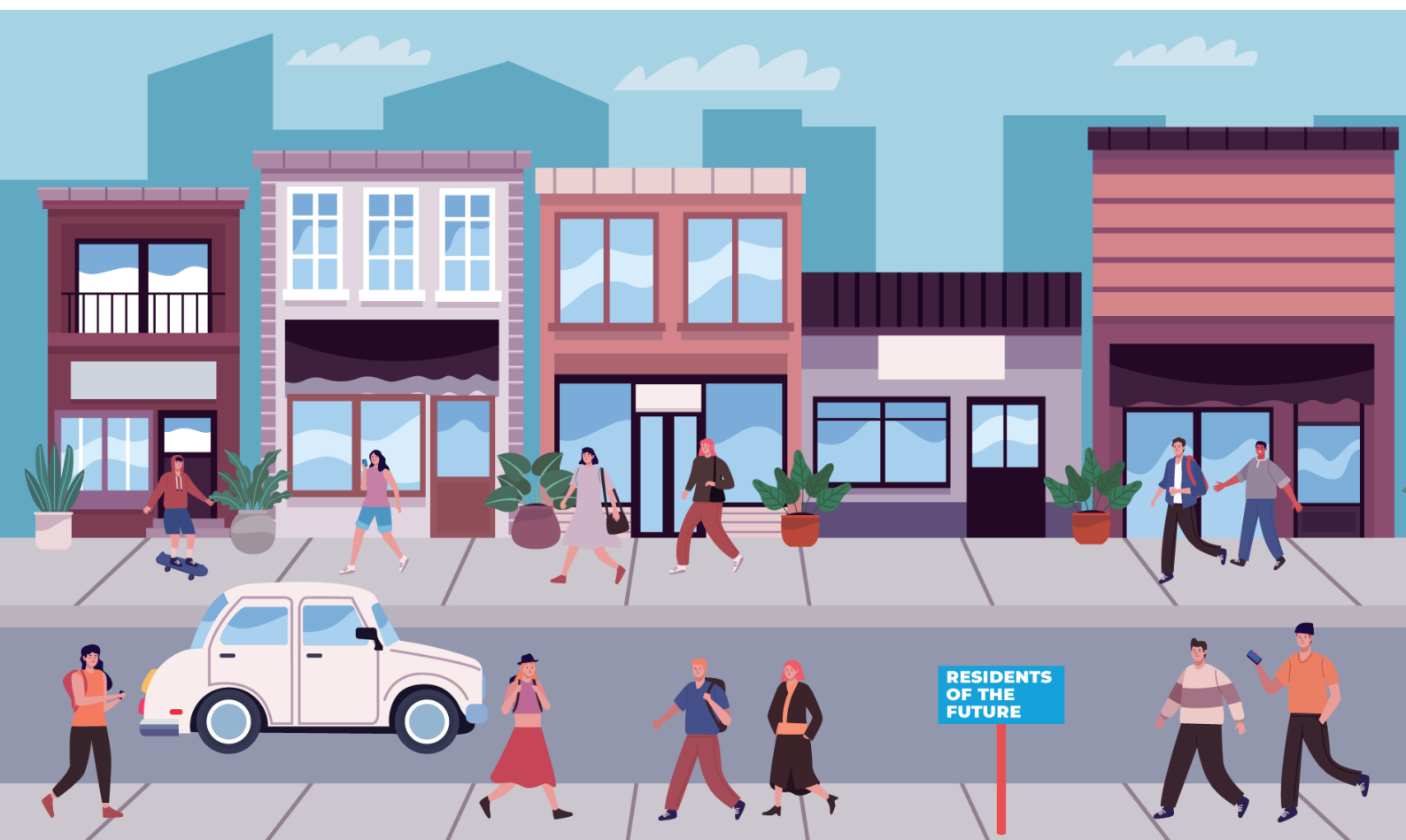


3rd Quarterly Report

Residents of the Future



URBACT



Co-funded by
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Interreg

3rd Quarterly Report

Residents of the Future

July to September 2024

URBACT



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Interreg

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1. Welcome to Residents of the Future

Residents of the Future is an action plan URBACT network that wants to address the issue of urban depopulation within small and medium-sized cities. By focusing on digital transformation, economic diversification, and city branding, it will explore innovative approaches towards evolving trends in work, lifestyle, and communication, to enhance the cities' attractiveness for prospective investments and inhabitants.

The network enables cities to redefine their advantages in comparison to larger metropolitan areas, and develop holistic, citizen-centric solutions that support demographic revitalisation and sustainable urban growth.

Network members:

Alba Iulia - Romania

Iisalmi - Finland

Mangualde - Portugal

Mantova - Italy

Plasencia - Spain

Saint-Quentin - France

Saldus – Latvia

Sibenik – Croatia | **Lead Partner**

Trebinje - Bosnia-Herzegovina



2. What is new on Residents of the Future?

2.1 Residents of the Future engaging the Urbact Local Groups

This chapter highlights the latest strides from the "Residents of the Future" project, capturing the unique approaches cities across Europe are taking to foster vibrant, inclusive communities. Each story here reveals how local URBACT Local Groups (ULGs) are experimenting, learning, and refining strategies to make their cities more appealing and sustainable for both current and future residents.

From Mungalde's focus on integrating cultural inclusivity in community events to Saint-Quentin's bold initiatives in work-life balance and green transitions, each city is addressing its own distinct challenges. Plasencia and Saldus are working on bringing new residents into the fold with creative welcome kits and entrepreneur support centers, reflecting their commitment to community cohesion and economic resilience. Meanwhile, Alba Iulia and Mantova are leveraging new partnerships to engage their young people and create dynamic spaces for innovation. Šibenik's approach to combating youth migration by investing in education and fostering dialogue with students about their aspirations is also featured, showing how deeply these cities are listening to their next generation.

As each city takes action, learns, and adapts, this chapter celebrates their progress and commitment to a shared vision: creating spaces that inspire, support, and retain residents, empowering communities to shape their futures locally and sustainably.



ALBA IULIA

Alba Iulia's youth-driven vision: Aiming for Romania's Youth Capital 2026

Alba Iulia has embarked on a dynamic journey to become Romania's Youth Capital in 2026, with a robust application that has already passed the initial evaluation by a jury of 27 prominent figures from across the public, private, and non-profit sectors. The application, submitted on June 30, has drawn valuable feedback from experts with local, national, and European insights into youth initiatives, helping Alba Iulia refine its vision and expand its URBACT Local Group (ULG) to include more representatives from the youth sector.

In preparation for the title, the ULG has been actively working to assess the current youth landscape, identify key areas for development, and outline a structured plan. This collaborative approach has empowered young voices in Alba Iulia to play an essential role in shaping their community's future by participating in development planning, proposing action steps, and building a network of local support. The process has set a strong foundation for Alba Iulia's application, with a pilot project already underway, expected to undergo evaluation by the same jury in the coming months.

On September 16, Alba Iulia also hosted a special meeting with Michiel Buchel, the former Director of Amsterdam's Nemo Science Museum, alongside local business representatives. The meeting aimed to revitalize plans for a children's museum, an initiative that aligns well with the city's youth-focused objectives. This ambitious project has received prior funding approval, and the city is actively working to resolve previous legal issues that stalled its progress.



Alba Iulia was
designated
Romania's
Youth Capital

Through these focused initiatives, Alba Iulia has not only built a solid case but **has already been designated as Romania's Youth Capital**, affirming the city's commitment to empowering its youth and transforming itself into a vibrant, inclusive hub for young generations.

Did you know that...

) **Alba Iulia takes the lead: New role as national representative of Giving Tuesday in Romania**

In an exciting Starting September 2024, the Municipality of Alba Iulia has embraced an influential role as Romania's national representative for Giving Tuesday, the global movement dedicated to promoting generosity and community involvement. This new position underscores Alba Iulia's commitment to fostering a vibrant, engaged community, attracting national and international networks that amplify the city's appeal as a place of connection and support.

Giving Tuesday, celebrated globally as a day for giving back, is now more than an annual event for Alba Iulia. It's a year-round opportunity to galvanize community efforts and inspire collective action. In taking on this role, Alba Iulia connects itself with partner countries from across the Residents of the Future project, each of which has a robust Giving Tuesday presence. For instance, partner countries like Portugal, Greece, Finland, France, Italy, and Bosnia and Herzegovina have cultivated strong, local Giving Tuesday initiatives, as evidenced by dedicated websites and active social campaigns.

Through this role, Alba Iulia not only builds a foundation of generosity within Romania but also positions itself as a national leader in cultivating networks that strengthen the social fabric. Residents and stakeholders can look forward to a city that fosters a culture of giving, reinforcing Alba Iulia's mission to create a community-driven future.

Iisalmi is preparing innovative marketing to attract immigrants

As part of the URBACT Residents of the Future project, Iisalmi, Finland, is making strides to attract new residents by launching a marketing campaign focused on immigrants. On September 6, 2024, the city sent a request for tenders to potential strategic marketing partners, aiming to create a campaign that appeals to immigrants already in Iisalmi or those considering the city as a new home. This initiative is one of Iisalmi's key testing actions with the project.

In the fifth URBACT Local Group meeting held on September 18, stakeholders reviewed the tender process, discussed the marketing concept, and examined the first draft of Iisalmi's Integrated Action Plan. A webinar with Finnish URBACT action planning networks capped the month, where cities exchanged insights on planning processes.

Iisalmi's use of procurement to drive fresh marketing ideas underscores the potential for innovation through public tenders as the city aims to foster inclusive growth and attract new residents.



**Iisalmi ULG
preparing
their Testing
Actions**

Did you know that...

) **lisalmi partners with Avidly Oyj to lead innovative marketing Testing Action**

In an exciting development for the city of lisalmi, Finland, Avidly Oyj, a marketing agency, has been selected as the strategic marketing partner for a planned testing action as part of the URBACT Residents of the Future project. The selection followed a competitive tender process, where three highly creative proposals were submitted, each offering unique and innovative visions for the city's marketing concept.

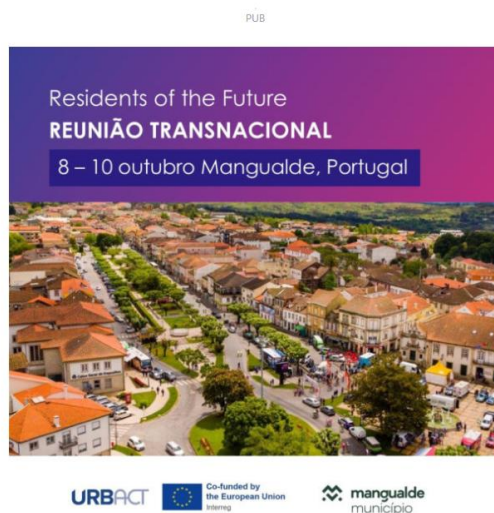
On September 25, 2024, nine members of the URBACT local group gathered via Microsoft Teams to review the proposals. After careful consideration, Avidly Oyj stood out for its forward-thinking approach, aligning perfectly with lisalmi's goals for this testing action.

This collaboration marks a key step for lisalmi as it explores new marketing strategies to engage residents and potential newcomers. The city is eager to see how this partnership will drive innovation in city marketing, showing how public procurement can be a catalyst for fresh ideas and creative solutions in the development of city attractiveness.

From local testing to international collaboration: Mangualde's ULG milestones

Mangualde's URBACT Local Group (ULG) has successfully completed two major initiatives: the launch of its Testing Action and the hosting of the 4th Transnational Meeting for the Residents of the Future network. Both events have served as cornerstones for advancing Mangualde's local development goals while fostering international collaboration within the URBACT project.

Mangualde created the interested of the Portuguese press on the project transnational meeting



The ULG's Testing Action, designed and implemented earlier in the year, provided a valuable opportunity to trial solutions tailored to the community's unique needs. Through this pilot, Mangualde is gathering critical insights and laid the groundwork for long-term, locally driven strategies. Testing Action stands as a model for innovative approaches in addressing local challenges, helping the ULG refine its vision for sustainable growth.

The 4th Transnational Meeting, held on October 8th and 9th in Mangualde, marked a significant milestone in the city's engagement with the Residents of the Future network. Representatives from partner cities across Europe convened to share knowledge, discuss best practices, and strengthen collaborative efforts. This meeting allowed Mangualde to spotlight its progress, learning from peer cities while contributing its own experiences to the network.

While the holiday months of August and September led to a quieter period for communications, online news coverage about the Transnational Meeting helped bring Mangualde's role in the network to a broader audience.

Did you know that...

) Building bridges: Mangualde's ULG tackles cultural diversity in community event planning

Mangualde's URBACT Local Group (ULG) is striving to bring together the town's diverse communities through a unique, inclusive community event that respects and celebrates cultural differences. Alongside the rollout of its Testing Action, the ULG has set its sights on creating an event that unites all residents—longtime locals and newcomers alike—despite varied cultural and religious backgrounds.

As Mangualde welcomes residents from countries as far-reaching as Brazil, India, Pakistan, northern Africa, and China, discussions within the ULG have highlighted the importance of addressing potential cultural and religious differences. Recognizing the unique needs of each group, the ULG has explored options to ensure that everyone feels welcome. Group discussions emphasized the need for religion-neutral festivities and sensitive food choices that can accommodate dietary restrictions without compromising the spirit of the event.

This commitment to inclusion reflects the ULG's broader goal: building a connected, cohesive community where all residents can feel at home in Mangualde. While there are challenges, such as planning an event that is both respectful and enjoyable for a variety of cultural groups, the ULG views these as essential steps toward fostering understanding and unity within the town.

Mangualde's ambition to design a gathering for all communities not only supports integration but also sets an example for how small towns can navigate and embrace cultural diversity, bringing people together to share in the vibrant tapestry of their shared community life.

MANTOVA

Mantova's ULG focuses on new partnerships, Testing Actions, and strategic planning

In recent months, Mantova's URBACT Local Group (ULG) has concentrated its efforts on three key initiatives aimed at strengthening local collaboration and setting the stage for impactful urban projects. From July to September 2024, the group's activities centered on fostering new partnerships, planning testing actions, and progressing the city's Integrated Action Plan.

A significant step forward was made with the involvement of a new organization in the ULG, marking its first direct collaboration with the municipality. This partnership opens doors for fresh perspectives and increased community engagement, enriching ULG's capacity to address local needs.

In addition, the ULG defined a clear roadmap for testing actions that will roll out in the coming months. This involved pinpointing priority challenges, selecting a tailored methodology, and identifying key local actors to participate. The well-planned approach ensures that these testing actions will be both relevant and inclusive, drawing on the diverse strengths of Mantova's community.

Finally, work on the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) has progressed steadily, laying a strategic foundation for long-term urban improvements. Together, these actions demonstrate Mantova's commitment to collaborative planning and innovation, setting an inspiring example within the Residents of the Future network.

Did you know that...

) From industrial past to innovation hub: Mantova's new partnership with R84 Multifactory

One of the most exciting developments in Mantova's URBACT Local Group (ULG) has been the recent proposal submitted by R84 Multifactory Association, a collaborative workspace with deep roots in Mantova's industrial past. Located in the former oil refinery warehouses—once the heart of a thriving local industry until its closure in 2013—R84 Multifactory has transformed the site into a vibrant shared space for around 40 businesses, freelancers, and artists. By fostering mutual support and easing the path to entrepreneurship, R84 combats unemployment and nurtures a diverse ecosystem of talent in the city.

This proposal, submitted in response to a call for territorial regeneration projects led by a local banking foundation, marks R84's first direct collaboration with Mantova's municipality, despite a long history of community initiatives. The project aims to create an outdoor classroom in R84's garden, offering a new venue for local organizations to gather and conduct training sessions, particularly focused on entrepreneurship and digital innovation—two key needs identified during recent ULG meetings.

The collaboration with R84 Multifactory has proven to be an effective way to engage ULG members and establish new community alliances. By working together on a shared funding proposal, Mantova's ULG and R84 have taken a meaningful step toward revitalizing community spaces and fostering an environment of innovation and opportunity for residents.

PLASENCIA

Plasencia's ULG prepares for new phases in the Residents of the Future project

The third quarter of 2024 was a quieter period for Plasencia's involvement in the "Residents of the Future" project, largely due to the summer season and holiday schedules. Nonetheless, key meetings kept the momentum going. The quarter began with a farewell gathering at the Alkazar Theater in late June, where participants engaged in in-depth discussions on theoretical aspects of the project. In early July, Plasencia's team joined a KIT Meeting, followed by internal meetings focused on preparing a communication questionnaire and planning for an upcoming workshop at the October International Transnational Meeting (ITM) in Mangualde.

As the summer waned, activity resumed with a productive after-summer ULG meeting in mid-September. This meeting marked a significant step forward, with discussions on drafting the Overall Vision for the project and outlining the first testing action. The results have been encouraging, reflecting a highly motivated and creative ULG, with members actively involved and bringing excellent ideas to the table.

Plasencia's team is now prepared to move forward with fresh energy and direction, as their committed ULG continues to contribute innovative ideas to shape the future of their city within the URBACT network.

Did you know that...

) A warm welcome to Plasencia: New resident kit and challenges to embrace local life

In September 2024, Plasencia's URBACT Local Group (ULG) launched an exciting initiative to welcome new residents with a unique twist. At their recent meeting, the ULG discussed the rollout of a welcome kit designed to introduce newcomers to the city's vibrant community life. This kit includes theater tickets, vouchers for the municipal swimming pool, public transportation passes, a free course at the "Popular University," and a wealth of information on Plasencia's activities and services. The goal is simple but impactful: to make newcomers feel at home while showcasing the city's diverse cultural and recreational offerings.



However, the ULG didn't stop there. Building on the welcoming gesture of the kit, members came up with a creative and engaging addition—a series of local challenges that new residents could complete over their first year to truly experience life as a “placentino” or “placentina.” These playful tasks celebrate Plasencia’s unique traditions and customs, from enjoying a coffee with tortilla, tasting the iconic “potato bun,” and swimming in the canal at La Isla Park to hunting for the duck statue in the Main Square or savoring a sunset from the Boquique cave viewpoint.

To encourage participation, the ULG proposed creating a hashtag so new residents can share photos of themselves tackling these challenges, helping to spread the “placentine way of life” on social media. A raffle among those who complete all the tasks will add a further incentive, and a dedicated website is being considered to provide challenging details and practical information for newcomers.

This playful addition not only personalizes the welcome experience but also establishes a new brand for Plasencia—one that highlights its cozy, relaxed lifestyle and celebrates the charm of living in a community that values tradition, fun, and connection.

SAINT-QUENTIN

Saint-Quentin Defines Priorities and Launches Testing Action for City Attractiveness

In recent months, Saint-Quentin's URBACT Local Group (ULG) has made significant strides in shaping its priorities to meet the evolving needs identified in earlier meetings. The group's focus has been the development of a testing action aimed at enhancing the city's appeal and drawing in new residents, businesses, and visitors.

During this period, the ULG experimented with a new, informal meeting format that proved successful in fostering open discussion and creative thinking. This relaxed approach encouraged group members to share ideas more freely, leading to clearer priorities and actionable goals. Through these sessions, the ULG was able to define a testing action that aligns with Saint-Quentin's overarching goals for community engagement and urban development.

Several projects aimed at boosting the city's attractiveness are now taking shape, each designed to make Saint-Quentin a more vibrant and inviting place to live. As these initiatives progress, the ULG continues to emphasize collaboration and inclusivity, ensuring that residents and local stakeholders play a central role in shaping the city's future.

With this solid foundation, Saint-Quentin is well-positioned to implement its testing action and advance projects that reflect the aspirations of its community. As these plans unfold, the ULG is committed to making Saint-Quentin a welcoming, dynamic, and forward-thinking city for all.

Did you know that...

) Cider and Vodka gathering in Saint-Quentin: Building connections with newcomers

In a unique and welcoming gesture, Saint-Quentin's URBACT Local Group (ULG) recently hosted a "cider and vodka" gathering, thanks to an initiative by Barbara, one of the group's active members. Held at Barbara's home, this informal meeting brought together newcomers to the city, including members of the medical profession and individuals from Russia. The choice of beverages - cider and vodka - symbolized the mix of cultures, creating a relaxed atmosphere that encouraged open dialogue and mutual understanding.

This informal setting allowed newcomers to share their experiences and challenges more freely than in a typical ULG setting. Discussions quickly touched on common obstacles faced by those relocating to Saint-Quentin, including navigating administrative hurdles and the difficulty of building a support network. These insights provided the ULG with valuable, firsthand perspectives, reinforcing the need for a test action centered on a network of "ambassadors" who could offer guidance and support to new residents.

The "cider and vodka" gathering not only fostered connections but also underscored Saint-Quentin's commitment to creating an inclusive community where newcomers feel welcomed and supported. As the ULG continues to refine its approach, the idea of community ambassadors has taken on new importance, aiming to ease the transition for future residents and build a stronger, more connected city.

SALDUS

Saldus launches first Testing Action and hosts community event to showcase local projects

This past quarter has been a dynamic one for the Saldus URBACT Local Group (ULG), with significant steps taken toward fostering local entrepreneurship and engaging the community in ongoing development projects. Throughout July and August, the Saldus team focused on establishing its first Testing Action—a Small Entrepreneurs' Community Centre. Set to launch in October, this initiative aims to transform a former school building into a hub for small businesses, providing affordable spaces to support emerging entrepreneurs. Preparations included drafting documentation, determining rental costs, and coordinating with various municipal departments to ensure a smooth transition.



The Saldus testing action was promoted on the social media to attract potential entrepreneurs to participate

In tandem with this, the team has been planning its second Testing Action, with details currently in development. To raise awareness, Saldus has shared updates on social media, keeping the community informed about these promising initiatives.

September was particularly eventful, with two ULG meetings held on September 19 and 26 to refine the Testing Actions and discuss upcoming events. On September 27, the city hosted its first "Open the Doors of the City" event, where the Residents of the Future project was presented alongside other impactful local initiatives. These included the REHABITA project under the LIFE program, focused on environmental sustainability, and two projects funded by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region program: Waterman, addressing water management, and Arts on Prescription, promoting community well-being through creative engagement.

Together, these activities reflect Saldus's commitment to supporting local innovation, enhancing community involvement, and building a sustainable future. The Small Entrepreneurs' Community Centre and

collaborative initiatives underscore the city's dedication to fostering growth and strengthening connections across the municipality.

Did you know that...

) Lessons from 'Sātiņu DARĪTAVA': How flexibility and small touches boosted engagement in Saldus

The journey of launching the "Sātiņu DARĪTAVA" project in Saldus has offered some valuable lessons in community engagement and space revitalization. From the start, the team noticed that turnout was lower than expected at an introductory event designed to showcase the building and its potential. After reflecting, they realized that offering more flexible visiting times could make a difference for interested community members. In response, they organized open house days, giving visitors the freedom to drop in at their convenience.



The first open house day highlighted another key insight: while the building was technically sound, its dusty, neglected look didn't inspire enthusiasm. Recognizing that potential tenants needed to see the space's possibilities, the team set up a demonstration room on a minimal budget. A fresh coat of paint, a good

cleaning, and a simple rug transformed the area into a welcoming, cozy space, helping visitors better envision how the building could meet their needs.

After working hard, the impact is great! Will Saldus entrepreneurs move to this entrepreneurship space?



These adjustments—flexible visiting hours and a demonstration room—proved essential, teaching the team that small changes can make a big impact in creating an inviting environment and attracting the community's interest.

ŠIBENIK

Šibenik Embraces Green Transition, Work-Life Balance, and Student Engagement

The City of Šibenik has been actively advancing its goals within the "Residents of the Future" project, focusing on sustainable city branding, work-life balance, and community engagement. In recent months, Šibenik's URBACT Local Group (ULG) organized its fourth meeting, progressing discussions around the city's Testing Action. This action aims to reimagine Šibenik as a destination where residents and remote workers alike can achieve a fulfilling work-life balance—a theme that has become central to Šibenik's identity and branding efforts.

Šibenik also participated in the "Green Transition & Remote Work" online forum, hosted by APN Remote IT, exploring the environmental impact of remote and hybrid work models. This aligns with the city's sustainable approach and broadens its perspective on green urban development.

Looking ahead, Šibenik will be represented at the Technical University in Zagreb as part of a unique initiative: rather than promoting individual companies, the city and its employers will jointly present Šibenik as a place where a balanced lifestyle is achievable. This new approach to city branding, supported by frequent discussions in ULG meetings, underpins Šibenik's Testing Action and the goal of attracting talent who value lifestyle as much as career opportunities.

The ULG has also finalized a Testing Action canvas, prepared with insights from Ad hoc expert Sally Kneeshaw, to guide this initiative. Additionally, Šibenik plans to host an "Open the Doors of the City" event at the Polytechnic during Freshmen's Day in early October. This event, aimed at new students, showcases the city's commitment to engaging its young population and introducing them to life in Šibenik.

The recent academic year, which began with record enrollments, especially in IT programs, underscores the city's appeal as a growing educational hub. Meanwhile, Šibenik is also addressing housing challenges—an issue raised across all partner cities in the network. This has sparked interest in organizing a knowledge-sharing webinar on affordable housing, supported by the Croatian "Association of Cities" and the National URBACT contact point.

With the initial stages of its Integrated Action Plan (IAP) now contracted and drafted, Šibenik is building a solid foundation for long-term, sustainable development that balances lifestyle, economic growth, and green transition.

Did you know that...

) Engaging Šibenik's next generation: Listening to students to shape the city's future

On the first day of classes at Šibenik Polytechnic, the "Residents of the Future" initiative took an important step toward understanding and retaining the city's young talent. The URBACT network team, including the city's mayor, visited the Polytechnic to meet with first-year students, extending a warm welcome and encouraging them to voice their hopes and concerns. With welcome gifts in hand, the team engaged students in a survey about their post-graduation plans and the factors that might influence their choice to stay in or leave Šibenik.



Šibenik mayor and ULG promoting Residents of the Futures approach to the local students

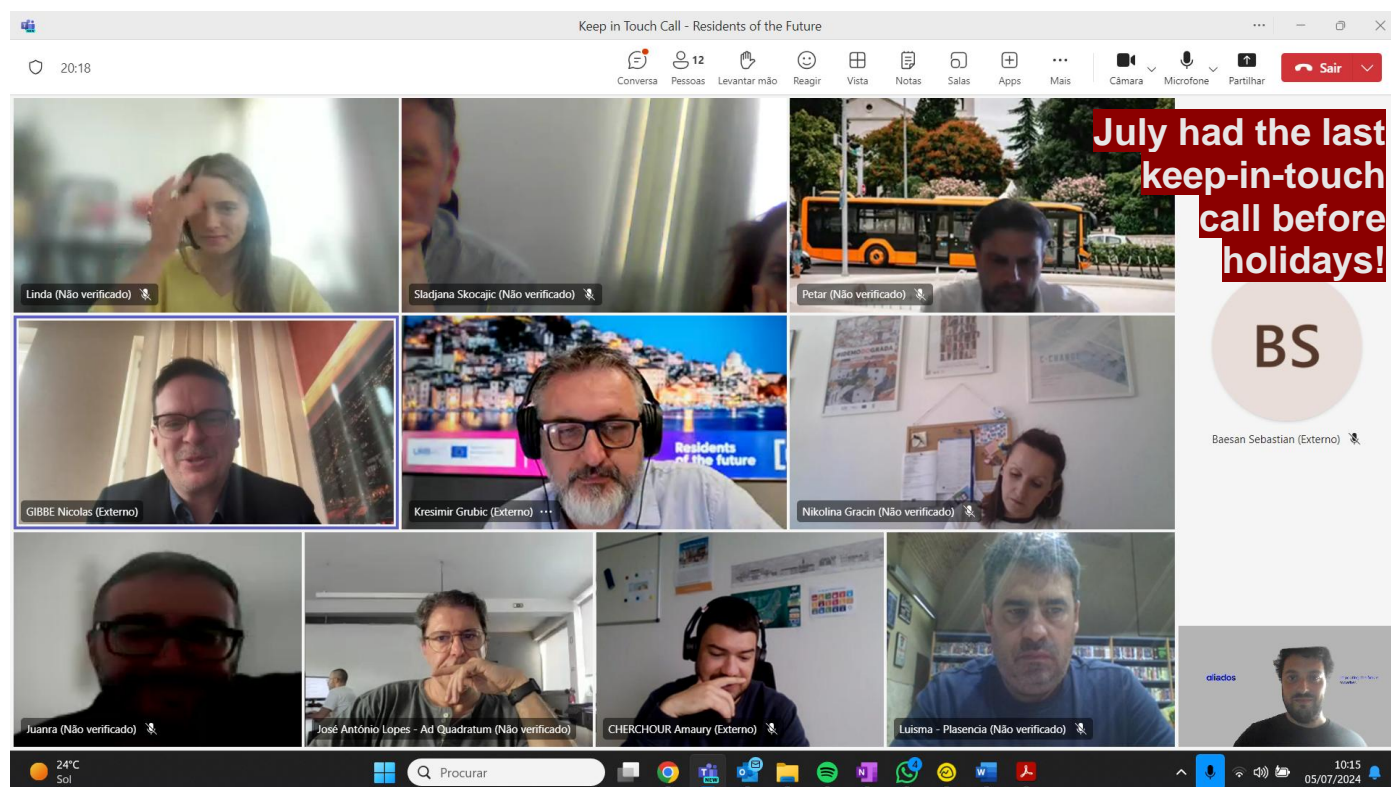
This initiative is part of a broader strategy to craft a sustainable action plan rooted in the needs and aspirations of Šibenik's youth. By focusing on creating job opportunities, enhancing cultural life, and developing community-driven projects, Šibenik aims to shift the narrative of youth migration. The goal is to make staying in Šibenik as appealing and rewarding as leaving, offering young people a vibrant, forward-thinking community where they can build their futures.

As these new students embark on their academic journeys, the hope is that they will see Šibenik as a place rich with opportunity, innovation, and a fulfilling lifestyle. The city stands ready to support and welcome them, ensuring that the future they shape will thrive right here in Šibenik.

2.2 Keep in touch calls help partners to maintain exchange monthly

The keep-in-touch calls are a vital part of the Residents of the Future URBACT network, fostering a sense of community and collaboration across participating cities. These online meetings allow project partners to regularly connect, share local updates, and exchange valuable insights about their progress.

In addition to discussing challenges, the Keep in Touch calls are also a forum for celebrating successes and exploring shared interests. Partners can discuss ongoing testing actions, pilot projects, and community engagement strategies, providing feedback and fresh ideas.



This July partner shared their updates on implementing Residents of the Future activities at the local level, and reflected on the demanding September they will have, after returning from the desired holidays.

At the edition of the keep-in-touch call partners discussed the Oslo promotional video named "Is even a city", where the Norway capital city promotes itself as a capital city that looks like a town in the best towns characteristics.



Watch this interesting city promotional video [here!](#)

2.3 The “demanding September”

This September has been a demanding yet productive month for the Residents of the Future network, as cities across Europe returned from the holiday season to a packed agenda of key project activities. From preparing detailed reports and advancing Testing Actions to finalizing the first chapter of each city’s Integrated Action Plan (IAP), the network’s Urbact Local Groups (ULGs) have been actively implementing the URBACT methodology, turning theory into action.



The first task was the contribution of the Network Quarterly Reports, essential documents that capture each city’s achievements, learnings, and challenges. These reports serve not only as a record but as a collective resource, allowing other cities in the network to benefit from shared experiences. The reports for the period from July to September are due on September 30, with guidelines and templates available on the Basecamp platform. This reporting period coincides with the Mid-term Review, a critical phase designed to reflect on the project’s trajectory and refine strategies for even greater impact. Each city began by completing a personalized URBACT questionnaire, which allowed teams to evaluate their progress and identify areas for improvement. Additionally, a mid-term workshop scheduled during the Mangualde Transnational Meeting will offer cities the chance to discuss these insights face-to-face.

Parallel to these activities, the Testing Actions entered a pivotal phase. Each ULG is tasked with designing and implementing initiatives that embody their project goals, and a dedicated Testing Action Lab offering one-on-one sessions was set up to help cities maximize their impact. Further, September also marked the completion of the initial draft of IAP Chapter One, with cities submitting drafts by September 30. This milestone ensures compliance with URBACT methodology and allows each city to receive valuable feedback ahead of the Mangualde meeting.

With this packed agenda, September has solidified itself as a defining period in the Residents of the Future project. Each ULG has mobilized its resources to push forward in making their cities more inclusive and resilient. As teams prepare for the upcoming Transnational Meeting in Mangualde, where insights and

strategies will be shared, the energy and focus from this demanding September will undoubtedly drive meaningful outcomes across the network.

3. What's Next on Residents of the Future?

The period from October to December will have important moments on the URBACT journey of the Residents of the Future partner. The transnational meeting at Mungalde will be a flagship event, but the project will also host a training session about housing good practices and the mid-term review will be also prepared during this period.

MANGUALDE TRANSNATIONAL MEETING

The upcoming Mungalde transnational meeting promises to be a pivotal gathering for the Residents of the Future network, where city representatives unite to share progress, tackle challenges, and strengthen collaborative ties. Set in the welcoming city of Mungalde, this meeting will offer a dynamic agenda focused on the key pillars of the project, including city marketing and branding, investment attraction and also the mid-term review.

Mungalde good practices will also be visited, and Plasencia team will also deliver an workshop about their experience using culture and heritage to make the city more attractive for residents and tourists.

HOUSING MASTERCLASS

The Residents of the Future network will host an online masterclass on housing good practices, led by URBACT expert Liat Rogel. This session will dive into innovative approaches to tackle affordable housing, improve accessibility, and enhance community cohesion, drawing on successful cases from cities across Europe. Designed as an interactive exchange, the masterclass will allow participants to explore adaptable solutions for their own housing challenges, benefiting from Liat's extensive expertise in sustainable urban development. This event promises practical insights and strategies, empowering cities to strengthen their housing policies and build inclusive, resilient communities.

MID-TERM REVIEW

The Residents of the Future network is approaching its mid-term review, a critical phase designed to assess progress, reflect on challenges, and refine project strategies to enhance outcomes. This review, which includes a tailored questionnaire and a collaborative workshop during the upcoming Mungalde Transnational Meeting, will offer valuable insights into each city's achievements and areas for improvement. By analyzing feedback and discussing key lessons learned, participating cities will have the opportunity to recalibrate their approaches to community engagement, housing, youth retention, and sustainability efforts. The mid-term review is not only a checkpoint but a chance to reinforce shared goals and ensure the network is well-aligned for impactful results in the second half of the project.

4. Final remarks

Dear reader,

Thank you for joining us in this third Quarterly Report for the Residents of the Future project. We're thrilled to share the progress and dedication that each city has poured into this transformative journey. This edition highlights the impressive strides taken across our network, from Testing Actions that bring new life to local spaces, to initiatives aimed at retaining youth, enhancing community engagement, and building sustainable housing solutions.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our city teams your hard work and collaboration are at the core of these achievements. Each of you has contributed valuable insights, innovative approaches, and an inspiring commitment to making your cities more inclusive and future-ready. Together, we're small cities where people can thrive, connect, and feel a true sense of belonging. Thank you for being part of this journey, and for your continued dedication to shaping the future of our cities.

Warm regards.

Tiago Ferreira

October 2024

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