



INNOVATION TRANSFER NETWORK
**QUARTERLY NETWORK
JOURNAL #3**

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CITISENSE

INNOVATION TRANSFER NETWORK

QUARTERLY NETWORK JOURNAL #3

Q5: SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2025

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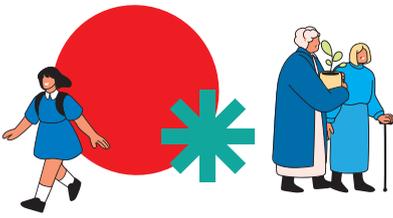


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CITISENSE Innovation Transfer Network

Quarterly Network Journal #3 / Q5: September-November 2025

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After the slow-paced summer months, the fifth quarter of the CITISENSE Innovation Transfer Network's journey came back at full speed towards the conclusion of the Adapt Phase, with intense activities at both local and transnational levels.

1. Activities at Local Level

During this quarter, activities at local level mainly focused on the design and preparation for the small-scale testing actions to be piloted in each of the partner cities. In several cases, this process was also accompanied by a meeting of the URBACT Local Groups.

1.1 TESTING ACTIONS

➤ Piraeus – Youth-centred activation of public space to improve perceived safety

The Testing Action in Piraeus focuses on improving the perceived safety of public spaces by actively involving young people in their use, animation, and co-creation. The core challenge addressed is the negative perception of insecurity in certain public areas, particularly among young people, which often results in underuse, lack of social control, and further deterioration of these spaces. The action tests whether structured youth-led activities and temporary interventions can positively influence how public spaces are perceived and experienced. Through co-design with the Urban Local Group and youth organisations, a series of events, workshops, and public activities are organised in selected locations. These activities aim to strengthen social interaction, encourage youth presence, and foster a sense of ownership of public space. Measurement focuses on both quantitative and qualitative indicators, including the number and profile of participants, frequency of use, and changes in perceived safety before and after the interventions. Surveys, registrations, and social media analysis complement on-site observations. The Testing Action unfolds through a phased timeline, including preparation, implementation, interim assessment, and final evaluation, and is supported by public events to maximise visibility. Overall, the Piraeus Testing Action explores how participatory placemaking and youth engagement can serve as low-cost but impactful tools to improve

urban safety perceptions and inform future investment decisions.

➤ Naples – Strengthening safety perceptions through participatory mapping and urban actions

In Naples, the Testing Action addresses safety concerns in specific neighbourhoods by combining participatory mapping, community engagement, and targeted urban actions. The challenge lies in the mismatch between actual safety conditions and residents' perceptions, particularly in areas affected by neglect, social fragmentation, and weak trust in public institutions. The action tests whether involving citizens directly in diagnosing problems and co-designing solutions can lead to measurable improvements in perceived safety. Initial phases include surveys and mapping activities in selected areas, notably Garibaldi–Porta Capuana, to identify hotspots and understand residents' experiences. These insights feed into the co-design of small-scale urban interventions and community-based actions. Implementation is accompanied by public events and continuous stakeholder engagement, ensuring visibility and feedback loops. Measurement combines spatial analysis, attendance data, surveys, and comparison of baseline and final perceptions of safety. The Testing Action is closely aligned with the development of the Investment Plan, serving as a practical testing ground for scalable interventions. The Naples approach demonstrates how data-driven participation and incremental urban actions can support more inclusive and evidence-based safety policies.

➤ Geel – Testing behavioural and environmental interventions in park areas

The Testing Action in Geel concentrates on improving safety and social behaviour in public parks, particularly those used by young people and nearby schools. The main challenge is addressing nuisance behaviour and perceptions of insecurity without resorting to overly restrictive or punitive measures. The action tests whether targeted environmental and behavioural interventions—such as small physical adjustments, awareness activities, and engagement with users—can positively influence how parks are used and perceived. The Urban Local Group, municipal departments, schools, and nearby residents are actively involved in the design and validation of proposed measures. Implementation includes a clearly defined testing period, followed by interim and final assessments. Indicators focus on changes in behaviour, frequency of use, feedback from users and neighbours, and incident reporting. Data collection methods include surveys, stakeholder feedback sessions, and internal municipal monitoring. Through this Testing Action, Geel explores how modest, well-designed interventions in everyday public spaces can contribute to improved safety perceptions and social cohesion, while generating practical lessons for long-term park management.

➤ Liepaja – Creating a youth centre as a preventive safety measure

Liepaja's Testing Action focuses on establishing and testing a youth centre as a preventive approach to youth-related safety issues. The underlying challenge is the lack of safe, supportive environments for vulnerable and at-risk young people, which can lead to risky behaviour and social exclusion. The action tests whether a dedicated youth centre—developed in cooperation with NGOs, social services, and the police—can improve well-being, reduce risk factors, and strengthen trust between youth and institutions. Activities include mapping youth needs, piloting structured programmes, and providing access to mentors, skills development, and social support. Measurement is based on participa-

tion rates, user feedback, engagement over time, and qualitative assessments from professionals working with youth. Data is collected at multiple points to assess change and learning. Liepaja's Testing Action represents a socially oriented, preventive model of urban safety, shifting the focus from control to care and empowerment, with strong potential for long-term impact.

➤ Manresa – Improving safety perceptions through digital reporting and trust-building

The Testing Action in Manresa addresses the gap between citizens' perceptions of insecurity and institutional responses by testing a digital reporting and communication tool. The challenge lies in low trust, underreporting of incidents, and limited feedback loops between citizens and authorities. The action tests whether a user-friendly digital platform can facilitate reporting, improve response times, and enhance transparency, ultimately strengthening trust in local institutions. The tool enables citizens—particularly young people and residents of the historic centre—to report incidents, track responses, and receive feedback. Measurement includes platform usage statistics, response times, types of incidents reported, and user satisfaction. Interim assessments allow adjustments to communication and outreach strategies. The Testing Action is complemented by public events and a communication campaign to increase awareness and uptake. Manresa's Testing Action explores how digital innovation, when combined with institutional commitment and clear communication, can contribute to improved perceptions of safety and more responsive urban governance.

1.2 ULG MEETINGS

In autumn 2025, partner cities organised a new round of CITISENSE Urban Local Group (ULG) meetings to advance the co-design of Testing Actions and prepare the ground for their respective Investment Plans.

In **Manresa** the ULG meeting was held on 22 September 2025, with two exploratory sub-sessions in the morning and afternoon. The objective was to map places and conditions in the historic centre affecting citizens' safety and well-being, focusing on both physical features and perceived feelings. After a brief introduction to the project and methodology, participants carried out individual urban walks along freely chosen routes, documenting observations through forms and photographs. The collective debriefing identified **hot spots** mainly linked to neglect and disorder, including deteriorated buildings, graffiti, poorly parked cars, dark or narrow streets, bad odours, visual dirtiness, abandoned premises, and lack of social life, all generating discomfort, sadness, or insecurity. **Cold spots** were associated with good lighting, cleanliness, active commerce, greenery, open spaces, monumental views, and tranquillity, fostering feelings of peace, pride, and well-being. Discussions highlighted that safety perceptions go beyond crime, encompassing urban design, maintenance, and sensory experience. Participants noted that disappointment often stems from affection for the city, underlining the need to enhance positive areas while addressing neglect. The results will feed into a shared map to inform the forthcoming Investment Plan.

In **Geel**, the ULG meeting was held on 8 September 2025 in the form of an interactive workshop focused on pilot actions and the Local Safety Council (Lokale Veiligheidsraad – LVR). The workshop was structured around two main topics, each discussed over one hour using rotating table discussions to encourage exchange among participants. The first part focused on identifying **small-scale pilot actions** to be implemented by April 2026, with an indicative budget of around €5,000. Participants explored possible physical interventions, study activities, and training initiatives, detailing target groups, required stake-

holders, estimated costs, and implementation timelines. The second part addressed the **Local Safety Council**, with discussions centred on defining its objectives, relevant themes, and governance structure. Participants worked on drafting the agenda for the first LVR meeting and identifying key actors to be involved. Overall, the workshop aimed to translate safety challenges into concrete, feasible actions while strengthening local coordination and governance around urban safety.

In **Liepaja**, the ULG meeting was held on 10 October 2025 at the NGO House of Hope, and focused on planning Testing Actions to improve youth safety in the city. Participants from municipal police, NGOs, state institutions, and youth organisations were introduced to the Testing Actions methodology and worked in groups on three agreed solutions: free access to sports equipment at city sports fields, the creation of youth centres offering safe and supportive environments, and improved access to summer jobs for young people. Each group defined challenges, ideas, target groups, timelines, roles, and indicators for measuring success. The meeting strengthened cross-sector cooperation and resulted in structured Testing Actions to be further refined.



2. Activities at Transnational Level

During this quarter, activities at transnational level included a series of online Exchange and Learning Activities, the Third Transnational Meeting in Manresa and participation in the Smart City Expo World Congress. Together, these moments combined peer learning, thematic deep-dives and external dissemination, enabling partners to advance thematic knowledge, progress in the design and development of their Testing Actions and Investment/Continuity Plans, and increase the network’s visibility at European level.

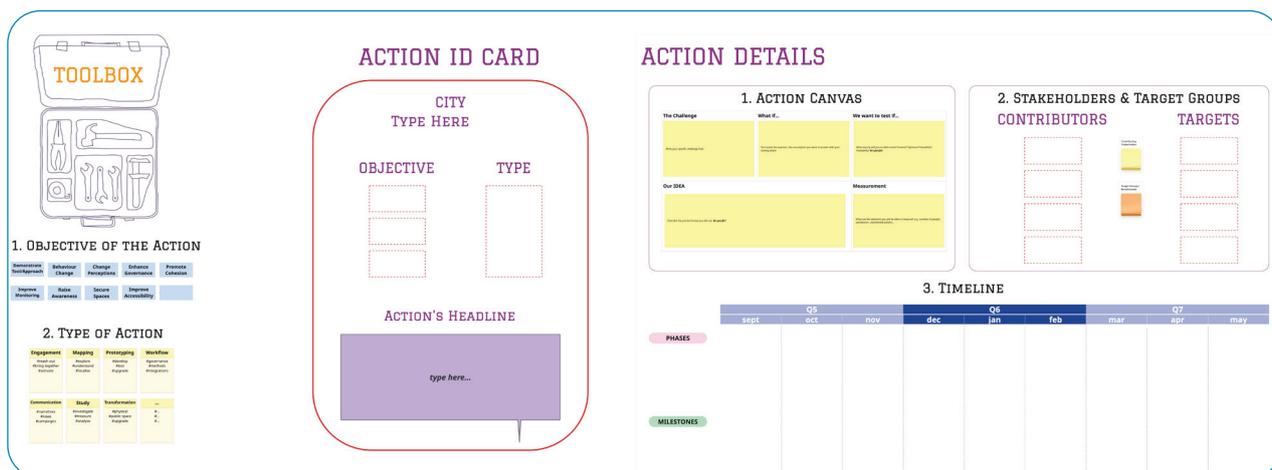
2.1 ONLINE EXCHANGE AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

➤ Online Network Meeting 3

The third Online Network Meeting opened with a welcome and introduction to the agenda and objectives, followed by a short presentation on the rationale and examples of Testing Actions. Testing Actions were framed as small-scale, time- and budget-limited experiments designed to validate ideas, activate ULGs and feed future Investment and Continuity Plans. The core of the meeting consisted of two hands-on workshops.

Workshop 1 – Defining the Goal invited partners, through a shared Miro board, to clarify the challenge addressed, define the objective of their Testing Action and draft a concise headline summarising its purpose.

Workshop 2 – Designing the Local Testing Action moved into operational planning. Using the Action Canvas, partners detailed the “what if” hypothesis, the idea to be tested and measurement criteria, while also specifying the type and format of action, stakeholders and target groups, timeline, milestones and assessment phases.



figures 1 and 2: Testing Actions planning Miro Board templates

A dedicated session then addressed administrative and financial aspects, confirming eligibility rules and budget reporting requirements, before concluding with guidance on next steps for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

➤ Online Workshop on Digital Solutions for Urban Security & Data-Driven Decision Making

The workshop, organised and facilitated by the Lead Expert Pietro L. Verga, explored how digital tools can strengthen urban safety strategies and support more evidence-based, coordinated decision-making across partner cities. The session opened with an introduction to the objectives and structure of the workshop, followed by a roundtable discussion on the current status of digital platforms in each partner city. This exchange helped map existing tools, identify common challenges and highlight gaps in data integration, interoperability and user engagement. Participants were then presented with international case studies, including *Vigilium* (Trento), *The Platform* (Varaždin) and the *Urban Belonging App* (Copenhagen), showcasing examples of integrated GIS systems, data analytics, public engagement modules and AI-supported features applied to urban security and monitoring.

The core of the workshop was dedicated to co-creation activities in breakout rooms. In the first task, partners developed concrete **use case scenarios**, defining the system or platform under discussion, its objective, the main actors involved (primary and secondary), and the "basic flow" describing how users would interact with the system to achieve specific goals. This exercise emphasised the importance of validating digital solutions by clearly demonstrating their practical use and added value.

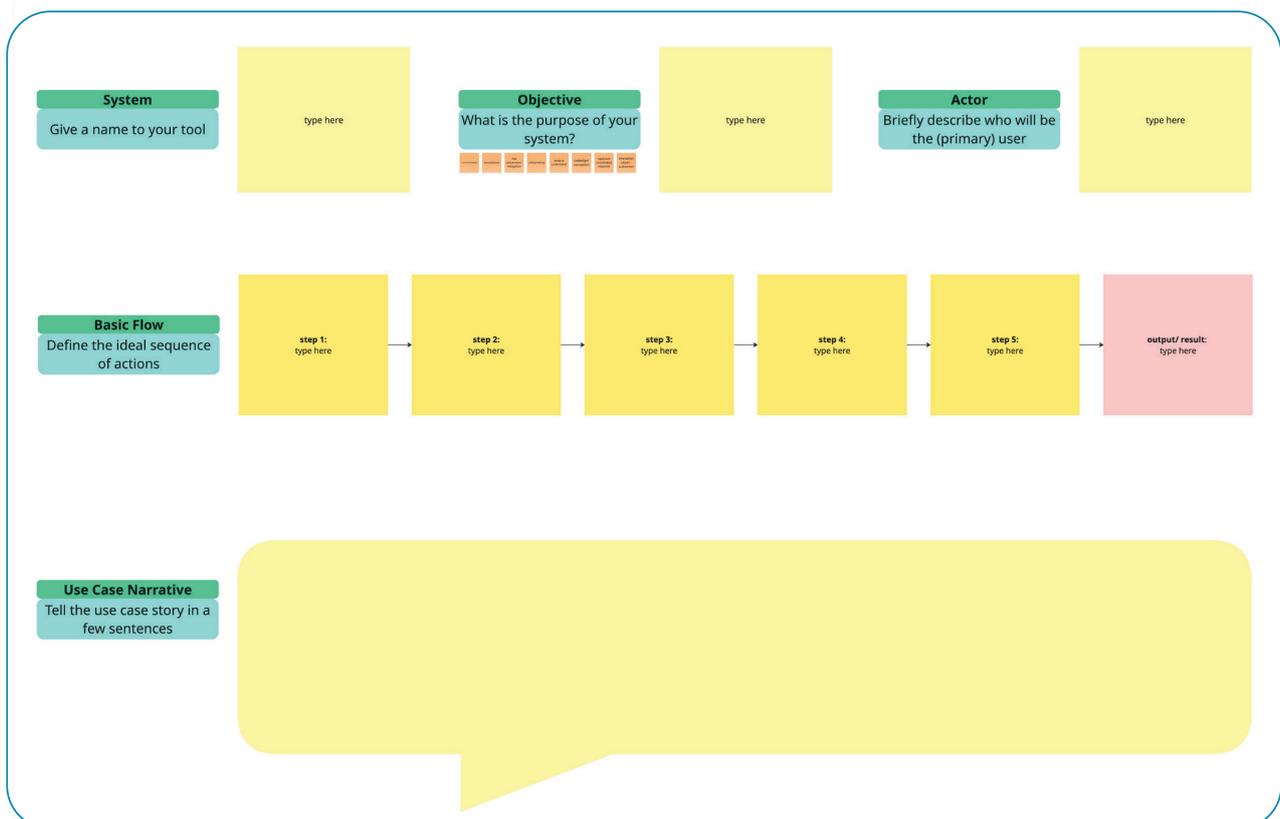


figure 3: Use-case scenario Miro Board template

The second task focused on **data architecture and governance**, prompting participants to identify what types of data are required, who provides or owns the data, and how it can be collected, shared and integrated across systems. This discussion addressed issues of data quality, responsibilities, interoperability and potential barriers to implementation.

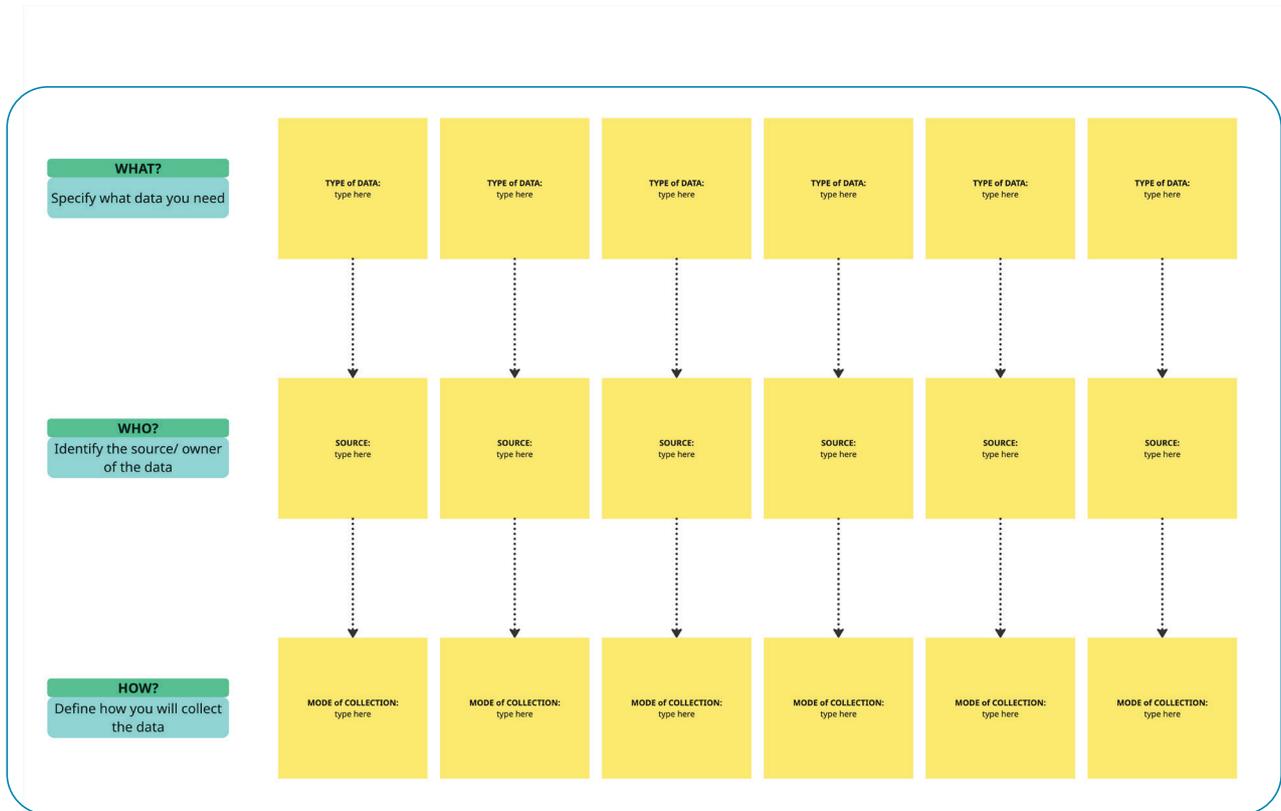


figure 4: Use-case scenario Miro Board template

The workshop concluded with a plenary reflection, consolidating insights on how digital solutions can enhance coordination among stakeholders, improve transparency and strengthen data-driven urban security policies within the CITISENSE framework.

➤ Online workshop on Community Outreach and Communication to Stakeholders

The online workshop, organised and facilitated by ad-hoc expert Simone D'Antonio, focused on strengthening communication and outreach strategies to enhance stakeholder engagement in urban security processes. The session highlighted that safety is not only a matter of crime statistics but also of perception, trust and shared responsibility. Effective communication was presented as a key lever to foster ownership and move from passive consultation to active co-creation of solutions. Particular emphasis was placed on engaging "unusual suspects" — youth, migrants' organisations, creatives, local businesses and community leaders — alongside traditional institutional actors. Drawing on case studies from Turin, Malmö, Florence and Cluj-Napoca, the workshop illustrated how participatory approaches, micro-projects, place-based initiatives and youth-led schemes can improve safety perception while reinforcing social cohesion. Key challenges discussed included distrust in institutions, disengagement of specific population groups, overly technical language, limited access to information and gendered perceptions of safety. In breakout rooms, partners exchanged experiences on local barriers to engagement and reflected on adaptable solutions for their contexts. The discussion concluded with practical recommendations, such as diversifying communication channels, combining online and offline tools, using storytelling and creative formats, assigning clear roles to stakeholders and building long-term trust through continuous feedback and visible impact.

➤ Online Workshop on Coping with Mental Health Issues in the Street

The online workshop facilitated by ad-hoc expert Maite Arrondo focused on addressing mental health issues in street contexts and their intersection with homelessness and urban safety. The session opened by framing the dual challenge of homelessness, trauma and mental illness in European cities, drawing on key findings from FEANTSA's Beyond Shelter: Europe's Dual Crisis. Participants examined patterns emerging from the EU Counts Project, including the prevalence of rough sleeping and mental illness, as well as the growing criminalisation of vulnerable individuals. A central part of the discussion explored person-centred and trauma-informed approaches, highlighting "Housing First" as a proven recovery-oriented model capable of combining housing stability with mental health support. The workshop then shifted to systemic tools, presenting the COMHOM Project as an example of data integration for cross-sector collaboration and referencing recommendations from the UN report A/80/316. Through interactive exchanges, participants reflected on the availability and gaps in local data, and discussed how international advocacy recommendations from FEANTSA and the UN Secretary-General could inform local practice. The session concluded with a recap of key takeaways and commitments from participants to test concrete actions in their cities, supported by additional EU and international guidance resources.



figure 5: Trauma-informed principles. Source: Maite Arrondo

➤ Online Network Meeting 4

The fourth Online Network Meeting was dedicated to assessing ongoing Testing Actions, with a strong focus on ensuring that experimentation meaningfully informs future Investment Plans.

Following an introductory presentation on the logic from challenge to change, the Lead Expert recalled the importance of defining clear objectives, establishing baselines and selecting SMART indicators to measure progress. The session emphasised that Testing Actions are not stand-alone pilots, but structured steps within a broader intervention logic that should lead to measurable and scalable results.

The core of the meeting consisted of intensive breakout discussions. Each city presented its Testing Action Canvas, explaining the problem addressed, the rationale behind the chosen intervention and the expected change. This initial exchange allowed ad hoc experts and peers to critically reflect on the clarity of objectives and on the coherence between the Testing Action and the long-term strategic vision. The discussion then shifted from describing activities to clarifying learning goals. Cities were encouraged to articulate what exactly they aim to test, what assumptions they seek to validate and how the results will influence their Investment Plans. This step helped reposition Testing Actions as learning mechanisms designed to reduce uncertainty and support evidence-based decision-making. In the second part of the workshop, partners drafted preliminary assessment strategies. They worked on defining a limited number of relevant indicators, identifying realistic milestones and clarifying how data would be collected and monitored over time. Discussions covered the balance between quantitative and qualitative evidence, the feasibility of gathering reliable data within local administrative structures, and the importance of aligning indicators with long-term stra-

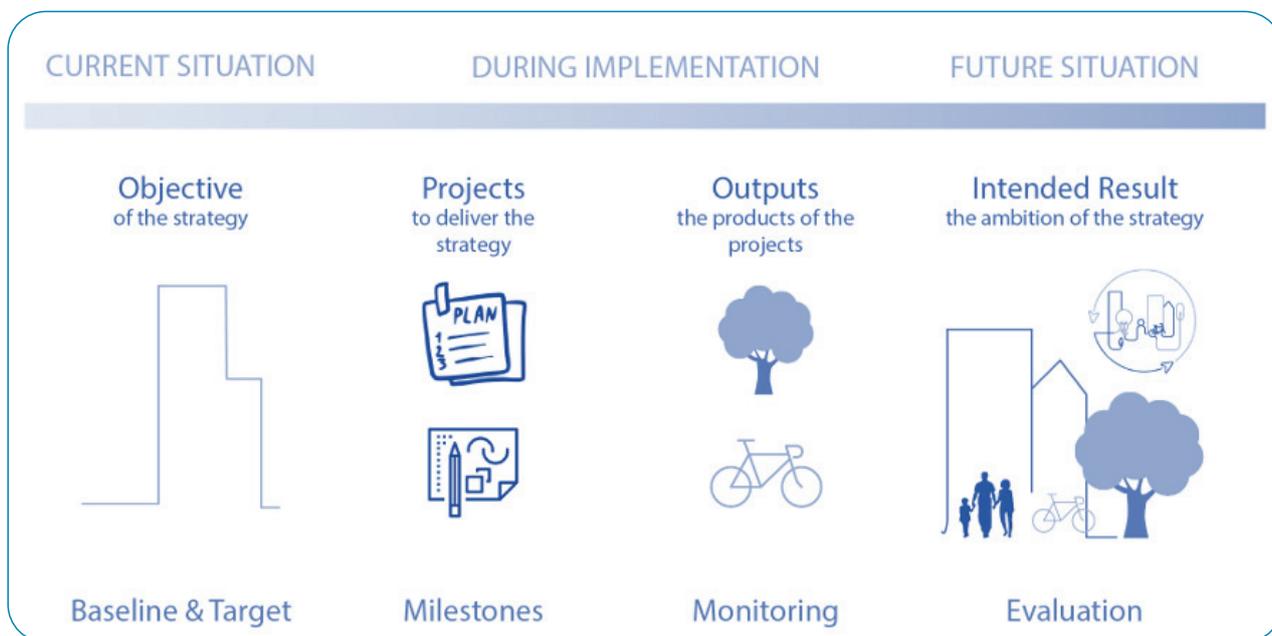


figure 6: From Challenge to Change, key steps in project design, implementation, and assessment

tegic priorities. Particular attention was paid to ensuring that short-term results can generate actionable insights for scaling up, adapting or redirecting planned investments.

The wrap-up highlighted that the real added value of the process lies in its iterative nature: Testing Actions provide a safe space to experiment, learn from both successes and setbacks, and strengthen the robustness of future Investment Plans through structured reflection and continuous monitoring.

➤ Online Network Meeting 5

The fifth Online Network Meeting was entirely dedicated to guiding partner cities in drafting their Investment and Continuity Plans, marking a strategic shift from experimentation to consolidation and funding readiness.

The session began by clarifying the distinct but complementary purposes of the two documents. The Investment Plan was presented as a structured funding case designed to identify and secure resources for the adapted innovative practice, while the Continuity Plan was framed as a reflection tool to ensure long-term sustainability, integration and alignment with URBACT cross-cutting priorities. Particular attention was given to the different audiences of each document, notably potential funders, decision-makers and the URBACT Secretariat.

A substantial part of the meeting focused on the structure and logic of the Investment Plan Canvas. Participants were guided through the key sections, moving from policy context and needs analysis to the adapted proposal, governance model, work plan, budget and monitoring framework. Emphasis was placed on articulating a clear value proposition, defining concrete activities and deliverables, identifying roles and responsibilities, and linking outputs to measurable results.

The session then introduced the four integrated Transfer Modules—governance arrangements, digital solutions, social initiatives and spatial interventions—highlighting how they can be flexibly adapted to

local contexts. Cities were encouraged to prioritise and combine these modules according to their strategic objectives, ensuring coherence between Testing Actions and future investments.

In the practical workshop segment, partners worked on drafting preliminary work plans, structuring activities into tasks and deliverables, defining timelines through GANTT charts and identifying potential funding sources. The meeting concluded with an overview of upcoming transnational meetings, which will include peer review sessions to further refine Investment and Continuity Plans before finalisation.

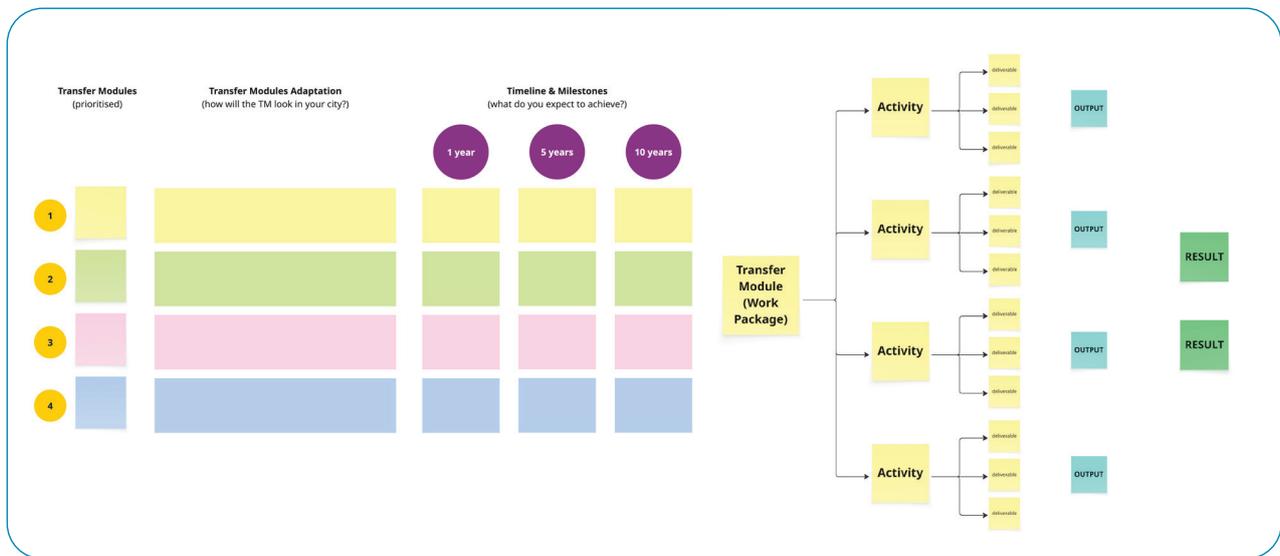


figure 7 and 8: Investment and Continuity Plan drafting tools

2.2 THIRD TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN MANRESA

From 3 to 5 November, partners gathered in Manresa for the third Transnational Meeting. The event featured a field visit of the historic city centre, along with two key interactive thematic workshops – Revitalising Historic Centres, curated by AHE Pablo Muñoz Unceta, and Resourcing and Financing towards the Investment Plans, facilitated by Lead Expert Pietro L. Verga – together with dedicated peer exchange sessions. The meeting also hosted the network’s Mid-Term Reflection, a key moment to take stock of progress and shape the next phase of work.





figure 9: CITISENSE partners at Manresa City Hall. Source: Municipality of Manresa

➤ Field Visit

The first substantive session consisted of an extensive field visit through Manresa's historic centre. Participants explored a range of sites illustrating both challenges and ongoing regeneration efforts, including narrow streets perceived as insecure at night, revitalised commercial areas, degraded buildings, spaces affected by graffiti or squatting, newly enhanced lighting systems and video-surveillance points, and social initiatives such as the Cruyff Court project. Meetings with local stakeholders—including traders' associations, neighbourhood representatives, youth organisations and police bodies—provided direct insight into how urban security, public space quality and economic vitality intersect in practice. The visit grounded subsequent discussions in concrete spatial and social realities.



figure 10 and 11: CITISENSE partners and local stakeholders during the field visit. Source: Municipality of Manresa

➤ Revitalising Historic Centres Workshop

A central moment of the meeting was the thematic workshop on revitalising historic centres, facilitated by Ad-Hoc Expert Pablo Muñoz Unceta. The session began with a presentation of European case studies—including Copenhagen, Ljubljana, Heerlen, Olot and Vitoria-Gasteiz—illustrating how small-scale actions, cultural initiatives and participatory processes can catalyse long-term regeneration. Particular emphasis was placed on linking short-term “quick wins” with strategic planning and on understanding conflict, participation and creative reuse as inherent components of transformation processes.

In the workshop phase, participants were divided into mixed transnational groups and asked to construct a ten-year regeneration pathway for a hypothetical historic centre. Starting from a successful end scenario, each group identified intermediate stages, key stakeholders and enabling conditions. After a peer-exchange round between groups, participants refined their strategies and focused on defining concrete first-year actions, linking each intervention to specific locations and actors. The exercise explicitly connected spatial interventions, governance arrangements and community engagement, mirroring the integrated approach promoted by the network.



figure 12: CITISENSE partners working in mixed groups during the workshop led by Pablo Muñoz Unceta



➤ Resourcing and Financing towards the Investment Plans

The afternoon workshop on resourcing and financing, led by the Lead Expert Pietro L. Verga, guided participants through the key steps of developing a comprehensive funding strategy in support of their Investment Plans. After a brief introduction outlining the structure, objectives and timing of the session, participants were organised in the same three mixed groups formed during the Revitalising Historic Centres Workshop held in the morning, thus ensuring continuity between the regeneration pathways previously developed and their financial translation.

The session opened with a short presentation on “Funding & Resourcing in a Nutshell”, which clarified the main elements of a complex funding strategy and introduced practical tools from the URBACT Toolbox. Particular reference was made to the Toolbox “Metro Line System”, especially the Red Line (funding strategy), the Yellow Line (budgeting and costing) and the Purple Line (inventory of funding sources), as structured guidance for coordinating resourcing activities and aligning financial planning with long-term policy objectives.

In the first workshop segment, focused on budgeting and cost estimation, each group worked on the ten-year regeneration pathway developed in the morning session. Participants estimated the costs associated with their proposed actions and drafted a long-term budget aligned with their scenario. This exercise required identifying main cost categories, sequencing investments over time and ensuring internal coherence between activities, expected results and financial resources.

The second segment concentrated on mapping potential funding sources at local, national and EU levels. Using pre-prepared cards detailing EU funding programmes alongside blank cards to identify relevant local and national instruments, participants positioned and connected funding streams on the Nested Wholes Diagram. This visual tool enabled groups to map how different types of funding could converge around specific actions and to reflect on complementarities, layering and strategic coordination across governance levels.



figure 13: CITISENSE partners working in mixed groups on resourcing and financing strategies

The session concluded with group presentations and a collective discussion, during which each team presented its draft ten-year budget and funding map. The exchange highlighted both opportunities and constraints in building multi-source funding strategies and reinforced the understanding that resourcing is an integral, ongoing component of strategic planning rather than a final administrative step.

➤ Public Event: Shaping Together a More Liveable and Secure Manresa

The public event represented a key outward-facing moment of the Transnational Meeting, opening the discussion on urban security to a broader local audience and reinforcing the network's commitment to transparency and community engagement. Held in Manresa and involving municipal representatives, stakeholders and citizens, the session created a space for dialogue between local actors and international partners.



figure 14: Full room for the Public Event

The event opened with an institutional welcome and a conversation on the current state of urban security in Manresa, addressing both objective challenges and citizens' perceptions. This exchange helped situate the network's work within the concrete realities of the host city, acknowledging tensions in the historic centre, concerns related to coexistence and public space management, and the need to balance enforcement with prevention and social intervention. A central component of the event was the presentation of innovative approaches and good practices from across Europe. Contributions illustrated how cities have tackled similar challenges through integrated strategies combining governance arrangements, digital tools, social initiatives and spatial interventions. The experience of Piraeus, for example, demonstrated how a Local Council for Crime Prevention, a digital reporting platform and a Victim Support Unit can work together within a coordinated framework. The session also included reflections on large-scale public space management strategies, such as Barcelona's "Pla Endreça", highlighting the importance of cross-departmental coordination, maintenance, communication campaigns and clear governance structures in improving both liveability and perception of safety. These inputs complemented the earlier thematic workshop on regeneration, showing how strategic planning, operational management and community involvement must align. An interactive component, supported by digital tools, allowed participants to engage with speakers and raise questions, fostering a more dynamic exchange. The discussion underscored the need

for continuous dialogue between public authorities and citizens, particularly in complex urban areas where socio-economic vulnerability, tourism pressure and heritage protection intersect.

Overall, the public event strengthened local ownership of the process and showcased the added value of transnational cooperation. By connecting Manresa's challenges with broader European experiences, it reaffirmed that community-based urban security depends not only on technical solutions, but on trust-building, inclusive governance and sustained collaboration across sectors.

➤ Mid-Term Reflection

The Mid-Term Reflection session, facilitated by Lead Expert Pietro L. Verga, provided a structured and solution-oriented assessment of the network's progress at the halfway point. Designed not as a formal reporting exercise but as a collective stocktaking moment, the session aimed to examine achievements, identify bottlenecks and recalibrate priorities for the final year. It combined survey evidence, analytical reflection and partner presentations, creating a shared understanding of where the network stands and what adjustments are required.

The session opened with an overview of progress at transnational level, including meetings held, thematic workshops delivered and key outputs produced, such as the Transferability Study and core communication materials. The Lead Expert presented the results of the Mid-Term Reflection Survey, which showed high overall satisfaction with the network experience (average rating above 4 out of 5) and a strong appreciation for thematic workshops, peer learning and experiential activities. Physical visits and real-life exchanges were identified as particularly effective in deepening understanding of the Innovative Action, while online materials and structured methodologies also played an important role. At the same time, the survey results highlighted a more complex picture regarding adaptation. While partners reported increasing clarity about the Innovative Action's structure and philosophy, adapting it to local contexts proved more challenging. The main barriers identified included short time-scales, scale mismatches between the original UIA project and local capacities, and funding uncertainty. This tension between strong engagement and operational difficulty became a central theme of the discussion.

The "State of Play" segment allowed each partner city to present progress on its Urban Local Group (ULG), including composition, engagement quality and first-year achievements. Across cities, ULGs were generally diverse and multi-sectoral, often bringing together police bodies, NGOs, municipal departments, traders' associations and community representatives. Many partners emphasised that trust-building between traditionally separate actors—such as police and social services, or institutions and civil society—was emerging as a core achievement in itself. Participatory tools such as exploratory walks, emotional mapping, shared visioning exercises and co-design workshops were widely used and considered effective in surfacing perceptions of safety and building ownership. However, common challenges also emerged. Several partners reported difficulties in maintaining continuity of participation, balancing inclusiveness with decision-making efficiency and steering broad discussions towards prioritised, fundable actions. The bottleneck was not motivation, but operationalisation: translating rich qualitative inputs and exploratory workshops into structured Testing Actions and credible Investment or Continuity Plans remained a shared concern.

The forward-looking roundtable then focused on needs and expectations for the final phase. Partners expressed a clear demand for more operational and structuring support, particularly regarding work-plan articulation, prioritisation, budgeting and resourcing. There was a shared recognition that the network's first phase had successfully built methodological awareness and integrated understanding of urban security, but that the second phase must concentrate on feasibility, clarity and sustainability.

The updated roadmap presented during the session reflected these conclusions, bringing forward and strengthening work on Investment and Continuity Plans, embedding thematic workshops within study visits, and introducing more targeted exchanges between cities facing similar challenges. The session concluded with a reaffirmation that the network is on track in terms of learning and engagement, but that its success will ultimately depend on its capacity to consolidate experimentation into structured, resourced and sustainable local strategies



figure 15: CITISENSE partners during the Mid-Term Reflection. Photo credit: Anna Scotto di Tella, Municipality of Naples

2.3 SMART CITY EXPO WORLD CONGRESS



figure 16: CITISENSE partners at the Smart City Forum World Congress in Barcelona. Photo credit: Eriñli Baloti, Municipality of Piraeus

The participation in the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC) in Barcelona marked an important moment of external visibility and strategic positioning for the network. Following the Transnational Meeting in Manresa, partners travelled to the Fira de Barcelona to attend and contribute to a dedicated session titled "Connecting European Cities Towards Community-Based Urban Security", hosted at the Diputació de Barcelona booth. The session was facilitated by Pablo Muñoz Unceta and structured into three thematic blocks. The opening segment set the institutional context, with welcome remarks from the Diputació de Barcelona and contributions from the URBACT Joint Secretariat and the Spanish National Contact Point, highlighting how URBACT and the European Urban Initiative (EUI) support innovation transfer and capacity-building among European cities.

The second block focused on Innovation Transfer Networks working on urban security. Pietro L. Verga presented the objectives and methodology of CITISENSE, emphasising its community-based approach and the transfer of the BeSecure-FeelSecure model to diverse local contexts. Eduard Salmeron illustrated how Manresa is implementing the transfer locally, while Daniela Patti and Natalia Moreno Gamiz introduced the 2Nite ITN and its application in Sant Boi, reinforcing synergies between the two networks.



figure 17: Panel discussion at SCFWC 2025. Photo credit: Miquel Martínez Pávon, Manresa Municipal Police



The final block consisted of a panel discussion bringing together representatives from Piraeus, Naples, Geel and Liepāja, alongside Manresa's Deputy Mayor and a representative of the EUI Innovative Action PULSE-TWIN (Heerlen). The debate explored integrated governance models, stakeholder engagement strategies, digital tools and social initiatives addressing insecurity in complex urban contexts. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of cross-sector cooperation, multi-level governance and long-term political commitment.

The session concluded with an open Q&A and closing remarks, reinforcing the message that community-based urban security requires not only technological solutions but participatory governance, social inclusion measures and strong local partnerships. Participation in the Expo strengthened the network's European visibility, created opportunities for inter-network collaboration and positioned partners within a broader ecosystem of urban innovation actors.

3. Next Steps

The sixth quarter (December 2025 – February 2026) will be particularly intense for CITISENSE, as the network enters the final stages of the Adapt phase. The period will be marked by continued Exchange and Learning Activities, including the thematic workshop Addressing the Daily Needs of the Unhoused, facilitated by Ad-Hoc Expert Maite Arrondo.

At local level, partners will focus on the fine-tuning and implementation of their Testing Actions, alongside the development of early drafts of their Investment and Continuity Plans. These activities will be further strengthened through the upcoming Transnational Meeting in Naples (27–28 January 2026), followed by a Study Visit to the EUI project We-Z in Rome (29 January 2026), providing additional peer learning and strategic input to consolidate the network's final outputs.

STAY TUNED!



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