that day's factory owner linking both buildings. At the beginning of the project, the visibility and knowledge about the former “Anker-Teigwarenfabrik” (Anker pasta factory), was limited. There was no concept for the future of the factory, neither for the refurbishment nor for a future use of the place.

Proposed solution

In the last year, both the city of Löbau and the Stiftung Haus Schminke have established contacts to the University of Wrocław, which is in Poland but only 200 km away from Löbau. During the academic year 2024-2025, students from the architectural department of Wrocław's “Polytechnika” researched the potential uses of the former Anker pasta factory and worked on designs on how to adapt the building to its future needs. On 23 June 2025, they presented a design of different uses, for both the inside and the outside of the buildings. As the Technical University of Dresden is also working on the factory, an exhibition and exchange between Polish and German students should be envisaged.

Changes it brought

A couple of the presented uses wouldn't work, whereas some ideas were very relevant. All in all, the student assignment brought fresh ideas to the project that were very valuable. It helped to use a new perspective on things.

Transfer potential

It is always worthwhile to team up with universities, schools etc. If the project itself is too big, it should be broken down into smaller assignments the students can work on. You will get support from the university with this as they are always searching for new tasks.

Main takeaways

This collaboration enabled taking a step back from the reflexion into the former pasta factory and to bring in a renewed energy. Most of the time, students do not have to take the cost for the refurbishment or alteration of the place into account. That makes some plans “unrealistic” but on the other hand brings up ideas that you probably did not have before.



CLEAN-UP DAY AND APPLE HARVEST AS A KICK-OFF TO TRANSFORM AN AREA

Identity

- Löbau, Germany
- 14,000 inhabitants, 78.9 km²



Initial challenge

The “Anker-Teigwarenfabrik” (Anker pasta factory), was built at the end of the 19th century, and functioned throughout political changes until 1992. After some new usages, the buildings fell empty after 2010 and in 2018 the City of Löbau was able to acquire it. In 1933, the neighbouring Schminke House was built for the that day's factory owner linking both buildings. There are several areas on the courtyard that used to have a high quality, originally designed by Hans Scharoun. Today, they need care, cleaning, repair and a landscaping concept. The factory is located next to extended green areas and the orchard of the Schminke House.

Proposed solution

A public workday including several “nature activities” was supposed to explain and present the original design of the courtyard. With a planting session a small area was equipped with similar plants like in the 1930s. At the same time harvesting the apples from Haus Schminke's orchard was supposed to connect both buildings via the green areas on the western end of the properties. With a kid's nature scout group (“Wild Füchse”) we tried out “green educational programmes” as planned in our IAP intervention area 3 (Action 3.3.1). The event is financed by a grant in the programme “LEADER”. It was planned to be as cost-effective as possible.

Changes it brought

The event took place on a beautiful late-summer-day on 20 September 2025. Many people who did not know the project and/or the factory before, but were interested in the green areas, the apple trees and the planting session came to the courtyard and experienced the potentials. The event was a good multiplier to reach new groups and raise awareness. It also helped to form new networks to the kids' nature scout group « Wilde Füchse » and the NABU (short for « Naturschutzbund ») in Löbau. We harvested about 1.5 tons of apples.

Transfer potential

The event is easy to transfer to anything you need to get done with the help of a lot of people. Make it fun and offer food and drinks. Additionally, people were allowed to harvest and take home the pears from several trees for free.

Main takeaways

The hardest thing is always to attract enough people who are willing to help. Communication and advertisement is key. It is important to mix work assignments with leisure activities and fun things. It was very worthwhile to get support from our local networks and from experts on the topics related to the event (here: Nature scouts and NABU).

Ernte- und Pflanzfest
am Haus Schminke und der Nudellei
Samstag, 20.09.2025
11 bis 15 Uhr

Pflanzaktion und Pop-up-Ausstellung auf dem Fabrikhof
Mitmach-Ernte auf der Streuobstwiese
Kleine Applepresse mit der Naturpark-Kindergruppe “Wilde Füchse”
Apfelernte-Wettbewerb für Kinder

Der Zugang zum Fabrikhof und auf die Streuobstwiese erfolgt über das große Fabriktor auf der Kirschallee.
Der Eintritt ist frei. Snacks und Trank gibt es gegen Spende.

Stiftung Haus Schminke
Kirschallee 46 | 09261 Löbau
www.stiftung-haus-schminke.eu

Kofinanziert von der Europäischen Union



OPEN DAYS ON MARTIN'S HILL, "NITRA, MILÁ NITRA"

Identity

- Nitra, Slovakia
- 77,000 inhabitants, 100.48 km²
- Denisa Halajová, ULG coordinator
- [URBACT: „Green Place. Let's do it together!“ - Nitra](#)

Initial challenge

Military barracks were built on Martin's hills in 1882. The site witnesses political and historical changes and also appeared to be hiding archaeological treasures. The park was fenced with a visual blockage from residents' access. In any case, the current state of degradation of the entire site made it unsafe, notwithstanding the beauty of wildness. At the beginning of the local GreenPlace project, the park was widely unknown and its potentials are yet to be discovered. Collaboration and local dynamics between the different owners and stakeholders were yet to be developed.



Proposed solution

The "Open Day on Martin's Hill", which took place during the largest city festivities on 6 July 2024 and 4 July 2025. Visitors saw open depositories and a programme in the Archaeological Open-Air Museum, commented tours were also very successful. Workshops were prepared - get to know trees, bee observation, making beeswax candles and a sensory map. Questions were asked to visitors about what they wanted to see in the park in the future, based on a map posted on a billboard.

Changes it brought

The feedback was received from all stakeholders and visitors and integrated in the future developments of The area is very attractive to residents, each event was well attended. Residents know very little about the place, most were there for the first time and were positively surprised. The events helped to create a connection between those who work and live in the area and also the history of the area.

The owners mainly solve operational problems that do not allow them to engage in soft activities. Therefore, it is necessary to create a regular event format, where the activities and finances of all stakeholders will be combined, so that the event is attractive to visitors.



Transfer potential

This activity can be easily transferred to other cities and do not involve large financial costs.

All that is needed is the cooperation of stakeholders and the creation of an attractive event format. It is necessary to reduce the security risk and ensure basic infrastructure (toilets, electricity, water).



Main takeaways

Such an activity enables gathering valuable feedback upon the perception of the space as well as upon the needs for urban infrastructure to be developed.

DAYS OF ARCHITECTURE ON MARTIN'S HILL

Identity

- Nitra, Slovakia
- 77,000 inhabitants, 100.48 km²
- Denisa Halajová, ULG coordinator
- [URBACT: „Green Place. Let's do it together!“ - Nitra](#)

Initial challenge

Military barracks were built on Martin's hills in 1882. The site witnesses political and historical changes and also appeared to be hiding archaeological treasures. The park was fenced with a visual blockage from residents' access. In any case, the current state of degradation of the entire site made it unsafe, notwithstanding the beauty of wildness. At the beginning of the local GreenPlace project, the park was widely unknown and its potentials are yet to be discovered. Collaboration and local dynamics between the different owners and stakeholders were yet to be developed.



Proposed solution

The "Architecture Days on Martin's Hill" was held as part of the nationwide event "Architecture Days" on 29 September 2024. The opening of an exhibition of projects by architecture students who proposed the transformation of the area was held. Visitors also saw the building of the former inn from the inside, where the exhibition was held. Architecture students provided an urban study of the renewal of the area, posters, a catalog and models.

Changes it brought

The event raised awareness of the former military barracks site on Martin's Hill and introduced the public to potential revitalization proposals. More than 80 participants had the opportunity to discuss directly with students and lecturers. It encouraged dialogue between professionals and the general public. The historic inn building was opened to visitors, sparking interest in its future renovation.

Transfer potential

This type of event can be easily replicated in other cities and underused areas. It only requires cooperation between architecture schools, local governments, and communities. Exhibitions and participatory activities can successfully activate public interest and stakeholder engagement in neglected urban areas.

Main takeaways

The architecture event created a platform to share future visions for the site and engaged both experts and the public. It helped visualize possible transformations and deepened the discussion around sustainable renewal of the area.



MARTIN'S HILL PATH - WANDERING ON FOOT AND BY BIKE

Identity

- Nitra, Slovakia
- 77,000 inhabitants, 100.48 km²
- Denisa Halajová, ULG coordinator
- [URBACT: „Green Place. Let's do it together!“ - Nitra](#)

Initial challenge

Military barracks were built on Martin's hills in 1882. The site witnesses political and historical changes and also appeared to be hiding archaeological treasures. The park was fenced with a visual blockage from residents' access. In any case, the current state of degradation of the entire site made it unsafe, notwithstanding the beauty of wildness. At the beginning of the local GreenPlace project, the park was widely unknown and its potentials are yet to be discovered. Collaboration and local dynamics between the different owners and stakeholders were yet to be developed.



Proposed solution

The event "**Walking Through Martin's Hill**", held on **2 August 2025**, invited residents and visitors of all ages to explore the hidden treasures of Martin's Hill through a carefully curated program. The aim was to connect nature, history, and creativity in an engaging way. Participants enjoyed:

- **Live demonstrations of beekeeping practices** by the Zobor Bees NGO, including honey tasting and educational activities for children.
- **Floral workshops** led by the Floral atelier, where visitors created handmade summer wreaths and wildflower bouquets.
- **Guided tours of the historical inn**, introducing the building's past and plans for future renovation.
- A **thematic walk** through the area, highlighting its natural, historical, and architectural layers.
- **Organized visits to the Nitra Creative Centre**, which presented its mission and opportunities for community involvement.

Changes it brought

The event highlighted the hidden values of Martin's Hill and strengthened residents' connection to the place. It created links between various community groups and stakeholders. Visitor feedback confirmed the site's strong potential for cultural, environmental, and community activities. Interest in the future development of the area increased significantly.



Transfer potential

The event can be transferred to other urban sites – especially green areas or brownfields with historical value. Key factors for success include interdisciplinary collaboration and low-cost, community-focused programming that activates the space and its people

Main takeaways

"Walking Through Martin's Hill" showed that even lesser-known urban areas can come to life through well-designed and inclusive events. The combination of nature, history, and creativity proved to be a powerful tool for engaging the public and opening discussion about future land use.



CREATING SOLUTIONS WITH A CIRCULAR ARCHITECTURE MARATHON

Identity

- Onda (Spain)
- 25,547 inhabitants (2023), 108.42 km²
- proyectoseuropeos@onda.es



Initial challenge

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: the municipality has launched a process to revitalise the entire place, between the Monteblanco and Tossalet neighbourhoods. It is still seeking ideas to redevelop the area.

Proposed solution

The Circular Architecture Marathon took place at the Campaneta building over two days, on 4 and 5 October 2025. On the first day, participants were introduced to the study area and the principles of circular architecture and sustainability. Workshops facilitated team formation, ensuring diversity in age and skills.

On the second day, after a site visit and short training sessions, teams worked on one of three challenges to address: renaturalisation of the built environment, heritage conservation of the industrial architecture, or strategies for urban decarbonisation. The proposals were presented digitally to a jury that evaluated them based on sustainability and circularity criteria.

The event was funded through the resources provided by the URBACT program, along with contributions from the Circular Architecture Chair of the UJI and support from local companies and municipal entities.

Changes it brought

- Increased awareness of sustainability and circularity concepts among participants, especially younger generations.
- Encouraged positive attitudes, active involvement, and long-term engagement –especially among young people– in the development of the “Green Lung”
- Created a repository of proposals and ideas for the future development of the “Green Lung” project, ensuring the inclusion of specific sustainability and circularity criteria in its planning and tendering stages.
- Disseminated the concepts of sustainability and circularity applied to architecture and the built environment among participants.
- Fostered connections between key stakeholders in the sector to identify challenges and propose cross-cutting solutions.

Transfer potential

- Use participatory methodologies to engage stakeholders and address local challenges.
- Involve diverse stakeholders for inclusive decision-making.
- Identify relevant urban issues and create targeted challenges (e.g., renaturalisation, heritage conservation).
- Use local resources and facilities to adapt the event format to different contexts.

Main takeaways

- Participatory methodologies foster creativity and innovation in a short time frame.
- Young participants bring fresh perspectives and solutions to complex urban issues.
- Collaboration and mutual understanding among participants to create shared visions for community development needs to be enhanced
- Engaging diverse stakeholders in project creation is key, as their varied perspectives generate richer and more innovative ideas.



A MURAL CO-CREATED BY CHILDREN

Identity

- Onda (Spain)
- 25,547 inhabitants (2023), 108.42 km²
- proyectoseuropeos@onda.es



Initial challenge

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: the municipality has launched a process to revitalise the entire place, between the Monteblanco and Tossalet neighbourhoods. It is still seeking ideas to redevelop the area.

Proposed solution

Over several afternoons in 2024, children from disadvantaged backgrounds were invited to prepare a mural in the heart of the neighbourhood altogether.

They drew their ideas for the 'Green Lung' of Onda, expressing their visions through creative sketches. Together, they selected the elements they wanted to feature in the final mural.

The project was facilitated by a local NGO, Quisqueya, which is located in the neighbourhood which also provided the necessary material.

Changes it brought

This action involved children in the creation of « their » Green Lung.

The action fostered a sense of ownership and pride, as they contributed their ideas to represent the Green Lung of Onda.

The link between children and the local community is reinforced.

Transfer potential

The children's mural is a simple and low-cost action with high transfer potential. Any city can replicate it by involving schools or NGOs, raising awareness and building community ownership in a creative way.

Main takeaways

The mural serves as a lasting symbol of children's creativity and involvement, encouraging other citizens to engage in future community initiatives.



Quarto d'Altino, IT

ENLIGHTENING ALTINO TO BETTER COLLABORATE

Identity

- Quarto d'Altino, Italy
- 8 129 inhabitants, 28.33 km²



Initial challenge

Quarto d'Altino would like to restore and relaunch an old Civic Centre with a new function, to enhance its archaeological as well also from a naturalistic environmental point of views, moving in the perspective of integration between the two areas. It would like to have a multifunctional, innovative, green, smart hub open to citizens, capable of orienting people and providing services to facilitate the use of green spaces, cycle paths and waterways, for people to enjoy the landscape and environmental heritage, practicing outdoor activities. This will in turn regenerate people and their individual and community relationships.

Proposed solution

Two events were organised in October 2024 in Altino by its ULG members for the general public, young people and middle school students to discover the area and foster the collaboration of ULG members for the first time. They were promoted through social media and local press.

The events offers an exploration of the Altino area, by foot or bicycle. They focused on landscape, naturalistic and historical aspects. They met with two university scholars and experts from the Consortium of Resurgence Waters who deepened the relevant hydrogeological issues of the place, before concluding with a buffet.

1,600 € from the local URBACT budget were used .

Changes it brought

The events allowed for the verification and improvement of the ULG stakeholders' ability to work together in a coordinated and integrated way. They also provided a valuable opportunity to collect direct feedback from the public involved in the events, including citizens, students, and other population segments, for the future actions in the area. Through this experimentation, the team's capacity to manage complex projects involving multiple partners and various activities was also refined.

One of the most significant impacts was also the increase in awareness of the historical and environmental value of the Altino area among participants, including the younger generation. Last but not least, these events also allowed for the testing and validation of new ways to enjoy the territory, particularly through the use of cycling and walking routes and tourist itineraries that combine educational and recreational aspects. This demonstrated a strong potential for slow tourism, capable of attracting a diverse audience interested in both physical well-being and cultural and environmental discovery.

Transfer potential

These events are easily replicable in terms of organisation and cost.

Main takeaways

Bringing different groups of people on site, especially when outside, raises interest, curiosity, and helps opening up a discussion.



TOWARDS PLACES, PEOPLE, STORIES

Identity

- Quarto d'Altino, Italy
- 8 129 inhabitants, 28.33 km²



Initial challenge

Quarto d'Altino would like to restore and relaunch an old Civic Center with a new function, to enhance its archaeological as well also from a naturalistic environmental point of views, moving in the perspective of integration between the two areas. It would like to have a multifunctional, innovative, green, smart hub open to citizens, capable of orienting people and providing services to facilitate the use of green spaces, cycle paths and waterways, for people to enjoy the landscape and environmental heritage, practicing outdoor activities. This will in turn regenerate people and their individual and community relationships.

One challenge was to involved young people in the design of the Civic Centre.

Proposed solution

On 14 June 2025, ULG members , a cultural designer for visual arts, a performer and theatre expert, a communication expert), and representatives from the Municipality of Quarto d'Altino met to discuss the ways to engage young people.

During a day, the participants used creativity and technologies (notably IA) to 1) show the usefulness of these techniques in working with young people 2) to develop ways to engage with young people.

Changes it brought

The workshop put on the agenda the opportunities and challenging of working with young people as well.

The participants also got a flavour of what is possible to implement with young people. They saw the added value but also the limits of these exercises.

In addition, the ULG members and other stakeholders had the opportunity to exchange on the ways to work together, which also raised questions about the future management of the Civic Centre.

Transfer potential

The tools and modes of experimentation are easily accessible and sustainable.

Main takeaways

The way some ULG members interacted and participated in the TA raised perplexities about the way they collaborated, revealing difficulties of alignment and understanding on skills, availability, management.

It should not be taken for granted that creativity is important and that specialised skills and experience are needed for its design.



Vila Nova de Poaires, PT

OPEN DAYS TO TAKE A TOUR OF THE FUTURE GREEN PARK

Identity

- Vila Nova de Poaires, Coimbra, Portugal
- 7000 inhabitants, 84.5km²



Initial challenge

Vila Nova de Poaires wishes to transform a green zone, located between the centre of the city and the industrial part of the city, into a Green Park. For this it was necessary to engage environmental awareness among the youngest members of our community and to demonstrate how their actions will create a positive impact on the future of the community.

Proposed solution

A walk was organised on 4 March 2025 together with ULG Members to show local children the plan to create the Green Park. Using the landscape plan and expertise in environmental science, civil protection, and landscaping, the team highlighted the benefits of creating this park and point out the drawbacks of the current situation. Goodies were also distributed. The action was funded through local URBACT GreenPlace budget.

Changes it brought

- 1.Community Engagement: By involving children and local residents, the action gathered diverse perspectives and innovative ideas, like incorporating a swimming lake into the plan.
- 2.Political Involvement: The Mayor's direct interaction with children demonstrated commitment and transparency, building trust and support for the project.
- 3.Expert Collaboration: Working with architects, environmentalists, and civil protection experts ensured that the project was well-informed and sustainable.
- 4.Plan Enhancement: Through this collaborative effort, it was possible to refine the project plan to address both the community's aspirations and practical considerations.
- 5.Long-term Vision: This approach not only improved the immediate project but also laid the foundation for sustainable and community-driven development in the future.

Transfer potential

Other cities can replicate this action by engaging the community, particularly children, in local projects. Foster political commitment by having local leaders actively participate and interact with residents. Collaborate with experts to develop and refine project plans. Encourage open communication among all stakeholders and promote education on the benefits of the project and sustainable development.

Main takeaways

- It is important to involve the community, especially children, in the development of local projects.
- Political commitment and open communication is key, as demonstrated by the Mayor's engagement with the children.
- There is need for collaboration and active participation in creating a shared vision for a better future.



INVENTORY OF THE TERRITORY

Identity

- Wrocław, Poland
- [893 506 inhabitants](#), 292.81 km²
- [The Foundation for European Studies](#)

Initial challenge

The Popowice Depot was created in 1901 and inactive as such for a long time. The Municipality of Wrocław seeks to renovate the site, while making the most of NGOs and activities currently on site and making the local history known to the general public. One challenge was to actually know what was available on the territory.



Proposed solution

A comprehensive inventory of the Popowice Depot was carried out, producing 5 detailed technical drawings. The inventory covered the terrain surface, topographic objects, greenery, communication paths, and utilities. It was verified through site visits and supplemented with original photographic documentation. This approach provided a thorough understanding of the existing infrastructure, natural elements, and spatial layout, forming a solid foundation for further analysis and planning. It also enabled recommendations for reducing the urban heat island effect, introducing greenery into post-industrial areas, and restoring spaces for community use. The technical drawings serve as a practical tool for planners, NGOs, and local authorities to base future interventions on.

Changes it brought

The inventory provided a clear picture of the depot's current state, highlighting areas of potential reuse and key assets. It improved coordination among city departments, NGOs, and designers, allowing future actions to be more targeted and effective. Stakeholders gained a shared understanding of the site, which streamlined subsequent planning and participatory activities. It also served as a practical foundation for the future hackathon, providing participants with detailed knowledge of the site's layout and assets to inform their ideas and proposals.

Transfer potential

This methodology of comprehensive inventory, combining technical drawings, site verification, and photographic documentation, can be applied to other post-industrial or neglected urban sites worldwide. Any city seeking to understand the potential of underused territories could replicate this approach to inform sustainable and community-focused redevelopment.

Main takeaways

A thorough inventory is essential before any redevelopment project. Combining technical and visual documentation with on-site verification ensures that planners and stakeholders have a reliable foundation. Early investment in understanding the territory reduces risks, informs better decisions, and supports meaningful community engagement.



WALKING AND STUDYING TOGETHER

Identity

- Wrocław, Poland
- [893 506 inhabitants](#), 292.81 km²
- [The Foundation for European Studies](#)

Initial challenge

The Popowice Depot was created in 1901 and inactive as such for a long time. The Municipality of Wrocław seeks to renovate the site, while making the most of NGOs and activities currently on site and making the local history known to the general public. One challenge was that while some areas of the depot are generally inaccessible to the public, participants needed a comprehensive, on-site understanding of the space.



Proposed solution

A study walk was organised around the depot on the first day of the workshops, led by a representative of the Public Transport Enthusiasts' Club. Participants were guided across the site, including areas not normally open to the public, gaining firsthand knowledge of the terrain, buildings, greenery, and other site features. The walk allowed participants to ask questions and clarify observations on the spot, enriching their understanding of the depot's history, current usage, and potential for transformation. Seeing the site first hand gave participants a clearer picture than the maps alone and prepared them better for the group work during the upcoming hackathon.

Changes it brought

The study walk ensured that participants had a shared, concrete understanding of the depot, which improved the quality of discussions and ideas generated during the workshops. It allowed experts and local stakeholders to point out details not visible in maps or photos, fostering deeper engagement and insight. Participants left the walk better equipped to propose realistic, site-informed green-blue infrastructure solutions.

Transfer potential

Study walks are a highly transferable method for any urban redevelopment or participatory planning process. Inaccessible or complex sites in other cities can similarly benefit from guided, on-site visits to give participants a tangible understanding of the space before co-design or planning activities.

Main takeaways

Experiencing the site in person provides insights that cannot be fully captured in maps or photos. Facilitated walks led by knowledgeable local groups can enhance understanding, foster questions, and stimulate more creative and realistic solutions. This approach strengthens collaboration between residents, experts, and authorities in co-creating urban improvements.



SURVEYING INHABITANTS

Identity

- Wrocław, Poland
- 893 506 inhabitants, 292.81 km²
- The Foundation for European Studies

Initial challenge

The Popowice Depot was created in 1901 and inactive as such for a long time. The Municipality of Wrocław seeks to renovate the site, while making the most of NGOs and activities currently on site and making the local history known to the general public. One challenge was to collect residents' feedback and ideas, ensuring that the perspectives of local communities are represented and can inform future transformations of the depot, particularly in terms of cultural, social, and green infrastructure functions.

Pomóż nam odmienić teren dawnej Zajezdni Popowice!

Dzień dobry!

Urząd Miejski Wrocławia prowadzi projekt „GreenPlace. Let's do it together!” w ramach programu URBACT IV współfinansowanego przez Unię Europejską. Jego głównym celem jest ponowne określenie funkcji terenu zabytkowej zajezdni „Popowice” we Wrocławiu ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem zieleni i potrzeb mieszkańców.

Jesteśmy ciekawi Państwa opinii na ten temat. Dlatego zapraszamy do wypełnienia krótkiej (nie dłuższej niż 5 minut), anonimowej ankiety.

Dziękujemy za poświęcony czas i podzielenie się opinią!

Cześć, Dawid. Gdy przesyłasz ten formularz, właściciel zobaczy Twoje imię i nazwisko oraz adres e-mail.

* Wymagane

1. Z czym najbardziej kojarzy Ci się Zajezdnia Popowice przy ul. Legnickiej? *

Wybierz co najwyżej 3 opcje.

☐ Zaniedbane miejsce

Proposed solution

A survey was conducted from 19 to 28 July 2024, involving 166 respondents. Information about the survey was shared widely via email and social media, with special attention paid to residents of nearby housing estates and participants of events at the depot. The survey asked about associations with the depot, perceived value of its elements, desired functions, and willingness to participate in future events. Data was analysed by age group and place of residence to capture differences in expectations and preferences. The results highlighted the importance of historic rolling stock, buildings, and NGOs, as well as the demand for socio-cultural activities and green spaces.

Changes it brought

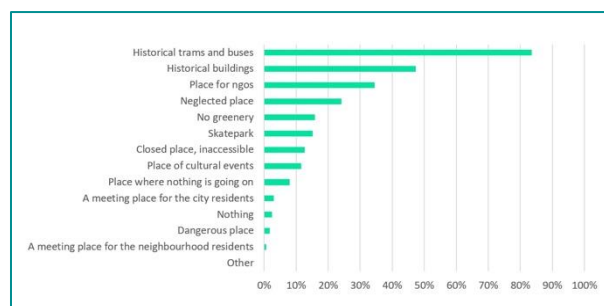
The survey provided a clear understanding of residents' perceptions and priorities, revealing both the existing appreciation for historic and social elements and the potential for green-blue infrastructure. It identified differing expectations between age groups and residents close to the depot versus further away, guiding the planning of future interventions. The findings also clarified which activities and functions should be prioritised, including cultural events, neighbourhood integration, and green areas. Additionally, the survey results informed the design of testing actions and can support planning for future participatory activities at the depot.

Transfer potential

Resident surveys are a highly transferable tool for urban redevelopment projects, especially when capturing the opinions of diverse local communities. Other post-industrial or underused urban sites can benefit from similar methods to guide planning, understand local values, and align socio-cultural or environmental interventions with community needs.

Main takeaways

Surveys can reveal nuanced differences in expectations between age groups and neighbourhoods, which is crucial for designing inclusive urban spaces. Residents value both the historical and social aspects of post-industrial sites, and participatory feedback can guide balanced interventions. Information gathered from residents can also directly inform the introduction of green-blue infrastructure in ways that complement existing social and cultural functions.



CO-CREATING DURING A HACKATHON

Identity

- Wrocław, Poland
- [893 506 inhabitants](#), 292.81 km²
- [article](#)

Initial challenge

The Popowice Depot was created in 1901 and inactive as such for a long time. The Municipality of Wrocław seeks to renovate the site, while making the most of NGOs and activities currently on site and making the local history known to the general public. One challenge was to co-create a green space for relaxing and meeting, while integrating environmental, historical, and social considerations, and ensuring participation from local residents and depot users.



Proposed solution

The Wrocław City Council organised a two-day workshop with 28 representatives of residents, institutions in charge of greenery and transport, non-governmental organisations and current depot users, to identify priority green solutions and indicated their desired location for creating a green space for relaxing or meeting others. The participants worked on feasible solutions, e.g. the identification of the resources needed to initiate the restoration, as well as the development of action plans compatible with the current ways of using the depot. The workshop tasks helped to answer the question of how to make the greening of the depot a social process that could involve local residents and encourage them to visit the depot frequently.

Changes it brought

It was possible to develop proposals to introduce environmentally friendly solutions in collaboration with local residents and other users of the depot, while respecting their needs and expectations. For the latter reason, after the completion of the workshops, a survey was carried out among residents of the area and other parts of Wrocław, which allowed to get to know the opinions of the respondents on the future greening of the depot area. Based on the results of the workshops and the survey, a "testing action" was designed and implemented to verify whether the proposed solutions and cooperation with local residents and depot users are realistic. Such an approach offers an opportunity to develop recommendations that will facilitate future collaboration with a wide range of local stakeholders while introducing environmentally friendly solutions at the depot.

Transfer potential

The participatory workshop model can be applied to other underused urban sites where community involvement is important. It can guide co-creation of site improvements, ensuring local needs and existing uses are considered, and help design pilot actions in other cities to test feasibility before larger-scale interventions.

Main takeaways

Engaging a diverse group of stakeholders in workshops helps identify feasible solutions and build consensus on site interventions. Combining expert knowledge with local insights ensures improvements meet both functional and community needs while strengthening collaboration and fostering a sense of ownership among participants.



TESTING A GREEN LEISURE ZONE

Identity

- Wrocław, Poland
- [893 506 inhabitants](#), 292.81 km²
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Initial challenge

The Popowice Depot was created in 1901 and inactive as such for a long time. The Municipality of Wrocław seeks to renovate the site, while making the most of NGOs and activities currently on site and making the local history known to the general public. One challenge is to engage residents in the local project and to provide them with much needed greenery.



Proposed solution

The creation of a green leisure zone was delegated to a local NGO. It started by an inventory greenery and organization of the site, together with the opening of the site with the removal of the fence and the creation of a barrier-free path.

Workshops were organised to create a community garden, rain garden and garden furniture, opening up the area around boiler house for recreational/integrative purposes, and creating a place for other organizations to use. A mural was also commissioned.

The activities took place between April and September 2025 and the opening event - on 30 May 2025. The action costs 15 000 euros of local URBACT GreenPlace budget.

Activities will keep on taking place through the management and coordination of the local NGO.

Changes it brought

The area has become visible to the neighbourhood, and residents have shown interest in the activities, sparking new ideas and creating a local community. The inventory of greenery and organisation of the site contributed to greening the area and preserving biodiversity. The space has been transformed into a welcoming area for recreation, community integration, and social events. Hands-on workshops and volunteer activities strengthened bonds between residents and local organisations, fostering ongoing engagement. Nature-based solutions, such as the rain garden and rainwater management infrastructure, were successfully tested and can guide future interventions, demonstrating that post-industrial sites can be activated for both ecological and social purposes.

Transfer potential

The model can be applied to other post-industrial urban sites, combining community engagement, NGO collaboration, and hands-on nature-based interventions. With committed local involvement and sustainable funding, similar projects can foster cohesion, encourage volunteering, and show how ecological solutions can integrate into urban regeneration.

Main takeaways

Hands-on workshops and co-creation build local ownership and engagement. Partnering with a dedicated NGO simplifies coordination and provides expertise. Temporary testing actions allow experimentation with social and green interventions, offering insights for long-term management. The initiative shows that participatory projects can enhance both community bonds and environmental outcomes.

