



Summary of EIT Community NEB Co-Creation of public space through citizen engagement activities 2022







Recharging recovery project [Ljubljana, Slovenia]: Co-creating public space in healthcare

Consortia partners: Prostorož Cultural Association [Lead partner], Municipality of Ljubljana Fund by EIT Community: 45 000 EUR

Main goal of the project: Improved accessibility and use of public and green spaces in Ljubljana's medical area.

Main achievements: Several designed workshops, walks and meetings were organised to give voice to patients from underrepresented and vulnerable groups. The research focused on the users' perspective, especially on the user experience of the environment around clinics. The project raised attention about patients' and workers' well-being and health. Four renovations design concept proposals were co-created for key locations in the medical areas:



- ✓ Renovation of the square by the ER and the pharmacy
- ✓ The Ljubljanica river bank by the Oncology Institute
- ✓ The promenade to the main building of the UMC
- ✓ Pedestrian-friendly traffic planning of Zaloška Street, where most people cross the street to get to the clinics

Potential next steps: "Method package for co-creating public space around medical facilities" published in English to facilitate replication and upscaling.

Greenovate project [Kozani, Greece]: Greening and beautify the center of Kozani with window boxed made of sustainable and reusable materials under the stewarding of shops onwers and students

Consortia partners: Entrepreneurship Support Foundation (JOIN4CS) [Lead partner], Municipality of Kozani Fund by EIT Community: 45 000 EUR

Main goal of the project: Developing urban equipment from recycled materials to revitalize the center of Kozani town.

Main achievements: The focus was on the active engagement of young students and local businesses in the planning and preparation phase and the preservation of daily care of the co-created green space. The co-creation of urban equipment objects (benches, planters and window boxes) was created by upcycling materials. The materials were offered by the National Energy Grid



(IPTO – Independent Power Transmission Operator). The main impact of the project is the revitalized two public areas and one school in Kozani with the co-created urban equipments made from recycled materials [60 benches, planters, and window boxes with the use of flowers and seasonal plants]. The other impact is the changed mindset of the participants based on stewardship and daily care of the co-created green spots in Kozani. To sustain citizens' attitudes in the long term, a tag in a shape of a star is embedded to remind the commitment but also the ownership of the delivered urban equipments.

Potential next steps: The project planned to be continued due to the request of the local University to establish urban equipment coming from reuse materials to cover their needs.

Within the Region of Western Macedonia [where Kozani is the capital city], there is a huge amount of used industrial materials that could be exploited for creating urban elements and spread the circular economy.





OPEN NATURE project [Barcelona, Spain]: Opening Public Edge Natures as Networks for Accessible Transitional Urban Re-connection and Education

Consortia partners: Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia [Lead partner], Edenway SL,

Consortium of the Serra de Collserola Natural Park

Fund by EIT Community: 45 000 EUR

Main goal of the project: The primary objectives of OPEN NATURE were three-folded:

- ✓ to re-connect citizens with nature through the aesthetic and ecological regeneration of degraded spaces at the urban boundaries of the Collserola Natural Park
- ✓ to educate young students in methods for re-naturalizing their city toward improved urban sustainability
- ✓ to promote feelings of co-ownership and collective stewardship of public green areas through participatory processes



Main achievements: Co-designed, fabricated, and installed aesthetic structures and elements made of sustainably harvested local wood and other natural materials regeneration of a degraded site at the urban boundary of the Collserola Natural Park. The project restored the dilapidated fountain, designed using materials from the site like stone and wood held together with lime as a natural mortar. Further on, the Tapial Topography used rammed earth to highlight and enhance the existing landscape and as a retaining wall for erosion along the hill. Juxtaposing the structural design of the rammed earth was the fluid and organic design of the Woodle, a wooden bench made from bent wood designed to create interactions and vistas. The Woodle was complemented by the Sculptural Benches placed to create interactions under the tree showing the wood's texture and beauty. And lastly, tying the entire design together are the interventions to create the earth berms and facilitate natural vegetation and greenery.

Potential next steps: A design booklet upscaling strategy was prepared in English to foster replication and upscale the activity.

Porto Think Tank project [Porto, Portugal]

Consortia partners: esad—idea, Association for the Promotion of Researching Design and Art [Lead partner], Porto City Council, Águas e Energia do Porto, E.M, ESAD - College of Art and Design Fund by EIT Community: 45 000 EUR

Main goal of the project: Porto had several Lavadouros (washhouses) covering different citiy's neighbourhoods. However, these architectural artifacts (historically linked to women) had been gradually becoming obsolete and have an enormous potential regarding the city's challenges, to re-contextualize their essential values to our times and improve their network in the city.



Main achievements: In total, 58 washhouses were mapped, and 36 had already disappeared. To reverse the abandonment process of 'lavadouros' heritage requires strategic synergies with the city municipality and Águas do Porto entity. Due to the unpredictable irregularity investigation of the project from November 2022, the consortium suspended the activities, and it was impossible to complete it according to the original plan. Due to this situation, only the project's first 3 phases (out of 5) were completed. EIT Climate-KIC conducted the irregularity investigation to ensure the project's integrity on copyright and the use of text and images. However, EIT Climate-KIC could not identify grounds to disqualify the grant for Porto Think Tanks and closed the investigation on 16th December 2022.

Potential next steps: Finalizing the project with all the planned five phases is highly recommended, especially the prototyping phase. Following it, the potential replication and upscaling methodology could be drafted.





ImagineYourCity project [Kosice, Slovakia]: Utilizing urban co-designing and NEB principles to make stronger communitities

Consortia partners: Creative Industry Kosice, NGO [Lead partner], Technical University Kosice, East Coast NGO

Fund by EIT Community: 44 972 EUR

Main goal of the project: Engage citizens of Kosice and war refugees from Ukraine to define challenges and co-create interventions for the neglected public space of the temporary refugee shelter of dormitories of the Technical University of Kosice (Jedlikova dormitory).

Main achievements: Several co-creation and participative series of meetups, and workshops were organized on the transformation of the neglected public space in and around the Jedlikova complex of dormitories belonging to Technical University in



Kosice, used daily by local residents, Ukrainian war refugees and both Slovak and Ukrainian students studying in Kosice. The recommendations and challenges identified and co-created by the participants:

- ✓ Accessibility of the public space; transportation to/in the area
- ✓ The evaluation of different features of public space: looking for the best mixture of tools such as street furniture, lighting, fence, or no fence
- ✓ Community interactions in the area (with residents, students, and refugees)

One of the project's main outputs is social, as Slovak and Ukrainian people actively cooperated and interacted during the activities and contributed to the development of the first close and meaningful contacts among the residents, refugees, and students.

Potential next steps: A methodology and recommendation report for policy representatives of local communities in Kosice and across Europe was produced and is now ready to be officially presented and communicated.

ASD Publics project [Barcelona, Spain]: Activating Spaces with neuroDiverse Publics

Consortia partners: Foundation for the Open University of Catalonia [Lead partner], Global Institute of Neurodevelopment Integrated Care, Barcelona City Council

Fund by EIT Community: 45 000 EUR

Main goal of the project: Advance in devising cocreation methodologies for the inclusion of ASD children, focusing on the right to play (understood as 'having fun') and by tackling the spatial and physical dimensions (both build environment and bodies).

Main achievements: The main impact of the project is the ASD Publics Co-Creation guide that outlines a methodology to co-design public play areas with children on the autism spectrum and



their families, which is a pioneering document in this field. The obstacles that this community faces are not only related to the physical and spatial dimensions nor the benefits of playing are only about 'having fun'. Indeed, social obstacles, such as the stigma that this community faces, seem to play a very important role and so do other benefits related to 'the right to play', such as learning or socialising.

Potential next steps: The ASD Publics Design Handbook had been published how to make public playing areas more autism friendly.





ReCreate project [Senglea, Malta]: NatuRE-based Co-CREATion in SenglEa -Beauty in Diversity

Consortia partners: Ecostack Innovations Limited [Lead partner], Senglea Local Council

Fund by EIT Community: 45 000 EUR

Main goal of the project: Transform unused public spaces through nature-based co-creation and citizen science activities

Main achievements: Nature-based co-creation activities were carried out successfully through gardening and placemaking interventions. A pop-up park had been designed and launched at Pjazza Juan Batista Azzopardi, Senglea Waterfront. Further on, a mosaic along stone planter wall in Misrah Andrea Debono had been created. The main impact of the project is that it transformed



unused, dilapidated public spaces through nature-based co-creation and citizen science & artistic activities in the locality of Senglea. Improved the space, making it greener and more beautiful, to ensure a better quality of life for present and future generations.

Potential next steps: A recommendation "report on nature-based co-creation placemaking for a dense urban context" had been created & published to foster replication and/or upscaling. Following the final interventions, local community groups, in collaboration with the local council, have continued with activities to create a beautiful Senglea by planting and placing indigenous shrubs in decorated pots around the locality and in areas that the ReCreate project had not covered. The project's stakeholders have shown an interest in participating in the following activities of the ReCreate project since they strongly believe these activities will improve their quality of life.

REMEDSPACE project [Marseille, France]: Preparatory study of a bio and phyto soil remediation experimental and participative space located in a heritage classified monument

Consortia partners: the Citadelle of Marseille [Lead partner], Aix-Marseille University, Université du Domaine Du Possible [UDDP]

Fund by EIT Community: 45 000 EUR

Main goal of the project: Promote and develop bio- and phytoremediation processes in polluted soils as tools for sustainable pollution management among the public without raising over anxiety, and by suggesting that those soils should be considered as a non-renewable resource and therefore preserved.

Main achievements: Citizen participative activities had been carried out successfully on soils and pollution management. A new artwork raising interest in soils and pollution management had been created in La Citadelle de Marseille and could be part of our mediation program. Increased artistic approach contributed to the



capacity to raise pollution issues among any public and on any occasion without creating negative reactions. The lesson learned then is that it's much better to share the knowledge and involve citizens and future users rather than hide the problems of a polluted space.

Potential next steps: The REMEDSPACE methodology is published to foster replication and scale-ups. More workshops are planned to be organized in La Citadelle de Marseille around REMEDSPACE art work in January 2023. In addition, further projects and applications are planned with two other European partners, including Gradoscope [SSNGOR project another NEB grantee], to organize artistic residencies about NBS for soils.