GOOD PRACTICE SUMMARY: BUDAPEST100 - WEEKEND OF OPEN HOUSES

Budapest100 is a civic event making the whole capital participate. The civil feast has more than 20.000 visitors per year. Its main aim is to draw attention to the buildings around us, the architectural values, their history and also the civilian power that organizes residential communities and make them stick together. In apartment blocks and institutions joining the programme the people living and working there prepare exhibitions, cultural events, concerts and building history tours for the audiences in a self-organized way.

TIMEFRAME, DATES, IMPORTANT MILESTONES

Firstly organized in 2011 by the Open Society Archives and the Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre, it was the celebration of the 100-year old buildings; residents had visitors in 60 buildings of Budapest, and they also organized programs for them with the help of volunteers in the flats, at ateliers and even at lofts. From 2011 to 2014, the event was realized with a constantly growing infrastructure and press attention, and many partners joined the initiative. The program is embraced and supported by city and district municipalities. Újbuda Municipality is not only an active supporter, but Budapest100 fits well to its local strategic goals as well. The research team of Budapest100 collects extensive historical data on the participating buildings, which then are also made accessible through the municipalities' channels.

2016 is an important milestone: the festival has started to be organized around a theme, leaving the 100-year selection principle behind (2016 theme: the Grand Boulevard, 2017: buildings at the Quay-side).

THE MAIN OUTPUTS FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVE, INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS

The innovative nature of Budapest100 lies in its simplicity, the highlighted social problem, the conveyed values and the target groups. The base idea is very simple: volunteers work together with the residents with a centred coordination, to make the built environment admissible and available, and to build communities. The highlighted social problem is, on the one hand, to rescue architectural and urban historical monuments and to make the residents get to know their own environment. Reaching the target group of residents happens directly through interactions and requests. The volunteers go to the participating buildings, address the residents and the community.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

In the past 6 years, Budapest100 has opened the gates of 50-60 houses and institutions per year. Year by year 100-150 volunteers join the event. In terms of involved residents, encouraging them to self-organization is a great result. Based on their feedback, the weekends were full of experiences. In an indirect way the festival offers them the feeling of uniqueness and importance. Additionally it gives them access to knowledge that helps them getting closer to their own stories, their building, making them feel responsible. Many apartment blocks started repeating community action (renovations, smaller architectural interferences, yard picnic, etc.). In 2014, the jury of Volunteering Hungary - Centre of Social Innovation has chosen Budapest100 the volunteering program of the year. In 2013, *The Guardian* has chosen the festival as one of the most interesting programs in Europe. Despite its success Budapest100 is being monitored year by year, based on evaluation questionnaires collected by students from all actors. Mental maps are also produced of the participating areas. Focus group discussions also take place. The research results all contribute to ameliorate the event and its future sustainability.

POTENTIAL FOR REUSE

The achieved results show that Budapest100 is a successful method in building communities, easily adaptable to other city contexts. The festival's community-building efforts aim to support young people that are more conscious, will to act for its neighbourhood and think in the scale of a city. Creating common experiences is a tool to overcome isolation that is so common in urban areas. Moreover, the program aims to become a professional platform, that is able to start discussions about the relevant urban problems of the festival, shows possible solutions and that does this process through inclusive and participatory planning.

THE LINK TO SPECIFIC STRATEGIES

Budapest100 is a civic initiative, widely embraced and supported by the capital- and several relevant district municipalities, however Budapest100 does not refer to any legislative context. Regarding Újbuda, applying for the recent Good Practice Call is a result of a flourishing cooperation of the Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre (initiator) and the municipality, which intends to enhance its Cultural City Centre (CCC) initiative this way too (transformation of Bartók Béla street to a creative hub is an upmost priority for Újbuda, visible in all major strategies).