QUARTERLY REPORT #3

October 2024

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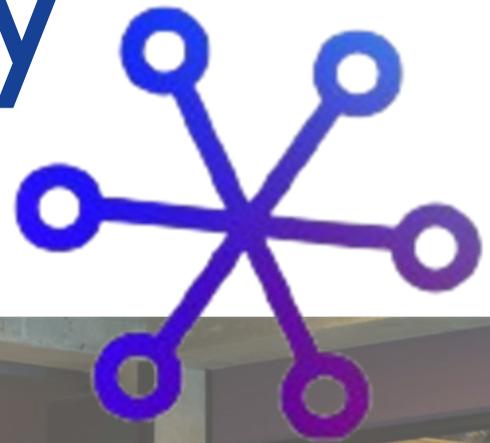
VIRTUAL SOLUTIONS FOR REAL PEOPLE

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01

3RD CORE NETWORK MEETING IN CAMPOBASSO

At Campobasso, looking into stakeholder collaboration in the metaverse

In early September, after a well-deserved summer break, it was time for all the METACITY partners to reunite and reactive joint activities at the Italian city of Campobasso, the capital city of the region of Molise.

This 3rd Core Network Meeting of our network was dedicated to the topic of Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration, a key topic at a time where all network partners are planning or starting implementation of Testing Actions with local partners and accelerating the co-creation of actions for the future Integrated Action Plans with their urban communities.

The region of Molise and the City of Campobasso are partners in a large cooperative project that is gathering several players, from public, private and civic sectors, around the development of new emerging technologies, called the MoliseCTE where CTE stands for "House of Emerging Technologies" in Italian. IIn this meeting, all Metacity partners had the chance to visit the real "house", the new head office of the project that hosts partners, startups and research activities in the outskirts of Campobasso and be presented with activities in the urban digital area from some of its main players – an example that can be an inspiration in terms of stakeholder collaboration for all partners.

1. 3RD Core network meeting in Campobasso

The meeting also had the participation of an Ad~Hoc Expert, Simone d'Antonio, specialized in stakeholder engagement and that delivered a workshop on this topic and will continue to work with all partners to help them in the mobilization and engagement of local stakeholders for their activities and for the co-creation of the Integrated Action Plan, including in the organization of effective events.

But the meeting in Campobasso was also an opportunity for all partners to share progress on their activities, especially as regards ULG involvement and Testing Actions, and for the Lead Expert to provide individual feedback on the first draft Section 1 of the IAP delivered by partners in June. An energetic event for an energetic network, that is now ready to face the Winter months in working with local stakeholders in the development of digital activities for a more sustainable urban development – after all, it can always be summer in the Metaverse if we so wish!

MoliseCTE an inspiration in terms of stakeholder collaboration for all partners!

02

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2ND METACITY MASTERCLASS

Metacity´s second Masterclass

On 17 October, we held our second Masterclass on the use of AI and IT tools for education, organized from a new educational lab set up in a local school as part of the Testing Action in Razlog.

From robotics to AI and programming, this event showcased how the town is embracing digital tools to reshape learning. Here are some of the top moments from the day:

A Warm Welcome: The day kicked off with a greeting from Razlog's Mayor, Krasimir Gerchev, who emphasized the exciting changes coming to education in the region. He set the tone for a day packed with innovation.
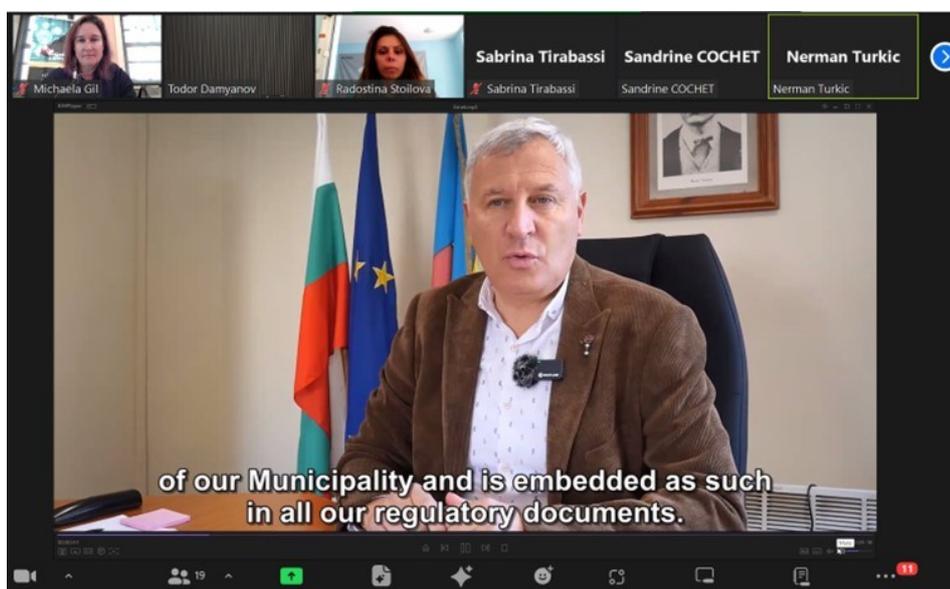
Digital Lab Debut: Todor Danyanov and Zlatka Stoycheva introduced Razlog's new Digital Lab, part of a broader initiative to experiment with cutting-edge technology in classrooms. It's all about preparing students for the future!

School Spotlight: We got a closer look at Razlog's schools with some amazing video presentations. Three schools highlighted their use of digital tools like robotics, new tech in classrooms, and fresh approaches to teaching. The innovations in these schools are really something to watch.

AI Talk with Students: Two bright students, Yanitsa Ivanova and Joana Katsarska, led a fascinating discussion on artificial intelligence. Hearing students talk about how AI is already impacting their lives—and how they see it shaping the future—was super inspiring.

Programming Power: The team from Telerik Academy and MindHub gave us an inside look at their programming and digital training initiatives for kids. The focus on coding and digital skills is clearly making waves in Razlog, setting the stage for a tech-savvy generation.

Mid-Term Reflection: In the afternoon, partners and experts from the MetaCity project got together to reflect on the progress made so far. The day wrapped up with a session on integrating all the lessons learned and looking at what's next.

The 2nd MetaCity Masterclass was an inspiring look at how Razlog's schools are embracing digital transformation.

From coding clubs to AI discussions, this event was all about giving students the tools they need to thrive in a tech-driven world!

03

NEXT STOP
4TH CNM IN HÄRNÖSAND

What's next? Heading north to Härnösand for the next Core Network Meeting, when it will be time to peek into each other draft IAPs!

Now that Winter is coming, it is time to leave sunny Italy behind and head into other northern locations for METACITY. The next Core Network Meeting **will take place on 19-21 March** in our Swedish partner, the city of Härnösand, where behind ice-skating city tours we are looking forward to see the city's Digital Twin, already used for Urban Planning, and the new Virtual Centre lab at the public library, which is expected to become a real entrance portal into the Metaverse for all city inhabitants. Something that will surely inspire us all! This 4th CNM will also be the occasion for a first Peer Review of the Draft IAPs, in a more complete version, so there will be no shortage of inspiration sources for the next stages of the project.

More to follow on this on our next Quarterly Network Report, so stay tuned!

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