



# Temporary Placemaking

A thematic guide for urban practitioners

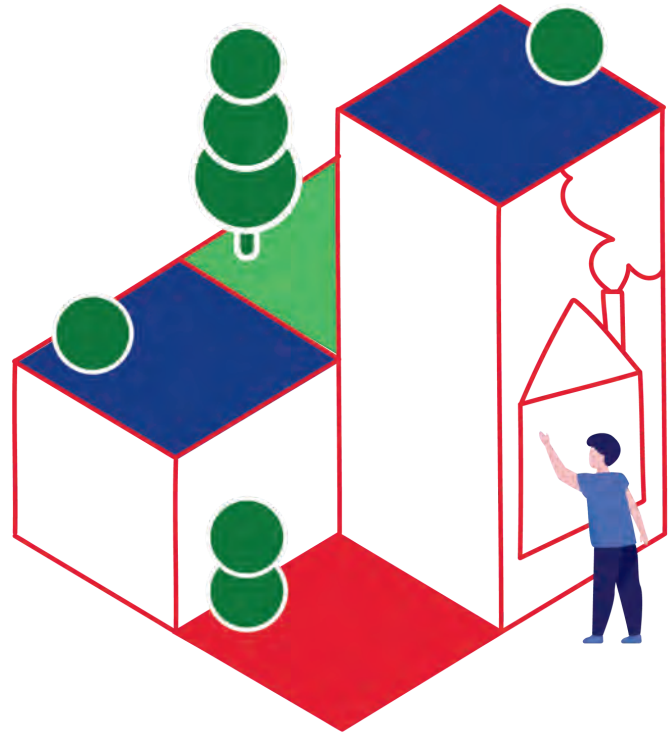




# Temporary Placemaking

## A thematic guide for urban practitioners

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## Executive summary

### Temporary placemaking

This guide explores thematic approaches to temporary placemaking in urban regeneration areas. It draws on insights gathered during the European T-Factor project with pilots in six major European cities. The guide shows how thematic expertise can enhance focus and impact of bottom-up interventions, catalyzing locally rooted temporary uses aimed at inclusive and equitable urban regeneration.

The guide is structured around six thematic lenses (page 5), which are meant to inspire practitioners to embrace new approaches and enhance existing ones. It systematises thematic collaborations in temporary urbanism and provides a practical toolkit to implement thematic interventions in local contexts. The guide aims to serve both local practitioners and thematic experts, while supporting policy makers in aligning instruments with thematic temporary interventions in urban regeneration.

### Method

Waag employed a blend of co-creation and a 'community of practice' methodologies to facilitate collaboration between pilots and thematic experts. Such experts include academics, designers and planners. The guide outlines good practices for local-expert collaboration, from matchmaking and prototyping to place-based interventions, next to knowledge-sharing and evaluation to support iterative working.

### Thematic expertise

From environmental degradation to inequality, global crises are developing rapidly and impact communities in diverse ways, creating a complex landscape of shifting challenges. Therefore, a thematic approach should not be seen as a static framework, but as a way to frame and facilitate ongoing, living processes of experimentation and co-creation within communities.

By focussing on 'matters of concern', that prioritise the subjective and contextual understanding of challenges according to a range of local stakeholders, themes serve as a campfire around which people can gather for collaborative action. Articulating emergent themes in an action-oriented manner is a valuable method for participatory agenda-setting in regeneration areas, amplifying local voices in urban development and institutional decision making.



## **Highlights & conclusions**

Key lessons were drawn both from pilot and expert perspectives. For pilots, key success factors in collaborating with external experts were a focus on local empowerment and ownership, bringing experts in at the right time, and developing a shared understanding of thematic expertise early on. For the experts, gaining a fine-grained understanding of the local contexts and flexibility in building working relationships is crucial, whereby thematic expertise can stimulate development of shared visions and increase confidence in experimentation among pilots.

This thematic and community-centric approach to placemaking shows how temporary interventions can guide urban renewal in more inclusive and just ways by combining strategic oversight with hands co-creation approaches. They allow for negotiation of power dynamics and scrutiny of design decisions, promoting fairer and more rewarding engagement, and ultimately leading to more equitable outcomes.





## Thematic lenses



**Greening, biodiversity & urban wilderness** connects the planetary biodiversity crisis with local actions that cultivate new perspectives on the city as a living environment. Actions range from sense-making to renewal of public spaces, through knowledge-exchange, greening and creative approaches, showing their capacity for community empowerment as well as the importance of linking biodiversity and wellbeing.



**Circular & regenerative practices** supports a paradigm shift towards circular, restorative and regenerative urban design practices. Actions stimulated principles and practices of reusing, repurposing and recycling urban spaces and resources, working with vulnerable and underserved groups according to local needs.



**Cross-sectoral alliances for new knowledge & skills** investigates collaborations between academia and society, experimenting with aligning agendas and resources around shared local challenges to quality of life. These focus on collaborative governance and collective stewardship in transdisciplinary local knowledge networks.



**Local identity & heritage** explores the intersecting cultural identities and heritages that shape urban fabrics, preserving, protecting, and valorising them against dynamics of gentrification and globalisation of culture. They serve to diversify functions of an area and shape its identity by mobilising the voice and agency of vulnerable groups and immaterial forms of heritage.



**Safety, conviviality & liveability** focuses on wellbeing especially among the most deprived communities to create public and open spaces that foster conviviality, sense of belonging, and safety. Based on a 'do no harm' approach centering local concerns, creative approaches are powerful tools for shared goal-making and local ownership.



**Inclusive engagement & rights to cities** allows for participation in crafting the present and future of urban fabrics, expanding rights to cities for different people and community groups, by centering 'community champions' and exploring inclusive applications of digital technology. Crucially, collaborative and inclusive approaches to governance should be balanced according to individual and community capacities.



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# Glossary

## Meanwhile Uses

A “meanwhile use” describes a temporary (placemaking) activity initiated in an area undergoing a transition or redevelopment. Meanwhile interventions are tactical and slot into wider strategies of planned change, supporting positive urban transformation. Their primary purpose is to deliver benefits to the community through predominantly social outcomes as well as economic and environmental. They are not exclusive to their users but inclusive of social needs; delivering social value, informing longer-term development and driving a new vision of city making (ARUP, 2020). Not all meanwhile uses are short term. Some meanwhile uses are offered long leases, for instance in regeneration projects spanning decades. (Source: Centre for London, 2018).

## Mission-oriented Innovation

Mission-oriented innovation is the new paradigm informing the way in which research and innovation should drive Europe towards climate-neutral, just and thriving societies and economies. In T-Factor, we leverage the ‘meanwhile’ in urban regeneration as a collective space for experimentation in addressing pressing local problems, and to convene local actors in the pursuit of solutions, pooling material and immaterial resources that are distributed yet often disconnected in our cities. Core to this approach is the understanding of temporary uses as the opportunity to define shared goals of urban regeneration, aligning public and private interests around the creation of shared public value.

## Pilots

Local urban regeneration initiatives supported by T-Factor’s programmes of temporary placemaking, responding to local missions of sustainable and inclusive urban redevelopment. T-Factor’s pilots are: **Aleksotas (Kaunas), Amsterdam Science Park, Euston (London), MIND (Milan), Trafaria (Lisbon), Zorrotzaurre (Bilbao)**. See: <https://www.t-factor.eu/pilots/>

## External experts

Thematic expert teams supported and deepened collaboration between different partners in T-Factor, supporting pilots in designing and delivering temporary uses according to their missions. The project started with seven thematic Labs which evolved over the course of the project: 1. Arts, Culture & Creativity; 2. Urban production & Digitalisation; 3. Citizen-led Smartness; 4. Urban Design for Sociality and Wellbeing; 5. Circular & Collaborative Economy; 6. Social Innovation and Social Inclusion; 7. Climate Change and Regenerative Cities.



## **Part 1.**

# **Setting the stage: objectives & method**



## Part 1. Setting the stage: objectives & method

### T-Factor pilots and external experts

'Temporary Placemaking' is a guide focused on the topic of **co-creation and thematic placemaking within the realm of temporary or meanwhile uses in urban regeneration.**

Over four years (2020-2024), the T-Factor project has developed pilot strategies and experiments of temporary uses within broader interventions of urban regeneration at **Amsterdam Science Park, Aleksotas Kaunas, Euston London, MIND Milan, Trafaria Lisbon, and Zorrotzaurre Bilbao**. Embracing a **mission-oriented approach** (OECD-OPSI 2021; Mazzucato 2018), the pilots have explored diverse co-creative and participatory temporary uses during interim phases of urban regeneration, **with the ultimate purpose of informing and influencing institutional decisions and development pathways towards more inclusive and equitable outcomes and impacts of urban regeneration.**

These efforts have addressed local objectives such as greening and biodiversity, enhancing liveability and social cohesion, preserving and valorising cultural heritage, fostering cross-sectoral alliances, among others.

The pilots have unfolded distinct yet interconnected practices of urban innovation, exploring ways for time-limited experiments to generate co-benefits throughout periods of urban regeneration, and subsequently evolve into more permanent features of sustainable and inclusive urban environments.

The T-Factor pilots haven't operated in isolation. Recognising the complex nature of contemporary urban challenges and the imperative for inclusive and sustainable transformations, T-Factor has actively promoted extensive co-creation.

By establishing seven thematic Transformation Labs or T-Labs as external experts — each involving various organisations partnering in the project — T-Factor has sought to cultivate locally anchored yet globally connected communities of practice. Comprising designers, architects, landscape planners, researchers, civic and environmental activists, educators, community facilitators and other specialised profiles across the seven T-Labs, collaborative efforts have been underway with local communities and practitioners in the targeted pilot sites.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the T-Factor's pilots, see: <https://www.t-factor.eu/pilots/>





This collaborative endeavour has explored diverse methodologies in response to local regeneration objectives through temporary uses. Throughout the project, this approach has not only supported the concrete delivery of activities but also aimed to **enhance knowledge and capacities for transformative urban regeneration**. By bridging and synergising place-based experiences with international expertise, the project aimed to leverage both the contextual nuances and global innovations in revitalising urban spaces.

### **From seven labs to six co-creation missions: emerging themes**

The rapid pace of global crises, from environmental to health-related, impact communities and places with varying intensity and effects, creating a complex landscape of ever-shifting challenges. These 'moving targets' necessitate adaptable approaches.

By framing issues through thematic lenses that cluster concerns in ways that make sense to a range of stakeholders, a **thematic lens serves as a campfire around which people can gather for collaborative action**.

Through such themes, urban regeneration pathways toward inclusive and sustainable quality of life can be articulated.

A striking example of the emergent nature of thematic lenses occurred with the Covid-19 pandemic. Issues such as health, wellbeing, loneliness, isolation, and the relationship between individuals and their shared spaces rapidly evolved, forming new, sometimes temporary, connections. Priorities and emphasis surrounding these complex social matters shifted rapidly, leading to a sense of loss of control over cities and communities for both citizens and policymakers.

In response to this rapid evolution, the T-Factor project proposes a novel approach that combines local action with external expertise, seeking to untangle the ‘wicked’ complexities of urban challenges into actionable local priorities. Pilots collaborated with an international group of thinkers and practitioners. Together, they developed thematic frameworks to explore the transformative potential of meanwhile spaces.

Viewing the ‘time factor’ of urban regeneration as a strategic asset, the project used thematic lenses to frame and focus the prototyping of just, sustainable, and inclusive urban futures. In this approach, **themes are not static but are rather understood as ongoing, living processes of experimentation and co-creation within communities** - grounded in material conditions but also influenced by media ecologies, policy shifts, and larger-scale developments. As thematic expert clusters within T-Factor, T-Labs operated in various urban contexts, supporting the emergence and articulation of ‘**matters of concern**’ as *“highly complex, historically situated, richly diverse phenomena”* that prioritise the subjective and contextual understanding of challenges (Latour, 2004). Such matters are community-driven and stand as complementary to academic ‘matters of fact’, which are necessarily abstracted to some extent from the actors and stakeholders involved, as well as to ‘matters of interest’, which take a more

instrumental approach to actors and stakeholders. By defining our co-creation themes through this lens, we deliberately sought to emphasise T-Factor’s commitment to **embedding expert interventions in the reality of local communities impacted by urban regeneration plans and processes**.

Articulating meanwhile practices through matters of concern proved to be a valuable method for participatory agenda-setting in regeneration areas. Practical emphasis on co-creation through spatial experiments offered a **grounded perspective on values and priorities, contrasting with conventional participation methods**.





Articulating emergent themes in an action-oriented manner can serve as **a means to amplify local voices, making them more represented and heard within institutional decision making.**

With this approach, the clustering and scope of themes underwent a significant evolution throughout T-Factor. In the design stages of the project, the thematic expertise was organised in seven T-Labs as noted in the glossary (page 7).

As the project progressed, the initial Lab-themes were developed according to the collaborations on the ground, leading to an updated set of core themes found to be most relevant for urban regeneration today (see next page). These were finalised toward the project's conclusion and structure this guide.





**Greening, biodiversity & urban wilderness:** exploring ways for temporary uses to cultivate new understandings of humans' entanglements with urban nature, and foster more collaborative and respectful relationships that allow people and nature to thrive together.



**Circular & regenerative practices:** exploring temporary use practices that advance circular, restorative and regenerative design, and that overall push urban innovation toward principles and practices of reusing, repurposing and recycling urban spaces and resources.



**Cross-sectoral alliances for new knowledge & skills:** investigating the power of temporary uses to unlock collaborations across public, private, and citizen' sectors, aligning agendas and resources around shared challenges to quality of life.



**Local identity & heritage:** leveraging temporary uses to explore the multiple identities and cultural legacies that shape urban fabrics, and preserve, protect, and valorise existing heritage against dynamics of gentrification and globalisation of culture.



**Safety, conviviality & liveability:** exploring how temporary uses can bring benefits of liveability and wellbeing especially among the most deprived communities, creating quality public and open spaces that foster conviviality, sense of belonging, and safety.



**Inclusive engagement & rights to cities:** delving into the ways temporary uses can foster inclusive engagement and participation in crafting the present and future of urban fabrics, and how they can expand rights to cities for different people and community groups.



### Bridging communities and thematic experts: why this guide

The relevance of integrating external expertise with local urban contexts under regeneration is multifaceted. First, external perspectives can offer a fresh perspective, introducing **new interpretations and insights into local challenges**, and proposing innovative approaches to tackle them. Second, external expertise can **enhance local strategies and processes of temporary interventions by providing both practical experience and theoretical backing**. This is especially valuable through the introduction of successful practices from other contexts; experts can integrate lessons learned from relevant international cases and contribute state-of-the-art knowledge and best practices.

For local practitioners, the relevance of external expertise lies in its actionable nature, aiming to unlock the potential of meanwhile practices that facilitate civic empowerment and engagement, inclusive and equitable access to urban spaces, and that overall promote just urban transitions. From the experts' perspective, these on-the-ground collaborations validate and enrich their expertise, broadening their experience while fostering outcomes and impacts of wellbeing among citizens and communities.

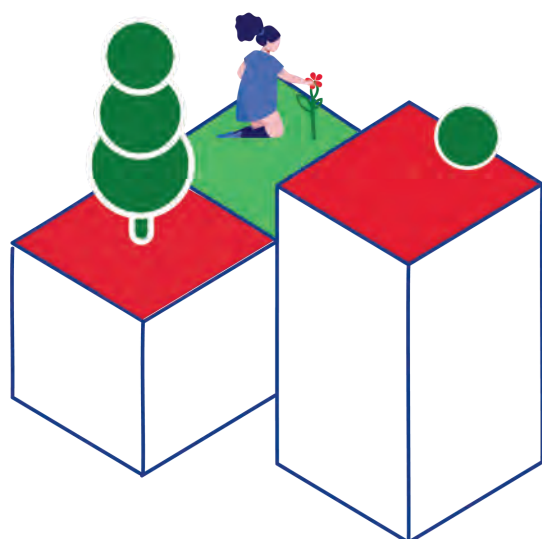
Supporting thematic collaborations in temporary uses presents both challenges and opportunities. Through this guide, we seek to explore these dynamics, showcasing concrete practices co-developed across the T-Factor pilots, and presenting key learnings and perspectives from both external experts and local practitioners.

The aim of the guide is to support temporary uses that can become deeply rooted in the local context and **develop a degree of material, social, and cultural durability within the urban fabric**. We believe that local practitioners and their networks are best positioned to articulate local needs and potentials, while external experts can offer valuable concepts, case studies, and methods to enhance impact.

Designed especially for citymakers — comprising both thematic experts and local practitioners — this guide offers insights into creating thematic focus and impact in meanwhile interventions. Its descriptions of thematic meanwhile interventions and the collaborations that underpin them are equally beneficial for policy makers seeking to align policy instruments with transdisciplinary collaboration in urban regeneration areas.

### Key methodological pillars

Waag Futurelab coordinated the collaboration between experts and pilots. Based on their expertise in co-creation methods, Waag used a Community of Practice method that places particular emphasis on fostering peer-to-peer and transdisciplinary collaboration. The project required alignment among a broad spectrum of individuals from diverse backgrounds, spanning six pilot sites, each with its unique team of practitioners and stakeholders, and seven geographically distributed Labs operated by different organisations across Europe. Early on, it became evident that **nurturing an environment conducive to collaborative efforts driven by peer-to-peer dynamics**, rather than top-down directives, was imperative. This foundational approach paved the way for the development of numerous operational tools and strategies aimed at fostering continuous engagement, exchange, and learning to mobilise collective intelligence.



### Community of Practice approach

To facilitate interaction and learning among a large group of participants and stakeholders, the thematic experts employed a Community of Practice approach, essentially understood as a co-creation process among a group of peers. Such an approach emphasised collective responsibility above individual leadership within an iterative learning process. This resulted in the development of a semi-structured framework for coordination, facilitation, and working that incentivises and supports pilot-expert collaboration and alignment in a dynamic environment.

Co-designing processes and standards during the early phases of the collaboration set-up and activation helped set shared goals and common language as well as collective quality standards, whilst supporting **collective decision making and stewardship**.

Furthermore, the provision of regular moments of convening and discussion (mainly online but also through physical workshops and meetings) allowed the expert teams to regularly share successes and failures, learnings, and provide peer feedback, thereby stimulating reflections on the quality of work and ongoing results, and supporting both individual and collective capacity building.



Figure 1 shows the key aspects of the Community of Practice framework developed in T-Factor:

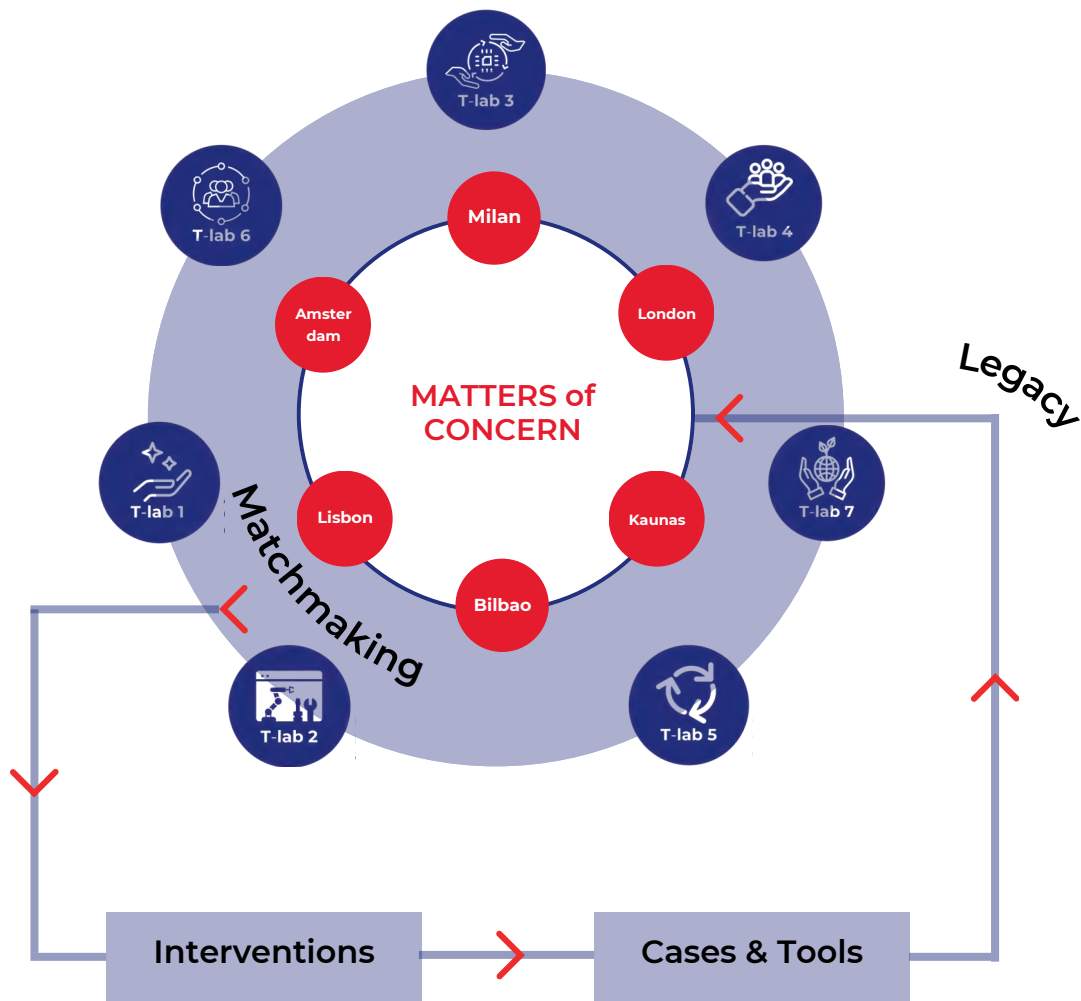


Figure 1: Diagram representing the collaborative process among thematic experts and Pilots in T-Factor.

To effectively facilitate expert-pilot collaborations, our Community of Practice approach features a number of steps. The first is **matchmaking** between pilot practitioners and thematic experts, to scope the range of thematic relevance, identify learning opportunities and facilitate early alignment. The local needs of pilots are the starting point in matchmaking. Next, **probes** can be deployed; small-scale, 'low-effort', and rapidly implementable activities which sense early opportunities and pitfalls. Probes explore the potential for various styles of temporary placemaking. Based on these, **long term and in depth collaborations** can be developed based on a clear mission, as well as mechanisms for knowledge capture and evaluation to ensure impact and legacy.

## Part 2.

# Thematic chapters





### Thematic chapters

This Guide is structured around the six key themes that emerged over time as the pilots' work progressed on the ground, including the active support from thematic experts in stimulating and guiding temporary uses and experiments. This final set of themes was formulated based on pilot concerns as articulated throughout these collaborations. The aim was to pinpoint the main concerns present across two or more pilot contexts, which collectively structure the portfolio of thematic meanwhile interventions presented in the second part of this guide.

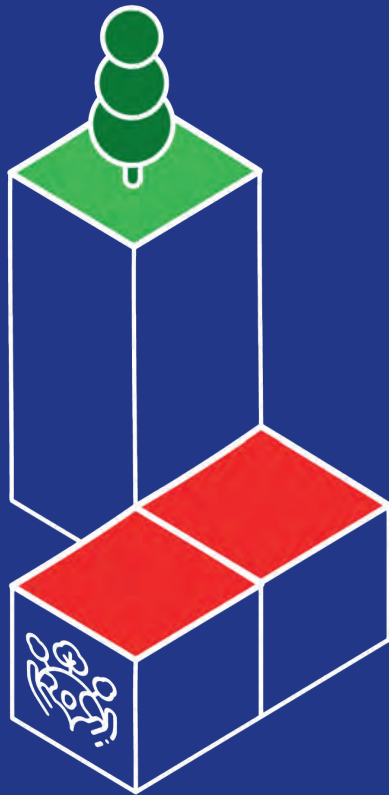
Each thematic chapter is structured as follows:

- A **narrative introduction to the theme** and its relevance for urban regeneration and temporary use;
- A **look at each theme 'in motion'**, providing a birds-eye view of its main aspects, and the development of these through the practices of collaboration and co-creation by the thematic experts across the pilot sites.
- A **selection of thematic cases** that emerged from the collaborations and can be transferred to other contexts of intervention. These are variously accompanied by links to more elaborate written accounts, podcasts, and practical tools.
- **Insights and co-benefits** that highlight the significance of the theme for advancing more inclusive and sustainable urban regeneration.

The guide concludes with a number of key insights and reflections on the topic of collaboration and co-creation, told both through the perspective of the pilot teams and thematic experts. These are then connected to major EU policies and initiatives for sustainable and inclusive urban development.

### Digital Toolbox

Accompanying this guide is a Digital Thematic Toolbox with stories and tools covering all expert activities in the project: [hub.t-factor.eu/thematic-toolbox/](https://hub.t-factor.eu/thematic-toolbox/).



# Greening, biodiversity & urban wilderness





# Greening, biodiversity & urban wilderness

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Traditionally, cities have been perceived as exclusively human habitats, isolated and protected from the natural landscapes beyond their boundaries. However, the onset of the sixth mass extinction and a renewed interest in green spaces and well-being perspectives are breaking down this divide. **This prompts urban residents and policy makers to reconsider connections with nature in cities, emphasising societal cohesion and improved well-being in relation to living ecosystems.**

The Covid-19 pandemic underscored the significance of green spaces as outdoor retreats and safe socialisation areas, highlighting their key contribution to people's health and well-being. Maintaining high levels of urban biodiversity is crucial for systemic well-being and the societal benefits of healthy ecosystems.

These broad concerns encompass various challenges, for instance the need to raise awareness of the foundational contribution of nature and biodiversity to urban resilience and adaptation. Emerging challenges also include the need for novel models of governance that actively involve communities in caring for green spaces; innovative approaches to measuring the impacts of, and on, living ecosystems; and navigating semi-wild scenarios that involve humans, other species, metabolic flows, and temporal considerations. Activation and inclusion play essential roles in engaging communities with urban life beyond the sole human perspective, and valorising urban green spaces for a diversity of functions.

## **Greening, biodiversity & urban wilderness in motion**

In T-Factor, significant potential was recognised for meanwhile practices to bolster greening, biodiversity, and wilderness initiatives within a broader framework of urban ecology (Grove et al., 2015). This recognition spurred the development of several distinctive yet mutually reinforcing meanwhile interventions. These interventions were observed to progress through three interconnected phases, each building upon the other, yet also capable of independent deployment.

The groundwork for urban greening lies in **sensitising citizens and stakeholders to their living environments**. Urban green spaces are frequently underestimated as merely part of the urban backdrop, yet they constitute the very fabric in which much of urban life unfolds. By transcending conventional perceptions of cities as exclusively designed for human activities, mapping and sense-making initiatives play a pivotal role in **fostering awareness and understanding of the intricate interplay of natural elements within urban environments**. Many green practices in T-Factor started with mapping activities that sought to explore more-than-human and often overlooked

aspects of the urban environment such as pavement ‘weeds’ and soundscapes of bird song. These maps were used to gain a deeper understanding of urban ecosystems and their complex relationships, contributing to a broader support for “rewilding” the city.

The exploration and mapping of urban environments with a ‘more-than-human’ lens serve as a stepping stone to engage diverse communities as active participants in nature and biodiversity protection and regeneration. Such engagements enable **acknowledgment of a diverse range of perspectives**. Moreover, they help activate intrinsic motivation and mutual recognition in people, fostering a sense of care for the living environment.

Through workshops and other formats, collaborations between external experts and local stakeholders combined **knowledge sharing and practical biodiversity interventions**. In this way, material and immaterial value of urban green could be explored from various standpoints and provided an opportunity for biodiversity monitoring, which allow people to rapidly acquire technical and qualitative knowledge of urban biodiversity.

To ensure thriving green and wild urban settings, **enduring alliances between communities and green urban landscapes should be facilitated**, aiming to integrate greening in everyday habits of people and in formal structures of governance, fostering co-care and collective stewardship of urban ecology. Within T-Factor, various activities were instrumental in advancing this objective. These encompassed community engagement endeavours, cultural events, placemaking activities, and environmental stewardship initiatives. Central to this effort was the cultivation of a sense of belonging, identity, and collective responsibility among community members towards the spaces they inhabit.

### Co-benefits of expert co-creation

- Participants discovered **restorative spaces** in their neighbourhoods;
- **‘Arts-of-noticing’** and alternative mapping fostered **enthusiasm and creativity**, sparking awareness and knowledge of nature’s role in urban settings;
- **Social connections and community-led envisioning and stewardship** of green and wild urban spaces were strengthened;
- Supported **agency and voice of vulnerable and under-represented groups** such as young people and women;
- Enhanced **individual capability** to improve quality of life through nature engagement;
- Raised **institutional interest** for bottom-up urban ecology practices.
- **Practical resources** such as educational curricula, toolkits, and guidelines were produced next to improvement of biodiversity and green spaces.





## Alternative Mapping

Alternative Mapping is a collaborative methodology aiming to create **subjective and 'more-than-human' maps of urban environments through deep-diving 'walkshops'**. This type of mapping seeks to chart not only the physical aspect of public and green spaces, but also to capture the interplay of emotions, relational attributes, and values associated with these spaces among different people and community groups. Typically, this is a preliminary step that can inform and orient later hands-on interventions in greening and biodiversity. The ultimate purpose of the alternative mapping is to **foster a deep understanding of the complex and subjective nature of public and green spaces and their potential**.

The activity includes mapping prompts around:

- The relationship with urban nature (desired or imagined)
- The perception of urban space (critical issues, ideas for improvements)
- Use of public open spaces (desired or already existing)
- The perception of natural space
- The perception of social relationships in space

To make sense of the emerging results from the mapping, observations can be clustered and characterised together with participants. This helps **highlight the areas with transformative potential from the perspective of the participants**, and allows the systematisation of desired situations according to feasibility of implementation. As a result, participants' proposals can be cartographically organised and considered as the point of departure for further activities.

**Time:** 2-3 hours, cycling or walking and mapping

**Facilitating experts:** LAND, Futuribile, Aalborg University

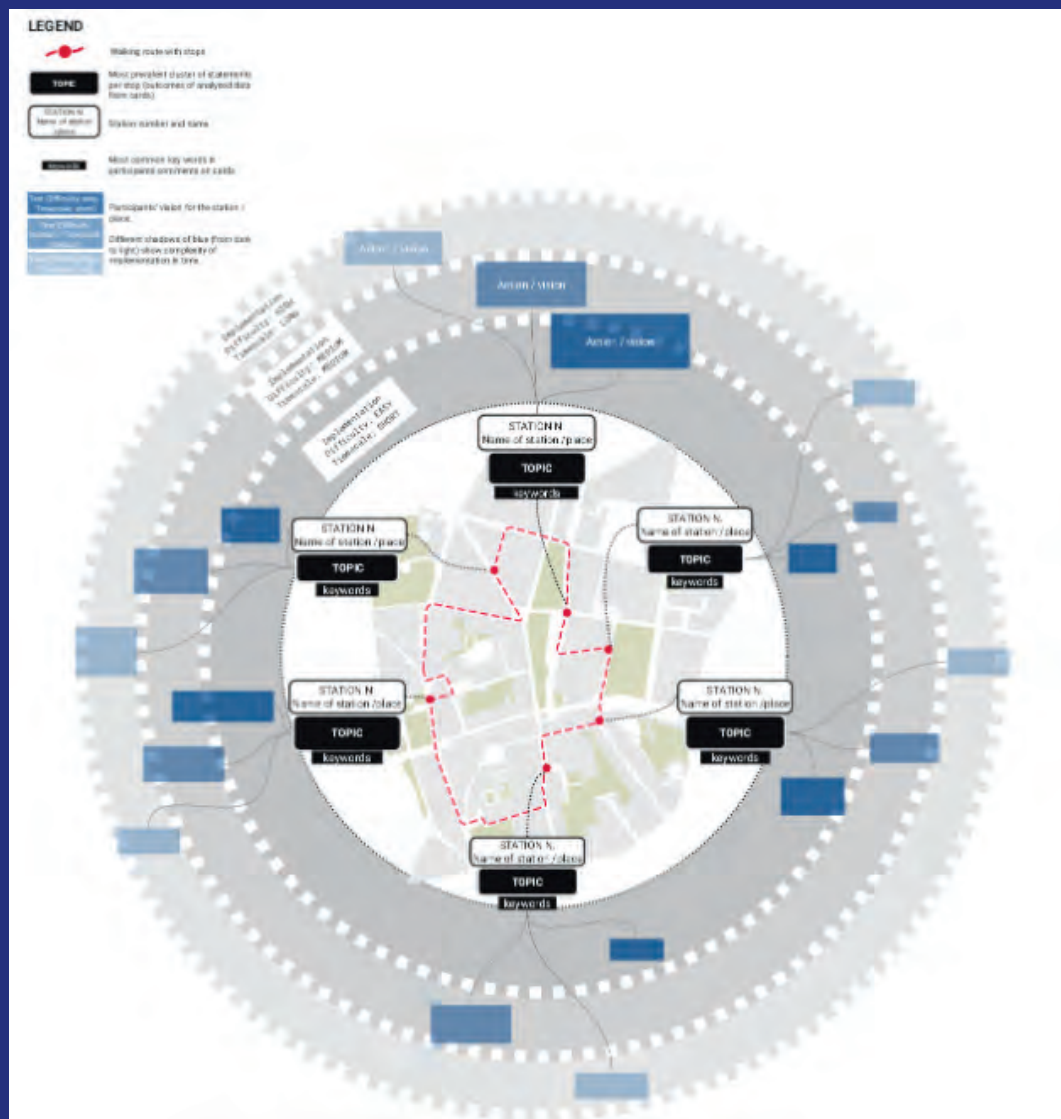
**Target groups:** Students and local residents

**Equipment:** Stations with prompts; mapping template; writing materials.

Location: outdoor; public and green spaces of a regeneration area

**More about the practice:**

[https://hub.t-factor.eu/wp-content/plugins/tfactor-hub/assets/images/TF\\_EI\\_Alternative\\_mapping\\_download.pdf](https://hub.t-factor.eu/wp-content/plugins/tfactor-hub/assets/images/TF_EI_Alternative_mapping_download.pdf)







## Biodiversity4Schools

"BiodiverCity4Schools" is an environmental education initiative designed to **introduce young students to the importance of biodiversity in urban settings.**

This initiative was co-designed and implemented in MIND Milan through co-creation involving local practitioners and researchers from Polifactory, PlusValue, Fondazione Triulza and Progetto Natura Onlus, supported by experts from LAND.

The program was structured into three distinct phases, each aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of and engagement with urban biodiversity:

- **Learning** about biodiversity: This phase involved a 2-hour interactive session held in classrooms, where students were introduced to the concept of urban biodiversity. Through presentations and interactive activities, students began to reflect on the significance of biodiversity within urban environments.
- **Experiencing** biodiversity: Students embarked on a 4-hour field trip to explore MIND's green areas. Through sensory observations and collaborative activities, students engaged with biodiversity firsthand. This phase culminated in a hands-on workshop where students assembled bug hotels and composed seed bombs to enhance biodiversity.
- **Envisioning** biodiversity: In this final phase, students reflected on their experiences and learnings from the field trip, discussing their visions for biodiversity conservation and urban sustainability by creating dioramas depicting ideal green spaces and their potential uses.

Through the three-fold practice, students not only gained knowledge about biodiversity but also developed **a deeper connection to their local environment and a sense of stewardship towards nature.** This holistic approach to environmental education serves as a model for engaging and empowering young learners in sustainable practices within their communities.

**Time:** 5 hours in 3 modules, depending on the number of participants

**Facilitating experts:** LAND

**Target groups:** Pupils, primary, secondary and high school students

**Equipment:** Site-plan and maps, senses cards; seeds, water, soil and clay for seed bombs; bug hotels

**Location:** Lessons in classroom and practical outdoor activities

**More on the practice:** <https://hub.t-factor.eu/toolbox-per-themes/1/>  
[https://hub.t-factor.eu/wp-content/plugins/tfactor-hub/assets/images/BugHotel\\_lasercut\\_files.zip](https://hub.t-factor.eu/wp-content/plugins/tfactor-hub/assets/images/BugHotel_lasercut_files.zip)









## Animal-oriented design

Understanding and acting upon the vast potential that biodiversity holds for urban regeneration cannot be a solely human endeavour. To explore the breadth of this potential, we must also embrace the perspectives of the myriad other creatures with which we share our urban spaces. Animal-oriented Design aims to **facilitate the integration of non-human perspectives into placemaking processes within urban open spaces, with a specific focus on enhancing local biodiversity**. Animal-oriented design prioritises the creation of habitat areas that are often overlooked for wildlife conservation due to their heavy human presence. By proactively constructing new habitat options, this approach aims to bridge the gap between urban development and biodiversity conservation, and thereby **cultivate urban environments that are inclusive of wildlife and foster harmonious cohabitation between humans and other animals in urban ecosystems**.

The Animal-oriented Design Workshop was run in MIND Milan and Amsterdam Science Park to explore ways for integrating non-human perspectives into placemaking processes. Divided into a preparatory site analysis and biodiversity mapping phase, the tool culminates in the creation of a set of cards and the capacitation of stakeholders to effectively implement the activity of Animal-oriented design. Through this comprehensive approach, the format aims to empower communities to create urban spaces that not only prioritise human needs but also embrace and support the diverse array of life forms that call our cities home.

**Time:** 2-3 hours, depending on the number of participants

**Facilitating experts:** LAND, Futuribile, Aalborg University

**Target groups:** primary, secondary, high school and universities students, parents, and other adults

**Equipment:** Site-plan, map of local animal biodiversity, 3 sets of cards (animal portraits, place cards, solutions cards)

**Location:** Preparatory desktop research, practical outdoor activities

**More on the practice:**

<https://hub.t-factor.eu/toolbox-per-themes/1/>

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/3ODAkRr6rha8kqxvIfsPVK>







## Insects and arachnids in Amsterdam Science Park



- *Araneus diadematus*
- *Chironomus*
- *Chrysolina coerulans*

- *Euodynerus dantici*
- *Formicidae*

0 100 200 m

European garden spider



*Araneus diadematus*

Non-biting midge



*Chironomus* (genus)

Mint beetle



*Chrysolina coerulans*

Potter wasp



*Euodynerus dantici*

Ant



*Formicidae* (family)





## Wild Spot

The Wild Spot has been developed at the premises of Amsterdam University College in Amsterdam Science Park **as a temporary green space to disconnect from technology, reconnect with nature, and enjoy its regenerative well-being effects**. The concept serves as a compelling example of how a thoughtfully designed space, centred around well-being and nature, can bridge civic engagement with the revitalization of underutilised urban areas. Beyond mere infrastructure, the Wild Spot embodies a vibrant cultural and social hub, invigorated by community participation and use.

Central to the success of such endeavours is the **collaborative process of co-designing spaces to align with the unique needs and habits of local communities**. This approach integrates other methodologies discussed in this chapter, emphasising experiential learning and mindfulness of nature. In Amsterdam, university students enrolled in an anthropology course undertook the task of mapping community needs related to stress relief and regeneration. Through a co-design process, they transformed an underutilised area - including a pond and adjacent clearing - into a sanctuary, aiming to cultivate a harmonious 'third space' where nature and humanity intersect in tranquillity, away from the hustle and bustle of urban life. This activity represents a placemaking format deeply rooted in green urban spaces, with the primary goal of **nurturing community well-being through nature engagement**. By fostering awareness of their interconnectedness with the natural world, and by developing community activities and temporary installations, participants gain insights that can inform the utilisation of green spaces, while also fostering a deeper sense of belonging and environmental ownership within the community.

**Time:** 3 months course with weekly sessions.

**Facilitating experts:** Futuribile, Aalborg University, LAND

**Target groups:** University students

**Equipment:** Pens, markers, and paper, different natural materials for self building actions

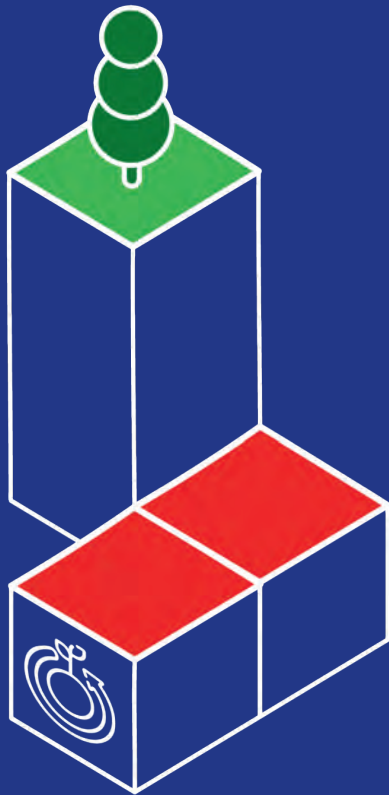
**Location:** Indoor exercises and practical outdoor activities

**More on the practice:** <https://hub.t-factor.eu/thematic-toolbox/temporary-use-t-lab/304/>









# Circular & regenerative practices



# Circular & regenerative practices



The economic systems of the 20th century strained the Earth's boundaries in pursuit of short-term profits, leading to alarming depletion of natural resources, escalating greenhouse gas emissions, habitat loss, biodiversity decline, and rising global temperatures. To confront these pressing environmental issues, a transition to a circular and regenerative paradigm is imperative. This approach seeks to **optimise resource efficiency, minimise waste and pollution, and foster sustainable consumption and production practices**. It underscores accountability throughout the production cycle and champions local sourcing, production and consumption.

European cities grapple with a critical challenge: while industrial operations increasingly relocate to rural areas or overseas, cities remain vibrant centres of consumption and innovation. However, this concentration of population also presents an opportunity for resource sharing and localised production within urban environments. Addressing this systemic challenge requires coordinated efforts to offer viable alternatives to traditional industries while reshaping societal attitudes toward comfort and material possessions.

Investment in circularity and regenerative practices not only enhances urban sustainability but also triggers a paradigm shift by bridging the divide between production and consumption. This shift promotes new benchmarks for comfort and utility, making second-hand goods, upcycled materials, and locally sourced food appealing alternatives. Additionally, it fosters the emergence of new economic players who prioritise circularity in their business models, contributing to the regeneration of urban landscapes across Europe.

## Circular & regenerative practices *in motion*

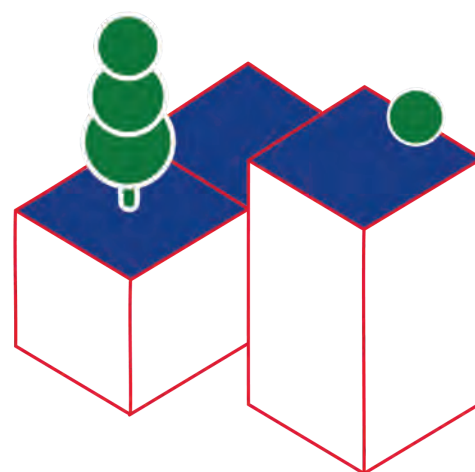
Collaborations in T-Factor reaffirmed how temporary activities can stimulate circular and collaborative economy initiatives, in particular towards mutually beneficial relationships among diverse stakeholders, enhancing cohesion, and promoting environmentally conscious behaviours. Bringing together crafts, artisan and innovative mindsets can instigate employment opportunities and novel business models within communities. Such initiatives can support circular and collaborative agendas among traditional and digital craftsmanship, and in diverse social groups and age groups.

T-Factor activities focussed on challenges and opportunities associated with **implementing circular and collaborative strategies together with vulnerable groups**, in recognition of informal cultural expressions, seeking to stimulate collaboration towards new economic landscapes between traditional jobs and crafts with contemporary arts and culture.

The advent of emerging open technologies has led to social technology-based movements like 'Do It Yourself' (DIY), 'hacker culture', and the 'maker movement', increasingly grouped under the concept of Social Manufacturing. This finds tangible expression in collaborative spaces such as 'Hackerspaces', 'Fab Labs', or 'Media Labs'. Such maker spaces, often found in urban regeneration areas, serve as **hubs for collaborative fabrication, facilitating informal practical learning experiences and hands-on exploration of technology**. Aligned with social manufacturing, T-Factor activities emphasised the principles of circular economy and regenerative approaches such as minimising waste, promoting reuse, recycling materials, and creating a closed-loop system to maximise resource efficiency. Through cooperation and shared efforts among various stakeholders, they contributed to shared standards and semi-formal governance structures for circular and regenerative practices developed with and for communities.

### Co-benefits of expert co-creation

- Elaboration of **use-cases, proofs of concepts and supporting tools** for circular and regenerative practices in urban regeneration contexts.
- Promoted a **deeper understanding of circularity and regenerative practices** and their potential for social cohesion, inclusion of vulnerable groups, and locally productive urban environments.
- Identified **areas of opportunity** where circular and collaborative economy practices can be particularly beneficial for emergent maker manufacturers, artists, and creatives.
- Supported **visibility of resources and assets already present** in regeneration contexts.
- Fostered **peer to peer collaboration and co-creation** among students, university staff, thematic experts and grassroots communities.
- Sparked **enthusiasm and motivation** to further develop and maintain the practices alive as part of places' experience.







## Erriberritu - Circular and collaborative design

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are pivotal in driving civic engagement for local impact. In T-Factor, experts in circular and collaborative economy teamed up with the University of Mondragon and local practitioners to forge innovative academic pathways, fostering collaboration between HEIs and grassroots initiatives. The primary focus was on **guiding university students to develop temporary use prototypes embedded in circular principles**. This collaborative journey unfolded in four key phases:

- **Exploring:** working in small groups, students analysed different speculative profiles (or personas) based on a diagnosis of the Zorrotzaurre area. Various tools and methods were utilised, including site visits, interviews, and SWOT analyses, resulting in a comprehensive mapping of actors, needs, and issues.
- **Concept design:** Building upon the insights gleaned during exploration, students participated in workshops facilitated by thematic experts to conceptualise potential circular solutions.
- **Prototyping:** Students crafted presentations showcasing individual ideas, which then converged into a unified proposition through feedback from grassroots stakeholders. Working on a concept of 'circular and sharing space', students went through workshops of digital fabrication and manufacturing, finally creating the Erriberritu temporary experiment in a former industrial building in Zorrotzaurre.
- **Validation:** This phase encompassed public presentations by students, along with smaller activation events like BBQs and on-site observations, leveraging these opportunities to disseminate the experiment within the local community and gather valuable feedback for further refinement.

The success of the practice and its positive reception by the local communities contributed to the transition of Erriberritu to a permanent facility in the area. Overall, the design process demonstrates **how HEIs can effectively collaborate with grassroots initiatives to create innovative and impactful responses to local challenges through temporary uses, and unleash novel ways of teaching and learning that empower young people in taking concrete actions**.

**Time:** academic year

**Facilitating experts:** Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, ANCI Toscana

**Target groups:** University students (in collaboration with residents)

**Equipment:** Site-plan and maps, water resistant plywood, jute fabric, metal, cardboard, PLA and ABS filament

**Location:** Lectures in classroom and practical outdoor activities

**More on the practice:** <https://hub.t-factor.eu/thematic-toolbox/temporary-use-t-lab/310/>.







## Circular business compass

The Circular Business Compass tool has been developed by the Open University of Catalonia in support of meanwhile interventions around circularity and collaborative practices in Euston, London. The Circular Business Compass is designed to **facilitate the development of business models for both the inception of new circular economy initiatives and the refinement of existing ones**. Unlike a detailed business plan, the primary objective of the Compass is to pinpoint and articulate aspects essential to the success of circular initiatives. Built upon the fundamental principles of the circular and regenerative economy, the Compass shifts focus away from mere profit maximisation and towards the creation of value in ways that minimise environmental, ecological, and social costs. **This emphasis on holistic value generation renders the Compass especially relevant for non-profit initiatives.**

The Compass serves as a comprehensive guide for practitioners that adopts a straightforward logic and language, ensuring accessibility to all individuals interested in launching or improving a circular economy initiative. Flexibility is a key feature of the Compass, allowing for its utilisation in diverse settings. It can serve as a structured guide for workshops involving multiple stakeholders, facilitating collaborative ideation and decision-making. Alternatively, it can function as an internal organisational tool, enabling individuals or teams to systematically navigate the sequential steps to realising their circular economy initiatives.

**Time:** 3-4 hours

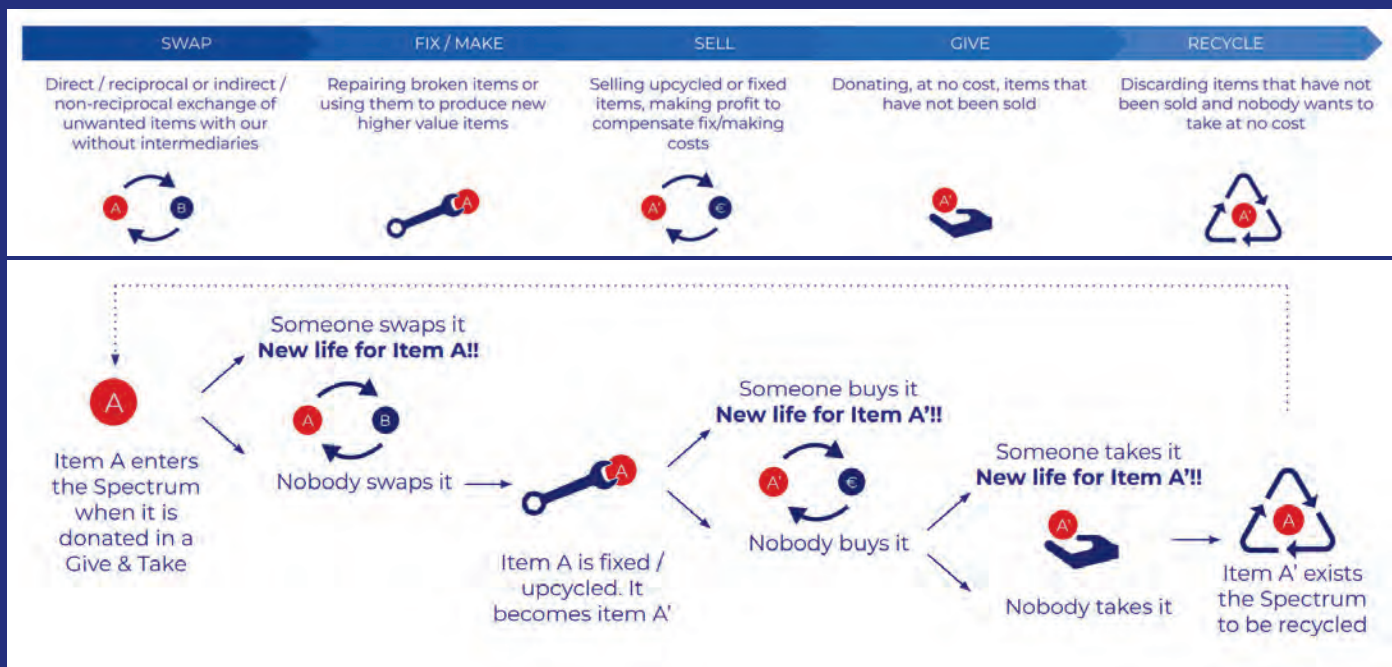
**Facilitating experts:** Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Central Saint Martins University of the Arts London

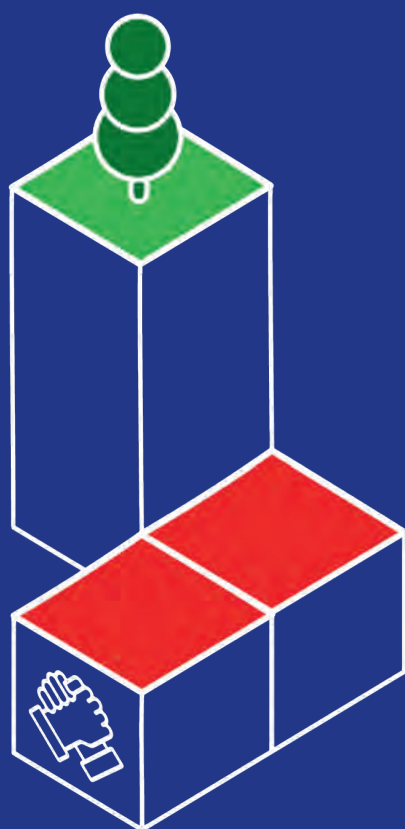
**Target groups:** University students, local authorities, residents associations, local businesses and existing circular economy initiatives

**Equipment:** Circular business compass canvas, pens and markers

**Location:** The method could be facilitated online or in person

**More on the practice:** [https://hub.t-factor.eu/wp-content/plugins/tfactor-hub/assets/images/CircularBusinesCompass\\_download.pdf](https://hub.t-factor.eu/wp-content/plugins/tfactor-hub/assets/images/CircularBusinesCompass_download.pdf)





# Cross-sectoral alliances for new knowledge & skills





# Cross-sectoral alliances for new knowledge & skills

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Promoting science in collaboration with society stands as a cornerstone principle in the European research and innovation agenda, notably within the Horizon Europe programme. Its essence lies in how academic institutions establish ties with local communities and contribute to societal advancement. **Embracing concepts such as open science, public engagement, citizen science, and mission-driven innovation underscores the importance of collaborative partnerships and open systems of innovation.** These methodologies serve to bolster innovation and inclusivity within social and sustainability-focused spheres.

In tandem with civil society stakeholders (encompassing citizens, NGOs, and grassroots movements), universities play an increasingly proactive role in societal change. They contribute to problem-solving through innovative knowledge and methodologies. Central to this engagement is the creation of innovative intermediary structures that bridge higher education institutions and communities. These structures support knowledge dissemination, citizen engagement, co-creation, and the cultivation of regenerative and sustainable urban landscapes. This underscores the critical need for exploring and integrating such intermediary mechanisms and associated tools of social innovation into the fabric of urban regeneration initiatives

## Cross-sectoral alliances for new knowledge & skills *in motion*

In T-Factor, temporary uses emerged as a promising avenue for fostering new knowledge and skills that contribute to inclusive, sustainable, and innovative urban environments. While cross-sectoral alliances have been a recurring concern across various pilots, certain initiatives, notably in Bilbao and Milan, have actively pursued specific activities to support such alliances.

Fostering cross-sectoral alliances requires **diverse stakeholders from various sectors such as academia, local government, grassroots organisations, and the private sector to collaborate and jointly create solutions.** By bringing together these different perspectives, transdisciplinary dialogue and knowledge exchange are fostered, supporting more integrated approaches to urban regeneration. Creation of mutual trust and closer relationships are critical for endeavours seeking to cultivate a sense of collective ownership and stewardship.

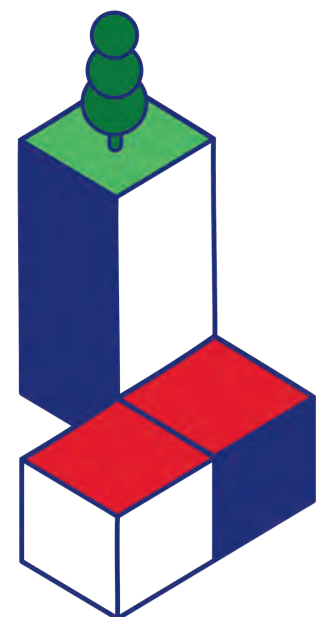
During meanwhile interventions, the facilitation of relationships and introducing co-design tools and practices were key contributions provided by the thematic experts.

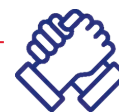
In particular, the co-creative design of **temporary uses as spaces for experimentation and learning was critical**. By means of hands-on approaches, expert co-creation supported local practitioners and stakeholders to approach temporary uses as ways to test new ideas, processes, and services in real-world settings, encouraging the collaborative identification of relevant insights that can inform future decision-making and interventions. This required a commitment to community engagement and empowerment, in which experts tested methods and approaches to develop shared narratives of local needs, priorities, and aspirations.

Beyond ad-hoc exchanges and dialogue, stimulating enduring collaborations between large institutions, such as universities and grassroots, calls for novel governance structures. Such structures need to be feasible as 'third spaces' that establish interfaces of exchange between disparate actors. For cross-sectoral alliances to succeed, there is a need, in short, for participatory and collaborative governance mechanisms, in particular surrounding shared urban assets and resources. A significant area of work for the experts related to the development of **cross-sectoral governance structures**. Embracing principles and practices of co-production, experts focussed on the relationships between universities and local communities, in particular by developing scenarios through meanwhile practices and viewing urban landscapes as shared governance objects.

### Co-benefits of expert co-creation

- Facilitated the emergence of **common areas of interest and opportunities for joint initiatives and collaborations**;
- Identified **actors beyond usual suspects** and help onboard and collaborate with and for underrepresented, underserved, and vulnerable individuals and groups;
- Supported ways to put in dialogue and **synergise disciplinary or sectoral expertise** within joint practices;
- Supported the creation of **local knowledge networks** involving NGOs, cultural associations, companies, and other actors in innovation ecosystems;
- Encouraged **momentum and willingness to collaborate** across sectors;
- Grassroots groups motivated and engaged in preserving culture;
- **Proofs of concept** for collaborative governance formats.





## Guiding star workshop

The Guiding Star Workshop aims to delve into the creative and relational ecosystem of a regeneration area to identify 'guiding stars' - understood as guiding directions for collaboration opportunities across diverse stakeholders that could be supported during interim phases of urban redevelopments. The workshop was run as a one-day session in Zorrotzaurre, bringing together representatives from grassroots organisations, universities, and local authorities.

To facilitate the workshop, a methodology was developed inspired by the Systems Practice workbook of the Omidyar Group. Participants brainstormed around a guiding star, representing the **envisioned future system they are striving to achieve**. In the next step, participants identified **barriers and issues** hindering collaboration towards the desired future, focusing on root problems and their consequences. During the plenary session, groups reported their findings, and discussions were documented on a large canvas displaying the tool. Participants mapped visions and barriers where they are most active, aiming to explore and visualise synergies. Finally, participants identified opportunities in the interim period by considering trigger points for achieving the desired futures. The findings from this collective work were later clustered and systematised into digital maps in Kumu, helping to set the ground for developing a thematic strategy of meanwhile intervention in Zorrotzaurre.

Overall, this workshop proved to be effective in the early stages of civic engagement and activation around temporary uses. Not only it created an opportunity to gather different voices in a collaborative, though semi-structured discussion about urban regeneration challenges and opportunities; importantly, it helped participants to **rapidly converge around specific areas for joint intervention, accelerating time and transition to proposition and concrete actions**.

**Time:** 1 half day, depending on the number of participants

**Facilitating experts:** **ANCI Toscana**

**Target groups:** University staff and students; Grassroots organisations; Local authorities; residents

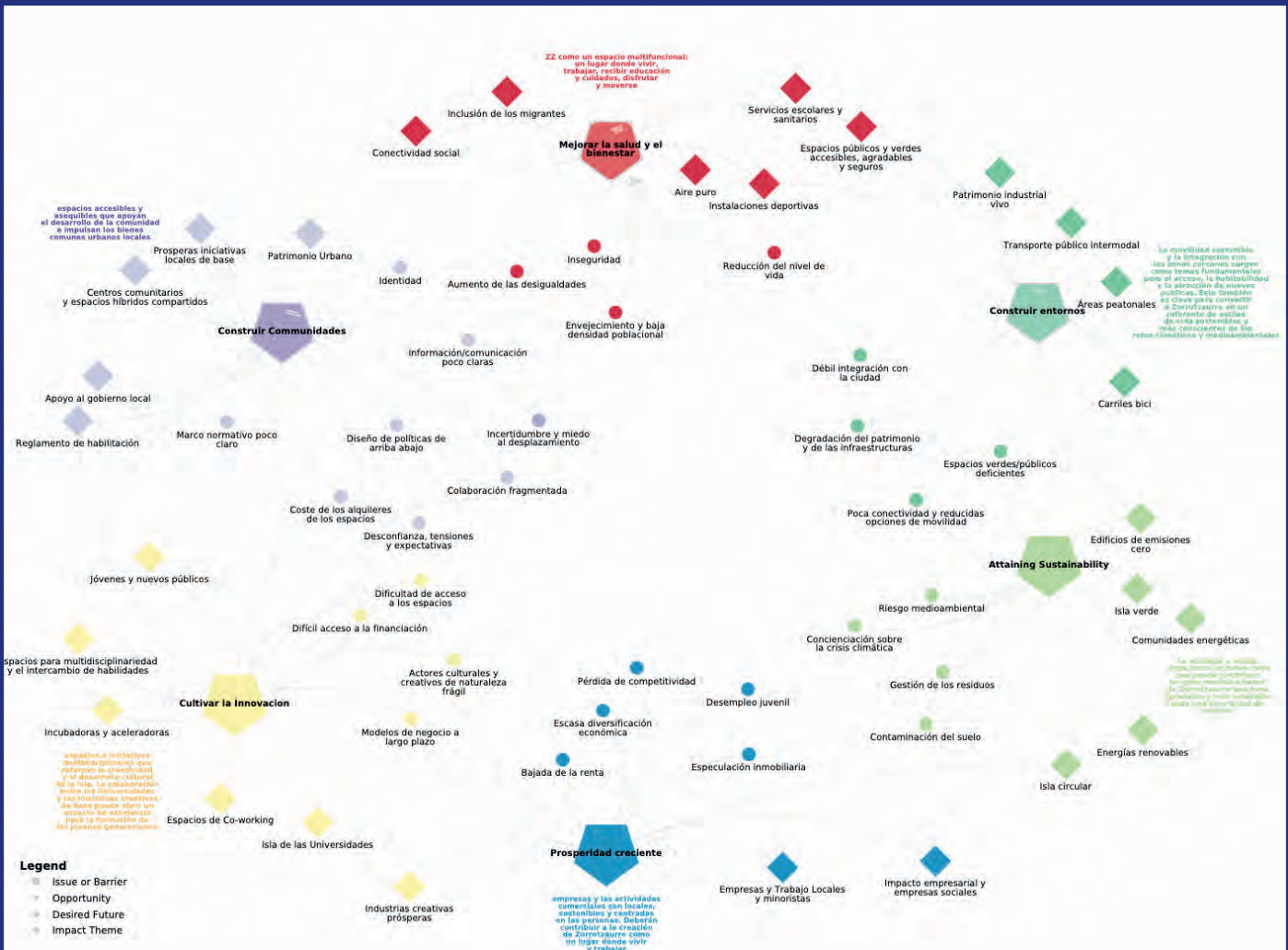
**Equipment:** Post its and markers of various colours, printed canvases (1 per group), sticky dots

**Location:** indoor space

**More about the practice:** <https://hub.t-factor.eu/toolbox-in-action/temporary-use/122/>  
<https://tfactor.kumu.io/zz-as-a-creative-hub>









## Innovation jam

The Innovation Jam is a co-design workshop aimed at collaboratively defining the **key characteristics and requirements of urban challenge-driven learning**. Inspired by **Kaospilot learning arches**, the methodology consists of a semi-structured design method that delves into the core components of a co-creative learning pathway. These include the design brief that should guide it; associated themes and disciplinary domains; the core learning outcomes; and the phasing of the process across three main stages: 'sensing' urban challenges; 'designing' solutions; and 'prototyping' them as concrete artefacts and tangible experiences.

The methodology was developed for collaborative environments that bring together experts and practitioners from different sectors, and to unfold 'rapidly' within half-day sessions. The Innovation Jam was run in Zorrotzaurre, where it worked as a key milestone for **unlocking universities-grassroots collaboration throughout the meanwhile strategy of the pilot**. Exploring three core challenges - **sociality & wellbeing, circularity and climate resilience** - the Jam was organised as a co-creative and participatory workshop aimed at defining innovative ways for Zorrotzaurre to become a platform of distributed learning and co-creation, allowing students to explore spatial innovations with the support of professors, grassroot initiatives, as well as thematic experts.

As a result of the Jam, a general structure for each training and the identification of its key requirements was produced, allowing to lay the ground for continuing the experimentation in the following months. Importantly, the Jam also turned out to be a key moment for **creating trust and willingness to collaborate** among the diverse stakeholders involved.

**Time:** 1 full day, depending on the number of participants

**Facilitating experts:** **ANCI Toscana**, **Universitat Oberta de Catalunya**, **LAND** and **University of the Arts London**, **TU Dortmund University**

**Target groups:** University staff and students; Grassroots organisations; Local authorities

**Equipment:** Post its and markers of various colours, printed canvases (1 per group), sticky dots, temporary use cards (optional)

**Location:** Indoor space

**More about the practice:**

<https://hub.t-factor.eu/toolbox-in-action/temporary-use/127/>

<https://hub.t-factor.eu/toolbox-per-themes/3/>







## Geosocial analysis for ‘grassroots’ ecosystems

The value and significance of grassroots activities and initiatives are often hard to grasp and untangle, especially because they typically unfold through dynamics and spaces that are not so visible to large publics. Addressing this challenge, data experts from Dortmund-based start up **Bottom-Up City** supported the Zorrotzaurre pilot in **turning geosocial data into powerful tools for strategic decision-making**. By means of social media data mining and machine learning, Bottom-Up City revealed opinions, social dynamics, and changes over space and time, **providing inputs for digital participation strategies, communication, impact assessment, and ecosystem development**. This effort particularly sought to support a core pilot mission – establishing a vibrant and diverse innovation ecosystem, and fostering collaborative and participatory urban governance.

At the outset of the pilot, a primary concern was how to facilitate connections among actors in Zorrotzaurre who, despite their proximity, felt distant due to external pressures. These actors, particularly from the creative and cultural industries, grappled with uncertainty stemming from the ongoing regeneration process, which hindered their cohesion. Involving Bottom-Up City in the project aimed to reveal to this community of creatives the often invisible connections between them and the broader impact of their activities. Bottom-Up City's approach to analysing social change through Big Data and geoscience technologies offers **a tool for visualising and understanding transition periods in urban regeneration**. By leveraging social media data, even when physical places disappear or lack documentation, the methodology helps illuminate the evolving landscape through thematic maps and timelapses. They shed light on past, present, and potential futures, supporting the identification of latent synergies and resources that can be leveraged and boosted throughout meanwhile interventions and broader urban regeneration processes.

**Time:** 2 hours interactive workshop with presentation of case studies.

**Facilitating experts:** **Bottom-Up City; TU Dortmund University**

**Target groups:** Cultural, creative, and grassroots organisations.

**More on the practice:**

<https://www.t-factor.eu/podcast-bottom-up-city-geosocial-data/>

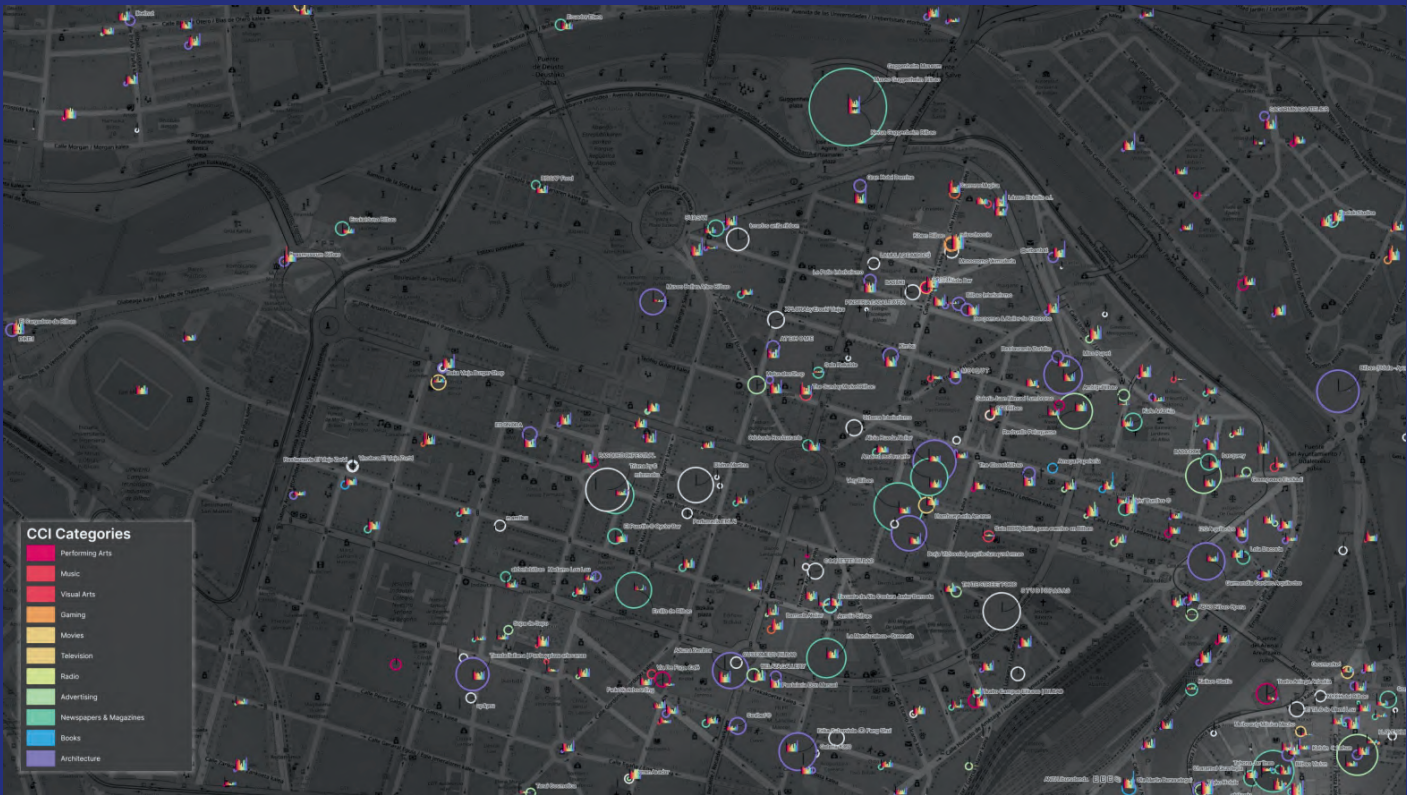
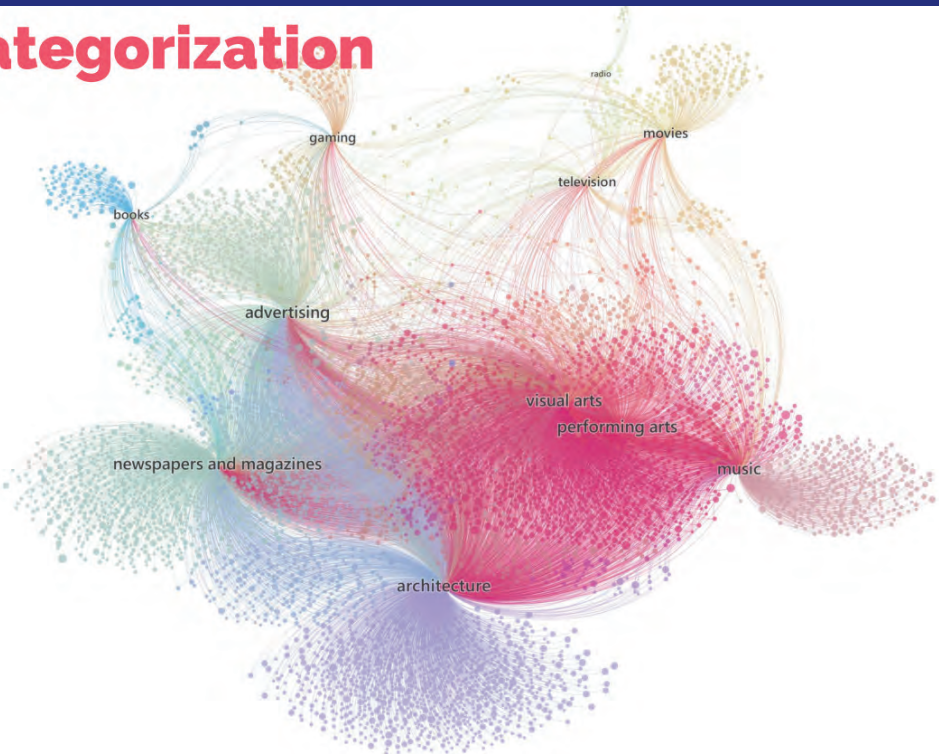


# Thematic Categorization

45.203 hashtags  
11 categories

CCI Categories

- Performing Arts
- Music
- Visual Arts
- Gaming
- Movies
- Television
- Radio
- Advertising
- Newspapers & Magazines
- Books
- Architecture





## Community House co-governance workshop

In MIND Milan, a workshop was developed with the aim of unpacking the potential of an envisioned Community House - a **symbolic space that can catalyse collaboration among a diverse array of stakeholders** in a regeneration area. The overarching objective of the workshop was to lay the groundwork for collaboration, particularly between business entities and non-profit organisations, with the shared aim of harnessing the potential of a communal space.

At the heart of this workshop lies the effort to develop a collaborative governance structure for a Community House. This includes the exploration and **delineation of the roles, processes, and resources that each partner can bring to the table, alongside the identification of shared objectives, strategies, and activities**. Structured as an interactive forum, the workshop provides a conducive environment for key stakeholders to come together, exchange insights, and draw inspiration from evidence-based examples of successful collaborative governance models. Through collective deliberation and discourse, participants collectively envision pathways towards sustainable urban regeneration, grounded in principles of inclusivity, equity, and shared prosperity.

This workshop not only lays the groundwork for meaningful collaboration but especially fosters a sense of shared ownership and commitment to the collective vision of revitalising urban space. By engaging stakeholders in a dialogue aimed at mutual exploration and understanding, the workshop serves as an inaugural step towards forging collaborative partnerships within redevelopment sites. As stakeholders converge around the table, the Community House emerges as a gathering place for catalysing positive change and transformation of shared urban landscapes.

**Time:** 2 hours interactive workshop with presentation of case studies.

**Facilitating experts:** TU Dortmund University, LAND

**Participants:** Local administration representatives and varied group of local actors

**Equipment:** Post its and markers of various colours, printed canvases (1 per group), sticky dots, cards (optional)

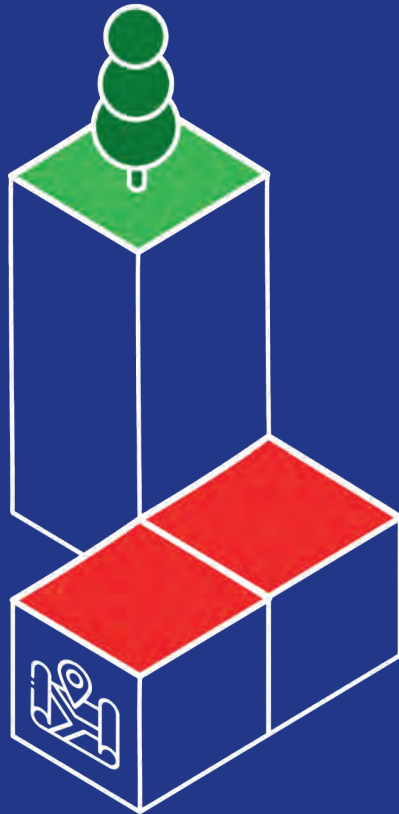
**Location:** Indoor venue

**More on the practice:**

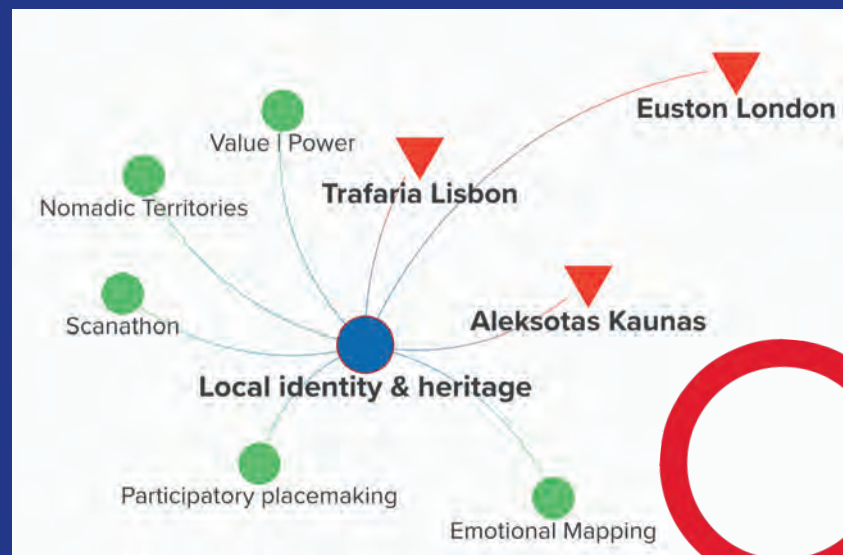
<https://hub.t-factor.eu/thematic-toolbox/temporary-use-t-lab/308/>







# Local identity & heritage





# Local identity & heritage



Preserving and celebrating local heritage and identities is vital during the transition to more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable cities. Safeguarding cultural and historical legacies demands a comprehensive approach, encompassing various traditions, customs, and historical narratives that collectively shape community identities. In urban regeneration, **preserving and enhancing local identities and heritage fosters community cohesion and promotes inclusive outcomes**. By combining innovative and traditional methods, we can fully explore and document the intricate layers of local identity and heritage, recognising their complexity and interdependence.

A key outcome of such efforts is a **deeper connection between communities and their cultural roots, and the potential re-appreciation of heritage sites**. Through thoughtful engagement with local identity and heritage, urban regeneration projects can not only preserve the authenticity of a place but also support communities in taking ownership of their changing urban landscapes. Such proactive approaches can help mitigate some of the adverse effects of gentrification and the globalisation of culture, supporting the realisation of more authentic places and memories European cities.

An integral aspect of local identity and heritage lies in generating context-specific social value that connects the interests of communities with the metrics developers are increasingly required to consider. This intersection is heavily debated, and evidence from T-Factor indicates that the connection between cultural and social value is a crucial dimension concerning questions of local identity and heritage.

## Local identity & heritage *in motion*

Local identity and heritage played a formative role in most, if not all, thematic interventions developed in T-Factor. Regeneration areas, as transitional spaces, inevitably bring their histories into play. Still, actively exploring these histories and the informal networks that carry them was a point of particular focus for a number of thematic interventions.

Temporary practices provide a valuable tool for exploring and articulating insights and practices from older traditions, as a stepping stone to **diversify contemporary functions and significance of regeneration areas**. Fostering intergenerational relations, exchanges from older to younger inhabitants facilitate knowledge transfer with the potential to preserve and enliven the cultural heritage of a locality.

T-Factor activities delved into **exploring memories of place, traditional practices, and industries significant to communities' history, elaborating meanwhile**

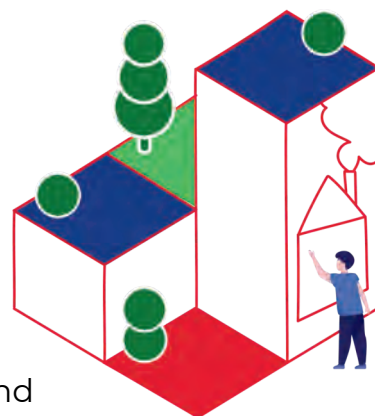
**practices focussed on the protection and valorisation of local identity and heritage.** Meanwhile interventions emphasise a layered approach including establishing community connections, conducting Interpretive research, implementing participatory place-making activities and disseminating and advocating by means of the outcomes with cultural institutions, educational bodies, and local authorities.

One of the focal points in articulating local identity and history is **sensitising and mapping the historical significance of landmarks, traditions, events, and traditional communities within a locality.** Integrating local perspectives into the everyday uses of a space is crucial for heritage-driven community building, incorporating remembrance and identity into physical forms as sites of social negotiation and recognition. By highlighting rich histories and community champions, **residents can feel empowered to advocate for positive change and address social inequalities within their neighbourhood.**

In T-Factor, such exploration involved engaging with local residents in various ensembles and contexts, documenting oral histories and celebrating diverse perspectives and heritage of communities. These took the shape through heritage trails, public art installations, and interactive storytelling to engage residents and visitors in exploring and appreciating the unique heritage of a regeneration area.

### Co-benefits of expert co-creation

- Cultivated the potential of **memories and stories in collectively shaping the identity of a place**, and unveiled layers of culture that typically remain hidden or undervalued.
- Transformation of immaterial and intangible heritage into **physical markers of shared identity and cultural meaning** that also offer opportunities for community building and communal activities through culture.
- **Empowered vulnerable, underserved and under-represented communities** such as elderly people and migrant communities in having say and legitimacy in cultural production and in shaping places' identity.
- More effective and meaningful **mediation among different or conflicting significances and meanings** of identity and heritage.
- Facilitated **communication** between local authorities and residents.







## Participatory placemaking: collaborative (re)construction of the local history

'Participatory placemaking: collaborative (re)construction of the local history' is a co-creative methodology to support **mapping, harvesting, and deep diving into the cultural heritage and history of a regeneration area**. Drawing on previous knowledge of the **University of Lodz** in the framework of large scale regeneration initiatives in Lodz, this mapping methodology was further developed and tailored to the context of Aleksotas, Kaunas, with the goal of **empowering vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to rediscover and co-produce local identity and history through intergenerational dialogue and collaboration**.

Through a series of immersive workshops and activities, participants were invited to delve into the cultural fabric of Aleksotas, unearthing untold stories and hidden narratives that enrich the community's collective understanding of its past. The journey begins with a focus on building trust and fostering social connections within the group. From there, stakeholders embark on a journey of interpretative diagnosis, exploring the intricate layers of local heritage. Residents are invited to actively participate in hands-on, creative activities that celebrate the unique essence of the locality. From storytelling sessions to artistic expressions, these activities provide **a platform for residents to share their memories, aspirations, and visions for the future of the area**. Through advocacy and engagement with local authorities, the methodology further seeks to transform collective insights and ideas into tangible political actions. This ensures that the community's voice is heard and reflected in decisions that shape the future of Aleksotas. By fostering civic engagement and social cohesion, the methodology lays the groundwork for sustainable development initiatives that honour Aleksotas' cultural legacy while meeting the needs of its residents.

**Time:** 4 hours (for kick-off workshop), 4-20 weeks (to reconstruct the local history).

**Facilitating experts:** **University of Lodz**

**Target groups:** neighbourhoods and local communities, particularly those disadvantaged in the process of urban regeneration.

**Equipment:** paints, brushes, cardboard; a venue or an exhibition hall for the presentation and popularisation of reconstructed history.

**Location:** Mixed typology of cultural and heritage spaces

**More about the practice:** [https://hub.t-factor.eu/wp-content/plugins/tfactor-hub/assets/images/T-Factor\\_Participatory\\_Place-Making.pdf](https://hub.t-factor.eu/wp-content/plugins/tfactor-hub/assets/images/T-Factor_Participatory_Place-Making.pdf)  
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/60AxJgBF3ydx72yOy5AkDG?si=2ea2ebcfldd44881>









## Emotional Mapping

Alternative mapping methods offer versatile applications across a range of themes and contexts, serving as valuable tools for community engagement in urban regeneration efforts. One notable example can be found in Bilbao, where an Emotional Mapping Workshop was developed to **visually and experimentally capture the intricate layers of historical and cultural significance** surrounding the island of Zorrotzaurre.

The essence of the Emotional Mapping Workshop lies in its ability to heighten participants' sensitivity to the subtle, often overlooked aspects of a space that profoundly influence the experiences of its users. By delving into the emotional and perceptual dimensions of a place, this approach **sheds light on the lived experiences of community members, emphasising the role of community organisations and informal leaders as vital conduits of community concerns**. Their insights, often gleaned from direct engagement with local residents, complement traditional sources of information and enrich regeneration processes with a nuanced understanding of local needs and aspirations.

The workshop unfolds in a series of structured stages, beginning with a preparatory site visit to identify key locations and activities that serve as 'stations' in the subsequent "walkshop." Participants engage in sense-making activities during the walkshop, which is followed by a reflective wrap-up session to collectively craft emotional maps of the space. This iterative process not only facilitates data collection but also encourages **dialogue and collaboration among participants, fostering a sense of ownership and investment in the outcomes**. By capturing the diverse array of feelings, perceptions, and values attributed to these spaces by different publics, this method empowers communities to advocate for inclusive and responsive urban environments that reflect their needs, memories and aspirations.

**Time:** Approximately 3 hours, with around 25 participants and 5-7 stations.

**Facilitating experts:** **LAND**

**Target groups:** young people and adults

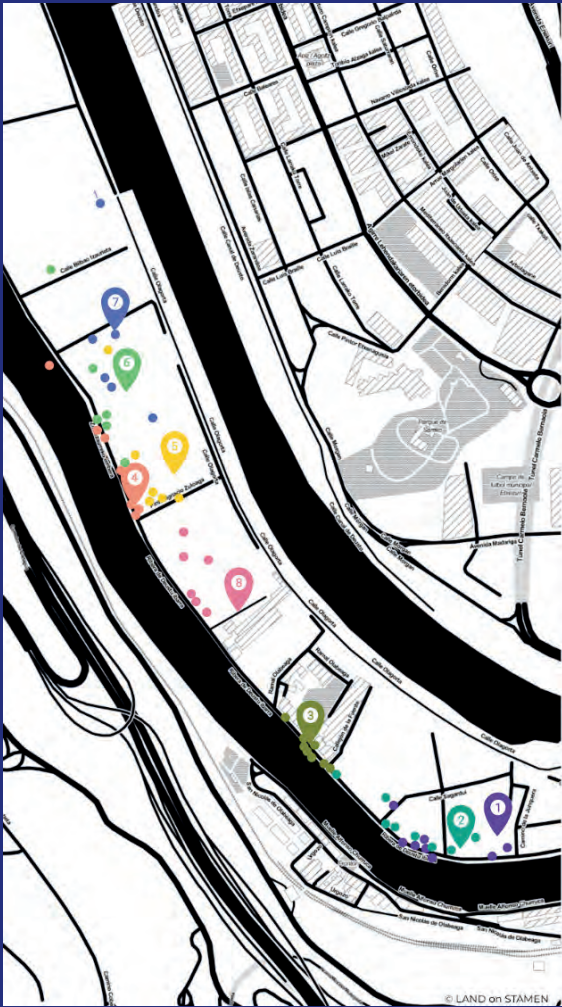
**Equipment:** Pens or markers, chalks, printed cards, post its and stickers, map of the site (A1/ A0).

**Location:** Practical outdoor activity

**More about the practice:**

<https://hub.t-factor.eu/thematic-toolbox/temporary-use-t-lab/237/>





Emotional Mapping Workshop Bilbao 24.10.2022  
EID Kunsthal Bilbao | T-Factor | T-Cycle 1 | T-Lab 4 | LAND



relaxation stress  
friend

1

tranquillity cleanliness identity  
window feeling of spaciousness private sea  
little connection island peace of mind  
neighbour ease protection

3

discomfort insecurity  
discomfort

2

distress  
spaciousness

4

spontaneity relaxation  
water car sea  
peace of mind

5

fear bad feeling feeling  
light unpleasant smell  
invasive feeling - invasion

7

traffic  
water

6

activity car

8





## Nomadic Territories - Walkscapes

A "walkscape" typically refers to the experiential and perceptual qualities of walking through urban environments. This practice encompasses not only the physical attributes of streets, sidewalks, and public spaces but also the **sensory experiences, social interactions, and emotional connections that arise during the act of walking**. Within meanwhile practices and urban regeneration processes, walkscales can serve multiple and complementary objectives, such as engaging citizens in creative and collaborative rediscoveries of identity and heritage; identifying areas in need of infrastructural upgrades and improvements; cultivating social relationships and community bonds; and fostering 'slow' and more sustainable ways of moving and enjoying urban environments.

Nomadic Territories was organised in Trafaria (Lisbon) through the collaboration with experts in arts and culture-led practices. This initiative comprised a series of four distinct walkscales, inviting both Trafaria's residents and newcomers to collectively explore the area's iconic and symbolic sites under the guidance of expert facilitators. Through predetermined routes and diverse perspectives, participants experienced Trafaria not only as a geographic and physical space but also as a repository of stories, memories, and socio-political significance. This immersive approach invited participants to engage with its rich cultural heritage and envision its future potential. As a key outcome, the walkscape allowed the pilot to **explore and sense value and meaning of the existing heritage in Trafaria - especially immaterial heritage -, harvesting findings and insights that were later leveraged within a diverse programme of bottom-up, temporary use-based cultural production**.

**Time:** Approximately 3 hours per walkscape, depending on participants and length of the walk.

**Facilitating experts:** NOVA University

**Target groups:** Local residents, visitors.

**Equipment:** Mobile phones, headphones, maps of the walk, cards for recording impressions.

**Location:** Practical outdoor activity.

**More about the practice:** <https://www.t-factor.eu/territorios-nomadas/>.









## Scanathon: digital and material reconstruction of heritage

The 'Scanathon' is a practice aimed at **fostering the preservation, protection, and valorisation of local heritage**. Developed in Euston London through a collaboration involving **A Space for Us, Somers Town History Club**, and the **University of the Arts London**, the Scanathon employed a blend of walks, collaborative design sessions, 3D modelling and reconstruction techniques to recreate the lost Gilbert Bayes finial sculptures that once adorned communal washing line poles in Somers Town during the 1920s and 1930s social housing reforms. By digitally recreating these sculptures, the Scanathon not only sought to honour the historical significance of the original artworks but also to revitalise collective memories tied to them. Furthermore, by involving the community in the process through open-source 3D scanning, and by drawing upon oral history and local knowledge, this practice helped cultivate a sense of ownership and engagement in the preservation of cultural heritage.

The Scanathon was developed through the following main phases:

- **Preparatory meetings** to discuss how to best support the interests and needs of the community, and how to translate these into impactful actions while building from existing knowledge and activism on preserving local heritage and identity.
- **Bayes Sites recognition walk** to better envision the design and dynamics of the workshops on digital reconstruction.
- **Scanathon Workshops** exploring and applying community skills, techniques and perspectives on how to carry out historic preservation and communication of the locality's heritage using new digital tools for the construction and dissemination of archives.

The Scanathon revealed the potential of techniques, such as photogrammetry, to expand understanding about how to archive historical material as part of the history museum, beyond the specific scanning of lost/damaged finials for the exclusive purpose of reconstruction. In line with this, 3D scanning activities also have the capacity to engage diverse members of the locality as agents in the process of creating digital databases comprising sites, objects as well as local experiences.

**Time:** Approx. 4 months (preparatory meetings, walks, and 3D reconstruction of heritage objects)

**Facilitating experts:** Central Saint Martins University of the Arts London

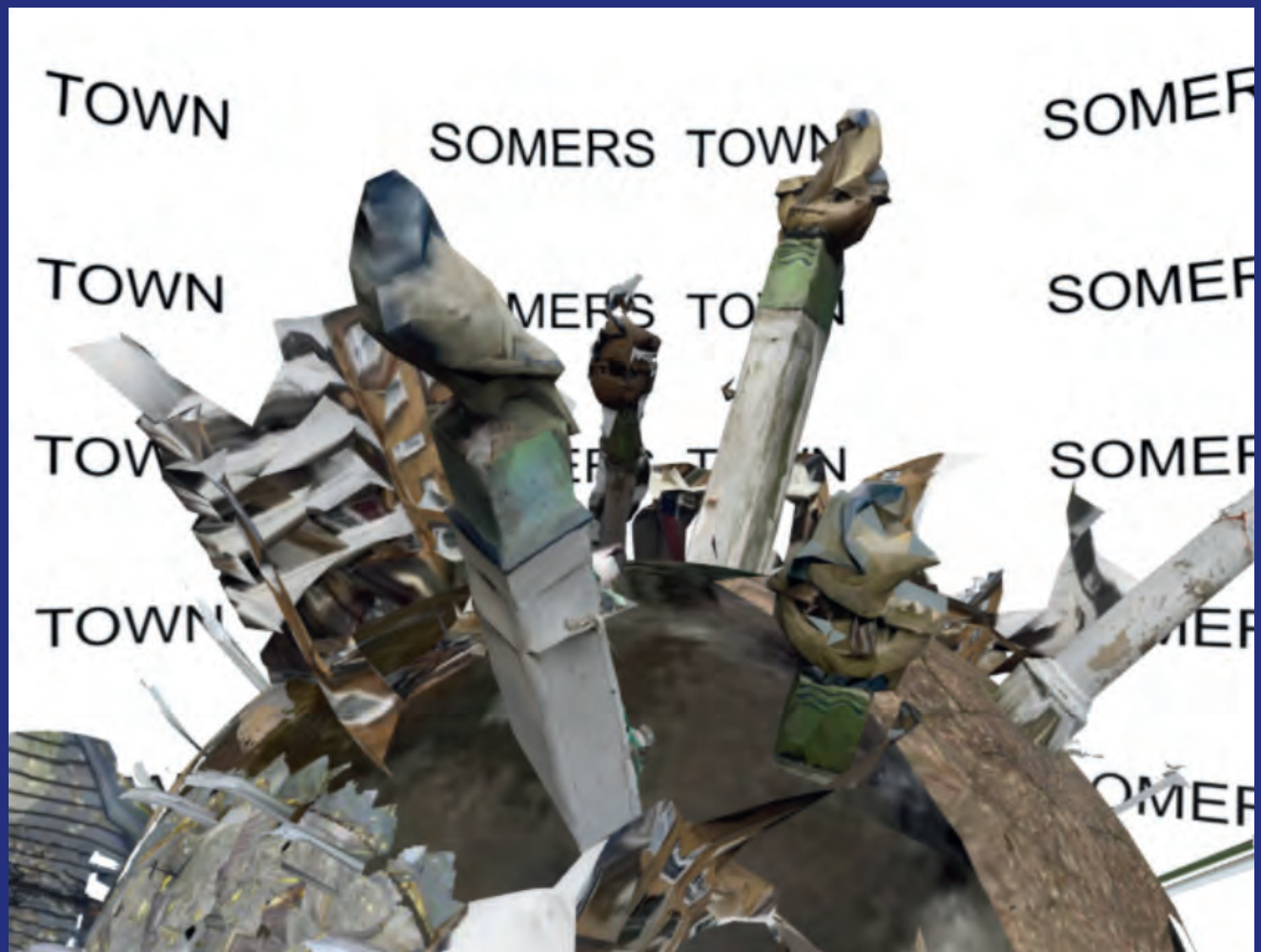
**Target groups:** Local residents

**Equipment:** Mobile phones, 3D scanners and printers, maps of the walk, cards for recording impressions

**Location:** Outdoor walks and indoor design sessions

**More about the practice:** <https://www.t-factor.eu/cultural-practices-local-identities-heritage/>









## Value | Power

One of the biggest difficulties for cultural and artistic actors in urban regeneration is to **explain/demonstrate the intangible value of the work that they are producing within the society and communities**. During a symposium on Value and Power, experts reflected on the possibilities to address this through the development of a common language. Their insights were gathered in a conceptual map that can serve as a starting point for similar conversations among cultural practitioners and city makers. Conversations around social and cultural value can take various forms, from round tables and expert sessions to more informal forms of community dialogue and intervision between peers.

A main obstacle to valorising cultural and artistic contributions to urban regeneration is the use of jargon and the lack of tools that look beyond the economic impact of cultural activities and production. **How can we measure the social development of a person? How can we observe the influence of social action for improving mental health?** Cultural practitioners can shape cooperation that enhances knowledge of qualitative development within communities. To do so, the audiences, the citizens and the beneficiaries of the activities need to be engaged from the first steps of the value assessment.

It is clear that social value has a power in society, mostly in changemaking processes. The assessment of this value and the impact of cultural projects (in their design and action) on it can be a strong decision-making tool and a political act for change. Methods are complex and casual links are necessary between situations that are generated by meanwhile space development. However, because the reflection on metrics for assessing social value is not stable, it is important for local players to agree on hypotheses, keeping open the possibility that they can be questioned and not assumed to be proven. For a few years now, because the subject of social value is present between practitioners, along with the fact that policy makers are targeting more and more funds with “impact” in mind, there is an important conversation to be had on a common understanding about the metrics of social and cultural value.

**Facilitating experts:** Central Saint Martins University of the Arts London & La Friche

**Target groups:** cultural and community-based practitioners, academics, policymakers.

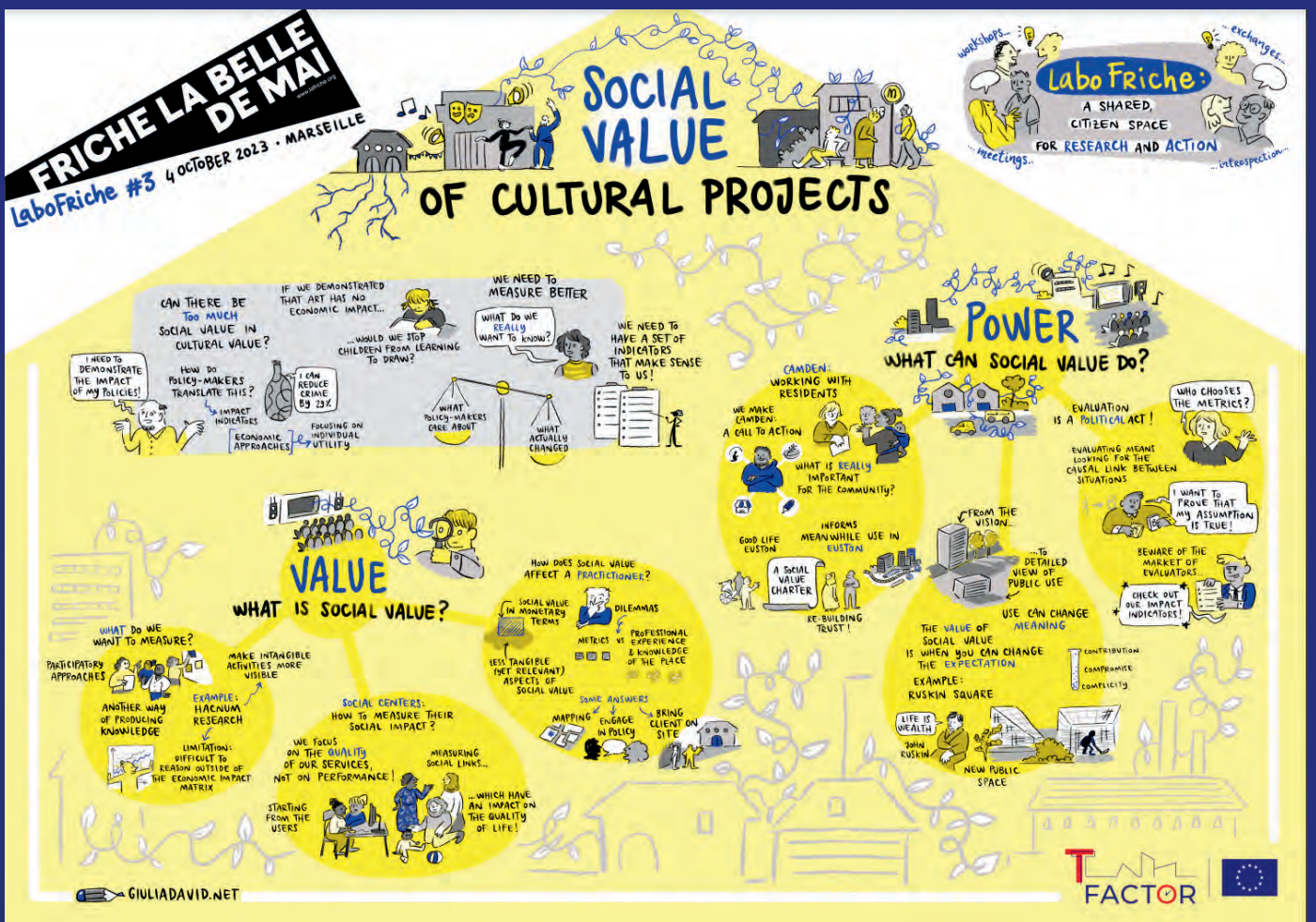
**Format:** round table, expert session, community dialogue

**More about the practice:**

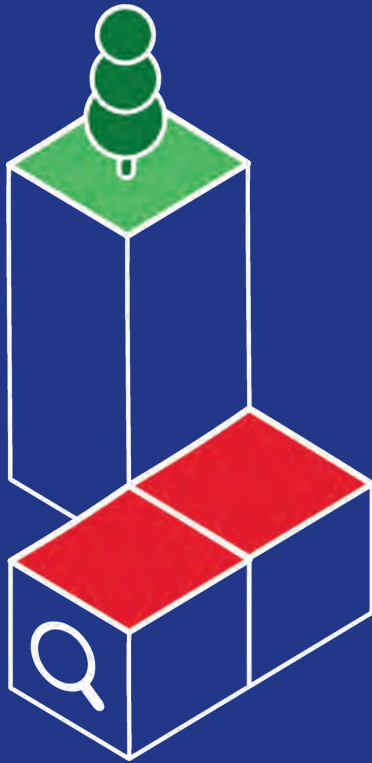
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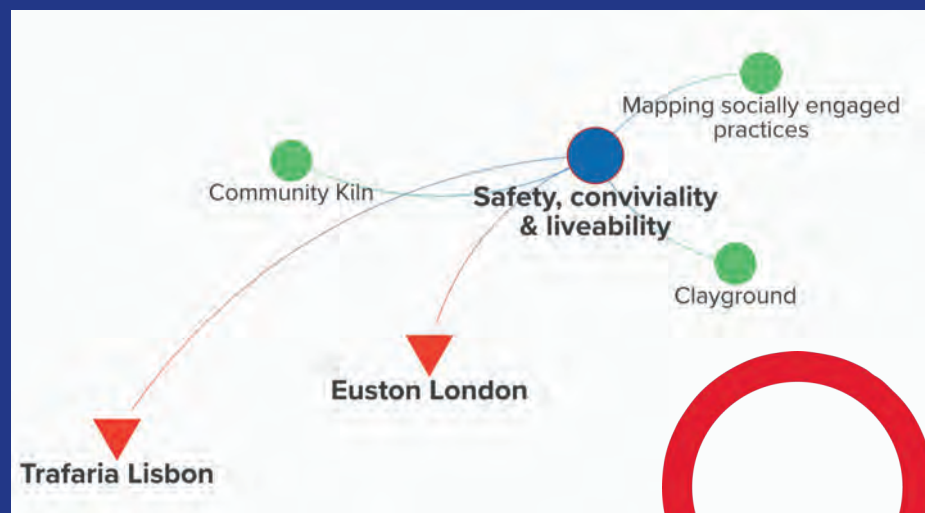








# Safety, conviviality & liveability



# Safety, conviviality & liveability



We find ourselves amidst a pressing social crisis that many experts worldwide call the 'loneliness epidemic'. According to the 2019 European Social Survey, 18% of Europeans experience social isolation, engaging with relatives, friends, or colleagues only once a month or less. As our **interactions with others diminish, so does our propensity to trust, leading to feelings of insecurity and defensiveness.**

Ultimately, we risk losing our sense of community.

Without a cohesive community fabric, the density experienced in urban settings becomes more of a threat than an asset. It becomes imperative for city-makers to imbue proximity - whether of people, services, or support - with a positive connotation. As the Covid-19 pandemic underscored, public open spaces, such as squares and parks, play a pivotal role in fostering social interactions, next to their impact on mental and physical wellbeing and sense of community. Essential components of a desirable city include access to public spaces, a sense of security on the streets, opportunities for social interaction, and socially and culturally vibrant neighbourhoods. These elements form the cornerstone of a preventative approach to urban living - one that prioritises making cities enjoyable for the widest possible population, fostering trust and social cohesion, and minimising reliance on reactive and punitive measures such as policing, surveillance, and segregated spaces for citizens with physical or mental challenges.

## Safety, conviviality & liveability in motion

Within T-Factor, meanwhile practices promoted a view of cities as diverse and interconnected patchworks, thereby diagnosing and empowering those who are marginalised or at risk. At the same time, celebrating local cohesion and cultural practices protects places and communities from negative effects of gentrification and supports their cohesion by **working with and as part of the community fabric.**

Understanding the interconnected issues of safety, conviviality and livability as they are articulated in communities of place is a crucial precondition to initiating interventions. Following a 'do no harm' attitude is relevant to any placemaking practice, but of particular importance when engaging with this theme. Therefore, engaging in community dialogue and sense-making before launching interventions is a *sine qua non*.

In T-Factor, this consciousness took shape in various mapping activities that sought to understand the nexus of concerns among existing networks with regard to safety and wellbeing. These efforts addressed both local inhabitants' perspectives and the insights of professionals and civil servants working in this space locally.

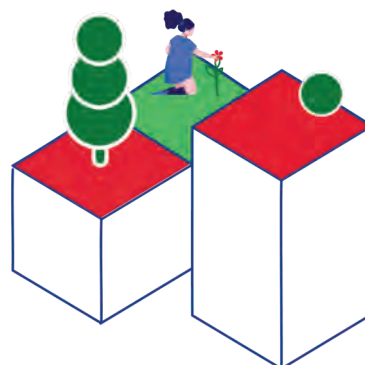


Engaging with issues of safety and liveability with a perspective of ‘conviviality’ focuses on creating ‘soft’ conditions for living well together; in terms of meanwhile interventions this means initiating and supporting a variety of events and activities that **cultivate sites of local belonging and celebrate shared cultural practices.**

During T-Factor, a number of cultural activities that stimulate conviviality and emphasise wellbeing and safety were tested and implemented along with a wide coalition of stakeholders and duty holders, reflecting a progressive approach to engaging and co-creating with local, and in particular, marginalised communities. This variety of events shared an **emphasis on mutual learning and bolstering social recognition for deprived groups as well as youth as co-creators in revitalisation.**

### Co-benefits of expert co-creation

- Identification of **existing resources and initiatives** that can be leveraged and combined for community collaboration in response to challenges of safety and liveability;
- Provision of **practical methodologies, tools, and organisational arrangements** that support and empower grassroots work with vulnerable and marginalised communities;
- Deepened **understandings and awareness of challenges and barriers encountered by community groups** in accessing and experiencing safe and convivial public spaces;
- Supporting the articulation of local challenges into **actionable insights** for meanwhile intervention;
- Fostered **shared goals and priority setting** for safe and liveable public places;
- Identified spaces and areas where improvements in urban design, safety, and conviviality through meanwhile interventions can deliver co-benefits for vulnerable and marginalised groups;
- **Practical examples and spatial artefacts** that champion safer, liveable, and convivial places.





## Mapping socially-engaged practices

In the midst of continued crises and post covid, the politics of urban exhaustion place new challenges on people, practitioners, and institutions. One of the key challenges faced at Euston in London, and in Trafaria, Lisbon, was how to give space and time to practices that generate positive social impact - practices that are situated, radical and transformative. In order to learn how meanwhile practitioners can be better neighbours to diverse, but exhausted, populations amidst the precarity of urban transformation, a series of conversations were organised with practitioners across disciplines. These semi-structured interviews covered existing practices; situations; collaborations; purpose; timing; processes; measures of success; and potential connections to T-Factor. Subsequently, semi-structured interviews were combined into a spreadsheet which records: interests, practices, locations, field, and missions. The results can then be visualised using open-source network analysis software. **This form of 'asset mapping' provides a comprehensive, 'joined-up' overview of interests, aspirations, and practices, with the aim to support a community.**

This tool is a participatory design methodology focussed on agenda-setting. It enables participants to co-create enabling conditions for collaboration, taking influence from 'infrastructuring', which is a participatory design methodology that seeks to co-create enabling conditions for collaboration. It is a process-based approach typically developed in response to marginalised communities. It legitimises, organises and amplifies diverse viewpoints and can be described as a matchmaking process which takes place within **an open-ended design structure without predefined goals or fixed timelines.**

**Facilitating experts:** Central Saint Martins University of the Arts London, NOVA University

**Target groups:** Local placemaking practitioners

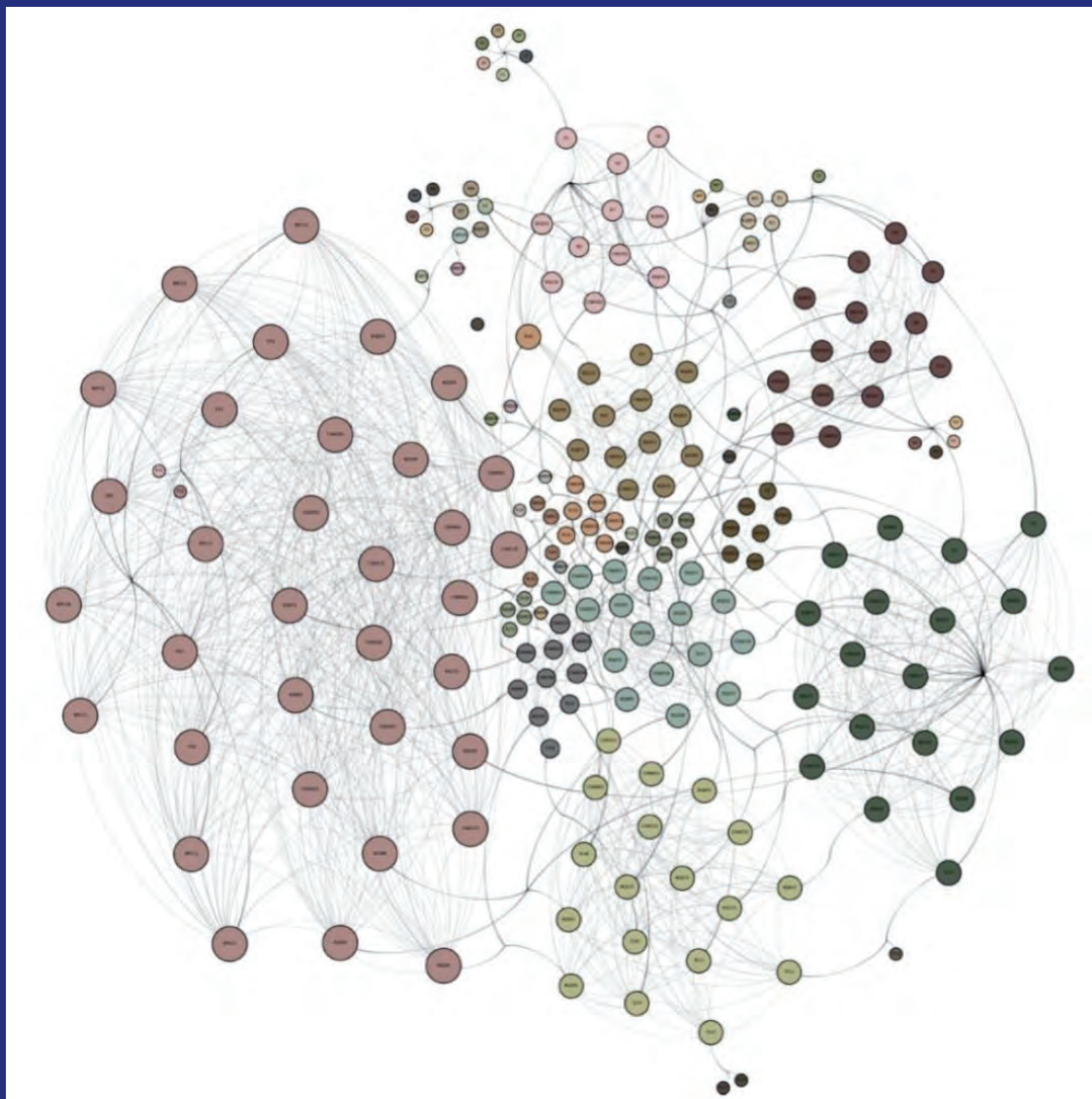
**Equipment:** Network analysis software

**More about the practice:**

<https://hub.t-factor.eu/thematic-toolbox/temporary-use-t-lab/294/>









## 'Clayground' - Engaging communities through clay

Experts in art and culture partnered with London residents to host creative workshops aimed at enhancing safety and community engagement. One such initiative, "Clayground", follows a tradition of participatory practices, aiming to celebrate hidden creativity and improve community dynamics.

Established in the late 1990s at London's Southbank Centre, Clayground promotes ceramics' value, fosters inclusivity, and communicates across diverse perspectives. Through pop-up clay activities in various settings, Clayground contributes to sustainable urban processes by co-creating innovative responses. Duncan Hooson, a founding member of Clayground and a lecturer at **Central St Martins University of the Arts London**, has been instrumental in connecting Clayground with T-Factor. Embracing a site-sensitive and community-driven approach, Duncan's work aims to revitalise ceramics' relevance and accessibility. Clayground's events, often held in public spaces, facilitate **interactive clay-based activities, fostering community engagement and breaking down social barriers.**

As part of the Regent's Park Estate Festival in August 2022, led by Old Diorama Arts Centre, Fitzrovia Youth in Action and Regents Park Estate Community Champions, Duncan and his team set up clay-making stations under the Story Tree at Clarence Gardens. This initiative aimed to rejuvenate community spirits and trust **by providing a space for creative expression and storytelling, particularly in a neighbourhood burdened by consultation fatigue.** The act of crafting clay stories together served as a small yet meaningful step towards community healing and connection. The story tree, a symbol of community resilience, became a focal point for collaborative expression, **allowing residents to articulate emotions and experiences nonverbally through clay sculptures integrated into a ceramic tree.**

**Time:** Approximately 4 hours

**Facilitating experts:** The Clayground Team from the CSM community of Practice facilitated by the London pilot

**Target groups:** Local residents of the Regents Park Estate and Somers Town during a community event

**Equipment:** clay, wooden armature

**Location:** Practical outdoor activity in the context of a community event

**More about the practice:** <https://hub.t-factor.eu/thematic-toolbox/temporary-use-t-lab/293/>









## Community Kiln

Wood-firing and alternative ceramic firings hold potential not only for creating stunning ceramic pieces but also for **fostering community cohesion and connection.**

This practice was explored in Trafaria Lisbon as part of the cultural and arts-led meanwhile programming developed by **NOVA University** in collaboration with local cultural and creative associations such as **EDA Association** and studio **Atelier 20 ceramica**. As participants come together to load the kiln, feed the fire, and engage in lively conversation, a sense of camaraderie emerges, reminiscent of ancient gatherings around a campfire. The anticipation of witnessing the transformative power of high temperatures on the ceramic pieces adds an element of excitement and surprise to the experience, further enhancing its allure. The concept of a Community kiln extends beyond mere ceramic production; it entails the collective construction of kilns, both ephemeral and permanent, with active participation from the local population. These firing events become **true celebrations, where individuals of all backgrounds come together to share in the joy of creation and discovery.**

Several workshops, facilitated in collaboration with EDA and the local ceramic studio Atelier 20 ceramica, have underscored the significance of these activities for both the community and university students. These events have shed light on the transformative power of hands-on engagement with ceramics, highlighting its potential to bridge gaps between different sectors of society.

**Time:** full day

**Facilitating experts:** **NOVA University Lisbon**

**Target groups:** Local residents; cultural and community groups

**Equipment:** clay, wooden armature, bricks, burners or heating elements, kiln furniture

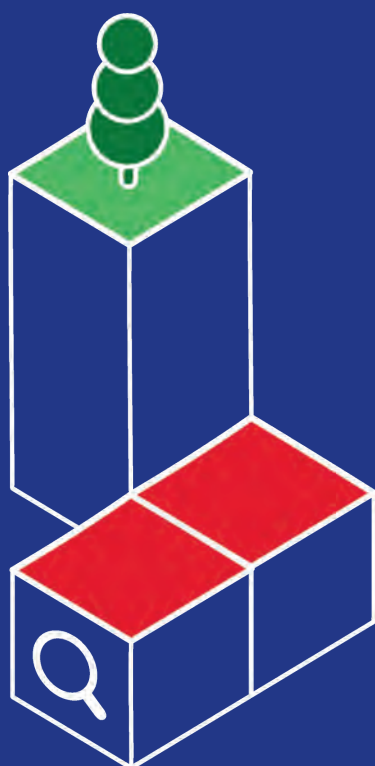
**Location:** Practical outdoor activity in the context of a community event

**More about the practice:** <https://hub.t-factor.eu/thematic-toolbox/temporary-use-t-lab/320/>









# Inclusive engagement & rights to cities





# Inclusive engagement & rights to cities



The essence of just urban transitions lies in **prioritising the voices and rights of all community members, ensuring that the benefits of regeneration are equitably distributed**, and that no one is left behind in the journey towards a more sustainable and inclusive future. Just transitions' principles and purposes stand at the core of major EU policies such as the **European Green Deal**, the **New European Bauhaus**, and the **EU Mission on Carbon-neutral and Smart Cities**. Recognising that achieving equitable climate transitions necessitates a fundamental shift in inclusion and fairness, both policy circles and scientific discourse emphasise the imperative of acknowledging the existing and emerging rights and voices within cities.

Empowering local communities throughout shaping and making the future of their urban environments is akin to planting seeds of resilience and sustainability. By involving residents, stakeholders, and decision-makers in meaningful dialogue and collaborative action, urban regeneration efforts not only address immediate challenges but also lay the groundwork for long-term prosperity and well-being. Moreover, within the realm of urban regeneration and meanwhile spaces, the integration of "digital" components introduces transformative dynamics, reshaping and rejuvenating urban landscapes. Digital technologies can offer innovative tools and platforms that have the potential to enhance participatory engagement, accessibility, and inclusivity. This integration of digital elements nurtures a vibrant ecosystem, enabling seamless collaboration among residents, stakeholders, and decision-makers in real time. Such an approach not only fosters the resilience and sustainability of cities but also ensures that they are digitally connected, thereby upholding the right to cities for all.

## **Inclusive engagement & rights to cities *in motion***

Inclusive engagement as a way to bolster civic rights to the city was perhaps the key transversal issue throughout T-Factor's thematic meanwhile interventions, both as a mission for the project and a challenge in articulating practices. Successful temporary activities require local relevance and engagement to take off, while the depth of collaboration needed to gain trust and be of service, especially to marginalised communities, means **transcending a mentality of temporary intervention to understand the embeddedness of such actions in the wider community fabric**.

Ensuring equitable rights to the city is a multi-stakeholder challenge, which necessitates establishing **governance models and practices in regeneration areas where there is a seat at the table for everyone**. However, participating in innovative governance models can be outside of the comfort zone for many citizens. Therefore, multi-stakeholder processes must work both to open up formal processes to new

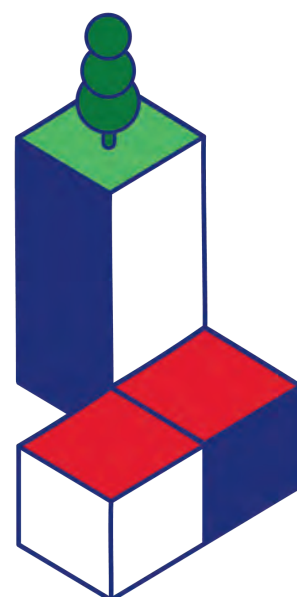
participants, and to bring processes closer to informal community networks in order for citizens with various backgrounds to access to, and benefit from, participation.

T-Factor explored practices aimed at breaking down the complexities involved in multi-stakeholder governance. These practices sought to support stakeholders in developing forms of inclusive governance that take more incremental steps for participation and co-design such that participants' own experience and competencies can come to the fore. Beyond **inviting more stakeholders into the development of governance models**, the active engagement and celebration of informal leadership among marginalised communities was emphasised and supported through community championing, as an alternative route to cultivate participatory decision-making.

Digital technologies also have a role to play in fostering inclusion in urban regeneration projects, providing tools and platforms for enhancing participatory engagement, accessibility, and transparency. Moreover, **digital environments can provide spaces for marginalised groups** that cannot easily express themselves freely in society at large. T-Factor employed digitally supported experiential and sensory encounters as tools for citizen workshops, while remaining alert to treat digitally-enabled experiences as augmenting possibilities rather than creating a parallel alternative world. Hybrid formats were found to provide a promising avenue for animating spaces in transformation, particularly in less accessible and safe areas.

### Co-benefits of expert co-creation

- A means to **advocate for inclusiveness and social justice in digital transformation** of urban services and the creation of new digital environments;
- **Emphasising the need to balance collaborative and inclusive approaches to governance**;
- **Digitally-assisted exploration of meanwhile uses** is shown as a promising method to test future functions in an inclusive manner;
- Social attitudes on participatory processes and sharing opinions in groups vary among local cultures and experts;
- Discerning the differing presence of vulnerable groups in schools is an important basis for meaningful collaboration;
- Inclusive recommendations; use cases for digital urban projects in the urban metaverse; novel communities and individuals coming onto the radar of pilots and sparking numerous local projects, were delivered.







## Community Champions

To incorporate a nuanced understanding of local concerns and capacities, it is not enough to open up existing, formal governance processes. Governance processes also need to be embedded in existing community processes. To this end, experts in London identified and then connected with local and community leaders to engage in convening and supporting community champions. Champions use their social networks and life experience to address barriers to engagement and improve connections between services and disadvantaged communities. Connecting with such engaged locals provided **a starting point to explore informal networks and articulate concerns of marginalised groups that do not normally participate in participatory governance processes**. Community champions were supported by community leaders and organisations, Fitzrovia Youth in Action and Old Diorama Arts Center, in organising various activities that emphasise community engagement around the improvement of local well-being and caring for shared spaces.

Central to this approach is collaboration and trust building through the shared goal of equitable, regenerative, and resident-led development. As such, it helped to **instil a sense of locally-rooted connection with meanwhile interventions while also helping to avoid overlap with existing organisations and activities**. A community champions programme is composed of a community manager that assembles a network of local residents, leaders, supporter champions that lead projects and participants who take part in shaping activities. These activities can be monthly socials and larger events, but also one-off projects such as wellbeing walks, clean-ups, excursions, and community kitchen.

**Facilitating experts:** Central Saint Martins University of the Arts London in support of local partners

**Target groups:** 8-16 year olds, an intergenerational group, young guardians community safety project, 12-24.

**More about the practice:**

<https://hub.t-factor.eu/thematic-toolbox/temporary-use-t-lab/295/>







## Digital Placemaking & Inclusive Metaverse

The "Extremely Vast and Incredibly Close Future" workshop was developed in Aleksotas Kaunas to **explore the potential of emerging technologies in amplifying inclusive placemaking processes**. To ensure relevance and sustained engagement, the workshop honed in on the near future, offering participants an immersive experience rather than a traditional brainstorming session. This experience was carefully designed, encompassing a site tour, introspective "Dream Room" sessions, and interactive brainstorming workshops, all aimed at uncovering avenues for integrating technology into placemaking. The workshop shed light on the transformative capabilities of digitally-enabled experiences in fostering social inclusion and community engagement. Innovative proposals such as gamification were put forth as viable tools for fostering participation. Furthermore, digital modelling emerged as a valuable tool for envisioning and evaluating infrastructural possibilities.

This workshop further evolved, in the following period, into a **collective exploration of the "metaverse" as a novel avenue for public institutions to democratise access to digital public spaces**. The metaverse, a hybrid virtual environment, was identified as a promising platform for engaging in discussions about social justice. An Inclusive Metaverse Manifesto was collectively created, underscoring core principles and values for digital metaverses to nurture societal well-being and advocating for technological innovation that steers clear of dystopian pitfalls. In conjunction with the manifesto, the group formulated a set of design guidelines for inclusive urban metaverses. These guidelines aimed to **shape platforms through a social justice lens, with special consideration given to the design of urban services and spaces within the metaverse, ensuring equitable access and participation for all**.

**Time:** 1 half-day preparatory workshop + 3 half-day workshops on-site and an online workshop.

**Facilitating experts:** Futuribile

**Target groups:** public servants, technology companies, local cultural and social organisations.

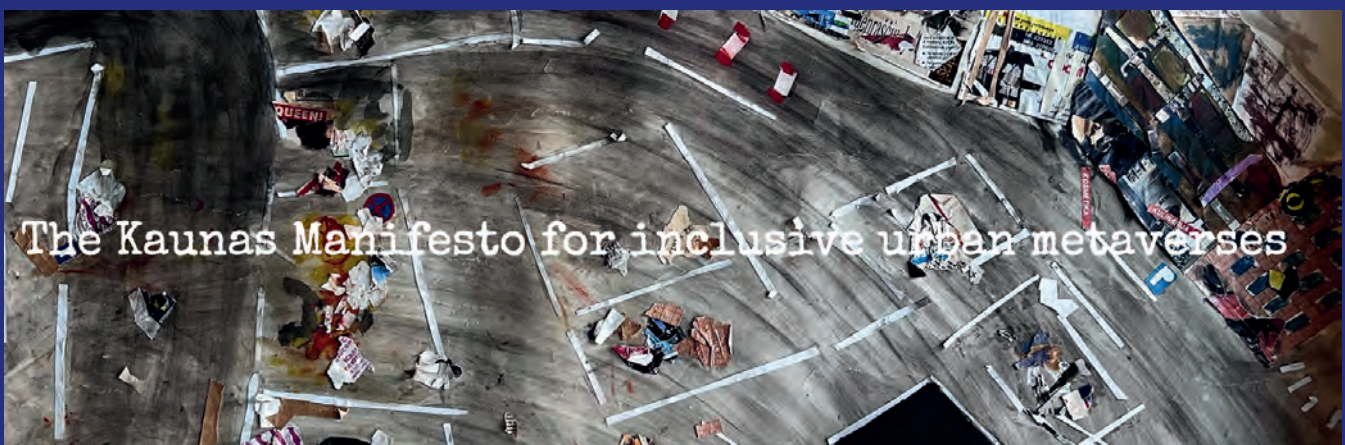
**Equipment:** Post its and markers of various colours, sticky dots, paper board.

**Location:** Outdoor site visits, experimental room, indoor event venue.

**More on the practice:**

<https://hub.t-factor.eu/thematic-toolbox/temporary-use-t-lab/215/>









## Data Justice Workshop

The Data Justice Workshop was developed in Trafaria Lisbon to **empower residents in shaping urban regeneration through bottom-up data collection**. The workshop brought together representatives from various community associations and residents to collaboratively develop a dataset for the later design of meanwhile activities. This approach to data collection is particularly valuable in urban regeneration contexts where official datasets, such as demographic or economic indicators, may be lacking or incomplete. **Community organisations and informal leaders serve as "living sensors," offering insights into the evolving needs and challenges of the local population**. Their knowledge is essential for ensuring that regeneration efforts are inclusive and responsive to the community's realities, complementing data from technological sensors and public authorities.

The workshop methodology involved constructing a three-layered map enriched with insights from local residents. While two layers were built collaboratively by participants, the third layer incorporated official data to provide a comparative perspective and raise awareness about the narratives created by different datasets. The first participatory layer focused on characterising each of the three main neighbourhoods from the perspective of individual residents. Participants were prompted to identify representative landmarks, predominant natural features, and common informal activities, aiming to capture the unique essence of each area and identify emerging commonalities. In the second layer, groups engaged in discussions to explore shared characteristics and community-building factors across the three neighbourhoods. This stage fostered significant interaction among participants, facilitating open dialogue and the sharing of personal stories and historical insights about the area.

**Time:** 2-3 hours, depending on the number of participants.

**Facilitating experts:** Futuribile

**Target groups:** representatives from community associations, local residents.

**Equipment:** Post its and markers of various colours, printed canvases (1 per group and 1 collective), sewing thread of different colours, pins and sliced of cork, A0 cardboards.

**Location:** Indoor activity

**More on the practice:**

<https://www.t-factor.eu/data-campfire-a-methodology-for-data-justice-in-urban-regeneration/>





## **Part 3.**

# **Expert co-creation: highlights**



## Expert co-creation: highlights

A number of reflections have been gathered to highlight the main challenges and opportunities of expert co-creation that emerged during the project. These are told from the perspective of practitioners at pilot sites and from that of thematic experts.

The insights presented here originate from ongoing monitoring and evaluation sessions undertaken at major project's milestones. In addition, final reflection sessions were held in the last months of the project to dig deep into the insights collected over time, and collectively reflect on the most relevant 'pros & cons' of working through international communities of practice approaches and co-creation within the realm of temporary uses and urban regeneration.

### Local practitioner perspectives on expert co-creation

**Stepping in at the right time:** The particularities of local context and initial conditions of meanwhile strategies significantly shape the relevance and effectiveness of expert contribution and support. Across the T-Factor pilots, these conditions varied greatly. In some cases, well-developed visions and plans for temporary uses already existed, providing a foundation upon which expertise could be effectively leveraged. However, in other contexts, plans and visions for temporary uses were still in the formative stages, asking a different role of experts. In instances where pilot teams had clear visions and missions, external expertise often played a pivotal role in **accelerating decision-making processes and initiating on-the-ground activities**. External input enriched and catalysed temporary uses and experiments, leading to strong outcomes and meaningful impacts. Conversely, in pilots where strategies for meanwhile activities were still evolving, expert input had mixed effects. In some cases, it served as **a decisive 'unlocker' of initial inertia**, while in others, **it introduced complexities and fatigue**, particularly at the outset of the relationship. To play a meaningful role in early stages of pilots, the presence of a **'bridger' or facilitator** with deep knowledge of the local context and starting situation can significantly enhance collaboration potential. Such individuals can 'bridge' gaps between parties, aligning understanding of local and thematic complexities, to achieve a level of clarity on mutual objectives. Thereby such a role can expedite transdisciplinary collaboration in the process from matchmaking to practical activities and experiments.

**Cultivate relationships for shared experimentation:** Collaboration and thematic co-creation usually do not develop spontaneously, or simply because someone is in need of expertise and another is able to provide it. A process of alignment is needed. In T-Factor a majority of the pilots needed time to articulate local concerns,



combine them in a shared agenda, and bring objectives forward. Time was also needed to familiarise with the experts and their thematic expertise, amid a broader landscape of ongoing processes and activities. **Cultivating conversations and building relationships was thus key in unlocking the relevance of thematic expertise and bringing it on-site.** Various pilots highlighted the importance of seeding conversations that facilitated moving towards a shared brief for intervention; moreover, they recognised **the value of a proactive approach by the experts in proposing potential activities and running probes that, although still preliminary and not yet embedded in the local meanwhile strategy, could provide a sense of tangibility to how expertise could be best harnessed.** Regular conversations and pre-established touch points, although mostly online (especially during Covid-19), were typically a tool that proved to be effective in creating shared intent and a common ground for action. On the other hand, early field visits and physical meetings bringing thematic experts on site were generally a ‘change maker’; allowing deeper and enduring collaborations, creating better understanding of possibilities, intentions, and challenges to overcome, and incentivising mutual interest and commitment in working together.

**Build early and shared understanding of thematic expertise:** What constitutes a particular ‘thematic expertise’ in urban regeneration and participatory placemaking is often hard to capture and communicate succinctly in everyday language. The makeup and state-of-the-art covering themes such as greening and biodiversity, multi-stakeholder collaboration, culture and heritage – among others – typically bring together an evolving constellation of theories and practices that do not track to siloed concepts or disciplinary expertise in a straightforward manner. Moreover, **the emphasis and salience of thematic clusters develops quickly, leading to iterations and re-combinations of perspectives and backgrounds.** This means that alignment among pilot teams and experts on what thematic expertise entails, and how it is relevant, should be part of the collaboration from its earliest phases, and maintained throughout.

**Embrace flexibility and adaptability:** Cities are undergoing rapid transformations, **making temporary uses an ideal mechanism to adapt to and navigate these dynamic circumstances.** In the context of T-Factor, all pilots operated amidst uncertainty, facing quickly evolving conditions on-site while navigating complex decision-making processes. These factors were compounded by the intricate networks of initiatives and grassroots communities already active within and around targeted regeneration areas. **The ability of thematic experts to recognize and swiftly adapt to this complexity emerged as a crucial factor in fostering meaningful collaborations.** However, some pilots encountered difficulties in fully

engaging local authorities and decision-makers, which impacted the scope of temporary uses that could be implemented. This, in turn, affected the motivation and endurance of stakeholders in pursuing innovative collaborations. Depending on the attitudes and quality of relationships, these challenges either reinforced collaboration by stimulating problem-solving and actions to influence local institutional dynamics, or led to conflicting visions, hindering progress. This underscores the importance of integrating both local and external perspectives and **maintaining mutual willingness to adapt and be flexible**, thereby striking a balance between local knowledge and thematic expertise.

**Ensure continuity:** building meaningful relationships emerged as a cornerstone of success within T-Factor. However, cultivating these relationships requires significant time and investment, **making sudden changes in teams a potential source of frustration for collaborative efforts**. In the dynamic landscape of long and complex projects like T-Factor, where freelance practitioners and experts are increasingly prevalent, maintaining continuity becomes even more crucial. Freelance practitioners often bring unique expertise derived from their diverse experiences across various contexts, adding considerable value to projects like T-Factor. The inherent instability of the labour market across Europe, coupled with the growing trend of remote work following the pandemic, presents challenges in ensuring the continuity of relationships. **Attention to staffing becomes paramount, particularly in projects dealing with rapid implementation in evolving contexts**. Strategies to mitigate the impact of team changes should be carefully considered to preserve the momentum of collaboration and sustain the relationships vital to project success.

**Work for local empowerment and ownership:** The involvement of external support and thematic expertise in local meanwhile strategies is a significant added value in fostering capacity building and facilitating meaningful co-creation. Throughout the T-Factor pilots, numerous benefits were reported as a result of the contributions made by thematic experts. These include **heightened awareness and deeper understanding of emerging topics**, such as urban wilderness and 'more-than-human' approaches to placemaking, **increased motivation and confidence in participatory engagement and community building**, adoption of **innovative tools for inclusive and needs-sensitive design**, and the development of **relational capital and transnational connections**. Thematic expertise proved particularly meaningful and effective when it was consciously employed to empower and engender ownership among teams and communities driving temporary uses on-site. Going beyond mere one-off activities or sporadic interventions, several experts successfully integrated their approaches and thematic inputs into the broader strategies of the pilots.



This approach not only bolstered confidence and autonomy of the pilots but also **transformed thematic expertise into a continuous and embedded thread, supporting iterative improvement and learning.** Such an approach was instrumental in ensuring the legacy and long-term sustainability of the collaborations undertaken. By enhancing on-site conditions and nurturing the development of co-created knowledge and practices, thematic expertise paved the way for further growth and evolution of the initiatives.

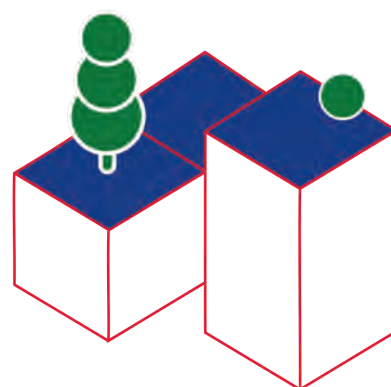
**Understanding the context and working together:** Establishing collaborations with local practitioners posed a significant challenge for many experts. Collaborators **grappled with divergent agendas, priorities, and varying timing,** often necessitating a role for thematic experts as mediators among local pilot teams to accelerate decision-making processes and thereby align with project timelines. Still, these timelines did not always allow for comprehensive coordination between thematic experts and pilots on efforts and outputs. Moreover, experts faced hurdles concerning local stakeholders and organisations. Key stakeholders, particularly public authorities, proved challenging to engage in activities. Occasionally, strained relationships among stakeholders hindered the potential deployment of meaningful interventions by experts. Additionally, a significant challenge lay in **grasping local context and networks and understanding their nuances.** While external experts possessed the necessary competence, they often lacked the time to fully acquaint themselves with the intricacies of the context, further complicated by cultural and language barriers. In response to these challenges, a number of practices turned out to be effective:

- **Establishment of a 'bridger' role:** Assigning an onsite individual familiar with the language, culture, and dynamics of the pilot site proved instrumental in mediating between external perspectives and needs of pilots. This smoothed processes, minimised misunderstandings, and often helped to solve conflicts.
- **Emphasis on pilots:** Thematic experts highlighted the importance of pilot teams as intermediaries to the broader ecosystem of associations and stakeholders. This approach proved more efficient than direct contact by experts, as pilot team members were better positioned to maintain contacts and liaise with local associations, which in turn fostered lasting relationships.
- **Early matchmaking workshops:** organising early matchmaking workshops and open conversations proved to be an efficient tool for managing mutual expectations. Experts providing sketch proposals in an early phase of these workshops helped pilots to envision and iterate potential collaborations.

- **Strategic planning of mapping activities:** Prioritising early mapping activities was found to enhance effectiveness and impact of meanwhile thematic interventions. However, it was crucial for these mappings to be deployed as succinct input briefings for meanwhile actions, with too much and too little mapping information being a potential hindrance to effectively co-creating interventions.

**Raising new awareness and developing visions:** The efforts of thematic experts produced diverse impacts at pilot sites. First and foremost, they catalysed the implementation of temporary uses of spaces with local communities. This instilled a **newfound awareness of place and sense of agency among community members**, as they re-discovered familiar spaces through new uses or even encountered spaces for the first time. Such experiences sparked imagination for further development in ways that resonated with their needs and values, fostering **a shared vision and a sense of belonging within the community**. Secondly, experts served as a source of inspiration for pilots. Leveraging their expertise, they provided valuable insights, professional knowledge, and case studies, enriching content and enhancing replicability at the local level. The strategic perspective offered by experts stimulated the generation of new ideas and content within local contexts. Thirdly, thematic experts significantly accelerated pilot activities within their regeneration areas. Initially, they ignited processes by providing inspiration, perspectives and awareness, especially when pilots hadn't yet formulated actionable goals. Further on, they contributed to deepening and expanding established goals in novel and innovative directions, thereby instilling confidence and catalysing progress of local initiatives.

**Setting up lasting relationships:** in broad terms, thematic experts have delivered significant added value to local co-creation processes. They **facilitated the engagement** of relevant individuals in pilot activities, fostering conversations around shared interests and themes, which in turn led to new collaborations. Moreover, as third parties, they played a pivotal role in **establishing local networks and forging lasting relationships**. In some instances, experts acted as **mediators** or even extended members of pilot teams. Furthermore, some pilots were able to envision a pathway towards establishing their legacy, engaging new stakeholders, from university students to 'more than human' inhabitants.





# Conclusions



## Conclusions

In this guide, we have highlighted the array of temporary co-creation practices developed by the T-Factor project, all stemming from the collaboration between practitioners at pilot sites and thematic experts. These practices encompass mapping techniques, hands-on workshops, artistic interventions, co-design sessions, capacity-building activities, and more. Taken together, they represent **a diverse range of 'possibilities' towards collectively shaping and making urban environments during interim periods of urban regeneration - placing communities' matters of concern at the very centre of co-creative placemaking.**

The thematic expert teams embody the project's commitment to international collaboration and co-creation. Their focus incorporates the importance of understanding the conditions and processes that make place-based collaboration meaningful and effective for all stakeholders involved. This underscores the dual novelty of the T-Factor project: not only does it demonstrate how temporary interventions can guide urban renewal in more inclusive and just ways, but it also showcases the integration of strategic oversight with hands-on methods, mixing and integrating diverse experiences and competencies in informed transdisciplinary collaborations.

The collaboration between the pilot and thematic experts yielded numerous benefits, including accelerating local decision-making, introducing fresh ideas and proposals, providing expert knowledge and skills, fostering capacity-building, and introducing new working tools to stimulate change. External experts also gained from opportunities for professional development, building relational capital, enhancing cultural competence, refining concepts, and increasing visibility of their expertise. However, the collaboration also faced **strategic, operational, and relational challenges**, highlighting the need for adaptability in ideation and implementation of meanwhile uses. This adaptive approach ensures resilience and flexibility, aligning with evolving site conditions and the needs of stakeholders and local communities. Importantly, co-creation facilitates **exploration of power dynamics and scrutiny of design decisions**, promoting fairer and more rewarding engagement, and ultimately leading to more equitable outcomes.

Indeed, 'communities of practice' - especially when distributed geographically and comprising individuals with different expertise and frames of reference - require a degree of structure and facilitation to take shape and evolve over time. Considerable effort has been invested, especially at the beginning of the project, to investigate



and test how to work together effectively across pilots and experts. The provision of **a loose framework of collaboration**, together with regular moments of convening and collective discussion, were effective in creating conditions for mutual understanding, which evolved into shared activities and explorations on site. Similarly, providing guidance and facilitating the development of **tools for knowledge and learning capture** was key for documenting practices over time, and supporting their sharing among larger groups of audiences and practitioners - both at pilot sites and beyond. Moreover, prioritising 'semi-structured' facilitation approaches over rigid and prescriptive collaboration pathways proved highly beneficial. This approach enabled the thematic experts to adapt sensitively and seamlessly, identifying areas where it could add significant value and be most welcomed.

### From the micro to the macro: policy relevance

The practices documented in this guide are often characterised as 'small-scale' and temporary, yet they play crucial roles within larger redevelopment strategies. Operating within distinct contexts, they present diverse challenges and opportunities for sustainable and inclusive urban regeneration. Essentially, they serve as 'windows of opportunity,' transforming urban spaces into platforms for participatory co-creative placemaking. However, these practices transcend their immediate scale and duration.

They address urgent issues such as biodiversity loss, social isolation, cultural and economic deprivation, and urban deterioration. In doing so, they promote alternative cultures and methods of placemaking and urban regeneration, capable of generating more inclusive and equitable outcomes. Additionally, they align with major EU policies and initiatives aimed at sustainable and inclusive growth, offering a promising avenue for urban development that prioritises sustainability and inclusivity. They underscore the unique role of participatory co-creation in shaping fair and equitable futures across European cities.

Spanning practices within greening and biodiversity, circularity, citizen science, cultural heritage, social inclusion and cohesion, among others, the experts establish close links with EU policies such as the **European Green Deal, the New European Bauhaus, the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU Urban Agenda**. These policies underscore sustainability, inclusivity, digital transformation, and the circular economy as fundamental elements of modern city development. By aligning themes and objectives with these policies, T-Factor aims to contribute to achieving broader European goals.

Firstly, the **experts' co-creation activities closely align with the pillars of the**

**European Green Deal** and the core values of the New European Bauhaus, aspiring to transform Europe into a climate-neutral continent rooted in principles of sustainability, beauty, and inclusion. Practices of the thematic experts encompass various initiatives, including green interventions to enhance biodiversity, fostering partnerships for transdisciplinary knowledge exchange, promoting inclusivity and safety in cities, and exploring the role of participatory arts and culture in creating more beautiful, enjoyable, and lively urban spaces.

The practices in urban transformation dynamics are also relevant to the **EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030**, particularly in **advocating for the integration of biodiversity objectives in urban regeneration plans through active community involvement and the promotion of urban ecology practices.**

Co-creative practices that promote bottom-up ownership and stewardship of green and biodiversity spaces are crucial for realising green investment and transitions, ensuring enduring and thriving green environments.

Furthermore, several thematic expert practices explore **citizen science as a tool to increase awareness and engagement** in biodiversity conservation, aligning with the European Digital Transition Framework. In line with EU policies like the Resource-efficient Europe initiative and the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), experts' practices contribute to

instigating engagement and experimentation with the circular transition and more sustainable use of urban resources.

Lastly, in the cultural and creative sectors, T-Factor acknowledges the **challenges posed by digital transformation and evolving governance models.** By aligning with EU priorities such as the European Green Deal and promoting a Europe fit for the digital age, T-Factor aims to amplify the contributions of these sectors towards a more sustainable and inclusive future for Europe.

In summary, the **collaboration of diverse practitioners from across the continent in temporary uses highlights the importance of adaptable and agile collaboration methods methods to address urgent urban transitions in European cities equitably.** Engaging with local communities and professional networks, advocating for marginalised perspectives, and nurturing caring and communal connections are crucial for shaping effective city-making strategies. Aligned with EU policy priorities, these principles are put into practice to promote urban greening, biodiversity restoration, regenerative economies, cross-sector collaborations, preservation of local heritage, and the improvement of city safety and liveability in an inclusive manner, recognising the rights of all inhabitants to the city.



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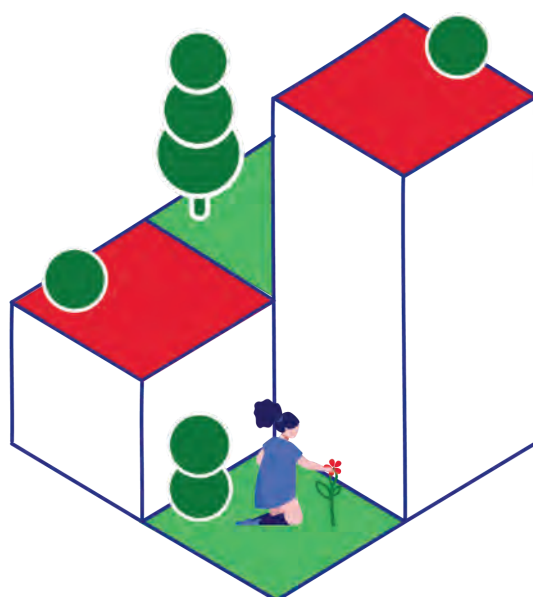
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## About T-Factor

T-Factor is a Horizon 2020 Innovation project that seeks to unlock the transformative potential of temporary uses in urban regeneration.

The project seeks to build a full portfolio of tested innovations encompassing design, organisation, management, governance, funding and regulatory aspects of temporary uses, so as to contribute to unlocking their transformative potential towards inclusive, sustainable and thriving cities.

The project works across early stage and advanced regeneration projects in different European cities, leveraging international collaboration, co-creation and knowledge exchange to support the spread of temporary uses as viable tools for sustainable and inclusive urban regeneration.

Pilots:

Amsterdam Science Park

Aleksotas Kaunas

Euston London

MIND Milan

Trafaria Lisbon

Zorrotzaurre Bilbao

NICE 2023 and Xinhua Community

Design Centre Shanghai

[www.t-factor.eu](http://www.t-factor.eu)



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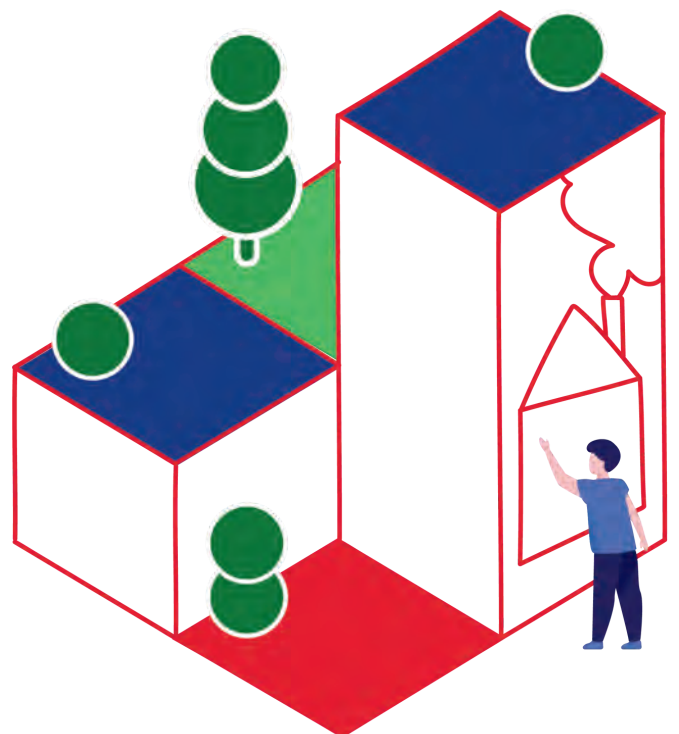
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# Temporary Placemaking

A thematic guide for urban practitioners





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