

RE-GEN JOURNAL #1

Public space regeneration through integrated urban sports' hubs for the participation of young citizen.

Re-Gen Cities towards Integrated Action Plans

The journey to deliver Integrated Action Plans to regenerate public spaces for and with youngsters began in the nine Re-Gen cities. In this first quarterly report, we describe the first phases of this journey and introduce small scale actions that will be implemented to test Re-Gen solutions based on sport and street sport.

Re-Gen scope

The Re-Gen scope is to regenerate public spaces into vibrant, inclusive Urban Sport Hubs that not only revitalize underused areas but also engage and empower adolescents through sports and community activities, fostering a sense of belonging and active participation in urban sustainable development.

Urban Sport Hubs

An Urban Sport Hub is more than just a physical space; it's a dynamic hub within neighborhoods dedicated to sport, street sports and recreational activities. These hubs serve as vibrant community spaces that promote physical activity, social interaction, and foster an active, healthy lifestyle among adolescents and the broader community.



The challenge of public spaces regeneration for and with youngsters

The Re-Gen project tackles the challenge of reimagining public spaces to meet the needs and aspirations of youngsters, recognizing adolescence as a critical phase of personal and social growth. Re-Gen aims to transform abandoned urban areas into vibrant and inclusive Urban Sport Hubs, where sport serves as a mean for social inclusion and community engagement. The vision goes beyond the creation of simple recreational places and promotes environments in which adolescents and young people can actively participate in the formation of their communities, transforming them into catalysts for change and innovation. Nine European cities are busy developing solutions that specifically meet the needs of teenage residents. Several urban regeneration challenges are faced and integrated Action Plans co-designed to enhance the ethic and aesthetics shape of urban landscape, to promote social cohesion, improve environmental sustainability, and evolve digital innovation. Regenerated public spaces are conceived as platforms where young people can engage in the urban development process, ensuring that urban sport hubs are not only regenerated to meet their needs, but are also managed together. Re-Gen cities seek to empower adolescents, positioning them as key stakeholders in urban planning, and providing them with opportunities for socialization and personal development, thereby nurturing their potential as future leaders and active citizens in their communities.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN **ALBACETE** | SPAIN

ULG Meeting Spurs Urban Innovation

29-02-2024

Albacete's URBACT Local Group met to infuse the city with innovative urban solutions. A focus on rock climbing and alternative sports aims to transform public spaces into inclusive hubs for youth by January 2025.

Youth in Urban Design

29-02-2024

Albacete's recent ULG meeting mapped out a timeline of activities inviting youth collaboration. The goal is to co-design vibrant public spaces, with a hackathon and workshops slated for the coming year. A brainstorming session led by Albacete's ULG will spark creative urban planning, focusing on engaging young people through sports and sustainability, setting a transformative course for the city's public areas.

Urban Sport Hubs

The Parque Lineal can be considered an example of Urban sport hub. It needs to be regenerated. Including it in the Re-Gen integrated action plan sharing uses and functions with youngsters is a huge opportunity for the municipality and the entire community. The Sport Hubs are going to reshape Albacete giving new sense and collective narratives to areas refurbished but not properly used.

ALBACETE



Climbing the City: Sport Shapes public spaces

In Albacete, a city with a commitment to revitalizing its public spaces, sport is emerging as a powerful tool for transformation. With funding allocated from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for urban regeneration, there is a renewed focus on improving areas to better cater to the needs of adolescents and young people, while also leveraging sport to breathe new life into underutilized urban spaces. At the forefront of this initiative is the Urbact Local Group (ULG), a diverse coalition of stakeholders including the CEEI Albacete, the Councilor for Youth, the Councilor for Green Environment, the Federation of Associations of Neighbors, the Albacete Youth Centre, the Municipal Sports Institute, educational centers, neighborhood sports associations, and more. Together, they are analyzing opportunities to enhance one of the city's most challenging areas, which includes abandoned public buildings and holds potential for both public and private stakeholders, as well as schools and teenagers. Drawing from expertise gained at transnational meetings, such as those held in Verona, the ULG is sharing insights and best practices with stakeholders. By keeping all parties informed and engaged, they are ensuring a collaborative approach to defining and implementing actions in the target areas. Key activities planned include obtaining permissions to transform public spaces for informal sport activities and developing a Speed Wall and Climbing Training area for grip and strength training, with a focus on inclusive access. Additionally, the ULG is organizing a timeline of activities for the year and the project's duration, including brainstorming sessions to generate alternative ideas and solutions, as well as identifying entities for collaboration in organizing workshops, such as the Municipal Youth Centre. As Albacete "climbs" towards its goal of transforming underutilized urban areas into vibrant hubs for youth, sport is proving to be a catalyst for positive change. Through collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to inclusivity, the city is paving the way for a more dynamic and engaging urban landscape for generations to come.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN CORFU | GREECE

Happened

Corfu Launches URBACT Local Group Initiative

20th November 2023

Corfu held its inaugural URBACT Local Group meeting, focusing on regenerating underutilized public spaces and creating a "model sport park" in the heart of the city. The Plan seeks to transform neglected areas into bustling community sport hubs

Corfu Presents Re-Gen Project During ERASMUS Week

13th October 2023

The Re-Gen project was showcased in Corfu during the ERASMUS week, organized by the Regional Directorate of Education of the Ionian Islands. The event highlighted sports as a tool for social inclusion and urban regeneration..

Vision for Urban Transformation

27th February 2024

Corfu's stakeholders gather to share visions for the city's future, emphasizing the need for natural preservation and accessible recreational facilities. The vision includes spaces for alternative informal sports, street sports, and educational activities, aiming to establish a model for other parks in the city and in the region.

CORFU

Integrating Sport into Urban Regeneration Policies for Landscape Preservation



In the city of Corfu, a key challenge has been identified by the Urbact Local Group (ULG) during its inaugural workshop: how can we ensure the preservation of the landscape while integrating sport into urban regeneration policies? This question serves as a guiding principle for the group as they embarked on their journey towards revitalizing the city's public spaces. During the first ULG meeting, members discussed a range of topics, from creating a consolidated ULG to establishing communication channels among stakeholders. They also investigated the problems using the problem tree methodology, which revealed the disuse of a park located near the prison as a significant issue. Factors contributing to this problem included the presence of the nearby prison, lack of political will, and limited financial resources. To address these challenges, stakeholders started to collaborate to create a **shared vision** for the park's future. This vision emphasized the need for infrastructure that preserves the natural landscape, provides space for alternative sports activities, and promotes educational acts and games. The goal is to create a "**model sport park**" that serves as a community hub accessible to all residents, particularly those with disabilities. Moving forward, the ULG has outlined several actions to be undertaken. This includes creating small discussion groups among stakeholders, developing online questionnaires for audience engagement, and involving local media to raise awareness about their efforts. Additionally, the group plans to focus on exploiting abandoned or disused public spaces, with a particular emphasis on the Prison Park—a vast green area surrounding the prison and close to many schools in the city.

The Prison Park presents an opportunity to test how informal sports can address the needs of adolescents and young people for socialization and recreation, while regenerating urban **landscapes**. As Corfu progresses with its urban regeneration efforts, the integration of sport into urban policies not only enhances the physical landscape, but also fosters community engagement and well-being. Through collaboration and innovation, the city is poised to create vibrant public spaces that cater to the needs of all residents.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DAUGAVPILS | LATVIA

Youth-Driven Urban Revival

11.01.2024

Mapping Future Spaces

Over 500 Daugavpils youths brainstorm at the **'Professions Fair'** for vibrant public spaces, aiming to enrich 'Esplanāde' & 'Jaunā Forštadte' with innovative recreation.

Pioneering Urban Regeneration

07.02.2024

Shaping Spaces with Young Minds

The Re-Gen project sets sail in Daugavpils with the URBACT group's first meeting at the 'Jaunība' center, plotting youth-centric urban landscapes.



Back to School, Forward to Community

01.03.2024

Collaborative Learning for Urban Growth

200+ students in Daugavpils unite at **'Back to School'** event, echoing a collaborative voice for the city's Re-Gen project and vibrant community building. They shaped the cityscape, mingling with experts to enrich the Re-Gen narrative.

DAUGAVPILS

Shaping the Future Through Youth Participation

In Daugavpils, a city known for its rich history and multicultural dimension, efforts are underway to actively engage adolescents in local development initiatives. Through the Re-Gen project, the city is fostering integration and participation, ensuring that young voices are heard and valued in shaping the future of their community. The journey began with the inaugural meeting of the "Re-Gen" URBACT local group, where professionals from the Daugavpils City Government, including those from education, development planning, international cooperation, and youth work, convened to discuss the project's goals. This gathering aimed to chart a path of Urbact Local Group (ULG) activities, as well as to strategize on involving young people in city development planning and municipal activities. Hosted at the Daugavpils Children and Youth Center "Jaunība" on February 7th, 2024, the meeting set the stage for collaborative action and engagement. Building on this momentum, the project team extended an invitation to local students, as well as students from neighboring municipalities in the Latgales region, to participate in Re-Gen activities. The launch event of the Back to School/ Back to University 2024 campaign on March 1st saw over 200 students and nearly 20 expert lesson leaders coming together at the Daugavpils Unity House. During this event, students were exposed to various subjects simultaneously, fostering a holistic approach to learning. Olga Tolmačova, from the municipality seized the opportunity to introduce the Re-Gen project to participants, emphasizing the importance of youth involvement in community development efforts. Throughout these activities, stakeholders from the Europe Direct South Latgale center, the Development Department, and the Daugavpils City Education Department played pivotal roles, underscoring the collaborative nature of the project. As Daugavpils moves forward on its journey of inclusive development, the active involvement of adolescents stands as a testament to the city's commitment to fostering a vibrant and participatory community capable to cater the needs of teens and young people. Through Re-Gen, Daugavpils is empowering its youth to become catalysts for positive change, ensuring a brighter future for all.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DAUGAVPILS | Latvia

Mapping Public Spaces with Teenagers: The First Step of a Path that Places Young People at the Center of the Vision of the City

Great job in Daugavpils: schools and adolescents are already onboard!



In Daugavpils, a remarkable initiative is underway to involve teenagers in shaping the future of public spaces, placing them firmly at the heart of the city's vision. With schools and adolescents already onboard, the Re-Gen project is off to a promising start. Led by the project team, students from grades 8 to 12, along with representatives from professional educational institutions, were introduced to the goals of the Re-Gen project. They were invited to participate in activities aimed at enhancing leisure time in the public outdoor spaces of the city's neighborhoods. One such activity involved adolescents marking on neighborhood maps the locations where they typically spend their free time outdoors. They were encouraged to share how they

spend their leisure time and to express their ideas on improving their neighborhoods. Their input ranged from suggestions on neighborhood development to identifying areas lacking facilities for productive leisure activities. The event took place during the "Professions Fair" organized by the Daugavpils Education Department at the Daugavpils Palace of Culture on January 11th, 2024. The event saw active participation from students in grades 8 to 12, as well as representatives from professional educational institutions, the Development Department and the Educational Department. The involvement of stakeholders from various sectors underscores the collaborative nature of the initiative, as well as the

commitment to inclusivity and community engagement. By empowering teenagers to actively participate in shaping their city's public spaces, the Re-Gen project is not only fostering a sense of ownership but also ensuring that the future of Daugavpils reflects the aspirations and needs of its youngest residents. As the project progresses, the mapping of public spaces with teenagers serves as a crucial first step towards creating vibrant, inclusive, and youth-friendly urban environments. It sets the stage for further collaboration and innovation, as the city works towards realizing its vision of a community where young people are valued and actively involved in shaping their surroundings.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DOBRICH | BULGARIA

DOBRICH



The Apple Park

From an Original Idea of a Girl to a Shared Design by Urbact Local Group connecting Food, Sport, Arts, and Crafts

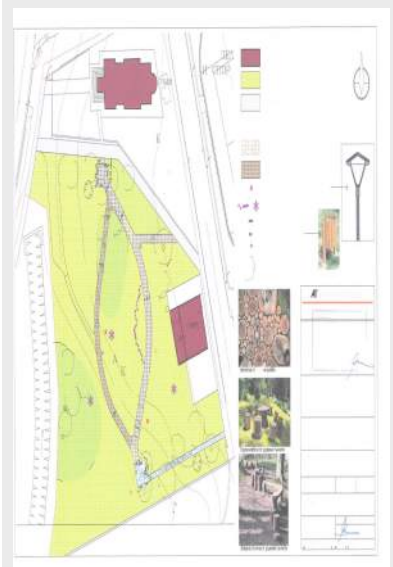
In the heart of a school neighborhood, nestled within a degraded green area, a young girl dared to dream. She envisioned a space that could evolve into a vibrant hub for adolescents and young people, a place where they could gather, play, and create. Inspired by her vision, the area became affectionately known as the **Apple Park**. What started as a simple idea soon blossomed into a community-driven initiative. Local schools embarked on a journey to listen to the voices of young people and engage the community in caring for the area. Cultural, sporting, and social events began to take root, transforming the Apple Park into a focal point of youth activity and creativity. As the idea gained traction, it spread throughout the city. Nine additional areas were identified to become Apple Parks, in alignment with the Re-GEN project's vision of creating hubs for adolescents. When the Urbact Local Group was activated, it found a well-defined and shared foundation to build upon, thanks to the groundwork laid by the Apple Park initiative. Among the stakeholders involved, a young architect stepped forward, offering her expertise to design and shape the ideas shared by the young people and stakeholders for the improvement of the terrain. Her willingness to collaborate and translate the collective vision into tangible plans adds a new dimension to the project, ensuring that the Apple Park reflects the aspirations of the community. The journey ahead requires commitment, planning, experimentation, and investment. ULG meetings held on January 5th, 2024, with 18 participants, and on February 24th, 2024, with 16 participants, focused on promoting active youth participation in the decision-making process. It is here that an integrated, multifunctional approach to planning, regeneration, and management of the area begins to take shape. The Apple Park stands as a testament to the power of a single idea to ignite change and inspire collective action. As the Urbact Local Group moves forward, it does so with a clear sense of purpose and a shared commitment to creating spaces that empower and uplift young people. Together, they are laying the groundwork for a future where communities thrive and creativity knows no bounds.

Public Space Co-Design is Already a Reality

In Dobrich, collaborative spirit takes the lead as volunteer architects from the URBACT Local Group (ULG) team up with the youth to co-design the park community space. Nestled among schools, church, and a bustling neighborhood, the abandoned area is buzzing with youthful ideas for sustainable regeneration, showcasing how shared efforts can breathe new life into urban landscapes.



Teens design inputs.



Volunteer Architect Design

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DOBRICH | BULGARIA

Apple Park: Match-Funding Sparks Transformation

Collaborative Success: Unveiling New Opportunities Through Match-Funding



In Dobrich, a city dedicated to environmental stewardship, the regeneration of Apple Park is progressing with renewed vigor. The Urbact Local Group (ULG), backed by the Dobrich municipality, has taken a significant step with the "The APPLE eco-park" project proposal. Recently, this proposal was submitted to the National "Clean Environment-2024" campaign by the Ministry for Environment and Waters, focusing on small-scale environmental enhancements. The plans include upgrading the terrain, enhancing recreational areas, and adding eco-friendly architectural elements and lighting. Although the secured funding of €7,600 might appear modest, it symbolizes more than financial aid—it marks the beginning of match-funded efforts to sustainably rejuvenate Apple Park. This funding not only initiates the park's transformation but also paves the way for further financial support and partnerships, embodying Dobrich's commitment to community-driven environmental regeneration. As match-funding becomes a tangible reality, Dobrich is set on a path toward realizing a greener, more vibrant urban space.

Dobrich Sets the Scene for Urban ReGeneration with ULG Meetings

Stakeholders Shape Vibrant Public Spaces for youngsters and community

Dobrich's journey towards urban transformation is picking up pace, marked by significant URBACT Local Group (ULG) meetings. On January 5th and February 24th, 2024, gatherings with 18 and 16 participants respectively, delved into crafting a strategic roadmap. Stakeholders analyzed the current landscape and shared visions for an integrated action plan. The discussions were robust, covering the regeneration of public spaces, advancing adolescent well-being, promoting sustainable management, and embracing digitalization in city planning. These meetings are pivotal, establishing a collaborative foundation for Dobrich's commitment to enhancing public spaces as vibrant community hubs.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LEZHA | ALBANIA

LEZHA

Re-Gen as an opportunity to continue investing in the Youth Center

Following the earthquake, several schools and public buildings in Lezha were evacuated and left abandoned. Among them is a school that has undergone renovations over the years and will soon be repurposed into a youth center. This complex includes both indoor and outdoor spaces, providing opportunities for cultural, recreational, and sports initiatives for the city's youth.

Re-Gen presents an opportunity for the city to engage in dialogue with young people to co-design the outdoor spaces and repurpose them for activities like street basketball and other street sports. Lezha's action plan will focus on this part of

the city, aiming to revitalize it while also considering actions to increase youth participation in urban development policies more broadly. This journey will gradually take shape and gain momentum in the coming months. Through Re-Gen, Lezha is not only investing in physical infrastructure but also fostering community engagement and empowering its youth to shape the future of their city.

As the project progresses, it will continue to build upon the collaborative efforts between the municipality and its young citizens, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are met.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MILANO | ITALY

MILANO



San Siro's Transformation. A Community in Progress

In the vibrant city of Milan, the Re-Gen project is focusing its efforts on the San Siro neighborhoods, with a special emphasis on the densely populated area of Piazzale Selinunte. This neighborhood has been subject to numerous initiatives in the past, reflecting its complex social landscape and its status as home to a younger population compared to other districts. However, these past efforts demonstrate that progress is possible, step by step, and the Re-Gen project is poised to contribute to this ongoing transformation.

Building Bonds Through Sport: Milan's Co-Design Initiative

The Urbact Local Group (ULG) in Milan has set specific goals centered around the concept of imagining and creating spaces for meaningful relationships with youth, utilizing sport and co-designed activities as catalysts for change.

One proposal put forward by the ULG suggests initiating a collaborative design process to create a summer event focused on urban sports and the use of public space in the Selinunte neighborhood. This initiative will prioritize the involvement of young people living in the San Siro/Selinunte district, as well as teachers, youth workers, sports instructors, volunteers, and other community leaders. The activities planned aim to streamline existing plans by various local stakeholders and funded projects for the summer of 2024.

Cultivating a Vision: San Siro's Path to Urban Renewal

The overarching goal of the Re-Gen actions in San Siro is to prioritize process care, supporting the networks already active in the community and providing visibility to the progress achieved. Through those actions, young people, alongside youth workers and adults, will have the opportunity to test actions and approaches for animating and maintaining lightweight outdoor sports infrastructure, while also anticipating and supporting the broader plan for the neighborhood's regeneration. The ReGen project is integrating within the ongoing transformations within the San Siro area in line with Milan's broader planning framework, including in particular the PINQUA program - National Innovative Programme for Quality of Living (PINQuA), an important local urban regeneration action. Within the City general plan, the ReGen project aims to bridge the gap between overarching territorial governance strategies and localized urban transformation projects, fostering coherent and impactful public actions in alignment with the city's envisioned future.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MILANO | ITALY

Latest news from the ULG

05/02/2024

Upcoming summer sports event at S. Siro. Key decisions include scheduling three co-design meetings with two youth groups - high school students and children from the day center of Equa stakeholder.

20/03/2024

An online ULG meeting focused on the PINQuA program's urban impact in the ReGen project area and detailed stakeholder contributions for the summer sports event planned in Selinunte.

22/04/2024

The latest online meeting of the ULG resulted in setting the date for the summer sports event to 12th July 2024. Discussions included updates on co-design meetings with youth groups and the call for first level stakeholders to engage with second level stakeholders in the area.

Workshops with Youth

Between January and April 2024, four co-design meetings with youth groups were conducted, focusing on the planning of a street sport and recreational event, which is now in its developmental stage.



Collaborative Futures: Milan's Stakeholders Engage the Youth

The Urbact Local Group (ULG) currently involving range of stakeholders, including the Italian Sports Association CSI, local NGOs such as Comunità Nuova and Equa, the voluntary association Kayros, secondary schools, and the Municipality of Milan's territorial social services, is considering the concept of engaging young people in the care and activation of public spaces, providing necessary equipment to support these efforts. Looking ahead, the ULG plans to continue co-designing paths with youth from March to May 2024, followed by the implementation of the sports and public space event in July 2024. Through collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to community engagement, Milan is taking proactive steps to reshape its urban landscape and provide young people with new opportunities for growth and development .

What's Next?

In July 2024, Milan's ULG will launch a urban sports event in the San Siro district, focusing on engaging local youth and community leaders in the revitalization of SanSiro/Selinunte district.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PULA | CROATIA

PULA



Local Youth Conference: what better opportunity to engage youngsters in the project and understand their perspectives

The Local Youth Conference held in Pula on 27th February 2024, provided a platform for showcasing projects and local programs tailored to adolescents and young people. Decision-makers were in attendance to present opportunities and, importantly, to actively listen to the voices of young individuals, aiming to enhance the process of formulating youth policies at the local level. This event served as an ideal forum to introduce the Re-Gen project and initiate genuine engagement with adolescent and youth associations. During the Local Youth Conference, the Urbact Local Group (ULG) undertook the development of a rapid survey focusing on public spaces and outdoor activities. Approximately 60 to 70 youngsters participated, offering valuable feedback. Notably, respondents provided insights that allowed the ULG to gauge the availability and interests of young people in

participating in public life and shaping policies. They also shed light on the aspects of public space regeneration that are of particular interest to them, emphasizing the importance of creating greener, more inclusive spaces conducive to socialization and overall well-being. Furthermore, respondents highlighted the necessity for informal sports facilities that cater to all members of the community. The findings of this survey set the groundwork for a larger survey in the future, which will help define the needs of youth. This initiative underscores our commitment to incorporating the voices and perspectives of young people in our community's urban renewal efforts, ensuring that their needs and aspirations are at the forefront of developing inclusive and vibrant public spaces.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PULA | CROATIA

From Context Analysis to Specific Objective Definition

Throughout February and March, the Urbact Local Group (ULG) convened to delve into contextual analysis with the aim of fostering a more adolescent-friendly city. This entails promoting the well-being and quality of life of young people through informal sports activities in public spaces. The city seeks to engage not only representatives from associations, schools, and economic and social operators in the planning process but also directly involve adolescent youths. The analysis focused on two key aspects: the current level of youth participation and the receptiveness and involvement of policy decision-makers. It also revealed a lack of awareness among young people regarding available opportunities and spaces for outdoor sports and physical activities. Consequently, efforts were made to map out existing spaces suitable for informal sports and outdoor activities for both young people and the broader community. This will help identify areas that, with appropriate investment, could be transformed into urban sport hubs and multifunctional areas. In Pula, the "problem tree" and the "objective tree" have taken shape, serving as guiding frameworks for the planning and experimentation process. These tools will help steer initiatives towards addressing identified challenges and achieving specific goals, ultimately contributing to the



In a nutshell

Pula Sets Stage for First URBACT Local Group Meeting

January 2024

Pula gears up for its first URBACT Local Group (ULG) meeting, focusing on establishing effective communication and strategic planning for upcoming urban regeneration initiatives

Pula Hosts ULG Meeting

13th February 2024

The City of Pula successfully conducted its first ULG meeting, where stakeholders were introduced to the URBACT program and Re-Gen network, discussing methodologies and analyzing current urban challenges.

Pula Showcases Re-Gen Project at Local Youth Program Conference

At the Local Youth Program Conference, Pula presented the Re-Gen project, emphasizing its goal to empower young people and policymakers in collaborative public space planning, highlighted by a survey on youth engagement and outdoor activity needs

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN VERONA | ITALY

VERONA

The challenge of public spaces regeneration for and with youngsters



On March 15th, the City of Verona together with the URBACT Local Group organized a public event titled "Verona South: Urban Regeneration Starts with Young People!" The event was held at the Cultural Center "6 May 1848". This gathering served as a platform to introduce various initiatives aimed at the regeneration of VERONA SUD, particularly focusing on the neighborhoods: Borgo Rome, Golosine Santa Lucia. These areas were selected due to their significant population of young residents, especially second-generation foreigners, as well as their intricate social composition and urban layout. Among the key presentations at the event were those of Jacopo Buffolo, Councilor for Youth and Participation Policies, Equal Opportunities, and Innovation, along with Marco Buemi, Re-Gen Project Leader, and Giuseppe Baratta, Director of the Innovation, Common Goods, Youth Policies, and Equal Opportunities Directorate of the Municipality of Verona. Representatives from the ULG joined the table, they are: Nuova Acropoli and Le Fate Onlus, the Basket, parkour and Skating sport associations, which are directly involved in schools labs, and street sport bootcamps.

The Re-Gen project was spotlighted as a groundbreaking opportunity to engage youngsters aged 10 to 18 in reshaping their relationship with urban spaces and sports. The Re-Gen project, in Verona, encourages active participation in designing public areas tailored to meet the needs and desires of adolescents while fostering new relationships, governance models, and creative actions within local communities.

The debate saw active involvement from high schools and middle schools and underscored the commitment of the community to actively participate in the regeneration process and ensure that young voices are heard and incorporated into urban planning initiatives.

Connecting Vision, Testing, and Planning: Biweekly ULG Coordination Meetings

The Urbact Local Group (ULG) of Verona was established during the activation phase of the project, in 2023. Currently structured into operational levels, it includes: the Core Coordination Group; the Testing Team engaging stakeholders contributing to small-scale actions; and the larger group of interested parties involved in defining actions to be included in the action planning process.

The Core Coordination Group, comprises the ULG coordinator, the representatives from the municipality and two key associations: Nuova Acropoli and Le Fate Onlus. This group convenes regularly on a biweekly basis to delineate activities aimed at engaging the other two levels. This concerted planning and programming effort sets the stage for the overall roadmap and particularly for the forthcoming quarter, marked by a series of "Sport and the City workshops" to be conducted at secondary and high schools in April and May 2024, to learn and practice skateboard, street basket and parkour.

In the ULG pipeline we find also the presentation of Re-Gen project during the next Festival Verona Europa 2024, scheduled in Verona on May 8th.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN VERONA | ITALY

Engaging with Potential Investors. Verona: Street Sports Meets e-mobility

In **Verona**, a process is underway to engage with private companies to explore the possibility of developing a genuine public-private partnership to regenerate public spaces and create new urban sport hubs co-designed by adolescents. One of the areas identified for this purpose is an area under a bridge, currently used for unauthorized and aesthetically unpleasant parking. This area is located near one of the future tram stations, adjacent to a series of recently renovated buildings and services, and not far from the Fairgrounds. Preliminary ideas shared for the regeneration of the area integrate new parking sustainable spot with a street sport hub for young adolescents. Indeed, among those interested in the regeneration of public space are not only the municipality and the tram operator, and the youths and sport associations, but also an e-mobility company, that installs charging stations for electric cars. Two meetings amid the Re-Gen Project Manager, Departments of the municipality of Verona and the company took place in January and March with the aim to join actions and investments for the regeneration of the public space connecting Re-Gen scope and interests of different involved parties. During the meeting, the company has shown enthusiasm to finance the infrastructures dedicated to the safe practice of street sports, such as skating.

This is a real **match-funding process in full swing**, currently in an experimental phase but certainly of interest and with great potential for future development. From this perspective, key questions are: "in addition to the Municipality, schools and sports associations and young people, are there companies, foundations or other entities that may be interested in investing in the physical regeneration and management of public spaces intended for Urban Sports Hubs? Could they be involved in the action planning and testing process to develop new forms of public-private partnerships or shared governance for the realization and management of public spaces and urban sport hubs? These are some fundamental issue to be considered in the next future, while elaborating the Integrated Action Plan (IAP), to engage teens in public space regeneration, to regenerate public space and co create urban sport hubs to evolve governance models by means of digital solutions. The IAP looks forwards, define actions and designs public spaces and initiatives, as well as it considers public and private funds for the necessary investments. Thus, in Verona, what is beginning could become an authentic best practice that can be replicated elsewhere.



Looking forward to engage with students

April's Active Awakening in Verona Sud

Come April 2024, Verona Sud's schools will bustle with the Re-Gen project's energy. Expect interactive workshops, vibrant discussions, and a flurry of sports and street sport activities.

**RE - GEN, YOUTH
AND URBAN
REGENERATION:
LET'S TAKE BACK
PUBLIC SPACES!**

**UNA GIORNATA DI
STREET SPORT A
SCUOLA!**

Skateboard, basketball e parkour per conoscere il progetto europeo Re - Gen. In collaborazione con Skatepark Galliano, Buster Basket e Parkour Verona Asd.

11 APRILE 2024

DALLE 14 ALLE 17

SCUOLA SECONDARIA MANZONI,
VIA VELINO 20, VERONA (VR)

I posti sono limitati, per le iscrizioni inviare il proprio nominativo a:
associazionelefate@gmail.com



URBACT



Ready for a Dynamic Street Sport Bootcamp in Verona!

This April 2024, Verona sets a benchmark for youth engagement through the inaugural street sport bootcamps. Secondary school students will have the chance to dive into the worlds of street basket, skateboarding and parkour. These events are not just about learning tricks and flips; they're about safe fun, communal bonding, and embracing urban sports as a catalyst for social connection and urban regeneration. Verona is leading the way, showing how cities can revitalize public spaces while prioritizing youth involvement, development and safety.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN VILA DO CONDE | PORTUGAL

Vila do Conde Kickstarts Re-Gen ULG

February 23, 2024

Vila do Conde's first Urban Local Group (ULG) meeting successfully brought together over 12 entities, including schools, sports clubs, and local government representatives. This foundational meeting set the stage for collaborative planning and future urban regeneration initiatives.

Re-Gen Roadshow Hits Local Schools

February 27, 2024

The Re-Gen Roadshow in Vila do Conde engaged students from Frei João and José Régio Schools, sparking discussions on improving public spaces. Students suggested adding amenities like drinking fountains and better lighting to enhance safety and usability.

Online Presentations to Broaden Community Engagement in Vila do Conde

March 2024

Vila do Conde's Re-Gen project scheduled two major online presentations, targeting youth organizations and the broader citizenry. These sessions aim to expand community involvement in the city's public space planning and regeneration efforts.

VILA DO CONDE



The Re-Gen ROADSHOW. Adolescents and public spaces, what scenarios?

The Re-Gen ROADSHOW has kicked off in Vila do Conde, triggering conversations about the future of public spaces with a focus on the perspectives of adolescents. The first meeting, held on February 23rd, brought together a diverse group of over 12 entities, including schools, sports clubs, local organizations such as the CPCJ, the Ciência Viva Center, and representatives from various departments of the City Council. It was an opportunity to share expectations and set the stage for future collaborative efforts. On February 27th, the Roadshow hit the ground running by engaging with local schools. Presentations were delivered at the Frei João School to an 8th-grade class and at the José Régio School to an 11th-grade class, reaching over 30 students. During these sessions, students were encouraged to reflect on the needs for equipment in public spaces, such as drinking fountains and recycling bins. They also identified common problems encountered in public spaces, including vandalism, lack of maintenance, and inadequate lighting. Proposing solutions, they emphasized the importance of signage to prevent issues and ensure the proper use and upkeep of these spaces. Following this groundwork, the Roadshow continued its momentum with online presentations on March 20th for youth organizations and on March 28th for all citizens. These virtual events expanded the reach of the project, inviting broader participation and feedback from the community.

As the Roadshow progresses, the ULG increased its commitment to amplifying the voices of adolescents and incorporating their perspectives into the planning and design of public spaces in Vila do Conde. By fostering collaboration and innovation, this initiative aims to create inclusive, vibrant environments that meet the diverse needs and aspirations of the city's youth and residents alike. Stay tuned for more updates as the journey unfolds.

Partners Coordination Meetings

Towards the 2nd core network meeting

Preparations are underway for the upcoming Core Network Meeting in Daugavpils, as partners and stakeholders gear up for a productive exchange of ideas and insights.

An online operative meeting, along with a series of exchanges via email and chat, has been instrumental in laying the groundwork for this important event. Scheduled to take place from May 30th to June 2nd, 2024, in Daugavpils, the meeting promises to be a key moment in the Re-Gen project timeline. The agenda for the meeting is ambitious, integrating roundtable discussions, interactive sessions, city visits, and learning experiences during the city festival and street sport event. Central to the discussions will be a focus on SYSTEM THINNING, aiming to deepen understanding of integrated aspects within the project framework and related areas of actions.

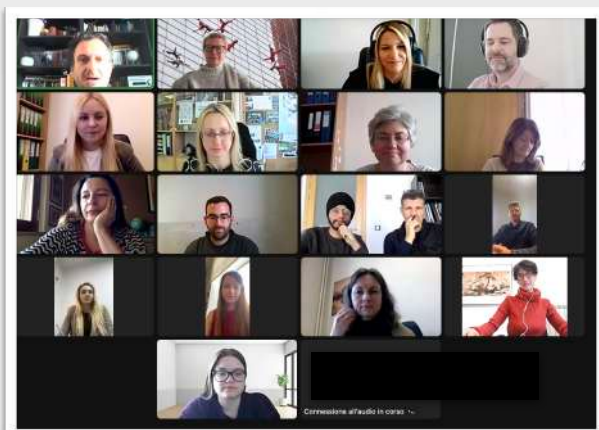
A significant milestone leading up to the Core Network Meeting was the online coordination meeting held on March 6th, 2024. During this session, partners came together to share activities implemented during the first trimester and outline the next steps. Discussions were fruitful and productive as stakeholders are already equipped to embark on a reflection process regarding the integrated aspects of urban planning, paving the way for more comprehensive and impactful strategies moving forward Re-Gen integrated action plans

6th March 2024. Online coordination meeting

Focus on the Re-Gen Areas of Actions and recalling the Roadmap

During the online coordination meeting held on March 6, 2024, partners shared local level activities and discussed strategies and key Areas of Actions to enhance cities' responsiveness to the needs of adolescents. Among them:

- **Inclusive Regeneration of Public Spaces:** Engaging adolescents in the planning and design of public areas ensures their specific needs are considered, fostering a sense of ownership and enhancing spaces for socialization and personal growth.
- **Engagement in Decision-Making:** Actively involving adolescents in decisions that affect them empowers them and ensures that urban planning initiatives are responsive to their aspirations and concerns.
- **Utilization of Sports and Street Sports:** Leveraging sports, especially street sports, can be highly engaging for teenagers. Organizing sports-based activities in public spaces promotes social interaction, physical activity, and community building.
- **Temporary Installations and Events:** Implementing temporary installations and organizing events in public spaces adds vibrancy and attracts adolescents. These initiatives create dynamic environments for socialization and recreation.
- **Digital Tools for Governance and Participation:** Using digital tools for shared governance enhances participation and ensures that adolescent voices are heard in urban planning processes.
- **Promoting Adolescent Wellbeing:** Cities should prioritize initiatives that address youth discomfort and ensure adolescent wellbeing. This includes providing safe spaces, access to mental health resources, and support networks tailored to adolescents.



Ideas for testing **Urban Sport Hubs** concept

Re-Gen Hackathon, challenging youngsters to find sport solutions for public space regeneration



Community events @ Urban Sport Hub

Temporary street sports installations



Street Sports Bootcamps and Events



Credits and Disclaimer

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