

URBACT
Innovation Transfer Network
2Nite Investment Plan
for Riga, Latvia



2026

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1. The policy context

1.1. Needs analysis in the territorial context

Most of the Soviet era neighbourhood units in Riga, Latvia consist of vast areas between buildings and uncanny courtyards; together with insufficient public infrastructure these neighbourhoods have long been associated with antisocial behaviour, street crime, insecurity particularly at night. Due to high-rise housing, lack of human scale and overly large public areas, the neighbourhoods crucially lack the so-called “eyes on the street”; also, the public spaces most often are used for transit instead of spending time and they lack space for business opportunities or sports that could improve the natural surveillance especially at night. Purvciems neighbourhood is one of them.



Purvciems neighbourhood from above

In addition, Purvciems is the most populated neighbourhood in Riga (52 000 inhabitants), more than half of the residents are Russian speakers, the level of civic engagement is low, and weak community ties are characteristic of the area. Therefore, working with the Purvciems neighbourhood comes with many challenges.

1.2. The policy response

The project's goal in Riga directly addresses Cohesion Policy's Article 3 (chapter "e/(i)") - fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic, and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in urban areas.

The project will follow the New Leipzig charter (NLC) in numerous ways - urban challenges are pronounced at the neighbourhood level, specific neighbourhood policies will encourage local commitment for community building and inclusiveness. A neighbourhood with a multitude of complex socioeconomic challenges has been chosen in Riga for the project, and tailor-made policy programmes and funding will be developed to address the challenges. The chosen neighbourhood is regarded as potential laboratory for innovative approaches, and decision-makers in local authorities set strategic guidelines and specific operations for their development together with neighbourhood communities.

2. The investment proposal

2.1. Background to the proposal

The Investment Plan defines actions for physical interventions of urban regeneration and intangible social innovation investments to support the creation of local communities and to empower existing communities to take action in the Purvciems neighbourhood.

2.2. Our starting point

Although police statistics show that Purvciems is a fairly safe neighbourhood, residents have their own prejudices and experiences that shape their subjective sense of safety. Until now, the dominant public opinion was that a sense of safety in public outdoor spaces after dark is created by good lighting and police presence; however, gathering the opinions of Purvciems residents in the beginning of the project revealed that while they feel relatively safe, the biggest issue is mutual mistrust. This stems from weak community ties. Paradoxically, in Purvciems – the most populated neighbourhood in Riga – there are very limited opportunities for residents to regularly meet, network, and collaborate, which is why the project paid special attention to this aspect.

2.3. The adapted version of the innovative practice

Riga is highly inspired by Turin's success story regarding close cooperation with communities; however, we realize that our pilot neighbourhood Purvciems lacks such strong communities. Therefore, it is clear that Riga cannot adopt Turin's experience one-to-one and must adapt to the local situation.

Riga aims to adopt Turin's approach of combining physical interventions with immaterial actions. As well as Turin, Riga believes that urban security is strongly related to the liveability of an area, the quality of life and quality of public space, which can foster community ties.

2.4. The integrated approach and the participative process

The project's official ULG was compact, involving other stakeholders on an ad-hoc basis: residents, apartment building activists, local NGOs, public administration representatives and local politicians.

The ULG was led by Daiga Mežale, neighbourhood coordinator at the Riga Neighborhood Residents Center, who works with the Purvciems neighbourhood on a daily basis. Officially, the ULG comprised five representatives from the Riga Municipal Police, two representatives from the State Police, as well as two Riga City Council members – one of whom is an urban planner (before

being elected, an employee of the City Development Department), and the other, the Head of the Education, Culture, and Sports Committee. A representative from the Purvciems Development Association was also part of the ULG, representing local residents.

The Riga Municipal Police and the State Police not only provided data on safety in Purvciems but also actively participated.

Riga Municipal Police officers conducted street survey among neighbourhood residents regarding safety, using a methodology developed within the Horizon 2020 program project IcARUS (<https://www.icarus-innovation.eu/>). A total of 108 respondents participated.

Meanwhile, experts from the State Police Prevention Management Bureau carried out an assessment of an undeveloped, municipality-owned courtyard in Purvciems from a safe urban planning perspective and provided their recommendations. In the project, this courtyard was named the Andromeda Courtyard.

A representative from the City Development Department developed the explanatory walks method, which was applied multiple times throughout the project. During these explanatory walks, affected parties explained their reality to other participants of the walk (including ULG members), pointing out elements in the urban environment and daily life that create a sense of insecurity. The objective of the walks was to understand the real experience of various underrepresented social groups during evenings and nights. Three explanatory walks were conducted in Purvciems with youth, women, and senior focus groups (8 persons in total).



Explanatory walk with senior focus group



Explanatory walk with youth focus group

During the Purvciems Neighbourhood Festival, a survey of residents' opinions on neighbourly relations was conducted using tablets. This activity provided valuable insights into how people perceive their local community, their sense of belonging, and opportunities to strengthen connections among neighbours. The collected feedback highlighted the importance of creating spaces and activities that encourage people to meet, interact, and get to know one another. The

shared views served as inspiration for organizing several storytelling and community-bonding activities in Purvciems together with our cooperation partners – Micromarcorayon, Blockhouse Community, and the British Council in Latvia.



Purvciems Neighbourhood Festival



Purvciems Neighbourhood Festival

Architect Līga Ramata from Micromarcorayon led residents on an educational tour of Purvciems, sharing insights about the neighbourhood's architecture and inviting participants to capture a 'sense of coziness' using disposable cameras. The tour concluded in the Andromeda Courtyard, where participants informally discussed their experiences and networked. The objective of the activity was to look at Purvciems not merely as a dormitory district, but as a place where a sense of coziness is created. This was a popular activity with an optimal number of participants: 35 residents.



Educational tour of Purvciems



Gathering at the Andromeda Courtyard

Blockhouse Community carried out a campaign in one of the apartment buildings next to the Andromeda Courtyard, placing disposable cameras with instructions in the stairwells and inviting the building's residents to photograph something cozy in their homes or the courtyard. The objective of the activity was to foster neighbourly relations within this specific building by giving neighbours a reason to talk to each other. Admittedly, resident engagement was low – only 15

frames were obtained from 12 cameras, and in some stairwells, posters with instructions were torn down.



Disposable camera campaign in the apartment building

In the Andromeda Courtyard, which is surrounded by several apartment buildings, Blockhouse Community organized a community-bonding event for the residents of these neighbouring buildings. Residents were invited to bring homemade jams or pickles for tasting and recipe sharing, as well as to paint solar-powered light jars that were later hung in the courtyard's trees. The event also featured an exhibition of photographs from the Purvciems tour and the neighbouring building's photo campaign. In addition, participants had the opportunity to express their views on the development of the courtyard using a mapping method. The objective of the activities was to start bringing the Andromeda Courtyard to life even before its official improvement. Due to heavy rain, attendance was low – 15 people.



Community-Building event in the Andromeda courtyard

Meanwhile, the British Council in Latvia led training sessions and a hackathon for activists from Purvciems apartment buildings. The training participants acquired knowledge on community building and worked on activities to foster community cohesion within their own buildings during the hackathon. The winning idea was an outdoor movie night in one of the apartment building courtyards, which the respective team of participants successfully implemented with municipal

support. The objective of the activities was to empower active residents to take initiative themselves. A total of 10 activists participated.



Community Building Training



Hackathon for Purvciems community activists

Thanks to the involvement of Purvciems residents, the neighbourhood's unsafe locations were identified, along with the factors that create a sense of insecurity. In addition to the previously mentioned forms of engagement, mapping of unsafe locations was carried out on the georiga.lv platform, involving 182 respondents.

To seek solutions for improving the sense of safety, four thematic workshops were organized as part of the project's mid-term report event, covering the following topics: public order and safety; streets and mobility; courtyards and green zones; and communities and civic engagement. The workshops were attended by 40 colleagues from the State Police, the Riga Municipal Police, the City Development Department, the Outdoor Space and Mobility Department, the Housing and Environment Department, and the Welfare Department, as well as several Riga City Council members – committee chairs. In total, around 30 proposals were developed; however, the Investment Plan includes only those that align closest with Turin's experience and are already on the municipality's agenda.



Thematic Workshops



Mid-term report event

Throughout the entire process, the discussions addressed all financial, social, environmental, and institutional dimensions of the safety issue. By involving residents, municipal departments, and other stakeholders, the process demonstrated that safety is a complex and interconnected challenge requiring both physical interventions and community-based solutions. The collected insights contributed to the development of the Investment Plan, combining local knowledge with institutional expertise to identify feasible and sustainable actions for Purvciems.

3. The adapted innovation project

3.1. The value proposition

The Investment Plan outlines a strategic regeneration plan for the Purvciems neighbourhood, centred on the fundamental goal of improving the sense of safety and security for its residents. By addressing the physical decay of Soviet-era infrastructure and fostering active social cohesion, the Investment Plan transforms outdated, vulnerable spaces into vibrant, well-lit, and community-managed areas. Through a combination of large-scale mobility improvements, such as the new Metrobus line, and grassroots initiatives like the "Masters of Riga" project, the Investment Plan creates an environment where physical interventions and active human presence work together to restore a sense of belonging and security.

3.2. The workplan

Project / Activity	How it enhances safety	Safety impact
1/5 Masters of Riga	Fosters acquaintance, mutual trust, and cohesion among residents of apartment buildings through dialogue circles and community events.	A cohesive neighbourhood community builds a stronger sense of belonging, reduces social isolation, and encourages residents to take collective responsibility for their building and its surroundings.
2/5 Community Center	Repurposes vacant municipal kindergarten premises into an active space for events, youth, seniors, and social services, encouraging constant community presence.	An active and vibrant area prevents the feeling of neglect. Co-designing spaces with target groups (such as teenage girls) creates a physically and emotionally safe environment.
Andromeda Courtyard	Reclaims and landscapes an undeveloped residential courtyard based on State Police safe urban planning recommendations.	Transforms a transit route into an inviting recreational area. Regular resident activity creates natural surveillance, significantly reducing safety risks and improving the overall sense of security.

Dreilīkalns Park	Develops and functionally organizes the expansive green area near Dreilīkalns Hill, actively involving local associations, schools, and youth in shaping its future vision.	Creates a sustainable, well-maintained, and functional environment. Involving residents in planning builds a sense of ownership and responsibility, reducing vandalism.
Metrobus Line	Alongside dedicated transport lanes, it upgrades sidewalks, adds bike paths, installs new stops, provides additional lighting, and enhances urban greenery.	Replaces outdated, degraded infrastructure – which previously generated feelings of insecurity – with a well-lit and clear environment for pedestrians and commuters alike.

Masters of Riga

The project “Masters of Riga” is a social innovation initiative addressing social fragmentation in Riga’s apartment buildings, particularly in Soviet-era blockhouses, in densely populated neighbourhoods, including Purvciems.

The planned activities aim to activate building communities by creating opportunities for residents to meet, build trust, and engage in joint initiatives related to their living environment. Through facilitated community-building actions, the project will strengthen a shared sense of belonging, encourage cooperation among residents, and empower them to take action for the improvement of their buildings and surrounding area. As a result, a positive impact on residents' sense of safety in their place of residence and its surroundings is also expected.



“Masters of Riga” poster

The project aims to implement community-bonding events by engaging residents in cultural and sports activities, as well as teaching them constructive communication and conflict resolution. One of the methods planned for use is the Dialogue Circles, adapted from the Finnish Time Out method (<https://www.timeoutdialogue.fi/>). Activities will take place approximately once a month over the course of a year.

Community Center

An intervention with high social impact is the establishment of a multifunctional Community Center in vacant municipal kindergarten premises in Marsa gatve 8, Purvciems. The Community Center will serve as a local hub for community activities, as well as for different municipal social services. It will strengthen social cohesion, improve the use of public assets, and contribute to increased sense of safety through active community presence.

The total plot area is 10,803 m², while the building area (2 floors) is 942 m².



Marsa gatve 8 plot area from above



Marsa gatve 8 building

Currently, the Community Center's offer is being planned, taking into account the views expressed in the resident survey (211 respondents) and the municipality's capabilities.

Possible functions:

- Community gathering space (events, meetings, workshops)
- Local library / reading room
- Space for NGOs and informal groups
- Youth and senior activities
- Space for youngsters to spend free time after school
- Community garden etc.

Co-design activities with focus groups of potential users are planned for furnishing the Community Center's premises. For instance, workshops with pupils from a nearby school, specifically teenage girls, are planned for designing the youth space in order to create a comfortable and safe environment.

In developing the Community Center, Riga draws inspiration from its project partner – the city of Sant Boi de Llobregat, which is home to the Fundació Marianao community center (<https://www.marianao.org/>). This center serves as a driving force for social integration, education, and community empowerment, with a special focus on working with youth.

Andromeda Courtyard

The Andromeda Courtyard is an undeveloped, municipality-owned courtyard among blockhouses in the central part of Purvciems neighbourhood. The courtyard is primarily used for transit and dog walking; it has no lighting; residents do not spend much time there. The total plot area is 7,410 m².



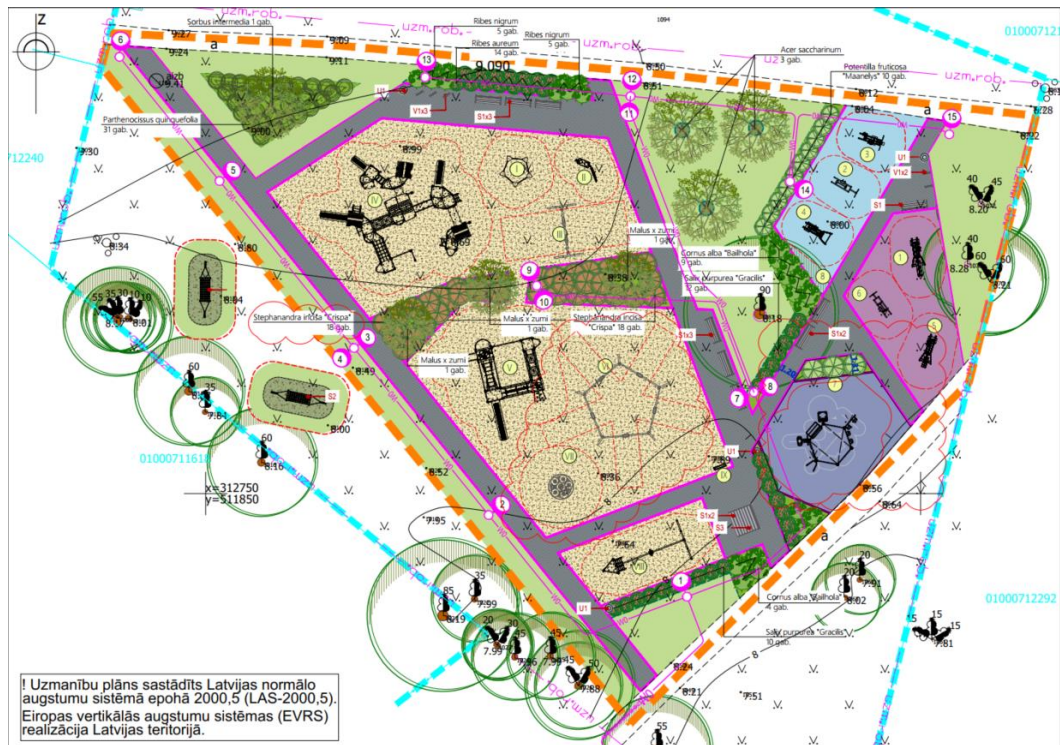
Andromeda Courtyard



Andromeda Courtyard at Night

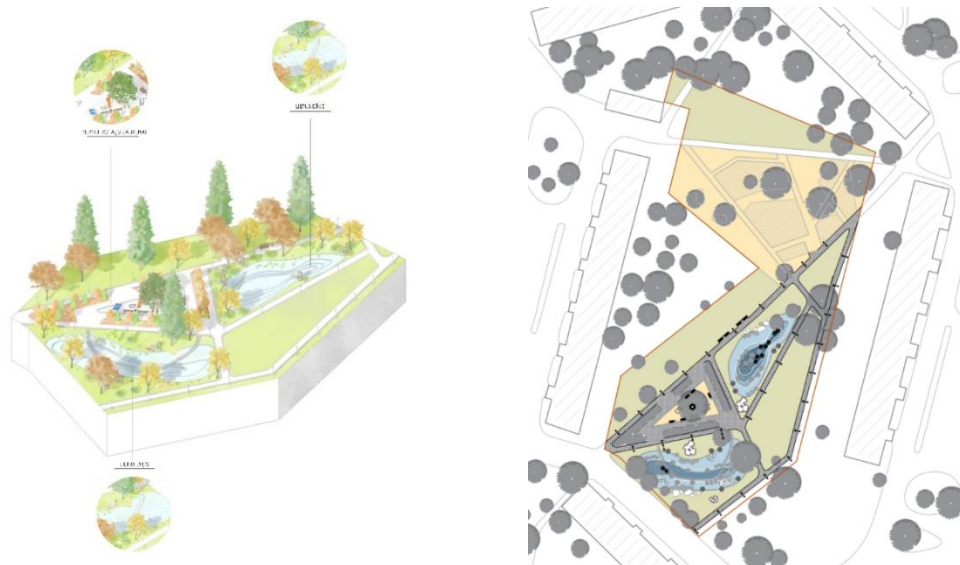
As mentioned before, experts from the State Police Prevention Management Bureau carried out an assessment of the Andromeda Courtyard from a safe urban planning perspective and provided their recommendations.

The municipality had previously developed a landscape design project for the Northern part of the courtyard, project area 1705 m². The funding has been allocated for its implementation in next year's municipal budget.



Landscape design project

Taking into account the police recommendations and the views gathered in the resident survey, the Purvciems Development Association, in cooperation with students from Riga Technical University, prepared a landscape concept for the other part of the courtyard and submitted it to this year's Riga participatory budgeting project contest. The concept features small ponds for rainwater runoff and recreational areas around them.



Visualisation of the Proposed Courtyard Improvements

Currently, the submitted neighbourhood development ideas are being evaluated, and the resident vote will take place in November. If the vote is successful, the municipality must implement the project within two years.

As a result, Purvciems will gain a well-landscaped courtyard where various social groups can spend their leisure time and network with each other. This will also provide natural surveillance of the area, increasing the sense of security in this territory.

Dreilinkalns Park

Dreilinkalns Park is the vast green area (5200 m²) next to the Dreilinkalns Hill, a former landfill site without any defined use. There are several picnic spots in the area, which are used intensively by the surrounding residents. Unfortunately, picnic spots are often demolished, so the municipality needs to think of more sustainable solutions for the improvement of the area. For the past four consecutive years, Dreilinkalns Park hosted the Purvciems Neighbourhood Festival.



Dreilinkalns Park from above



Purvciems Neighbourhood Festival

Functional research of the territory is currently underway. After that, together with local neighbourhood associations and schools, a vision for the improvement of the Dreilinkalns Park will be developed. For this purpose, it is planned to use the method of explanatory walks and visioning with the Minecraft Education program according to the methodology developed within the Erasmus+ project “Mining resilient Cities: innovative YOUTH-led Policy process for sustainable Europe – MC-YOU” (<https://www.mc-you.eu/>).

The goal is to create a functional and safe outdoor space for various social groups to spend their leisure time, socialize and enjoy cultural events, as well as to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for the area among park users.

Metrobus Line

The most expensive physical intervention of urban regeneration in Purvciems is the creation of a Metrobus Line on the central street of the neighbourhood. The Metrobus Line project also includes the renovation of sidewalks, the creation of bike paths, the installation of new public transport stops, additional lighting, some recreation zones, and urban greenery, thus significantly improving the outdated infrastructure that creates a sense of insecurity.

The Metrobus Line project covers a total distance of around 7 km, with 4 km running through the Purvciems neighbourhood.



Metrobus Line project



Metrobus Line project visualisation

The Metrobus Line has been already designed; however, it is necessary to attract external financing for construction. Considering that Riga has more pressing needs regarding transport infrastructure improvements, currently the Metrobus Line is a high-readiness project, but with low priority.

Objectives and Indicators Table

Project / Activity	Specific objective	Result indicator	Output indicator
Masters of Riga	Reduce social fragmentation and foster cooperation and trust among residents of Purvciems apartment buildings.	% of blockhouse residents reporting an increased shared sense of belonging and trust.	- Nr. of "Dialogue Circles" organized. - Nr. of community-bonding events (cultural and sports activities) organized by the project implementer. - Nr. of community-bonding activities organized by the communities.

Community Center	Establish a multifunctional center in Purvciems to strengthen social cohesion, improve municipal asset use, and increase safety.	Nr. of neighborhood residents (youth/seniors) regularly using the center's services per month.	- Nr. of co-design workshops organized with target user groups (e.g., teenage girls). - Nr. of multifunctional center premises established/furnished.
Andromeda Courtyard	Develop and landscape the municipal courtyard to create a safe environment for various social groups and provide natural surveillance.	- % of surveyed residents who rate the courtyard as safe for leisure and transit. - Natural surveillance effect: average daily hours residents spend active in the territory.	Area of the courtyard regenerated (m ²)
Dreilīkalns Park	Create a functional, safe, and sustainable outdoor space in Dreilīkalns Park, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among users.	% of residents perceiving park as a well-maintained and welcoming public space.	Nr. of functional research activities and visioning sessions conducted (using explanatory walks and Minecraft Education).
Metrobus Line	Renew outdated infrastructure on the central street (sidewalks, bike paths, lighting) to significantly reduce the sense of insecurity and improve mobility.	% of residents feeling safe moving along the central street during hours of darkness.	Length of the constructed Metrobus Line (km).

Risk Analysis Table

Risk Category	Description of the Risks	Likelihood (high, medium, low)	Impact (high, moderate, low)	Prevention	Mitigation
Administrative Risks	Loss of the participatory budgeting contest for Andromeda Courtyard: The project fails the upcoming resident vote in November, delaying municipal execution.	Medium	Moderate	Conduct active local communication campaigns and engagement with the Purvciems Development Association to secure votes.	Re-submit the landscape concept prepared by RTU students to the next year's contest or seek alternative institutional funding.
	Delays in co-design and planning: Lack of consensus or low participation from focus groups (e.g., teenage girls) slows down the design phase of the Community Center.	Low	Moderate	Design highly engaging, tailored, and accessible workshops with nearby schools.	Utilize existing operational models from project partners (e.g., Fundació Marianao in Sant Boi de Llobregat) to fast-track decisions.
Financial Risks	Inability to secure external financing for the Metrobus Line: The project is low priority for Riga, meaning construction	High	High	Actively monitor and apply for EU structural funds or national infrastructure grants specifically	Maintain the project at "high-readiness" status so it is positioned to grab immediate funding opportunities

	could stall indefinitely without external funds.			targeting green transit.	when they arise.
	Budget reallocations affecting planned interventions: Future municipal budget shifts might impact allocated funding for the Andromeda Courtyard phase 1.	Medium	High	Ensure the allocated next year's municipal budget funding is legally locked and tied to the approved landscape project.	Scale down the physical intervention or phase out the implementation over a longer timeline.
Operational Risks	Vandalism and physical decay of infrastructure: Upgraded picnic spots or new infrastructure in Dreilīņkalns Park are demolished or damaged by users.	High	Moderate	Use highly durable, sustainable, and heavy-duty materials for the park improvement as identified by the municipality.	Foster natural surveillance and a sense of ownership through explanatory walks, community visioning, and the annual Neighbourhood Festival.
	Low resident engagement and participation: Residents remain passive, resulting in low attendance at "Masters of Riga" events or	Medium	High	Utilize proven grassroots methods like the Dialogue Circles to break the ice and build trust.	Partner with active informal groups, local NGOs, and schools to cross-promote community gathering spaces and activities.

	the Community Center.				
Other Risks	Social fragmentation and conflicts within apartment blocks: Deep-rooted distrust or communication breakdowns among blockhouse residents block joint initiatives.	Medium	Moderate	Introduce constructive communication and conflict resolution training early in the project lifecycle.	Deploy professional facilitators to guide community-building actions and resolve deadlocks in densely populated blockhouses.

Time frames and Phasing Table

Project / Activity	Current Status / Phase	Time frame & Phasing
Masters of Riga	Active planning/Pre-implementation phase. The initiative aims to use adapted methods like the Dialogue Circles to activate building communities.	Short-term. Because this is a soft-measure social innovation initiative that does not require massive heavy construction or structural permits, it can be implemented rapidly. The phasing involves initial facilitator training (e.g., adapting the Finnish Time Out method), followed by a rolling schedule of community-bonding events, cultural activities, and sports initiatives across targeted Soviet-era blockhouses.
Community Center	Advanced planning and Co-design phase. The municipality has already secured vacant municipal kindergarten premises in	Short-to-Medium term. <i>Phase 1 (Immediate):</i> Co-design workshops with potential users and target focus groups (such as local

	Purvciems and is actively planning the functions based on resident surveys.	school pupils/teenage girls) to design the layout and furnishing of the spaces. <i>Phase 2:</i> Refurbishment, furnishing, and structural adaptation of the kindergarten premises based on the co-design results and inspirations drawn from the Fundació Marianao model. <i>Phase 3:</i> Operational launch of functions (youth/senior activities, reading room, NGO spaces).
Andromeda Courtyard	Split-phased implementation. Experts have completed the safe urban planning assessments, and the project is split into two distinct geographical and structural parts.	Short-to-Medium term (1 to 2 years). <i>Phase 1 (Next Year):</i> Construction begins on the first part of the courtyard. The landscape design project is already fully developed, and funding is firmly allocated in next year's municipal budget. <i>Phase 2 (Within 2 Years, Conditional):</i> The second part depends on the participatory budgeting vote taking place in November. If the resident vote is successful, the municipality is legally bound to implement the landscape concept designed by RTU students within a two-year window.
Dreiliņkalns Park	Research and Visioning phase. The park already hosts the annual Purvciems Neighbourhood Festival, but structural upgrades are in the early analytical stage.	Medium term. <i>Phase 1 (Current):</i> Functional research of the 5200 m ² territory is actively underway.

		<i>Phase 2 (Upcoming):</i> Development of the improvement vision in collaboration with local schools and neighborhood associations, utilizing exploratory walks and Minecraft Education program workshops. <i>Phase 3:</i> Procurement and gradual deployment of durable, sustainable picnic spots and cultural event infrastructure to replace previously demolished elements.
Metrobus Line	High-readiness / On-hold phase. The design phase is entirely completed, but construction cannot begin due to missing capital. Because transport infrastructure improvements elsewhere in Riga have higher priority, this project is on standby.	Long-term / Contingent on funding. The phasing is frozen at the pre-construction stage until external financing is successfully attracted. Once funds are secured, the physical overhaul (renovating sidewalks, building bike paths, adding lighting, greenery, and bus stops) will be rolled out as a massive urban regeneration intervention.

3.3. Governance and delivery model

Project / Activity	Partners involved	Responsibilities
Masters of Riga	Riga Neighbourhood Residents' Centre	Supervision of implementation
	Riga Neighbourhood Alliance, NGO	Implementation
Community Center	Riga Neighbourhood Residents' Centre	Planning, civic engagement, promotion of inter-institutional cooperation

	Department of Education, Culture and Sports	Planning, supervision of services
	Welfare Department	Planning, supervision of services
	Riga Central Library	Planning, providing services
	Riga Children and Youth Center "School of Practical Aesthetics"	Planning, providing services
	Riga Social Service	Planning, providing services
	Property Department	Organizing procurement for designing and reconstruction, supervision of works
Andromeda Courtyard	Riga Neighbourhood Residents' Centre	Supervision of implementation of Participatory Budget project
	Department of Outdoor Space and Mobility	Designing, organizing procurement for construction, maintenance of courtyard area
	Purvciems Development Association, NGO	Promoting project idea in Participatory Budget vote
Dreilīņkalns Park	Riga Neighbourhood Residents' Centre	Civic engagement
	State Environmental Service	Consulting on environmental issues
	Department of Housing and Environment	Evaluation of functional research results, planning
	Riga Municipality Enterprise "Riga Forests"	Planning, maintenance of park area
	City Development Department	Planning
	Property Department	Organizing procurement for designing and reconstruction, supervision of works
Metrobus Line	Department of Outdoor Space and Mobility	Applying for funding, organizing procurement for construction, supervision of works

3.4 Overall project schedule

Project / Activity	Phase	Year
Masters of Riga	Planning	2026
	Implementation	2026-2027
Community Center	Co-design & Planning	2026
	Designing	2027
	Refurbishing	2027-2028
	Establishing Services	2028
Andromeda Courtyard	Voting	2026
	Designing	2027
	Construction	2027-2028
Dreilīkalns Park	Research & Visioning	2026
	Designing	2027
	Construction	2028-2029
Metrobus Line	Applying for funding	2028-2029
	Construction	2030-2033

4. Budget

4.1. Project costs & Investment sources

Project / Activity	Costs, EUR	Investment sources
Masters of Riga	50.000	Participatory budget
Community Center	2.000.000	Municipal budget + EU funds (e.g., EUI, Horizon)
Andromeda Courtyard	700.000	Municipal budget and Participatory budget
Dreilīņkalns Park	5.000.000	Municipal budget
Metrobus Line	120.000.000	EU funds (e.g., RRF)
Total	127.750.000	

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1. The monitoring and evaluation approach

To ensure the successful delivery of the Investment Plan and to measure the transition from Soviet-era physical decay to safe, vibrant, and community-managed spaces, a structured Results Framework and Monitoring Approach will be established. This approach operates across three distinct levels of project development.

Cumulative vs. Summative Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

The evaluation approach is designed to be dual-layered, combining continuous tracking with final impact assessments to provide a complete picture of the plan's success:

- **Cumulative Monitoring:** This will be applied continuously throughout the project lifecycle to track the gradual build-up of outputs and short-term results. As soft measures like the "Masters of Riga" Dialogue Circles roll out or as the physical phases of the Andromeda Courtyard progress, data will be collected cumulatively (e.g., total number of residents engaged, total square meters landscaped). This allows the project management team to make real-time, data-driven adjustments, shifting resources or changing tactics if a specific intervention is underperforming.
- **Summative Evaluation:** This will take place at defined milestone gates and upon the final completion of the project lifecycle. It focuses on the overall impact and ultimate effectiveness of the investment plan. By comparing post-implementation data against the initial baselines (such as the resident surveys and State Police assessments), the summative evaluation will determine whether the strategic goal—fundamentally improving the sense of safety, social cohesion, and belonging in Purvciems—was achieved.

The Core Monitoring Framework (Intervention Logic)

The project utilizes the standardized EU results framework logic to continually track milestones:

- **Output Tracking (Cumulative):** Continuous monitoring of physical products resulting from municipal spending (e.g., area of courtyard landscaped, number of workshops held, number of public transport stops installed).
- **Result Tracking (Summative & Cumulative):** Periodic measuring of the immediate changes generated by the projects (e.g., increase in the residents' sense of safety, reductions in park vandalism, or numbers of active youth/senior center users).

Milestone & Gated Monitoring (Key Lifespan Gates)

Progress will be formally evaluated at critical project gates outlined in the workplan:

- **The Voting & Co-Design Gate (Year 2026):** Success in this initial phase is monitored cumulatively by the outcome of the November participatory budgeting vote for the Andromeda Courtyard (Part 2) and the completion rate of the co-design workshops for the youth space in the Community Center.
- **The Secured Execution Gate (Year 2027):** Tracking the physical completion of Andromeda Courtyard (Part 1) against its allocated budget, alongside monitoring the structural refurbishment timelines of the vacant kindergarten premises.
- **The Long-Term Capital Gate (Year 2028-2030):** Tracking the project-readiness metrics for the Metrobus Line and monitoring external financing applications (EU grants) necessary to transition it from "on-hold" to construction.

Data Collection Methods & Tools

To populate the cumulative and summative indicators throughout the lifespan, the project will implement a multi-method data collection routine:

- **Resident Surveys:** Standardized surveys will be deployed to measure shifts in the community's "sense of safety and belonging" in intervention areas in Purvciems.
- **Co-productive and Digital Evaluation Tools:** Utilizing data and community feedback gathered from the grassroots initiatives—specifically through explanatory walks and youth visioning data extracted via the Minecraft Education program in Dreilīķkalns Park.
- **Inter-Institutional Data Sharing:** Regular reporting and data aggregation in cooperation with the State Police and Riga Municipal Police to monitor offense statistics, natural surveillance outcomes, and infrastructure demolition rates (especially regarding the picnic spots in Dreilīķkalns Park).

Governance & Steering Roles

The Purvciems residential communities will serve as grassroots monitoring partners, helping to ensure data completeness regarding resident participation in the "Masters of Riga" activities.

Riga Municipality will hold the final administrative oversight, reviewing cumulative output tables quarterly to adjust the deployment of social services and conducting the final summative evaluation to assess overall strategic impact.

No external evaluator will be appointed.

5.2. The monitoring and evaluation framework

Output Indicators (Linked to the Schedule)

Project / Activity	Output indicator	Baseline & Target Value	Linked Schedule Milestone
Masters of Riga	Nr. of "Dialogue Circles" organized.	Baseline: 0 Target: 5	Year 2026: Initial implementation
	Nr. of community-bonding events (cultural and sports activities) organized by the project implementer.	Baseline: 0 Target: 5	Year 2026-2027: Continuous rolling deployment across blockhouses.
	Nr. of community-bonding activities organized by the communities.	Baseline: 0 Target: 5	Year 2026-2027: Continuous rolling deployment across blockhouses.
Community Center	Nr. of co-design workshops organized with target user groups.	Baseline: 0 Target: 3	Year 2026: Early planning and spatial layout design stage.
	Nr. of multifunctional center premises established/furnished.	Baseline: 0 Target: 1 center	Year 2028: Physical refurbishment and operational launch.
Andromeda Courtyard	Area of the courtyard regenerated (m ²).	Baseline: 0 Target: 7000 m ²	Year 2027: Construction using secured next year's budget. Year 2028: Construction using Participatory budget
Dreilīņkalns Park	Nr. of functional research activities and visioning sessions conducted.	Baseline: 0 Target: 3	Year 2026: Active research and community co-creation phase.
	Nr. of sustainable, heavy-duty picnic spots installed.	Baseline: 0 Target: 8	Year 2029: installation of durable solutions.
Metrobus Line	Length of the constructed Metrobus Line in Purvciems (km).	Baseline: 0 Target: 4 km	Year: 2033

Result Indicators (Linked to the Schedule)

Project / Activity	Result indicator	Baseline & Target Value	Linked Schedule Milestone
Masters of Riga	% of blockhouse residents reporting an increased shared sense of belonging and trust.	Baseline: X Target: 2X	Year 2027: Measured via survey after conclusion of the project.
Community Center	Nr. of neighborhood residents (youth/seniors) regularly using the center's services per month.	Baseline: 0 Target: 300+ users	Year 2028+: Full operational scaling of municipal social services.
Andromeda Courtyard	% of surveyed residents who rate the courtyard as safe for leisure and transit.	Baseline: X Target: 3X	Year 2027 and 2028: Measured post-construction of each courtyard part
	Natural surveillance effect: average daily hours residents spend active in the territory.	Baseline: 0 Target: 6 hours/day	Year 2028: Evaluated after complete landscaping of both courtyard parts
Dreilīņkalns Park	% of residents perceiving park as a well-maintained and welcoming public space.	Baseline: X Target: 3X	Year 2029+: Tracked after introducing sustainable solutions.
Metrobus Line	% of residents feeling safe moving along the central street during hours of darkness.	Baseline: X Target: 3X	Year: 2033: Summative evaluation post-external financing and construction.

6. Conclusions and Lessons Learned

6.1. Conclusions

The Riga 2Nite Investment Plan for Purvciems neighbourhood demonstrates a significant shift in approach toward promoting urban safety and renewal. The project confirms that the sense of safety in Soviet-era housing estates is determined not only by lighting or police presence, but by strong community bonds and active use of public space (“eyes on the street”). By combining physical interventions (landscaping of the Andromeda Courtyard, development of Dreilīņkalns Park, creation of a Community Center) with social innovations (“Masters of Riga”), the plan creates a sustainable model for transforming anonymous residential “bedroom” district into safe, engaging, and community-driven space.

6.2. Lessons learned

- **Cross-sector and inter-institutional collaboration strengthens results:** Early engagement of the State and Municipal Police, urban planners, neighborhood association and residents provided data and practical recommendations (e.g., safe urban environment assessment for the Andromeda courtyard), enabling the development of more targeted and safer solutions.
- **Local adaptation is critical (one size does not fit all):** Transferring experience from Turin demonstrated that international best practices cannot be adopted 1:1. Purvciems' low level of civic participation and weak community bonds had to be addressed through locally adapted, step-by-step methods.
- **Micro-level initiatives require flexibility and patience:** Driving initiatives directly down to the level of stairwells and individual buildings (e.g., the stairwell photo campaign) comes with low initial responsiveness or even resistance. Formats offering concrete participation tools proved to be more successful (e.g., exploratory walks).
- **Activation prior to physical construction:** Community building efforts and activities in undeveloped areas provide an opportunity to “bring space to life” and foster a sense of belonging among residents even before large-scale construction works begin.