STORIFY THE CITY

Making Hard Stories Tellable

#URBACTfest

urbact.eu/city-festival-2026

URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT

Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality

ON STAGE

YOUR HOSTS

Brian Marrinan & Sandra Rainero

URBACT Experts

YOUR GUEST SPEAKERS

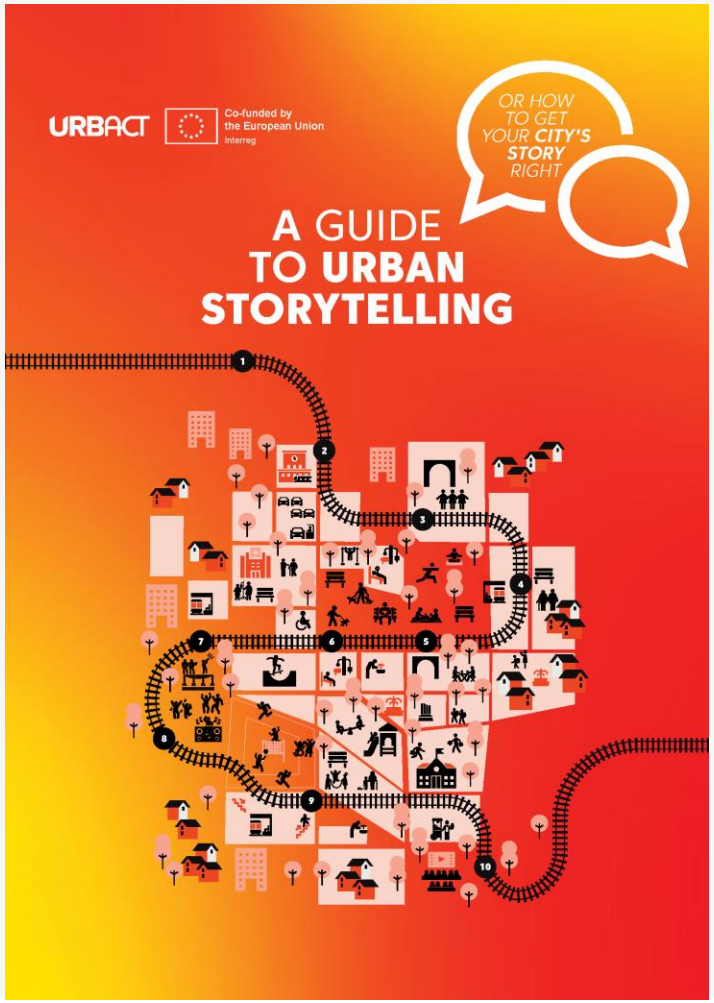
Ligita Pudža, Kekava (LV) - APN Agents of Co-Existence

Dragana Silijanovic, Sombor (RS) – ITN Hydro-Heritage Cities

Manuela Ferreira, Vila Nova de Cerveira (PT) - APN ARCHETHICS

Antonis Stylianou, Nicosia (CY)- APN Cities After Dark

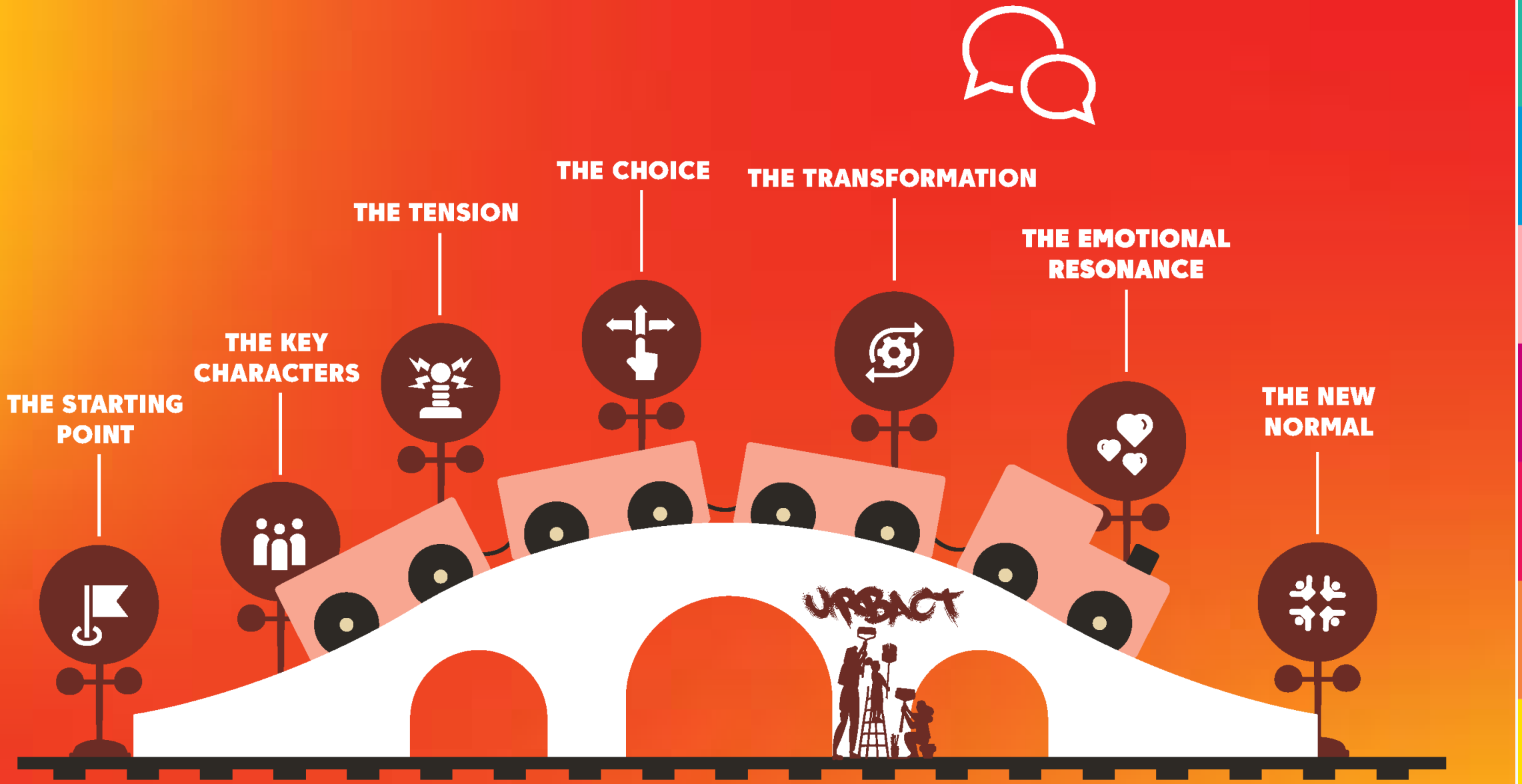
YOUR GUIDE



URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT
Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality



URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT
Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality

We start with you

Go to SLIDO

Connect to Royal Hall-Grand Hall



We start here!

THE STARTING POINT

THE KEY CHARACTERS

THE TENSION

THE CHOICE

THE TRANSFORMATION

THE EMOTIONAL RESONANCE

THE NEW NORMAL



URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT

Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality

ĶEKAVAS NOVADS

Ligita Pudža

Project Manager, Ķekava Municipality (Latvia)

Agents of Co-existence Network



URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT Co-funded by the European Union Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας Nicosia Municipality

Manuela Ferreira

European Project Manager

Vila Nova de Cerveira

ARCHETHICS | Dissonant European heritage as labs of democracy

URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT

Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

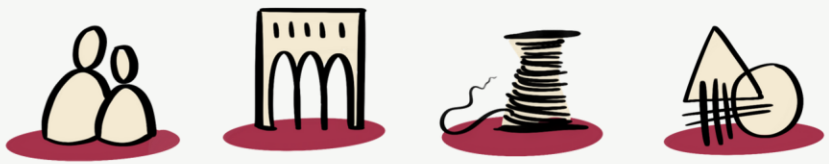
Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality

Dissonant European heritage as labs of democracy

ARCHETHICS

- Connect European cities with controversial heritage
- Explore Architecture, People, History and Ethics
- Activate urban community labs
- Transform abandoned spaces into shared places
- Engage locals and visitors in sharing knowledge
- Embrace diverse perspectives and envision shared futures

Lead Partner : Cesena – Italy
Kazanlak - Bulgaria
Krakow - Poland
Gdańsk - Poland
Vila Nova de Cerveira - Portugal
Bétera - Spain
Leipzig - Germany
Përmet - Albania



PEOPLE ARCHITECTURE HISTORY ETHICS

URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT
Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality

VILA NOVA DE CERVEIRA | ARCHETHICS | 2023



A castle at the centre of the village…

but at the margins of people's lives.

THE CHALLENGE: reconnect the castle with the community

Dragana Siljanovic Kozoderovic

Dipl.Eng.Arch., licenced urbanist, Project Coordinator,
City of Sombor,
Hydro Heritage Cities Network

URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT
Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality

Hydro-Heritage in Action

- Adapts Cultural H.ID.RA.N.T. (Chalandri, EL) know-how across cities
- Builds on Chalandri's participatory approach to reconnect a functioning Roman aqueduct with urban life to:
- Regenerate water-linked heritage sustainably
- Address climate change through local action
- Strengthen community belonging and ownership



Antonis Stylianou

Technical Engineer – Licensing – Policies

Nicosia Municipality

APN Cities After Dark

URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT

Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality

Night time economy for sustainable growth

- Keep cities running around the clock
- Support transport, hospitality, entertainment and essential services
- Drive tourism and economic activity
- Create cultural and social opportunities
- Address safety and regulatory challenges
- Reduce noise and light pollution
- Balance growth with residents' quality of life

Cities After Dark

Lead Partner : Braga - Portugal
Varna - Bulgaria
Zadar - Croatia
Málaga - Spain
Tallinn - Estonia
Nicosia - Cyprus
Paris - France
Genoa - Italy
Budva - Montenegro
Piraeus - Greece

Three ways stories live in your actions

Audiences understand and learn differently

Different formats evoke different emotions

Different formats force you to look at your story from different angles

Three approaches to crafting *urban narratives*

Creating stories with citizens and stakeholders can be understood through three interconnected dimensions: **storymaking, storytelling and storydoing.** Together, they move urban narrative from message to human impact.

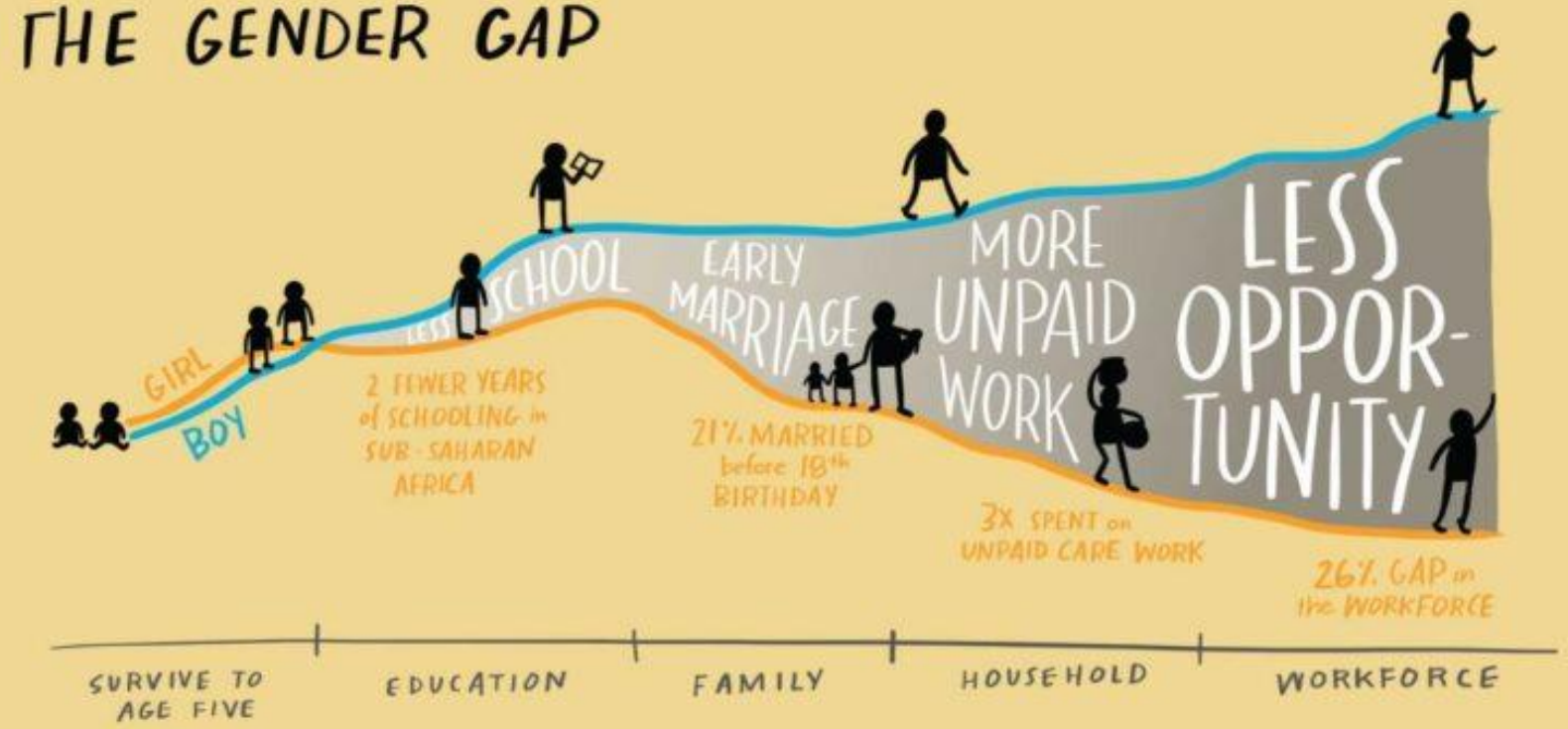
Storymaking is about shaping meaning and creating collective stories. It involves listening, uncovering overlooked perspectives, and acknowledging whose experiences define the city. Story-making expands the narrative frame, especially when certain voices can remain marginalised.

Storytelling is about communicating that shared meaning clearly and coherently. It weaves experiences, memories and values into a narrative that others can follow and recognise themselves in. Good storytelling gives structure to complexity and makes identity visible.

Storydoing is about embodying the narrative in practice. It means allowing people to experience the story through space, action or interaction. When narrative becomes tangible - through walks, installations, performances or digital experiences - it moves from abstract to lived reality.



BEST DATA STORYTELLING EXAMPLES



EXAMINING INEQUALITY - GATES FOUNDATION

Before- after – Boulevard Anspach Brussels



Embody the story: Public events, citizens' storytelling, street action

VERONA – STREET CULTURE IPN RE-GEN)



UTRECHT – FOOD STORIES



URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT
Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality



URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

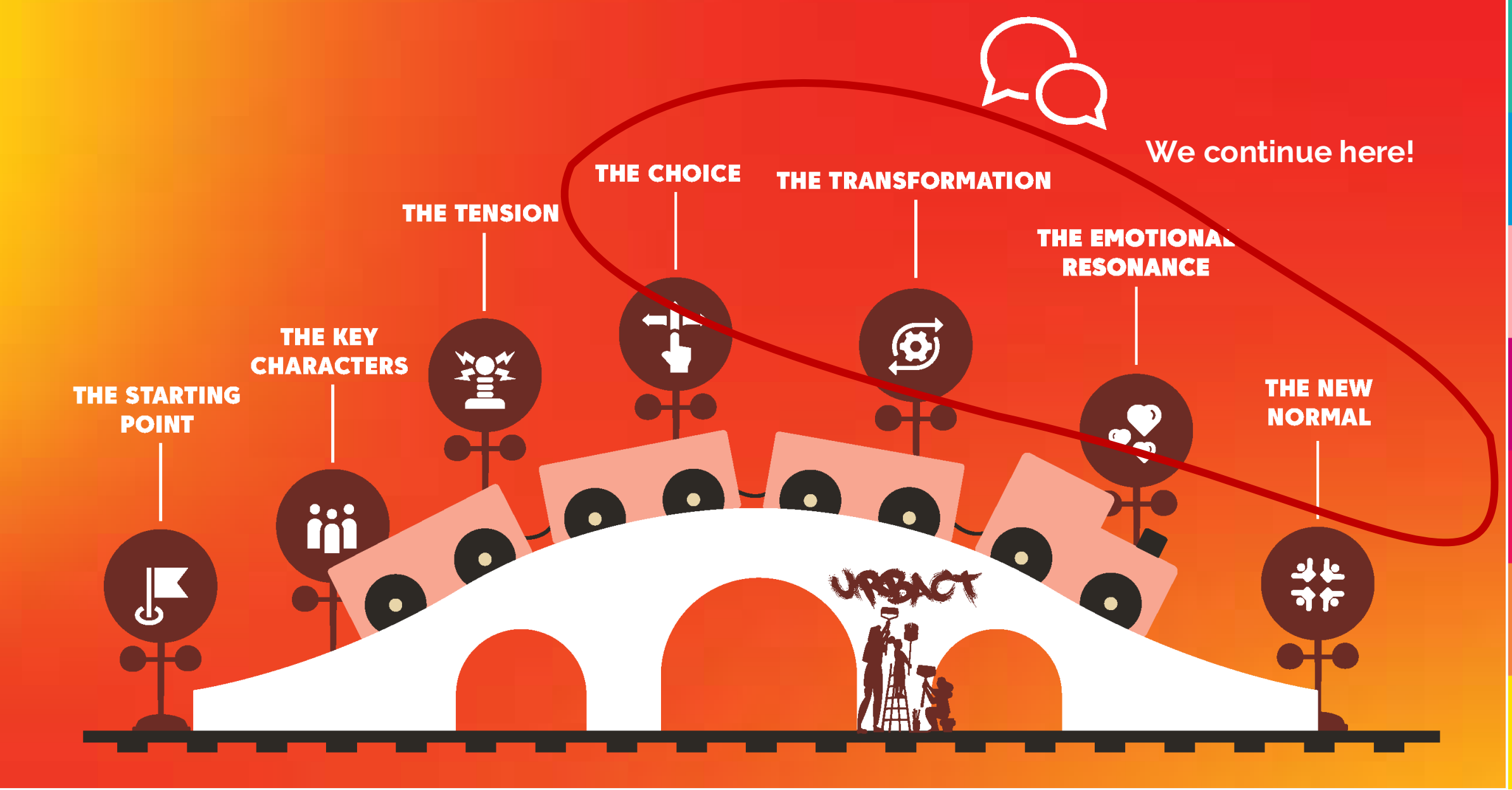
URBACT
Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality

Back to you

Go to SLIDO

Connect to Royal Hall-Grand Hall



URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT
Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality







Agents of Co-existence in Ķekava Municipality

Listen
people's ideas are the spark for change

Empower
trust residents, give them responsibility and support

Participate
don't just watch, roll up your sleeves

Commit
civic engagement thrives on dedication and passion





URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

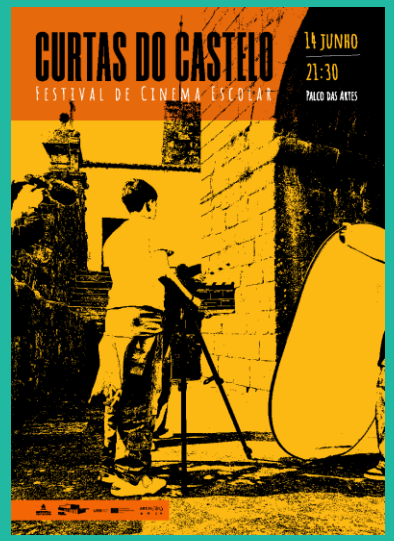
URBACT
Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality

O CASTELO É NOSSO

Short film festival ***Curtas do Castelo*** *· 2025 | 2026*





















URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT
Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality





Open Air Exibition of the Most Beautiful Postcard of the Canal





Final festival Kanalisanje

URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT
Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality

Use of Public Space



Eleftheria Square is in the heart of Nicosia where all major cultural events take place.





DJ WORKSHOP - ELEFTHERIA SQUARE



Underground EDM Party



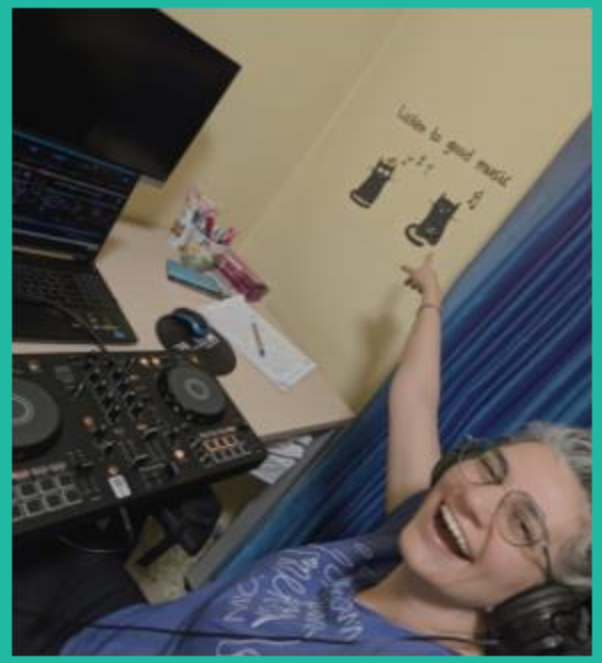
Mainstream Party



29.8.2024 – DJ workshop



15.1.2025 – DJ Association Foundation

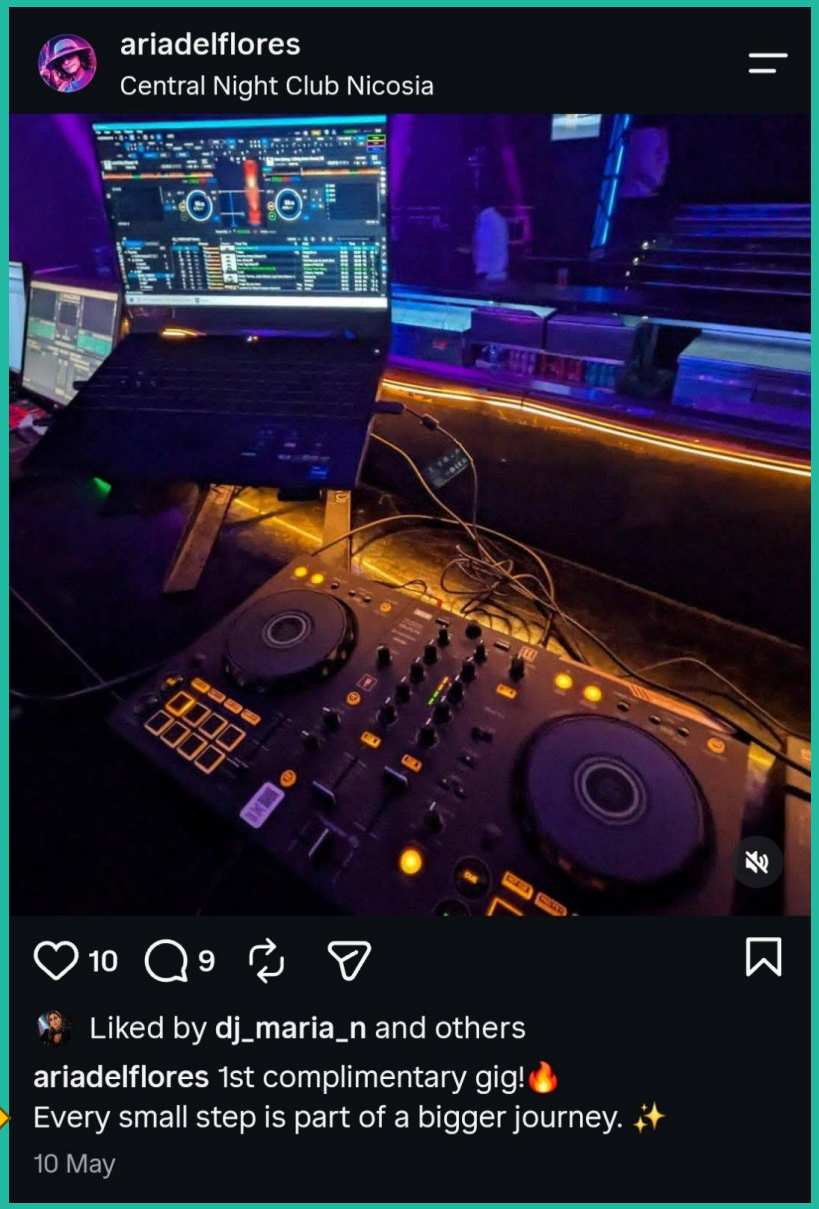


10.11.2025 She got her 1st DJ-controller.



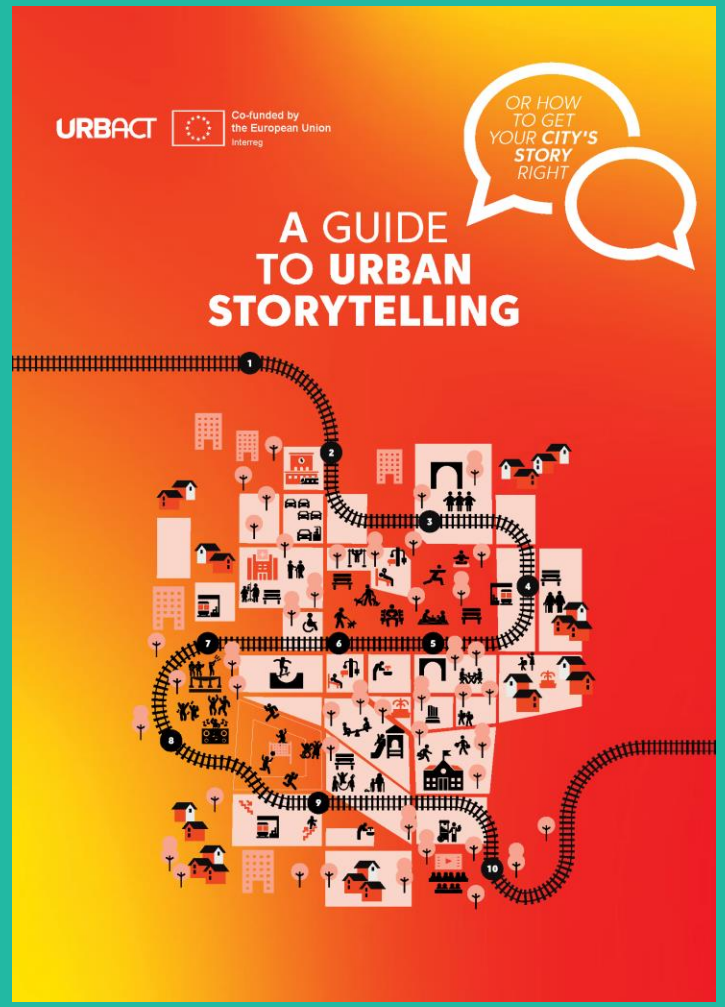
21.11.2025 Lessons with DJ Maria N

10.5.2026 – 1st Gig at Central Night Club



May the Story Be With You. Always.

https://urbact.eu/knowledge-hub/storytelling



URBACT CITY FESTIVAL
29-30 September 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus

URBACT
Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality