

URBACT



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Interreg

GreenPlace

Zapraszamy do korzystania
z Zielonej Kuchni



URBACT European Union Interreg

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARDS



October 2025

INTRODUCTION

The GreenPlace network

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

It is led by the City of Wroclaw (Poland) and is composed of 8 project partners:

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

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

Overview of the Testing Action Learning Cards

Various actions were tested throughout the life of the network by the Project Partners to engage with residents, test new usages of the space, make their areas visible...

These learning cards helped the cities reflecting upon their processes and share their details and learning to inspire other cities in carrying out such activities.

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A vibrant street scene in Boulogne-sur-mer. In the foreground, a set of wide steps is covered in blue and green mosaic tiles. Several people are gathered on and around these steps; some are sitting on a blue bench, while others are standing or walking. A young woman in a patterned sweater and jeans is walking down the steps. To the left, an elderly man sits on the blue bench. The background features a historic stone building with arched windows and a dark slate roof. A blue pergola structure is positioned in front of the building. A sign on the building reads 'LABORATOIRE MEDICAL' with a cross symbol. In the distance, a domed building is visible under a clear blue sky.

Boulogne-sur-mer

6-month student study on the
Brecquereque site

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

6-month student study on the Brecquereque site

Your city

Boulogne-sur-mer, France

Rationale

Why did you test this?

We needed an outside perspective to make transitional urban planning proposals and to enrich the work done since the beginning of the project with the ULG members.

Process

How did it take place?

One of our ULG members, professor at ULCO, proposed to involve a group of students for a semester on the site of Brecquereque. A group of 8 students worked from September 2024 to March 2025 on the site. They identified challenges and opportunities for the implementation of transitional urban planning and proposed various scenarios. The work was presented to ULG members

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

Enrich the reflection of the ULG group and transition of relaying between the ULG group and the design office which immediately started work on the site

Partners

Who was involved in the project? How?

8 students in Master PAUL: Politique d'aménagement urbain et Littoral were involved: they analysed the site challenges, suggested possible transitional urbanism solutions, identified relevant benchmark and suggested scenari

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

*The students presented the result of their work during a meeting on April 29, 2025.
They published a recommendation document: Urban Wasteland Bic County/ Wasteland and transitional urbanism.*

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

September 2024 to March 2025

Funding

Which resources did you use?

BDCO financed the student's work in the framework of the GP budget (external expertise)

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

6-month student study on the Brecquereque site

Your city

Boulogne-sur-mer, France

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

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

Key learnings

What did you learn ?

We 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. On the other hand, it is not easy to obtain the funding allowing the implementation of the proposed actions.

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

We can share the work done with other partner cities, it will be especially useful for cities of similar configuration wishing to implement transitional urban planning actions.

Impact on the IAP

How did the testing Action influence your IAP?

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

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

Further information

Website, contact person



Boulogne-sur-mer

Creation of a card game to host an
ULG meeting

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Creation of a card game to host an ULG meeting

Your city

Boulogne-sur-mer, France

Rationale

Why did you test this?

We produced a card game presenting various activities that can be organized on-site, classified in different categories. In total, 24 cards were created:

- 8 Cultural Activity Cards: Open air cinema, heritage days, Halloween party on-site, dance on-site, art on-site, etc.
- 2 Environmental Activity Cards: Planting and tree pruning workshops, etc.
- 2 Activity Cards linked to the Students' Projects (we have students working on the project for 6 months)
- 2 General Activity Cards
- 4 Activity Cards specific to our Project Site
- 5 Activity Cards to start Involving Local Inhabitants: Testing new activities on site, coffee to discuss ideas, etc
- 1 Joker Activity Card: A customizable activity suggested by the participants

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

A selection of actions to be implemented on the site with the commitment of local actors and a schedule for completion.

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

Thanks to this card game, our ULG members were very motivated to do the work and provided many ideas in a short period of time. Moreover, they are happy to come to our meetings when we invite them. Some of them are now very involved in the activities we will launch in 2025. We are planning to organize some of the selected activities in 2025 and beyond.

Process

How did it take place?

Each card is composed of four questions, each of them is already completed by the agency. For example, for the action "Thanks to your pen" ("Grâce à ta plume"):

- *Who is in charge of the action? Boulogne-sur-mer heritage department, the archives department, our agency*
- *Which audience are we targeting by this action? Former BIC-Conté factory workers, general public, etc.*
- *When and how long? Several months*
- *What are our goals? Share knowledge and make the history of the site accessible to everyone. Organize a multi-generational meeting.*

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 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 session allowed for sharing and discussing different perspectives, and each ULG member contributed suggestions for activities and organization. Some even volunteered to lead suggested activities.

Partners

Who was involved in the project

*All the ULG members
? How?*

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

July 2024

Funding

Which resources did you use?

BDCO staff cost on the GP budget

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Creation of a card game to host an ULG meeting

Your city

Boulogne-sur-mer, France

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

This game allowed to motivate and involve the ULG members more strongly, it allowed to create 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.

Ex proposal for an exhibition combining heritage and flood prevention by 2 different partners who can work together on this subject.

Key learnings

What did you learn ?

The playful aspect is important to maintain the interest of ULG members over a long period. On the other hand, it is more difficult to identify volunteers for the implementation of the proposed actions.

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

This is a replicable game card for many urban design projects, enabling local stakeholder involvement and we are happy to share our materials and tips!

Impact on the IAP

How did the testing Action influence your IAP?

Allowed to define the majority of the actions as well as their scope and a potential timeline for completion

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

Further information

Website, contact person

Article published on the URBACT website :

<https://urbact.eu/how-involve-your-ulg-members-using-card-game>



Bucharest

Organising a depot visit for the URBACT Local Group and the Urboteca Fellowship Team and drafting principles for a Terms of reference document



TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Organising a depot visit for the URBACT Local Group and the Urboteca Fellowship Team and drafting principles for a Terms of reference document

Rationale

Why did you test this?

The testing was conducted to evaluate the feasibility of regenerating the Victoriei Tram Depot by fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, identifying challenges and opportunities through site visits and workshops, and ensuring that the final urban planning solutions are evidence-based, inclusive of community needs, and aligned with environmental, historical, and metropolitan objectives.

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

The expectation was to engage a diverse group of stakeholders, including community members, urban planners, heritage experts, environmental advocates, and institutional representatives, in a participatory process to collaboratively explore the site's potential, identify challenges and opportunities, generate innovative and actionable ideas, and develop a comprehensive, inclusive, and evidence-based foundation for the regeneration and sustainable development of the Victoriei Tram Depot.

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

As a result of the testing activity (TA), the project produced a collaboratively developed terms of reference document for the Victoriei Tram Depot's Zonal Urban Plan (PUZ), a report summarizing identified challenges and opportunities, feedback from stakeholders, and a set of actionable ideas for green regeneration, historical preservation, and urban development.

Your city

Bucharest, Romania

Process

How did it take place?

The testing took place through a structured, multi-phase process. A visit to the Victoriei Tram Depot was organized 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, summarizing the challenges, opportunities, and insights gathered during the visit, ULG meetings, and additional analyses. A workshop was held, where a document served as a basis for discussions among ULG members, urban planning representatives, and other key stakeholders, focusing on drafting principles for the terms of reference for the site's Zonal Urban Plan (PUZ).

Partners

Who was involved in the project

The project involved urban planners, the URBACT Local Group, the Urboteca Fellowship Team, the Municipality of Bucharest, the Victoria Tram Depot management, and educational institutions, all of whom participated through site visits, feedback sessions, workshops, and collaborative planning.

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

The project took place over a period from May 2024 to March 2025.

Funding

Which resources did you use?

The project utilized resources small budget (inside ADIZMB) such as for digital tools for surveys and logistical support from the Municipality of Bucharest and the Victoria Tram Depot management.

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Organising a depot visit for the URBACT Local Group and the Urboteca Fellowship Team and drafting principles for a Terms of reference document

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

The Testing 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. The Testing Action resulted in increased stakeholder collaboration and awareness about the potential of the Victoriei Tram Depot, identified specific challenges such as infrastructural issues and historical preservation needs, and led to the development of principles to guide future terms of reference for its Zonal Urban Plan (PUZ), incorporating concrete ideas for integrating green spaces, improving accessibility, and balancing modern use with heritage conservation.

Impact on the IAP

How did the testing Action influence your IAP?

The testing action helped to better define and imagine future actions for the more general project of Victoria Depot revitalization. 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.

Your city

Bucharest, Romania

Key learnings

What did you learn ?

I learned the importance of fostering 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 utilizing digital tools to ensure broader and more inclusive participation in the planning process.

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

Other cities can transfer this action by organizing 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.

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

From the Site visit: "Wow, I never imagined this space is so vast!"

Further information

Website, contact person



Limerick

Testing the interest in the Old City Walls, Irishtown, and measures to enhance the project area

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

**Testing the interest in the Old City Walls ,
Irishtown, and measures to enhance the project
area**

Rationale

Why did you test this?

LCCC are working to make connections with the community using the Old City Walls as a neutral factor to engage, the inhabitants of Irishtown. We hope that through these social actions 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 could enhance the communities' connection with the Old City Walls, and guide the design if the project

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

Some key objectives for the Limerick team in the GreenPlace Project are to increase the green potential of the wall, to remove the perception that the area is unsafe and to augment the tourist potential of the wall. Our actions are a series of planned activities to look at reducing anti social behaviour , increase footfall and promote permeability.

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

*A series of social events.
The potential for an annual Heritage Festival to be held every year , funded by the Irish Walled Town Network.
Landscape designs for the area.
Drone footage capturing the Irishtown area.
Social media output, video , photographs.*

Your city

Limerick City, Ireland

Process

How did it take place?

A tree planting day was held in March as part of National Tree Week and the Johnsgate community came together to plant a number of Heritage Apple Trees in their greenspace.

In May we held a Medieval May fair in Gratten Court to celebrate the Old City Walls which included a guided walk/talk by the Council Archaeologist.

In August we held a Street Feast on Old Clare Street , where 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. To learn how to dance the walls for Limerick on the walls of Limerick. Colourful bunting was hung on the street and temporary seating/planting was put in place.

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

Partners

Who was involved in the project

The local ULG group

Johnsgate Residents Association helped with door-to-door leaflet drops and set up/break down of event materials.

*LCCC Housing Department , door to door leaflet drops
Council Archaeologist , history of the area, walking tours*

Council Landscape Architect, prepared designs for the area

Active Cities, games and activities for children

Music - Garryowen Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

01/03/24 - 31/08/24

Funding

Which resources did you use?

URBACT Budget

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

**Testing the interest in the Old City Walls ,
Irishtown, and measures to enhance the project
area**

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

Feedback from the community integrated into the IAP and the landscape design for the area.

Helped revive and create a link between those living in the area and the history of the area, old and young coming together to share a space.

Helped break down community barriers.

A need for greater biodiversity connections, focus on swifts, bats. If additional lighting is added it needs to be sensitive and downlit.

*How to connect with the hospital grounds.
Potential for green walls , Watergate Flats*

Impact on the IAP

How did the testing Action influence your IAP?

The testing actions influenced the IAP in terms of the works required in relation to integration , gender and digitalization.

In regards digitalization , our testing action demonstrated that this is an area that is lacking in the Irishtown area to highlight the history of the wall for both locals and tourists and should be incorporated into our actions in the IAP.

The testing action also showed from feedback from the community that additional lighting is required to make the area more comfortable to transverse for everyone.

The testing action also influenced the IAP in regards integration and the difficulty in getting different groups to mix locally and the need to consider this in future actions.

A common request from the feedback on the ground was for play and more play areas, and this is a focus area and subsequent objective now in our IAP.

Overall we learnt key details of issues on the ground in more detail for our target areas, that can be build into the IAP, such as removal of the Watergate sheds.

Your city

Limerick City, Ireland

Key learnings

What did you learn ?

- *That 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. Neutrality of space.*
- *A need for additional features , like lighting/seating and play areas.*
- *How themes like music and dance can bring people together.*

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

To have a phased series of social events, that are well advertised and inclusive for all.

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.

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

"Well done yesterday, lovely event and plenty to build on. Thank you for including me."

"The residents would like to thank you sincerely for the effort put in by Limerick City and Council on Saturday the 9th March on the planting of the Apple trees in the Village . It was a phenomenal success. The Children came out in force with their parents . I would estimate 40 people at one point . The community was left speechless as to how the event went ."

"There are no words for our appreciation. Sharon and the parks Dept personnel were super with the children."

"This was the first event and we hope for many in the future ."

Further information

Website, contact person

Carmel Lynch , Senior Executive Engineer



Löbau

Test uses: Indoor events in the -
Nudelfabrik

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Test uses: indoor events in the Nudelfabrik

Your city

Löbau, Germany

Rationale

Why did you test this?

The goal of the trial uses was, on the one hand, to 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. At the same time, the people of Löbau were also asked to try out what it would be like to go to sports classes, music lessons or creative activities, to the factory instead of the yoga studio, the music school, etc. The 'testing' worked on two tracks here, on the one hand for the building and the potential uses, and on the other for the population.

Process

How did it take place?

Various uses were tested in the empty Noodle Factory. Potential users were able to apply to use individual rooms. All trial uses had to be open to guests, participants or the public. In this way, not only was it tested what could work in the factory, but the people of Löbau could also try out what it would be like to come to the factory for activities and workshops.

A wide range of activities for different target and age groups are offered during the test uses, which are open to everyone, low-threshold and with free entry for most activities.

All test uses have the same feedback posters to ask whether people enjoyed the activity and to assess whether the activity worked well at the Noodle Factory.

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

- Test uses for the development of an operator and tenancy concept (areas of intervention 5.1 and 5.2, objective 5.1.1)
- Create a basis for the local stakeholder network (intervention area 4.2, activity 4.2.1)
- General awareness and public relations work (print, social media, TV, radio)

Partners

Who was involved in the project? How?

Haus Schminke Foundation, Instructors (Course leaders), City Museum, City of Löbau as owner of the property

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

- Number of participants - at least 6 test uses with a total of 500 participants were planned, in total 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
- Feedback posters with two questions for all formats: 'How do you like the activity (very good/not so good)?' and 'Can you imagine this activity in the factory in the future (very good/not so good)?'. Additional feedback via 'note box', website and interviews with course instructors.

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

April to June 2024 (www.fabrik-reanimiert.de)

Funding

Which resources did you use?

Grants of the project „Fabrik reanimiert“ for public participation, granted by the Saxon State Ministry of Justice, Democracy, Europe and Equality

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Test uses: indoor events in the Nudelfabrik

Your city

Löbau, Germany

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

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.

A total of around 800 guests attended the events and engaged with the factory in this way. The test uses and the relevant advertising and public relations work have put the factory back on the map in Löbau.

Key learnings

What did you learn ?

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.

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

The test uses can also 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).

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).

Impact on the IAP

How did the testing Action influence your IAP?

For the above-mentioned reason, the development of an operator concept and a rental concept were defined for the intervention in this IAP (intervention areas 5.1 and 5.2).

There are several interested participants from the circle of course instructors for the local network of stakeholders (intervention area 4.2), which was also taken into account in the IAP.

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

"These were varied activities allowing the charm of the place to be rediscovered. Let's hope that the next year and the initiatives within the framework of the test-use will allow us to enjoy the interiors of the factory again"

Further information

Website, contact person

*Julia Bojaryn, Stiftung Haus Schminke
(www.fabrik-reanimiert.de)*



Löbau

Test uses: Outdoor events in the courtyard of the Nudelfabrik

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Test uses: Outdoor events in the courtyard of the Nudelfabrik

Your city

Löbau, Germany

Rationale

Why did you test it?

The goal of organising the outdoor events was, 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 organising the events. The events were intended to make the people of Löbau aware of the factory and "entice" them to participate on the site. Various postcards and formats were used to gather opinions and ideas from the people of Löbau.

Process

How did it take place?

Various events were tested out in the courtyard of the Nudelfabrik. In addition to four "spotlight events" with various partners within the "Fabrik reanimiert" project, several external events were also realized.

All events had to be open to guests, participants and the public and free of charge. That way, the people of Löbau should become aware of the factory and be "lured" to the site to participate. So-called "opinion postcards" were then used to gather opinions and ideas from the population. Each completed postcard was rewarded with a trade (drink, selfie from the photo booth, coffee/cake...).

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

- 1) Test uses for the development of an operator and rental concept (intervention areas 5.1 and 5.2)
- 2) Create a basis for the local stakeholder network (intervention area 4.2, activity 4.2.1)
- 3) General awareness and public relations work (print, social media, TV, radio)
- 4) Creation of an initial utilization concept with the participation of Löbau residents

Partners

Who was involved in the project? How?

Haus Schminke Foundation, City of Löbau as owner of the property, Augen Auf e.V., Löbaulebt e.V., Kuweit, Seniorenrat, DRK, Jugendring Oberlausitz, external organizations

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

- Number of participants - at least 4 events with a total of 400 guests, actually achieved: 4 spotlight events with a total of 750 guests, an additional 150 guests at 4 external events
- As much feedback as possible from all guests on the "opinion postcards", high number required for statistical evaluation. A total of around 380 postcards were received.

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

December 2023 to August 2024 (www.fabrik-reanimiert.de)

Funding

Which resources did you use?

Grants of the project „Fabrik reanimiert“ for public participation, granted by the Saxon State Ministry of Justice, Democracy, Europe and Equality

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Test uses: Outdoor events in the courtyard of the Nudelfabrik

Your city

Löbau, Germany

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

The outdoor events addressed various target groups and "lured" them to the courtyard of the Nudelfabrik. Around 380 completed "opinion postcards" with 5 questions in total were collected during the events. In total, almost 1000 guests attended the outdoor events and engaged with the factory in this way. The events and the corresponding advertising and public relations work have put the factory back on the map in Löbau.

Key learnings

What did you learn ?

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

Cooperation with local associations and initiatives was almost always very positive. This is the basis for establishing a local network of stakeholders (intervention area 4.2).

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.

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

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).

Impact on the IAP

How did the testing Action influence your IAP?

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

There are several interested parties from the circle of co-organizers for the local stakeholder network (area of intervention 4.2), which was taken into account in the IAP.

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.

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

"The Fête de la musique at the Nudelfabrik was great. We should also consider it as a venue for next year"

Further information

Website, contact person

*Julia Bojaryn, Stiftung Haus Schminke
(www.fabrik-reanimiert.de)*



Nitra

Open Days on Martin's Hill

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Open Days on Martin's Hill

Your city

Nitra City, Slovakia

Rationale

Why did you test this?

We would like to put the area of the former barracks on the map. It was an opportunity to explore the possibilities that the whole area has to offer. We wanted to involve the new Nitra Creative Center as an accelerator of processes in the area. The goal was also to create local dynamics and closer cooperation between owners so that they could coordinate their activities in order to enhance their effect.

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

We wanted to get stakeholders to come together and create an attractive format for regular social events with them. We also wanted to get feedback from the community about local issues. The goal was to revive the history of the place, bring its potential closer to the residents.

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

We created a series of social events.
There is a potential for an annual Open Day co-financed by the City of Nitra.
Architecture students provided an urban study of the renewal of the area, posters, a catalog and models.
The events had an impact on social networks.

Process

How did it take place?

A series of two social events were held in the barracks area. The first was the "Open Day on Martin's Hill", which took place during the largest city festivities on July 6, 2024. Visitors saw open depositories and a program 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.

The second event "Architecture Days on Martin's Hill" was held as part of the nationwide event "Architecture Days" on September 29, 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.

Partners

Who was involved in the project? How?

The local ULG Group:
Archeological Institute -depositories,
Archaeological open-air museum,
Nitra City - guided tours, workshop,
Bees of Zobor - bee workshop,
ZAN – Association of Architects of Nitra - organization of the exhibition,
Faculty of architecture – designing transformation of the territory, the exhibition, the catalogue
Bishop's Office - space for the exhibition

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

06/07/2024-29/09/2024

Funding

Which resources did you use?

URBACT Budget

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Open Days on Martin's Hill

Your city

Nitra City, Slovakia

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

We received feedback from all stakeholders, which will be integrated into the IAP.

We found that 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. However, a big challenge in organizing events is the safety of the area.

The events helped to create a connection between those who work and live in the area and also the history of the area.

Key learnings

What did you learn ?

We found that the barracks area is very attractive to the city's residents and has great potential. Residents are unfamiliar with the area, do not know about its accessibility, history and architecture. Residents evaluate the area's greenery and architecture most positively. They wish to keep the area quiet and full of greenery.

Visitors see the danger of abandoned parts of the area as the biggest negative. There is also lack of sidewalks, park furniture and places for recreation. Owners see the biggest problem in transportation in the area and the lack of technical infrastructure.

Impact on the IAP

How did the testing Action influence your IAP?

The testing Action showed that even the users themselves do not know what options other users and owners have in 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.

The area is very large and abandoned. Ensuring the safety of the area for visitors proved to be a major challenge during the test events. The IAP will focus on coordinating and ensuring the maintenance of the area and operating rules. It is necessary to intervene in the vegetation, lighten the area, lock the gates, close dangerous buildings, etc.

A requirement from the feedback on site was the creation of places for recreation, sports and games.

Overall, we learned the key details of the problems on site for our target areas, which can be incorporated into the IAP.

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

Action 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).

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

ULG members were positively surprised by the attendance of the event. They also positively evaluated the activities of other members and saw the potential for combining activities in the future.

Further information

Website, contact person

Denisa Halajová, ULG coordinator

[URBACT: „Green Place. Let's do it together!“ - Nitra](#)



Onda

Circular architecture marathon

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Circular architecture marathon

Rationale

Why did you test this?

We tested this to actively engage young people in the development of the URBACT Green Lung project. The goal was to gather their innovative ideas and solutions, promote participation, raise awareness about sustainability and fostering a sense of ownership and collaboration. This testing allowed us to explore how youth participation can contribute to addressing urban environmental challenges effectively.

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

- *Encourage positive attitudes, active involvement, and long-term engagement –especially among young people- in the development of the “Green Lung”*
- *Create 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.*
- *Disseminate the concepts of sustainability and circularity applied to architecture and the built environment among participants.*
- *Foster connections between key stakeholders in the sector to identify challenges and propose cross-cutting solutions.*

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

1. *A repository of proposals and ideas for the “Green Lung of Onda” project*
2. *Team presentations with innovative solutions for renaturalisation, heritage conservation, and urban decarbonisation.*
3. *Strengthened collaboration among stakeholders and participants.*
4. *Greater awareness of circularity and sustainability concepts, especially among young people.*
5. *Recommendations for integrating sustainability criteria into the project's planning.*

Your city

Onda, Spain

Process

How did it take place?

The Circular Architecture Marathon took place at the Campaneta building over two days, combining presentations, participatory workshops, and team challenges.

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 chose one of three challenges to address: renaturalisation of the built environment, heritage conservation of the industrial architecture, or strategies for urban decarbonisation. Participants worked intensively on their proposals, which were presented digitally to a jury that evaluated them based on sustainability and circularity criteria.

Partners

Who was involved in the project? How?

The Circular Architecture Chair of the University Jaume I (UJI), part of the ULG, played a key role in organising and developing the activity, with its members leading workshops and participating in expert seminars. Municipal technicians also contributed to the organisation, alongside subject-matter experts, professors, and students, who collaborated to generate and present innovative ideas. Companies from the ULG further enriched the process with their expertise.

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

It took place over two days: from the afternoon of Friday 4 October 2025, to the full day of Saturday 5 October 2025.

Funding

Which resources did you use?

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. These resources covered organisational costs, expert participation, workshop materials, and venue logistics.

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Circular architecture marathon

Your city

Onda, Spain

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

1. Increased awareness of sustainability and circularity concepts among participants, especially younger generations.
2. Enhanced collaboration and engagement between stakeholders, fostering multidisciplinary approaches.
3. Generated actionable ideas and strategies for the development of the "Green Lung" project.
4. Encouraged positive attitudes and long-term commitment to the "Green Lung" project.
5. Empowered young participants by giving them an active role in shaping urban solutions, boosting their confidence and skills.
6. Promoted greater understanding of European programs by engaging participants in a real example of EU-funded collaborative action.

Impact on the IAP

How did the testing Action influence your IAP?

1. Provided valuable insights and proposals to enrich the IAP
2. Strengthened the participatory approach outlined in the IAP by demonstrating the value of stakeholder collaboration and community involvement.

Key learnings

What did you learn ?

1. How participatory methodologies foster creativity and innovation in a short time frame.
2. The potential of young participants to bring fresh perspectives and solutions to complex urban issues.
3. The significance of fostering collaboration and mutual understanding among participants to create shared visions for community development.
4. The importance of engaging diverse stakeholders in project creation, as their varied perspectives generate richer and more innovative ideas.

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

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

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

"This experience allowed us to share our ideas and actively contribute to the Green Lung project. It's inspiring to know that our work could help transform this space into a sustainable and beautiful part of our city"

Further information

Website, contact person

Website: www.onda.es

Contact Person: Claudia Muzzati / Antonio Lecha

Email: proyectoseuropeos@onda.es



Onda

Green Lung of Onda: Children's Mural Project

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Green Lung of Onda: Children's Mural Project

Your city

Onda, Spain

Rationale

Why did you test this?

We tested this project to involve Onda's citizens, and specifically children from disadvantaged backgrounds, in the creation and development of the 'Green Lung.' The goal was to foster a sense of ownership and connection to the project, while engaging the children in creative expression by allowing them to visualise and represent their ideas about the Green Lung of Onda. This initiative aimed to foster creativity, collaboration, and a sense of belonging among all participants.

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

We expected to engage the citizens of Onda, particularly children from disadvantaged backgrounds, in the creation of the 'Green Lung' project. Through their active participation in the mural, we anticipated fostering a sense of ownership, creativity, and community involvement. We also hoped the children would feel empowered by expressing their ideas, while contributing to the visual representation of Onda's green space.

Partners

Who was involved in the project? How?

The project involved the children from disadvantaged backgrounds who are part of the programs run by the NGO Quisqueya. Additionally, the staff from the NGO Quisqueya facilitated the activity and supported the children throughout the project, helping them bring their ideas to life.

Process

How did it take place?

First, the children drew their ideas for the 'Green Lung' of Onda, expressing their visions through creative sketches. Then, together, they selected the elements they wanted to feature in the final mural. This collaborative process allowed them to contribute their personal ideas while also working as a team to decide how to represent their collective vision.

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

The project took place over several afternoons.

Funding

Which resources did you use?

The resources used for the project were mostly provided by the NGO Quisqueya. These included art supplies such as sketch paper, pencils, markers, and paint. The children were given various colours and tools to express their creativity on the mural. Additionally, the walls of the center were prepared to serve as the canvas for the final mural. The staff and volunteers from the NGO Quisqueya also provided essential guidance and support throughout the project.

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Green Lung of Onda: Children's Mural Project

Your city

Onda, Spain

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

The main impact of the project was the strengthening of the relationships between the children from disadvantaged backgrounds and the local community. By actively participating in the creation of the mural, the children felt more connected to their surroundings and had a direct role in shaping a public space. The project also fostered a sense of ownership and pride, as they contributed their ideas to represent the Green Lung of Onda. Furthermore, the mural serves as a lasting symbol of their creativity and involvement, encouraging other citizens to engage in future community initiatives.

Key learnings

What did you learn?

We learned that involving children from disadvantaged backgrounds in community projects can significantly strengthen their connection to the local environment and foster a sense of ownership. We also discovered the power of art as a tool for social inclusion, as it provides a platform for creative expression and collaboration. Additionally, we learned that when stakeholders, like NGOs and local communities, work together, they can create meaningful, lasting impacts that resonate with all participants

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

Other cities can transfer this action by involving children and disadvantaged groups in creative projects that shape public spaces. Key components to transfer include:

- Engaging local communities and NGOs to provide support and resources.*
- Using art to strengthen the connection between citizens and their environment.*

Impact on the IAP

How did the Testing Action influence your IAP?

- Provided valuable insights into the children's vision of the Green Lung, giving us ideas on aspects to include and consider in the development of the space.*
- Strengthened the participatory approach outlined in the IAP by demonstrating the value of stakeholder collaboration and community involvement.*

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

"This action gave children from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to actively contribute to the creation of the new Green Lung. It was beautiful to witness the process and see their excitement to participate".

Further information

Website, contact person

Website: www.onda.es

Contact Person: Claudia Muzzati / Antonio Lecha

Email: proyectoseuropeos@onda.es

A group of cyclists, including men, women, and children, are gathered on a wooden bridge with white pylons. They are wearing helmets and cycling gear. Bicycles are parked on the bridge deck. The background shows a field and a cloudy sky.

Quarto d'Altino

Enlighting Altino

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Enlightening Altino

Your city

Quarto d'Altino, Italy

Rationale

Why did you test this?

Two separate events exploring the Altino area have already been organized on different dates. The first event was aimed at a general audience, while the second targeted a younger audience, specifically high school students.

A third event is scheduled for October, focusing on middle school students, with the goal of engaging them in similar activities.

There has been extensive and diverse collaboration: for the first event, support was provided by the Municipality of Quarto d'Altino, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, the University of Padua, the restaurant Le Vie, and the associations Nordic Walking Altinum Asd and La Carta di Altino.

For the second event, in addition to the Municipality, the naturalist guides from Barbasso Nature Culture, the Consorzio Acque Risorgive, a high school, the association La Carta di Altino, the restaurant Le Vie, the Altino Parish, and the Regional Directorate of National Museums of Veneto also cooperated.

Process

How did it take place?

The ULG designed and implemented two Testing Action initiatives.

The first initiative was preceded by a communication campaign through social media, also promoted by the local press. The campaign, aimed at a general audience, offered an exploration of the Altino area. The public could choose between a walking exploration, coordinated by Nordic Walking Altinum ASD, which combined natural, environmental, and historical-cultural aspects with the presentation of a health-oriented practice along the route.

On the second day of activities, a high school class from the province of Venice, accompanied by two teachers and the school principal, was involved. The students followed a cycling route from Quarto d'Altino to Altino, during which some historical and archaeological aspects of the area were illustrated, and a hydraulic lift system was visited and explained. The route ended in Altino with a buffet and the presentation of videos on environmental and nature-related themes inside the village church.

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

1. effective communication towards the target audience
2. participation in the initiatives from the various types of audiences to whom the proposal was addressed
3. feedback from the audience on the proposal for an innovative exploration of the territory
4. suggestions from the audience on revitalizing the Altino Civic Center;
5. coordinated operational involvement of the ULG stakeholders, who for the first time had the opportunity to collaborate.

Partners

Who was involved in the project? How?

For the first event, the following organizations collaborated: the Municipality of Quarto d'Altino, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, the University of Padua, the restaurant Le Vie, the Nordic Walking Altinum ASD association, and La Carta di Altino association.

For the second event, the partners included the Municipality of Quarto d'Altino, the environmental guides of Barbasso Nature Culture, the Consorzio Acque Risorgive, a secondary school, La Carta di Altino association, the restaurant Le Vie, and there was also participation from the Regional Directorate of National Museums of Veneto.

The third event will be primarily organized by the Regional Directorate of Museums of Veneto, and partnerships with other stakeholders are currently being finalized.

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

- Assessing the ULG's ability to design and manage a communication campaign for the first event;
- Exploring public interest, both adults and youth, in cycling tourism and local themes;
- Testing the ULG members' capacity to organize joint initiatives and collaborate in an integrated manner.

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

2 mornings of September 2024. The third initiative will take place in October 2024.

Funding

Which resources did you use?

Approximately €1,600

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Enlighting Altino

Your city

Quarto d'Altino, Italy

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

1) Coordination and Integration of ULG Stakeholders

The testing action allowed for the verification and improvement of the ULG stakeholders' ability to work together in a coordinated and integrated way. This result is particularly significant as it facilitated closer collaboration between different actors, such as local administrations, cultural associations, academic institutions, and private companies. Through joint efforts, an operational method was developed that highlights the skills and resources of each participant, strengthening the relationships between the public, private sectors, associations, and academic institutions. This synergy contributed to creating a more favorable environment for planning and implementing future initiatives in the Altino area. The main result was the strengthening of mutual trust and the establishment of an ongoing dialogue between stakeholders, creating a lasting collaborative network that can be mobilized in future contexts.

2) Gathering Feedback to Refine the IAP

The testing action provided a valuable opportunity to collect direct feedback from the public involved in the events, including citizens, students, and other population segments. These contributions offered critical insights into what works and what could be improved in slow tourism routes, cultural activities, and educational proposals. The public highlighted the importance of better integration between educational and recreational aspects, as well as a desire for more information and in-depth explanations during excursions.

Thanks to this feedback, concrete changes were made to the IAP, making it more aligned with the real needs and expectations of the local community. Specifically, the approach to the use of territorial and cultural resources was revised, improving the organization of events and interaction between the public and involved partners. This process of listening and adaptation ensures that the final plan is not just theoretical but deeply rooted in the local context, capable of generating tangible long-term impacts.

3) Improvement of Management and Organizational Capacity

Through this experimentation, the team's capacity to manage complex projects involving multiple partners and various activities was also refined. The need to coordinate events with multiple actors, spaces, and schedules was a testing ground for developing best organizational practices and for testing the team's ability to respond to unexpected events. This had a direct impact on how future initiatives will be managed, allowing for greater efficiency and better resource allocation.

4) Increase in Awareness and Civic Engagement

One of the most significant impacts was the increase in awareness of the historical and environmental value of the Altino area among participants, including the younger generation. Thanks to active participation in the proposed activities, both adults and young people developed a greater sense of belonging and responsibility towards the protection of their cultural and natural heritage. This has sparked a growing interest in sustainable tourism and strengthened the desire to be involved in future initiatives. At the community level, this has laid the foundation for stronger social cohesion, where the territory is seen as a common good to be preserved and enhanced.

5) Validation of New Ways to Enjoy the Territory

The testing action 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. Local stakeholders were able to assess the feasibility of further developing these tourist offerings, creating new economic opportunities for the area and promoting greater appreciation of local resources with a sustainable perspective.

Impact on the IAP

How did the testing Action influence your IAP?

The results of the Testing Action allow us to move from theoretical discussions about what we would like to do to verifying the feasibility of some joint initiatives.

Key learnings

What did you learn ?

We learned how to organize and jointly manage events, from communication to practical execution, how to assess public satisfaction, and collect feedback from the audience.

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

Easily replicable in terms of organization and cost.

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

"An exciting experience that gave me the opportunity to rediscover an intangible beauty I hadn't noticed before".



Quarto d'Altino

Towards places, people, stories

Altino Civic Centre and Service Centre

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Towards places, people, stories

Altino Civic Centre and Service Centre

Rationale

Why did you test this?

The main reason is linked to the difficulty of involving young people in the design of the Altino place. Some ways of reflection through creativity and technologies were proposed to a group of adults, to facilitate a future opening to the youth world, in order to create the ground for a collaborative, transgenerational placemaking open to sustainable innovation (social, economic, environmental)

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

- Greater involvement of the ULG;
- Involvement of the political and social community of the Metropolitan City of Venice to start networking with the wider territory for the objective related to young people;
- Test creativity in different ways (traditional and with technologies);
- Create connections between places distributed in the city of Quarto d'Altino and the place of Altino.

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

1. Although the ULG group is in favor of creating opportunities for young people, it is very difficult to understand the need to study specific needs;
2. Creative technologies, tools that young people use actively to create content, have been explored more easily through verbal language and sensory perception, while exploration, especially symbolic, of the visual world has been a real obstacle.
3. The need to transform the many places of Quarto d'Altino into a distributed cognition network in which young people can generate meaningful connections and for which technologies present opportunities for relationship and growth.

Your city

Quarto d'Altino, Italy

Process

How did it take place?

The TA took place in two significant locations: the Service Center (morning), located in the industrial area of the city, and the Civic Center of Altino (afternoon), located in the lagoon natural area. In the morning, the focus was on some traditional expressive techniques (performing arts and visual arts) to tell and perceive places. Through conversational AI technologies, group discussion methods on the topic of young people were also proposed.

In the afternoon, in Altino, the planned activity with some generative AI technologies was suspended due to the difficulty of visually expressing emotions and perceptions related to places. Some participants asked to deepen the experience in a new appointment; others contested the meaning and usefulness, in an uncollaborative manner.

The discussion turned towards some nodes of the ongoing URBACT project, misleading the sense of experimentation and generating frustration in those who were not part of the ULG.

The TA concluded with a poetic ritual in the nature of Altino to create a message for those who will live in a hundred years and to take to the Quarto di Altino Middle School in September to invite collaboration in the creation of an archive of messages for the future.

Partners

Who was involved in the project? How?

Some participants of the ULG to discuss the objectives for young people; three consultants (a cultural designer for visual arts, a performer and theatre expert, a communication expert), the offices of the Municipality of Quarto d'Altino

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

The design and implementation of the TA took place in April, May and June 2025.

The TA took place on June 14, 2025

Funding

Which resources did you use?

URBACT budget

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Towards places, people, stories

Altino Civic Centre and Service Centre

Your city

Quarto d'Altino, Italy

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

TA has generated more awareness of how youth involvement is important but difficult and requires the design of processes that are targeted and not naïve or improvised.

The discrepancy in vision (of the world) between different generations is the first obstacle to generating forward-looking action that is open to experimentation. On this point, TA made a small contribution, addressing first of all adults working with young people (policy makers, teachers, health workers, youth group leaders, etc.), to highlight what the difficulties might be, but also to share ideas, studies, analyses and opportunities for youth participation at local, national and international level.

Key learnings

What did you learn ?

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 will be important to take note of these difficulties for the future management of the Altino site, especially on such a sensitive issue as youth involvement.

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

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

The tools and modes of experimentation are easily accessible and sustainable, having opted for standard solutions (apart from the VR visors chosen to complete the technological landscape, but which could be avoided without affecting the overall sense of the creative experiences).

Impact on the IAP

How did the testing Action influence your IAP?

The results of the experimentation will influence the design of a targeted intervention for youth involvement that can:

- *Act for lifestyle change, rediscovering nature as an environment to live in;*
- Generate opportunities for sociality and relationships, including transgenerational ones;*
- *Highlight the fundamental importance of creativity to imagine and tell stories, one's own and those of the local community, in a conscious exchange of experiences related to places, which become important thanks to relationships between the people who live them;*
- *Highlighting the opportunities of new technologies so that they are sustainable (ecologically, socially and economically) and accessible, creating opportunities for growth in which young people become protagonists of their experiences, leading adults (helping to overcome the digital divide, for example)*

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

"It was exciting! I had a great time."

Further information

Website, contact person

Maria Teresa Dal Bò – ULG

A group of people, including children and adults, are walking away from the camera on a dirt path that leads into a dense, sun-dappled forest. The path is covered with dry leaves and twigs. The people are dressed in casual summer clothing like t-shirts, overalls, and caps. The background is filled with tall trees and thick foliage, creating a lush green environment.

Vila Nova de Poiares
Open days to take a tour of the future
green park

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Open days to take a tour of the future green park

Your city

Vila Nova De Poiares, Portugal

Rationale

Why did you test this?

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

Process

How did it take place?

We involve our ULG Members and, together with them, show our children our dream (Future Green Park). Using the landscape plan and our expertise in environmental science, civil protection, and landscaping, we highlight the benefits of creating this park and point out the drawbacks of our current situation.

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

We expect the involvement of children in the project, serving as a communication bridge with the community. Children will go home and share what happened and what they learned with their families.

Partners

Who was involved in the project? How?

*ULG Members;
Municipality Technicians;
Science Alive Club (children and teachers from Poiares School Group)*

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

Informative Flyers: Detailed information about the open day event.

Landscape Visualization: Before-and-after visual representations of the Green Park.

Educational Content: Presentations on the environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Engagement Tools: Interactive activities and materials for children.

These materials effectively communicated the project's vision and engaged the community, highlighting the importance of sustainable development and community involvement.

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

04.03.2024

Funding

Which resources did you use?

*Municipality funding;
Municipality technician resources;
Water; hats; souvenirs.*

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Open days to take a tour of the future green park

Your city

Vila Nova De Poiares, Portugal

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

The political commitment is evident through the interaction with the children, facilitated by the Mayor, who answered their questions. The children's interaction with the architect led to improvements in the plan, such as adding a lake for swimming. This collaborative approach showcases our unique vision for developing the project.

Key learnings

What did you learn ?

Through this action, we learned the importance of involving the community, especially children, in the development of local projects. Their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm can lead to innovative ideas, like the inclusion of a swimming lake in our park plan. We also observed the value of political commitment and open communication, as demonstrated by the Mayor's engagement with the children. This experience reinforced the need for collaboration and active participation in creating a shared vision for a better future.

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

Other cities can replicate our 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.

Impact on the IAP

How did the testing Action influence your IAP?

- 1. Community Engagement: By involving children and local residents, we 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, we refined 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.*

What they say about it


A quote from a ULG member on this action

"The involvement of children and community members in this project was incredibly inspiring. Seeing their ideas and enthusiasm contribute to real improvements in the park plan was very rewarding." - ULG member

Further information

Website, contact person

<https://cm-vilanovadepoiares.pt/1719/futuro-parque-verde-de-vila-nova-de-poiares-com-dia-aberto>



Zapraszamy do korzystania
z Zielonej Kotłowni



Wroclaw

Green Leisure Zone near the Boiler
Room – a space for integration,
activation, and recreation



BookCrossKing

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Green Leisure Zone near the Boiler Room – a space for integration, activation, and recreation

Rationale

Why did you test this?

The testing action examined opening the closed depot space to residents and whether it could become an accessible, lively area. It focused on engaging the community through social and ecological activities like gardening and workshops to gauge interest and participation. We also assessed the feasibility of nature-based solutions in this post-industrial setting, including stormwater management and rain garden performance during heavy rain.

Objectives

What did you expect to happen?

We aimed to create a green and quiet space for integration, in line with the participatory approach of the project. Through this testing action, we expected to spark interest in the depot, provide a comfortable waiting area for parents during extracurricular activities, and build a stronger sense of community. We also intended to increase the visibility of the depot and test blue-green and water management solutions on-site.

Outputs

What did you produce as a result of your TA?

As part of the testing action, the area was cleaned and adapted for public use. Infrastructure included an accessible path, two 1000-liter rainwater tanks, solar lighting, a storage space, raised beds, a pergola, and garden furniture. Three 2-day workshops with around 15 participants each were held: they created 4 raised and 8 in-ground flower beds, built 4 pallet benches, 2 tables, a mini stage, and assembled 10 branded deck chairs. A mural was designed and painted, and a Facebook page was launched to promote the space. The action concluded with a 6-hour opening event attended by around 70 people, featuring musical performances, an outdoor cinema, hands-on workshops, and food provided by a local social enterprise and volunteers.

Your city

Wrocław, Poland

Process

How did it take place?

A public procurement competition was announced for NGOs to carry out this action. As a result, the chosen NGO completed:

- *Inventory of greenery and site organisation*
- *Removal of the fence and creation of a barrier-free path*
- *Opening up the area around the boiler room for recreational/integrative purposes*
- *Workshops on Creation of a community garden, rain garden and garden furniture*
- *Installation of additional garden furniture and sunshades*
- *Creation of a mural*
- *Utilisation of rainwater for plant irrigation*
- *Opening event for local residents and other stakeholders*

Partners

Who was involved in the project? How?

The NGO "Umbrella Foundation," selected as the operator of the Testing Action, was responsible for coordinating and implementing all activities. The Municipal Resources Management (ZZK) provided access to the site for the organization, while the Municipality of Wrocław (UMW) organized the call for proposals and oversaw the implementation of the testing action.

Timescale

Over what period of time did it take place?

March – September 2025

Funding

Which resources did you use?

~15 000 EUR

Covered by Municipality, refunded by URBACT + NGO's own contribution, volunteers

TESTING ACTION LEARNING CARD

Title of the Action

Green Leisure Zone near the Boiler Room – a space for integration, activation, and recreation

Main impacts

What change did the Testing Action bring in?

The testing action transformed a degraded area around the former boiler room into a green, open, and welcoming space for community integration, activation, and recreation. It fostered the engagement of an intergenerational and international group of volunteers who prepared the site and continue to maintain it. The space will remain open throughout the summer, allowing for ongoing activities. The action also implemented nature-based solutions to reduce the urban heat island effect and improve rainwater management.

Impact on the IAP

How did the Testing Action influence your IAP?

The Testing Action influenced the Integrated Action Plan by linking directly to Strategic Objective 1, in particular to 1.2 to engage the local community, 1.3 to prepare an educational and recreational offer, and 1.4 to create a meeting place. It also contributed to Strategic Objective 3, supporting 3.1 to green the place and preserve biodiversity and 3.3 to introduce solutions related to rainwater management.

Key learnings

What did you learn?

The project highlighted the critical role of dedicated volunteers in establishing and maintaining the space, and the value of hands-on knowledge shared through workshops. Challenges were encountered in cooperation with the municipal site manager regarding formal matters, including delays and unsuitable requirements. Despite this, the experience strengthened community bonds and improved understanding of local administrative processes.

Your city

Wrocław, Poland

Main Transfer components

How can other cities transfer your action?

The Green Boiler Room's concepts and activities are transferable to other cities with similar post-industrial spaces. The model, based on community engagement, nature-based solutions, and collaboration between NGO staff and committed volunteers, can be adapted to local contexts. However, its replication depends on sustained involvement and adequate funding, which may differ across cities.

What they say about it

A quote from a ULG member on this action

"I work with a collective of visual artists in the depot area and just recently became interested in what's happening here. Today, I just stopped by for a moment, but I think my colleagues and I will be frequent visitors! Congratulations — you've created a great place and an awesome concert on the stage!" Agata

"I am impressed by how many great things have been done here and what a cool place has been created! I really enjoyed the opening event — the stage performances, the tasty refreshments, and the friendly people I met. If I didn't have my own allotment garden, I would probably come here often with my wife, but even so, we'll be visiting." Władysław

"At first, it was hard for me to believe it would be possible, but I was attracted by the prospect of participating as a volunteer. I'm proud that part of my work is here and that this place looks so beautiful, with so many people I got to know. Now, while waiting for training or during breaks, I will come here to rest." Halina

Further information

Website, contact person

[Facebook page](#) and [article](#)