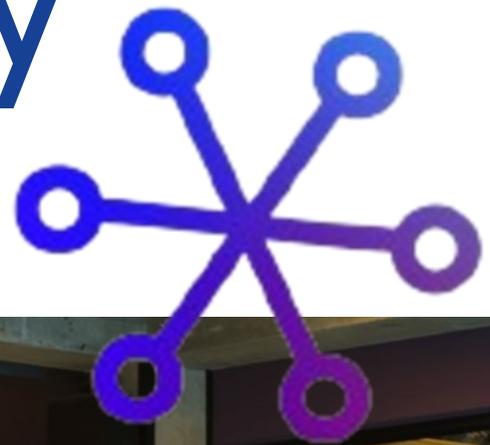


QUARTERLY REPORT #1

APRIL 2024

metacity

Virtual solutions
for real people



URBACT



Co-funded by
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VIRTUAL SOLUTIONS FOR REAL PEOPLE

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01

NETWORK OVERVIEW: PLANNING PHASE

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1. Network Overview: Planning Phase

The METACITY Action Planning Network, funded by the URBACT IV programme, has gotten 10 European cities and local urban actors thinking about the future of urban planning and how can new digital technologies, such as the metaverse or Artificial Intelligence (AI), contribute to shape it. From June, when the network activities started, until December 2023, the ten partners have been activating their cooperation and benchmarking each other's best practices, with the help of the Lead Expert, in a work that has been concluded in a **Baseline Study** that presents the current scenarios.



Ten new Metacities have been activated across Europe, and are now planning a brave new future for their citizens.

1. Network Overview: Planning

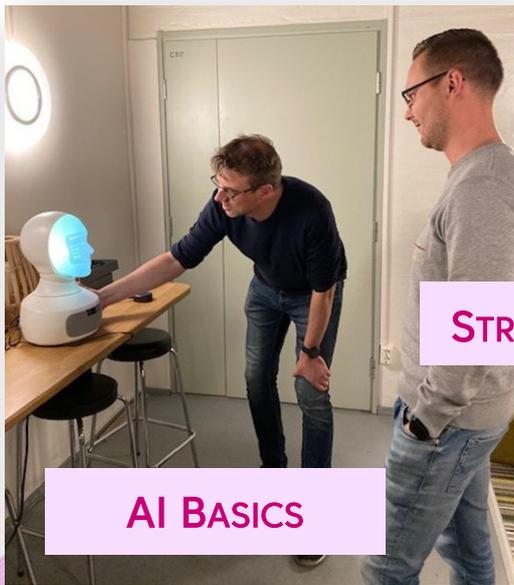
ULG Meetings

The ULG meetings have played pivotal roles in advancing the MetaCity project and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

In these meetings, attended by 6 to 12 stakeholders representing municipalities, universities, local associations, businesses, and various sectors, collaborative discussions and planning efforts aim to advance the MetaCity project, address urban development challenges, and drive innovation and progress through the generation of unique insights and plans for future actions, including pilot projects and strategy development tailored to each community's needs.

BEST PRACTICES

PROBLEM DEFINITION



AI BASICS



OPPORTUNITIES

STRATEGY



PILOT ACTION

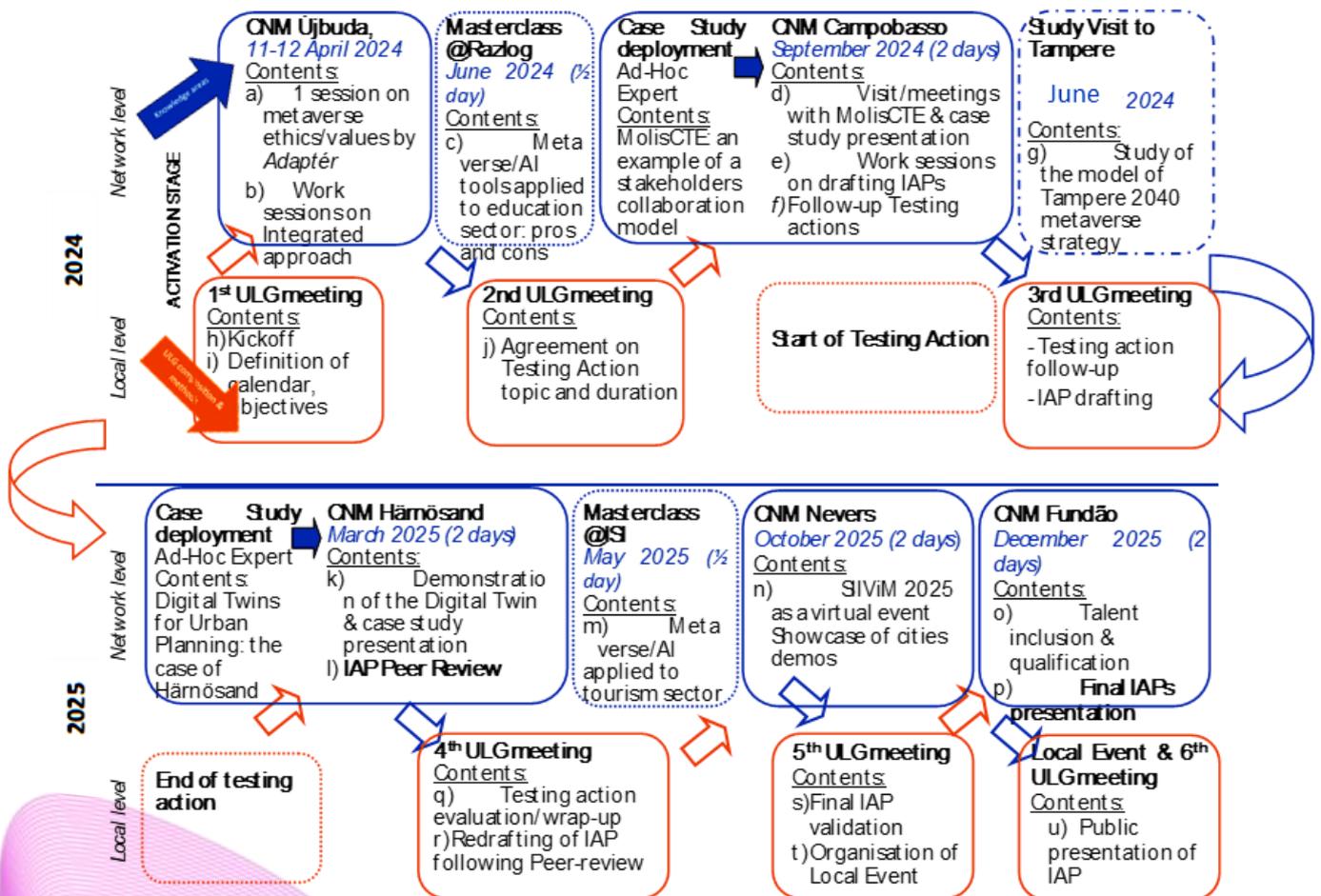


CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

1. Network Overview: Planning Phase

Now, from January this year, it is time for the cities to move into the Planning Stage, under which cities will interact both at local level with their stakeholders, organized in Local Support Groups, and at transnational level with the other cities in network meetings, in order to start conceiving an Integrated Action Plan for a new stage of urban development that makes use of the most advanced technology. During the following 18 months cities will meet in 4 network meetings hosted by partner cities, meet regularly with their local stakeholders and visit European benchmarks in metaverse strategies, such as the city of Tampere in Finland.

The main methodological blocks for the next stages of metacity



Next CNM

Campobasso 12-13 September



02

2ND CORE NETWORK MEETING IN ÚJBUDA

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2. 2nd CNM IN ÚJBUDA

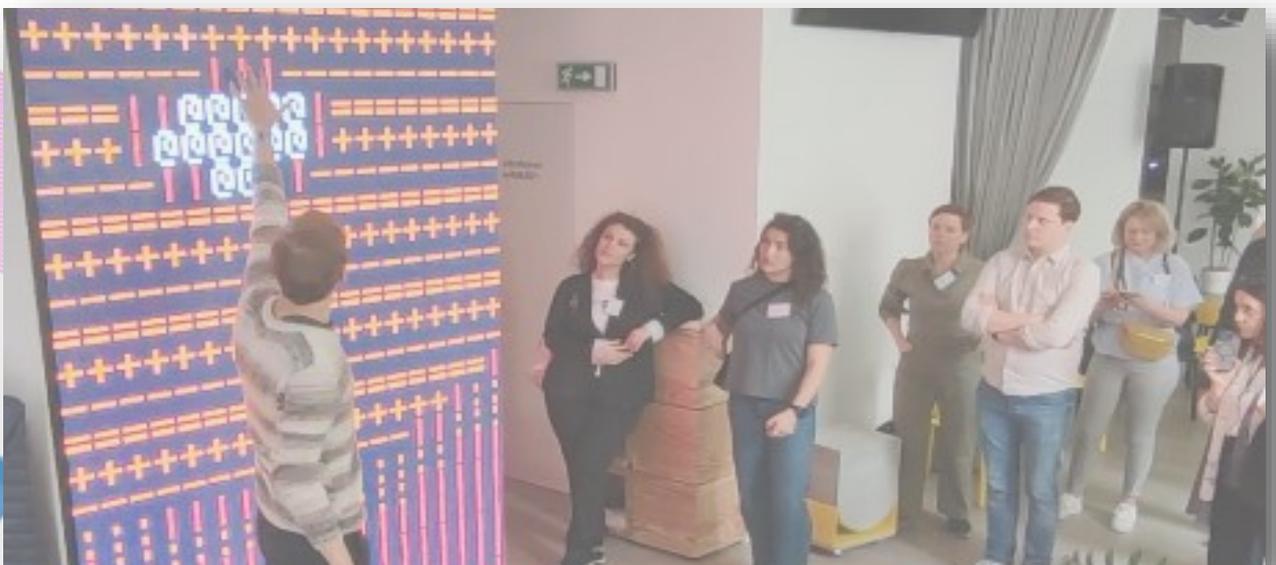
The first METACITY network core meeting of the Planning Stage took place in Újbuda, the XI district of Budapest, in the first days of April, attended by partners, invited experts and the National Urbact contact Point in Hungary.

Újbuda, with its 150 thousand inhabitants, is the larger urban area of the Metacity network and an example of vibrant, dynamic city, especially in the cultural and creative sectors. The local urban authority is now closing the large-scale Urban Innovative Action “Cup4Creativity”, which has contributed to develop the local creative sectors and created new interface entities like Adaptér, created to facilitate the citizens’ learning of new things, acquiring of future-proof skills, and co-create new solutions within the city, and where part of the Metacity meeting has

METACITY networks gathers in Újbuda!



Adaptér, and its role in the training of citizens in IT technologies and in awareness raising on crucial aspects as the ethics implications of artificial intelligence, had been flagged as a benchmark for the whole network, and this meeting was an opportunity to present it to all partners, with the organisation of an interactive session on “ethics & values of AI”. In this session, and following a discussion with an invited expert, partners “competed” with AI in the solving of a legal case and were confronted with the risks of using AI for sensitive and subjective matters.



2. 2nd CNM IN ÚJBUDA

In addition to its contribution to the ethics and value dimension of the use of new technologies in urban planning, which will be extremely relevant for the drafting of the future Integrated Action Plans, the Újbuda meeting checked a lot of other boxes for our Metacity network. It allowed partners to reunite and network for the first time within the Planning Stage, and to take a lot of decisions regarding the planning of events, visits and tasks, as part of the detailed network roadmap. It enabled partners to present to their peers their initial ideas, in terms of vision and focus, for their Integrated Action Plans and the role that their Local Support Groups have been playing so far in this planning. And it offered partners a direct contact with the urban life and developments in Újbuda, including a Virtual Reality tour as a demonstration of the use of new technologies for tourism.



The [full meeting report](#) is publicly available and offers a comprehensive information of all the activities and conclusions from this event.



“VR Tour at Buda Castle”

Traveling Through Time: Group Immersion in Budapest's History
Reminiscing on our journey through 7 centuries of Budapest's past with VR Tours. From medieval marvels to revolutionary fervor, each virtual scene brought history alive as we explored the city's evolution.

Far beyond traditional sightseeing, our experience transcended the ordinary, providing an immersive voyage through time, courtesy of AR technology in tourism .





03

NEXT STOP
STUDY VISIT TO TAMPERE
metacity quarterly report

3. STUDY VISIT TO TAMPERE

As European cities start to awake for the relevance of new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality, to urban planning, one city stands out. At exactly the same time that the 10 European cities and urban actors were starting the METACITY network, in June 2023, the city of Tampere, in Finland, was presenting its **METaverse 2040 strategy**, becoming one of the first cities in the world to develop a comprehensive roadmap for developing a full range of user-centric services making use of the metaverse and other advanced new technologies. As such, it is only natural that Tampere has become a benchmark for the METACITY network, and that the idea of organizing a study visit to this city has been included in the network's roadmap, quickly encouraged by the fast and enthusiastic response from Tampere's city administration to the idea of welcoming our network partners.

Furthermore, Tampere is the host and organizer of one of the most relevant conferences about the metaverse and its possibilities, including for urban collaboration: the "**Imagine the metaverse**" conference, that this year will take place in June 11-12 in Tampere Exhibition and Sports Centre. What could be a better occasion than this for Metacity partners to go to Tampere, and in addition to meet face-to-face with the city officers that have developed the city's metaverse strategy also immerse themselves in everything that will be happening, both physically and virtually, during the conference?

As such, METACITY will travel to Tampere in June, and our partners will certainly return full of inspiration and ideas for the development of their own metaverse strategies and integrated action plans to make it happen. This is European network at its best, and we'll be reporting about it in the next QNR!



The METACITY network will imagine the future and visit the metaverse in Tampere!



IMAGINE

June 11-12, 2024
Tampere Exhibition
and Sports Centre

“Imagine the metaverse”

Our Next Adventure: Imagine the Metaverse Event in Tampere!

We're gearing up for an exciting journey into the future as metacity partners prepare to explore the realms of tomorrow's technologies. From unraveling the mysteries of the metaverse to delving into its impact on industries and urban development, we're ready to dive deep into the possibilities.

Catch us at the Tampere Exhibition and Sports Center on June 11-12, 2024. Stay connected for updates on our experience!



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