

# 2Nite



## Liveable urban spaces for safer cities

### TRANSFERABILITY STUDY

**URBACT**



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**01**

# **An inclusive take on urban security**

# 01

## An inclusive take on urban security

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### 1.1 Introduction

**Urban security** is a complex and multifaceted concept, extending far beyond the simple notion of crime prevention. It encompasses the comprehensive safety and well-being of individuals within urban environments, acknowledging the intricate interplay between tangible threats and the perception of security. In modern cities, where diverse populations converge and social dynamics shift rapidly, a holistic approach is essential.

At its foundation, urban security aims to address traditional crime, including theft, violence, and organized crime. However, it also recognizes the importance of tackling the root causes of crime, such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion. Beyond crime, urban security must ensure safety from hazards like traffic accidents, fires, and environmental disasters. Furthermore, it must foster a sense of well-being among residents, addressing the fear of crime and promoting social cohesion.

Modern approaches emphasize a holistic perspective, acknowledging the interconnectedness of security with various aspects of urban life. This includes considering factors like urban planning, social services, and community engagement. Urban security must also address a wide range of threats, including terrorism, cybercrime, social unrest, and health threats.

A significant challenge in urban security is the **gap between actual safety and the perception of it**. Fear can be fueled by various factors, including unfamiliar environments, the presence of marginalized groups (such as migrants, homeless individuals, or loud teenagers), and perceived social disorder. This highlights the importance of addressing not only real threats but also the anxieties that shape residents' experiences of their city.

The securitarian approach, which focuses primarily on law enforcement and punitive measures, often fails to address the underlying causes of insecurity. While crime must be prosecuted, a more comprehensive strategy is needed to foster a sense of safety and well-being.

**Cities and municipalities face numerous challenges** that threaten social cohesion, including crime and polarization. These issues are distinct but interconnected. Social and political polarization can contribute to violent radicalization and extremism, while crime can fuel feelings of insecurity and exacerbate polarization.

It is crucial to recognize that social or political polarization, within certain limits, is a natural part of pluralistic democracies. It cannot be addressed solely through security measures or punishments. Instead, efforts should focus on strengthening social cohesion as a preventive measure against both crime and harmful polarization.

Various approaches to urban security exist, each with its own strengths and limitations. A purely securitarian approach, focused on law enforcement and surveillance, may create a sense of security but can also lead to social division and distrust. A more community-oriented approach, emphasizing collaboration, prevention, and social inclusion, is essential for building sustainable and equitable security.

**Effective urban security strategies require a multi-faceted approach** that considers both the tangible and intangible aspects of safety. Here are some key considerations for implementing such strategies:

- **Community engagement:** Involving residents in security initiatives is crucial for building trust and ensuring that measures are effective and responsive to local needs. Community engagement can take

various forms, including public forums, neighborhood watch programs, and participatory budgeting processes. By empowering residents to play an active role in shaping their own security, cities can foster a sense of ownership and shared responsibility.

- **Multi-agency collaboration:** Effective urban security requires collaboration between various agencies, including law enforcement, social services, urban planning departments, and community organizations. This collaborative approach ensures that security strategies are comprehensive and address the diverse needs of the population. Sharing information, coordinating resources, and developing joint initiatives are essential for maximizing the impact of security efforts.

- **Data-Driven Strategies:** Using data and analysis to understand crime patterns and identify risk factors is essential for developing targeted and effective security strategies. This includes analyzing crime statistics, demographic data, and social indicators to identify areas of vulnerability and develop evidence-based interventions. Data-driven strategies can help to allocate resources effectively and ensure that security measures are focused on the areas where they are most needed.

- **Addressing the Root Causes of Insecurity:** Effective urban security strategies must address the root causes of insecurity, such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion. This requires investing in social programs, education, and economic development initiatives that create opportunities for marginalized communities. By addressing the underlying causes of crime and social disorder, cities can create a more just and equitable environment for all residents.

- **Promoting Social Cohesion:** Strengthening social cohesion is essential for creating safe and inclusive cities. This involves fostering a sense of belonging, promoting intercultural understanding, and building trust between different groups. Initiatives that promote social interaction, community

building, and civic engagement can help to create a more cohesive and resilient society.

Urban security transcends simple crime prevention, delving into the nuanced realm of perceived safety. Citizens' anxieties, often rooted in fear rather than concrete threats, are as critical to address as actual crime statistics. Cultivating robust social cohesion is paramount; it's the bedrock of inclusive, safe cities, fostering trust and mutual support. **Effective strategies demand a holistic lens**, tackling the deep-seated origins of insecurity—poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunity. This necessitates active community engagement, where residents become partners in shaping their safety, alongside seamless collaboration between diverse agencies, from law enforcement to social services. Data-driven decision-making, utilizing analytics to understand trends and evaluate interventions, is indispensable. While polarization poses a significant challenge, eroding trust and fragmenting communities, its impact can be mitigated by intentionally strengthening social cohesion, bridging divides, and promoting understanding.

For this reason, the 2Nite network aims to transfer the multidisciplinary and inclusive approach of the Urban Innovative Actions project ToNite to the topic of urban security during evening and night. It will focus on how the collaboration with local stakeholders and communities and the provision of new services at night-time for reviving public spaces may be crucial for improving residents' perception of safety at night.

## 1.2 EU policy context

In an era marked by evolving security challenges, the imperative to cultivate safe and inclusive urban environments has never been more critical.

The European Union's commitment to ensuring a high level of safety within its area of freedom, security and justice increasingly acknowledges the critical role of urban security. While historical focus often centered on cross-border criminal activities, there's a growing understanding that the security and well-being of citizens are significantly shaped by the conditions within their urban environments. Consequently, EU policies on crime prevention are designed to actively support and promote the diverse actions undertaken by Member States at the local level. Urban security projects, by their very nature, are at the forefront of developing and implementing innovative crime prevention strategies tailored to specific urban contexts. These ground-level initiatives serve as valuable sources of practical experience and best practices, which can then be shared and adopted across different European cities, contributing to a more comprehensive and effective approach to crime prevention throughout the Union. The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) plays a pivotal role in this exchange, and urban security projects actively contribute to its core objectives of enhancing the understanding of crime trends, fostering robust cooperation among stakeholders, and strengthening multidisciplinary approaches to prevention.

Furthermore, a significant dimension of urban security lies in their recognition of the intricate link between crime and insecurity and underlying socio-economic factors such as social exclusion, marginalization, and limited opportunities. Consequently, these projects often integrate proactive measures aimed at fostering social inclusion, actively engaging local communities, and ensuring equitable access to public spaces and essential services for all residents. This approach directly aligns with the principles enshrined in the European Pillar of Social Rights, which strongly emphasizes social inclusion, the guarantee of equal opportunities, and universal access to essential services. By actively working to create safer and more

inclusive urban environments, these projects make a tangible contribution to the EU's broader and overarching goals of achieving social and territorial cohesion, ultimately ensuring that the benefits of urban development are shared equitably among all citizens and that no one is left behind in the pursuit of a secure and thriving urban life.

Ultimately an important policy element over the past years has been the EU Urban Agenda Partnership on Security in Public Spaces<sup>1</sup>, which stands as a testament to the European Union's commitment to addressing these complexities through collaborative action. While its initiatives are broadly applicable, their impact resonates strongly with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>2</sup>, particularly those focused on eradicating poverty (SDG 1), advancing gender equality (SDG 5), diminishing inequalities (SDG 10), and fostering sustainable cities (SDG 11). This partnership operates within the established framework of the EU's Cohesion Policy, aiming to bolster the role of local and regional authorities in shaping effective urban security strategies.

Originating in 2019, this vital partnership, under the joint coordination of the cities of Nice and Madrid, alongside the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus)<sup>3</sup>, recognized the necessity for a unified

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<sup>1</sup> Source:

<https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/210922%20Final%20report%20Action%205.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Further information: [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](#)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=4278be59421169916ba9b4a1f17dde10a719504c3afc1ad0c1b1d8f5d598f1d1JmltdHM9MTc0MDcwMDgwMDgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&h=4&fclid=203e1f6e-9d0f-6293-0a21-0bde9cf56306&psq=European+Forum+for+Urban+Security&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9lZnVzLmV1Lw&ntb=1](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=4278be59421169916ba9b4a1f17dde10a719504c3afc1ad0c1b1d8f5d598f1d1JmltdHM9MTc0MDcwMDgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&h=4&fclid=203e1f6e-9d0f-6293-0a21-0bde9cf56306&psq=European+Forum+for+Urban+Security&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9lZnVzLmV1Lw&ntb=1)

approach to urban safety. In November 2020, their diligent collaborative process culminated in the publication of an Action Plan. This plan is the product of extensive collaboration, drawing insights from a diverse array of stakeholders, including European cities and regions, national authorities, the European Commission, and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The Action Plan is more than a theoretical framework; it's a practical guide designed to furnish local and regional authorities with actionable, realistic, and citizen-centric solutions. Its overarching aim is to deliver concrete European responses to the real-world security concerns encountered at the local level. By facilitating the exchange and dissemination of exemplary practices, the partnership seeks to optimize the effectiveness of legislative and funding instruments.

To realize these objectives, the partnership has delineated three pivotal priorities:

- Urban Planning and Design: Crafting urban spaces that inherently promote safety.
- Technology Integration: Leveraging smart, sustainable technologies to enhance urban security.
- Security Management: Effectively managing security and shared spaces in urban and peri-urban settings.

These priorities are translated into six tangible actions, each aligned with the Urban Agenda for the EU's core principles of better regulation, funding, and knowledge:

- Development of a self-assessment tool for urban security evaluation.
- Provision of recommendations for the EU's Security Strategy, governance, and funding.

- Evaluation of AI technology applications and inclusivity.
- Creation of a capacity-building training program for local authorities.
- Measurement of the correlation between social cohesion and public space security.
- Development of spatial design and planning guidelines for urban security.

As the partnership transitions into the implementation phase, it seeks to broaden its network of participating local and regional authorities. This expanded involvement is paramount for the rigorous testing and refinement of the Action Plan's proposed measures. By gathering diverse perspectives and feedback, the partnership aims to ensure that its initiatives are truly effective and responsive to the evolving needs of European cities.



5. the announcement and activation of new proximity services able to generate a social impact especially in the evening hours, through an accompanying pathway and financial support
6. impact assessment of the project actions in the neighbourhoods covered by ToNite

The resources allocated exceeded EUR 4.5 million: of these, EUR 1.5 million were earmarked for physical interventions on the Lungo Dora, while EUR 1 million was dedicated to supporting the activation of social impact projects and services in the area.

### 1.3.1 Empowerment and community engagement activities

From the very beginning of the project, a strong emphasis was placed on **collaborative design**, ensuring that key stakeholders, local organizations, and active citizens were integral to the process<sup>5</sup>. This collaborative approach aimed to uncover the inherent strengths, potential opportunities, and untapped resources within the territory. To achieve this, a series of meetings were conducted over the first two years of the project, resulting in **over twenty gatherings**. These meetings successfully engaged more than ninety key local actors, including representatives from various associations and active community members. This engagement was crucial for gathering their personal stories, identifying their specific needs, and establishing a robust and active local network.

A central action within the project is the **activation and empowerment of the local stakeholders and communities**. In pursuit of this goal, the project partner, SocialFare, implemented two key participatory initiatives in recent months. The first of

these initiatives was the launch of a comprehensive questionnaire. This **questionnaire** was designed to reveal the hidden qualities of the areas situated along the Dora River, specifically targeting individuals who live, work, study, or frequently visit the Aurora district in Turin. The questionnaire included a series of questions intended to elicit detailed insights into the experiences and perceptions of these individuals. The findings from this questionnaire have been compiled into a detailed report.

**The second key participatory initiative was a structured participatory process**, consisting of four meetings. These meetings were organized to collaboratively envision and develop future scenarios for the areas along the Dora, focusing particularly on the Aurora neighborhood, as well as the area surrounding Campus Einaudi.

This process was intentionally inclusive, welcoming participation from the entire community, including citizens of all ages, residents, workers, students, and anyone with a general interest in the project. Furthermore, institutions, businesses, and associations were also encouraged to participate. The core principle of these meetings was collaborative work, emphasizing the importance of gathering diverse perspectives from groups of individuals with varying ages, backgrounds, and life experiences.

Guided by experts from SocialFare | Centre for Social Innovation, participants were provided with opportunities to express themselves and actively contribute to the creation of new scenarios and insights.

To further explore the potential opportunities within these areas, three events were held at the Cecchi Point Neighbourhood House and Off Topic. These events served to **present the findings of ethnographic research** and to **facilitate discussions** with citizens regarding the area's strengths, opportunities, and unexpressed potential."

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<sup>5</sup> A detailed report: [QUALI-OPPORTUNITA.pdf](#)

### 1.3.2 A new storytelling for communication with and about the territory

The ToNite project has adopted a narrative-driven strategy to address concerns regarding safety, social cohesion, and community belonging within the targeted area<sup>6</sup>. A cornerstone of this strategy is "The River of Biographies," a storytelling initiative that culminated in the production of ten short films. These films showcase the personal stories of ten residents with migrant backgrounds, aiming to foster understanding and empathy.

The project's thematic framework centers on several key areas, beginning with the exploration of resources and uniqueness. Residents have identified distinct resources and unique elements that characterize the two areas under investigation. The project also examined work, recognizing that the two areas possess contrasting economic and work ecosystems that have undergone significant transformations in recent years.

Contextual characteristics were considered to provide background for the critical issues identified, though these factors were not deemed to directly influence perceptions of insecurity and livability. Education and cultural capital emerged as crucial elements for the successful integration of individuals into the urban and social fabric.

A particularly sensitive issue addressed by the project is social cohesion, which significantly impacts both the perception of insecurity and the overall livability of the area. In terms of social capital, both areas benefit from a robust associative fabric, albeit with varying approaches, that remains largely underutilized.

Socio-cultural factors play a pivotal role in shaping perceptions. These include personal skills, a sense of belonging, the nature of relationships between

different communities (whether conflicting or collaborative), the availability of social support, and the level of social cohesion and integration.

Familiarity with places is another key consideration. A lack of familiarity with local spaces, services, initiatives, and ongoing events can foster prejudice towards those perceived as different.

The state of places, particularly those described as abandoned or incomplete, influences perceptions of insecurity and livability. Similarly, the frequency of places, including how, when, and by whom they are used, significantly determines these perceptions.

More specifically, factors related to the frequency and state of places directly impact the perception of insecurity. These include the physical and aesthetic condition of spaces, their occupancy levels, lighting, maintenance, decorum, and the presence of illicit activities or anti-social behaviors. Ultimately, the project aims to understand the complex interplay between the perception of insecurity and the perception of livability.

### 1.3.3 Urban regeneration interventions

The ToNite project prioritized creating safer urban spaces through co-designed interventions with residents and end-users<sup>7</sup>. This led to the completion of three significant urban regeneration projects in previously neglected areas. Firstly, an abandoned space near the University was transformed into an accessible pedestrian and cycling avenue. Secondly, a long-closed garden was revitalized with new street furniture and children's play equipment. Lastly, the riverbanks, perceived as unsafe at night, received multifunctional street furniture combining seating, lighting, and signage for local landmarks. In total, over 7,000 square meters of public space were regenerated.

A key component of this effort was the urban regeneration of Viale Ottavio Mario Mai, implemented by the City of Turin's Periphery Transformation, Common Goods and Urban Regeneration Division. This project aligns with the ToNite strategy, which emphasizes the renewal of urban spaces to foster safe and high-quality public space usage, thereby improving the quality of life for residents and users.

Viale Mai's strategic location, connecting the Luigi Einaudi University Campus to the Edisu university residence and linking the Lungo Dora pedestrian and bicycle footbridge to the Vanchiglia district, made it a prime target for revitalization. Despite its potential, the 4,500-square-meter pedestrian area had become neglected, characterized by poor lighting and underutilization. The avenue represented a "scar" in a neighborhood undergoing significant urban transformation due to the university campus, requiring new balances and inclusive approaches.

Today, Viale Ottavio Mario Mai has been transformed into an open, inclusive, and multifunctional space,

designed to be pleasant and safe, particularly during evening and nighttime hours. It now serves as an "open-air campus" for studying and debating, an accessible pedestrian and cycling avenue, and a public "square" for social interaction, events, play, and relaxation.

The regeneration project prioritized environmental sustainability. The existing gravel was preserved for its resilience and permeability, allowing rainwater to permeate and enhancing air quality through increased greenery. The boulevard features interconnected paths, with new limestone paving for the cycle path connecting Corso Farini and Viale Mai. Urban furnishings were designed to promote sociability while respecting spatial considerations, including a social table with adjustable benches, new benches, chaise-longues, a ping-pong table, and bicycle racks. A new public lighting system, developed in collaboration with Iren, includes 13 new poles, one illuminating a mural for TOward 2030.

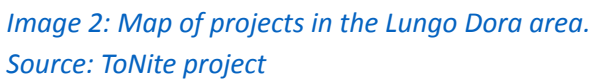
The project incorporated nature-based solutions, including four new plantings alongside existing plane trees, and beds of aromatic herbs and ornamental grasses. A "rain garden," a landscaped depression designed for rainwater harvesting and filtration, features water-stressed herbaceous plants and shrubs.

Viale Ottavio Mario Mai also aims to create a green ecological corridor for pollinating insects, with herbaceous and shrubby plants selected for their abundant flowering and fragrance.

The University of Turin, which owns the area, partnered with the City of Turin through a five-year memorandum of understanding. The University will extend student services, such as study room hours, to ensure safe evening use and further enhance the area's potential, aligning with the ToNite project's objectives.

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<sup>7</sup> Detailed report: [QUALI-SPAZI-REIMMAGINARE.pdf](#)



### 1.3.4 Activation of new proximity services

The ToNite project aimed to enhance livability and perceived safety during evening and nighttime hours by activating new proximity services<sup>8</sup>. This was achieved through a call for proposals that successfully engaged 59 local organizations, forming 19 distinct projects. These projects, supported by

technical and financial resources, focused on social innovation and local service delivery, targeting strategic actors such as universities, schools, migrant communities, community hubs, and grassroots associations.

The call for proposals, which allocated €1 million in non-repayable contributions, sought to improve public spaces along the Dora River, particularly during evening hours. Fourteen projects were selected for the Aurora district stretch of Lungo Dora, while five were chosen for the Campus Einaudi area. These projects employed diverse strategies, including socialization and inclusion activities (tactical urbanism, video projections, sports), area care initiatives, and the activation of cultural, socio-educational, and socio-healthcare centers. A unifying element was the active involvement of local residents and frequent visitors in these spaces.

The call for bids, publicized in December 2020 and open for applications from February to April 2021, aimed to support projects with lasting social impact through community participation and territorial enhancement. To facilitate the application process, the City of Turin established a technical-administrative help desk, providing support and clarifications on eligibility criteria, areas of involvement, and administrative aspects. Additionally, SocialFare | Centre for Social Innovation offered a preliminary accompaniment process, including collective and

individual meetings, to assist applicants in developing their proposals.

To further enhance project communication and engagement, the Tellingstones app was utilized. This app allows users to explore the area and receive notifications about points of interest. Selected projects could leverage the app to promote their activities and create narrative trails. The app's user-friendly platform enables notification creation and geolocation without requiring sensors or QR codes. Espereal Technologies provided guidance on app usage to the selected projects.

### 1.3.5 Impact assessment framework

The impact assessment took place throughout the project, with a dedicated WP, including social research aimed to gain knowledge of the territory, its residents, and its users<sup>9</sup>. A model for calculating the index to quantify the perceived safety and livability was developed, considering 10 social dimensions such as place attendance, vacant urban spaces, reporting of misuse of communal areas, economic precariousness, and lighting. The model produces a composite index, providing the City Government with valuable insights to inform new nighttime policies. (*see Table below*)

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<sup>8</sup> [More information:](#)

[https://tonite.eu/sportello\\_accompagnamentoprogettuale/](https://tonite.eu/sportello_accompagnamentoprogettuale/)

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<sup>9</sup> A detailed analysis of the results and impacts of the project: [Report Tonite](#)

Table: Impact Assessment Framework

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>INVOLVEMENT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION</b><br><br>To be understood as greater predisposition towards creation of collaborations /system networks, participation in public life and the application of co-management approaches | <b>1_ Improving interventions networking and collaboration in the ToNite target areas</b><br><br>INDICATORS (4)<br>> Public Private Partnerships<br>> Survival rate of PPPs<br>> Partnerships between local authorities and associations<br>> Survival rate of partnerships between entities and associations | <b>2_ Increased engagement and empowerment of actors of the local community</b><br><br>INDICATORS (4)<br>> Opportunities for active participation<br>> Community participation<br>> Level of engagement in 2Nite activities<br>> Involvement in the care of public space | <b>3_ Increasing the ability to attracting public private investments for social impact services in 2Nite's target areas</b><br><br>INDICATORS (1)<br>> Leverage of public private                                           | <b>IMPACT STATEMENT</b><br><br>New participative/collaborative perception of the safety and livability of the two target areas along the Dora: the active community aware of its differences, its places and spaces take care of them, rethinks them, plans them and lives them as open, inclusive and animated commons. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>1_ Increased knowledge of the 2Nite target areas and their community by the PA</b><br><br>INDICATORS (1)<br>> PA knowledge of the community needs                                                                                                                                                          | <b>2_ Increasing skills and tools for designing and structuring solutions of social impact</b><br><br>INDICATORS (1)<br>> Skills and tools acquired through accompaniment paths                                                                                          | <b>3_ Increased knowledge of the services of the 2Nite areas by citizens</b><br><br>INDICATORS (1)<br>> Knowledge of the services present and active in the areas of reference                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>KNOWLEDGE</b><br><br>To be understood as better knowledge of the target areas in terms of needs, opportunities and services, as well as increased skills for generation of social impact                                     | <b>1_ Increase in services / facilities /social and cultural activities developed through the participation of private stakeholders</b><br><br>INDICATORS (2)<br>> Activation of social and cultural activities<br>> Rate of use of services / facilities / social and cultural activities                    | <b>2_ Increasing public spaces to service of local communities</b><br><br>INDICATORS (1)<br>> Urban design interventions in public spaces                                                                                                                                | <b>3_ Better enjoyment and well-being in experiencing one's neighbourhood</b><br><br>INDICATORS (2)<br>> Level of citizen satisfaction with services / activities<br>> Perceived livability in target areas during the night | <b>4_ Change in perception of security and the imagery of the areas</b><br><br>INDICATORS (2)<br>> Citizens' reports<br>> Perceived safety in target areas during the night                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>LIVABILITY</b><br><br>To be understood as the use/use of the places and services present in the target areas and the presence of lively areas/places/neighbourhoods dynamic, biodiverse, rich in activities and accessible                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## 1.4 Development of a technological Platform (Urban Data Platform)

The Urban Data Platform integrates data related to urban security coming from heterogeneous sources and serves as an operational tool for constructing evidence-based decision-making dashboards through complex analysis of urban data and phenomena.

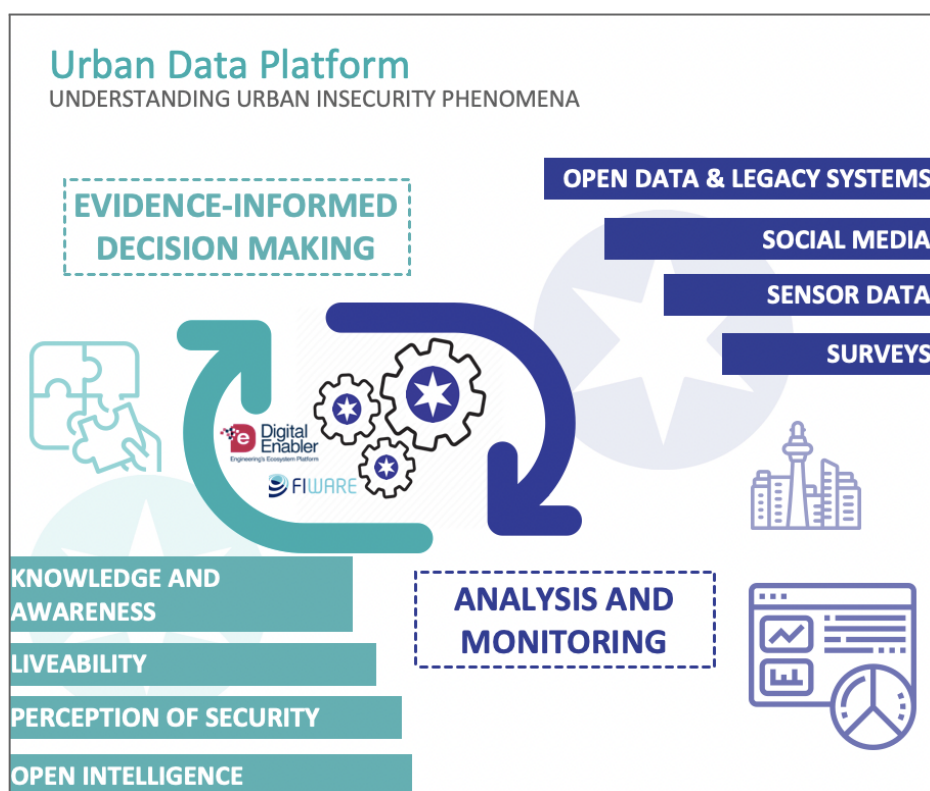


Image 3: Urban Data Platform structure. Source: ToNite project

Working to make the night more democratic and inclusive means, on the one hand providing services and designing spaces to meet the needs of different target audiences (men, women, children, young people, families, elders), and on the other hand fostering the active inclusion of all actors in

the definition of night policies. In this sense, the approach adopted by ToNite, an inclusive and community-based approach consistent with the territory's vocations and potential, can be a model that can be transferred and tested in different urban contexts.

By integrating, aggregating, and visualizing heterogeneous data from the city, related to the In the context of urban security, the platform allows

for a comprehensive, rather than sectoral, view of urban phenomena. This enhances the City's decision-makers' ability to:

- monitor implemented interventions;
- evaluate impacts;
- detect the emergence of new phenomena;u
- understand community needs;
- plan future actions.

The Urban Data Platform presents itself as an innovative and operational tool available to the Public Administration to support the definition of territorial governance policies and public space management. The project partner Engineering

Ingegneria Informatica Spa, starting from its IoT FIWARE based Digital Enabler platform, has implemented the main components that constitute the three characterizing levels of the ToNite Urban Data Platform. Finally, despite the great efforts and interest in the data platform, its uptake was marginal as the platform was not fully embedded in the City's activities.

## 1.5 Transfer potential of the innovative practice

| Turin innovative practice modules                                      | Considerations on transferability                                                                                                                                               | Level  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Empowerment and community engagement activities</b>                 | The community engagement activities are of high replicability, yet special attention must be posed to ensure the long term commitment and consistency.                          | High   |
| <b>New storytelling for communication with and about the territory</b> | The creation of a new storytelling through anthropological investigations is highly replicable and with low economic investment.                                                | High   |
| <b>Urban regeneration interventions</b>                                | The physical interventions on public space are highly replicable, yet the economic investment is rather high, which might make the replication harder.                          | Medium |
| <b>Activation of new proximity services</b>                            | The activation of new services has a good level of transferability because it is dependent on the will and long term commitment, yet the financial investment is not secondary. | Medium |
| <b>Impact assessment framework</b>                                     | The methodology is highly transferable because it is based on a clear framework which could be easily replicated.                                                               | High   |
| <b>Development of a technological Platform (Urban Data Platform)</b>   | The module was foreseen in the UIA funded ToNite project but didn't develop as much as originally planned, therefore the transferability is not very high.                      | Low    |

Meanwhile, based on the ToNite experience, the City of Turin has further developed the IMPATTO program. IMPATTO foresees an open call to which project proposals are asked to activate Community Spaces capable of intercepting the social, cultural and educational needs of residents and offering proximity services for the particular benefit of persons in fragile conditions, while representing places of aggregation capable of stimulating the building of relationships

Community Spaces should provide for the establishment of physical garrisons located in public space or otherwise easily accessible to the

public. Activities should take place primarily on public space.

The urban challenges addressed are:

1. Activate community spaces offering artistic - cultural and entertainment activities, to be located in areas other than those already characterised by high nightlife aggregation;
2. Activating community spaces in places perceived as unsafe because they are unused, underused or only partially frequented, in order to improve the liveability of public spaces and establish neighbourhood services;

3. Activating community spaces in the vicinity of existing public services (schools, universities, libraries, museums, theatres, or in green areas) by activating aggregative, cultural and social services and activities in the public space in front of them.

Awarded projects will receive non-repayable grants from a minimum of 120,000 euro to a maximum of

240,000 euro, covering 80% of eligible expenditure, from a total resource budget of euro 2,400,000.

As it is evident the City of Turin has already started setting the basis towards its Continuity Plan and will focus within the 2Nite project on the project developed within the IMPATTO local funding program. For the follow up phase of the project, the foreseen ULG group of the city of Turin is as follows:

| Level of involvement | Public sector                                                       | Private sector | NGO/civic sector                                                                                                   | Education and research |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| High                 | Other Municipality Departments (Culture; Urban Regeneration; Youth) |                | 11 social innovation projects funded by the City of Turin's social innovation measure "IMPATTO" (65 NGOs in total) |                        |
| Medium               |                                                                     |                |                                                                                                                    | UrbanLab               |
| Low                  |                                                                     | Local shops    |                                                                                                                    | University of Torino   |

The main stakeholders to be involved in the ULGs will be the 11 projects, run by Third Sector Entities, funded by the social innovation measure 'IMPATTO'. The measure, financed by the National Programme for Metropolitan cities (PN Metro Plus) supports the activation of Community spaces capable of intercepting social, cultural and educational needs of residents and offering proximity services aimed in particular at the most disadvantaged population groups.

The measure is aimed at the entire city territory and represents an evolution of the actions on public space experimented in ToNite. The total budget of the measure is EUR 2.4

Million.

The 11 projects, presented in partnership, involve a total of 65 organisations: these NGOs will be involved in the ULGs from time to time depending on the specific issue addressed (e.g. gender issue related to

public space; involvement of business activities; activation of foreign communities).

Torino Urban Lab (a centre for the analysis, study and narration of urban transformations of Torino and its metropolitan area) will be involved as well, and will bring its experience with actions on public space.

Finally, other Departments of the Municipality will be involved, based on the specific skills required by the project phase.

02

# 2Nite partnership

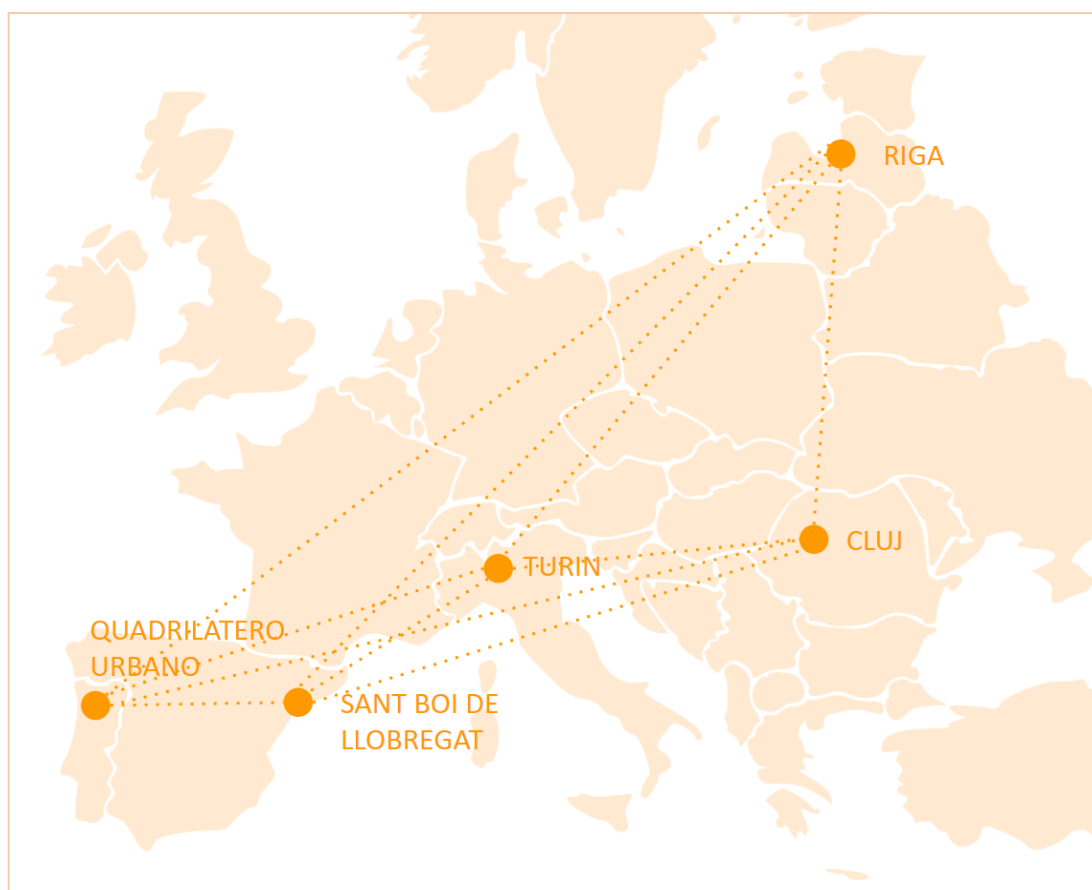
## 2Nite partnership

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### 1.6 Introduction

The 2Nite project partnership is led by the City of Turin, who is sharing the experience done within the ToNite project funded by the Urban Innovative Action program, together with the cities of **Riga in Latvia, Cluj Napoca in Romania, Sant Boi de Llobregat in Spain and Quadrilatero Urbano, composed by the Municipalities of Barcelos, Braga, Guimarães and Vila Nova de Famalicão, in Portugal.**

During phase one of the project, after a meeting in Paris and a kick-off meeting in Turin, the partners hosted bilateral meetings by representatives of the Lead Partner city and the Lead Expert, which contributed to the collection of insights and information available in this report.



## 1.7 Sant Boi de Llobregat

Country: **Spain**

Name of Municipality (inter-municipality institution): **Sant Boi de Llobregat**

Name of Department: **European Projects Office (Planning and Evaluation Department)**

Population: **total population of 84.027 people (last update in 2023)**

Territorial dimension (area): **21,7 km<sup>2</sup>**

### Main challenges

One of the most important challenges of Sant Boi is to guarantee that the city has a public space that facilitates safe interaction and coexistence among the community and local actors, leisure and sports as well as healthy habits at night. In this context, Sant Boi faces specific challenges related to the underuse of some public facilities at night, the availability of Human Resources at night, the willingness of social entities to collaborate in the design, implementation and evaluation of public security policies, and a lack of a diversified nightlife offer, thus concentrating nightlife activities mainly around restoration.

### Main items of interest

| Turin innovative practice modules                                  | Sant Boi |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Empowerment and community engagement activities                 |          |
| 2. New storytelling for communication with and about the territory |          |
| 3. Urban regeneration interventions                                |          |
| 4. Activation of new proximity services                            |          |
| 5. Impact assessment framework                                     |          |
| 6. Development of a technological Platform (Urban Data Platform)   |          |

Sant Boi has some experience in activities related to the above items. For example, the City Council is highly committed to citizen participation in city governance, involving citizens in various participatory decision-making processes. Moreover, in recent years, special attention has been given to the new way of communicating through storytelling, and several efforts have been made in the development of technological platforms (such as the M7 security platform), as well as the activation of new proximity services.

Despite the initiatives developed in Sant Boi in these regards, the municipality is especially interested in learning more about them and improving its capacity on these matters, as there is still work to be done. The municipality aims to address existing challenges and take advantage of available resources to improve the quality of life and well-being of its inhabitants during the night hours, and is willing to exchange experiences with other localities with similar characteristics, thus building mutual knowledge.

## 1\_Empowerment and community engagement activities

Governance in Sant Boi is based on a relational structure which makes use of Local Councils and spaces for participation, being these structures that are stable and regulated meeting spaces that are created to facilitate and promote the community's active involvement in decision-making and the management of public affairs.

- **The District Councils.** They are citizen participation bodies of a consultative nature, with which the Sant Boi City Council is equipped to advise and receive proposals from citizens regarding the operation of the district and the municipality. There is one for each district.
- **Sectoral Councils.** They are participatory consultative bodies formed by representatives of entities and experts in a specific fields (education, environment, technology, social services, etc.).

Other spaces for debate, dialogue, collaboration and consensus can also be encouraged between the City Council and people, entities and institutions interested in the various sectors of municipal action. These spaces are based on the participation and active involvement of the people who participate:

- 3 Community development plans in the Marianao, Camps Blancs and Ciutat Cooperativa – Molí Nou neighbourhoods.
- 2 Citizen participation commissions: Citizen Participation Commission for Services and Organizations of People with Disabilities and the Citizen Participation Commission of Nova Ciutadania – New Citizenship (migrants and newcomers).

- Collaboration Agreements with Social Entities. Multiple agreements with the private initiative and civil society to develop educational, awareness-raising, welfare projects, etc.

### Local Participatory Security Board

In 2008, after the arrival of the police of the Generalitat de Catalunya – Mossos d'Esquadra, the Local Security Board was established in Sant Boi. This is a space for regular coordination and collaboration between the police forces that operate in the territory of Sant Boi: the Local Police, the Mossos d'Esquadra and the National Police Force. In its commitment to a model closer to citizens, since February 2009, the Sant Boi City Council has invited around twenty representatives from various sectors of the locality such as business, education, culture, and commerce, among others. In this space, the annual balance of police actions is made known first-hand and representatives of the public can raise their doubts and concerns.

This is a very important fact because for the first time in the city and certainly in Catalonia, the voice of the citizens has been incorporated into a Local Safety Board. The municipal government has taken a step forward in its commitment to promote a new style of government based on citizen participation, proximity and networking.

The Decidim online platform aims to stimulate the realisation of citizen participation experiences using new technologies. The tool makes it possible to complement and enrich face-to-face participation processes and bodies by facilitating permanent information and communication, speeding up their organisation and opening up the participation of citizens on an individual basis or to groups that are not attracted to face-to-face participation.

These goals are embedded within the Sant Boi Urban Agenda

**24. Adolescence, a commitment to the present and future of the city:** the creation of an experimental and diverse public space that generates social behaviour. It is committed to the incorporation of new proposals (activities, instruments and resources to make the city a safe, socialising, diverse and welcoming space for safe, healthy and inclusive interrelationships), working directly for a positive impact on young people (Sant Boi's main target in this project).

**31. Design and implementation of sectoral urban agendas:** design, elaborate and implement sectoral urban agendas hand in hand with local strategic agents and actors in each area, turning the city into a pioneering space for the laboratory and promotion of various public policies, such as security policies.

**32. Public innovation, collective construction:** fostering collective intelligence to imagine and establish innovative solutions: importance of working with all agents in the territory, including citizens, public administration, companies and knowledge centres (quadruple helix).

**33. Co-responsibility of citizens in the development of public policies:** involving them more actively in the development of policies.

## 2\_New storytelling for communication with and about the territory

Sant Boi de Llobregat has some storytelling experiences that are mainly on the YouTube channel. Here are some examples:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Nv1SijBQHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Nv1SijBQHA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owVikVeuOgM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uesxL-MBoG4>

However, no new storytelling has been done yet, that is to say, no liquid narrative or transmedia has been used yet due to a lack of knowledge. Therefore, there is no expertise in this field and the municipality could benefit from successful experiences.

## 3\_Urban regeneration interventions

Sant Boi de Llobregat has developed the Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy, known in the municipality as Capaci[u]tat, a 16 million euros project, partly financed by ERDF funds between 2017 and 2022. Capaci[u]tat was an integrated sustainable development strategy that had a direct impact on the city, especially on the renovation of vulnerable neighbourhoods, thus improving the quality of life of people in these most disadvantaged districts.

## 4\_Activation of new proximity services

Within the relational governance scheme that weaves networks between:

- City Council and institutions
- City Council, institutions, private sector and civil society
- City Council and civil society
- City Council, private sector and civil society
- City Council and private sector
- City council, institutions and private sector

Between these organisations, collaboration agreements are the tool that articulate this support to local agents, translated into practice in cultural, educational, welfare, technological, sports projects, etc.

## 5\_Impact assessment framework

Sant Boi City Council has an exclusive Planning and Evaluation Assistance Unit, which is responsible, among other tasks, for evaluating public policy plans and social programmes developed by the City Council, so that it has solid experience in the evaluation of projects and their impact in different areas (social, economic, environmental, etc.).

## 6\_Development of a technological Platform

Sant Boi de Llobregat has the *M7 citizen security platform*, a comprehensive solution that combines advanced technology with prevention and response strategies to guarantee the safety of citizens. The platform facilitates two-way communication between citizens and their local administration, allowing rapid detection and action in the face of risk situations, such as security incidents, medical emergencies or traffic anomalies. In addition, it offers functionalities for proactive monitoring of threats and optimising the management of security resources. This is in line with the Sant Boi Urban Agenda Strategic line no. 39 Innovate in public safety with digital transformation aims to provide innovative responses to the challenges of the present and future of the city, especially focusing on digital transformation. From the perspective of this strategic action, the city will work on proximity and communication with citizens and other social actors to build trust and work together in the search for sustainable solutions to security challenges, thus being directly aligned with the objectives of the 2Nite project.

Both the 23-27 Mandate Plan and the Local Urban Agenda, the most important policy guides, have as a strategic action "Innovating in citizen security with

digital transformation", which demonstrates Sant Boi willingness and commitment to the establishment of technological platforms in the city.

On the other hand, the municipality is currently working on launching a full data governance project in the field of the municipal register of inhabitants. This data is in daily use by many of the departments of the city council. The city intends to equip ourselves with a system that allows us to democratise this information so that it can be used by anyone in the organisation who needs it, always in compliance with privacy requirements and the GDPR.

## ULG Group

| Level of involvement | Public sector                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Private sector                                                                                                                                                 | NGO/civic sector                                                                                                                                                                           | Education and research                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| High                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth Sant Boi City Council Department (<i>Fem Carrer Project / The Young Factory</i>)</li> <li>- Sports Sant Boi City Council Department (<i>JESA Project</i>)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cinemes Can Castellet</li> </ul>                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marianao Foundation (<i>Vente Pa Ka Project</i>)</li> </ul>                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Medium               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Culture Sant Boi City Council Department</li> <li>- Adolescent Council</li> <li>- Sant Boi Local Police (<i>USEC</i>)</li> <li>- Municipal Sports and Cultural Facilities (<i>Can Massallera, Parellada, Cal Ninyo</i>)</li> <li>- Civil Protection and Night community safety service</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UES Santboiana (<i>rugby club</i>)</li> <li>- Futbol Clubs (<i>Marianao Poblet, Cooperativa, Santobià</i>)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CAU (<i>voluntary educational association</i>)</li> <li>- Youth Group Xivarri</li> <li>- Esplai Arrels</li> <li>- Don Bosco /Salesians</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Municipal High Schools (Pedagogium Cos, Ítaca, Camps Blancs, Marianao, Rafael Casanova, Joaquim Rubió i Ors)</li> <li>- Esplai La Barretina (educational institution)</li> <li>- Esplai Cargol (educational entity)</li> </ul> |
| Low                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can Castells Art Centre</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ateneu</li> <li>- La Masia</li> <li>- La Capsula del Temps</li> <li>- Young dance company of Sant Boi</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Musical Group Sant Josep Obrer</li> <li>- WE ART Sant Boi</li> </ul>                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sant Joan de Deu University School</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                  |

The Sant Boi Urbact Local Group unites key stakeholders in the municipality, including actors from the City Council itself, the private sector and

NGOs. Among them, some with more direct impact on young people are the Youth, Sports, and Culture Departments of the Sant Boi City Council, which focus

on promoting youth autonomy, physical activity, and cultural engagement. The Youth Department leads initiatives such as *Fem Carrer* and *The Young Factory*, which encourage young people's participation in urban transformation and youth services. The Sports Department provides resources and facilities for youth sports, ensuring inclusivity for young people with functional diversity. The Culture Department fosters youth involvement in activities like the *FANTBOI Festival* and *ComunitART* to stimulate creativity.

Cal Ninyo Theatre serves as a cultural hub for artistic and recreational activities, while Can Castellet Cinemas engages youth through cinema and film discussions. The Marianao Foundation aims to offer healthy alternatives to nightlife and youth leisure by organizing workshops and social activities through programs like *VentePaKa*. Within this context, municipal high schools play a vital role by integrating these initiatives into their educational and extracurricular offerings, thus enhancing youth participation and development.

These stakeholders have been identified as the main contributors due to their direct impact on youth and the strong relationships that exist among the different entities, regardless of their sector. This collaboration facilitates joint initiatives that promote alternative options for youth nightlife in the city, especially thanks to the great associative network that exists in the municipality.

It is crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of the situation and to involve the other stakeholders identified in the ULG, as they significantly influence youth in the municipality. Their perspectives and experiences can be very valuable and contribute positively to the development of new initiatives for young people.

## Considerations

Sant Boi de Llobregat aims at developing a project focused on the youth population, seeking to generate a nighttime environment of safety and entertainment that covers their needs on 3 levels: avoiding conflicts; providing help and support if disputes do occur, and repairing damage and restoring relationships when controversies have already occurred. It would focus on 3 poles of territorial and material attraction in a population with village demographics where it is relatively easy to achieve a significant population impact: sports fields, cinema halls and municipal swimming pool.

The city is actively addressing the needs of its diverse population, with a strong focus on youth, community welfare, and leisure activities, particularly during evening and nighttime hours. This comprehensive approach recognizes the dynamic nature of these areas and the importance of inclusivity and innovation.

Youth and Education initiatives cater to a broad age range, from 12 to 35, acknowledging the specific needs of young adults, especially in areas like housing policy. Recognizing the trend of young people seeking nightlife in Barcelona, the city is developing its own secure public night offer, particularly for minors. This requires constant innovation, especially in digital formats, to engage this dynamic demographic. The availability of night train service to Barcelona is also a factor in the city's planning.



Community and Welfare are prioritized through programs like "Projecte Transformador," which emphasizes direct connection with the population and a transversal approach to prevention. This project integrates proximity services, youth programs, education, social services, and inclusion efforts. Leisure Time Policy has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, necessitating a re-evaluation of offerings. The city recognizes the need to consider diverse needs based on age, income, and gender, focusing on social, cultural, and digital leisure. While younger demographics may not engage with traditional cultural services, they are drawn to social leisure activities like dance and music courses. Digital leisure, increasingly individualistic, is also a key consideration. The city's cultural offerings, including music and theatre programs, are being examined to ensure they appeal to a wider audience, including youth. Existing initiatives, like the "Mostra de Jazz," are being re-evaluated for youth

engagement. Social security concerns are paramount in leisure planning. Programs like "Fundación Marianao" and "Fent Carrer" provide workshops and public space engagement, while "After Sun Boi" transforms sports facilities into vibrant youth spaces during evening hours. Open-air markets showcasing young artists and the impact of private leisure commerce are also being considered.

Jesa (Joventud Esport Social Activa), a collaborative program with Barcelona and surrounding municipalities, focuses on youth, particularly those with special needs. Through communication and inclusive activities, Jesa integrates these individuals into broader groups. Activities range from night trekking and trail running to intergenerational billiards and fundraising races, all offered free of charge.

Vente Pa'Ka empowers youth to create programs tailored to their interests, including TikTok content, nail art, and sports activities. These programs offer courses from 10 PM to 2 AM, catering to the late-night interests of the younger population.

## 1.8 Riga

Country: **Latvia**

Name of Municipality (inter-municipality institution):

**Municipality of Riga**

Name of Department: **Riga Neighbourhood**

**Residents' Center**

Population: **601 311 (2023)**

Territorial dimension (area): **307 km<sup>2</sup>**

### Main challenges

In recent years, the Riga Police Office has carried out multiple improvements of their work, including using digital and media technologies in detecting, categorising and preventing various crimes. Such improvements as well as training and working together with citizens have also improved the quality of safety around the city.

However, there are multiple areas in Riga that are either very or too private or built during the Soviet modernist era (therefore very vast and without proper human scale) that suffer from various types of petty crime. For example, some private housing areas in older neighbourhoods like Āgenskalns or Brasa suffer from small theft, usually bicycles or power tools from backyards, stairwells etc.

Whereas the larger Post-Soviet neighbourhoods, despite becoming much safer in recent years, suffer from the difference between actual and perceived safety. For example, when asked about the actual incidents in Purvciems, the 2nite project pilot territory, the representatives of the police stated that the number of incidents have decreased a lot in recent years and if there are still some, the places are usually the same and can be narrowed down to a

handful. On the contrary, when asking the residents on their perception of the safety in the area rated from 1 – 10, women rated the safety level in Purvciems at 4,87, that is, several grades lower than men. This is often due to former experiences in the neighbourhood that was quite wild at some point still a decade or two ago that stay with people in generations. Other reason might be the modernist urban planning there, leaving often too large spaces in-between buildings that are often more than 6 storeys high. This leads to areas (yards, squares, parks, roads) hard to observe by residents themselves and impossible to see through, that also negatively affects the ability of residents to detect something disturbing via windows – the distances are simply too large.

Another aspect that might be assumed as a challenge is the demand of the police force and its actual presence. According to surveys, 82 % of residents need actual police presence in their neighbourhoods, whereas only 61 % claim there is one. Despite having high-tech, digital and multimedia tools that have increased the safety in Riga a lot, at least ¼ of the people would feel much better if there was an actual police force in their area. However, this issue is reflected on the shortage of staff, therefore the digitalisation process is one of the few solutions left to fight the lack of actual workforce.

## Main items of interest

| Turin innovative practice modules                                  | Riga |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Empowerment and community engagement activities                 |      |
| 2. New storytelling for communication with and about the territory |      |
| 3. Urban regeneration interventions                                |      |
| 4. Activation of new proximity services                            |      |
| 5. Impact assessment framework                                     |      |
| 6. Development of a technological Platform (Urban Data Platform)   |      |

In the last 15 years, Riga's main line of work has been community involvement whether it is neighbourhood associations, non-governmental organisations etc. They are popular, partially supported financially by the city (via funding and grant applications and participation budget for residents' ideas). Therefore, the whole participation, civil society and engagement has become the *modus operandi* of how the municipality wants Riga to be run.

Many neighbourhoods, particularly the post-Soviet modernist areas lack new storytelling and rebranding. As mentioned before, the quality of safety is increasing, however the perception of safety is still to be improved, and a new way of storytelling could work.

One of the most practical ways to improve safety in public is by changing the infrastructure – to make it more transparent, with increased visibility and interdisciplinary, closer to homes, closer to other

residents, smaller (important to develop some sort of “night test” for outdoor infrastructure), yet maintaining its openness (important to mention – no parks in Riga are closed at night and it should stay this way). Therefore, by improving the infrastructure Riga hopes to improve both the actual and perceived safety.

### 1\_Empowerment and community engagement activities

One of the forms of citizen involvement that Riga is proud of is the participatory budget competition, which is taking place for the 5th year in a row. Riga residents submit neighbourhood development ideas, residents vote on them, and the most popular ideas are implemented by the municipality.

In recent years, neighbourhood activism has taken hold in Riga. Neighbourhood associations are considered important cooperation partners of the municipality, so the municipality offers neighbourhood associations a small amount of financial support to cover administrative costs. Also, neighbourhood associations are invited to express their opinion on the actions planned by the municipality in the neighbourhoods and are also invited to the events organized by the municipality regarding neighbourhood development planning.

During the last convocation of the Riga City Council, the Riga Neighbourhood Development Commission was established, which examines issues relevant to the neighbourhoods with the participation of the neighbourhood associations, the responsible municipal institutions and Council members.

Most neighbourhood associations have united in an umbrella organization - Riga Neighbourhood Alliance,

which is represented in various municipal commissions, councils and working groups.

Currently, a pilot project for society-led community centres has been started. One non-governmental organization has won a municipal competition and will ensure the operation of a community center on municipal property, ensuring community involvement and integration activities.

In autumn 2024, the first Riga residents' assembly was taking place, organized by the non-governmental organization "Green Liberty" in cooperation with the municipality within the project. Assembly members developed recommendations for the Greening plan of Riga.

More often, citizens' opinions are asked about various issues by conducting surveys on the municipal portal [georiga.lv](http://georiga.lv), where mapping is also possible. Among them, a survey was conducted on the nighttime habits of the residents, on safety in the neighbourhoods, on the availability of culture in the neighbourhoods, etc.

## 2\_New storytelling for communication with and about the territory

In recent years, multiple resident neighbourhoods' associations have popped up around the city, resulting in 2/3 of the neighbourhoods having their own non-governmental force representing their rights. Such associations also do a lot of work in researching local history, sharing stories, organizing walks thus also becoming the source of knowledge of local history, culture, people. Such asset is often used during the summer when Riga is celebrating its anniversary, and many events take place in

neighbourhoods. In those events, the local knowledge is often shared and also often forms the content and programme.

Just recently Riga Municipality has started the creation of short, focused video clips about each neighbourhood of the city. These videos will include both historical facts about each neighbourhood, as well as information about the current urban environment in the area, along with perspectives on its future development. The production of the videos involves both active residents, representatives of neighbourhood associations, as well as the neighbourhood coordinators of the Riga Neighbourhood Residents' Centre. It is planned that these videos will serve as a showcase for each neighbourhood. And they will offer a fresh perspective, allowing viewers to see each neighbourhood from a potentially new point of view.

## 3\_Urban regeneration interventions

There is a long history with regeneration activities carried out by both the municipality and NGOs. Either they are the so-called creative quarters in post industrial areas or taking care of municipal parks, markets etc., the general understanding of public or social places in Riga are related to trying to make them as multifunctional, safe, appealing, human-scale and local as possible. Also, during the next decade, many large scale regeneration projects are on its way, including the revitalisation of the banks of the river Daugava, regeneration of the city centre, following the construction of RailBaltica international railway line, revitalisation of the Old Town and historic centre, the old city markets etc.

## 4\_Activation of new proximity services

Riga's non-governmental organizations can temporarily use municipal premises for their activities free of charge in several locations in the city, as well as equipment for their events outdoors, which are widely used in the warm season. Also, non-governmental organizations are offered free seminars on diverse topics for capacity and competence building, as well as networking events. Also, the municipality offers co-financing to non-governmental organizations for organizing activities in various fields - uniting neighbourhood communities, social integration, cultural and sports events, activities for children and young people, etc. Co-financing is provided by calls for proposals and there is a newly created a co-financing program for social enterprises.

the quality, ease and abilities of work and life in the city. For example, the city police used multimedia technologies for detecting and observing the public spaces, and such technologies are synchronized with data bases where crime and incidents can be visually represented in real time. Meanwhile, the municipal GIS office GEORIGA oversees an enormous platform of all geographical data available in Riga to be made public for people to use for their needs.

## 5\_Impact assessment framework

Riga has a long history of participating and evaluating in national and international projects. In fact, there is at least one active now, where Riga serves as a partner partially responsible for evaluation and fully responsible for building action plans (see "Liveability"). Despite that, the city has its own strategic evaluation, monitoring and supervision unit within the City Development Department that devote their work to finding various ways to measure impacts.

## 6\_Development of a technological Platform

In recent years, multiple institutions in Riga have used the miracle of digital technologies to improve

## ULG Group

| Level of involvement | Public sector                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Private sector                                                                       | NGO/civic sector                                                                                                                                                                | Education and research                                                   |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| High                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Riga Neighborhood Residents' Center;</li> <li>- Riga City Municipality Urban Development Department;</li> <li>- Riga Municipal Police;</li> <li>- State Police Prevention Department</li> <li>- Riga City Municipality Outdoor Space and Mobility Department</li> </ul> |                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purvciems Development Association</li> <li>-Inhabitants of Purvciems neighborhood</li> </ul>                                           |                                                                          |
| Medium               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Municipal Schools</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local businesses (to be defined)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Center for Women Victims of Violence "Marta"</li> <li>- Apartment Owners' associations</li> <li>- NGO "The City for People"</li> </ul> |                                                                          |
| Low                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Riga City Council Education, Culture and Sports Committee</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University of Latvia</li> </ul> |

- *Riga Neighborhood Residents' Center - responsible for citizen engagement and neighborhood development*
- *Riga City Council Education, Culture and Sports Committee - interested in nightlife policy*
- *Riga City Municipality Urban Development Department - responsible for city planning, conducted a study on Riga's night-time*

*management and have created a methodology for explanatory walks with focus groups*

- *Riga Municipal Police - responsible for public order, provides data on administrative violations in the neighborhood and conducts interviews with residents on the streets*
- *State Police Prevention Department - responsible for crime prevention, provides data on crime trends in the neighborhood*

*and advises on creating safe public outdoor spaces*

- *Purvciems Development Association - represents the views of the residents of the Purvciems neighborhood on the neighborhood development issues*

*The task of this ULG is to find out what is the security situation in the Purvciems neighborhood and how residents of Purvciems perceive the feeling of safety in their neighborhood. As we start working on solutions, the ULG will be expanded with relevant stakeholders. The ULG coordinator is Daiga Mežale, Neighborhood Coordinator in Riga Neighborhood Residents' Center.*

## Considerations

After the 2020 election, which brought into power more liberal political parties and representatives from the neighbourhood associations, Riga has become more open to innovative topics, such as evening and nighttime planning and management. In fact, Riga has already done an enormous preliminary/feasibility study on evening and nighttime topic, therefore being aware of what should be done and is open to explore how it could be done.

An opportunity is identified in working with the Riga Neighbourhood Residents' Centre, which was established in 2021, where 7 neighbourhood coordinators are currently working. Neighbourhood coordinators are the first people in the municipality to whom residents can turn with their questions and initiatives regarding neighbourhood development, as well as receive feedback. Neighbourhood coordinators work closely with neighbourhood associations and other local communities,

participate in activities organized by them, and organize various meetings for them with representatives of the municipality, so they know their neighbourhoods quite well. The neighbourhood coordinators inform the political and administrative leadership of the municipality about the most pressing neighbourhood problem issues, which, if necessary, gets involved in solving these issues.

The Riga Neighbourhood Residents' Centre is a fairly new institution, which is only now starting to get involved in various international projects. "2Nite" is the first URBACT project, the implementation of which has been fully undertaken by the Riga Neighbourhood Residents' Centre, but it will be supported by the City Development Department, which has vast experience in various URBACT, Interreg, Horizon, etc. international projects as a project partner, as a leading partner, and as an associate partner.

During 2024, the already mentioned feasibility study (and strategic proposal) was carried out by the City Development Department. It includes around 175 pages of deep research in various topics related to every, often controversial, aspect of evening and nighttime planning and management.

Riga has chosen Purvciems neighbourhood as a pilot area, considering the following aspects<sup>10</sup>:

- The neighbourhood is dominated by Soviet era residential housing blocks
- The infrastructure of public outdoor space is not too developed in the neighbourhood
- This is the most populated neighbourhood of Riga (52 438 inhabitants)

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<sup>10</sup> Further information on the Purvciems neighbourhood available in the bilateral visit article: [Riga \(LT\), 16th January 2025 - 2nite Bilateral Visit | urbact.eu](#)

- There is a larger proportion of non-nationals (58 %, mostly Russian speaking) in the neighbourhood
- The neighbourhood has a rather low population activity
- The neighbourhood is perceived as a sleeping area
- Residents, especially women, do not feel safe enough in this neighbourhood

All focus groups have not yet been identified, but they could be children, young people, women, seniors, neighbourhood association, Russian speakers, public service providers, private service providers.

There are a number of similar neighbourhoods in Riga, therefore there is the possibility to further transfer the findings gained in this testbed to other similar Soviet era housing blocks across the city.



*Image: Site visit to the Purvciems neighbourhood during the bilateral visit in Riga.*

## 1.9 Quadrilátero Urbano

Country: **Portugal**

Name of Municipality (inter-municipality institution): **Municipality of Barcelos, Braga, Guimarães and Vila Nova de Famalicão – Quadrilátero Urbano**

Name of Department: **Strategy, Braga's Innovation and Sustainability Unit and Famalicão Municipal Police**

Population: **+/-600.000 (117.005 in Barcelos 201.583 in Braga, 156.789 in Guimarães and 133.028 in Famalicão)**

Territorial dimension (area): **378,90Km2 in Barcelos, 183,5 km2 in Braga, 240,95 km2 in Guimarães and 202 Km<sup>2</sup> in Famalicão**

### Main challenges

Amongst the Quadrilátero four cities, currently Braga and Vila Nova de Famalicão are committing to activities within the 2Nite project, whilst the other cities are participating as observers. In relation to public space regeneration, Braga faces several sustainability challenges, encompassing technological, regulatory, environmental, and decision-making aspects. In terms of technology, there is a need to integrate innovative solutions that promote energy efficiency and sustainable mobility, though costs and adaptation barriers remain significant. The management of ornamental and green spaces, essential for quality of life, faces limitations in terms of resources for maintenance and expansion. Lastly, public decision-making processes require greater citizen participation and transparency so that urban choices reflect sustainability needs and

engage the Braga community more actively and inclusively.

Vila Nova de Famalicão has an increasing multiculturalism and at the same time significant increase in emigration, which are modifying local culture. Furthermore, there is a growing homeless population, a challenge which needs to be adequately addressed in terms of social inclusion as well as safety perception in public space.

### Main items of interest

| Turin innovative practice modules                                  | Braga | VNF |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|
| 1. Empowerment and community engagement activities                 |       |     |
| 2. New storytelling for communication with and about the territory |       |     |
| 3. Urban regeneration interventions                                |       |     |
| 4. Activation of new proximity services                            |       |     |
| 5. Impact assessment framework                                     |       |     |
| 6. Development of a technological Platform (Urban Data Platform)   |       |     |

Braga is particularly interested in urban regeneration interventions as they offer the potential to revitalize and modernize areas in need, enhance public spaces, and improve the overall quality of urban life. This approach aligns with the city's sustainability goals by promoting green spaces, efficient infrastructure, and fostering a more resilient urban environment.

The development of an Urban Data Platform is equally essential, as it would centralize and manage valuable data to inform decision-making, optimize resources, and monitor urban progress effectively. This technological foundation would not only support smarter city management but also empower Braga to make data-driven choices that enhance sustainability, inclusivity, and efficiency across all urban planning efforts.

Vila Nova de Famalicão is particularly interested in regenerating certain areas of the territory and achieving greater community involvement.

### 1\_Empowerment and community engagement activities

The City of Braga has a strong experience in relation to social innovation. With almost 40% of its population under 25, Braga is particularly focused on meeting the needs of its young people and establishing a trusting relationship between them and elected representatives. Braga emphasizes social well-being, particularly for children. Their designation as a "Child Friendly City" by UNICEF Portugal highlights their commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment. Awarded as winner for the "European Rising Innovative City" award, Braga proves that smart city development can successfully integrate technological advancement with a genuine dedication to creating a sustainable and thriving community.

Vila Nova de Famalicão has developed a series of social inclusion projects in social housing estates in strong collaboration with local NGOs through the co-development of services catering for the population.

## 2\_New storytelling for communication with and about the territory

The City of Braga has been working on the storytelling element over the past years, not so much in terms of security perception of neighbourhoods but rather of tourism attractiveness. Having served as the European Youth Capital in 2012, the city made strategic investments in creating the image of a dynamic cultural city. Braga's recognition as a UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts highlights its commitment to fostering innovation in this field. Vila Nova de Famalicão does not yet have a consolidated experience in this realm.

## 3\_Urban regeneration interventions

Braga would like to combine the efforts on public space to the ones of public transport. In fact, the bus system is working to improve the schedules, to better serve the night workers. To meet citizens' needs and encourage behavioral shifts, improving public transportation efficiency is crucial. Simultaneously, addressing accessibility issues in urban areas is urgent. These areas, compromised by poor initial design and rampant illegal parking, hinder pedestrian mobility. Braga's growth in the 1990s, driven by car-centric planning and piecemeal development, resulted in low-quality urbanizations surrounding the historic center. These areas now require comprehensive revitalization, integrating urban rehabilitation, improved mobility, and enhanced accessibility.

## 4\_Activation of new proximity services

Both cities have a strong experience in the development of new proximity services. In the case of Braga, the city is building its capacity in proximity service development within its public spaces, albeit through a variety of interconnected initiatives rather than a singular, explicitly labelled program. The city's strong focus on citizen-centric services is a key indicator. Programs like the "Elderly Support Office (GAPI)" and the "Senior Card" exemplify this, bringing tailored support closer to specific demographics. Similarly, community-driven initiatives like "Assembleia de Moradores" and "Viva o Bairro" underscore a commitment to localized service delivery, inherently relying on proximity.

In the case of Vila Nova de Famalicão new activated services have been around the creation of multi-functional public spaces. A good example in this respect is the newly renovated bus station which has become a hub for a number of activities: a studying room open all day and night for youngsters, a data room from the regional public transport agency, a small shopping centre for locally produce.

## 5\_Impact assessment framework

Braga's approach to urban development increasingly emphasizes impact assessment, particularly concerning projects within its public spaces. This isn't just about implementing new initiatives; it's about understanding their effects on the city and its residents. Their commitment to sustainable development, evidenced by their "Strategic Model" and "Municipal Sustainability Index," necessitates a systematic evaluation of projects. Participation in programs like URBACT's "TOURISM-FRIENDLY CITIES" further demonstrates this, as it requires creating and

monitoring integrated action plans, which inherently involve impact assessment. Furthermore, Braga's involvement in innovative mobility projects, often in collaboration with organizations like EIT Urban Mobility, involves rigorous testing and data collection. These pilot programs are designed to assess the social, economic, and environmental impacts of new mobility solutions within public spaces.

Vila Nova de Famalicão run an impact assessment study on the 'More and Better Years' program, which provided adapted sports opportunities for over 200 disabled residents. With a substantial investment of nearly 350,000 euros per year. The program, active since 2012, currently supports 218 individuals, primarily those with intellectual disabilities.

location-based technologies for enhanced visitor experiences and mobility projects, involving data collection and analysis, inform the development of proximity-based transit and related services. Overall, Braga is developing its smart city status, through their "Strategic Model for Sustainable Development," aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the annual "Municipal Sustainability Index". They are pursuing the goal of becoming European Green Capital 2026, demonstrating a dedication to environmental stewardship. Furthermore, Braga's Human Power Hub fosters social entrepreneurship, uniting companies, citizens, government, and researchers to create impactful solutions for an inclusive city. The City of Vila Nova de Famalicão is currently aiming at gathering more experience on the topic.

## 6\_Development of a technological Platform

Braga is pursuing its digitalization efforts in projects such as the "school card", online housing support platforms, smart tourism promises to leverage

### ULG Group

| Level of involvement | Public sector                                                                                | Private sector             | NGO/civic sector                                                                                  | Education and research |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| High                 | Municipality of Braga<br>BragaHabit EM<br><br>Municipality of Famalicão<br>Polícia Municipal | Braga Business Association | Associação Moradores das Lameiras<br>Red Cross Braga<br>Assembleia de Moradores Braga<br>Bairro C | Minho University       |

|        |                                                                                                              |                                                                  |                                     |                                        |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Medium | Municipality of Barcelos<br>Municipality of Guimarães<br>CCDR_N<br>CIM Cávado<br>CIM Ave<br>Minho University | Guimarães Business Association<br>Famalicão Business Association | Caminho Coop<br>Synergia Associação | Minho University<br>IPCA – Politécnico |
| Low    | IPCA – Politécnico<br>PSP – Polícia                                                                          | Barcelos Business Association                                    | Casa da Criatividade de Barcelos    | Guimarães Business Association         |

There is a strong commitment from the Quadrilátero Region Cities and clear interest from several umbrella organization and Civic sector and the appointed ULGcoordinator is Carlos de Sousa Santos, from the Human Power Hub, Head of Acceleration Programmes will be the ULG Coordinator.

## Considerations

The city of Braga has expertise in community-driven projects that engage residents in decision-making, particularly around public space improvements and sustainability initiatives. Additionally, Braga can share insights into its success with digital transformation in municipal services, including the early adoption of digital tools for urban planning and citizen engagement.

In respects to the City of Vila Nova de Famalicão, the city has a strong experience in terms of social inclusion projects in public housing estates,

co-created with local inhabitants, therefore being able to share and deepen this know-how.<sup>11</sup>



*Image: playground in Lameiras social housing estate in Vila Nova de Famalicão*

<sup>11</sup> Further information on the project pilots in Quadrilátero Urbano is available on the bilateral visit article: [Braga \(PT\), 23- 24 january 2025 2nite Bilateral Visit | urbact.eu](#)

## 1.10 Cluj

Country: **Romania**

Name of Municipality (inter-municipality institution):

**Cluj-Napoca Municipality**

Name of Department: **Citizen Information Centre**

Population: **308.000**

Territorial dimension (area): **179.5km<sup>2</sup>**

### Main challenges

Cluj-Napoca, like many urban centers, faces specific challenges related to urban safety at night. Although it is generally regarded as one of Romania's safer cities, issues still arise in areas with high nightlife activity, a growing population, and infrastructure limitations. To address these concerns, the city has been implementing measures such as expanding public lighting, increasing surveillance in nightlife districts, enhancing police presence, and promoting initiatives that foster a safer nightlife environment. Improved transportation options and community policing programs are also being considered to help create a safer, more inclusive atmosphere after dark. Beyond physical infrastructure improvements, activating Cluj-Napoca's underused public spaces can also contribute significantly to urban safety. By transforming these areas into vibrant, well-utilized spaces, and finding the most suitable and inclusive utility, the city can create safer environments through increased foot traffic and visibility. This approach could foster a sense of shared ownership and collective responsibility among residents, strengthening community cohesion while enhancing neighborhood safety. Encouraging residents to participate in these revitalization efforts would

support both social engagement and safety, making it a win-win strategy for Cluj-Napoca as it works toward a more inclusive and secure urban environment. Therefore, it is essential for us to explore the methods developed by Turin, focusing on both the physical organization of spaces for nighttime activation and strategies to engage community members in proposing solutions that more effectively address real, existing needs.

### Main items of interest

| Turin innovative practice modules                                  | Cluj |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Empowerment and community engagement activities                 |      |
| 2. New storytelling for communication with and about the territory |      |
| 3. Urban regeneration interventions                                |      |
| 4. Activation of new proximity services                            |      |
| 5. Impact assessment framework                                     |      |
| 6. Development of a technological Platform (Urban Data Platform)   |      |

The city of Cluj-Napoca is interested in all of the listed items as they each contribute to our broader goals of enhancing urban safety, community engagement, and overall quality of life. Specifically, the city aims at prioritize the development of a technological platform (Urban Data Platform), which will provide valuable insights into urban dynamics and support data-driven decision-making to improve safety and planning. In addition, Cluj is keen on exploring new storytelling approaches to communicate with and about our territory, strengthening connections with

the community raise awareness of the existing opportunities and even promoting collaboration between local actors. The activation of new proximity services can create a pattern that will further improve accessibility inclusiveness and equal service delivery for residents in all areas and neighborhoods, while an impact assessment framework will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives and serve as a useful tool in other similar development projects. Empowerment and community engagement activities and urban regeneration interventions come as a great opportunity to continue and expand fostering active participation and the sense of ownership among residents a process Cluj started in the previous project, Co4Cities, by transforming public spaces into safer and more vibrant environments for the local community to use.

## 1\_Empowerment and community engagement activities

These experiences in community engagement serve as a foundation for more structured empowerment programs aimed at involving citizens in co designing and co-administration of public unused spaces, in an inclusive, innovative and efficient manner. Cluj is interested in adapting the innovative methods from Turin to our local context and find new tools that can be later scaled in other programs.

- Cluj-Napoca 2021-2027 Local Development Strategy-This long-term planning document outlines the city's development priorities, including urban regeneration, sustainability, mobility, and community welfare. It was developed through extensive consultations with local citizens and stakeholders, ensuring

that the development goals align with the needs and desires of the population.

- Cluj-Napoca's Participatory Budgeting Program- allows and encourages citizens to propose and vote on projects to improve their neighborhoods. A portion of the city's budget is allocated to fund projects that the public has chosen. This initiative empowers residents to directly influence the development of their communities, fostering a sense of ownership and active participation in urban planning.
- 2. Contests for solutions in urban regeneration, inviting citizens, architects, and urban planners to submit innovative ideas for revitalizing underutilized public spaces. These contests not only promote creativity but also encourage broad public involvement in transforming the city's landscape.
- FIX Cluj Innovation and Experiment Fund- encourages youth participation welcomes proposals from young people, including students, startups, and youth organizations, to engage them in solving real-world urban problems. By encouraging youth to participate, the program fosters the development of new ideas that are aligned with the needs and perspectives of younger generations.

## 2\_New storytelling for communication with and about the territory

Storytelling plays an important role in shaping Cluj-Napoca's identity and engaging the community in its urban development. In various urban regeneration projects, such as the revitalization of

public spaces or infrastructure improvements, Cluj-Napoca City Hall has employed storytelling techniques to share before-and-after narratives, explain the importance of the project, and communicate the positive impact on the community. In the context of Cluj's Smart City initiatives, storytelling is used to explain complex technologies, such as smart mobility and digital platforms, in a way that resonates with everyday citizens, helping them understand how these innovations improve their lives. Storytelling campaigns use various mediums, including social media, websites, and public events, to engage both residents and international audiences in discussions about the city's identity and vision. By using storytelling, Cluj connects its residents to these plans, fostering a sense of ownership and active participation in the city's continued transformation. New storytelling methods that include local actors and their stories would be an interesting learning the city is interested in implementing, and also a possible tool to foster community participation.

### 3\_Urban regeneration interventions

Cluj-Napoca has significant experience in urban regeneration interventions, focusing on revitalizing neglected or underused spaces and transforming them into vibrant, functional areas for the community. One notable example is the Piața Unirii renovation, where the city revitalized the central square, improving pedestrian access, enhancing public spaces, and integrating modern amenities while preserving the area's historical character. Another key project is the La Terenuri regeneration, a former industrial site transformed into a public park and cultural space that promotes community engagement and sustainability. Additionally, Cluj has worked on revitalizing the Someș Riverbanks,

turning neglected waterfront areas into green spaces and recreational areas, providing the public with opportunities for leisure and improving the overall quality of life. The city is committed to sustainable development, enhancing both its physical infrastructure and social cohesion, while fostering a greater sense of community ownership and engagement. Community driven initiatives and co-design activities are part of the city objectives alongside fostering public-private partnerships.

### 4\_Activation of new proximity services

Through participatory activities, Cluj-Napoca gained experience in supporting local stakeholders, including NGOs, universities, and third-sector organizations, in activating social, cultural and innovative activities, working also as a connector between these sectors and assuring a more efficient collaboration. The city fosters strong partnerships between universities and NGOs to address local needs, such as urban regeneration, mobility and digital transition. Universities served very well as a research partner in implementing European programs and assessing their impact. Urbact Co4Cities program, created a local URBACT group comprising NGOs, universities, and local authorities, collaborating to develop solutions for urban challenges in the utilization of urban common spaces.

### 5\_Impact assessment framework

Cluj-Napoca usually partners with local universities to conduct studies that assess the social outcomes of urban development projects. These evaluations allow the city to track improvements in public perception

and community well-being, ensuring that projects meet the intended social goals and adapting where necessary to better serve the community.

## 6\_Development of a technological Platform

Cluj-Napoca Municipality actively supports technological development and innovation. The local government has invested in turning Cluj into a smart

city and a leading digital innovation hub. The development of a technological platform can support urban data analysis and provide a better understanding of public space usage and safety patterns.

### ULG Group

|                    | Public sector                                                                                                                                 | Private sector                              | NGO/civic sector                                                                                                | Education and research                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| High involvement   | _Citizen Information Center<br>_Urban Culture Center<br>_Local Police Department<br>_The Inspectorate for Emergency Situations<br>Avram Iancu | _Iulius Group                               | _Cluster of Education<br>_Cluj Innovation and<br>_Experimentation Fund<br>_Youth Council<br>_Ascendis<br>_Lumen | _Babes Bolyai University:<br>_Faculty of Geography,<br>_Political Sciences and<br>_Public Administration<br>Faculty<br>_Technical University<br>_Kindergardens |
| Medium involvement | _Department of Property<br>_Cluj Metropolitan Association (ADI ZMC)<br>_National Government                                                   | _Cluj Hub<br>_Prysmian Romania<br>_NTT Data |                                                                                                                 | _Students                                                                                                                                                      |
| Low involvement    |                                                                                                                                               |                                             |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                |

The UrbaThe Urbact Local Group (ULG) in Cluj-Napoc aims to enhance community engagement by transforming public spaces into inclusive, dynamic, and collaboratively developed

environments. Using Feroviarilor Park as a pilot area, the project will explore strategies to foster citizen participation, encourage cultural and social activities, and strengthen sustainable public-private

partnerships. The objective is to develop a scalable model that can be adapted for use in other parts of the city, with neighborhood city halls serving as key facilitators.

- **Public Institutions as Community Catalysts**  
The Citizen Information Center and Urban Culture Center will facilitate continuous dialogue between the municipality and residents, ensuring that local voices are heard and actively involved in shaping public spaces. The Local Police Department and the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations "Avram Iancu" will guide the project in ensuring that public spaces are managed effectively, providing advice on safety measures and supporting diverse activities, including nighttime and youth-led events.
- **Neighborhood city halls can act as local hubs for engagement**, adapting the lessons learned in Feroviarilor Park to the specific communities in the neighborhood. By supporting residents in co-organizing events, reclaiming underutilized spaces, and fostering local identity, these institutions can ensure that participatory urbanism becomes a citywide practice rather than a one-time initiative.
- **Public-Private Collaboration & Innovation**  
Companies such as Iulius Group, Cluj Hub, and NTT Data can help integrate business and innovation into public space activation. Their contributions could range from placemaking initiatives and co-hosting community events to providing digital tools for citizen interaction. Infrastructure partners like Prysmian Romania could improve lighting, connectivity, and accessibility, making parks

and squares more attractive and functional after dark, and assuring equal opportunities for everyone.

- **Civic Engagement & Youth Participation**  
Organizations like Lumen, Ascendis, and the Cluj Innovation and Experimentation Fund can help us empower local residents, particularly youth, to take an active role in designing and animating public spaces. The Youth Council will ensure that young people's needs and ideas directly influence the vision and programming of Feroviarilor Park and future public space interventions. Community-driven activities—such as cultural events, creative workshops, social gatherings, and temporary urban interventions will make these spaces more welcoming and reflective of local identities.
- **Research, Storytelling & Learning for Scalable Impact**  
Babeş-Bolyai University and the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca can help us assess the outcomes of the project by conducting research on participatory governance, urban regeneration, and digital engagement. Additionally, Cluj will focus on learning more about storytelling as a tool for community engagement, capturing narratives that reflect the transformation of public spaces.

The ULG Coordinator is *Oana Muresan, chief of Service at the Citizen Information Center.*

## Considerations

Through the transfer network, Cluj-Napoca aims to gain deeper insights into effective community engagement techniques, activation and utility of

underused public spaces, as well as successful models of urban data platforms. Cluj wants to continue building on the knowledge gained from similar programs, explore, test and adapt to the local context the solutions Turin identified to maximize the utility and inclusiveness of the urban commons. Cluj is also interested in the development of the platform as an important instrument both for data collection and a place to promote and connect local initiatives.



The City can share our previous URBACT experiences, Innovato-R and Co4Cities that helped us have a better understanding on the possibilities to collaborate with the local community and also the experience of working with universities for research and evaluation of the activities. To develop our local project, Cluj aims at focusing on a pilot area that encompasses both urban regeneration and community engagement, particularly in areas currently underused. The objective of the project would be to activate these spaces in ways that

promote social inclusion, safety, and active participation from the local community. The city aims to create an environment that encourages cultural activities, social interaction, youth participation and innovation. In this sense, Cluj is considering finding extra utility to the seven neighborhood city halls after working hours and try to open it to the community in the area as libraries, exhibition spots or meeting points, but still have to explore and find the most suitable ways to transform and use these public offices.

The target groups for this project would include local residents, especially those living in Cluj neighborhoods, young people, students, and marginalized communities. Additionally, Cluj would engage NGOs, local cultural organizations, and university students in research and evaluation activities to assess the effectiveness of the interventions. By fostering collaboration between citizens, stakeholders, and researchers, Cluj seeks to create a sustainable, community-driven model that can be replicated in other areas of the city.

## 2.1 Assessment of the transfer potential

| Turin innovative practice modules                                 | Sant Boi | Riga | Quadrilatero (Braga – VNF) |  | Cluj |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------|----------------------------|--|------|
| 1_Empowerment and community engagement activities                 |          |      |                            |  |      |
| 2_New storytelling for communication with and about the territory |          |      |                            |  |      |
| 3_Urban regeneration interventions                                |          |      |                            |  |      |
| 4_Activation of new proximity services                            |          |      |                            |  |      |
| 5_Impact assessment framework                                     |          |      |                            |  |      |
| 6_Development of a technological Platform (Urban Data Platform)   |          |      |                            |  |      |

High transfer potential | Low transfer potential

- 1. Empowerment and community engagement activities:** The module presents a high replicability potential in partner cities due to the combination of former experience, political will and relatively low financial effort needed.
- 2. New storytelling for communication with and about the territory:** the module is not always easy to transfer because of the lack of former experience, at least applied to security and social inclusion matters.
- 3. Urban regeneration interventions:** this modules replicability depends largely on the financial possibility of investing on public space as well as the political will to focus on addressing social priority areas.
- 4. Activation of new proximity services:** the module has a high transferability potential, given the political and economic backup.
- 5. Impact assessment framework:** there is little interest from cities at this stage to implement the impact assessment framework within the project, also because this is connected to large scale interventions which are not applicable within URBACT funding.
- 6. Development of a technological Platform:** there is relatively good interest towards this module, but the original good practice from Turin in this part didn't reach the expected goals, therefore it cannot be much transferred.

This analysis of the six modules can be identified with different gradients of transferability:

- **High transferability** because the city already has a starting experience on the topic, political will and foreseen or allocated resources for implementation.

- **Low transferability** when the city has little or no former experience on the topic, reduced political commitment, maybe because of upcoming elections, and no foreseen resources available for the implementation.

The different 2Nite modules will comprise the Investment and Continuity plan of the partner cities.

03

# Transferability

## 03

### Transferability

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#### 2.2 Transfer Network Methodology

To ensure the successful development and implementation of Investment and Continuity Plans within the URBACT IV Innovative Transfer Networks, a series of four carefully structured transnational meetings will be convened. These meetings serve as crucial platforms for in-depth thematic and methodological exploration, providing essential support to participating partners throughout the various phases of their action plan development, adhering to the established roadmap of the URBACT IV initiative.

Each transnational meeting, designed to span between two and three days, will be hosted by a different partner city within the network. This hosting role entails significant responsibility, as the host city will collaborate closely with the Lead Expert and the Lead Partner in the meticulous preparation of the meeting's agenda. To ensure relevance and depth, each meeting will be strategically focused on a specific thematic area, drawing upon the expertise of local and national specialists and speakers from the host city's context.

Beyond the thematic focus, these meetings will also emphasize methodological development. Participants will engage in structured sessions designed to guide them through the intricate steps of co-creating their Investment and Continuity Plans. This process will be facilitated in a collaborative and engaging manner, fostering a dynamic exchange of inputs and

suggestions among partners, and enabling the tracking of progress in a collective setting. To further enhance the methodological support, Ad Hoc Experts possessing specialized thematic and methodological knowledge relevant to the meeting's topics may be invited to assist the Lead Expert in facilitating specific sessions.

A characteristic of these transnational meetings will be their strong interactive and participatory dimension. Participants will have the opportunity to explore inspiring case studies and best practices, engaging in thoughtful discussions about their potential adaptation to diverse contexts. Furthermore, a "Marketplace of Solutions" will be established to provide partners with a rich source of inspiration for potential financial mechanisms to support their project.

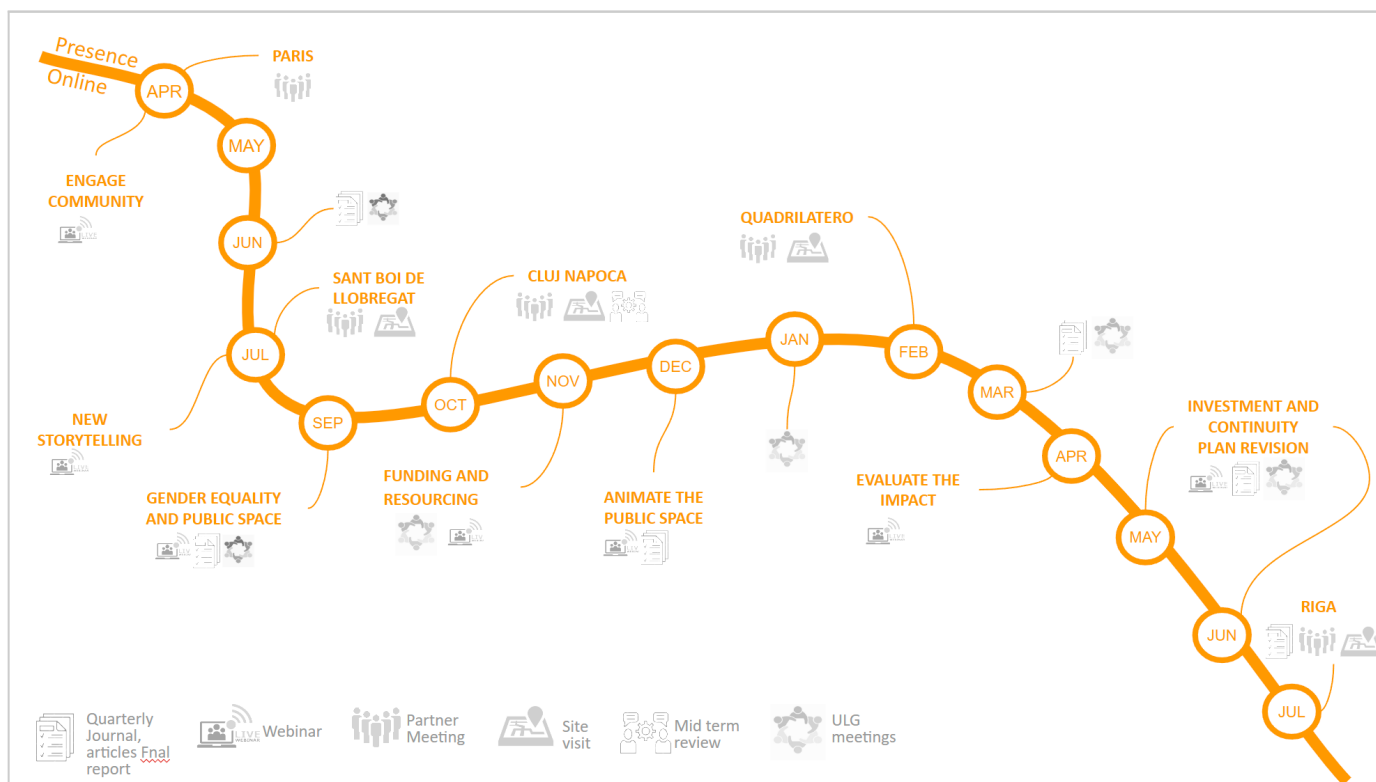
To ensure active engagement from all participants, a variety of facilitation techniques will be employed, including World Café, Lateral Thinking, Fishbowl Discussion, and Brainstorming. The selection of these techniques will be carefully tailored to the specific topic of each session. Prior to each meeting, the Lead Expert will provide detailed guidelines regarding the composition of each city's delegation, emphasizing the importance of gender-balanced participation and the inclusion of relevant civic officials, elected representatives, and members of the URBACT Local Group (ULG), or the ULG coordinator, depending on the meeting's focus.

## 2.3 Network roadmap and outputs

The partnership will follow a carousel methodology, therefore ensuring a multilateral exchange of knowledge and experiences amongst partners, rather than a one way process with the Turin practice only. In fact, the outputs of the network will be Investment plans for all partner cities, that based on the good practice of the City of Turin will develop their own strategy and financial scheme to implement the chosen modules of the ToNite practice. In the case of

April 2025:

- Online meeting on Online workshop on how to engage the community: mapping existing actors and collaboration mechanisms, engaging key local stakeholders, developing a common vision and a broad collaboration framework, with a special focus on gender and youth.
- Always in April there will be an in presence meeting in Paris organised by the URBACT Secretariat to kick off the following phase of the project.



Turin the output will be a Continuity Plan, therefore focusing on the possibility for the city to continue and expand the good practice, developing a financial scheme for the city and the civic organisations taking part in the program.

In order to reach this goal, the project foresees a roadmap (see Image below).

June 2025:

- Network Meeting organised and hosted by the city of Sant Boi de Llobregat on Empowerment and community engagement activities.
- Site visit in Sant Boi de Llobregat and Barcelona to relevant project sites and meeting local stakeholders.

- Quarterly Network Journal and articles

#### September 2025

- Online meeting on New storytelling for communication with and about the territory, special focus on digitalisation.
- Quarterly Network Journal and articles

#### October 2025

- Online workshop on gender equality and public space: identifying how public space can be perceived, used and planned differently according to gender, discussing various strategies across good practices in Europe, which stakeholders to engage, which methodologies to apply.

#### November 2025:

- Network Meeting organised and hosted by the city of Cluj-Napoca on Urban regeneration interventions and Mid Term Review.
- Site visit in Cluj to relevant project sites and meeting local stakeholders.

#### December 2025:

- Quarterly Network Journal and articles

#### January 2026

- Online workshops on animating the public space: identifying possible services to be activated in the area, consistent with its vocations and potential and with the skills of local actors and communities), special focus on placemaking

#### March 2026:

- Network Meeting organised and hosted by the city of in Braga by Quadrilatero Urbano focusing on the peer-review of draft

Investment and Continuity plans, focusing on Activation of new proximity services.

- Site visit in Braga and Vila Nova de Famalicão to relevant project sites and meeting local stakeholders.
- Quarterly Network Journal and articles

#### April 2026:

- Online workshops on evaluating the impact: developing a model to evaluate the impact of the different project actions on the territory and to measure the change achieved with respect to the perception of safety.

#### May – June 2026

- Online workshops on revising the Investment and Continuity plans
- Quarterly Network Journal and articles

#### July 2026

- Final event organised and hosted by the city of Riga with the support of the LP to spread the project results.
- Site visit in Riga to relevant project sites and meeting local stakeholders.
- Final Network Report

## 2.4 Communication and dissemination

2Nite communication activities will be addressed to achieve three main objectives:

1. Disseminate knowledge about the 2Nite 's features, challenges and results to feed the Exchange and Learning process within the Transfer Network;
2. Boost stakeholders' engagement;

3. Make a wide audience know about the 2Nite Innovation Transfer Networks, its challenges and achievements

The specific objectives result from the intersection between the main objectives and the need to make the communication work on two different levels, corresponding to different contexts and targets: the local level and the network level.

- Transfer the results of activities carried out at local level and at network level to all Target Audiences;
- Share and facilitate the access to the 2Nite project activities and outputs about collaborative practices that have been carried out;
- Encourage the coordination all partners to share communication materials about their local context, in order to bring out common elements and to stimulate a multidirectional communication that will strengthen the relationship between partners;
- Provide the visibility to the project, by informing the wider public on the project's activities on an on-going basis;
- Disseminate the project outputs to maximize the impact of the Network achievements and spread project results.

## 2.5 Conclusions and overall assessment

The 2Nite project offers the opportunity to explore the meaning of urban security and social inclusion in public space by developing a non securitarian approach but instead a way to emancipate and include communities to make spaces livelier and safer. 2Nite aims to create cities where people feel safe, secure, and able to live their lives without fear. This requires a commitment to addressing both the tangible and intangible aspects of safety, fostering

social cohesion, and building resilient communities. For these reasons it is essential to focus on security perception in public space.

The perception of security in public spaces is not a trivial matter, it's a fundamental element that shapes the very fabric of urban life. When individuals feel safe, they are empowered to fully engage with their surroundings, fostering a sense of community and contributing to the overall well-being of the city. Conversely, a pervasive sense of insecurity can lead to social isolation, economic stagnation, and a diminished quality of life. Addressing security perception is therefore not merely a matter of crime statistics, but a crucial undertaking that involves creating inclusive and welcoming environments. This requires a multi-faceted approach, encompassing urban design, community engagement, and effective communication strategies. By prioritizing the perception of safety, we can cultivate vibrant public spaces that are accessible and enjoyable for everyone, fostering a stronger, more resilient urban community.

This will be done by tailoring the transfer of each module to the partnership, because the potential for replicating urban development modules across partner cities reveals a spectrum of feasibility. Empowerment and community engagement stand out for their high replicability, leveraging existing experience and political will with minimal financial burden. Conversely, new storytelling for communication faces challenges due to a lack of prior experience in applying it to security and social inclusion. Urban regeneration interventions are contingent on financial capacity and political prioritization of social areas. Activation of new proximity services demonstrates strong

transferability, supported by political and economic factors. However, the impact assessment framework encounters limited interest due to its association with large-scale interventions beyond URBACT funding. Finally, while there's interest in developing a technological platform, the original good practice's shortcomings in Turin hinder its transferability.

Special attention will be posed towards transversal elements that will help the security perception being stronger:

- **Gender equality:** women's perception of security in public spaces is crucial because it directly impacts their freedom and ability to fully participate in society. Due to higher risks of gender-based violence, women often experience heightened vulnerability, leading to restricted mobility and increased anxiety. This perception is shaped by societal factors, urban design, and personal experiences, making it essential to address these concerns to create equitable and safe public environments for all.
- **Environment:** when planning green spaces, the perception of security is paramount. Safe-feeling environments encourage usage, maximizing the recreational and social benefits these spaces offer. Design elements like clear sightlines, adequate lighting, and

well-maintained areas are crucial in fostering this sense of security. Conversely, poorly designed spaces can deter visitors, negating the intended positive impact on community well-being.

- Ultimately, prioritizing perceived safety ensures that green spaces become vibrant, inclusive hubs that contribute to a healthier and more connected society.
- **Digitalisation:** open data is vital for shaping perceptions of public space security by fostering transparency and empowering communities. Access to crime statistics, incident reports, and safety initiatives builds trust in institutions and enables data-driven decision-making for targeted interventions. Citizens can actively participate in safety initiatives, and public awareness campaigns can disseminate accurate information, reducing fear. Furthermore, open data facilitates the creation of innovative tools, like safety-focused apps. However, responsible data sharing with robust privacy safeguards is essential to balance transparency with ethical considerations and prevent misuse.

*Image: Partner meeting workshop*



