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**RE-GEN**

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**BASELINE  
STUDY  
NETWORK  
ROADMAP**  
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**URBACT**



Co-funded by  
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Interreg

# PUBLIC SPACES RE-GENERATION THROUGH INTEGRATED URBAN SPORT HUBS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG CITIZENS



## **Scope of the baseline study and network roadmap**

The Baseline Study describes the network challenge and recalls EU's urban policy strategies and priorities. It provides detail of each city partner's local context as well as expectations for planning and testing actions. The Network Roadmap is a tool developed at network level, co-designed with city partners, that sets out the customized exchange and learning journey towards the delivery of Integrated Action Plans. The Roadmap in particular is a 'living' document which can be updated regularly throughout the APN journey, using collaborative peer learning platforms.

## **Credits**

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# PREFACE

## How can cities become more adolescent-friendly?

Adolescence is a crucial phase marked by various developmental challenges, as teens seek independence and social affirmation among peers. Research underscores the profound impact of living environments on adolescents' well-being, social relationships, and personal growth.

To address the needs of adolescents and provide healthy spaces for socialization, interaction, and also moments of solitude, cities can take diverse actions. Among these, the regeneration of public spaces emerges as highly effective. However, such initiatives should not stem solely from top-down plans; they must actively involve the end users – adolescents themselves. Their participation is essential as they can best interpret their needs within these spaces, fostering a sense of ownership and respect for urban commons.

Regeneration processes, as intended by cities of the Re-Gen network, involve stakeholders and organizations collaborating with teens, placing their needs at the forefront of plans for revitalizing public spaces. A promising approach suggested by the project focuses on sports and street sports, harnessing their social potential for inclusive and sustainable urban development. Street sports particularly resonate with teens, making them ideal vehicles for engagement.

Cities within the Re-Gen network are piloting sport-based actions to rejuvenate public spaces. These initiatives include sport installations, street sport events, and tailored designs for public areas, all integrated into forward-thinking action plans. Importantly, these efforts also address the crucial aspects of public space management and maintenance: digital shared governance tools are being explored to enhance participation and collective efforts in revitalizing public spaces through sports and other recreational, cultural, and local events.

The establishment of Urban Sport Hubs, seamlessly woven into urban landscapes and social fabric, offers a co-designed and co-managed space for adolescents empowerment and community engagement. Indeed, these hubs serve diverse functions, such as hosting cultural events, local markets, and festivals, thus embracing a time-based approach to urban public spaces.

The "newspaper of tomorrow," collaboratively drafted by partners during the URBACT SUMMER UNIVERSITY, provides a deeper insight into the visionary aspirations of Re-Gen Cities.

## Nine Cities Leading the Way in Adolescent-Friendly Urban ReGeneration

*In a visionary initiative that champions adolescent empowerment and inclusive urban planning, the Re-Gen Project has catapulted nine cities into the limelight. These cities, now recognized as Adolescent-Friendly Cities, have undergone a paradigm shift in their urban planning, valuing adolescents' voices and actively involving them in co-designing spaces and activities. The integrated action planning process has not only transformed neglected areas but also heralded a future where adolescents play a pivotal role in shaping their cities*

"Our cities have undergone a profound transformation, not just physically, but in our approach. It's about recognizing adolescents as stakeholders and co-creators of our urban landscape," the Mayors highlighted. The Re-Gen Project prompted an integrated action planning process, weaving together insights from diverse stakeholders, urban planners, and teenagers.



"The recognition of these cities as Adolescent-Friendly reflects a resolute commitment to uplifting adolescents, manifesting in a transformation that values their voices," highlighted the Re-Gen Coordinator. This holistic approach, noted by the Lead Expert, prioritizes adolescents' needs. Engaging in the co-design process empowered youths: "Before, we felt marginalized, but now we shape spaces to fit our needs," said a youth leader. Urban sport hubs, co-managed by adolescents, symbolize empowerment and inclusivity, noted the ULG coordinator. The hubs foster personal growth, showcasing active youth engagement.

Adolescents are now active agents of change, contributing to city development, acknowledged a teen representative.

These hubs demonstrate cities' potential to cater to adolescent needs globally, setting a precedent for inclusive urban landscapes—nurturing empowerment for a brighter future. The Re-Gen Project's success in empowering adolescents and fostering inclusive urban spaces serves as an inspiring model for cities globally.

Moving forward, sustained support and investment in similar initiatives are vital to uphold adolescents' pivotal role in shaping vibrant and inclusive urban environments.

#1

**Adolescents' friendly city**  
**Public spaces regeneration**  
**Street Sports**  
**Governance**  
**Policies overview**

## 1.1 Adolescents in the cities

According to UN Habitat, more than half of the world's 8 billion population now lives in towns and cities. By 2030, 60% of the global urban population will be under the age of 18. As highlighted in the New Urban Agenda, young people are central to developing sustainable cities. They hold the key to our cities' future. That's why it is vital to listen to young people's voices and support their ideas and aspirations.

Adolescents are agents of change in creating a better future and when empowered they have great potential to advocate on behalf of themselves and their communities.

Ensuring more and better opportunities for their meaningful participation will be essential for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Unfortunately, in many urban areas worldwide, young people's needs are overlooked. Their influence is limited, and their potential remains untapped. Between 10 and 19 years of age (loosely defined as adolescence by the World Health

Organization), young people experience significant physical and cognitive changes that shape their habits, attitudes and behaviors. It is a time when they become more independent, but also feel more vulnerable. This phase in young people's lives represents the foundation of their future health, wellbeing, and civic engagement.

The ambition to become an Adolescents Friendly City is coherent with the global initiative of UNICEF "Child-friendly City" (CFCI), which calls on the governments to implement the rights of the child in each city. The guiding principles of building a child and adolescents-friendly city align with the overarching goals of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the local level.

"Creating equal opportunities for all children is a central goal, requiring a flexible management approach to anticipate and respond to changing circumstances, ensuring sustainability over time.





Local development policies, strategies, and plans must be responsive to the needs of children and adolescents.

As emphasized by the CFCI, adolescent communities must be involved in local-level decisions that impact their lives. This entails establishing a system to facilitate their public participation in decision-making, fostering local accountability for adolescents. Becoming an adolescent-friendly city necessitates a well-defined action plan and adequate resources. Following the recommendations of the Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) by UNICEF, goals, objectives, and actions should be consistent with local government strategic priorities and be supported by human and financial resources for successful implementation.

This process involves advocacy by the city government and stakeholders, active participation and empowerment of adolescents, and the development of a comprehensive integrated plan with clear goals, objectives, activities, and indicators, as well as defined roles, responsibilities, and budget allocation.

Cities need to be mindful that adolescents can often be overlooked in policies designed for younger children (aged 0-10) or older youth (aged 18-24). They may find themselves in a gap, perceived as too old for playgrounds but too young for the "pub." Addressing this gap is essential for ensuring the well-being and inclusion of adolescents in urban environments."



## Participation of adolescents to urban plans: the rights and the gaps



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) of 1989 recognizes children, spanning infancy to age 18, as full-fledged citizens entitled to rights, including participation, recreation, leisure, and play. These rights inherently necessitate dedicated spaces within urban settings, emphasizing the importance of integrating children's perspectives into neighborhood planning (UNCRC, 1989). Collaborating with adolescents in the design process incorporating their voices into urban strategies and plans, empower them and strengthen community connections. Urban planning plays a pivotal role in shaping communities' living environments, affecting infrastructure and public spaces. Adolescents, who frequently inhabit these spaces, should have a voice in urban design.

However, their level of involvement remains debated, highlighting issues concerning their rights and participation gaps. Adolescents have a fundamental

right to participate in decisions that impact their lives, including those related to public spaces where they spend leisure time. However, there is often a significant gap between this ideal and reality, with traditional decision-making structures frequently sidelining teens' voices. Closing gaps in adolescent participation requires a collective effort from diverse stakeholders. Urban planners must actively seek and integrate the viewpoints of adolescents into designs. Similarly, policymakers need to implement policies that prioritize youth engagement, and wellbeing, ensuring their voices are not heard, respected and considered. Neglecting teens' perspectives can result in projects that, failing to meet their needs, lead to underutilized spaces or to unintended uses for the area. Empowering adolescents to participate upholds their rights and enriches the decision-making process, contributing to more inclusive and sustainable cities.

## 1.2 The role of public spaces in adolescence

Adolescence is a critical period of transition marked by physical, emotional, and social development. During this stage, individuals seek autonomy and social interaction, and public spaces play a crucial role in shaping these experiences. Understanding the multifaceted role of public spaces in adolescence entails acknowledging their impact on socialization, well-being, and engagement.

- ❖ Public spaces provide adolescents with environments to interact, socialize, and form connections with peers. These social interactions contribute significantly to the development of social skills, the establishment of identity, and the formation of lasting friendships (Eccles and Barber et al, 1999). Parks, recreational areas, and community centres become platforms for self-expression, enabling adolescents to explore their interests and develop a sense of belonging.
- ❖ Studies, such as those conducted by Wheeler et al. (2015), highlight the positive impact of public spaces on the mental and physical well-being of adolescents. Accessible green spaces, for instance, have been linked to reduced stress levels and improved overall mental health. The availability of safe areas for physical activities encourages an active lifestyle, combating issues like obesity and promoting overall health during this crucial developmental phase.
- ❖ Public spaces serve as arenas for adolescents to engage with their communities, fostering a sense of citizenship and social responsibility. Involving adolescents in the planning and design of public spaces, provides them with a sense of agency and empowerment (Hart et al.,

“THE SPACES, OBJECTS AND PLACES AROUND US IMPACT OUR EMOTIONS AND IN TURN OUR EMOTIONS REFLECT BACK OUT INTO OUR ENVIRONMENT”

(<https://eurocities.eu/goals/open-public-and-private-spaces/>)



1997) emphasizes the importance of participatory approaches to urban planning can generate a lifelong commitment to community involvement and civic responsibility.

- ❖ In the digital age, public spaces also intersect with virtual spaces, influencing adolescent socialization. The work of Ito et al. (2009) discusses the concept of "networked publics," where online and offline interactions intertwine. Understanding this evolving dynamic is crucial for planners and policymakers to ensure that public spaces continue to meet the changing needs of adolescents in an increasingly interconnected world.

The reports from the UNICEF underscore the urgency of tackling disparities in urban settings. "Children residing in degraded neighborhoods are disproportionately exposed to risks of poverty, deviant behavior, and unhealthy lifestyles". This can be explained through the concept of neighborhoods' effects, where the quality of a neighborhood's significantly influences children and teens' development and well-being. "High crime rates, limited employment opportunities, and inadequate social support networks further contribute to the increased risk of poverty, educational poverty and deviant behavior among the youth".

Recognizing these challenges, the European Commission and the World Health Organization (WHO) have stressed the importance of addressing urban disparities and improving living conditions in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Considering that degraded areas become concentrations for disadvantaged groups, fostering social tensions, the regeneration of public space is part of the solution. Urban agendas and policies aimed at revitalizing such areas and providing equal opportunities for all citizens play an essential role in mitigating the negative effects on teens and children's lives.



## Public Spaces re-generation with and for teens agers, an imperative challenge for city

The concept of regenerating public spaces with and for teenagers is gaining momentum as cities strive to become more adolescent-friendly. Public spaces, as defined by UN Habitat, are "places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive." These spaces serve vital physical and social functions, particularly in rapidly growing urban environments facing increasing cultural diversity. To address ongoing urban transformations, it's crucial to reassess the functions, design, and management of public spaces, starting with abandoned and underused areas.

It's also essential to recognize that the characteristics of public spaces vary widely based on geographical locations, socio-economic and cultural contexts, underscoring the need for adaptable planning and design (UN-HABITAT, 2013).

Public spaces are crucial for fostering social interaction, recreation, and economic activities, significantly impacting people's overall well-being and promoting healthy lifestyles. They are used for cultural events, sports, markets, and performances, enriching community life and becoming indispensable assets. Additionally, aesthetically pleasing public spaces spark creativity and breakthrough, encouraging engagement and socialization. Good practices including those supported by the Healthy Active Cities initiative (WHO) and by the New European Bauhaus, demonstrate that well-designed spaces reduce stress and improve mental well-being, contributing to residents' happiness and quality of life.

**"ABANDONED AND UNDERUSED PUBLIC AREAS IN EUROPEAN CITIES REPRESENT UNTAPPED POTENTIAL."**

<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/thefutureofcities/space-and-the-city#sections>

This influence is particularly significant for adolescents.

Acknowledging the voices of adolescents and supporting their ideas and aspirations is imperative, yet often disregarded in many cities and regions. Failure to authentically involve and leverage young people's contributions represents a missed opportunity and poses substantial global challenges. Recognizing the vital role of public spaces in teenagers' lives for identity exploration and social skill development is vital. However, the current urban landscape frequently neglects their needs, leading to isolation and steering them toward unsuitable areas.

Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive understanding of spaces specifically designed for adolescents, transcending conventional designs for children, youth and adults, but remaining focused on this delicate period of life: adolescence, with all its contradictions and ambitions. Understanding adolescents' emotional growth is imperative to prevent the risk of their disconnection from suitable public spaces. Raising awareness and involving teenagers in urban planning processes facilitate the creation of resonant public spaces that cater to their needs.

**BUT MOST OF ALL, IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT DESIGNING FOR; IT IS IMPERATIVE TO DESIGN AND CREATE WITH.**

The regeneration of public spaces with and for adolescents represents a necessary challenge to create cities suitable for this age group. This effort requires a paradigm shift in urban planning, prioritizing the inclusion and empowerment of adolescents in the design and use of public spaces.

Recognizing adolescents as valuable stakeholders and actively involving them in decision-making processes can lead cities to create environments that promote their well-being, socialization, and sense of belonging. This holistic approach not only improves the quality of life for adolescents but also promotes more resilient, inclusive, and vibrant urban communities for all residents. This imperative challenge includes reinventing

urban lifestyles and public spaces to better meet the needs and preferences of adolescents, fostering environments where they feel valued, supported, and empowered. To address this challenge, cities must prioritize the development of public spaces tailored to the interests and developmental stages of adolescents.

This includes creating spaces for socialization, recreation, and personal expression, while ensuring accessibility, safety, and inclusiveness for all adolescents, regardless of their background, ability, or gender. Involving adolescents in the regeneration process is essential to ensure that public spaces truly meet their needs and reflect their aspirations. This can be achieved through youth-led design workshops, community consultations, and other participatory approaches that give adolescents a voice in shaping their urban environment.



## 1.3 Can Street Sports make public spaces more adolescent-friendly?

Incorporating street sports into urban planning and design can significantly contribute to addressing the challenge of creating public spaces tailored to the needs of adolescents (Zeiger, 2015). By integrating features such as outdoor courts, skate parks, and multifunctional spaces for street sports, cities can attract adolescents and encourage participation (UN-HABITAT, 2013).

Involving adolescents in the design of street sports and public space regeneration allows to integrate teens' interests and preferences in urban plans. The co-design process can foster a sense of ownership and belonging that motivates youngsters to take care of and manage public spaces with a sustainable and inclusive perspective.

The participation of girls in this process is vital for a city that has the ambition of becoming teenager-friendly; in fact, the risk of exclusion from the use of public spaces affects girls much more, who sometimes do not find equipment suitable for their way of experiencing the streets, squares and parks, and very often do not feel safe enough to spend their time in urban public spaces. Street sports offer more than just physical activity; they also facilitate social interaction, teamwork, and creativity (Zeiger, 2015). These activities can bridge the gap between playgrounds designed for younger children and spaces intended for older youth, providing adolescents with a place to thrive and express themselves. As well as if they are planned with a gender based approach become more inclusive and safe for all the community.

**"PUBLIC SPACE MAKES ROOM FOR PLAY,  
SOCIAL INTERACTION, CREATIVITY,  
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND AND  
ENVIRONMENT, THE VERY THINGS A CITY  
THRIVES ON"**

*<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/thefutureofcities/space-and-the-city#sections>*

Regenerated public spaces with street sports as a solution are not just for sports; they represent multifunctional spaces for adolescents and the community. Street sports hubs can host various recreational events, social gatherings, cultural activities and local markets and have the power to regenerate both the built environment and revitalize the social context of neighborhoods at all hours of the day.

The Re-Gen project fits into this perspective. It aims to plan, co-design and experiment together with young people sport-based regeneration processes of abandoned or degraded public spaces, to transform them into URBAN SPORT HUB, or places for sports road, and more. Re-Gen actively involves teenagers in the process of rethinking and redesigning public spaces, squares, streets and parks. intends to unlock the creative potential of young people, and at the same time allow young people to feel part of the change necessary to make cities younger, more inclusive, beautiful and sustainable.

For teenagers, contributing directly to the creation of urban places more suited to their needs and interests becomes an opportunity for growth. participation develops a sense of belonging to the community and a sense of respect for common goods.

## What are street sports?

Street sports, known for their informal nature and accessibility, offer children and young individuals an avenue for physical activity that transcends barriers. These sports, including skateboarding, breakdancing, and street basketball, require minimal facilities and embody values like resilience and inclusivity. They foster a sense of community and belonging, countering social exclusion and promoting healthy lifestyles. With a rich historical background rooted in urban environments, street sports continuously evolve, adapting to the changing urban landscape.

These activities inspire self-organized communities and flexible organizational formats, attracting investments in sustainable events that leave a lasting legacy for future generations. As street

sports defy traditional definitions, they shape urban culture and landscapes across Europe, reflecting the dynamic spirit of youth.

Street sports serve as catalysts for physical activity and community building among young people, promoting inclusion and shaping a vibrant urban sports culture. EU studies show that street sports attract youth due to their enjoyable and relaxed nature, providing opportunities for fun and social interaction.

These activities are easily accessible and adaptable, making them ideal for engaging with youth in their natural social environments. Street sports encompass a lifestyle culture where activities extend beyond sports practice to include fashion, music, art, and an overall approach to life, fostering a sense of belonging transcending societal classifications. Participants primarily identify themselves







as enthusiasts of the sport, placing less emphasis on other societal affiliations.

Street sports reflect a growing trend in urbanization, promoting freedom, active participation, and respect for human rights without financial or discriminatory barriers. Unlike traditional sports, which often foster rivalry based on team or national affiliations, street sports prioritize community over competition.

Street sports, even in team-oriented formats, prioritize communal unity, fostering a strong cultural bond among participants. Predominantly occurring in urban settings, street sports are non-commercial and non-professional activities rooted in spontaneous and creative origins. They have evolved into hybrid forms of traditional sports adapted to the urban environment, encompassing diverse disciplines such as street workout, [streetball](#), [skateboarding](#), [parkour](#), [free running](#), and [street football](#). These sports may differ in required equipment, impacting their cultural aspects and accessibility.

[Parkour](#), originating from military obstacle course training, emphasizes unrestricted movement and appeals to individuals from varied cultural and social backgrounds due to its versatile and location-independent nature.

[Free running](#), an offshoot of parkour, incorporates [acrobatic tricks](#), focusing more on aesthetics than practicality.

[Tricking](#), derived from parkour and free running, combines acrobatics, martial arts, and breakdancing, emphasizing artistic movements with no defined rules.

[Street acrobatics](#) or [Acro-street](#) features athletes performing acrobatic stunts within city limits, creating visually stunning displays of street sports.

[Street workout](#), blending gymnastics and circus acrobatics, promotes outdoor training using public horizontal bars and provides an accessible option for physical activity regardless of gym access or seasonal changes.

Urban [slacklining](#) and [highlining](#), popular in Eastern Europe, utilize city landmarks for festivals and events. Scooter freestyle,



a burgeoning sport, gains momentum partly due to its quick learning curve and online visibility through platforms like YouTube and Instagram. **Longboarding**, distinct from skateboarding, focuses on speed, cruising, and downhill racing, also incorporating styles like longboard dancing and freestyle.

**Motorcycle** stunt riding, a relatively new sport, involves extensive practice in controlled environments, dispelling misconceptions about training in public streets.

Street sports play a vital role in steering youth away from unhealthy habits, promoting physical and mental readiness.

They foster discipline, gradually perfecting elements and building confidence to face unforeseen challenges. Often taking place in public spaces, street sports draw public attention and encourage others to participate, enriching regional cultural life.

### Good practice of street sports

❖ **Ghetto Games** in Latvia stands out as one of Europe's largest movements for street sports and culture. Annually, it unites over 250 volunteers for various activities like street football, floorball, 3x3 basketball, extreme sports, and more. These volunteers contribute not only to event setup and tournaments but also engage in multimedia creation, producing videos, photos, and managing social media channels. For many volunteers, this involvement represents an opportunity to join a wide community of like-minded individuals and serves as an initial step towards achieving their career aspirations through non-formal education.

❖ **Barcelona**, Spain, leads in the design and implementation of public spaces aimed at fostering physical activity. The city boasts areas catering to diverse physical activities such as BMX, Skateboarding, Basketball, Football, Inline Skating, Parkour, and Dancing. Purposeful infrastructure design addresses the need for both recreational sitting areas and spaces for the youth to engage in physical activities. Such initiatives also contribute significantly to combatting substance abuse issues like alcohol and drugs among the youth. Typically, youth engaging in physical activity prefer to do so without any influence from substances due to the associated injury risks. Barcelona's numerous designs throughout the city reflect this approach.

❖ **Marseille**, France, boasts the LE BOWL SKATEPARK, a renowned beachside location featuring deep bowls, vert ramps adorned with vibrant graffiti, and an inviting Mediterranean climate. This skatepark has attracted skateboarders worldwide for 25 years, hosting prominent events like the Quiksilver Bowlrider and the Orange Massilia Freestyle Cup. The park offers free entry and is illuminated for nighttime activities, providing an ideal space for skateboarders of all skill levels to practice and watch top skateboarders showcase their talents.

❖ **The Malta Street Sport Association** (MSSA) comprises enthusiasts and experts dedicated to advocating street sports' benefits to the general public. They champion various street sports like BMX, skateboarding, inline skating, scootering, street football, street basketball, and parkour. MSSA's primary goal is to leverage street sports as a



means to steer youth away from addictions like drugs, alcohol, and corruption. The organization aims to educate and promote the use of street sports for physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. They focus on popularizing these sports among youth, especially for those facing limitations due to time constraints or financial difficulties. Recognizing the importance of belonging and its impact on mental health and social well-being, MSSA emphasizes that street sports offer unique opportunities, accessible for regular or sporadic practice, individually or in groups. This inclusivity appeals to marginalized youth who may face challenges in joining traditional team sports.

In the context of street sports, social media and apps have emerged in recent years as powerful tools that transcend geographical boundaries, allowing street sports communities to exchange practices, innovations and inspirations globally, as well as self-organize to meet and practice.

This interconnectedness fosters a sense of global community and shared growth among adolescents. Street sports, often perceived as “unorganized,” actually possess a unique organizational fabric driven by youth culture, which profoundly shapes the group's activities and identity. Street sports communities thrive when they adapt to different territorial, cultural, spatial, socio-economic and environmental contexts, nurturing their unique nature. Flexibility in organizing events and adaptability of spaces for street sports strengthens the authenticity of the community and public spaces.

## 1.4 Shared Governance of

The notion of public spaces as community assets and urban common goods is rooted in their inherent value as shared resources benefiting all members of a community. These spaces—comprising parks, squares, and streets—serve as vital hubs for social interaction, recreation, cultural expression, and civic engagement. They transcend mere physical areas, encapsulating a community's collective identity and heritage, fostering social cohesion and a sense of belonging among residents. Effective management, maintenance, and conservation of public spaces are not the sole responsibility of municipal or governing authorities.

They significantly hinge on community engagement and stewardship. Subsidiarity agreements with citizen associations offer avenues for shared management and governance of public spaces, facilitating collaborative approaches where community stakeholders actively participate in decision-making processes, contributing to the preservation and development of these spaces (Kennedy et al., 2015; Carmona, 2021; Bauwens & Kostakis, 2014).

In European policies, there is an increasing acknowledgment of the importance of common goods and urban commons. The European Union's Urban Agenda underscores the role of urban commons in sustainable urban development. It emphasizes the necessity of community participation and shared governance in managing public spaces, aligning with the principles advocated also in the Territorial Agenda. The term "urban commons" encapsulates the collective use and repurposing of public spaces, advocating

## urban commons

for community involvement and co-governance. This model empowers communities at local and city levels, providing an alternative to centralized planning by enabling citizens to actively shape services and contribute as both consumers and producers.

Elinor Ostrom's influential theories on common pool resources have guided the conceptualization of these approaches, highlighting the importance of inclusive decision-making, clearly defined rules, and community engagement for sustainable resource management. (Ostrom, 2015)

Recognizing the value of public spaces is strategic for their seamless integration into collaborative planning models and urban development initiatives.

Shared governance offers a structured framework for transparent decision-making, allowing diverse stakeholders to actively participate in managing public spaces beyond superficial consultation.

When a diverse community collectively assumes ownership and management responsibilities for a public space, it significantly impacts cities by fostering fairness, addressing power imbalances, promoting innovation, and strengthening community bonds.

Managing public spaces as common goods ensures inclusivity, equity, innovation, community cohesion, transparency, sustainability, and adaptability in their management.

References supporting the importance of shared governance can be found in scholarly studies, policy documents on urban planning, community development, and reports from international organizations.

These references notably emphasize the theories and principles elucidated not only by Elinor Ostrom in her seminal work on common pool resources (Ostrom, 2015) but also by scholars like Garrett Hardin, whose exploration of the "Tragedy of the Commons" sheds light on the challenges of resource management in shared spaces (Hardin, 1968). Furthermore, the works of Christopher Alexander, advocating for participatory design and community-

driven urban spaces, and Jan Gehl's research on human-scale urban design also contribute to understanding the significance of inclusive and people-oriented urban environments (Alexander, 1977; Gehl, 2010). These various scholarly contributions collectively inform and underline the applicability of shared governance principles to the management of urban commons.

## The role of digital tools for shared governance of public Spaces

In modern cities, the integration of digital tools has become indispensable for the regeneration and management of public spaces (Smith, 2018). With the advancement of technology, digitalization has emerged as a fundamental component in fostering shared governance models for these spaces (Jones, 2020). Digital tools are no longer optional but are essential in every aspect of city management, particularly in ensuring the sustainable, inclusive, and appropriate utilization of public areas.

The digitalization of public spaces serves multiple crucial purposes. Firstly, it enables more efficient planning, testing, and development of co-management and shared governance models (Smith, 2018). By utilizing digital platforms, city planners and stakeholders can streamline processes, gather data, and engage with the community in a more effective and transparent manner (Greenwood et al., 2016). This ensures that decisions regarding public spaces are well-informed, collaborative, and reflective of the diverse needs and preferences of the urban population. Digital tools play a pivotal role in enhancing the accessibility and safety of

public spaces (Jones, 2020). Through innovative technologies such as smart sensors and real-time monitoring systems, cities can create environments that are welcoming and secure for all residents and visitors. Digitalization allows for the implementation of measures that promote inclusivity and address the needs of vulnerable populations, ensuring that public spaces cater to the diverse needs of urban communities. The digitalization of public spaces facilitates their ongoing maintenance and care (Smith, 2018). With digital platforms for reporting issues, scheduling maintenance tasks, and monitoring the condition of amenities, cities can ensure that public areas remain clean, well-maintained, and attractive to users (Greenwood et al., 2016).

This fosters a sense of pride and ownership among community members, encouraging them to actively participate in the preservation and enhancement of their shared environment. The integration of digital tools into the regeneration and management of public spaces is crucial for creating inclusive, safe, and well-maintained urban environments (Jones, 2020).



Digitalization helps cities to advance shared governance models that empower communities, promote transparency and collaboration, and ultimately contribute to the creation of vibrant and sustainable urban landscapes. In this prospect, an APP specifically designed for URBAN SPORT HUBS may be compelling, yet innovative for the management and long term development of the Hubs.

The Re-gen APP will be designed and tested, it will serve as a platform for communication, coordination, and collaboration among stakeholders, including city officials, adolescent, sport association cultural organizations, schools and other stakeholders. It could facilitate the efficient organization of sporting events, reservation of sports facilities, as well as the of cultural recreational social happenings, disseminating also important information about “what is going on” and calling communities to take care of the maintenance of the public Urban Sport Hubs.

The app could democratize decision-making processes, providing opportunities for community feedback and participation in shaping the policies and practices affecting the Urban Sport Hubs.

Through features like surveys, forums, and interactive maps, users could voice their opinions, propose ideas, and contribute to the co-creation of these spaces. Such a digital solution could enhance accessibility and inclusivity by providing information about accessibility features, programming opportunities for social integration.

It will be a sound channel to promote active and healthy lifestyles for all,

erving also as a tool for continuous placemaking and renovation of public spaces.

By engaging the community in co-creating equipment to enhance both functionality and aesthetics, it embodies the principles of the New European Bauhaus and puts them into action. This is why the URBAN SPORT HUBS app should be trialled and tested as part of the Re-Gen integrated action planning process. This approach involves not only the co-design of physical spaces, but also the co-development of digital tools to fully exploit their potential in revolutionizing management, governance, engagement and inclusiveness within these spaces. These initiatives contribute to the creation of vibrant, inclusive and sustainable urban sports communities and to the shared management of public space, as an urban common good.

## 1.5 Cross cutting themes

The rationale for integrating crosscutting themes such as gender equality, green transition, and digital transformation into the plan and design of urban sport hubs, particularly public spaces redesigned for and with adolescents, is multifaceted and aligns with global initiatives such as UN-Habitat's "Her City" initiative and UNESCO's "Child Friendly City" initiative, Green Deal and the Digital Transition of a Europe Fit for the digital age.

Incorporating these crosscutting themes into the plan and design of urban sport hubs not only supports the objectives of global initiatives such as UN-Habitat's "Her City" and UNESCO's "Child Friendly City" but also contributes to creating inclusive, sustainable, and technologically





advanced environments for adolescents. By embracing principles of gender equality, green transition, and digital transformation, urban sport hubs become catalysts for positive social change, promoting well-being, empowerment, and environmental stewardship among future generations.

#### Gender Equality:

- ❖ **Inclusive Design:** Adopting a feminist perspective to urban design involves ensuring that public spaces are inclusive and accessible to all genders. Urban sport hubs designed with gender equality in mind provide safe and welcoming environments for adolescent girls and boys alike to engage in sports and recreational activities.
- ❖ **Addressing Gender Stereotypes:** By challenging traditional gender stereotypes associated with certain sports or recreational activities, these hubs promote gender equality and empower adolescents to pursue their interests without constraints.

#### Green Transition:

- ❖ **Nature-Based Solutions:** Integrating nature-based solutions into the design of urban sport hubs aligns with the objectives of the Green Deal. By incorporating green spaces, sustainable

materials, and environmentally friendly infrastructure, these hubs contribute to climate resilience and biodiversity conservation while enhancing the well-being of adolescents.

- ❖ **Promoting Active Lifestyles:** Green spaces within urban sport hubs provide opportunities for physical activity, connecting adolescents with nature and promoting active and healthy lifestyles. This fosters a deeper appreciation for the environment and encourages sustainable behaviors.

#### Digital Transformation:

- ❖ **Smart Governance and Management:** Leveraging digital tools and technologies for managing public spaces and urban commons enhances efficiency and improves user experience. Digital platforms can facilitate community engagement, provide real-time information on events and activities, and enable data-driven decision-making for optimizing the use of space.
- ❖ **Accessible Information:** Digital tools ensure that information about urban sport hubs can be accessible to all, including adolescents from diverse backgrounds. This promotes transparency, inclusivity, and participation in the planning and management of public spaces.

## 1.6 Policies relevant to the Re-Gen network.

- ❖ Cohesion Policy: The EU's Cohesion Policy aims to reduce regional disparities by supporting investments in sustainable urban development, social inclusion, and economic growth. It emphasizes integrated approaches to address challenges in cities.
- ❖ European Urban Agenda: This agenda promotes sustainable urban development by identifying key challenges and offering policy recommendations. It addresses issues such as urban poverty, housing challenges, and social cohesion.
- ❖ EU Youth Strategy and Rights of the Child: These initiatives focus on fostering youth participation in society and ensuring children's rights to a good standard of living and equal opportunities. They emphasize youth empowerment and participation in decision-making processes
- ❖ “White Paper for Sport”, and the “Developing the European Dimension in Sport”: EU sport policies recognize the role of sports in regional growth, employment, and social cohesion and recognizes the positive impact of sports on development and personal growth. These Policies prioritize gender inclusivity, education, integrity, and social inclusion in sports
- ❖ The EU Work Plan for Sport: it focuses on improving funding in sports, emphasizing economic aspects like innovation and the digital market. It encourages stakeholder involvement in policy monitoring and promotes peer learning for sharing best practices. Additionally, it prioritizes urban development, environmental sustainability, and energy efficiency in sports facilities, recognizing the role of sports in social inclusion, gender equality, and regional development.
- ❖ HealthyLifestyle4All initiative: it aims to integrate sports and active lifestyles with health policies, promoting well-being and social integration, healthy diet particularly among marginalized groups.
- ❖ New European Bauhaus (NEB): The NEB initiative integrates sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusivity in urban design. It aims to revitalize neglected neighborhoods and public spaces, emphasizing beauty, sustainability, and community engagement. The NEB includes the SportHub Alliance for Regional Development in Europe (SHARE), focusing on the significance of sports in regional development.
- ❖ UN-Habitat HERCITY: A Guide for Cities to Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Planning and Design together with Girls
- ❖ UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative: an Initiative that promotes the realization of child rights at the local level through a unique network of municipal governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, media and children themselves. The Initiative implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

#2

# Cities Profiles



# CITY OF ALBACETE

Country: SPAIN

Region: Castilla-La Mancha

Territorial extension: 14 926 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 172.500 inhabitants  
of which 18% youngsters 10-18 years old

GDP per capita: 27,350€ (2019)

Albacete, situated in the Castilla-La Mancha region of Spain, is a dynamic urban centre with a rich history and a commitment to sustainability. Historically known for agriculture and cutlery production, it has evolved into a diverse economy, with sectors like manufacturing and renewable energy. Strategically located between Madrid and the Mediterranean coast, it serves as a vital transportation hub. Albacete signed the Aalborg Charter (European Sustainable cities & towns initiative) in 2000, focusing on sustainable development, reflected in its Local Agenda 21 and business park initiatives. The city boasts extensive parkland, architectural landmarks, and cultural events like the September Feria de Albacete. It is home to educational institutions like the University of Castilla-La Mancha. Albacete epitomizes a transition from its agrarian past to a modern, sustainable urban centre, making it a significant player in the region's economic and cultural landscape.



## Mapping public spaces for Urban Sport Hubs Development

In Albacete, there are facilities in open areas that have become small and obsolete, encouraging their use for other purposes than those for which they were intended. This is the case of the facilities located in the Parque Lineal, which were built in 2010 as an open skate park. When speaking about public space regeneration it is necessary to recall that the Albacete City Council initiated a transformative project to revitalize 12 municipal areas, creating green spaces, recreational zones, and integration areas that added 33,914 square meters of new public spaces, receiving funding from the European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Sustainable Urban Development Initiative. Originally, this wide project aimed to enhance the urban environment and public spaces by repurposing underutilized municipal lands. It sought to transform these spaces into temporary green gardens, and open areas for the public's enjoyment. The objective extended beyond merely expanding green spaces; it aspired to comprehensively improve the urban landscape and integrate features that encouraged public participation. Over time, it became evident that many of these newly developed areas were not being used as envisioned. This highlighted the need for a re-evaluation of the project. The lack of end-user involvement in the initial design phase raised concerns. Consequently, there is a renewed focus on reimagining these spaces, particularly with

an emphasis on engaging teenagers and young people.

This need meets the challenges posed by the Re-Gen project and recognizes the co-creation of Urban Sport Hub as an effective and feasible solution, with the commitment of the stakeholders. These multifunctional sports-focused spaces to meet the needs of adolescents are developed with youth and sports and cultural associations to accommodate recreational activities for the entire community. The concept of the Urban Sport Hub of Albacete addresses the urgent challenges of a real city: countering the limited recreational spaces for young people, reconvertng underused areas, already regenerated a few years ago, into lively hubs with an inclusive and gender-based approach, empowering adolescents, put into action a truly multi-actor approach to regenerate the city's public spaces.

The approach involves the collaboration of sports associations, schools, and the youth centre to create youth-oriented animation initiatives. The goal is to actively involve young individuals in determining how these spaces can better cater to their needs and interests. This change in perspective is not just about creating physical spaces but also fostering a sense of ownership and participation among young people and stakeholders that should lead in the future to a shared governance of public spaces.

## URBACT Local Group (ULG) Stakeholders

- ❖ CEEI Albacete
- ❖ City Youth and social affairs Department
- ❖ City Green Environment Department
- ❖ Municipal Sports Institute
- ❖ Albacete young association
- ❖ Centro Joven Albacete
- ❖ Municipal Sports Institute (IMD)
- ❖ Climbing Sport Association
- ❖ Federation of Associations of Neighbours, Users, and Consumers of Albacete (FAVA)
- ❖ Youth Web Radio
- ❖ Schools, other sports associations, educational centres, and cultural organizations youngsters will soon join the ULG.
- ❖ As an independent entity under the city council's jurisdiction, the director of CEEI will coordinate and facilitate collaboration among the stakeholders and together with the Councillor for Entrepreneurship and Opportunities will directly evaluate results and the impact of the Re-Gen project.

## Local Plans and Strategies

- ❖ The city's sport strategy, managed by the Sports Municipality Institute (IMD), emphasizes not only nurturing talent but also creating sporting infrastructure and events to promote healthy sporting culture, Albacete's strategies and policies reflect a holistic approach to urban development, prioritizing sustainability, community engagement, and social inclusion.
- ❖ The Sport in Summer Project, launched in 2023, exemplifies Albacete's commitment to promote sports and youth engagement. This program offers sport activities in various parks and school playgrounds throughout the summer months. Providing accessible and inclusive opportunities for citizens of all ages to participate in sports and recreational activities, the project not only promotes physical health and well-being but also strengthens social cohesion and community spirit.
- ❖ The Open Forum serves as a platform for citizen engagement in local governance, allowing residents to contribute ideas and feedback on public policies and initiatives. Through this forum, Albacete fosters a culture of transparency, accountability, and democratic participation, ensuring that the voices of its citizens are heard and considered in policy and decision-making processes.
- ❖ Local plans and investments in the transformation of recreational spaces to create new services such as pump tracks, skate parks and inclusive play areas have been approved by the city to improve the urban environment and promote active lifestyles among its citizens

## Good practices in the city

The Youth Centre in Albacete, Spain, stands out as a good practice in engaging young people and offering them opportunities for growth, socialization, and participation. More than a recreational space, the Youth Centre serves as a hub for personal and community development for young individuals. It provides free spaces for activities organized by youth and youth organizations, fostering a sense of belonging and community among them. It offers various services such as psychological support, sexual health guidance, and substance abuse counseling, promoting overall well-being among youth.

The Centre hosts a wide range of activities including sports, dance, music, theatre, radio, and video production, allowing young people to explore their interests and talents. Through these activities, personal growth is nurtured, and active citizenship is promoted, empowering young people to become responsible citizens who actively contribute to shaping their communities.

A notable initiative spearheaded by the Albacete City Council, in collaboration with the Youth Centre and other partners, is the "Campaign for Youth Responsibility - #IWillNever #IWillAlways – Change the

Rules." This campaign aimed to highlight positive behaviors among young people and boost their social commitment in leisure time, studies, group relationships, and family interactions.

The campaign was developed in a highly participatory manner, involving young people and ensuring their voices and perspectives were authentically represented. The engagement of various local professionals and Novaonda radio amplified the initiative's reach and impact. The campaign's messages, closely aligned with crucial health recommendations, resonated through social media and beyond, emphasizing the responsibility of both young people and the broader population.

Despite these commendable efforts, the participation of adolescents in local policies remains limited.

Nonetheless, initiatives like those undertaken by the Youth Centre in Albacete serve as inspiring examples of effective youth engagement and empowerment, demonstrating the transformative potential of providing young people with platforms for active participation and meaningful contribution to their communities.



## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities

- ❖ The Albacete Youth Centre is a well-established institution with a track record of fostering youth engagement and creativity, providing a strong foundation for involving youngsters in defining better public space use.
- ❖ The organization of a national climbing event in the city centre successfully animated public spaces, attracting athletes, citizens, and visitors, showcases the potential of public spaces for youth-focused activities.
- ❖ The interest manifested by the climbing association indicates a potential strong partnership to co create and manage an Urban Sport Hub in underused public space and (in this case integrating also abandoned public buildings).
- ❖ The city's commitment to sustainability and citizen participation through local action and social integration plans demonstrates a proactive approach to community support.
- ❖ The possibility to leverage NEXT Generation EU for sustainable urban development represents an actual integrative resource to implement and follow up with the Re-Gen IAP and public spaces regeneration
- ❖ Albacete is rich in cultural diversity and offers opportunities for art, music, and food-related activities, (see the city festival) enhancing the attractiveness of public spaces.
- ❖ Albacete possesses underutilised public spaces, (a challenge from one single perspective, but an opportunity to offer a foundation for the development of integrated urban sports hubs.

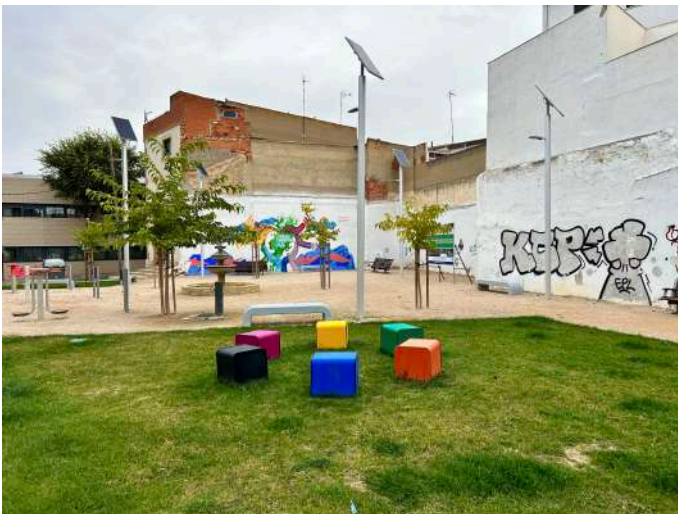
### Challenges

- ❖ Aligning existing youth engagement programs with project goals to ensure effectiveness and adaptability.
- ❖ Improving skills of local stakeholders to develop adolescent-friendly cities by regenerating public spaces that meet their needs.
- ❖ Managing and coordinating diverse local stakeholders with varying interests to avoid conflicts and ensure cooperation.
- ❖ Ensuring ongoing funding and resources for the maintenance and sustainability of urban sports hubs.
- ❖ Unlocking local budgets, grants, and partnerships for funding, subject to budget constraints and competition with other city initiatives.
- ❖ Repurposing existing infrastructure may require significant modifications and upgrades, potentially leading to construction challenges and conflicts.
- ❖ Sustaining high levels of community engagement throughout the project's lifecycle, requiring continuous interest and involvement.



## Ideas for testing

- ❖ Collaborate with local climbing clubs and associations to host a climbing showcase event in Albacete. This event will feature demonstrations by skilled climbers, offering attendees, including adolescents, the opportunity to witness the excitement and challenges of climbing firsthand.
- ❖ Organize guided urban exploration walks led by local youth in collaboration with community organizations. These walks will encourage adolescents to explore different parts of Albacete, discovering hidden corners and potential spaces for urban sport hubs. Participants document their findings and provide feedback on the suitability of various locations for recreational activities, helping to inform future action plans.
- ❖ Host pop-up street sports events, providing sports facilities in neighborhoods across Albacete, particularly in the area restored with ERDF funds, that need to be revitalized.
- ❖ Facilitate hands-on design workshops in collaboration with local schools, the youth centre and sports associations, where adolescents can envision and design their ideal urban sport hubs. Developing a Hackathon where teens, guided by experienced mentors, will explore concepts and develop innovative solutions for the future of recreational spaces in Albacete.



# CITY OF CORFU'

Country: GREECE

Region: Ionian Islands/ Corfu Regional unit

Territorial extension of the city: 41.905 km<sup>2</sup>

Territorial extension of the island: 585.30 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 21.342 inhabitants

of which 20% adolescents

GDP per capita: 19.684€

Corfu, in the Ionian Sea, is the capital of the Corfu Regional unit, comprising the main island and smaller islets. Positioned along Greece's western coast, it's the second-largest among the Ionian Islands, near mainland Greece, Italy, and Albania. Shaped by various civilizations like Greeks, Romans, Venetians, and British, its diverse architecture and culture reflect its rich history. Notably, its Venetian past left a mark on the UNESCO-listed Old Town. With verdant landscapes, pristine waters, olive groves, and scenic beaches, Corfu offers abundant places for outdoor activities. Education is ample, with schools at all levels and a Ionian University branch. Water sports are popular, alongside soccer, basketball, and tennis, though some facilities need maintenance. The economy relies heavily on tourism, necessitating strategies to manage over-tourism effects. Agriculture, especially olive and citrus cultivation, also contributes significantly to Corfu's economy.



## Mapping public spaces for Urban Sport Hubs Development

The issue of abandoned or improperly used areas is a significant challenge. The park surrounding the prison is a striking example of this challenge. It is a green area with many tall trees, within walking distance from the historic centre, and situated in the main residential area. However, its proximity to the prison poses a limitation. Notably, the green space is adjacent to primary and secondary schools. Despite the great potential of these green areas for schools and children, their degradation inhibits their educational use.

The area, despite being enclosed between residential neighborhoods and very close to the historic centre, is in a state of abandonment. It is often used for unauthorized parking. The area is divided into sections by the access roads to the prison and schools. On one side, to the north, there is an area with various elevations and many trees. On the other side, to the south, there is an area previously used as a football field, surrounded by green areas with less significant elevations. Intervening in the northern zone involves a significant investment in infrastructure and requires dialogue with the local authorities. The southern zone lends itself to regeneration with a multifunctional approach, incorporating sports, recreational, cultural, and educational activities. Currently, it is already used by young people for a few recreational activities until sunset, despite it is not in very good conditions. Another area that requires attention is the northern part of the historic centre, where investments were made in the past to create a multi sport area. It includes an outdated skatepark, a basketball court, and a volleyball area, all of which are in a state of disrepair. A restaurant and a picnic area complete the space near the beach.

Although well-conceived, this area has seen limited use because access was not guaranteed for children and teenagers, who could reach the area only if accompanied. This limited use, stemming from its distance from residential areas, has contributed to its gradual deterioration. The concept of an Urban Sport Hub in Corfu represents a dynamic and multifunctional space located near the prison area, a region that has seen underutilization for many years. This Urban Sport Hub is designed to be a versatile area that caters to various stakeholders, offering a wide range of recreational, sports, and cultural activities. It capitalizes on the existing features, such as the former football field, the presence of trees, and varying terrain, to create a vibrant community space.



## URBACT Local Group (ULG) Stakeholders

- ❖ City departments of, Technical Services, Digital Governance and European Programs, Environment, Prefecture
- ❖ Kapodistriaki Development S.A.,
- ❖ 1st 2nd 3rd ,4th and 5th secondary schools,
- ❖ 1st 2nd 3d and 4th high schools
- ❖ 6th 7th and 12th primary schools
- ❖ Kerkyraikos Sport Club
- ❖ Prison secondary schools
- ❖ Corfu Gymnastic Club
- ❖ Corfu boy scouts NGO
- ❖ Faiakas Sports Club,
- ❖ Nautical Sports Club of Corfu,
- ❖ Corfu Mountain Trail – Trail running races in Corfu
- ❖ Corfu town residents and representatives
- ❖ Ionian University
- ❖ Hotel association,
- ❖ Technical Chamber of Greece (Corfu Dpt)
- ❖ ULG Coordinator is the General Director of Kapodistriaki Development S.A.

## Local Plans and Strategies

- ❖ Integrated Spatial Development Actions: Focus on planning and implementing integrated development strategies for specific spatial units. Address specific issues in spatial regions and aim to maximize their development potential through integrated development plans. Integrated Spatial Investments, funded by sources like the European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund, and Cohesion Funds, play a crucial role in designing and implementing these strategies, aligning with Re-Gen's objective of revitalizing urban areas.
- ❖ Operational Program (PO): Comprehensive program developed by municipality for each *administrative* term. The PO includes the municipality's vision, policies, and specific projects and actions. It aims to improve the functioning of the municipality to provide better services to citizens, supportingfostering sustainable urban development.
- ❖ Urban Sustainable Mobility Plan (SUBMA): Focuses on improving urban mobility to enhance the quality of life in urban *centers*. Prioritizes people over vehicular traffic. Aims to improve accessibility and quality of life. Involves interdisciplinary planning and participation of various stakeholders. Requires continuous evaluation of the effects of different interventions.
- ❖ Department of Urban Planning and Urban Development Implementation Responsibilities: Monitors the development of urban and expansion plans. Recommends changes or revisions to urban plans. Proposes preliminary plans for regenerating specific areas. Controls topographic maps for planning and development. Oversees the implementation of various urban plans. Regulates various administrative matters related to urban planning.
- ❖ Department for Culture, Sports, and Youth: Plans and implements policies, programs, and actions related to culture, local heritage, sports, and youth development. Includes the creation of cultural centres, museums, theatres, and more. Focuses on promoting cultural exchange at local, national, European, and international levels.

## Good practices in the city

The Garitsa Park in Corfu is a scenic linear park surrounding the bay, offering a multifunctional area where sports, games, physical activities, and entertainment harmoniously blend with a variety of restaurants and venues. This welcoming space features diverse facilities, including a playground, a street basketball court, a bocce area, an open-air gym, and shaded paths beneath ancient trees.

The project *embodies* the concept of an Urban Sport Hub, *even if not linked to street sports*. It is complete with new lighting, benches, and public restrooms. Initially, plans included a skatepark, but this element will not be realized.

Garitsa Park embodies the fusion of sports and outdoor leisure in a welcoming and scenic environment.



## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities:

- ❖ The Garitsa-Anemomilos grove near the city center is undergoing regeneration by local authority, including skate areas, new benches, trees, lights, and sidewalks, presents an opportunity for enhancing recreational spaces.
- ❖ City's commitment to sustainability make it an ideal destination for eco-friendly tourism and outdoor activities, contributing to its attractiveness.
- ❖ The presence of a department dedicated to athletic and cultural events and to digital governance demonstrates municipal support to public space regeneration based on sport.
- ❖ The regeneration of the Prison Park offers a chance to revitalize an abandoned area into a vibrant space for sports and cultural activities, addressing urban blight and schools need.
- ❖ The park's proximity to the city center enhances accessibility for residents and tourists alike, increasing its potential as a multifunctional hub.
- ❖ The promotion of various urban sports activities signs a huge commitment to enriching the municipality's cultural, sport and recreational offerings.
- ❖ Potential involvement of the Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association as sponsors can provide additional funding and support for regeneration projects.
- ❖ Collaboration with the Ionian University enhances expertise and support, bolstering the success potential of regeneration initiatives.

### Challenges:

- ❖ Limited public spaces in the city center and neighborhoods, due to the urban texture, reduces opportunities for community gathering, particularly affecting adolescents' social interactions.
- ❖ Urban development challenges hinder the exploitation and transformation of abandoned public spaces into sports and recreational areas.
- ❖ Bureaucratic hurdles as well as poor communication between stakeholders impede the effective implementation of regeneration projects.
- ❖ Lack of communication between authorities and citizens, along with limited student involvement in decision-making processes, hampers community engagement.
- ❖ Popularity as a tourist destination may lead to overuse of regenerated areas, necessitating careful management to maintain their intended purpose.
- ❖ Issues with limited parking availability and traffic congestion during peak tourist seasons affect visitor experience and local transportation efficiency, requiring infrastructure improvements.
- ❖ Lingering security concerns around the former high-security prison area must be addressed to ensure park user safety.
- ❖ Ensuring long-term financing and maintenance for regeneration projects without straining the city budget presents a challenge for sustainable upkeep.

## Ideas for testing

- ❖ Organize interactive workshops at local schools to gather ideas and feedback from teenagers regarding the development of Prison Park. Through brainstorming sessions and group discussions, students can express their preferences, suggest innovative concepts, and identify specific recreational and sport needs. These workshops will serve as valuable platforms for engaging youth in the planning process and incorporating their perspectives into future initiatives and in the IAP.
- ❖ Implement a tactical urbanism experiment and urban sports installations in the Prison Park and other in vacant lots or underutilized spaces across the city. This hands-on approach will allow teenagers to actively participate in transforming urban spaces and experience the potential benefits of revitalized recreational areas directly. It will also provide valuable insights into the feasibility and impact of different sport installations on community engagement and usage.
- ❖ Host open-air and street sport demonstrative events to raise awareness about the park's potential as a recreational sport hub and encourage community participation in outdoor sports activities.
- ❖ Organize a challenging hackathon involving teenagers in collaboration with local schools, sports associations, and potential sponsors. During the hackathon, participants will work in teams to develop innovative ideas and solutions for enhancing urban sport hubs and promoting youth engagement in and through sports. The event will provide teenagers with an opportunity to unlock creativity. The outcomes of the hackathon, including actionable proposals will be analysed before being integrated into the Integrated Action Plan (IAP)



# CITY OF DAUGAVPILS

Country: LATVIA

Region: Latgale

Territorial extension: 72.39 km<sup>2</sup>

City Population: 78.850 inhabitants  
of which Youngsters 10-19 y.o.: 10,2 %

City agglomeration Population: c.a.103 600

GDP per capita: 10 746 (2021)

Daugavpils, Latvia's second-largest city and an industrial, educational, cultural, and recreational hub, is integral to the Re-Gen project. With numerous educational institutions and over 14,000 students and pupils, it aims to create a multifunctional and high-quality living environment. The city's strategic goals include fostering a prosperous society, economic growth, and accessible urban spaces. Daugavpils collaborates closely with Augšdaugava municipality, sharing a sustainable development strategy until 2030. Its diverse manufacturing sector, including metalworking, engineering, and food production, contributes to global exports. The city comprises 25 distinct neighborhoods, each with cultural landmarks, sports events, and green spaces covering 31% of its total area. With forest parks, lakes, and recreational areas, Daugavpils exemplifies a green and livable urban center, aligning with the goals of the Re-Gen project.





## Mapping public spaces for Urban Sport Hubs Development

Neighbourhoods addressed by the Re-Gen project are not degraded or areas of social decay, yet abandoned public spaces can be observed. Four abandoned areas have been already detected by ULG Members, as places popular among adolescents, who spend free time, meet and socialize, practice sport and recreational activities even if areas are degraded and, in some case, also risky.

- ❖ Abandoned School near Šuņezers Lake Beach: The former Primary School No.7, closed during reorganization in 2010, stands abandoned near Šuņezers Lake public beach. The vacant school building and neglected playground have become a secluded spot for young people, offering privacy. However, this location poses a threat to the adjacent areas and the enjoyment of young visitors to the official city beach.
- ❖ «Avotiņu» Park: Amidst the well-maintained parks and green spaces in the municipality, Avotiņa Park stands out in its natural, landscaped state. Positioned near multi-story residential buildings, the park serves as a potential venue for youth outdoor activities. A substantial reconstruction project is in the planning stages, aiming to enhance the park's infrastructure.
- ❖ Area beneath the New Bridge: Recently constructed near private homes, the bridge area has become a refuge and gathering place for young individuals, offering isolation from society and a parking area. Adjacent green spaces could be improved but are privately owned.
- ❖ Niderkuni Neighborhood – Niderkuni Square: Square is partially equipped with sports facilities and requires further improvement based on local residents' needs. This square is an ideal location for youth outdoor activities, frequently used by young residents from nearby private residential buildings.

Additional public spaces suitable to become URBAN SPORT HUBS will be identified in next project phases. These initial selections were made based on adolescents' input regarding their needs and potential areas for enhancement, taking also into account the communities viewpoints.



## URBACT Local Group (ULG) Stakeholders

- ❖ Development department of Daugavpils State City Local Government
- ❖ Daugavpils Social Services
- ❖ Daugavpils Youth and Sports Department
- ❖ The Youth Initiative Centre "Navigator"
- ❖ Daugavpils Educational Department
- ❖ Children and Youth center "Jaunība" (incl. neighborhood spare-time clubs)
- ❖ Daugavpils State Gymnasium and other schools
- ❖ Association "Dienvidlatgale NGO Support Center"
- ❖ Sport associations: "Street gymnastics", "CSV klubs"
- ❖ Youths organization "Apelsīns"
- ❖ Youths organization "DJUNO"

Other stakeholders, including NGOs focusing on education, social services, sports, and inclusion, will be identified and kept well-informed throughout the project. They will be invited to participate in specific co-design workshops and focus groups when relevant.

The ULG coordinator, who is a member of the municipality staff, oversee this process and ensure effective communication and collaboration among all stakeholders involved and with the ULG of the other cities of the Network.



## Local Plans and Strategies

- ❖ Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of Daugavpils State City until 2030, aligning with the dimensions and objectives of the cohesion policy. The strategic objectives and priorities for Daugavpils until 2030 focus around fostering innovative and intelligent economic transformation, advancing clean and equitable energy transition, encouraging green and blue investments, promoting the circular economy, addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures, enhancing risk prevention and management, facilitating sustainable urban mobility, and fostering a more inclusive and socially equitable urban environment. The overarching vision for 2030 envisions Daugavpils acting as a driving force for economic development in the Eastern Baltic region.
- ❖ The city's sports development plan is an integral component of the broader "Sustainable Development Strategy of the Daugavpils State City and Augšdaugava Municipality until 2030." This comprehensive approach ensures that sports and recreation are intertwined with the city's overall sustainable development efforts.
- ❖ The local strategic framework until 2027 includes a specific action to provide support for youth initiatives and activities, including assistance for disadvantaged young individuals, also by means of "Sport and Active Recreation," concentrates on offering a diverse range of sports and leisure activities, developing services and infrastructure that promote a healthy lifestyle, and fostering folk sports activities in the city's neighbourhoods.
- ❖ The mid-term development program for Daugavpils State City is on creating an inclusive community, with the objective of promoting public engagement, self-initiative, as well as on enhancing municipal assets and public open spaces within the city's neighbourhoods

In addition to these thematic priorities, horizontal priorities are established, which apply across all action areas and have a pervasive impact on development. These encompass equal opportunity policies, balanced territorial development, collaboration, effective communication, sustainability, innovative solutions, environmental accessibility, climate neutrality, adaptability, climate resilience, addressing the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, nature and biodiversity conservation, and the preservation of cultural and historical heritage.

## Good practices in the city

❖ The education in Daugavpils is one of the priorities and a large part of the municipal budget funds are used directly to finance education. Schools encourage pupils' to involve in urban development, and to engage them to foster their ideas for the regeneration, improving their living environment based on their needs and interests. Pupils regularly submit their ideas to the municipality for consideration and active civic-participation was observed in the elaboration process of the sustainable urban development strategy and the city's development program in 2021.



❖ Daugavpils Youth Forum was convened in November 2022, and in the spring of 2023, a needs assessment involving nine think tanks within Daugavpils youth communities was conducted. These think tanks operated in various settings, including Saules School, the National Guard, Daugavpils Lutheran Church, the Centre for Youth Initiatives, and student self-governments. Additionally, a digital questionnaire was distributed to all schools in Daugavpils, enabling young people to voice their opinions on matters related to communication, leisure activities, participation challenges, and the quality of life in the municipality. A total of 1,120 young residents in Daugavpils participated in the digital survey. Findings showed that 42% understood the municipality's role in supporting them, while an equal percentage had not considered the extent of municipal support, and 16% felt unsupported. In the study, young people voiced several needs: (i) The municipality should establish facilities outside



educational institutions where young individuals can independently pursue their goals. (ii) Financial support for youth initiatives, potentially through the creation of an initiative support fund, was seen as essential. (iii) Promoting youth initiatives and active participation in decision-making and public life within the municipality was strongly encouraged. These findings illustrate that young people are eager to take responsibility but may need additional support.



❖ Esplanade Rest Park is the first bike park in the Baltics covering an area of 4 hectares in the urban environment. This park includes a variety of areas – a skatepark, an asphalted cycling track, an adventure trail and a children’s area. The park is multifunctional and is adapted for 8 different vehicles – MTB, BMX, street, balance bike, skateboard, longboard, roller skates and scooter. This park is the place for active rest, and it is adapted for cyclists of all ages and cycling levels, representing an interesting approach and integration in an environmentally friendly way. Also, public outdoor sports equipment was improved all over the city, including the territory of Esplanade Rest Park, to ensure accessibility to organize sports activities for vulnerable groups, especially at-risk teenagers at no cost, thus contributing to creating street sports culture that will serve as an instrument for social inclusion.



## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities:

- ❖ Experience in youth development through neighborhood clubs and student initiatives.
- ❖ Strong community engagement in the development of sports and recreational spaces and events, as well as active involvement of numerous volunteers across age groups and genders.
- ❖ Extensive network of decentralized neighborhoods' development services and decentralized access to sports infrastructure in all neighborhoods of the city. Presence of good practice of urban regeneration based on sport and inclusion both in the city centre and in neighborhoods, particularly close to the lake.
- ❖ The city had hosted one of the largest youth street sports and the cultural movements in Latvia and Eastern Europe "Ghetto Games" with a significant youth following in the previous years.
- ❖ implementation of non-curricular activities in schools fostering active citizenship and leadership among adolescents
- ❖

### Challenges

- ❖ High youth participation but some lack of professional support. Varied sources of information, requiring effective communication strategies.
- ❖ Presence of degraded areas where youngsters spend spare times notwithstanding the risk to stay in abandoned and unsafely spaces.
- ❖ Limited financial opportunities for the implementation of urban development projects, that affect possibility to improve infrastructure for youth to spend leisure time in all twenty-five neighborhoods.
- ❖ The average salary and income per person are below the national average (but over the region average), impacting the standard of living.
- ❖ The city's unemployment rate is over the national average hindering socio-economic growth and impacting the citizens' quality of life.
- ❖ Depopulation as a main economic challenge for further years to be addressed by the city policy.
- ❖ Balancing cultural and sports events to accommodate diverse interests in shared spaces, including diverse sports activities, including training camps and championships.

## Ideas for testing

❖ During city festival and other youth and sport events organize experimental street sport initiatives specifically designed for teenagers, such as street basketball, bmx, skateboarding, and outdoor fitness challenges etc.

❖ Engage teens in tactical urbanism experiment in pilot lot and set up temporary urban sports installations, as outdoor fitness equipment, or temporary basketball courts, in vacant lots or underutilized spaces across the city.

❖ This pilot place is still under consideration by the Urban Local Group, which is mostly oriented to work in the Niderkuni Square, situated in the Niderkuni neighbourhood. Located on the left bank of the Daugava River, this district is home to approximately 1,130 residents but notably lacks educational institutions in its vicinity. It has underutilized green spaces, popular among local youngsters and presents opportunity for Re-Gen focus.

❖ Empower teenagers to actively participate in mapping public spaces in Daugavpils. Encourage them to identify and document their favorite places, providing ideas for regeneration of areas like Niderkuni Square. This hands-on approach allows teens to express their preferences and contribute valuable insights into potential locations for urban sport hubs. The mapping exercise can be conducted in collaboration with local schools and community organizations.

❖ Collaborate with schools, sport associations, youth center, Daugavpils City Development Department to organize the Re-Gen-Hackathon. This innovation challenge will focus on creating adolescents-friendly public spaces centred around sports and street activities. Participants, including teenagers, will work on multifunctional perspectives for enhancing public spaces. Present the outcomes of the hackathon to potential sponsors and donors for further support and implementation.



# CITY OF DOBRICH

Country: BULGARIA

Region: Southern Dobruja

Territorial extension: 109,2 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 91.030 inhabitants

Of wich 10.890 Youngsters 10-19 years old

GDP per capita: BGN 12385.00, equal to 6332.48 euro

Dobrich is strategically located in the northeastern region of Bulgaria, within the wide Dobrudja Plateau and characterized by a topography intersected by the Dry River valley. As a city with a unique municipal status, Dobrich comprises a single settlement and stands as the second-largest urban center in Northeastern Bulgaria, playing a key role within the Region. Its significance is underscored by its proximity to key geographical features and critical infrastructure. Situated near the Bulgarian-Romanian border, the city of Constanta, and the Danube River, Dobrich enjoys convenient access to major transportation routes, including the ports of Varna, Balchik, Kavarna, and Constanta, Romania. This advantageous location facilitates efficiency in export of agricultural products, which form a cornerstone of the city's economy. While Dobrich may be somewhat removed from the primary axes of urban development, it remains connected to a "north-south" developmental axis, contributing significantly to the North-Eastern planning region as the second-largest economic hub. The municipality's economic structure is anchored by the food industry, including equipments, agricultural machinery, and other sectors related to agriculture. Despite economic prosperity, a notable percentage of Dobrich's population experiences material deprivation, albeit slightly lower than the national average. Similarly, the city's poverty rate slightly surpasses the national figure, reflecting the socio-economic challenges faced by its residents.





## Mapping public spaces for Urban Sport Hubs Development

From the idea of a student attending Leonardo Da Vinci School, the concept of APPLE PARK was born. The focus was on regenerating a degraded green public space near the school, nestled in one of the city's most densely populated neighborhoods.

The idea stemmed from the layout of the area and the aspiration to fill it with a smart and eco-friendly perspective. It was embraced by the Da Vinci school, other surrounding schools, the church, and neighbourhood residents, who initiated initiatives to revitalize the space as urban common. Workshops have already been conducted at schools, where children demonstrated their ability to envision adolescent-friendly scenarios, integrating greenery, sports, culture, and local economy.

Despite these efforts, some micro-crime incidents have posed challenges to this valuable grassroots initiative.

The Re-Gen project builds upon this standpoint and experience, and aims at engaging key stakeholders to ensure a brighter future for these area and to other public space in the city. Indeed the ambition is to develop an integrated action plan that will encompass the creation of a network of 9 eco-apple parks in the city. Key stakeholders participate at the URBACT Local Group and looks at these public spaces as arenas for experimenting with active citizenship, striving to enhance the lives of adolescents and young people while combating depopulation. The prospect is to establish a network of public spaces for adolescents, integrating sports recreation, socialization areas, and cultural events.

This visionary concept aligns seamlessly with the Re-Gen scope, aspiring to transform these areas into vibrant, community-centric spaces where nature, culture, sports, and sustainability harmoniously coexist. The core concept involves enhancing physical infrastructure and crafting inviting public areas to breathe new life into these spaces.



Crucially, this initiative invites youth, residents, and the community to actively participate in regenerating all nine degraded areas within the city, fostering a sense of shared ownership and pride.

The "Eco-Apple Park" could become also a brand that embodies inclusivity, sustainability, and community well-being. Engaging policymakers and investors is essential for success, envisioning the Eco-Apple Parks interconnected throughout the city, celebrating nature, culture, sports, and community well-being.

## URBACT Local Group (ULG) Stakeholders

- ❖ Municipal Educational Department
- ❖ Dobrich Youth Centre
- ❖ Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities
- ❖ Institute of Youth Initiatives and Innovations
- ❖ Basketball club "Unstoppable"
- ❖ Leonardo da Vinci School
- ❖ St. Kliment Ohridski school
- ❖ Cathedral St. Kliment Ohridski
- ❖ Black see Centre for Development
- ❖ Dobrich Agency for Innovations, Entrepreneurship and Energy Management
- ❖ Black Sea Regional Agency for Energy Management
- ❖ Black Sea Energy Cluster
- ❖ Green flame, NGO
- ❖ Etno Dobrich
- ❖ Etera Institute



## Local Plans and Strategies

- ❖ The Development plan of Dobrich municipality for the period 2021-2027, Priority 2, titled "Achieving equal access to quality education, healthcare, culture, social activities, sports, and youth activities," outlines a comprehensive strategy *including a Sports Development Plan 2021-2027*. Furthermore, the Development plan includes initiatives for the refurbishment and construction of new sports facilities and playgrounds. It also emphasizes the modernization and maintenance of sports infrastructure and equipment to encourage widespread participation in sports.
- ❖ The overarching vision for 2030 is to position Dobrich as a modern, secure, and appealing hub for personal development and business growth.
- ❖ Mid-term development program *is* marked by *smart* urban planning and innovations that draw upon local entrepreneurship and civic engagement. *The program focuses on both: (i) to build an inclusive community encouraging public engagement, self-initiative, and local pride; (ii) to regenerate and enhance the infrastructure and the municipal properties as well as to regenerate neglected areas.* In addition to thematic priorities, there are horizontal priorities: promoting equal opportunities, fostering balanced territorial development, encouraging cooperation and communication, emphasizing sustainability and innovation, leveraging smart solutions, enhancing environmental accessibility, striving for climate neutrality, boosting adaptability, reinforcing climate resilience, addressing the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, protecting nature and biodiversity, and preserving cultural and historical heritage.
- ❖ The revitalization plan for Dobrich's city centre (Zone B) focuses on preserving its authentic character, celebrating its cultural and historic heritage, and implementing sustainable and inclusive design solutions. This strategy aims to enhance the area's sense of place, sustainability, and accessibility while continuing the city's revitalization efforts. The design for Zone B includes various elements such as celebrating the area's heritage with wheat-inspired paving patterns, improving building facades, optimizing parking and green spaces, highlighting entrances and squares, simplifying plaza layouts, incorporating inclusive features like ramps, integrating rain gardens and tree grilles for sustainability, establishing pedestrian and cycle routes, and using contextual planting designs to reference the city's history. These moves align with the strategies established in Zone A, contributing to the ongoing revitalization of Dobrich's core by blending its rich history with future potential. Dobrich confronts the challenge of degraded areas scattered across its neighbourhoods, grappling with neglect, micro criminality, environmental degradation, and economic strains.

Dobrich Municipality prioritizes enhancing its young residents' quality of life by promoting active lifestyles and sustainability. Through energy-efficient projects and partnerships, including collaborations with the Covenant of Mayors, Dobrich aims to revitalize the city, address population decline, and improve public spaces.

## Good practices in the city

- ❖ Dobrich has implemented a range of effective practices aimed at engaging its youth and integrating them into the fabric of community life, education, and urban development. At the heart of these efforts lies an educational policy carefully crafted to consider socio-economic factors and align with the evolving needs of modern society. This policy ensures Dobrich's educational infrastructure is not only well-planned and caters to the diverse interests of its youth while supporting the local economy and ensuring easy access to secondary education. To oversee the comprehensive implementation of these initiatives, authorities such as the Manager's Office for Humanitarian Activities and the Municipal Educational Department have been established. These bodies play a crucial role in coordinating various aspects of youth engagement, including overseeing kindergartens, schools, and project coordination.
- ❖ Dobrich has a dedicated Youth Activities and Sports Department that goes beyond mere organization of events. It actively facilitates the establishment of sports clubs and provides financial support, thus enhancing access to sports activities among the local youth population. Additionally, active non-governmental organizations (NGOs) address the needs of various youth groups, including those facing challenges such as poverty, social exclusion, and disability, ensuring inclusivity and support for all.
- ❖ The establishment of institutions like the Dobrich Youth Home, which offers cultural, artistic, and educational opportunities, has been instrumental in promoting human values and aesthetics among the youth. Furthermore, the Dobrich Youth Centre has expanded its activities to cater to the diverse needs and aspirations of young people, including vulnerable groups, by organizing prestigious initiatives like the Sarandev European Youth Pop-rock Competition and the Eco Summer program.
- ❖ Schools in Dobrich actively involve students in generating ideas for urban development and regeneration, fostering a sense of ownership and civic responsibility among the youth. These initiatives collectively empower Dobrich's young population to actively shape the city's future while contributing meaningfully to community life, education, and urban development.
- ❖ The Nature and Animal Conservation Centre, the first licensed zoo in Bulgaria, is situated in Dobrich, Bulgaria. This Centre was established under a Bulgarian-Swiss project in 2003 and spans across 16 hectares of land, featuring 50-year-old vegetation with 35 tree species. More than just a conservation area or a tourist attraction, it serves as a focal point for the local community. Managed in collaboration with young volunteers, the zoo welcomes children and teenagers, offering hands-on nature-related educational activities. It is a place for the youth and a place for everyone.
- ❖ The ULG, once established, applied for a national campaign presenting the eco Apple Park concept and were granted €7600 that integrates with the URBACT budget allocated for small scale actions. These first Apple Park regeneration process can start in a prospect to become a green areas suitable for sports, inclusive cultural events, such as outdoor theatres and reading zones, as well as craft and flower markets held by residents and local companies.

## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities:

- ❖ The creation of the Apple Park was a youth-driven initiative, showcasing the enthusiasm and innovation of the younger generation in urban regeneration.
- ❖ Apple Parks are designed to be inclusive, providing spaces for sports recreation, socialization, and cultural events, creating opportunities for all residents to actively participate in community life.
- ❖ The emphasis on environmental sustainability through the implementation of green technologies and recycling practices reflects a commitment to an eco-friendly future.
- ❖ Involvement of the Urban Local Group (ULG) and city authorities indicates effective collaboration between different entities to promote urban regeneration.
- ❖ Developing attractive and culturally vibrant public spaces like Apple Parks could enhance the city's tourist appeal, bringing economic and cultural benefits.
- ❖ Community participation in regenerating areas through Apple Parks can strengthen the sense of belonging and pride in the city among residents.
- ❖ The community's commitment to caring for public spaces, despite resource constraints and challenges such as micro crime and vandalism, demonstrates a strong sense of civic responsibility and collective ownership.

### Challenges:

- ❖ There may be resistance from some residents or interest groups to transforming neglected areas into Apple Parks, especially if they are accustomed to a certain state of decay.
- ❖ Limited Financial Resources may pose a challenge in funding the maintenance and continuous development of Apple Parks over time.
- ❖ Managing Apple Parks could be complex, especially considering the need to actively involve the community and ensure effective resource management.
- ❖ The emergence of micro crime in surrounding areas of Apple Parks could undermine urban regeneration efforts and compromise public safety.
- ❖ Apple Parks may be vulnerable to environmental impacts such as floods or infrastructure deterioration, which may require additional mitigation measures and maintenance.
- ❖ Managing Apple Parks could be complex, considering the need to actively involve the community, and to ensure effective resource management.
- ❖ Dobrich faces challenges associated with a declining population, which could impact the vitality of the city and its ability to maintain public spaces and facilities.
- ❖ The implementation of regeneration projects may face bureaucratic hurdles challenges related to communication and coordination among stakeholders, potentially slowing down progress.

## Ideas for testing

- ❖ Organize street basketball events in the city and set up temporary urban sports installations at the so-called Eco-Apple Park. These initiatives aim to promote physical activity, engage teenagers, and revitalize public spaces.
- ❖ Conduct workshops and bootcamps to prepare teenagers for an upcoming innovation challenge. Collaborate with experts and mentors from the Urban Local Group (ULG) to provide valuable insights and guidance. These sessions will empower teens to develop innovative ideas for the multifunctional and sporting valorization of the Eco-Apple Parks Network.
- ❖ Encourage members of the Urban Local Group (ULG) to volunteer and actively participate in activities aimed at enhancing the vision of the Eco Apple Park for adolescents.
- ❖ Organize the Re-Gen Hackathon involving teens from schools and neighborhoods. This event aims to stimulate creativity and innovation among participants, inspiring them to generate ideas for the multifunctional and sporting development of the park.
- ❖ Experiment with various activities beyond sports in places dedicated to sports and in at the Eco-Apple Park. For example, organize local food markets, flower and craft markets in conjunction with street basketball events.



# CITY OF LEZHA

Country: ALBANIA

Region: North region, District of Lezha

Territorial extension: 509.1 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 116. 726 inhabitants

Lezha, strategically located at the crossroads of major transport routes, serves as a vital hub for trade and connectivity in Albania and the broader region. Its favourable geographic position, complemented by a well-connected rail network and a bustling port, facilitates trade and tourism with neighbouring countries. The city's economy thrives on sectors like tourism, agriculture, and emerging industries, bolstered by its diverse natural and cultural attractions. With a rich history dating back to 385 BC, Lezha boasts archaeological sites, religious landmarks, and medieval structures that attract visitors. Its Mediterranean climate, diverse environment, and strong connection to nature offer residents and visitors alike a unique experience. Despite its modernization, Lezha retains its charm as a city deeply rooted in history and in harmony with its natural surroundings, making it an appealing destination for exploration and leisure.



## Mapping public spaces to develop Urban Sport Hubs



In the heart of Lezha lies the abandoned Hydajet Lezha gymnasium, once a bustling educational hub, now awaiting transformation. Recognizing its potential, the Municipality embarked on a groundbreaking project to repurpose the space into a dynamic Youth Recreational Centre. Nestled in the Beslidhja neighborhood, historically lacking leisure and sport opportunities, the Centre aims to fill the void in recreational and sports facilities, particularly for the youth.

Despite challenges in repurposing abandoned structures and meeting green standards, the Municipality showcases unwavering commitment through extensive public consultations, actively engaging various stakeholders, including the youth. This initiative not only addresses the immediate need for recreational spaces but also fosters environmental awareness and social inclusion, emerging as a city dedicated to youth well-being and sustainable development.

The Urban Sport Hub (USH) concept unfolds in Beslidhja, utilizing the old gymnasium complex for small-scale

testing actions. This inclusive initiative combines sports, recreation, and community engagement. Emphasizing adaptive reuse, the Centre transforms into a vibrant space with outdoor sports facilities and green spaces, aligning with Lezha's commitment to sustainable urban development.

Designed with a youth-centric approach, the USH integrates sports grounds, encouraging active participation, while multifunctional spaces cater to various activities. Extensive community engagement ensures that facilities meet the community's needs, fostering a sense of ownership. Collaborations with local organizations and stakeholders contribute to the success of the Urban Sport Hub, seamlessly integrated into existing urban development plans, promising a vibrant, community-centric future. With young individuals actively participating in defining specific activities, the initiative empowers them and ensures that the transformed spaces truly cater to their needs, fostering a vibrant, community-centric environment for sports, recreation, and social interaction.



## URBACT Local Group (ULG) stakeholders

Municipality

Prefecture

Lezhe Regional Educational Directorate

Lezhe Directorate of Pre-University Education Lezha

Primary School "Gjergj Kastrioti

Hydajet Lezha High School

Kolin Gjoka Professional School

Local Youth Council

H.A.N.A Youth Center

Organization Social Inclusion for Development "SIFD"

"Beselidhja " Football Association

Two "Eagles Basket" Basketball Association

ThreeLezha National Multisport Association



## Local Plans and Strategies

- ❖ Lezha Municipality has elaborated four pivotal policies to shape its governance and development trajectory:
- ❖ Sustainable Development Strategic Plan (2013-2030): At the core of Lezha's vision lies this forward-thinking strategy, spanning nearly two decades to ensure the municipality's sustainable growth and prosperity. Collaboratively formulated with diverse stakeholders, including the Council, local businesses, civil society, and regional governmental agencies, this plan encompasses a wide array of sectors such as tourism, infrastructure, education, and citizen services. It serves as a visionary blueprint, reflecting Lezha's commitment to holistic and balanced development. The plan seeks to propel the local economy, enhance regional competitiveness, and integrate Lezha into broader national and European contexts.
- ❖ Revised Social Plan (2023-2025): In recognition of the evolving social landscape and the imperative to address the needs of vulnerable individuals, Lezha Municipality has adopted the "Revised Social Plan 2023-2025." Building upon the successes and lessons learned from its predecessor (2018-2021), this policy emerges as a pivotal instrument in fulfilling the legal obligations of local government. Rooted in a thorough needs assessment process, which actively engages the community and diverse interest groups, the plan strategically reinforces social services. By prioritizing inter-institutional coordination and community awareness, it aims to bridge gaps in critical areas such as social care, thereby fostering a more inclusive and supportive community.
- ❖ Integrity Plan: In the realm of good governance and institutional resilience, Lezha Municipality has taken proactive steps with the implementation of the "Integrity Plan." This strategic document stems from a meticulous integrity risk assessment process, encompassing the municipality's entire workflow. It underscores the municipality's unwavering commitment to upholding ethical principles, transparency, and efficiency in public service delivery. By refining internal political and regulatory frameworks, consolidating human resources, and effectively managing integrity risks, the plan lays the groundwork for a culture of accountability and responsibility. Through employee engagement in risk assessment and improvement measures, it fosters a sense of ownership and accountability within the municipality.
- ❖ Local Strategic Plan for Youth (2023-2027): Recognizing the unique needs, aspirations, and potential of the youth demographic, Lezha Municipality is on the brink of approving the "Local Strategic Plan for Youth 2023-2027." This forthcoming policy underscores the municipality's commitment to crafting youth-centric policies that foster an environment conducive to the thriving of young individuals. Aligned with national and regional strategies, the plan revolves around youth engagement, participation, and development. By addressing the challenges faced by young people and providing avenues for growth and involvement, the plan aims to contribute substantively to sustainable community development. Once endorsed, it will serve as a guiding framework, ensuring the municipality remains responsive to the evolving needs of its youthful population. Good practices in the city

## Good practices in the city

Lezha Municipality, recognizing historically low participation among its youth in public policy, has embarked on a transformative journey to actively engage them. The former Hydajet Lezha gymnasium, once vacant, now stands as a symbol of the municipality's commitment to fostering youth participation and creating inclusive spaces. The establishment of the Youth Forum addresses the historical lack of spaces for youth to socialize and contribute to city planning. Despite its recent inception, the forum's members are highly active, engaged, and eager to voice their opinions. This forum provides a vital platform for Lezha's youth to influence societal policies.

The opportunity presented by the RE-Gen project has been enthusiastically embraced by stakeholders and the youth themselves, signifying a newfound enthusiasm for civic engagement. Public consultations, including discussions with various interest groups, have allowed for the exploration of alternatives and the definition of functions within the Youth Centre, ensuring that it meets the youth's needs and fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility within the community. Lezha Municipality's collaboration with youth representatives extends beyond physical spaces. Initiatives such as the HANA Youth Centre, which focuses on waste separation awareness, and mural projects against "Hate Speech," demonstrate the municipality's dedication to fostering positive societal values through the creative expression of its youth. By involving young people in shaping public spaces and addressing societal issues, Lezha becomes a beacon of positive youth engagement. Through platforms for creativity, socialization, environmental awareness, and social inclusion, Lezha not only regenerates its physical spaces but also cultivates a generation of active and responsible citizens. Its intentional inclusion in networks dedicated to environmental improvement emphasizes the municipality's commitment to sustainable development and the well-being of its youth. The newfound participation represents a positive shift, illustrating that through collaborative efforts and dedicated spaces like the Youth Centre, Lezha's youth are now active contributors to the city's development.



## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities:

- ❖ The year-round conducive environment for outdoor activities provides ample opportunities for the development of urban sports and green initiatives, contributing to city's attractiveness as an adolescent-friendly place.
- ❖ The presence of scientific institutions, especially those focused on farming and livestock, offers opportunities for research and development in green projects, aligning with the city's aspirations for sustainable urban development.
- ❖ Availability of spaces in former industrial areas presents opportunities for restructuring into urban sports hubs and green spaces, providing adolescents with accessible and attractive recreational facilities.
- ❖ The ongoing growth in the private sector signifies strong economic dynamics, attracting potential investments which can enhance the city's appeal to adolescents.
- ❖ Lezha's strong traditional family culture holds promise for fostering community engagement, particularly in supporting

initiatives aimed at youth, creating a conducive environment for adolescent-friendly projects.

- ❖ Lezha's status as the center of banking and financial services facilitates easy access to funding for development projects.
- ❖ The increasing interest in tourism creates prospects for developing urban sports facilities and green spaces as attractions for residents and visitors alike, contributing to the city's appeal as an adolescent-friendly destination.

### Challenges:

- ❖ Failure to adhere to building standards poses safety risks and impedes overall infrastructure development, affecting the quality and safety of adolescent-friendly spaces.
- ❖ Limited collaboration between public and private sectors hampers the effective development of urban projects and services, potentially hindering the creation of adolescent-friendly environments.
- ❖ Cities face hurdles without professional marketing, impacting local businesses



and hindering community initiatives, including those aimed at enhancing adolescent-friendly amenities.

- ❖ Initialized industrial zones without businesses limit economic activity, impacting the potential for diverse urban integration, including the development of adolescent-friendly spaces.
- ❖ Low participation of entrepreneurs, coupled with educational infrastructure gaps, hampers the development of various urban programs, potentially affecting the availability of adolescent-friendly amenities.

- ❖ Insufficient professional and university education, restricts the skilled workforce needed for urban projects, including those aimed at creating adolescent-friendly environments.

- ❖ Environmental challenges, such as flood risks and waste management issues, require comprehensive solutions for sustainable urban development, including the creation of adolescent-friendly green spaces and recreational facilities.

## Ideas for testing

- ❖ Develop a small-scale action in the Beslidhja neighborhood, utilizing the old Hydajet Lezha gymnasium complex as a testing ground for the Urban Sport Hub (USH) concept. This action involves the set-up of temporary street sport installations of sports facilities, green and recreational equipment to gauge community interest and assess the feasibility of the USH concept. By observing how teens and residents interact with these street sport installations, the municipality can gather valuable data to inform future urban planning decisions and prioritize investments in permanent sports infrastructure
- ❖ Organize community and teens workshops and focus groups to gather feedback and input from residents, particularly teens and youth, regarding their preferences and needs related to urban sports. These workshops can provide a platform for residents to share their ideas, suggestions, and concerns regarding the development of urban sports hubs in Lezha.
- ❖ Host the Re-Gen Hackathon for teens, an innovation challenge aimed at generating creative ideas and solutions for urban regeneration projects in Lezha.

# CITY OF MILANO

Country: ITALY

Region: Lombardia

Territorial extension: 181.76 km<sup>2</sup>

City Population: 1.349.930 inhabitants

Metropolitan City: 3.241.813 inhabitants

Pf w ich Youngsters 10-19 y.o.: 119.588

GDP per capita: 114,784 (in millions of

Euros - Source: ASR Lombardia)



Milano is a vibrant city in northern Italy, famous globally for its influence in fashion, design, and finance. Covering around 181.76 square kilometers, it ranks as Italy's second most populous city, a flourishing hub of cultures and commerce, and home to over 1.3 million inhabitants. This cosmopolitan metropolis boasts a humid subtropical climate, oscillating between hot summers averaging 30°C to chilly winters around 0°C. Divided into 9 municipalities, each distinct in population, demographics, and amenities, Milano's diverse neighbourhoods create a lively urban landscape. Looking forward, the city's relationship with its metropolitan area defines its upcoming transformations. Projects like Mind-post Expo and Città della Salute outline developmental axes, while transport nodes along the borders signify gateways to the Low Emission Zone. Railway stations drive urban development on a metropolitan scale. Several regeneration efforts are currently redefining the city of Milano and its metropolitan area. The revitalization of waterways, especially the reopening of Navigli, while railway districts become focal points for widespread urban rejuvenation. A network of pedestrian paths enhances public spaces and cultural identities, breathing life into the city's fabric. Regeneration touches in particular popular neighbourhoods, transforming urban voids.

The neighbourhood addressed by the project known as San Siro resides in the "Municipio" 7, and it is marked by complexities including a concentration of deteriorating public housing and limited services. Notably "younger" than the rest of Milan, it hosts a higher percentage of minors and young adults, with a significant foreign resident population, fostering instances of school segregation. The so called "Quadrilatero" within the neighbourhood, spanning approximately one square kilometre; it comprises large blocks with restricted pedestrian access, lacking gathering spaces beyond deteriorating public areas and degraded social housing block. Despite excellent public transport accessibility, and the proximity to city centre and some of the richest city's districts, the neighbourhood appears introverted and peripheral, presenting challenges, especially for its younger inhabitants.

## Mapping public spaces for Urban Sport Hubs Development

Nestled within the pulsating Municipio 7 of Milan, the San Siro neighborhood presents a dynamic yet complex urban landscape ripe for development. Spearheaded by the "Agenda San Siro," this transformative endeavor aims to elevate the neighborhood into a captivating destination within Milan, harnessing its youthful demographic, cultural diversity, and sports facilities. With a focus on urban revitalization, the neighborhood is poised for significant transformations, guided by resident input and by the "Mosaico San Siro" plan. Municipio 7 boasts a diverse and complex urban ecosystem, ranging from rich residential areas in the north to degraded social housing around Piazzale Selinunte, shaped by successive waves of migration, in the south. Despite socio-economic challenges, the neighborhood exhibits resilience and potential, making it an ideal experimental ground for innovative urban interventions, including Urban Sport Hubs and youth-friendly public spaces. The "Quadrilatero," a focal point of regeneration efforts, encompasses areas such as the former local market at Piazzale Selinunte and degraded social housing blocks. Plans are underway to rejuvenate neglected spaces, introducing amenities like street basketball courts and urban interventions tailored to engage children and teenagers in physical activities, prioritizing mobility, green spaces, and community hubs. Despite these efforts, challenges persist, with new ones emerging that impact the Quadrilatero and San Siro neighbourhood. School and youth associations are actively mapping spaces, opportunities, and threats, striving to address the evolving needs of the community. Initiatives outlined in the "Mosaico San Siro" plan, such as reclaiming open parking areas for public use and enhancing connectivity within the San Siro complex, signal a comprehensive approach to revitalizing the entire neighborhood. By reconfiguring existing spaces to be inclusive, accessible, and attractive, San Siro aims to recreate a healthy and flourishing urban environment that meets the diverse needs of its residents, especially adolescents. The City of Milan is



strategically planning and experimenting to establish urban sports hubs catering to adolescents' needs within Municipio 7. This initiative aims to identify and map areas requiring regeneration, with a focus on youth-centric development. Municipio 7's socio-spatial diversity, coupled with its significant immigrant population, presents a unique context for these initiatives.

Co-creation of Urban Sports Hubs will be an extension of ongoing experiments conducted by the Italian Sports Centre, revitalizing areas like the former city market and utilizing sports to engage youngsters.



## URBACT Local Group (ULG) Stakeholders

- ❖ Tavolo San Siro, formed to align the efforts of various sectors/directorates of the Municipality of Milan, including education, culture, welfare, housing, urban planning, youth, employment, and sports.
- ❖ The group associated with the Protocollo di Intesa for the neighbourhood's regeneration involving also the Regional Government.
- ❖ Schools and Educational institutions.
- ❖ Centro Sportivo Italiano (CSI)
- ❖ Equa Association
- ❖ Comunità Nuova
- ❖ Kayros
- ❖ Universities of Milano
- ❖ ALER
- ❖ Codici reseach centre
- ❖ The ULG will be integrated with other key organizations during the planning and testing journey





## Local Plans and Strategies

- ❖ Orizzonte 2026 is a comprehensive urban and socio-economic development initiative set to transform and enhance Milan's Orizzonte area by 2026. Focused on innovative urban development, connectivity, cultural enrichment, and sustainability, the project aims to create a modern, sustainable urban space with iconic buildings, public areas, and improved connectivity. By integrating and connecting various city zones, the project seeks to position Milan as an innovative and culturally rich city, attracting investments, tourism, and talent globally.
- ❖ The "Strategic Plan for an Integrated System of Policies and Programs to Promote the Well-being of Girls, Boys, Young Women, and Young Men in Milan" addresses the unique needs of children and adolescents within the Metropolitan City of Milan. Prioritizing safe, inclusive spaces, enhanced educational opportunities, and cultural enrichment, the plan aims to ensure the well-being and empowerment of the younger population.
- ❖ MOSAICO San Siro\_ Strategic Plan for Neighborhood is part of the Re-Gen Project, aiming to transform the San Siro neighborhood comprehensively. With objectives focusing on rejuvenating public and private spaces, promoting integration and inclusivity, and creating accessible amenities within a short distance, the plan seeks to create a vibrant and sustainable urban environment. Specific goals of the plan include enhancing environmental standards, fostering citizen-centric services, and establishing a vibrant economic landscape within the neighborhood.
- ❖ The ongoing transformations within the San Siro area align with Milan's broader planning framework, including: Territorial Government Plan (PGT), Urban Sustainable Mobility Plan (PUMS), Air-Climate Plan (PAC).

These plans aim to guide Milan's transformation, enhance mobility, mitigate air pollution, and promote environmental sustainability. San Siro's urban transformations will focus on enhancing the stadium function, civic opening of large parks, refurbishing former stables, and transforming public housing quarters. Grassroots projects involving tactical urban planning interventions, ecological enhancements, and recreational initiatives are also underway, aiming to reshape and revitalize San Siro's urban landscape.

## Good practices in the city

- ❖ Milano San Siro exhibits a high level of integration in policies, social, and territorial interactions. The Tavolo San Siro, linking seven city administration sectors, exemplifies this integration at policies level. Furthermore as explained in the Plan denominated Mosaico San Siro, various actors—ranging from institutions, public entities, private firms, to active citizens—engage in diverse cooperative endeavors, from informal interactions to structured cooperation. Key instances include the recent Protocol for San Siro's revitalization, emphasizing ongoing projects' enhancement and synergy among public, private, and third-sector entities. Notable initiatives like the Scuderie de Montel redevelopment project demonstrated multidisciplinary collaboration, involving architects, environmental experts, investors, and local community stakeholders.
- ❖ FAMI Project: it strategically involved young people by working with local subjects and networks to empower community educators.
- ❖ Wish MI Project: This four-year project, financed through the European UIA program recently concluded and primarily focused on the well-being of children and youngsters citywide. A core action was to establish "territorial hubs," offering educational and recreational opportunities for kids and teens. In San Siro, the "WishMi" project established a hub for 11-18-year-olds on the ground floor of a municipal building in Piazzale Segesta. This hub, also housing local social services, implemented activities involved 50 minors aged 11-18. The Municipality's Department of Labor, Youth, and Sports is exploring methods to continue hub activities.
- ❖ Respect Project – Spread Art: This intervention involves three sectors (Culture, Welfare, Education) and comprises four integrated project actions aimed at enhancing the neighborhood's appeal through urban art while encouraging families and youth to visit the city's civic museums. It includes distributed muralism and poster art projects with workshops for approximately 80 participants aged 5-16, engaging schools and after-school services in the neighborhood. The project targets families, adults, and youth, focusing on Piazzale Segesta 11, Via Paravia, Courtyards of social housing, and the city's civic museums.
- ❖ The City of Milano has demonstrated a commendable practice by developing a specific plan for the San Siro neighborhood, encompassing comprehensive project initiatives. This plan holistically analyses the socio-territorial and economic context while outlining future strategies and projects. It presents interpretations of the rapidly evolving urban space, acknowledging the diverse urban landscape, dense social fabric, and the interplay of various actors. Mosaico San Siro emerges as a significant developmental laboratory in Milan's western quadrant, addressing pivotal aspects such as spatial evolution, inclusive governance models, and sustainable urban regeneration. The plan 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.

## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities:

- ❖ Presence of numerous institutional and third-sector organizations fostering diverse programs for community development.
- ❖ High proportion of young residents, offering a vibrant and dynamic community.
- ❖ Abundance of different schools, providing a range of educational approaches and opportunities.
- ❖ Rich cultural diversity within the neighbourhood, fostering a blend of traditions and perspectives.
- ❖ Availability of numerous public housing options catering to various socio-economic groups within the community.
- ❖ Opportunities to bridge social and cultural integration gaps through collaborative initiatives.
- ❖ Demand for inclusive public spaces capable of accommodating the neighborhood's diverse population.
- ❖ Urgency for sports facilities accessible to all residents, ensuring equal opportunities for recreational activities.
- ❖ Addressing the difficulty in engaging girls and providing inclusive programs tailored to their needs.
- ❖ Opportunity to develop more integrated initiatives that combine efforts for comprehensive community development.

### Challenges:

- ❖ Growing focus on educational empowerment programs aimed at addressing educational poverty and reducing school dropout rates.
- ❖ Increasing efforts to create job opportunities and vocational training programs, potentially reducing unemployment rates among adolescents.
- ❖ Improving living conditions.
- ❖ Enhancing and developing public spaces, promoting safe and inclusive areas for adolescents to gather, interact, and engage in
- ❖ Need to integrate educational competencies within sports ensuring a holistic approach to adolescent development.
- ❖ Need of initiatives fostering community involvement, encouraging collaborations among diverse groups for adolescents' support.
- ❖ Need of skill enhancement programs targeting adolescents, equipping them with essential life skills beyond the academic curriculum.
- ❖ Need of mentorship programs providing guidance and support to adolescents, aiding in personal and academic development.
- ❖ Need of diversity awareness programs fostering tolerance and understanding among adolescents.
- ❖ Efforts to provide accessible and well-equipped recreational facilities catering specifically to adolescents' needs and interests.

## Ideas for testing

- ❖ Organizing workshops and focus groups with local youth to gather their input and ideas for the design and implementation of urban sport hubs. Encourage participants to share their vision for recreational activities, preferred street sports, and amenities. Use this feedback to inform the development of the IAP.
- ❖ Host “pop-up sports events” in public spaces to raise awareness about urban sport hubs and promote community engagement. Collect feedback from participants to understand interest and assess potential locations for permanent urban sport hubs.
- ❖ Partner with local schools, universities, and design organizations to launch collaborative design challenges and hackathon focused on urban sport hubs.
- ❖ Create a mobile prototype of an urban sport hub that can be transported to different locations across the neighborhood and the city. The prototype can feature modular sports equipment, sport events and temporary installations.



# CITY OF PULA

Country: CROATIA

Region: ISTRIA

Territorial extension: 51,65 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 52220 inhabitants

Of which 4637 youngsters 10-19 years old. equal to the 8,88%

GDP per capita: €17.486,00

Pula, nestled in the southwestern part of Croatia's Istrian Peninsula in the north Adriatic Sea holds scenic landscape amid coastal plain and charming hills adorned with Mediterranean vegetation. Pula enjoys a Mediterranean climate characterized by mild winters and hot summers, the ideal backdrop for various outdoor activities, including sports and recreation, making it an excellent candidate for an urban and social regeneration project through sports. The city holds a rich historical and cultural heritage, tracing its roots back to ancient Roman times. This historical depth, combined with its diverse cultural landmarks and ancient ruins, provides a unique backdrop for innovative regeneration initiatives. Over the centuries, Pula has faced demographic fluctuations and challenges, influenced by epidemics, wars, and changes in governance. More recently, the city has experienced a decline in population, especially among its younger residents seeking better employment prospects elsewhere. This demographic trend highlights the need for placing next generation in the center of policies and strategies, based on green transition and active lifestyles



## Mapping public spaces for Urban Sport Hubs Development

In the city of Pula, Croatia, the challenge of neglected and underutilized public spaces presents a complex urban planning conundrum, particularly concerning the engagement of its vibrant youth population. These spaces, which include former military zones and disused parks, stand as stark reminders of untapped potential and opportunities awaiting rejuvenation. Without suitable strategies for recreational use and community engagement, these areas remain dormant, failing to serve the needs of the city's residents, especially its younger demographic. Underused parks and public spaces not only limit opportunities for physical activity and social interaction but also contribute to a sense of disconnect within the community. Despite concerted efforts in community development and green space initiatives, certain areas have languished for decades, lacking the vitality and vibrancy necessary for fostering a thriving urban environment. Recognizing the importance of youth engagement and active participation in shaping their surroundings, Pula is committed to revitalizing these neglected spaces through innovative urban development strategies and meaningful community involvement. At the heart of Pula's urban renewal efforts lies the innovative concept of Urban Sport Hubs, envisioned as dynamic community centers that transcend traditional sports venues to become focal points for social interaction, personal development, and community cohesion. These hubs, strategically located within underutilized public spaces, aim to not only promote an active lifestyle but also serve as catalysts for social inclusion and cultural exchange.

The ROJC park, situated within the Rojc Community Centre, emerges as a prime candidate for testing the Urban Sport Hub concept. Despite its vast potential and central location, the park has long suffered from neglect and underutilization. By leveraging this space as a pilot project, Pula seeks to showcase the transformative power of the Urban Sport Hub model, demonstrating how neglected areas can be reimaged into vibrant community hubs that cater to the diverse needs and interests of its residents.



Through a comprehensive approach that combines sports infrastructure development, community engagement initiatives, and sustainable urban planning practices, Pula aims to create inclusive environments that foster social interaction, physical activity, and overall well-being among its youth population. Revitalizing neglected public spaces and transforming them into vibrant Urban Sport Hubs, Pula aspires to cultivate a sense of belonging, pride, and shared responsibility within its community of adolescents

## URBACT Local Group (ULG) Stakeholders

- ❖ Department for social activities, sports and youth
- ❖ Urban planning and development department
- ❖ Pula Sport Foundation - established by the decision of the City Council on August 30, 2022.
- ❖ ZUM association - youth association
- ❖ Elementary school Giuseppina Martinuzzi
- ❖ Secondary school Dante Alighieri
- ❖ High school Gimnazija Pula
- ❖ Spektar – athletic club for persons with disabilities
- ❖ Health Life Academy
- ❖
- ❖ School for upbringing and education - one of the oldest institutions for the education of students with developmental disabilities in Croatia.
- ❖ Foundation for encouraging partnership and development of civil society – it
- ❖ Youth council of City of Pula - advisory body of the City Council, established for the active inclusion of young people in the public life of Pula.
- ❖ Sports Community of The City of Pula, with goals of development and promotion of sports, especially the activities of children and youth and sports and recreational activities of citizens and disabled persons.



## Local Plans and Strategies

- ❖ **Development Strategy of the Urban Area Pula 2021-2027:** This pivotal document delineates the development objectives and priorities not only for Pula but also for surrounding municipalities such as Vodnjan, Barban, Fažana, Ližnjan, Marčana, Medulin, and Svetvinčenat. It emphasizes spatial development as a cornerstone for the comprehensive renovation and revitalization of the broader region. By focusing on spatial development, the strategy aims to address various aspects of life, including economic, social, and environmental dimensions.
- ❖ **City Development Plan for Pula 2020-2030:** Serving as a medium-term strategic framework, this plan articulates Pula's urban development vision. Within this framework, the city identifies the Inclusive City as a key objective under Objective 1.3. Specifically, Measure "Support for the development of an active life" (1.3.6) focuses on regeneration issues and includes plans for formulating the City of Pula Sports Development Strategy. This strategy encompasses initiatives aimed at promoting sports branding activities, encouraging the development of sports and recreational facilities, and utilizing sports for educational purposes, particularly to foster a healthy and active lifestyle among children and young people. Additionally, it supports projects and programs dedicated to adapting sports facilities for people with disabilities and enhancing education and training for sports workers catering to individuals with disabilities.
- ❖ **Implementation Program of the City of Pula 2021-2025:** This short-term plan, aligned with the Mayor's mandate, complements higher-level strategic frameworks such as the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030 and synchronizes with the City Development Plan for Pula 2020-2030. It aims to foster Pula's development as a city of knowledge and innovation by promoting the utilization of new technologies, innovations, and segments of green transition while fostering strong social awareness.
- ❖ **Green Urban Renewal Strategy and Youth Local Plan:** These forthcoming documents, once ratified by the City Council, will further advance Pula's commitment to sustainable development and youth empowerment. The Green Urban Renewal Strategy underscores the city's dedication to mitigating climate change, adapting to its impacts, and protecting the ozone layer. On the other hand, the Youth Local Plan is poised to address the specific needs and aspirations of Pula's younger population, ensuring their voices are heard in the city's development trajectory.
- ❖ **Action Plan for the Youth of the Istrian Region 2021-2025:** Aligned with regional youth programs, this action plan seeks to operationalize and implement the objectives and measures outlined in the strategic document, the Regional Youth Programme of the Istrian Region for the



period from 2018 to 2022. By addressing economic challenges, promoting entrepreneurship, and fostering sustainable development, this plan aims to empower the youth and ensure their active participation in shaping the future of the Istrian Region.

- ❖ **Economic Challenges and Heritage:** Pula, despite its rich historical and cultural heritage, has encountered economic challenges, particularly following the closure of a major shipyard. Nevertheless, the city remains the economic center of the Istria region, buoyed by significant entrepreneurial activity. Leveraging its historical and cultural assets, Pula has the potential to transition towards a green development model, repurposing underused or vacant land for sustainable infrastructure projects and climate change mitigation measures.
- ❖ **Key Sites Development:** The city administration envisions leveraging key sites within and around Pula for sustainable infrastructure projects. However, further analysis is necessary to determine the optimal development paths for these sites. This analysis should take into account unique characteristics, prevailing and anticipated market conditions, and the presence or absence of public interest. By evaluating these sites comprehensively, Pula can identify potential synergies and align objectives with other city or regional developments, ensuring sustainable and inclusive urban growth.

### **Good practices in the city**

- ❖ Pula's creation of the Youth Council and Children's City Council demonstrates a proactive approach to involving young individuals in urban policies. These advisory bodies provide platforms for youth to voice their opinions, influence decisions, and actively participate in discussions on matters that directly affect them.
- ❖ Through initiatives like the Children's City Council and Student Councils in schools, Pula fosters a culture of active citizenship among its youth. By educating them about democratic systems and providing opportunities for engagement with decision-makers, the city empowers young citizens to take ownership of their community and contribute to its improvement.
- ❖ Pula's emphasis on collaboration between youth, city authorities, and other stakeholders is evident in its efforts to address concerns raised by young people. By conducting surveys and soliciting feedback, the city demonstrates a commitment to understanding and responding to the needs of its youth population. Pula's recognition of crucial concerns highlighted in the survey, such as substance abuse, mental health challenges, and accessibility for individuals with disabilities, underscores its dedication to addressing pressing issues affecting young residents. By prioritizing these concerns, the city aims to create a supportive environment that promotes the well-being and inclusivity of all its youth.

Despite the existing challenges identified in the survey, Pula remains committed to enhancing support systems and implementing inclusive measures to better serve its young population. By acknowledging areas for improvement and actively working towards addressing them, the city demonstrates a commitment to the ongoing development and well-being of its youth community.

- ❖ The RojC center, which despite the need for regeneration of its external spaces, represents a valuable asset and a good practice. This large real estate complex serves as a hub for cultural, youth, and sports associations in Pula, providing them with space to operate and organize events. Despite the external space requiring regeneration, the RojC center serves as a focal point for community activities and collaborations. Its facilities are utilized by various organizations, contributing to a vibrant cultural and social scene in the city. The RojC center presents an ideal opportunity for experimentation with the Re-Gen project, offering a centralized location where innovative urban interventions can be tested and implemented.

## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities:

- ❖ ROJC Community Center fosters social interaction and community engagement, aiding collaboration for development.
- ❖ Youth Council and Children's City Council empower young voices in local governance, shaping policies that impact them.
- ❖ Pula's varied educational institutions minimize dropout rates, nurturing skilled individuals for the workforce.
- ❖ Emphasis on inclusivity and sustainability aligns initiatives with city development plans.
- ❖ Investment in sports facilities promotes active lifestyles and community resilience.
- ❖ Pula's experience with EU projects unlocks funding and drives innovation through partnerships.
- ❖ Sustainable practices create healthier, livable spaces, enhancing community well-being.

### Challenges:

- ❖ Aging population and youth outflow challenge social balance and labour dynamics.
- ❖ Neglected spaces hinder socialization, necessitating revitalization efforts.
- ❖ Inadequate facilities hinder accessibility and participation, requiring upgrades.
- ❖ Integrating individuals with disabilities remains a challenge, requiring enhanced accessibility.
- ❖ Limited opportunities hinder holistic growth, necessitating diverse programs.
- ❖ Enhancing the city's infrastructure, including transportation systems and public amenities, can improve accessibility and quality of life for residents.

## Ideas for testing

- ❖ Set up a temporary street sports installation at the Rojc Center, featuring elements like skate ramps, basketball hoops, and outdoor fitness equipment. This installation would provide opportunities for young people to engage in various street sports and recreational activities, promoting physical activity and social interaction.
- ❖ Organize a hackathon focused on urban regeneration and adolescents community development. Bring together local residents, students, entrepreneurs, and experts to brainstorm innovative solutions for revitalizing public spaces, enhancing cultural initiatives, and fostering economic growth in Pula.
- ❖ Host a series of adolescents friendly multifunctional events in ROJC or other different locations across the city to demonstrate the potential of flexible and adaptable urban spaces. These events could include pop-up markets, art exhibitions, live performances, outdoor movie screenings, and interactive workshops, showcasing the diverse uses of public spaces and encouraging community participation.



# CITY OF VERONA

Country: ITALY

Region: VENETO

Territorial extension: 198,92 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 257.213 inhabitants

GDP per capita: € 36.713,00

Verona, located in Italy's Veneto region, boasts UNESCO World Heritage status owing to its rich history, cultural depth, and architectural splendor. Its origins trace back to prehistoric times, notably shaped by the Romans around the 1st century BC. Over the centuries, it has seen the reign of various empires, leaving behind a mosaic of historical legacies. Verona's charm lies in its tangible and intangible heritage, with landmarks like the Adige River, the Roman Arena and the Balcony associated Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet adding to its allure. However, the city faces demographic challenges, notably an aging population, impacting workforce sustainability and social services. Verona thrives on agriculture, manufacturing, and services, though sectors like tourism and hospitality represent pillar od economic fabric. Verona's climate, with warm summers and mild winters, attracts tourists year-round. Verona is home to a prestigious university, offering 86 degree programs to approximately 29,000 students, with its sports department representing an excellence.



## Mapping public spaces for Urban Sport Hubs Development

Mapping public spaces for Urban Sport Hubs Development in Verona involves a comprehensive approach rooted in the city's plan for widespread urban renewal and environmental restoration. The initiative aims to repurpose abandoned public areas into lively sports hubs, co-created by and catered to the youth, as part of the URBACT Re-Gen Project. Regenerating public spaces in Verona entails multifaceted strategies that address urban decay and obsolescence across various dimensions. Emphasizing place-oriented interventions, development-focused approaches, and people-centric solutions, the city aims to revitalize vulnerable city parts while fostering new economies and innovative activities. Specific considerations for Borgo Roma and Santa Lucia neighborhoods include engaging local teenagers, youths, and community members in envisioning and designing spaces that cater to their needs. This could involve creating multi-purpose areas, integrating cultural elements, and incorporating amenities reflecting the preferences and values of these neighborhoods. Potential areas to be included in the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) and serving as testing places are a

vacant park, an abandoned lot near the hospital in Borgo Roma, and areas under bridges. These spaces present opportunities to transform underutilized areas into vibrant and inclusive environments for residents, especially the youngsters. Verona adopts a holistic approach, emphasizing collaboration, engagement, and participatory processes. Through partnerships with local organizations, kids aged 10 to 18 from schools in Borgo Roma, Golosine and Santa Lucia are actively involved in co-designing and co-creating spaces. Detailed mapping identifies suitable spaces and specific needs within these areas, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility. Stakeholder engagement forms the core of this initiative, fostering community bonds and a sense of ownership for these shared spaces. The Urban Sports Hub concept extends beyond physical spaces to foster a cultural shift, integrating sustainable transport initiatives and recreational activities into residents' daily lives. The aim is to set a precedent for collaborative urban transformation across Europe, championing youth-centric designs and creating sustainable, inclusive, and innovative spaces for future generations.



## URBACT Local Group (ULG) Stakeholders

- ❖ Comune di Verona DPT Servizi sociali e politiche giovanili
- ❖ Nuova Acropoli Verona ODV
- ❖ Associazione Le Fate ONLUS
- ❖ Liceo Scientifico "G. Galilei"
- ❖ Istituto Comprensivo n. 5 "Santa Lucia Golosine"
- ❖ Istituto Tecnico-Commerciale "Luigi Einaudi"
- ❖ Istituto Comprensivo Verona 10 - Borgo Roma
- ❖ Buster Basket ASD
- ❖ Spazio di quartiere "ABC"
- ❖ Centro Culturale 6 maggio 1848
- ❖ Accademia del circo di Verona
- ❖ FIAB - Federazione Italiana Amici della Bicicletta

## Local Plans and Strategies

- ❖ Linee Programmatiche 2022 – 2027: The plan outlines Verona's vision of fostering interconnected neighborhoods through the integration of green spaces, aiming for revitalization while preserving environmental and monumental features. Emphasizing eco-sustainability, social cohesion, and accessibility, the plan envisions a city where essential services and public spaces are within a 15-minute walk or bike ride. There's a strong emphasis on promoting cultural vitality, tourism, and inclusivity, with a focus on social housing to ensure equitable living conditions for all residents. Verona aspires to develop interconnected and livable neighborhoods, surrounded by a continuous urban park, while also protecting natural resources and promoting sustainable mobility.
- ❖ Documento Unico di Programmazione 2023-2027 (DUP): The DUP for 2023-2027 sets forth a vision centered on empowering youth, revitalizing neighborhoods, and supporting cultural and sports activities. With a focus on enhancing digital proximity and safety, Verona aims to enrich its cultural heritage through investments in cultural spaces. The document outlines specific strategic objectives across various sectors, including institutions, security, education, culture, youth policies, tourism, environment, transportation, social rights, health, inclusion, economic development, and energy sustainability.
- ❖ PAT (Piano di Assetto Territoriale): The PAT, that is under revision and profound rewriting is undergoing, emphasizes territorial and spatial development beyond traditional land use rules, with a focus on making critical decisions regarding public transportation, green areas, and environmental resources. Verona seeks to transition towards a networked metropolitan area, fostering connectivity and sustainable development across its territory.
- ❖ Città Sane (Healthy Cities) Initiative: Verona's participation in the Healthy Cities Initiative, supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), underscores its commitment to promoting healthy urban, social, healthcare, and cultural lifestyles. Through this initiative, Verona aims to enhance the quality of life for its residents, foster development, and create a better future for the community by prioritizing health and well-being in urban planning and governance.

## Good practices in the city

- ❖ **Pacts of Subsidiarity:** Verona's collaborative approach to shared governance of urban commons through Pacts of Subsidiarity showcases effective civic engagement. These pacts, formed through partnerships among the municipality, associations, and citizens, aim to collectively steward Verona's communal spaces and assets. The establishment of a Coordination Service for horizontal subsidiarity further streamlines administrative processes, fostering continuous co-design between the city and interested stakeholders. Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous pacts have been signed, covering various themes and areas beneficial for community life in Verona. Recent initiatives have evolved from physical space management to projects centered on shared values like legality and environmental sustainability. The active engagement of citizens, spanning all age groups, has positively impacted thousands through subsidiarity actions.
- ❖ **Street Games Festival "Tocatì":** Verona's Street Games Festival, known as "Tocatì," is a prime example of fostering community engagement and play culture preservation. Originating from the Association of Ancient Games, it celebrates traditional street games and cultural heritage, drawing participants from diverse backgrounds and age groups. The current hypothesis of decentralizing the festival aims to spread the event to various neighborhoods, promoting inclusivity and relieving overcrowding in the historic city center. This mirrors the principles of Urban Sports Hubs Development, emphasizing community involvement, cultural enrichment, and the promotion of traditional games and sports. Both initiatives recognize the importance of public spaces in enhancing urban livability and fostering social cohesion.



## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities:

- ❖ Verona's well-integrated governance structure and Subsidiarity Pact to manage urban commons offer an opportunity to evolve digital governance tools promoting synergy for initiatives.
- ❖ The prioritization of youth involvement in decision-making processes fosters a strong sense of community engagement and ensures that the city's future development reflects the aspirations and needs of its younger residents.
- ❖ Verona's strategic plans striking a balance between economic growth, social inclusivity, environmental sustainability, and cultural enrichment present an opportunity for holistic and sustainable urban development.
- ❖ Initiatives promoting green spaces, renewable energy, and eco-friendly practices contribute to enhancing environmental sustainability, creating healthier and more livable urban environments.
- ❖ Verona's integration of digital innovation into various programs enhances accessibility and fosters digital literacy among residents, opening avenues for improved service delivery and citizen engagement.
- ❖ Focused educational programs tailored to youth interests promote civic responsibility, sustainability awareness, and active participation among younger generations, laying the foundation for future community leaders.
- ❖ Emphasizing cultural enrichment initiatives not only preserves heritage but also promotes diversity, enhancing the city's cultural vibrancy and attracting tourists while fostering local pride and identity.

### Challenges:

- ❖ Ensuring equal representation across diverse age groups in decision-making processes may pose challenges, requiring deliberate efforts to address disparities and amplify underrepresented voices.
- ❖ Disparities in digital literacy and technology access could hinder the effectiveness of digital innovation initiatives.
- ❖ Overemphasis on youth engagement might inadvertently overlook the perspectives and needs of other demographic groups, necessitating a balanced approach to ensure inclusivity and diversity in city planning.
- ❖ Difficulty in translating policies into actionable initiatives due to bureaucratic hurdles or conflicting agendas may impede progress and delay the implementation of key urban development projects.
- ❖ Limited availability of space for green areas or recreational zones poses challenges to their creation and accessibility, requiring innovative solutions to maximize existing urban spaces effectively.
- ❖ Challenges in effectively integrating cultural diversity may hinder the success of cultural enrichment initiatives, necessitating inclusive approaches that celebrate and embrace diverse cultural identities.
- ❖ Limited resources may constrain the execution and expansion of initiatives, necessitating strategic prioritization and creative partnerships to overcome financial constraints and sustain momentum in urban development efforts.



## Ideas for testing

- ❖ Host community happenings and street sports bootcamps, showcasing the potential of the USH concept to bring people together and promote adolescent's friendly city and active lifestyles. .
- ❖ Collaborate with local schools to integrate urban sports and recreational activities into their physical education programs and extracurricular activities. By partnering with schools to map and co-design places, the Urban Sports Hub (USH) concept can reach a broader impact. This initiative promotes physical activity and healthy lifestyles and provides educational opportunities for students.
- ❖ Organize hackathons for youngsters to unlock their creativity to designing solutions for the urban sport hubs showcase potential of the public space regeneration placing teens in centre of the project enable the creation of an adolescent-friendly city with active lifestyles.
- ❖ Engage teens in tactical urbanism experiment and set up pilot urban sports installations, such as pop-up skate parks outdoor fitness equipment, or street basketball, in vacant lots or underutilized spaces across the city.
- ❖ Organize pop-up street performances involving teens to play music, skate, dance and perform in public spaces of the neighborhoods to enliven public spaces, entertain residents, and foster a sense of youths-led cultural vibrancy within the community.



# CITY OF VILA DO CONDE

Country: PORTUGAL

Region: Norte Region

Territorial extension: 149,03 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 80,825 inhabitants

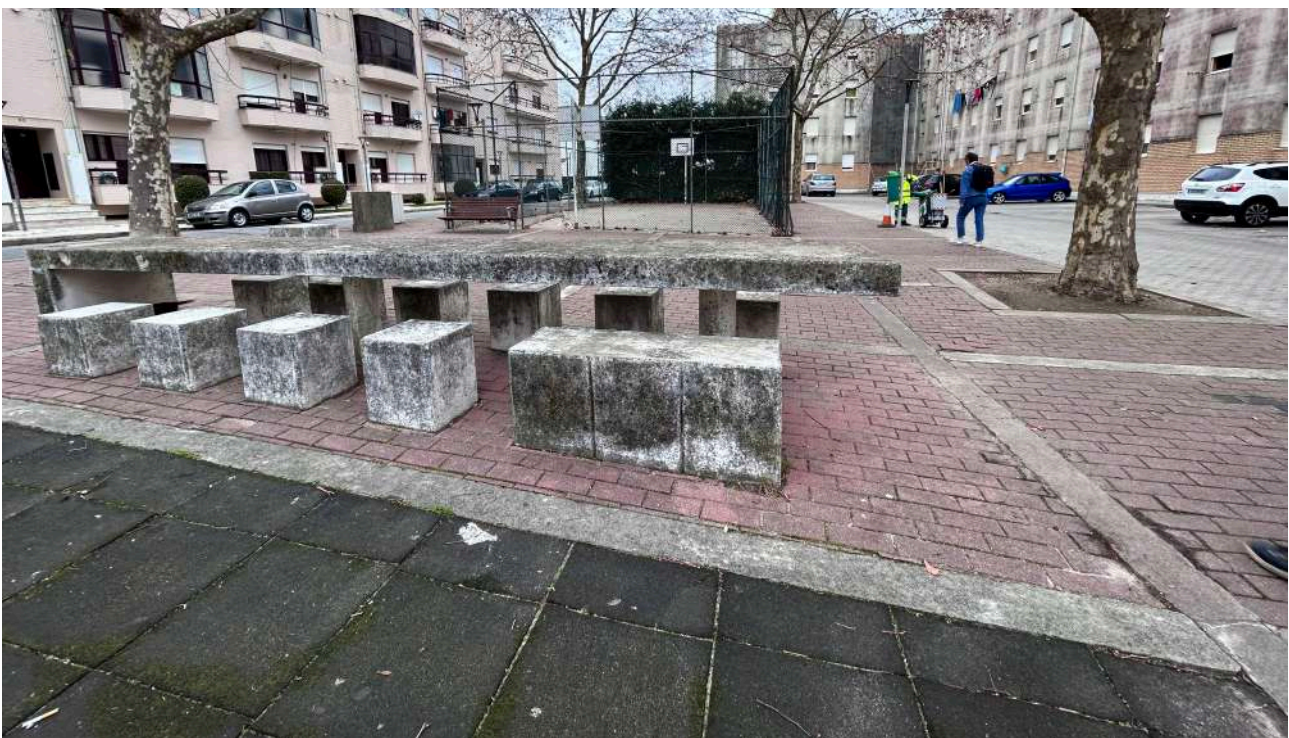
of which 11% 15-24 y.o and 14% < 15 y.o.

Vila do Conde, one of northern Portugal's oldest towns dating back to 953 AD, boasts a rich history and significant landmarks like the Monastery of Santa Clara. Present-day initiatives focus on revitalizing historic areas and enhancing maritime infrastructure. Architecturally, the city preserves monuments like Capela do Socorro and Forte de S. João Baptista. With 18 kilometers of beautiful beaches, Vila do Conde offers a blend of coastal charm and rural heritage, hosting renowned events like the International Short Film Festival. The city is celebrated for its bobbin lace tradition and wooden boat construction. Gastronomy is another highlight of Vila do Conde, with its conventual sweets and delectable local dishes drawing food enthusiasts from near and far. The vibrant summer months are punctuated by prestigious events like the International Short Film Festival, the National Crafts Fair, and the Festivals of S. João, adding to the city's cultural vibrancy. Each neighborhood, from the historic city centre to the coastal villages, adds to the city's unique allure, inviting visitors to explore its diverse landscapes and vibrant atmosphere.



## Mapping public spaces for Urban Sport Hubs Development

In Vila do Conde, the challenge of Public Space Regeneration is a multifaceted endeavour that extends beyond the mere rejuvenation of neglected areas. It's about transforming these spaces into vibrant hubs specifically tailored to meet the needs of teenagers, particularly in neighbourhoods like Dália. Here, the scarcity of designated spaces for adolescents poses a significant barrier to their engagement in healthy and recreational activities. Despite the presence of nearby schools, the lack of well-utilized leisure areas limits opportunities for physical and social development among the youth population. The initiative to map public spaces for Urban Sport Hubs Development represents a strategic approach to address various social, economic, and community-building challenges within the municipality. It aims not only to revitalize abandoned areas but also to reimagine them as vibrant, inclusive spaces that foster a sense of belonging and empowerment among teenagers. By creating environments that encourage active engagement, social interaction, and personal development, the project seeks to tackle issues such as poverty, educational barriers, mental health, and potential school dropouts among this demographic. The planning and testing process will be guided by the collaborative input of the youth themselves, who actively already had participated in envisioning Vila do Conde's future and shaping the Municipality's Youth Strategy. Through this collaborative effort, practical objectives have been identified, serving as a roadmap for the execution of the project. Among the key insights gleaned from youth engagement is the recognition of the positive impact of sports activities and access to diverse sporting facilities in the municipality.





The Urban Sport Hub initiative, spearheaded by the Urban Local Group (ULG), is a pivotal component of this comprehensive strategy. It aims to seamlessly integrate with existing city policies and youth strategies, ensuring alignment and synergy in achieving shared goals. The Regeneration Integrated Action Plan (IAP), which forms the backbone of the initiative, follows a meticulous developmental process, beginning with the revitalization of the Dália neighbourhood as a pilot project. Sustainability, inclusivity, and aesthetics are the guiding principles of this endeavour. Through collaborative co-design and community engagement, the project seeks to transform neglected areas into vibrant, thriving spaces that not only cater to the recreational needs of teenagers but also promote social interaction and community building. Moreover, the envisioned Urban Sport Hub is designed to be inclusive, providing opportunities for intergenerational connections and enhancing overall well-being within the community.

## URBACT Local Group (ULG) Stakeholders

- ❖ Vila do Conde Municipality Department of Social Action,
- ❖ Vila do Conde Municipality Department of sports
- ❖ Vila do Conde Municipality Divisions of Housing and Social Action,
- ❖ Vila do Conde Municipality Department of Planning and Urban Studies,
- ❖ Vila do Conde Municipality Department of Education
- ❖ Integrated Social Assistance and Monitoring Service
- ❖ Coordination and Development Committee for the Northern Region - CCDRN
- ❖ Portuguese Institute of Sports and Youth - IPDJ
- ❖ Escola Frei João – 2nd and 3rd cycle school
- ❖ Escola José Régio - Secondary school
- ❖ Higher School of Media Arts and Design - ESMAD - Porto Polytechnic Institute
- ❖ Living Science Center
- ❖ Environmental Monitoring and Interpretation Center - CMIA
- ❖ Commission for the Protection of Children and Young People – CPCJ
- ❖ Rio Ave Futebol Clube
- ❖ Cultural and Recreational Sports Association of Caxinas and Poças da Barca
- ❖ José Régio Sports Club



## Local Plans and Strategies

In Vila do Conde, diverse strategies and plans are being enacted to address pressing social and developmental challenges while fostering community engagement and empowerment. Among them:

- ❖ Vila do Conde Youth Strategy: Empowering the Future: This strategic initiative is more than just a plan; it's a vision to empower the next generation. It's about creating platforms where young voices are not just heard but actively sought out and valued. It envisions a city where the youth are not just passive participants but active architects of their future. Through carefully crafted programs and initiatives, the strategy aims to generate a sense of ownership and responsibility in the youth, ensuring that their ideas and aspirations shape the trajectory of the municipality.
- ❖ Action Plan for the Disadvantaged Communities (PACDVC): This plan embodies a holistic approach to addressing the complex challenges faced by marginalized communities within Vila do Conde. It's about more than just alleviating poverty; it's about fostering resilience and empowering individuals to break free from the cycle of social exclusion. Through targeted interventions across various domains like healthcare, education, and community engagement, the plan seeks to create pathways for social mobility and inclusion.
- ❖ Municipal Plan for Equality and Non-Discrimination: At its core, this plan is about building a community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of gender, race, or background. It's about recognizing that diversity is not just a buzzword but a source of strength and vitality. By promoting gender equality and non-discrimination, the plan aims to create a more inclusive and egalitarian society where everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive.
- ❖ INOVGREEN: Revitalizing Urban Spaces for Social Inclusion: This initiative is a testament to Vila do Conde's commitment to sustainability and social cohesion. It's about recognizing that access to green spaces is not just a luxury but a fundamental human right. Through innovative approaches like 'Urban Acupuncture' and 'Civic Participation and Involvement,' the program seeks to transform neglected urban areas into vibrant community hubs. It's about more than just planting trees; it's about creating spaces where people can come together, connect with nature, and forge meaningful relationships.

## Good practices in the city

In recent years, Vila do Conde has emerged as a beacon of best practices in youth engagement, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to empowering young individuals and integrating their voices into municipal decision-making processes. The city's application to become an EU Youth Capital, where it secured a place among the top five finalists, serves as a testament to its dedication to fostering youth participation and innovation.

- ❖ At the core of Vila do Conde's approach lies the Municipal Youth Strategy (2023-2026), a comprehensive framework designed to empower youth and harness their potential for positive impact on the city's social, economic, and political landscape. This strategy emphasizes creating an inclusive environment where young people can contribute their innovative ideas to drive sustainable development.
- ❖ The journey towards EU Youth Capital status began in 2022 with the launch of the Youth Strategy, marking a significant milestone in Vila do Conde's commitment to youth engagement. The city has since prioritized ongoing communication channels to facilitate dynamic and transformative dialogues with young people. Collaborative efforts between the municipality and youth organizations have been instrumental in addressing youth priorities and fostering inclusion.
- ❖ Central to Vila do Conde's strategy is the transformation of the Municipal Youth Council into a key forum for youth representation, enabling young individuals to steer discussions on important issues and shape urban policies. The city is dedicated to reaching unaffiliated youth through effective communication channels, encouraging broader participation in decision-making processes.
- ❖ Vila do Conde aims to amplify youth voices in policies addressing youth disengagement and integrate their perspectives into the city's development processes. As the city embarks on this transformative journey, it remains committed to continuous improvement and innovation, ensuring robust youth representation in all aspects of municipal governance.

Vila do Conde's bid for the EU Youth Capital was not merely an application but a transformative journey that actively engaged young individuals in shaping the city's future. By fostering meaningful youth participation and creating a collaborative framework for development, Vila do Conde sets a commendable example for cities seeking to empower their youth and drive positive change.



## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities:

- ❖ Strong initiatives ensure meaningful participation of young individuals in urban development decisions, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to community development.
- ❖ Considerable funding is available for infrastructural improvements tailored to adolescents' needs, providing an opportunity to create well-equipped and engaging spaces for youth.
- ❖ Well-established collaborations among sports, cultural, and social organizations enable joint ventures in space creation, leveraging diverse expertise and resources for effective outcomes.
- ❖ Increasing cultural diversity from migrant communities enriches urban planning, offering unique perspectives and opportunities for inclusive space design.
- ❖ Structured programs promoting gender equality and human rights empower youth for active engagement, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.
- ❖ Utilizing technology in design to create innovative and interactive adolescent-friendly spaces enhances the attractiveness and functionality of urban areas for youth.
- ❖ The opportunity to design eco-friendly spaces promotes environmental awareness among youth, aligning with global efforts towards sustainability.

### Challenges:

- ❖ Engagement methods lacking depth and authenticity may limit genuine involvement, hindering the effectiveness of youth-oriented initiatives.
- ❖ Balancing resources for adolescent-focused spaces amid other municipal priorities poses challenges, requiring careful planning and prioritization.
- ❖ Lack of sufficient training among organizations involved in urban planning for adolescents may impede the creation of well-designed and impactful youth spaces.
- ❖ Absence of robust data for assessing the effectiveness of youth-oriented projects and spaces complicates decision-making and evaluation processes.
- ❖ Challenges in integrating diverse migrant communities into adolescent-centered initiatives require sensitive approaches and cultural understanding.
- ❖ Gender disparities and cultural norms may hinder inclusivity in adolescent spaces, necessitating deliberate efforts to ensure equitable access and participation.
- ❖ Overcoming community resistance or negative perceptions towards adolescent-benefiting projects requires effective communication and community engagement strategies.



## Ideas for testing

- ❖ Set up temporary urban sports installations, such as pop-up skate parks, outdoor fitness equipment, or temporary basketball courts, within the Dália neighborhood. This small scale action aims to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of such installations in promoting physical activity and social interaction among adolescents in the area.
- ❖ Organize street sport events across the city, including tactical urbanism for sport and adolescents, to encourage active participation and understand street sport appreciation by generations.
- ❖ Organize community engagement workshops in the Dália neighborhood to gather input and ideas from residents, particularly adolescents, on their preferences and needs regarding urban sports and recreational activities.
- ❖ Organize a hackathon focused on developing innovative ideas and solutions for creating urban sport hubs in Vila do Conde. The hackathon can explore topics such as space design, technology integration, community engagement and governance strategies. The goal is to generate actionable plans and prototypes that can inform the Integrated action plan.



#3

**Synthesis  
Methodology  
Network Roadmap**

## 3.1 Synthesis

### Adolescent's Friendly city and the challenge of public spaces

Re-Gen Cities partners vary significantly in size, population, historical context, and urban spatial characteristics. Milan, the largest city on the network, boasts a population of over one million residents, followed by Verona with 258,000 inhabitants. Albacete in Spain, with 172,000 inhabitants can be considered a medium city, followed by small-medium cities with almost 100,000 residents such as Daugavpils, Dobirhc, Lezha and Vila do Conde. The smallest cities are Pula and Corfu, both tourist destinations that see the number of people increase more than double during the summer season.

Despite the differences, all the cities in the Re-Gen network have started a process to consider and recognize the specific needs of adolescents among their priorities, through the regeneration and enhancement of urban spaces by rethinking them based on their needs. Driven by factors such as youth hardship, the presence of baby gangs, the risk of educational poverty and social isolation, and sometimes by the risk of depopulation, Re-Gen cities aim to define concrete plans and actions to integrate the young generations into urban regeneration processes, starting from public spaces. Public spaces play a crucial role in the lives of adolescents, especially generations of adolescents who have experienced the pandemic, missing out on important opportunities for socialization and personal affirmation in society and among peers. If the theme of the regeneration of public spaces has been on the table of strategic urban planning for several years, the same cannot be said about the attention that cities must pay to adolescents. Too big for the playground and too small to be able to go to clubs and pubs independently. So teenagers are looking for spaces in which to meet and socialize, practicing sports, or even simply to chat and listen to music. The challenge of offering opportunities and opportunities to adolescents is necessary and always urgent, both in large cities and in the most deprived neighborhoods, but also in small and medium-sized cities, where sometimes unexpectedly, episodes of petty crime are recorded, driven by boredom and unease interior that kids live, today perhaps more than in the past. In this perspective, the Re-Gen network recognizes the importance of participation, co-planning, co-creation and co-management. organizations, such as schools, sports and youth cultural associations, but also economic operators, researchers as well as representatives of the public administration collaborate in planning integrated actions to respond, always with a place-based approach, to the challenges of teenagers and to guarantee that public spaces can offer a safe and inclusive environment for adolescents, first and foremost and for the entire community.

## The main challenges and gaps identified by Re-Gen Cities

- ❖ **Adolescent Discomfort:** This challenge refers to the feelings of unease, isolation, or vulnerability experienced by teenagers due to a lack of positive social opportunities. Adolescents may feel marginalized or susceptible to negative influences when they do not have access to spaces or activities that foster healthy social interactions and personal growth. This discomfort can stem from various factors such as social exclusion, peer pressure, or limited recreational options, leading to feelings of disconnection or alienation from their communities.
- ❖ **Lack of Adequate Public Spaces Meeting Adolescent Needs:** Many cities fail to provide public spaces that cater to the specific needs and preferences of teenagers. These spaces are essential for adolescents to socialize, engage in recreational activities, and express themselves freely. Without access to such spaces, teenagers may experience social isolation or resort to engaging in less desirable activities, such as loitering in streets or participating in risky behaviors.
- ❖ **Presence of Abandoned/Underused Public Spaces to be Regenerated:** Some cities have public spaces that are neglected, underutilized, or unsafe, posing challenges for adolescents seeking safe and inviting environments. Revitalizing these spaces is crucial to better serve the community, especially adolescents, by creating welcoming and vibrant areas where they can gather, interact, and participate in constructive activities. Regeneration efforts may involve improving infrastructure, enhancing safety measures, and implementing programming that caters to adolescent interests and needs.
- ❖ **Lack of Adolescent Engagement in Policy-making Processes:** Adolescents often lack meaningful opportunities to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. This disconnect between teenagers and policymakers can result in policies and initiatives that do not adequately address adolescent needs or reflect their perspectives. Actively involving adolescents in policy discussions and decision-making can ensure that their voices are heard, their concerns are considered, and policies are more responsive to their realities and aspirations.
- ❖ **Lack of Integration of Policies and Sectors:** Some cities struggle to integrate policies and initiatives across different sectors, such as education, health, and urban planning, leading to fragmented approaches to addressing adolescent needs. This lack of coordination can result in missed opportunities for comprehensive and holistic interventions that effectively support adolescent well-being. Integrated approaches that consider the interconnected nature of adolescent issues and involve collaboration among various stakeholders can lead to more effective and sustainable solutions.

- ❖ **Insufficient Shared Governance Models for Public Spaces:** Collaborative governance models for managing and governing public spaces are often lacking, leading to challenges in their maintenance, use, and development. Inadequate coordination and communication among stakeholders can result in inefficiencies, conflicts, and missed opportunities for leveraging resources and expertise. Establishing shared governance models that involve community members, local organizations, and government agencies can promote more effective and inclusive decision-making processes and ensure that public spaces meet the diverse needs of adolescents and the broader community.
- ❖ **Scarce Availability of Youth Support Services:** Many cities face a shortage of accessible and tailored support services for teenagers, leaving them without adequate resources to address their social, emotional, and developmental needs. These services play a crucial role in providing adolescents with guidance, counselling, and support during challenging times, such as navigating peer relationships, mental health issues, or academic pressures. Investing in youth support services and ensuring their accessibility can contribute to positive adolescent outcomes and overall community well-being.



## Learning Needs

Once detected the principal challenges jointly identified by Re-Gen Cities, the following learning needs have been highlighted:

- ❖ **Implementing Sports based solutions:** Acquire expertise in implementing sports initiatives that encourage physical activity, community engagement, and environmental sustainability among adolescents, particularly the urban built and green environment. Understand the connection between sports activities, urban greening, and multifunctional public spaces. learn how to realize urban Sport Based Solutions connected with Nature Based Solutions
- ❖ **Understand System Thinking, multi-actor approach and Sustainable Participatory Design Principles:** Gain knowledge of the city as a complex system and ecosystem. Learn methodologies to integrate strategies, policies, and sectors, with a particular focus on incorporating green, inclusive, and gender dimensions into urban design and public space regeneration initiatives.
- ❖ **Understanding Public Spaces Regeneration and Tactical Time -Based Urbanism:** Gain knowledge and skills in revitalizing existing public spaces to make them more inclusive, attractive, and conducive to sport and recreational activities for adolescents. Learn about urban design principles and strategies for transforming underutilized spaces into vibrant community hubs.: Learn about experimentation before permanent changes. Consider time-based urbanism as a guiding principle of urban development, viewing public spaces comprehensively and multifunctionally.
- ❖ **Enhancing Adolescent Wellbeing:** Explore methods and approaches to develop programs and services that promote the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of adolescents within urban environments. Learn about effective youth engagement techniques and evidence-based interventions to address issues such as educational poverty and youth discomfort.
- ❖ **Embracing Digital Shared Governance:** Familiarise with digital platforms and tools for facilitating participatory decision-making processes in urban planning and management. Learn how to engage adolescents in co-designing and co-managing public spaces through online platforms, ensuring their voices are heard and their perspectives are incorporated into decision-making processes.
- ❖ **Building Shared Governance Models:** Gain insights into developing shared governance models for public spaces that promote collaboration and partnership among stakeholders, including adolescents, policymakers, community organisations, and local residents. Learn about successful case studies and best practices in fostering inclusive decision-making and collective ownership of public spaces.

- ❖ **Strengthening Policymaker-Teenager Engagement:** Develop strategies to enhance engagement between policymakers and teenagers, bridging the gap between policy formulation and youth perspectives. Learn effective communication techniques, advocacy skills, and negotiation strategies to ensure that adolescent voices are considered in policymaking processes related to public spaces and urban development.
- ❖ **Promoting Teen Participation in Policies:** Explore ways to increase teen participation in policy development and implementation processes, empowering them to advocate for their interests and contribute to shaping their urban environment. Learn about youth-led initiatives, urbanism tactics, and capacity-building programs that foster meaningful youth participation in decision-making at local and regional levels. Learn how to organize an urban hackathon for teens
- ❖ **Learn about EU policies and global initiatives** relevant to Re-Gen IAP, such as NEB Share initiative, Healthylifestyle4ALL and The TartuCall, HerCity, Child Friendly City, Rights of Child.
- ❖ **Explore Creative Funding Models:** Familiarize with match-funding models for urban projects. Develop innovative financing mechanisms, such as civic crowdfunding, to improve urban policies and decision-making.

## Comparing challenges and learning needs in the Re-Gen cities

While recognized by all cities in the Re-Gen network, these problems and gaps have varying significance among partners. The charts represent the partners' stance on the main issues that the Re-Gen project aims to address. The analysis was based on a comprehensive survey conducted in the city, outcomes from study visits, and a review of strategic documents adopted by the partner cities. A judgment scale ranging from 1 (lowest among the 7 challenges) to 5 (highest among the 7) was established.

All cities report a lack of adequate spaces for youngsters aged 10 to 18. There is a consensus among the cities in the network regarding this criterion, assigning values between 4 and 5 for this criteria. The presence of abandoned or underutilised spaces is acknowledged in all cities but isn't perceived with the same severity. In some cases, the quantity matters more than the state of abandonment.

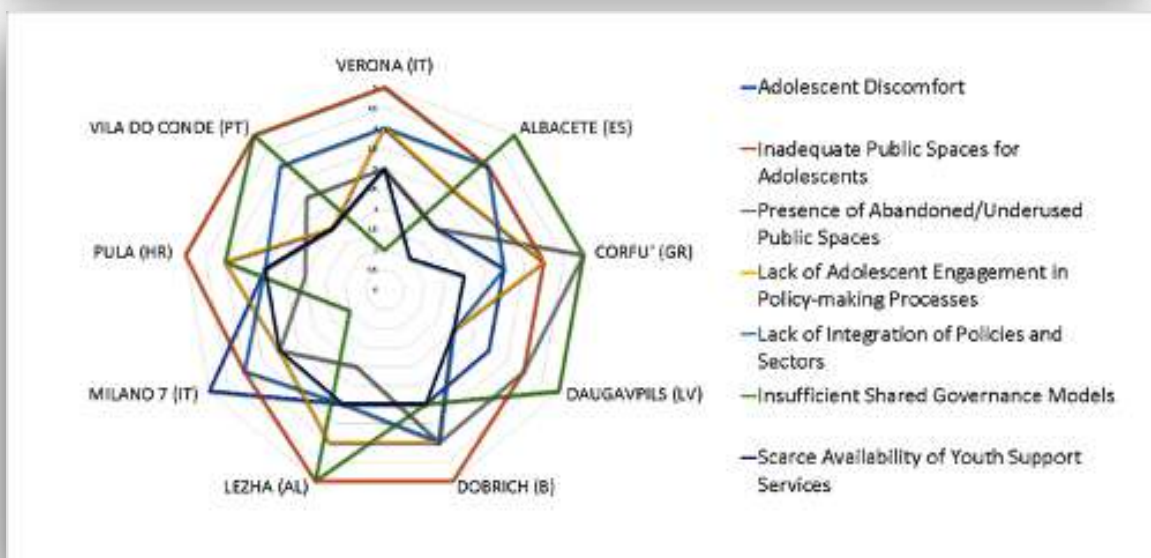
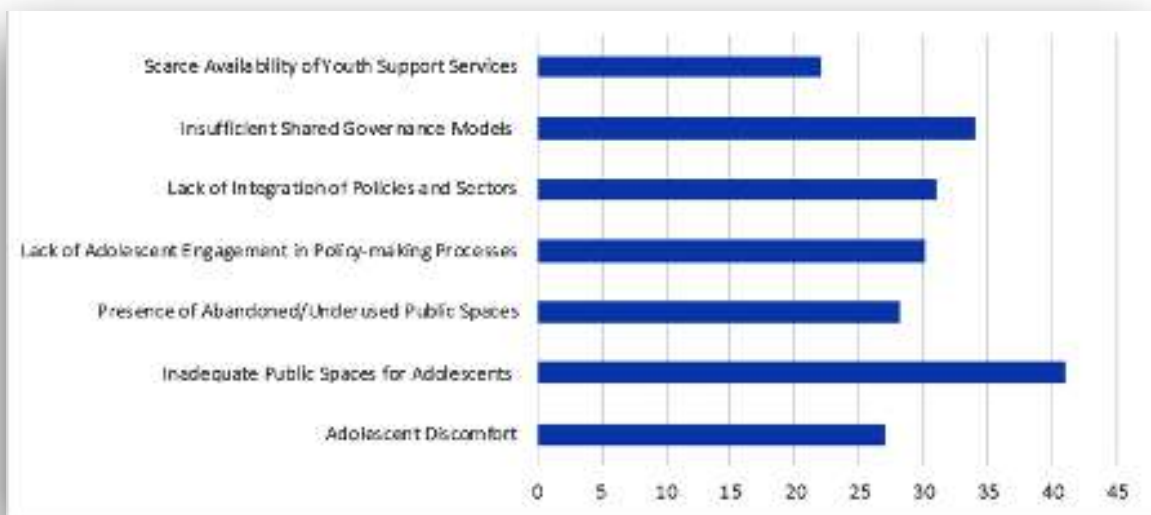
The issue of adolescents' discomfort is more pronounced in larger cities like Milan, whereas in other cities, it is acknowledged but with lesser impact. The presence of youth gangs and minor criminal activities associated with potential social neglect or the lack of healthy spaces for young people is considered more concerning in Milano; worrying signs also in Pula and Dobrich.

The second network-level gap is the lack of tools for shared management of common goods and limited awareness of shared governance models. Only Verona and Milan perceive this problem as less prominent. Verona has a good practice based on subsidiarity agreements allowing public-private and public-

citizen partnerships for managing common goods, including parks and sports facilities.

Following in relevance is the problem related to the difficulty in fostering dialogue among sectors within the administration, and even more so, the challenge of implementing multi-actor participatory models necessary in contemporary cities.

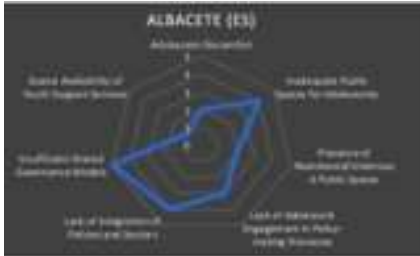
The presence of abandoned or underutilized public spaces is recognized by all cities, albeit with moderate significance (if the analysis were to focus on specific neighbourhoods, the data would be higher). Among the issues encountered by cities, the one that has the least impact on average is the lack of services and support for young people, to the extent that some cities demonstrate good practices in this area. However, the problem remains to be addressed within the context of Re-Gen.





# Cities Core Challenges, Learning Needs, Knowledge to share

## ALBACETE



### Core policy challenges

- Public Spaces for Adolescents
- Integration of Policies and Sectors
- Shared Governance Models

### Main Learning needs

- Sports based solutions
- System Thinking,
- Multi-actor approach
- Sustainable Design Principles
- Tactical Time-Based Urbanism
- Digital Shared Governance
- Teenager Engagement in Policies
- Policies and global initiatives

### Knowledge to share

- Municipal Youth Centre and Youths participation Good Practices
- Climbing Events in public spaces

## CORFU



### Core policy challenges

- Public Spaces for Adolescents
- Abandoned Public Spaces
- Shared Governance Models

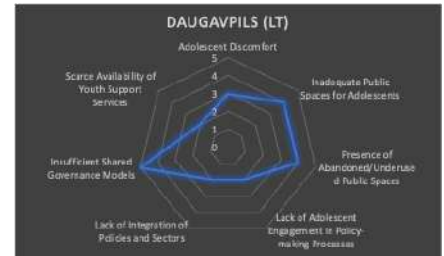
### Main Learning needs

- Sports based solutions
- System Thinking,
- Multi-actor approach
- Public Spaces Regeneration
- Tactical Time-Based Urbanism
- Teenager Engagement in Policies

### Knowledge to share

- Garitza Park, sport and green urban regeneration

## DAUGAVPILS



### Core policy challenges

- Public Spaces for Adolescents
- Abandoned Public Spaces
- Shared Governance Models

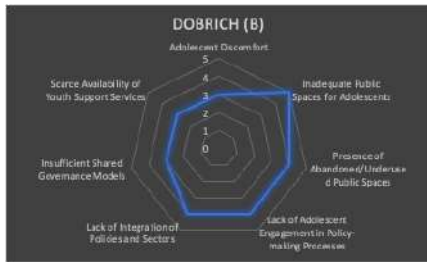
### Main Learning needs

- System Thinking
- Sustainable Design Principles
- Tactical Time-Based Urbanism
- Digital Shared Governance
- Policies and global initiatives
- Creative Funding Models

### Knowledge to share

- School start up programs
- Ghetto Games
- City Festivals
- Esplanade Rest Park: sport and green based solution

## DOBRICH



### Core policy challenges

- Public Spaces for Adolescents
- Adolescents' engagement in policy making
- Integration of Policies and Sectors

### Main Learning needs

- Sports based solutions
- System Thinking,
- Multi-actor approach
- Tactical Time-Based Urbanism
- Digital Shared Governance
- Teenager Engagement in Policies
- Policies and global initiatives

### Knowledge to share

- Active citizenship and care of urban commons
- Apple Park: where the idea come from, the role of schools and teens in urban regeneration

## LEZHA



### Core policy challenges

- Public Spaces for Adolescents
- Adolescents' engagement in policy making
- Shared Governance Models

### Main Learning needs

- Sports based solutions
- System Thinking,
- Multi-actor approach
- Tactical Time -Based Urbanism
- Digital Shared Governance
- Teenager Engagement in Policies
- Policies and global initiatives
- Creative Funding Models

### Knowledge to share

- Youth Centre Plan

## MILANO



### Core policy challenges

- Adolescent Discomfort
- Public Spaces for Adolescents
- Integration of Policies and Sectors

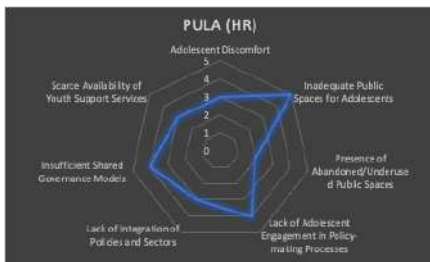
### Main Learning needs

- System Thinking,
- Multi-actor approach
- Adolescent Wellbeing
- Digital Shared Governance
- Teenager Engagement in Policies
- Policies and global initiatives

### Knowledge to share

- Tactic Urbanism
- Street Educations
- Mosaico SanSiro Plan

## PULA



### Core policy challenges

- Public Spaces for Adolescents
- Adolescent Engagement in policy making
- Shared Governance Models

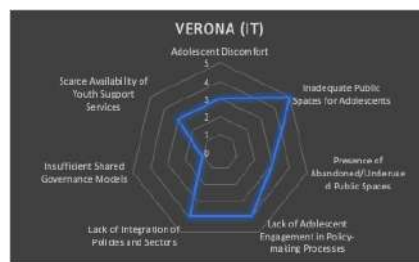
### Main Learning needs

- Sports based solutions
- System Thinking,
- Multi-actor approach
- Sustainable Design Principles
- Tactical Time-Based Urbanism
- Digital Shared Governance
- Teenager Engagement in Policies
- Policies and global initiatives

### Knowledge to share

- Inclusion by sport
- School and sport for kids with mental disabilities
- ROJC one place for all associations and community festival

## VERONA



### Core policy challenges

- Public Spaces for Adolescents
- Adolescent Engagement in policy making
- Integration of Policies and Sectors

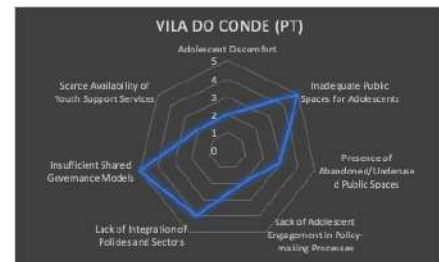
### Main Learning needs

- Sports based solutions
- System Thinking
- Multi-actor approach
- Adolescent Wellbeing
- Digital Shared Governance
- Teens Engagement in Policies
- Policies and global initiatives
- Creative Funding Models

### Knowledge to share

- Subsidiarity Pact for shared Governance
- Fabrica Urbana: co-creation lab
- Tactical urbanism

## VILA DO CONDE



### Core policy challenges

- Public Spaces for Adolescents and urban regeneration
- Integration of Policies and Sectors
- Shared Governance Models

### Main Learning needs

- Sports based solutions
- System Thinking
- Multi-actor approach
- Sustainable Design Principles
- Tactical Time-Based Urbanism
- Digital Shared Governance
- Teenager Engagement in Policies
- Policies and global initiatives
- Creative Funding Models

### Knowledge to share

- Municipal Youth Strategy
- Youth capital application
- The green call

## 3.2 Methodology

### Re-Gen anticipated solution: the URBAN SPORT HUBS



The cities in the Re-Gen network are addressing policy challenges through an integrated action plan (IAP), adopting a multi-actor approach, involving ULG stakeholders and adolescents. Their focus is on regenerating public spaces to better serve the needs of young people, particularly adolescents. Central to this effort are street sports, which aim to breathe new life into neglected areas frequented by youth, promoting active lifestyles and fostering community engagement. In their pursuit of creating adolescent-friendly environments and revitalizing public spaces, cities are developing integrated action plans centred around the co-creation of Urban Sport Hubs (USH) in collaboration with teenagers and key stakeholders. But what exactly defines an Urban Sport Hub? It's more than just a

physical space; it's a vibrant hub within the city dedicated to street sports and recreational activities. These hubs serve as dynamic public spaces that encourage physical activity, social interaction, and the cultivation of an active and healthy lifestyle among adolescents and the wider community. The concept of Urban Sport Hubs (USH) plays a critical role, emphasizing the transformative impact of sports on urban landscapes and broader social dimensions. These hubs are envisioned as vibrant community spaces that integrate sports, culture, arts, and social events to foster inclusivity and dynamism. Through the redefinition of underutilized urban areas, Re-Gen aims to create sustainable and vibrant communities that resonate with younger generations, instilling a sense of pride and ownership within the community.

## Joint logical framework for IAP development

To bring this vision to fruition, cities are advised to consider and further develop a range of actions within their integrated action plans focusing on the following

### Key Areas of actions:



- ❖ **Public Spaces Regeneration:** Undertake projects to revitalize existing public spaces, making them more accessible, attractive, and conducive to recreational activities for young people.
- ❖ **Adolescents' Wellbeing:** Develop programs and services aimed at enhancing the physical, mental, and social well-being of adolescents, ensuring that their needs are met within urban environments.
- ❖ **Street Sports:** Implement initiatives that promote sports activities in streets and urban areas, encouraging physical activity and community engagement among youngsters.
- ❖ **Digital Governance:** Utilize digital platforms and tools to facilitate participatory decision-making processes, allowing adolescents to have a voice in the planning and management of urban spaces.

**Actions** that will be further explored and detailed by each city with the ULG, with a place-based approach, may include:

- ❖ **Identification of Suitable Locations:** Cities must identify suitable locations within the urban fabric for the establishment of Urban Sport Hubs. Factors such as accessibility, safety, and proximity to residential areas should be taken into consideration during the selection process.
- ❖ **Engagement with Teenagers:** It's crucial to actively involve adolescents in the planning and design process of Urban Sport Hubs. By soliciting their input and ideas, cities can ensure that the spaces are tailored to meet the needs and preferences of the teenage population.
- ❖ **Design and facilities Development:** The design of Urban Sport Hubs should prioritize flexibility and inclusivity. Incorporating features such as multi-use courts, skate parks, and outdoor fitness areas can cater to a diverse range of interests and abilities. It's essential to ensure that the infrastructure meets safety standards and is accessible to all members of the community.
- ❖ **Programs and events:** Cities should develop a diverse array of sports programs and recreational events tailored to the interests of teenagers. These may include organized street sports, skill-building workshops, and community events aimed at fostering social connections and teamwork.
- ❖ **Community Partnerships:** Collaborating with local sports organizations, schools, and community groups can enhance the programming and reach of Urban Sport Hubs. By leveraging existing resources and expertise, cities can expand the impact of their initiatives and foster stronger community ties.
- ❖ **Promotion and Outreach:** Raising awareness about the Urban Sport Hubs is key to encouraging participation and engagement among teenagers. Through targeted marketing campaigns, social media outreach, and community events, cities can spread the word about the opportunities available at the hubs.

Each IAP then should also consider to embracing mechanisms for ongoing evaluation and monitoring is essential to ensure the effectiveness of Urban Sport Hubs. By soliciting feedback from teenagers and community members, cities can identify areas for improvement and make adjustments as needed.



## Dimensions of integration in the integrated action planning process

In line with the objectives outlined in the Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies, which aims to provide methodological support for the implementation of integrated and place-based urban strategies under the Cohesion Policy and the Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) framework, and drawing upon the guidelines set forth by URBACT IAP, the Re-Gen IAP incorporates the following dimensions of integration. It is important to note that these dimensions are adaptable, and each city within the network is encouraged to tailor them and add others according to the specific context of their actions. Beyond addressing crosscutting themes and horizontal policies such as gender equality, green transition, and digital transformation, that will be integrated in the IAP, the following dimensions are anticipated and will be tailored by the city to real and actual context

### Strategic Coherence with existing strategies

Connect with local urban plans and strategies and ensure that the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) is consistent with the framework of Sustainable Urban Development as promoted under cohesion policy. Ensure that the IAP reflects the current understanding of strategic urban planning and change management. Remember that planning requires collective processes and tailor-made, realistic visions. Needs, challenges, and opportunities for development must be matched with the appropriate spatial scale and territorial context.

### Sustainable urban development dimension (economic, social, environmental)

The sustainable urban development dimension encompasses economic, social, and environmental aspects to create balanced and resilient communities. For instance, within the Re-Gen framework, it is essential to design multifunctional urban sport hubs that accommodate various sustainable, inclusive, and economic activities. These hubs could host events aimed at adolescents and health promotion activities, as well as events focused on healthy lifestyles and raising awareness about sustainable diets and lifestyle changes to reduce carbon footprints. By doing so, they contribute to both social well-being and environmental sustainability. Additionally, these spaces could be flexible enough to host markets or economic activities, promoting local businesses.

## Spatial integration and Territorial dimension

Consider that needs, challenges, and opportunities for development must be matched with the appropriate spatial scale and territorial context, targeting neighbourhoods, and adopting a functional area approach. Promote urban-rural linkages. Even if centred on public spaces, ensure understanding of how these spaces are part of a complex system and urban interrelated ecosystem. Target neighbourhoods, adopt a functional area approach, and promote urban-rural linkages.

## Multi-level governance dimension and multi-actor approach

Ensure that city authorities and stakeholders decide to plan, finance, and manage a specific strategy together. Apply the multi-actor approach and the bottom-up and participatory methodology. Once the Urban Local Group (ULG) is established, keep stakeholders informed and engaged in the IAP process with a creative and place-based tailored approach.

## Cross-Sectoral dimension

Overcome the so-called “silos attitude” to look and work on a single policy or sector, by integrating various aspects. For example the Re-Gen IAP, it is suggested to consider education, sports, mobility, environment, innovation, culture, health, urban safety .... The goal of the approach is to ensure coherence in policy-making principles and objectives across policy areas and to ensure that actors from different sectors cooperate to create policies.

## Time-Based Dimension and integration over time

Recognize that a city is a complex ecosystem, and public spaces have different functions and users throughout the day and night. When planning the Urban Strategic Plan (USP), consider the shape, function, and different users during different times. In the Re-Gen project, it could be helpful to make use of tactical and timing urbanism.

## Funding and Finance Dimension

Suitable funding and financing arrangements are key pillars of Sustainable Urban Development as promoted by cohesion policy. It is pivotal to consider the match funding approach and the possibility to combine multiple funding sources. Involve the community in funding projects for common goods.



## Methodology for testing activities

Demonstrative events in public spaces will be co-organized by the ULGs with the adolescents to showcase the quality, effectiveness, and feasibility of Urban Sport Hubs concept for public space regeneration and to developing an adolescent-friendly city. These events including related installations aim to demonstrate that public space regeneration and the co-creation of vibrant hubs foster community connections, promote cultural exchange, and enhance the overall quality of urban life.

Ideas for testing are:

- ❖ **Street Sport Events:** Host street sport initiatives, featuring activities like skateboarding, BMX biking, street basketball, wall climbing, and street dance. These events promote physical activity and provide a platform for young athletes to demonstrate their skills while encouraging an active lifestyle among teens.
- ❖ **Events:** host community cultural, food and recreational events together with street sports happenings at pilot locations within the city, showcasing the potential of the USH concept to bring people together and promote healthy active lifestyles. Events could also outdoor sport and movie nights to attract diverse audiences at different time of the day.
- ❖ **City Festivals:** Organize festivals combining live music performances, cultural exhibits, street sports, street food markets, crafts markets, and interactive art installations. Celebrate local talent, foster community spirit, and promote intercultural exchange. These festivals also promote culinary diversity and provide opportunities for local vendors and entrepreneurs to showcase their creations, supporting cultural expression and economic empowerment.
- ❖ **Health Promotion Activities:** Conduct health promotion campaigns and workshops in public spaces focusing on nutrition, fitness, and mental well-being for adolescents and the community. These activities aim to raise awareness and educate participants about the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and overall well-being.
- ❖ **Sport Experimental Installations:** Set up urban sports installations, such as outdoor fitness equipment, or temporary basketball courts, in vacant lots or underutilized spaces across the city. These installations can serve as temporary test sites to assess usage patterns and community interest in urban sports activities.
- ❖ **Green Space Activation:** Activate underutilized green spaces within the city by organizing outdoor fitness classes, yoga sessions, or community gardening initiatives. These activities can showcase the potential of green spaces within the USH concept to promote health and well-being while fostering community connections.

## **The Re-Gen Hackathons: Unlocking Creativity of Adolescents**

Hackathons have become a popular platform for fostering creativity and innovation among adolescents. These events offer a dynamic space for young minds to collaborate, ideate, and problem-solve, as well as to participate to policy making and empower in active citizenships..

In this model, adolescents embark on a journey of exploration and creativity, beginning with a two-day boot camp aimed at honing their design thinking skills, the knowledge of the challenge topics, and fostering teamwork. Over the following weeks, participant teams work to refine their ideas, gather pics, videos from city public spaces, drawing inspiration from various sources and experimenting with different concepts.

As the core hackathon approaches, teams of five to seven teens convene for two days in a selected venue, whether it's a gym, library, or cultural center. Their mission? To reimagine public spaces, tailoring them to better cater to adolescents' needs. With the guidance of mentors, they embark on an intense journey of creativity, innovation, and problem-solving. During these two days, participants engage in iterative sessions of brainstorm design, and prototype development. They explore novel solutions that seamlessly integrate sports, street activities, and various other elements to create vibrant and inclusive urban environments. Mentors (form the ULG) will take part to support teams during the innovation challenge.

On the third and final day, teams gear up to present their ideas to a distinguished jury. Comprised of members from the Urbact Local Group (ULG) and potential sponsors, the jury eagerly awaits to witness and celebrate the conclusion of participants' efforts. In the morning, teams fine-tune their pitches and prepare short videos showcasing their concepts, be prepared for public speaking. Then, in the afternoon, they take the stage, presenting their visions with passion and conviction. The awards ceremony, organized by the city, holds the promise of exciting opportunities for the winning team/s. Whether it's participation in a transnational project meeting or other enriching experiences in the city offered by the ULG: these rewards serve as a testament to the participants' ingenuity and dedication. Moreover, they foster ongoing engagement and collaboration, extending the impact of the hackathon far beyond its conclusion. This model of hackathons serves as a powerful tool for empowering adolescents to shape their communities through creative problem-solving. It serves also schools and other youth organizations and the city itself to acquire model and competence for youth engagement in policy and public decision-making process. By exporting this approach to other contexts, cities can leverage the collective creativity of their teens and youth to address pressing urban challenges, harnessing the potential of digital technologies to drive innovative policy solutions.

The specific challenges scope will be defined by each city of the network with a place-based approach and in relation to the Integrated Action Plan and considering also the age of the participants.

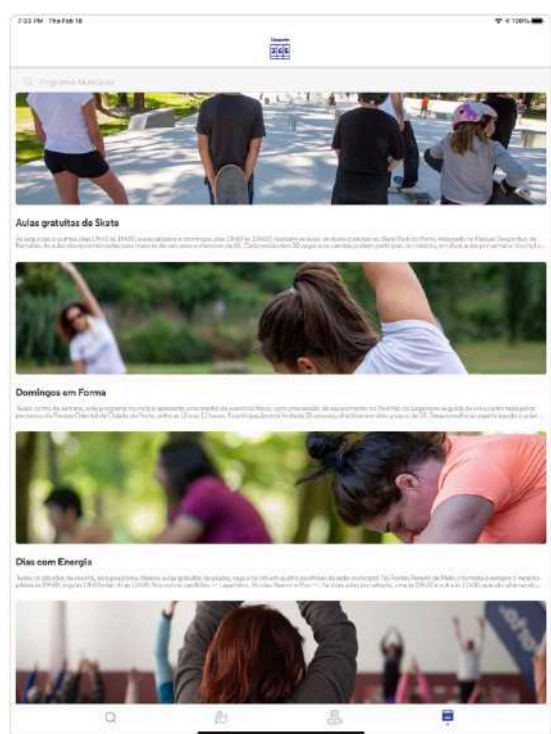
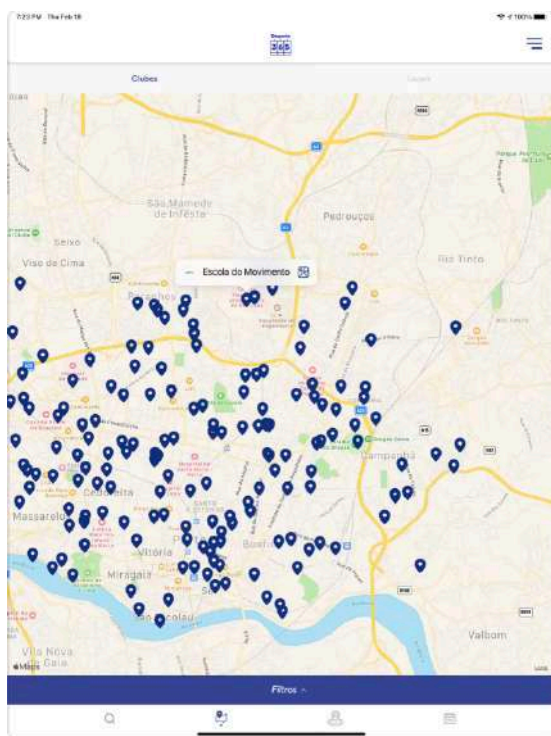
## The Re-Gen App, a digital tool to test shared governance model to public spaces

The Re-Gen App is a new digital tool developed to test a shared governance model for public spaces, specifically focusing on the input and suggestions of adolescents. As foreseen in the project proposal, high school students actively participate in the co-design the app, contributing ideas to map areas, outline offered services, and establish connections within cities stakeholders.

The development process involves Re-Gen partners refining these adolescent-driven ideas into blueprints that capture the desired features and functionalities of the app. Subsequently, the City of Verona, using these blueprints as a guide, creates the first version of the app, which is then tested in network cities to promote events and street sport activities in the urban public spaces.

A collaborative commitment is established among stakeholders, teenagers, and cities to actively use and collectively update the app's contents. This involves mapping various areas, adding information about events in public spaces, promoting sports activities, and more. Stakeholders responsible for the maintenance of public space sport facilities can utilize the app as a coordination tool, not just for events promotion, but also for the overall care of urban commons.

Initially designed to manage urban sport facilities, the Re-Gen App holds the potential for future development beyond the project's lifespan. The app can evolve to encompass other common goods, fostering collaboration among stakeholders. Technical assistance for the app's continued functionality is guaranteed for years by the service provider and stakeholders. Creative funding solutions are explored to ensure sustained usage and development, making the Re-Gen App a dynamic and adaptive tool for fostering shared governance, community engagement, and the sustained care of urban spaces.

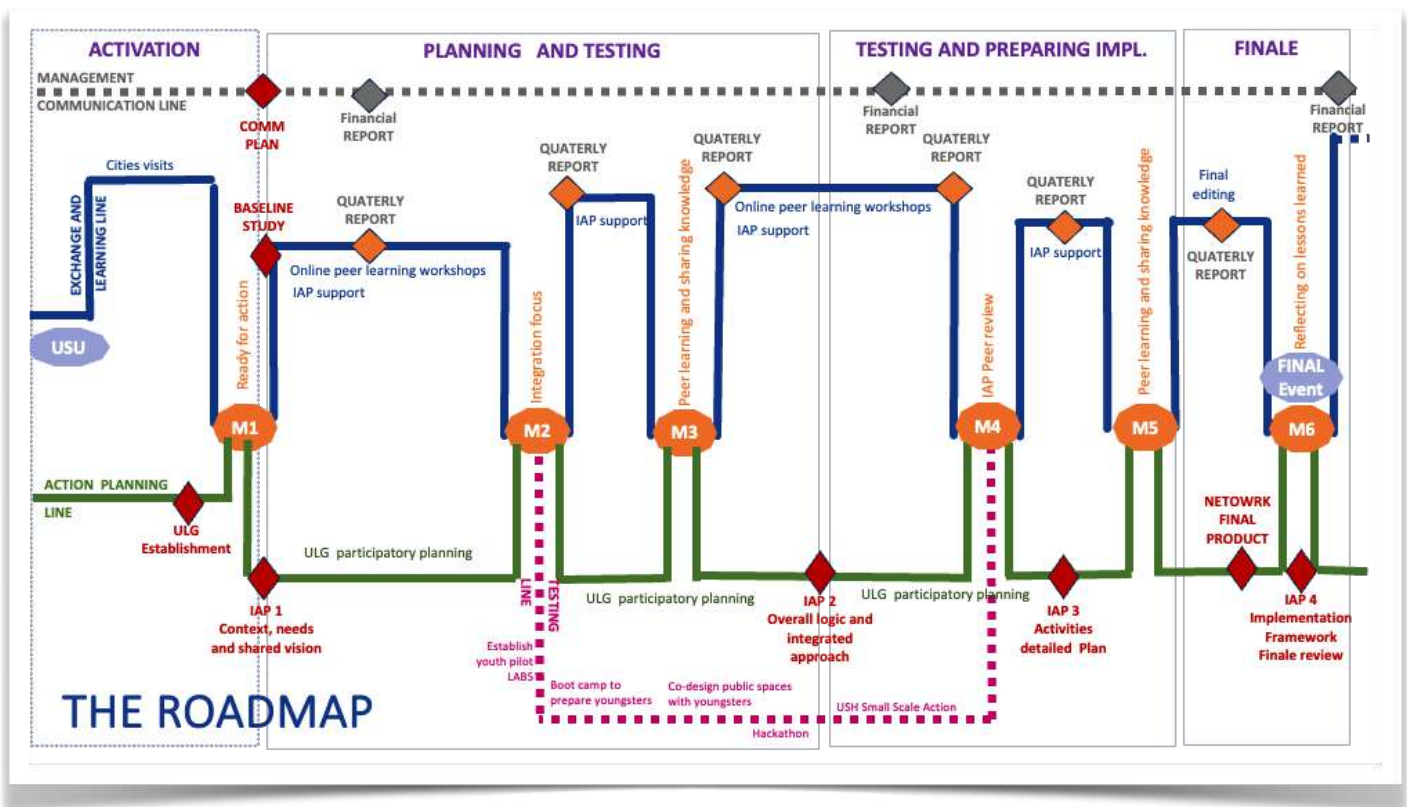


### 3.3 The Network Roadmap

The roadmap outlines four interconnected lines of activities within the Re-Gen project:

- ❖ Management: This involves coordinating efforts among partners, organizing network meetings, contributing to peer learning labs, and ensuring effective reporting, review, and monitoring.
- ❖ Transnational Exchange and Learning: Partners engage in transnational exchange activities, including online masterclasses, coordination meetings, and sharing specific outputs beneficial to all cities.
- ❖ Local-Level Action Planning Journey: Cities undergo a journey of action planning, starting with the activation phase, followed by planning actions, preparing for implementation, and finally, implementing the framework.
- ❖ Testing Small-Scale Actions: Cities undertake small-scale actions to test and refine their plans, customized to their local context.
- ❖ Activation: This phase involves understanding the context, identifying needs, and establishing a shared vision.

While the first two lines of activities involve coordinated efforts among partners, the third and fourth lines require customization at the city level and the important contribution of the ULS. The roadmap serves as a 'living' tool, subject to regular updates throughout the journey.



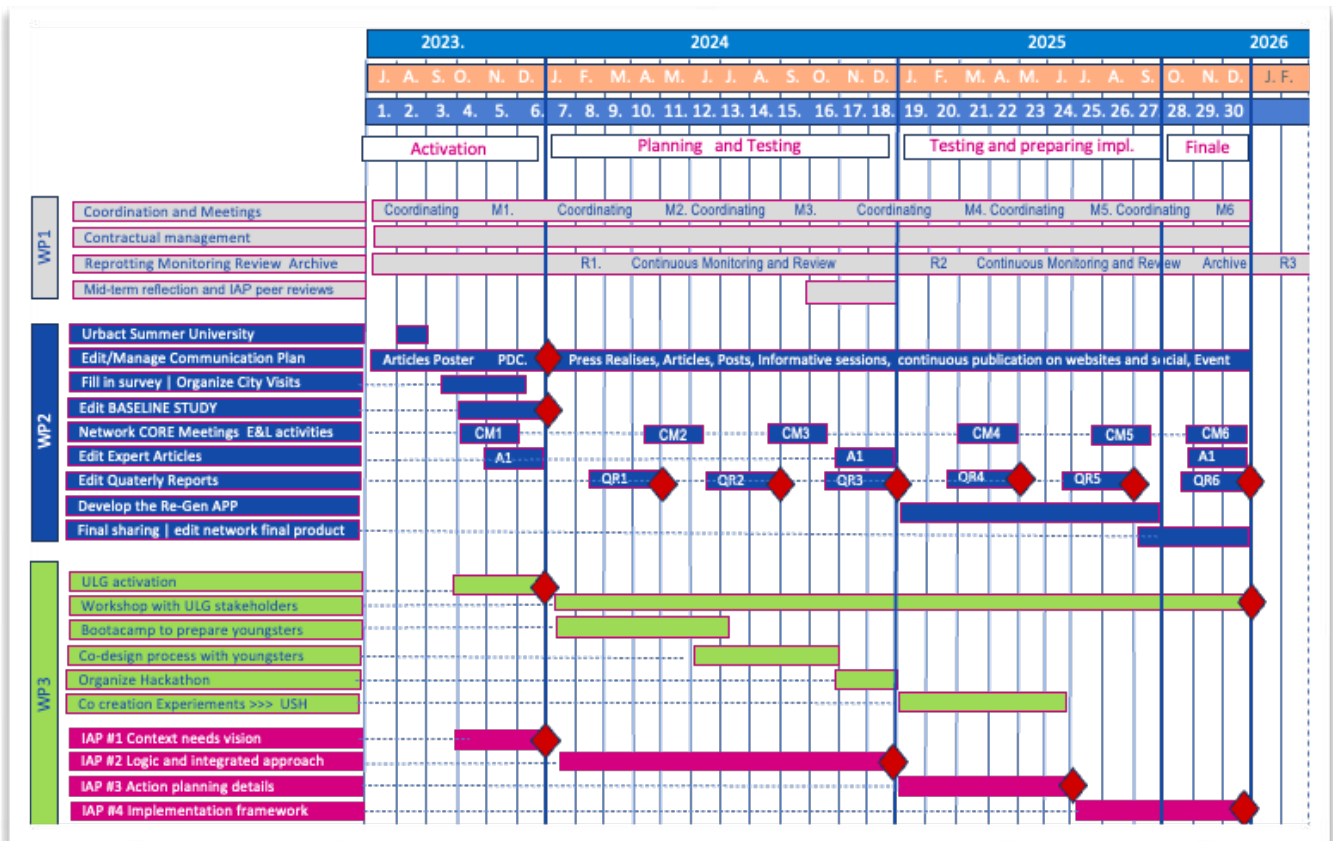
These activities are incorporated into four Integrated Action Planning phases:

- ❖ Activation: This phase involves understanding the context, identifying needs, and establishing a shared vision.
- ❖ Planning Actions: Cities develop an overall logic and integrated approach to their action plans.
- ❖ Preparing Implementation: Detailed activity planning takes place, laying the groundwork for implementation.
- ❖ 4Finale: The implementation framework is finalized, and cities are prepared to begin implementing their action plans.

The Re-Gen Network Roadmap currently includes:

- ❖ 6 Core Transnational Network Meetings (CNM)
- ❖ 6 Thematic webinars/masterclasses (TW)
- ❖ 6 Online Coordination Meetings (OCM)
- ❖ One-Stop-Shop on IAP process
- ❖ ULG local activities for both co-planning and testing
- ❖ Communication and dissemination

The GANTT diagram “translates” the roadmap into an operative tool for implementation



## Core network meetings.

The core network meetings focus on methodological elements to support partners throughout the development of the Integrated Action Plan, and include sessions for exploring specific topics, peer learning activities as well as management issues. The Partner hosting the meeting will invite experts and stakeholders to take part at specific thematic sessions.

The meetings will be interactive and will engage all participants to share inspiring cases and practices, to generate an array of possible actions coherent with the Re-Gen scope and suitable for partner to improve the Integrated Action Plan. Facilitation techniques such as: Brainstorming, World Café, Role Play, Personas and House of Quality, Walk-shop and Walkabout will ensure active engagement.

During the meetings, a visit to the city neighborhoods and to the public spaces mapped in the Action Plan will also be organized. during the visit there will be walk-shops and walkabout moments during which the themes of the project will be compared with the real dimensions of the spaces, neighborhoods, and social and environmental context. Media presence is ensured during a public session.

When   Where	IAP focus	Interactive sessions	Study visit
2023.11.28 VERONA	Ready to action > Session 1	IAP methodology Network Roadmap, Communication Plan	Walk-shop in city centre Exploration of south neighbourhoods for testing Dialogues with ULG stakeholders
2024.05.31 2024.06.01 DAUGAVPILS	Roundtable about IAP progress Approaching Integration > Session 2	System Thinking Role Play workshop. World Café: key areas of actions and integration	Walk-shop at the Esplanade Rest Park with ULG City festival, focus on teens active citizenship
2024 September DOBRICH	Roundtable about IAP progress Preparing the Mid- term reflection	Re-Gen Hackathon Personas workshop for towards the blueprints of the Re-GEN APP	The Apple Park Meeting youth leaders

2025 April CORFU	Roundtable about IAP progress; Approaching Action Planning details IAP Peer Review > Session 3	Planning Workshop: WDW. Funding mechanism, Match-funding, Civic crowdfunding exercise.	Walkshops at Garitsa Park and at the Prison park with adolescents
2025 September VILA do CONDE	Roundtable about IAP progress; Approaching Implementation Framework > Session 4	House of quality and multicriteria tools for the prioritization of actions. EU Youth policies	Areas where Urban Sport Hubs will be realized
2025 November ALBACETE	Roundtable about IAP progress; Advocacy and Final Sharing	Poster session creation. Final Network products review Exploitation	Public spaces regenerated in the past, to be revitalized

## Thematic Webinars – Masterclasses

During the intervals between core network meetings, Re-Gen will organize a series of thematic webinars-masterclasses on specific themes to improve the knowledge about sport policies and sport based solutions in the urban environment, active and healthy cities, adolescents wellbeing, tactical urbanism, multifunctional public spaces. webinars are held by lead expert, ad hoc experts, invited key note speakers and experts as well as practitioners from network cities. Participation in the thematic webinars will be mandatory for all network cities, with partners encouraged to invite active members of their ULGs, particularly those focusing on the webinar's topic. These webinars will serve as a vital opportunity to connect and explore practices and case studies inspiring Integrated Action Plans (IAPs) and small scale actions. The thematic webinars will be promoted through the network's internal and external communication channels. Additionally, compelling stories and lessons from the webinars could be featured in articles on the URBACT website and posts on the network's social media channels.

## Online coordination meetings

The partners regularly meet online for a peer review and peer learning meeting and above all to ensure coordination between the project actions. the online coordination meetings include roundtables on the progress of the project, the planning of the next steps, and the necessary checks and reviews of the process. mainly focused on management questions, they may include thematic moments of discussion.

<b>When</b>	<b>Thematic Webinars topics</b>
2024 April	EU SPORT Policies, Street sports, Sport Based solutions. Cities as an open gym for all. The social value of sport. Sport as a response to adolescents needs
2024 July	ADOLESCENTS wellbeing, the role of regenerated Public Spaces for Youth Engagement and healthy lifestyles, Gender approach to public spaces
2024 November	Tactical and time-based URBANISM: creative uses and perspective for the development of Urban Sport Hubs
2025 January	HL4ALL initiative: sport, food, health promotion at USH, multifunctional uses
2025 May	New European Bauhaus and SHARE initiatives: principle to be integrated in details of IAP actions and implementation framework
2025 July	GOVERNANCE of Urban Commons

<b>When</b>	<b>Coordination meeting</b>
2023.07.14	Partners Roundtable, Approaching USU URBACT
2024.03.06	Coordination of network activities, Peer learning Roundtable about IAP progress on key area of actions and Integration approach
2024 October	Coordination of network activities, Peer learning Roundtable about IAP
2024 December	Coordination of network activities, Peer learning Mid-term reflection
2025 March	Coordination of network activities, Peer learning, Roundtable about IAP progress on Logical framework and Activity planning
2025 June	Coordination of network activities, Peer learning, Roundtable about IAP
2025 October	Coordination of network activities, Peer learning Roundtable about IAP progress on Implementation framework, Final Network products
2025 December	Round table on Follow Up Approaching Final Report



## OneStopShop

The One-Stop-Shop on Integrated Action Plans (IAP) is a virtual space to support to partners. The lead expert is available to the cities of the network every two weeks through a recurring link shared with partners. The purpose is to activate a mechanism of continuous assistance to cities in implementing the Integrated Action Plan, providing interpretative guidance and tools, developing check and review as well as suggesting tailored templates for elaborating the plan and tools for a better development and engagement with development of the Urban Local Group (ULG). This biweekly virtual space is open to partners with no need to book. The LE will use this virtual space to deliver specific training on IAP: in this case partners will be informed and invited to attend. The One-Stop-Shop can also be interpreted as a space for questions and answers. Partners are encouraged to participate even if only for brief discussions, However, it is also possible to request a customized appointment with the lead expert outside of the virtual space that opens every two weeks, for example on particular questions that may require more time and are not of interest to all partners.



## Urbact Local Groups development

The multi-actor approach, facilitated by the URBACT Local Groups (ULGs), enables stakeholders to collaboratively address the needs of adolescents and develop an adolescents friendly city, starting by design actions to regenerate from public space and co create urban sport hubs. These hubs, co-designed with input from young people, prioritize street sports while accommodating various cultural and economic activities. This process aligns with the principles of the New European Bauhaus, emphasizing inclusion, gender equality, and systemic thinking. Recognizing the inadequacy of traditional top-down urban planning models in city ecosystem complexities, the ULG strives to unite stakeholders from diverse fields, including local public authorities, civic society, education and research centres and businesses to effectively tackle urban challenges.

In the case of Re-Gen the majority of ULG involves:

- ❖ **from the local public authorities:** policy makers, several cities 'departments, such as: youth policy, sport and physical education, spatial planning, education, social policies and housing, as well as linked public equivalent bodies involved in neighbourhoods multilevel governance
- ❖ **from the civic society:** sport associations, cultural associations, youths organizations, member of the communities, youth leaders and adolescents representatives, health promotion organizations
- ❖ **from the education and research:** secondary schools, universities of sport and social science, of spatial planning and architecture, sociological research centres
- ❖ **from businesses and private sectors:** food companies, crafts, potential sponsors

ULGs implement the multi-actor approach through practical initiatives, such as:

- ❖ **ULG Coordination Meetings:** These are meetings of the Urban Local Government (ULG) where representatives from various local entities come together to coordinate and discuss project-related matters. These meetings serve for aligning strategies, sharing progress updates, and addressing any challenges faced at the local level.
- ❖ **ULG Workshops towards the IAP:** These workshops are specifically aimed at contributing to the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) of the project. Participants engage in collaborative discussions, brainstorming sessions, and planning activities to identify local priorities, set objectives, and outline strategies for implementation within the framework of the broader project goals.
- ❖ **Testing Activities:** This involves carrying out various testing activities to assess the effectiveness and feasibility of proposed solutions or

interventions. Examples include street sport boot camps, challenging co-design workshops (such as Hackathons), and co-creation experiments. These activities allow for hands-on experimentation and feedback gathering from local stakeholders, helping to refine and tailor the project interventions to better suit local needs and contexts.

❖ **Local Events:** These are community-centred events organized at the local level to promote engagement, awareness, and participation in the project. These events could range from public forums and exhibitions to cultural festivals or workshops tailored to specific target groups. By fostering local participation and ownership, these events contribute to building community resilience and sustainability.

The ULG coordinator is encouraged to write and keep an updated diary recording step by step progress, decisions, testing and experimental actions, events and results.

## **Communication, Dissemination Exploitation**

Communication is implemented at network level by the communication manager charged by the City of Verona, but requires contribution from all the partners,

At local level partners are encouraged to develop local events and initiatives of citizen journalism

More details are provided in the Communication and dissemination plan.

### 3.4 The network products

In addition to the **Nine Integrated Action Plans**, that will be developed tailored to specific context by network cities by cities, to outline strategies, activities, timelines, resources to achieving adolescents' city prospect and goals, the following final products are foreseen.

- ❖ **Policy Advocacy for Public Space Regeneration and Adolescent-Friendly Cities:** This output involves the development of policy advocacy materials aimed at promoting the regeneration of public spaces and the creation of cities that are friendly to adolescents. It includes policy briefs and recommendations tailored to policymakers, urban specialists, and community stakeholders. The objective is to advocate for policies and initiatives that prioritize the needs and well-being of adolescents in urban environments, with a focus on enhancing public spaces to better serve their interests and social values, particularly in sports and street sports.
- ❖ **Collection of the Outcomes of Teen Labs and Hackathons:** This output entails gathering the outcomes of teen labs and hackathons organized within the Re-Gen network during the testing phase as a method to engage with teens and improve their participation in the policymaking process. It includes innovative ideas, solutions, and prototypes developed by participants to address challenges related to public space regeneration and the creation of adolescent-friendly cities. The collection showcases the creativity and imagination of teens and serves as inspiration for future initiatives and integrated action plan designs.
- ❖ **Partners' Stories:** This output consists of a collection of stories and articles highlighting the experiences, successes, and challenges of partners involved in the Re-Gen network. These stories showcase innovative approaches, best practices, and lessons learned in areas such as public space regeneration, adolescent engagement, and shared governance. By sharing partners' stories, the network aims to inspire collaboration, exchange knowledge, and foster mutual learning among stakeholders engaged in urban development initiatives.
- ❖ **Re-Gen App:** This output encompasses the development of a blueprint and the pilot of the Re-Gen App. This digital tool is designed to facilitate shared governance and community engagement in the management and use of Urban Sport Hubs. The app may feature interactive maps, event calendars, feedback mechanisms, and communication tools, enabling stakeholders to collaborate, share ideas, and contribute to the development and maintenance of Urban Sport Hubs.

#4

**ANNEXES**

ANNEX 1 Synergies

ANNEX 2 Bibliography and references

ANNEX 3 The Work Plan

ANNEX 4 Drafts of the 1st session of the IAP (available to partners)

## Annex 1 Synergies with other projects and networks

**AGENTS OF CO-EXISTENCE:** Inclusive local policies with active community involvement. Boost civic participation.

**ECONNECTING:** Good governance for proximity territory, humanized and sustainable mobility, green communities.

**C4TALENT:** Creating a business & startup friendly environment in cities to lessen the effects of brain drain, attracting and retaining talented young professionals.

**RESIDENTS OF THE FUTURE:** Addresses the issue of urban depopulation in small medium-sized cities; enables cities to develop holistic, citizen-centric solutions.

**CITIES after DARK:** Nightlife economy has significant impacts on urban life; covers diverse sectors such as mobility, entertainment, hospitality, emergency services, security, logistics, services, etc.; offers economic, cultural, and social opportunities; requires careful management of public spaces.

**NEXTGEN:** Better aligning youth work with the opportunities and challenges posed by the online world in which young people spend a lot of time nowadays.

**GreenPlace:** Developing a set of activities for "recycling" unused urban areas, using social participation tools. Introducing greenery as a key factor in limiting climate change in urban areas.

**BREAKING ISOLATION:** Citizen involvement must promote social diversity and intergenerational links, ensuring that those around you are not abandoned.

**U.R. IMPACT:** Developing effective strategies for empowering local communities during processes of urban regeneration; prioritizing social impact and community-based practices by reimagining the way urban regeneration actions are conducted. Placing citizens and their social and ecological well-being at the core of the strategy, and defining a methodology for collective decision-making and civic participation in local urban regeneration strategies.

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## Annex 3 Work Plan

### Management and communication

WHO	DOES WHAT	WHEN /WHERE	Deliverables/Outputs
Verona and ALL	To sign all the contractual documents at Programme and	Activation	Subsidy Contract Partnership Agreement
Verona and ALL	Recruiting, if necessary, appropriate staff to ensure efficient project management and	Activation	Staff Assignment letter
Verona with LE and ALL	Ensure continuous coordination and on time implementation Organizing coordination meetings in presence and online to ensure strong communication between partners, enabling effective coordination, monitoring, review, rescheduling ...	All phases M1 Nov. 2023 @ Verona M2 June 2024 @ Daugavpils M3 Septemebr 2024 @Dobrich M4 April 2025 @ Corfu M5 September 2025 @Vila do Conde M6 December 2025 @ Albacete	Shared repository of guidance, Project Archives (Private network basecamp spaces + Network folders with key outputs produced on the way) Agenda, Attendance list, Minutes, Pictures, Slides,
Verona and ALL	Submission of official reporting documents	March 2024, March 2025, March 2026	LP: Progress report and payment claim, ALL financial report
Verona with LE and ALL	Organise the Mid-term reflection process	At the end of Planning actions	
Verona with LE	Implement Regular network management 'health checks' with the	Following JS schedule	
Verona	Managing project changes (if) Ensuring financial	All phases After Payment to LP	Financial monitoring tool
Verona	Providing assistance and guidance to all project partners for external	All phases.	Targeted message boards for sharing news and key
All	Attending information and training sessions and other relevant events organised by the	(based on the invitation)	

## Exchange and learning

WHO	DOES WHAT	WHEN /Where	Outputs/deliverables
LE with contribution of all ALL Cities	ALL fill in survey, Organize the city visit, ensure media coverage to present the project LE Arrange share and edit the Baseline Study	Activation phase	Agenda, Attendance list, pics, media articles, Report
Verona with contribution of ALL	Arrange and edit the Communication and dissemination plan, provide templates, press realises,	CD plan by Verona – December 2023 CD activities – all phases	Network communication plan, setting objectives, messages, target audiences, channels
Verona and ALL with LE	Organisation of transnational exchange and learning activities   Core network meetings including interactive workshops	In-person transnational network meetings M1 Nov. 2023 @ Verona M2 June 2024 @Daugavpils M3 October 2024 @Dobrich M4 April 2025 @	Pre-briefing and Post briefing notes including logbook of Interactive section (by LE) Slides, Open Learning resources, Agenda, Attendace list
Verona and ALL with LE	Organisation of transnational exchange and learning activities   online master classes	All phases	Agenda, Attendace list, Slides, Open Learning resources,
LE with contribution of LE	Edit the quarterly reports/journals Edit 4 Articles (at least)	2024   2025 All phases	6 quarterly report 4 Articles in project
Verona and ALL	Edit project stories	All phases	Project stories   article in project website (at
Verona and ALL	Verona: Develop the Re-Gen App for a shared management of public spaces and	2025	Re-Gen App (Integral part of Network results Product)
Verona and ALL with LE	Co edit the Network results product	2025	Network results Product

## Testing and developing the IAP

WHO	DOES WHAT	WHEN	Outputs/deliverables
All partners at local level	Setting up the URBACT Local Group for the co-production of	Activation	URBACT Local group contact list
All partners at local level	Running a URBACT Local Group for the co-production of	All Phases	ULG minutes, pictures, diaries
All partners at local level	Share lessons learnt and good practices to local stakeholders	Testing and preparing implementation	Workshops minutes, pictures attendance lists,
All partners at local level	Organize bootcamps (practical workshops) for youngsters to enable their active participation at co	Testing	Bootcamp/Workshop report including pictures, videos,
All partners at local level	Organize mapping activities with stakeholder and youngsters, develop co-design and co-	Testing	Workshops report Maps
All partners at local level	Organize the Hackathon for youngsters to share	Testing	Hackathon report, materials produced by participants, video
All partners at local level	Implement the Small Scale Action: USH	Testing	Report on pilot USH
All partners at local level	Arrange and Edit the Integrated Action Plan: Understanding the challenges, visioning, setting the objectives, identify areas of	2024   2025 Chapter 1 January 2024 Chapter 2 December 2024 Chapter 3 June 2025	Integrated Action Plan
LE and Ad Hoc	Provide cities with advises and supports for IAP journey	2024   2025	IAP OneStopShop: OER





