

2Nite Journal #2

March - September 2025



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Introduction

The second Network Journal of 2Nite highlights the activities carried out at transnational and local level between March and September 2025. The development of the strategic objectives and actions of the Integrated Action Plans (IAPs) is preparing the ground for their operationalization and the identification of potential resources for the consolidation of urban security in public space through social inclusion.

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2Nite civic engagement to build safer and more inclusive cities

The 2Nite project centers on innovative civic engagement to transform public spaces, moving beyond traditional security measures toward co-produced urban safety and liveability. At the heart of this approach are Co-Design Workshops and Pacts of Collaboration. Co-design is a participatory methodology where residents, city officials, police, and NGOs collaborate as equal partners to collaboratively define problems, such as why people feel unsafe, and then collectively develop human-centered solutions. This process, often informed by extensive ethnographic research, like surveys and urban walks, ensures that interventions are accepted and meet the community's genuine needs, rather than being imposed from above. Building on this co-design, Pacts of Collaboration provide the essential mechanism for implementation. Rooted in the concept of urban commons, these are formal agreements between the municipality and citizen groups, like associations in Turin or youth in San Boi de Llobregat, to jointly take care of and activate a public asset or space. By utilizing these Collaboration Pacts, the project formalizes the partnership, sharing both the ownership and responsibility for regeneration efforts, be it activating neighbourhood halls after hours like in Cluj or creating new local services along the riverfront as in Turin, thereby institutionalizing citizen participation and making the solutions sustainable.

Experiences of civic engagement in the 2Nite partnership

City (Partner Role)	Focus and key challenges	Objective and main goals	Methods and activities
Turin (Lead Partner)	Integrated, community-based urban security and regeneration, especially reclaiming nighttime spaces along the Dora River.	Ensure the continuity and sustainability of co-designed security and social services (post-ToNite) and provide financial empowerment to local organizations.	Impatto Program: Allocates €150k grants to local NGOs for public space services (e.g., open-air cinema). Mixed ULG meetings (Impatto + environmental projects). Co-designed urban regeneration.
Sant Boi de Llobregat	Youth Population (ages 12-18), safe leisure, and addressing conflicts in the nighttime environment.	Define "safe leisure" for youth, create a safe nighttime environment, and implement a three-level support structure (avoidance,	JESA Sant Boi: Youth-focused sports and educational initiative. Survey mapping of youth nighttime experiences and the role of surveillance. Dedicated

		intervention, repair) for youth disputes.	ULG with the Youth Department.
Quadrilatero	Integrated Neighbourhood Development and resident participation.	Ongoing focus on improving local quality of life and perceived security through small-scale, resident-led action and coordinated local services.	"Programa Viva o Bairro" (2nd Edition): A bottom-up program for neighborhood development. Focus on connecting local services (Viva Bairro) and inter-municipal collaboration (Famíliao).
Riga	Working with established local structures; addressing challenges in Soviet-era block buildings (often on private property).	Facilitate community engagement and project development through local resources, and accurately gather diverse resident perceptions of safety (including vulnerable groups).	Utilizing the Riga Neighbourhood Residents' Centre and its 7 coordinators. 3 survey methods: online questionnaire, written police interviews, and explanatory walks at night (with youth, women, seniors, and disabled citizens).
Cluj-Napoca	Urban regeneration and community engagement in specific, rapidly changing neighbourhoods (Iris) and currently underused areas (river bank).	Activate spaces to promote social inclusion and safety. Measure the changing perception of safety in the Iris neighbourhood. Explore multi-use of municipal neighborhood halls.	Engaging neighborhood architects for local participation. ULG meeting with the education sector and university representatives. Development of a new questionnaire during Cluj Days. Pavilion inauguration in Park.

City overviews



Turin

Turin's participation in the ToNite project was predicated on robust civic engagement, transforming urban safety from a policing issue into a co-produced community asset, particularly in the marginalized areas along the Dora River. The city first utilized ethnographic research and Co-Design Workshops to move beyond crime statistics and genuinely understand residents' perceptions of insecurity and their vision for the night, involving hundreds of citizens in shaping the solutions. The institutional backbone of this engagement was the use of Pacts of Collaboration (*Patti di Collaborazione*), which are formal, legal agreements between the Municipality and citizen groups to co-manage and co-care for public spaces, ensuring long-term sustainability. Most significantly, Turin employed a €1 million Call for Proposals—a co-designed mechanism—that funded 19 local social impact projects, which were led by community organizations. These efforts successfully activated the community, resulting in over 2,200 events and the revitalization of key spaces like Viale Ottavio Mai, demonstrating how shared responsibility and collective action can effectively reclaim and reimagine the nighttime city.

Riga

The Riga Neighbourhood Residents' Centre (AIC) is a crucial municipal unit established to bridge the gap between the City Council and the public, acting as a "one-stop agency" for residents' needs and a key driver of civic engagement in the city. The Centre facilitates a

more decentralized and responsive administration through its territorial customer service points and the work of Neighbourhood Coordinators (seven of whom are actively involved in the 2Nite project). These coordinators are the primary municipal point of contact for residents, proactively identifying local needs, informing citizens about participation opportunities—such as the Participatory Budgeting Competition—and streamlining the process for community initiatives like placing a bench or organizing a local event. For the 2Nite project, the AIC's established network is essential for implementing the project's non-securitarian approach, particularly in areas like Purvciems, by directly engaging local communities to understand their perception of safety at night and collaboratively co-designing solutions to create livelier and safer public spaces.

Quadrilatero

The "Programa Viva o Bairro" (Long Live the Neighbourhood Program) in Braga, led by BragaHabit and the Municipality, is a key local civic engagement mechanism designed to foster active citizenship and promote local development in priority neighbourhoods. The program functions as a competitive call for proposals, empowering Residents' Associations and local non-profit groups to submit projects focused on improving living conditions in areas like social cohesion, education, and health. Projects that demonstrate strong community participation and sustainability are selected and then receive up to €20,000 in 100% funding, with the partnership formalized through the signing of Collaboration Protocols. This systematic, community-driven approach ensures that interventions are directly relevant to the needs identified by the residents themselves, embodying the principle of co-production seen across the broader 2Nite civic engagement model.

Cluj-Napoca

The FIX (Cluj Innovation & eXperiment Fund) program in Cluj-Napoca is a community-driven, hybrid incubator designed to boost social innovation and youth entrepreneurship. Implemented through a partnership between the Cluj-Napoca City Hall, the C-EDU Education Cluster, and the Botnar Foundation, the program is the result of a co-design process within the city's innovation ecosystem. Targeting young people aged 16 to 26 who live, study, or work in Cluj-Napoca, FIX provides a structured, multi-phase journey. It begins with a Pre-incubator phase for learning and problem validation, followed by an intensive Incubator phase. Teams selected to advance receive progressive non-reimbursable funding (up to €50,000) and access to personalized mentoring and specialized training to develop innovative, technology-based solutions that tackle pressing social challenges in the community. This unique public-private funding model and its focus on growing sustainable, high-impact startups demonstrate Cluj's commitment to institutionalizing youth civic engagement as a driver of urban development.

Sant Boi de Llobregat

The JESA (Joventut Esportiva, Societat Activa - Active Sporting Youth, Active Society) program in Sant Boi de Llobregat is a municipal project designed to foster civic engagement and positive habits among adolescents and young people aged 12 to 18. JESA utilizes physical and sports activities as a central tool to promote health, social values, and prevent social risks like early school leaving and sedentary lifestyles, which is a key challenge highlighted by the World Health Organization. The program focuses on inclusivity by offering free, open, and accessible activities—often coordinated by specialized sports educators—in public and educational spaces during non-school hours, including evenings, to align with the city's broader efforts under the 2Nite project to enhance nighttime safety and alternative leisure. By engaging youth in positive group activities, JESA aims to improve their emotional well-being and social skills, thereby contributing to a more cohesive, healthier, and actively engaged young population within Sant Boi.



Engagement themes

- Qualitative Understanding (Sonia Puyol's Question): The question "did you ask directly to people why they felt unsafe in those specific areas?" highlights the critical importance of direct, qualitative community consultation to understand the perception of safety and the root causes of insecurity, rather than solely relying on crime statistics.
- Intangible vs. Tangible: Projects combine physical interventions (urban regeneration) with intangible investments (local services, cultural activities, storytelling) to build social cohesion.
- Co-Design and Ownership: The approach emphasizes that interventions must emerge from the community ("not imposed from above") to ensure they are accepted and sustainable, often achieved through tools like Co-design workshops.



About youth engagement in Sant Boi de Llobregat

Fostering urban security is inextricably linked to actively engaging young people and promoting their social inclusion, positioning them not as subjects of surveillance but as protagonists in shaping their urban environment. It's critical to develop activities where youth can truly take ownership and feel empowered to develop and lead their own initiatives in public spaces. This shift in approach requires public administrations to make targeted financial investments and dedicate accessible spaces for these activities. By working closely with experienced civic organizations and NGOs, administrations can ensure these programs effectively nurture essential skills, cooperation, and positive behaviors among young participants. This collaborative model is especially vital given the increasing challenges posed by youth violence, "baby gangs," and gender-based aggression within youth populations. Therefore, integrating security and inclusion initiatives directly into schools and youth centers is paramount, ensuring support and intervention are available where young people spend the most time, ultimately building resilience and preventing exclusion.

The JESA program exemplifies a successful shift in urban security philosophy, positioning adolescents and young people (aged 12-18) as central protagonists rather than mere targets for intervention or surveillance. Its core principle is the use of free, accessible sports and physical activities to foster social inclusion and improve safety in public spaces.

1. **Ownership of Public Space:** By providing structured, engaging, and non-competitive activities in local public parks and school facilities, JESA gives youth positive, active control over the nighttime environment. This approach converts underutilized or potentially problematic public spaces into zones of positive, shared leisure.
2. **Addressing Social Risks:** JESA operates strategically during non-school hours and evenings, filling the critical gap when youth are most vulnerable to boredom, anti-social behavior, and peer pressure. By promoting collaboration and skill-building through sport, the program directly counters rising challenges associated with youth violence, school dropout rates, and social exclusion.
3. **Co-Production through Collaboration:** The program is delivered by specialized sports educators and runs in close collaboration with the local Youth Department and civic organizations. This partnership ensures professional guidance focused on teaching values, mutual respect, and positive group dynamics, which are essential for tackling issues like gender-based aggression and building a truly inclusive community.

In Sant Boi, JESA proves that investing in the holistic development and empowerment of young residents is the most powerful and sustainable form of urban security intervention.

Focusing on youth: key items and next steps

The recent Sant Boi de Llobregat meeting highlighted a strong commitment to community empowerment and the co-production of urban safety, particularly focusing on the municipality's youth population and nighttime environment.

Sant Boi de Llobregat

- **ULG Activation:** Sant Boi structured its Urban Local Group (ULG) meeting around the Youth Department, bringing together representatives from various municipal departments to align and explain the project's goals.
- **Mapping Nighttime Youth Experiences:** A primary activity involves survey mapping of current municipal experiences and programs aimed at youngsters at night. The goal is to define what "safe leisure" means to youth and to analyze the role and perception of surveillance in these spaces.
- **Priorities:** The core intervention priorities remain community engagement, storytelling, and enhancing services—often channeled through city grant mechanisms.
- **Challenge:** A significant amount of work is still required to effectively reach out to and mobilize local organizations to participate in the program's activities.

Quadrilatero

- **Quadrilatero Stakeholder Focus:** The local ULG meeting focused on mapping stakeholder perceptions of security in public spaces, noting that surveillance and IT solutions received considerable attention. The next ULG will shift focus to night policy. The ULG was uniquely composed by identifying relevant stakeholders directly rather than going through existing city departments.

Turin

- **Turin's Continuity (Impatto Program):** Turin is enacting its sustainability plan for the ToNite project through the Impatto program, allocating €150,000 for each organization to develop public space services, demonstrating a continued investment in co-designed social impact. Examples include three NGOs collaborating to create an open-air cinema, showcasing effective cross-sector service development.

Riga

- **Diverse Data Methods:** Riga employed three methods for gathering citizen security perceptions: an online questionnaire (lacked youth input), written interviews by police, and crucial explanatory walks at night with women and youngsters (with plans for seniors and disabled citizens).
- **Intervention Obstacle:** A key challenge identified is that many problematic areas contributing to insecurity are on private property (like the shared spaces in

Soviet-era blocks), which limits the Municipality's ability to intervene directly through urban planning or physical regeneration.

Cluj

- **Neighbourhood Focus:** Cluj is concentrating its efforts on the Iris neighbourhood in the north, an area undergoing significant change with many new residents.
- **Engagement Strategy:** Efforts are underway to involve neighbourhood architects for local participation and to integrate the education sector and university representatives into the ULG.
- **Data and Projects:** A new questionnaire will measure the evolving perception of safety in Iris. Recent achievements include the inauguration of a pavilion in a local park in June, with a future connection planned to the Climagen project focusing on riverbank pilot areas.



Webinar on Civic Engagement

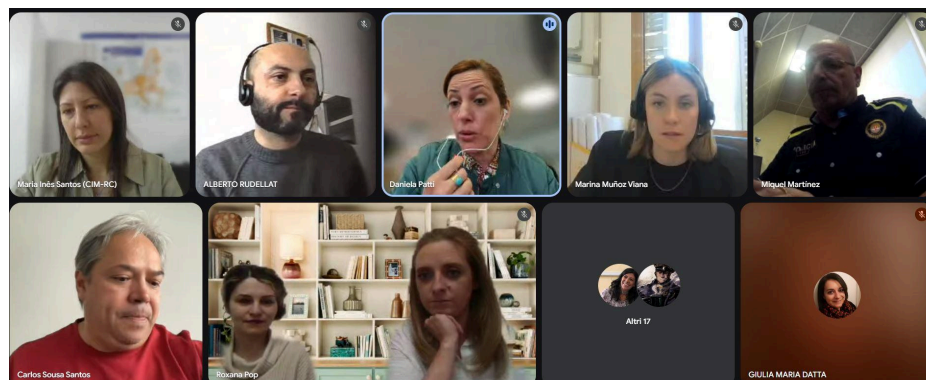
On the 8th May 2025 we held an online webinar in which all partners involved their local stakeholders, part of their ULG, in order to share a concrete example of civic engagement in the creation of public space.



True civic inclusion in the transformation of public spaces requires shifting the community's role from passive spectators to active co-designers. When public spaces are developed with the community rather than just for them, the outcomes are more equitable, resilient, and reflective of local identity.

To achieve meaningful inclusion in public space development, the process typically focuses on several core areas:

- **Democratizing the Design Process:** Utilizing deliberate democracy tools, such as citizens' assemblies and co-creation workshops, ensures that marginalized or traditionally underrepresented groups have an equal seat at the table.
- **Accessibility and Social Equity:** Designing public spaces through an inclusive lens means prioritizing universal accessibility, safe multi-generational use, and welcoming environments that counter social isolation.
- **Balancing Urban Regeneration with Stability:** Integrating nature-based solutions and vibrant public space improvements while actively monitoring and mitigating the negative pressures of the sharing economy and gentrification on housing affordability.
- **Fostering Community Stewardship:** When citizens actively participate in mapping and imagining their public spaces, they develop a sense of ownership. This collective stewardship is vital for the long-term maintenance, vitality, and social cohesion of the neighborhood.



The URBACT 2Nite program brings together cities like Turin, Riga, Quadrilatero Urbano, Cluj-Napoca, and Sant Boi de Llobregat under the shared mission of "Building Together Secure Public Spaces". The shared materials illustrate a clear pipeline of how civic inclusion moves from high-level program design to localized, physical transformations:

- **Incubation and Program Design:** Inclusive public space initiatives benefit from a structured incubation design. This process begins with continuously prototyping, testing, and validating community concepts using a lean mentality, backed by personalized learning and mentorship to prepare local teams for pilot execution.
- **Transversal and Association-Led Integration:** The case study from Barcelona demonstrates how civic inclusion can be embedded through local public services like sports and education, working directly alongside local social organizations. This ensures that public spaces are activated in ways that directly serve local youth and marginalized communities.
- **Formalizing Co-Creation via Collaboration Agreements:** a "Collaboration Agreement" for a public space intervention. This blueprint maps out community-led tactical urbanism, including specific elements like:
 - Tactical urbanism zoning and flower beds curated with new shrubs.
 - Community-supportive infrastructure like book-crossing corners, bike racks, and public benches decorated by local schools.
 - Physical transformations (e.g., painted benches and highlighted flowerbed frames) that mirror the community's active design input.

Structural Comparison of Civic Inclusion Across the 2Nite Network

Network alignment	Establishing transnational exchange among diverse cities (Turin, Riga, Cluj-Napoca, etc.) to share community engagement strategies for securing public spaces.
Capacity building	Implementing an incubation model that builds community capacity through personalized learning, lean prototyping, and mentorship.
Cross-sector activation	Utilizing transversal projects that link municipal public services with local grassroots sports and social associations.
Physical and spatial execution	Formalizing responsibilities via Collaboration Agreements to implement physical tactical urbanism, inclusive seating, and greening.