



Let's do it together!

Study visit to Wrocław
22-23 October 2025

URBACT



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VISIT TO WROCŁAW, 22-23.10.2025

Guests

- Bucharest, Romania

Topics covered

- Adaptation of the depot site for social and cultural purposes
- Heritage preservation
- Public transport organization

Agenda

- Depot History Center (CH Zajezdnia)
- Popowice Depot
- Dąbie Depot (Czasoprzestrzeń)
- Ołbin Depot
- Gaj Depot



HOSTS' TAKEAWAYS

Joanna Gańcza-Pawełczyk, Project Coordinator, Wrocław Municipality:

The study visit allowed us to compare different decision-making pathways and to confront Wrocław's solutions with a different urban context, ranging from the scale of the city and investment pressure to residents' expectations and legal frameworks. As a result, we gained a fresh, international perspective on our past actions and a better understanding of which elements of our transformation example are universal and which stem from local specificity.

Anna Rączka, Communication Officer, Wrocław Municipality:

We were glad to showcase our approach to managing and revitalizing urban transport depots and cultural heritage sites. It was rewarding to highlight how structured operations, restoration of historic vehicles, and the adaptive reuse of former industrial spaces can support both efficient mobility and lively community engagement. We appreciated the guests' insights, which emphasized the need for clear heritage regulations, practical budgeting, and collaboration with local universities and professionals in cultural projects.



DAY 1 - VISIT TO INACTIVE/TRANSFORMED DEPOTS

Cultural Heritage in Depot History Center, Popowice Depot and Dąbie Depot (Czasoprzeźrzeń)

Transforming former depots into vibrant community and cultural spaces while preserving their historical value and transport legacy.

Elena Stoian, expert:

The visit to Czasoprzeźrzeń showed the importance of involving city administration to enable gradual restoration of heritage buildings. The diversity of events was impressive and showed how former industrial or transport spaces can be reused for community and social activities.

Gabriela Coman, Transport Department

I really enjoyed the experience. It was very educational and inspiring, and I would like to take many ideas from this visit to discuss with my colleagues and put into practice. What I saw at the Depot History Center (CH Zajezdnia) was great, with a presentation full of interesting information. The visits to Popowice Depot and Dąbie Depot were also very inspiring.

Cristina Pavelescu:

I found it interesting how the administrative side of the Depot History Center is managed, especially the choice of an existing cultural institution to run the centre efficiently with skilled staff and reduced costs. The exhibitions were engaging and interactive. At Popowice Depot, the idea of restoring trams and holding activities in the historic depot space was impressive. I also liked how large-scale events are managed at the Dąbie Depot.



DAY 2 - VISIT TO OPERATIONAL DEPOTS

Public Transport Organisation & Maintenance in Otbin and Gaj Depots

Seeing how depots organize daily operations, manage logistics, and maintain vehicles and facilities to support efficient urban mobility and service quality.

Susana Georgiu, Investment Department :

The two operational depots are well maintained and carry out many activities internally, such as repairs and production for public transport operations, showing efficient use of the budget through in-house maintenance. The events at the Gaj depot, with strong public participation and use of the surrounding area, were very interesting, and the coffee shop is a great concept.

Elena Stoian, expert:

Otbin and Gaj depots are organized and clean, with a lot of renovation and refurbishments done on site. The personnel are clean and professional. They refurbish the depots while involving employees in the work processes and train young professionals. They make the free spaces as green as possible and explain the importance of keeping the heritage alive to the transportation company.

Cristina Pavelescu:

Otbin depot was inspiring because of the people who are passionate and dedicated. I like that, in general, there is a lot of concern for heritage, especially trams and buildings. I also think it is interesting that they plan to choose this approach, as there is a lot of practice and experience in revitalizing transport infrastructure. In addition, I liked the Gaj depot's space where they have the open days; it is attractive, close to the park, and quiet.



GUESTS' TAKEAWAYS

Elena Stoian, expert:

The visit showed how city administration can support gradual restoration of heritage buildings and how former industrial spaces can host diverse community events. It was very positive to see an institution overseeing heritage, though clearer rules for heritage and public spaces are needed. Budgets seemed realistic, but there is room for improvement, and universities could be more involved in the cultural aspects of projects.

Cristina Pavelescu:

We took some inspiration from each depot we visited, not only for our Victoria depot project, but also for other initiatives (existing or not) in our city and the way in which transport is managed. A big inspiration is also the way they work with NGO's and how much you can achieve by doing these partnerships.

Susana Georgiu, Investment Department :

The main lesson was how to organize projects and actively involve NGOs and local communities in decision-making. The careful reconversion of depots, respecting historical style and identity, was very inspiring. The Project Partner demonstrated excellent organization and provided strong examples of giving new life to abandoned or old urban spaces. It was impressive to see how stakeholders' input was genuinely considered in shaping the project's functions and outcomes.



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