REINVENTING CULTURE IN URBAN PLACES ITN URBACT NETWORK

II QUARTERLY NETWORK JOURNAL

Written by Elisa Filippi, URBACT Lead Expert, with the kind cooperation of all partners.
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INTRODUCTION

If you are curious to discover what can happen when culture is treated as a non-conventional form of urban infrastructure—capable of rebuilding trust, reducing loneliness and reconnecting people—this journal is for you. In this edition of the RECUP Network quarterly journal, you will explore how partner cities are moving deeper into the Adapt phase: shifting from ideas and inspiration to testing, learning and, on this basis, preparing concrete investment decisions.

The journey begins in Ireland, with the story of the Sandyford transnational meeting, where partners combined mid-term reflection with hands-on work on budgeting, roadmap-building and storytelling techniques. From there, the journal opens up to the rich diversity of Testing Actions now underway across the network—from cultural hubs in former industrial sites to digital platforms, storytelling formats and buddy-to-buddy approaches. Each of these experiments is designed to prototype solutions and gather evidence to inform future Integrated Investment Plans.

But how can these experiments become sustainable without relying exclusively on municipal public funding? To address this strategic question, the journal zooms out to the "Grants and Beyond" masterclass, where partners explored how cities can move from short-term subsidies to more resilient and flexible financial ecosystems—combining public resources, private contributions, community ownership and impact-oriented measurement.

If you are curious to hear directly from one of the political leaders involved in this journey, the Voices from the Stage section features a podcast interview with Alicia Piquer, Deputy Mayor of Rafelbunyol (Spain). And if you are interested in replicating or adapting some of these experiments in your own context, the Methodology and tools section offers practical inspiration: from costing templates and funding matrices to backcasting roadmaps, that help cities navigate complexity.

RECUP is not only reinventing cultural programmes. It is reinventing how cities plan, test and invest in culture as a driver of social connection.

Enjoy the reading!

Elisa Filippi

Lead Expert – REinventing Culture in Urban Places URBACT Innovation Transfer Network

THE "REINVENTING CULTURE IN URBAN PLACES" URBACT ITN NETWORK IN IRELAND: A MEETING BETWEEN REFLECTION AND EXPERIMENTATION IN THE SANDYFORD BUSINESS DISTRICT

Over two intense days in the Sandyford Business District (SBD), the RECUP network reached a pivotal moment in the Adapt phase. Sandyford, an innovative and socially diverse environment, offered the ideal setting to reflect deeply, plan strategically, and experiment creatively.
The meeting had three central purposes:
- to conduct a thorough mid-term reflection,
- to focus on digital tools and involvement of private actors to foster culture and creativity at the local level,
- to make substantial progress in shaping the roadmap for each Investment Plan.

DAY 1. FROM REFLECTION TO FINANCIAL STRATEGY
The meeting opened with a warm welcome from the SBD Project manager, Fernanda Pinyo Godoy and an introduction by **Anita Horvat, Lead Partner Project Manager**, who set the tone for the day: this would be a hands-on, decision-oriented, capacity-building session for partners and municipalities.

MID-TERM REFLECTION: WHERE WE STAND, WHAT WORKS, AND WHAT MUST EVOLVE
Lead Expert Elisa Filippi began by presenting a structured overview of progress so far, in terms of the functioning and animation of ULGs, strengths observed during visits, indicators of advancement within the Adapt phase, recurring challenges across cities, and the link between Testing Actions and the future Investment Plan.

After this presentation, a very interesting and interactive session has been dedicated to the presentation of the **Testing Actions** (TA) by each partner. All the TAs will be better described in this Journal's section n.2.

COSTING ESTIMATION CHALLENGE: GIVING IDEAS A FINANCIAL DIMENSION
Moving from the Testing Action, and reflecting on its scalability into a broader Integrated Investment Plan, a new workshop was held. Elisa Filippi's first workshop focused on a crucial skill: **estimating the real cost of Testing Actions** and of the different actions to be included into the Integrated Investment Plan.
Through a "Costing estimation challenge" template, partners worked on:
- real or hypothetical budgets for their Testing Actions,
- identifying major cost components,
- distinguishing between operational, activation, and personnel costs,
- understanding the implications of scale and participation levels.

The message was clear: a good plan begins with a credible budget.

FUNDING MATRIX WORKSHOP – BUILDING THE RIGHT FINANCIAL MIX
Elisa Filippi then introduced the **Funding matrix workshop**, guiding partners in constructing their "ideal funding mix" using a set of cards representing different EU funding lines.

WHICH EU PROGRAMMES TRULY SUPPORT MUNICIPALITIES?
Through a , Elisa Filippi facilitated a dynamic exchange on the European programmes most relevant for local authorities.
During this exchange, each city shared: successful past experiences, unexplored opportunities, funding lines that could support their Investment Plan, European instruments best aligned with municipal priorities (culture, youth, regeneration, digital inclusion, territorial cohesion).

DIGITAL SESSION WITH ALISA ALITI VLAŠIĆ

In the afternoon, **Alisa Aliti Vlašić** led a session on how digital tools can expand cultural access, facilitate participation, and strengthen community bonds, followed by a hands-on workshop in which partners reflected on the use of digital tools for local engagement.
 After the workshop with Alisa, a final session with local stakeholders, the local councillor Oshin O'Connor interviewed by Fernanda Pinto Godoy concluded the very intense day.

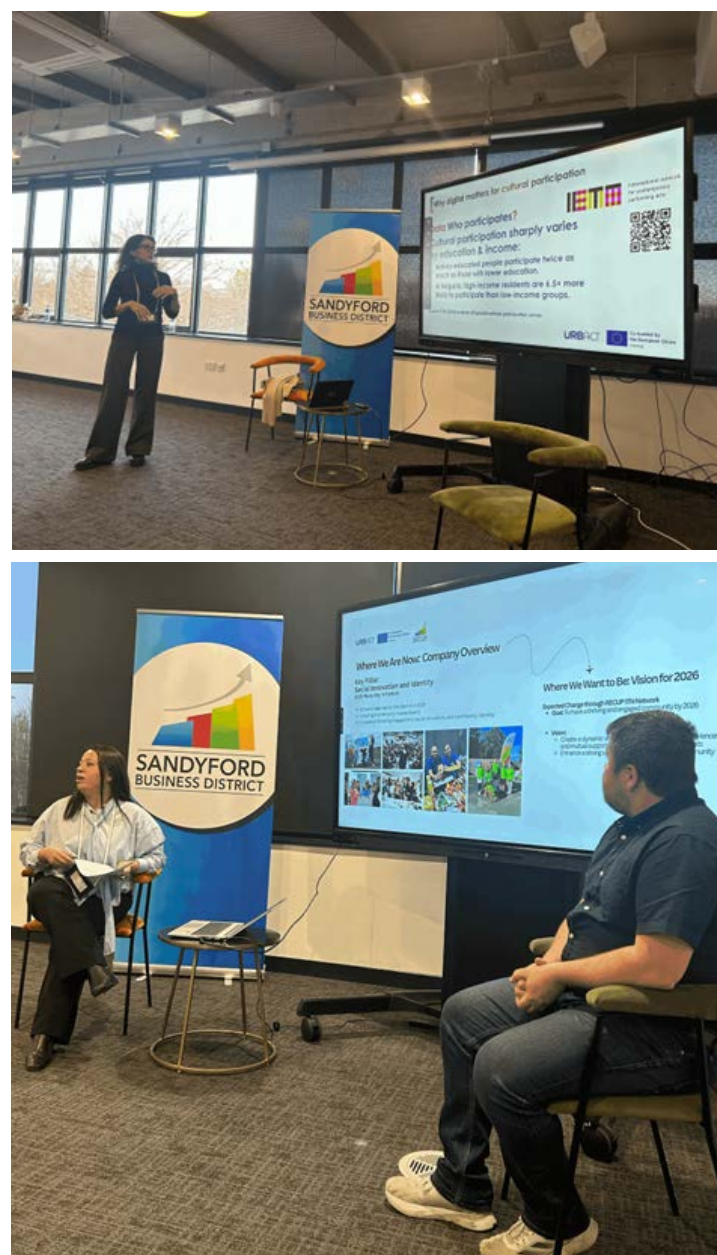### DAY 2. ROADMAP, NARRATIVES, AND STRATEGIC VISION

The second day opened with a Mid-Term Reflection session grounded in the presentation and discussion of the survey results. While partners identified several shared challenges, the data also highlighted a strong overall level of satisfaction, commitment and progress across the network. Building on this collective assessment, the group engaged in a workshop facilitated by the Lead Expert, introducing the **climber technique**, a method that helps cities design their roadmap by working backwards from June 2026, the moment when each Integrated Investment Plan must be finalised.
This backward-planning exercise enabled partners to translate long-term ambitions into concrete milestones, responsibilities and decision points

"HOW TO MAKE THINGS WORSE?". THE WISDOM OF THE PARADOX

The morning session moved then to a provocative yet enlightening strategic exercise: imagining all possible ways to **make an Investment Plan fail**.
This reversed perspective helped partners identify risks, blind spots, and structural weaknesses, an essential step before beginning the "climb" of the second day.

STRATEGIC ANECDOTES. LEARNING FROM LIVED EXPERIENCE

Building on the "How to make things worse", partners shared possible remedies, actions to "avoid", inspiring short stories of challenges overcome, illustrating that strategy is both structured and adaptive.
Study visit in Sandyford Business District Accompanied with the SBD team, all the partners visit this super innovative and diverse District, talking with local stakeholders and entrepreneurs.

STUDY VISIT IN SANDYFORD BUSINESS DISTRICT

Accompanied with the SBD team, all the partners visit this super innovative and diverse District, talking with local stakeholders and entrepreneurs.

STORYTELLING WORKSHOP. GIVING VOICE, SHAPE AND MEANING TO PLANS

One of the most emotional and memorable moments of the meeting was the storytelling workshop facilitated by **Fernanda Pinto Godoy and Letizia Panero**.

Through narrative exercises, reflective listening, and short creative productions, cities explored:
- how to communicate the transformative potential of their plans,
- how to highlight the social impact of cultural actions,
- how to craft coherent, compelling narratives linking DPI, Testing Actions and investments,
- how to connect people to places through authentic stories.

It reinforced a core idea: an effective Investment Plan is not only technically sound—it must also **tell a story that mobilises people**.

LEAVING SANDYFORD WITH A CLEARER DIRECTION

Partners left Sandyford with: a sharper understanding of priorities, concrete tools for costing, funding and digital engagement, a more structured roadmap, and a more compelling narrative. Sandyford showed that reinventing culture also means reinventing how we see, plan and engage. The Adapt phase now moves forward with renewed momentum, from reflection to action, with the Investment Plans as the shared horizon.

2.PARTNER CITIES WORKING ON TESTING ACTIONS. EXPERIMENT TO PROTOTYPE

As part of the URBACT ITN REinventing Culture in Urban Places network, partner cities are translating the lessons learned from CUP4Creativity into practical testing actions that address loneliness, passivity, and social fragmentation through culture and creativity. Each Testing Action is a short, time-limited experiment developed in collaboration with the ULG and directly linked to future Integrated Investment Plans.

Across **Bielsko-Biała, Dubrovnik, Újbuda, Mancomunitat de l'Horta Nord, Amersfoort and Sandyford Business District**, the formats differ, but the strategic purpose is the same: test what works locally to reconnect people with each other and with their urban places, and collect evidence that can shape long-term investment.

BIELSKO-BIAŁA: CREATIVITY AND NATURE AS TOOLS AGAINST LONELINESS

In Bielsko-Biała, the core challenge identified with the ULG is loneliness among the younger generation, anonymity in neighbourhoods and a weak connection to both public and natural spaces. The city has framed this through the "Loneliness Tree", mapping the "roots" of isolation together with local stakeholders.

Two connected Testing Actions have been conceived.

The first combines **art workshops and digital engagement**. At Punkt 11, a civic cultural hub in the historic area, young people take part in a workshop led by artist Marcin "Malik" Malicki. Using "**Slavic demonology**" as a starting point, they reinterpret traditional beliefs through contemporary illustration and street-art language, creating personal symbols and characters linked to the city's existing "Following the Whisperers" trail. A new is then added to the web application connected to this trail, extending the experience into the digital sphere and encouraging exploration of the city.

The second action, "**The Loneliness Tree**", applies the Treeline methodology with the idea to use "Tree" as a social connector. Residents and ULG members identify a meaningful tree and build a Tree Portfolio through guided walks, sound recording with a composer, visual materials, ecological data and a small public exhibition. The aim is to strengthen emotional ties to local nature and spaces, create micro-networks between residents and generate qualitative and quantitative evidence.

DUBROVNIK: TESTING THE TUP FACTORY AS A COMMUNITY CULTURAL HUB

In Dubrovnik, key challenges include community fragmentation and a cultural offer heavily dominated by tourism, with few non-touristic spaces for local residents. The Testing Action focuses on the former **TUP factory**, an industrial site of strong historical significance, now at the heart of a major municipal investment. The site is being regenerated as a hub for creative industries and community engagement, with the ambition of reclaiming space for local cultural production and social life beyond the tourism-driven city centre.

As part of the "**Grad od riječi**" festival, the city implemented a multi-faceted programme within the TUP complex. The action included creative workshops for **children** focused on Dubrovnik's local heritage, using recycled materials; a creative **writing workshop for younger pupils**; a **Re-Formatted Human Library**, enabling young people and audience members to "borrow" cultural workers and artists for informal conversations; and a **TUP Mailbox**, which collected citizens' stories and ideas through QR codes and an online form over the course of one week.

The one-day festival turned out to be extremely successful in terms of participation, reaching different target groups and engaging them in collective efforts.

ÚJBUDA. AN ADVENT EVENT SERIES TO REACH MULTIPLE TARGET GROUPS

In Újbuda, the RECUP good practice city, the challenge was to **reach as many target groups as possible** in a district already rich in local initiatives but lacking a shared framework. Early ULG meetings in Gazdagrét revealed strong community potential but no common outlet for ideas.

The Testing Action is an Advent-themed event series designed to activate different locations and audiences. Using the idea of an "Advent Calendar", activities take place almost daily in the run-up to Christmas: creative workshops (such as ornament-making and lino printing), a pop-up community space in an empty shopping-centre unit, thematic adult clubs on topics like sustainable eating, sports and wellness sessions, an "ugly sweater" charity run, serenades, and Christmas fairs and flea markets featuring local artisans and reused goods. Events are hosted in libraries, schools, parks, gyms and other local spaces.

The objective is to test how far a dense, co-created programme can **mobilise children, families, teens, seniors, volunteers and local partners**.

MANCOMUNITAT DE L'HORTA NORD: A TERRITORIAL CULTURAL PLATFORM AS TESTING ACTION

For the Mancomunitat de l'Horta Nord, the main obstacle was organisational: how to connect the different municipalities and overcome fragmented cultural communication, coordination gaps between municipalities and the absence of common tools. The ULG agreed to create a **shared digital platform**, choosing simple, free Google-based tools to ensure long-term usability and collaborative management.

The Testing Action has produced "**Cultura Horta Nord**": an official website where residents can navigate cultural activities by municipality and type, and an Instagram channel (@culturahortanord) that showcases cultural life across the ten municipalities and explains the role of RECUP. The presentation of the platform featured live performances by Teatreves Teatre and Malapata Swing Band, completing the event with theatre, music and atmosphere.

The public launch event validated the approach and marked the starting point for using this platform as a long-term cooperation tool, with next steps including mapping associations and professionals and involving private, non-cultural actors in future programming.

SANDYFORD BUSINESS DISTRICT: STORYTELLING TO UNDERSTAND PARALLEL SOCIETIES

Sandyford Business District, RECUP's Irish partner, is experiencing marked **social fragmentation**: 51% of residents are non-European and "parallel societies" have emerged, with communities living side by side but rarely interacting. The Testing Action explored whether **storytelling** can act as a tool for insight, inclusion and social change in this context.

The concept of the Storytelling action was to invite 8–10 speakers who live or work in the district and come from outside Ireland, each sharing a short personal story on themes such as parenthood, belonging, friendships and hobbies. The action unfolded in three phases: two preparatory workshops to build group cohesion, support public-speaking skills and curate stories (including a "What if…" section), followed by a final storytelling event with a curated audience. Twelve volunteers came forward and ten speakers took the stage. Out of 50 invited guests, 45 attended, achieving a 90% participation rate. Audience perceptions were captured through a short Mentimeter survey with three questions: what community means to them, how to build a stronger community in SBD, and open reflections on the event and future ideas. The responses, combined with qualitative impressions from the workshops and event, now provide **new insights into the needs**, challenges and interests of the district's diverse population and will feed into Sandyford's Investment Plan.

Here the video: https://vimeo.com/1137485970/832891da95?fl=pl&fe=ti

AMERSFOORT: BUDDY SUPPORT AS EARLY PREVENTION

In Amersfoort, the overarching challenge was framed simply: **how can we decrease loneliness in our city?** The city developed several local actions around this theme; within RECUP, the Testing Action focuses on **Maatjesfoort**, a "buddy-to-buddy" support prototype.
Maatjesfoort pairs vulnerable residents with local volunteers for weekly informal contact, such as doing small chores together in the community centre, painting or making repairs. Coordination is handled locally by two professionals—the community-centre lead and an expert in addiction and reintegration—rather than by municipal staff.
Within the first three months, 12 buddy matches were created. Self-reported wellbeing improved, participants felt less lonely and more stable, volunteers became more engaged, and professionals observed a reduced burden on formal care services. Importantly, local professionals themselves applied for funding, while the municipality played a **facilitating role**, connecting actors rather than directly running the project. If further funding is secured, this model will become part of the city's Integrated Investment Plan.
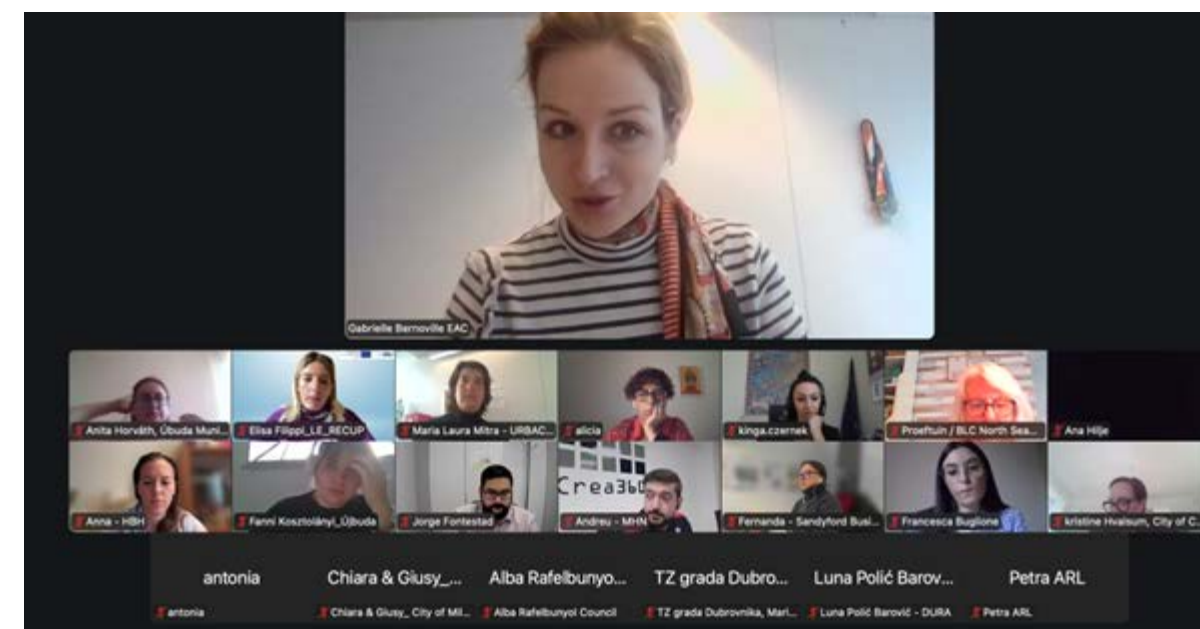

Across these six Testing Actions, RECUP cities are not only piloting cultural activities; they are testing governance models, participation formats and measurement tools that will underpin their future Integrated Investment Plans. Each experiment provides concrete learning on how culture and creativity can be used to tackle loneliness, isolation and fragmentation, at the very scale where change becomes visible: in neighbourhoods, public spaces, shared platforms and everyday relationships.

3.GRANTS AND BEYOND: RETHINKING HOW WE FUND CULTURE AND CREATIVITY IN CITIES

On 13 October 2025, "REinventing Culture in Urban Places" partners and guests from across Europe met online for a Masterclass addressing one critical aspect of local cultural policy: how to fund culture and creativity in urban and peri-urban contexts in a sustainable way. Titled "Grants and Beyond", the Masterclass tackled a shared vulnerability – the dependence on short-term public subsidies – and explored how cities can move from a transactional model, funding isolated projects, to a relational one that nourishes cultural ecosystems.

The Masterclass was organised as part of the capacity-building activity foreseeing in our RECUP Network. The opening remarks were carried out by Anita Horváth (Municipality of Újbuda, Lead Partner), Elisa Filippi (URBACT Lead Expert) and Maria Laura Mitra (URBACT Secretariat). The session has been introduced by the Lead Expert as a crucial step in this journey: if culture is to play a structural role in tackling loneliness and fragmentation, cities must rethink the financial architecture that stands behind it. None of our cultural ambitions can take shape without rethinking the resources that sustain them.
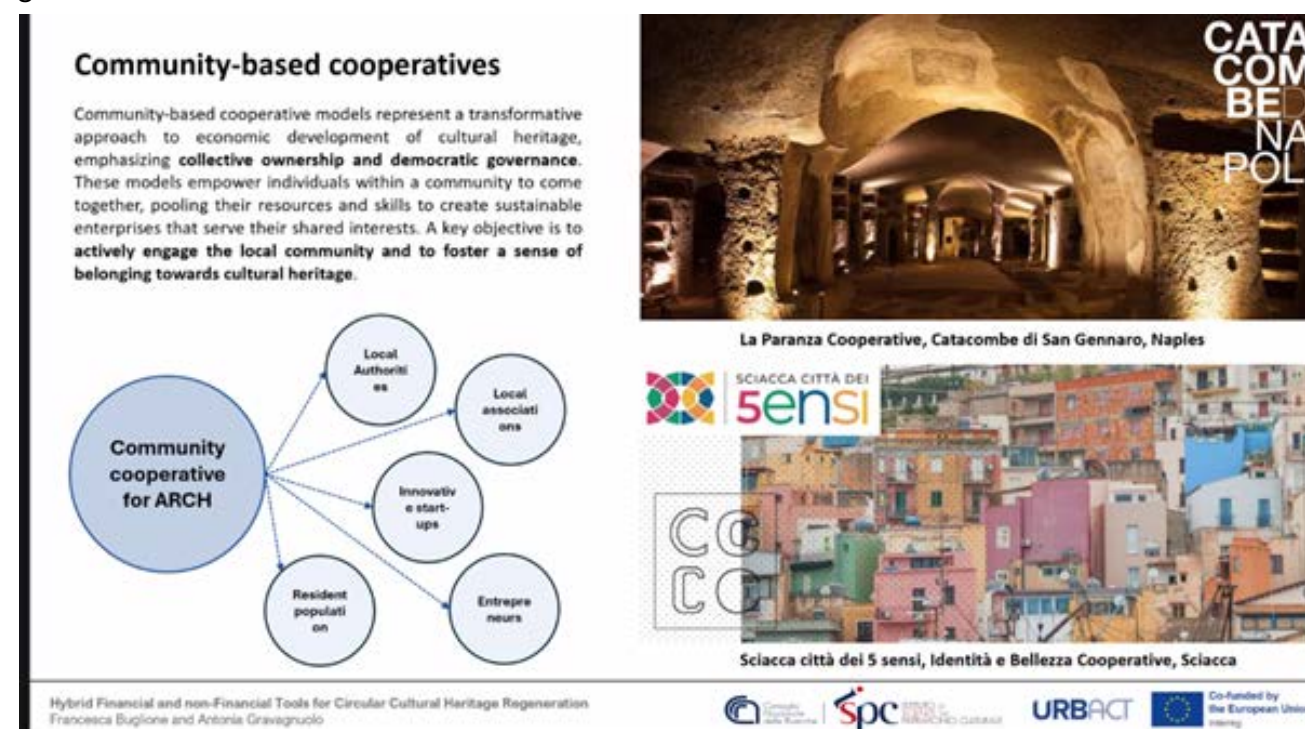

FROM GRANTS TO SOCIETAL INVESTMENT

The first half of the Masterclass explored policy and theory. **Gabrielle Bernoville** from the European Commission set the tone by explaining how EU cultural funding, particularly through Creative Europe, is evolving. Rather than supporting culture in isolation, programmes are increasingly designed as societal investments, seeing culture as a lever for the Green Deal, social inclusion and wellbeing. This has concrete implications for RECUP cities: their projects must be anchored in real local needs while clearly contributing to wider EU priorities. Bernoville stressed that successful proposals emerge when cities start from what truly matters on the ground, and then frame that work within European agendas, rather than the other way round. She also pointed to the European Heritage Label as a new and interesting tool. In this sense, cities can invest in recognising and narrating their heritage, strengthening identity and visibility with relatively modest resources.
The conversation then shifted to the **circular economy of culture** through the contribution of **Antonia Gravagnuolo** and **Francesca Buglione** from the CLIC Project (CNR IRISS/ISPC). Their starting claim – that culture and heritage are not costs but renewable resources – resonated strongly with RECUP's ambition to see culture as part of a city's long-term infrastructure. They presented a hybrid finance model for the adaptive reuse of cultural buildings, based on a mix of public grants for restoration, private impact investment for operations and innovation, and community crowdfunding for legitimacy and stewardship.

Importantly, it was highlighted as such hybrid models only work if cities can demonstrate the social returns of cultural interventions. It is no longer sufficient to measure outputs like visitor numbers; municipalities must also be able to show reduced loneliness, increased skills, stronger local networks or greater trust. In other words, moving "beyond grants" also means moving beyond traditional indicators. For RECUP cities, which explicitly target social isolation and passivity, this is both a challenge and an opportunity: their cultural actions are already designed to generate social outcomes that can be measured and communicated.

Community-based cooperatives

Community-based cooperative models represent a transformative approach to economic development of cultural heritage, emphasizing **collective ownership and democratic governance**. These models empower individuals within a community to come together, pooling their resources and skills to create sustainable enterprises that serve their shared interests. A key objective is to **actively engage the local community and to foster a sense of belonging towards cultural heritage.**

La Paranza Cooperative, Catacombe di San Gennaro, Naples

Sciacca città dei 5 sensi, Identità e Bellezza Cooperative, Sciacca

Hybrid Financial and non-Financial Tools for Circular Cultural Heritage Regeneration
Francesca Buglione and Antonia Gravagnuolo

HOW CITIES ARE ALREADY EXPERIMENTING

The second part of the Masterclass translated these frameworks into practice through three city cases.

From **Zurich, Claudio Bucher** presented a funding approach that treats the city not as a gatekeeper but as an enabler. Claudio Bucher presented Kultur Labor Zürich (2020–2023) as a pioneering, multi-year cultural innovation lab designed to rethink the foundations of Zurich's public cultural funding system. Rather than adjusting individual grant schemes, the Lab questioned whether existing concepts, selection procedures and criteria were still adequate in a diverse, digital and rapidly changing urban society. Through an interdisciplinary and participatory process involving cultural practitioners, digital experts, diversity specialists and municipal staff, Zurich tested new funding tools, agile methods, digital participation platforms and community-based allocation models that transferred decision-making power to cultural communities themselves. The results—now embedded in the city's Cultural Strategy 2024–2027—demonstrate how a municipality can evolve from a static gatekeeper to a learning organisation, using experimentation and shared authority to build more inclusive, future-oriented cultural governance.

Milan, represented by **Chiara Minotti and Giusy Chierchia**, brought in a different angle from the **URBACT CITIES4CSR network**: the strategic use of corporate social responsibility. Their key message was that funding is not only about money. By mapping neighbourhood needs alongside the non-financial assets of companies—such as equipment, technical expertise, staff volunteering and communication capacity—the city positioned itself as a **broker and facilitator**, enabling businesses to contribute to social and cultural projects without relying on direct funding. By this matching, Milan has been able to support cultural and social projects without relying solely on direct financial contributions. In this model, the city becomes a matchmaker, orchestrating alliances that put private resources at the service of public value. The Milan case shows RECUP cities

how cultural sustainability can emerge from aligning local needs with private-sector capabilities, creating a collaborative ecosystem in which companies become long-term co-investors in community wellbeing rather than occasional sponsors.

Finally, Ileana Toscano presented lessons from **CAMINA, an Urban Innovative Actions** project in Almería. Here, culture was used as the connective tissue between three stigmatised neighbourhoods. Rather than treating culture as a separate policy silo, Almería embedded cultural activities into its broader urban regeneration strategy, and introduced "": an innovative participatory model through which cultural users, associations and citizens co-designed the city's new Cultural Programme. This helped ensure that budgets reflected community priorities and made cultural funding more resilient because it was anchored in regeneration and cohesion policies, rather than in stand-alone cultural lines. For RECUP cities, Almería demonstrates how shifting cultural programming from municipal departments to empowered community consortia can produce more resilient, rooted and socially impactful cultural ecosystems.

Credits: Camina UIA project https://portico.urban-initiative.eu/urban-stories/uia/camina-journal-3-civic-curators-social-laboratories-cultural-participation-almeria-5664

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR RECUP INVESTMENT PLANS

Across the two sessions, several strategic shifts emerged that are highly relevant for RECUP cities as they develop their Integrated Investment Plans.

The first is a **governance shift**. Cities are encouraged to see themselves less as sole **providers of culture** and more as **platforms that connect public, private and civic actors**. This implies formalising brokerage and partnership roles: RECUP Investment Plans will need to clarify how municipalities intend to mediate between community needs, cultural actors, businesses and other funders, and which structures will support this over time.

The second is a **resource shift**. Financial sustainability is not only about attracting new grants; it is also about **making better use of what already exists locally**. Asset mapping – of companies,

institutions, skills, spaces and materials – can reveal **in-kind contributions** that significantly reduce costs and broaden the resource base for cultural projects. This aligns well with RECUP's focus on proximity and co-creation, since many of these assets are embedded in neighbourhoods and everyday infrastructures.

The third is a **narrative shift**. In a context where "funding follows impact", cities must become more precise in articulating what their cultural investments actually **change in people's lives**. Defining and tracking **social indicators** – for example, changes in perceived loneliness, participation levels or intergenerational relationships – will strengthen both EU-level applications and local partnerships with private and philanthropic actors. For RECUP, which explicitly targets social isolation and passivity, this means **building measurement into the very design of cultural spaces and activities**.

The Masterclass closed with a reminder from the Lead Expert that the most resilient funding models rest on community ownership and shared responsibility. The challenge for RECUP is to use current programme resources not as an end in themselves, but as a catalyst to build this "**infrastructure of trust**" – governance arrangements, partnerships and narratives that will continue to sustain culture and creativity in urban places long after the project ends.

4. VOICES FROM THE STAGE: INTERVIEW TO ALICIA PIQUER DEPUTY MAYOR OF RAFELBUNYOL

For the second episode of the Voice from the stage we went from Budapest to Spain, more specifically to:

Welcome to the second episode of Voices from the Stage, the podcast of the URBACT RECUP Network.
Today, we invite you on a short journey.
From the Mediterranean coast to the nearby mountains, through fields of orange trees, small towns, and streets where music is not just listened to, but lived.
We are in the **Mancomunidad de l'Horta Nord**, a constellation of ten municipalities just north of Valencia — a territory shaped by traditions, strong community life, and new arrivals searching for a place to belong.
For the first time in Voices from the Stage, we are joined by a local political leader.
Alicia Piquer, Deputy Mayor of **Rafelbunyol**, journalist, and an active voice within the RECUP Network.
In this conversation, we explore politics as a force for transformation, culture as a response to loneliness and social fragmentation, and creativity as something that happens together — in music bands, associations, libraries, and public spaces.
This is a story about living between the sea and the mountains, about heritage and change, and about how culture can help reconnect people in everyday life.
Let's listen.

5. METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS

During this Adapt phase of the RECUP Network, we have combined structured reflection with rapid experimentation, using a set of practical tools applied both by partner cities (with their URBACT Local Groups – ULGs) and by the Lead Expert to ensure that Testing Actions generate evidence, not only activities. Here below you can find an overview of the most significant tools used:

COSTING ESTIMATION CHALLENGE

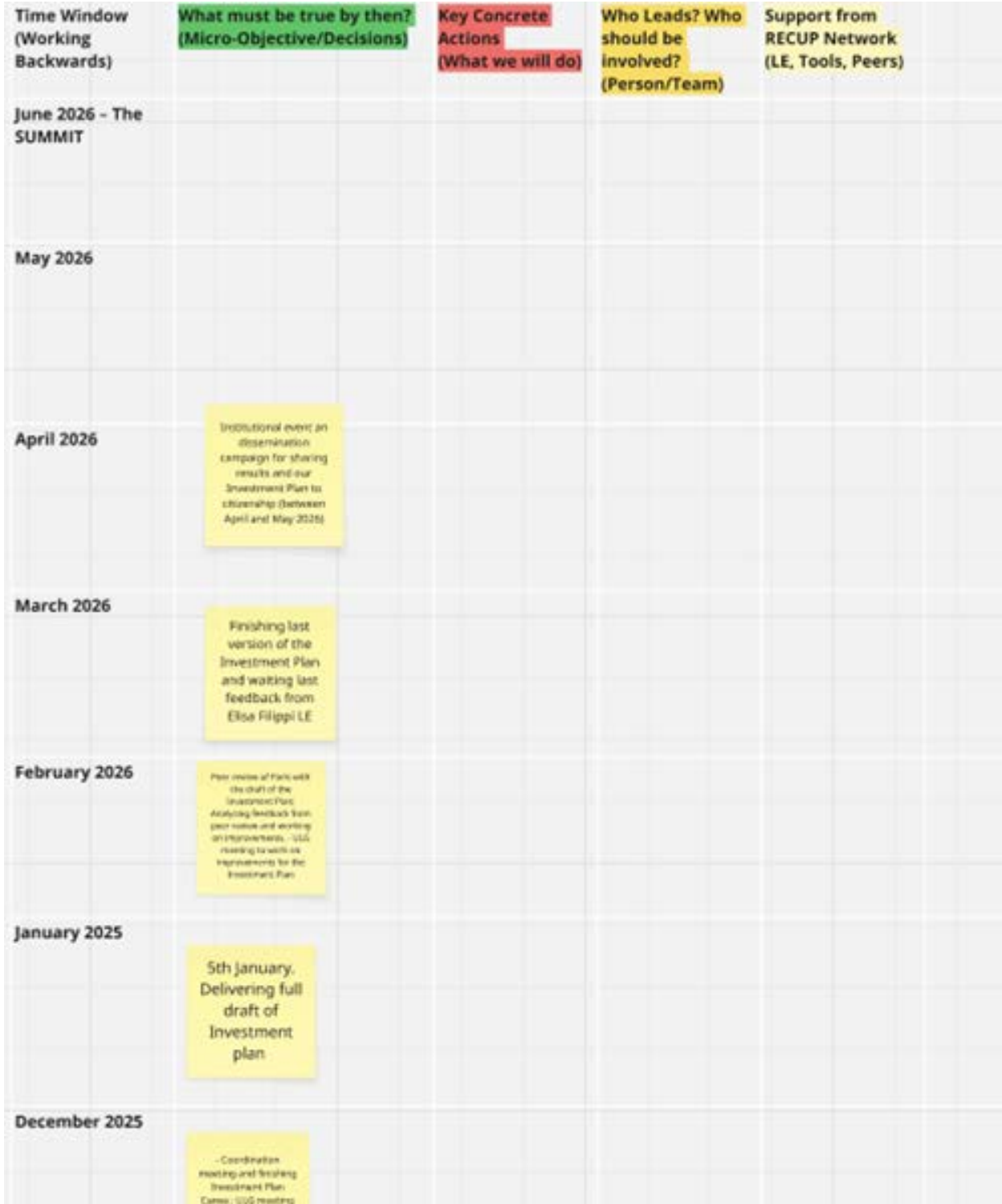Partners worked with a simple template to break down Testing Actions into realistic cost components and to understand what changes when an action scales.

FUNDING MATRIX AND EUI CARDS

Cities assembled an "ideal funding mix" by combining different EU and non-EU instruments represented by cards. It is possible to find all the materials here: https://www.urban-initiative.eu/sites/default/files/2025-10/Building%20a%20City%20Funding%20Roadmap%20Grant%20Cards_Day3_A5_10_1_0.pdf

CLIMBER TECHNIQUE

A new tool has been tested by cities to built their roadmap by working backwards from June 2026 (deadline for Integrated Investment Plans), translating ambition into milestones, responsibilities and decision points. The work has been conductude on Miro platform.

WATH'S NEXT?

The experimentation does not stop — it evolves.
In the coming months, our cities and partners will work to turn the knowledge generated through the Testing Actions into a solid foundation for their Integrated Investment Plans. What has been tested, learned and adjusted on the ground will now be consolidated into strategic, long-term choices.

January and February will be key months for advancing this work, both locally — with Urban Local Groups and local stakeholders — and at transnational level. At the end of January, we will meet again online for a new Masterclass dedicated to loneliness, exploring how urban policies can meaningfully contribute to tackling this growing challenge.

In February, the network will gather in Paris for a capacity-building event organised by the URBACT Programme Secretariat, offering a valuable opportunity to work together through a peer-review session on Integrated Investment Plans, strengthening quality, coherence and transferability.

And March?
March will mark our next in-person network meeting, where reflection, learning and collaboration will continue to move forward.

To find out more — stay connected.