

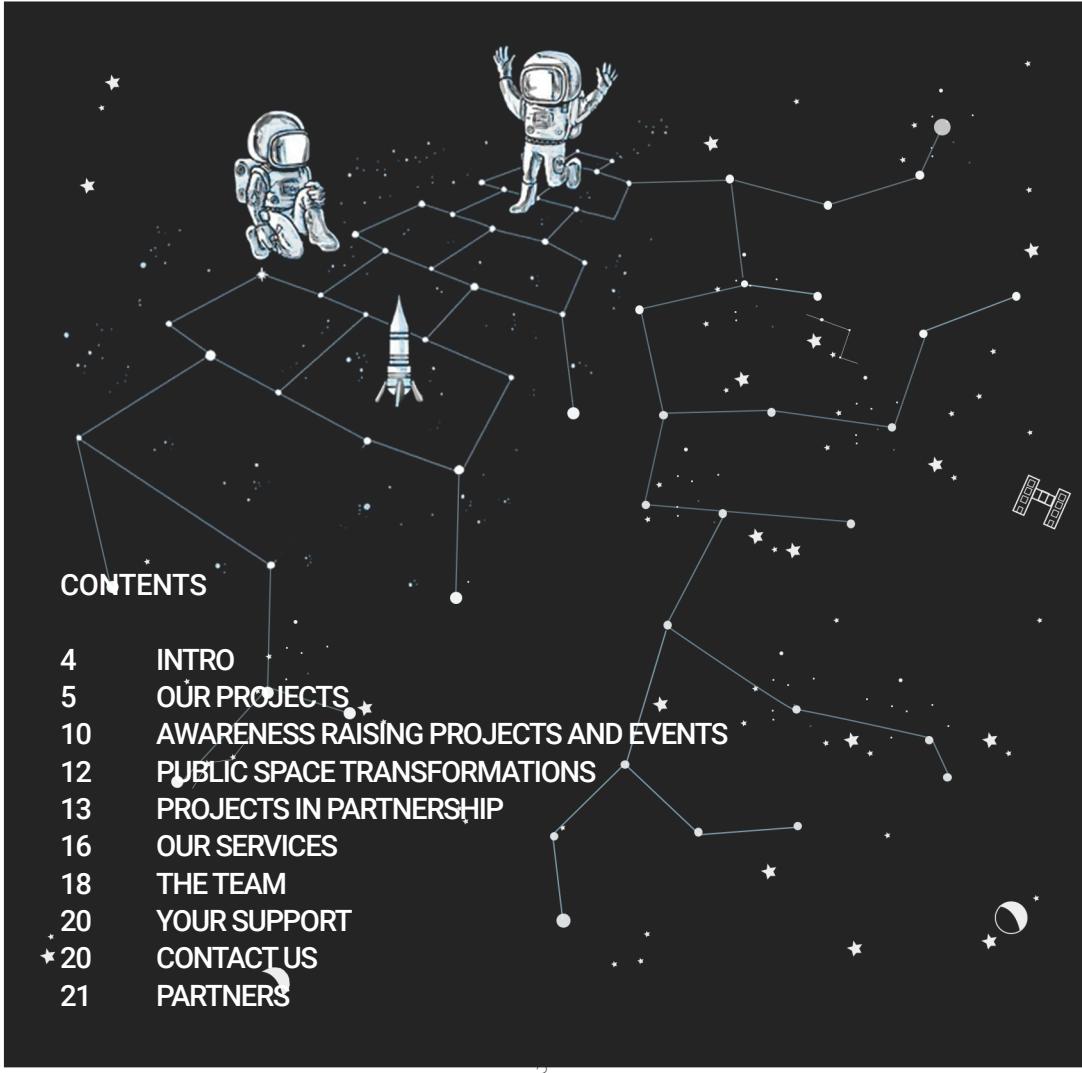


**2 YEARS
REPORT**

**CENTRUL DE
URBANISM**



Centrul de Urbanism
Chișinău 2019



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CENTRUL DE URBANISM

CENTRE OF URBANISM

INTRO

Centrul de Urbanism (Centre of Urbanism) is an officially registered organization in Moldova since January 2017, while the team was conceived half a year earlier. The vision of our NGO is to have an improved quality of life for the people and the communities they live in. Therefore, we see our mission as to initiate, support and facilitate the sustainable development of the urban and rural environment.

The power of the Centre of Urbanism lies on its multidisciplinarity, gathering a team of professionals from the field of urbanism, architecture, environment, anthropology and arts with working experience in public and private institutions, CSOs, universities, research centers, international projects and

organisations.

Based on its goals and mission, our organisation used the energy, experience and creativity of the team to initiate and participate in projects targeted at awareness raising, urban development, community participation and constructive dialogue between city stakeholders.

This brochure is presenting both, projects conceived by our team and those in which we partnered or co-organised. We truly believe that the activity of our Centre has an impact that brings us a step closer to our vision.

Still very young in civil society life, we have learned a lot through these two years. We are committed to continue our engagement in the positive changes in our city and our country.



**CENTRUL DE
URBANISM**

OUR PROJECTS

ACTORS OF URBAN CHANGE - #MICLEPIETONALĂ

March 2017 - May 2019

Partners:

MIEZ Architecture Laboratory
Chisinau City Hall, General Department of
Public Transport and Communications

Supported by:

Robert Bosch Stiftung, MitOst e.V.

Chisinau is one of 10 winning cities within the European Programme Actors of Urban Change 2017-2019 running the project "Veronica Micle - Pedestrian Street". This ambitious

project has two main goals: (1) to increase awareness about public spaces and stimulate citizens' participation in the decision-making process and (2) to build together with various stakeholders (citizens, artists, activists, business, the local administration) an inclusive public space that would stimulate interaction, communication and participation in the urban life.

This project was one of the highlights of 2018 and we put together ideas and forces to make this street more visible and vibrant. Therefore, the street was full of life within community building processes, awareness campaigns, and partnering projects.



COMMUNITY BUILDING PROCESS

Since its start, the work with the local community was at the core of the project. The official launch of the project was on April 20, 2018 when we presented the idea and put the base of the network that grew within time. We organised several meetings with the local community, business owners and institutions located on the street to establish the communication and hear their voices. We managed to collect their needs and views for the future of the street. This is an open ongoing process that will continue for conceiving a common concept for the pedestrianisation of the street.

AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

"Atenție Pavilion" Workshop

(June 8-10, 2018)

Following the goal of urban transformation



and public participation we intend to build the project's "house" on Veronica Micle street. 10 students - future architects and urbanists from Chisinau and Tiraspol participated in a 3-days workshop, studied the street and came up with a concept for a pavilion on the street. The pavilion is designed for public usage and event hosting. The construction of the pavilion is planned for spring 2019.

Tour "Micle povestește" - "Micle tells"

(June 10, 2018)

We strongly believe that participation starts with learning. Therefore, we organised a tour to discover the history of the street and the forgotten stories behind the old buildings and doors. The tour gathered more than 40 people, both inhabitants of the street and the city. In July 2018, an audio version of the same tour was broadcasted on Radio Chisinau.



Odissea Spațiului Public - The Odyssey of the Public Space

(July 30 - August 7, 2018)

An unique experience that never happened before in Chisinau - learning and discovering the urban realm through a game - took place late summer. A 5-days game designing workshop for Centrul de Urbanism team, lead by Karsten Michael Drohsel, a gamification expert from Germany, culminated with the urban game "The Odyssey of the Public Space", a game designed especially for the Veronica Micle street. About 60 persons aged between 8 and 63 "landed" on the street to discover 'black holes', to decode messages and create 'cosmic chaos'. As witnessed by participants, it was a new deep way to discover the public space and engage in the project #MiclePietonala.

"Gamification" Public Lecture

(August 2, 2018)

(organised in partnership with the movement #OccupyGuguta)

Karsten Michael Drohsel, a gamification expert from Germany hold a public lecture to explain how games can engage people in civic participation. Using simple tools and methods, through the means of a game is it possible to make people aware of their environment, but it is also a great tool for data collection and understanding public space. Sharing dozens of examples from cities all across Europe, Karsten inspired the Moldovan public as well.

Dansăm pe Micle - Dancing on Micle

(September 15, 2018)

What can be more pleasant on a street than seeing dancing couples instead of parked cars? Probably, even more dancing couples! For one evening a part of Veronica Micle street became truly pedestrian. Two sessions of classes of Argentinian tango followed by hours of dancing on the street took place. An unforgettable feeling of freedom and a totally new experience in the urban space.



CAPACITY BUILDING

School of Urban Moderation

(July 21-23, 2018)

The project #MiclePietonală is a learning curve for us as a team, as well. We took the chance to develop our skills of efficient communication and invited Svetoslav Murunov, an expert from Russia to hold a three-days workshop on 'urban moderation'. Centrul de Urbanism team together with other activists learned how to organise and productively conduct complex meetings with various urban stakeholders using S. Murunov's unique methodology. This technique was later used for meetings in our ongoing projects.

Actors of Urban Change Academy Meetings

At Actors Academy Meetings the participants gather together to share their experience, lessons learned, challenges and successes. As each meeting happens in a different city

and country, the participants also have the chance to learn about local context and bring back home new knowledge and valuable connections. Team Chisinau participated at the meetings in, Vilnius (Lithuania) – where the topic on participation was discussed and Lecce (Italy) – the topic was advocacy. These meetings bring in new ideas and energy for the project's implementation. Next meeting will take place in Rijeka (Croatia) with the focus on sustainability.

Project Coordinator:

Alexandru Munteanu,
aldrumunteanu@gmail.com

More details:

<https://centraldeurbanismblog.wordpress.com/2018/05/14/de-ce-miclepietonal/>
<https://centraldeurbanismblog.wordpress.com/actors/>



VIABILITY NET

Veronica Micle Street Community Project

Viability Net Project comes to support the community building process on Micle Pedestrian Street project. Situated in the heart of Chisinau, the community is diverse and consists of local inhabitants, business owners and employees, local administration staff, people working in culture and education as well as the city's visitors.

During the implementation of the project, people living and working in this area are engaged in activities in a friendly and inclusive manner. The goal is that the local community will learn to be heard, to express their needs, to identify their local resources and learn to use them.

Cina cu Vecina - Dinner with neighbor

(October 13, 2018)

Food is connecting people. Based on this axiom, we organised an event so that people living around, working or are interested in the street get to know each other and strengthen their connection. On a lovely chill autumn evening people gathered to cook together, to share their stories, and fill in the street with positive vibes.

Crăciun pe Micle - Christmas on Micle

(December 23, 2018)

The last event of Center of Urbanism in 2018. More than 40 people came on the already

traditional place on Veronica Micle Street. As it was the winter holiday season, the Christmas tree, the mulled wine, the market with honey, postcards and books were all present. People interacted, learned more about the street, shared mandarins and best wishes for the coming year.

Project Coordinator:

Constanta Dohotaru, dkonstantza@gmail.com

More details:

[https://www.nadacevia.cz/en/viabilitynet/
community-leaders/participants/](https://www.nadacevia.cz/en/viabilitynet/community-leaders/participants/)



AWARENESS RAISING PROJECTS AND EVENTS

TURURI "CHISINAU PRIN MONOCLU" - TOURS

"CHISINAU TROUGH MONOCLE"

(June 2017- ongoing)

Locals know so little about their city. We could not leave it that way and launched the free public tours to discover the stories and destinies behind the streets and buildings of Chisinau. Since June 2017 up to end of 2018 we have organised 20 free guided tours in Chisinau that gathered in total more than 700 people. The old town, courtyards, theaters, cemeteries, trees, mosaics, lots of new places were (re)discovered. Guides are professionals from the sector, architects and just persons who love their city. The final goal of these tours is to engage people in the life of the city and be aware of its importance and value. We can see

already that the community that grows around the tours is more socially engaged.

Project Coordinator:

Maria Axenti, marya.axenti@gmail.com

More details:

[https://www.facebook.com/
CentraldeUrbanism/](https://www.facebook.com/CentraldeUrbanism/)



DIALOGURI URBANE - URBAN DIALOGUES

(Jan 2018 - ongoing)

Partner: Urban Civic Forum

Urban Dialogues is a platform for public discussion on urban development issues, initiated by a group of urban activists and taken over by Centrul de Urbanism. The project aims at promoting communication and collaboration between local authorities, state institutions and civil society. Centrul de Urbanism continued the series of talks and organised two editions in 2018: Urban Dialogues #5 - Can Chisinau be a pedestrian city? (Jan 18, 2018) where we discussed with the representatives of municipal institutions and activists the best practices of pedestrianisation and how we could realise them in Chisinau; and Urban Dialogues #6 - How Public is the Public Space? This was a successful edition dedicated to a public green space near Palatul National that was restricted for access. After discussing with



the representative of implied institutions and urban activists, the space was open back to the public.

Project Coordinator:

Maria Axenti, marya.axenti@gmail.com

More details:

www.centruldeurbanismblog.wordpress.com/dialoguri-urbane

PARK(ING) DAY

(September 21, 2018)

Partner: Oberliht

Worldwide, every third Friday of September is marked by the social movement "PARKing Day" - a movement that wants to raise awareness about public space and claim it back from cars. In lines with these goals, Center of Urbanism organised an event to talk about public space, cars, ecology in a chill, creative atmosphere with musical background.

Project Coordinator:

Maria Ivanov, mariaivanov.nv@gmail.com



PUBLIC SPACE TRANSFORMATIONS

CONCEPT PROPOSAL FOR STREET ILLUMINATION OF VERONICA MICLE STREET

In the framework of 2017 contest "Evening Chisinau - the city of lights", Maria Ivanov (Centrul de Urbanism team member) developed a proposal with the energy specialist Eugen Camenșcic and got a special mentioning for tackling the issue of public space at night. While other proposals in the bid envisaged building illumination, our concept proposed an unique pavement and street illumination. Thus, the concept was in line with the goals of pedestrianisation of Veronica Micle street and we hope that it will be realised in future.

Project Coordinator:

Maria Ivanov, mariaivanov.nv@gmail.com

'LIVIU DAMIAN' SQUARE IN CHISINAU CITY CENTRE

The proposal from the team of architects of Centrul de Urbanism and the Architectural Lab "Miez" got selected by the Chisinau City Hall in the framework of the project "Citizens are shaping their future". It envisages the transformation of the public square in the area of the old town of Chisinau. The proposal was based on the history of this specific square, citizens needs and the potential of the area. As a symbol of revival it was given a new name "Liviu Damian" - a prominent poet, writer, essayist of 1960 that lived nearby. The team

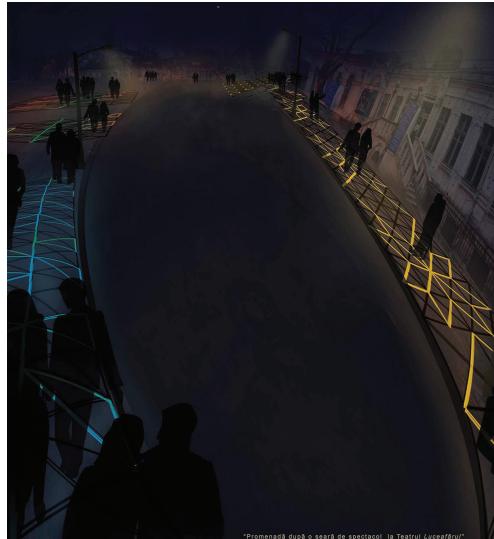
develops the technical documentation, while the work will be completed in summer 2019.

Project Coordinator:

Andrei Vatamaniuc, anvatq@gmail.com

More details:

<https://goo.gl/p5qjpv>



PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIP

FORUM OF URBANISM, II EDITION

(April 20-21, 2017)

Organisers and Partners:

Embassy of France in Moldova

Chisinau City Hall

Agency for Inspection and Restoration of Monuments

Civic Group for Cultural Heritage

Institute of Urban Development

The second edition of the Urban Forum in Chisinau was focused on the urbanism in the service of citizens and gathered local and international experts to discuss about urban governance, heritage, and citizens participation. Centrul de Urbanism was actively involved in the preparation and running of the forum, as well as in the coagulation of the Civic Urban Forum that was launched in June 2017.

FORUM OF URBANISM, III EDITION

(March 23-29, 2018)

Organisers and Partners:

Agency for Inspection and Restoration of Monuments

Civic Urban Forum

The third edition of the Urban Forum in Chisinau addressed both technical issues on master plans and urban planning, as well as soft questions about participation and heritage. The highlight of the forum was the

public lecture of the famous Danish urbanist Jan Gehl - "City for people" - that gathered more than 300 people in the biggest hall of the Technical University of Moldova. Centrul de Urbanism team has taken care of the Jan Gehl's visit and also facilitated the workshop about the development potential of the Bîc River area during the forum.



URBAN REVITALISATION

Partners:

Ministry of Investments and Development of Poland

Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Moldova

Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova

Within the Polish-Moldovan inter-ministerial project on Urban Revitalisation, the team of Centrul de Urbanism has the role of facilitators in order to offer assistance to 8 municipalities from Moldova (Bălți, Ocnița, Briceni, Edineț, Soroca, Orhei, Ungheni, Căușeni) for the development of the Urban Revitalisation Program - a complex strategic document for an urban area for the next three years. Centrul de Urbanism team consulted the selected cities to undertake city diagnosis, helped them to organise and facilitate a series of meetings with the inhabitants, local businesses and public institutions and to develop the Urban Revitalisation Program. The project run successfully during 2018, while in 2019 cities will proceed to the implementation phase.



ACTIVECO URBAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SEMINAR

(June 1-3, 2018)

Partner: EcoVisio

Centrul de Urbanism in partnership with EcoVisio has organised and run a 3-day workshop for 20 participants, urban professionals and city lovers, coming from all over Moldova. Participants developed their

ideas coming to change the communities and the environment they live in. We have organised for the participants a set of urban exercises meant to allow them to understand what is a city, how it functions and how it can be adapted to community needs.

PUBLIC SPACE DAYS - ZILELE SPĂȚIULUI PUBLIC

(MAY 22 – 27, 2018)

Partner: Oberliht

Public Space Days event aims to build a connection between the disparate discussions about the public space and to open the discussion regarding other aspects of the transformations of a post-soviet city. The 2018 edition tackled the subject of access to culture and culture as common good, with focus on the neighbours and the residential areas, encouraging a wider and more open use if public space, especially by artists, so that through the means of arts to raise society's awareness about the issues the neighbours are facing.

Centrul de Urbanism organised three TRANSectorial tours to discover and shape the identity of residential soviet-looking districts Botanica, Buiucani, and Rîșcani. The tours were attended by a total of around 100 people.

CHIŞINĂUL ACCESIBIL PENTRU TOȚI - ACCESSIBLE

CHISINAU TO EVERYONE

Partner: Centrul pentru Drepturile Persoanelor cu Dizabilități

Centrul de Urbanism facilitated at the request

from Centrul pentru Drepturile Persoanelor cu Dizabilități 2 workshops with the participation of the people with disabilities, representatives of the local authority, engineers, architects and students. The first workshop's aim was to discuss the accessibility of the sidewalks and public transport stations, as well as to generate practical solutions, at both legal and building levels, from the perspective of the universal design principles. Second workshop concentrated on understanding how can we, as individuals and communities, contribute to the wellbeing of the city and make Chisinau accessible to everyone.



OUR SERVICES

Our team gathers young and experienced professionals in both soft and hard projects. Based on the experience we have as individuals and as a team we are offering a series of services aligned with our vision of civic participation and sustainable development.

CONSULTANCY IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Following the specialisation of our organisation, we are ready to offer consultancy to municipalities and local authorities to develop local strategies, master plans and other necessary urban planning documents. Our team has the capacity to undertake the full process from interdisciplinary research to technical documentation (master plans, strategies, etc.).

PUBLIC SPACE TRANSFORMATION

Our approach lies in identifying the potential of a place, its history, colours and of course people. That is why public space transformation is not the job of only our experienced and creative architects and urbanists, but also of the rest of the team to make research and cope with various social, environmental, economic challenges. Thus, we are open to develop concepts for new public spaces and supervise the implementation process.

TRAININGS AND GROUP MODERATION

The increasing understanding of involving citizens participation and the thinking in a project like manner creates real challenges to many municipalities. In our team, we have 3 certified international trainers and members with experience in group facilitation, moderation, and capacity building. We are available to help institutions and organizations with training setting, meetings moderation and group facilitation.

AWARENESS, PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

As a civil society organization, working with people is the core of our activity. We are open to partner in awareness raising projects on architecture, heritage and urban history. We believe that all stakeholders: city administration, business, civil society have the potential to establish constructive dialogue and work together. This is a complicated process and we are open to face this challenge.





THE TEAM



ALEXANDRU MUNTEANU
urbanist, head of Centre of Urbanism

The “mountain” of our organization. Entirely dedicated to urban issues, Alexandru is heading the organisation with energy and commitment, leaving place for humour and good will.



MARIA AXENTI
anthropologist,
project coordinator

The person that writes “beautifully” about our organisation and for our organisation. Maria combines guiding activity, urbanism, facilitation, research work and needs more sleep.



ION UNGUREANU
environment specialist

He is the environmentalist in the team, caring about nature and the good environment in the souls of each of us. Ion is always positive, ready to give a hug and make great designs.



MARIA IVANOV
junior architect & cultural worker

While the entire team is prattling, Maria, as a true introvert, remains calm and observational. Behind her shy nature, a fantastic creative world is having its parallel life, all about images, graphics and designs.



ANDREI VATAMANUIC
architect

This is the rational voice that strikes across our craziness. With a deep experience in architecture and love to Pink Floyd, Andrei brings order and depth to our projects.



**Constanța
Dohotaru**

architect and
urbanist in soul

With artist blood, Constanța is a full of creativity and energy. She brings more "fuel" in our activity and she manages to be socially active, to make designs, write applications and to laugh loudly.



OCTAVIAN FEDCO
student architect

We sometimes forget Octavian is still a student and has exams. He manages to combine his studies, active life and projects. His ideas are innovative and he can easily do any graphics you need.



ILONA SPESIVTEV
PR and
communication
manager

This Girl with the disco-ball has that level of originality we need in our team. Her texts are as colorful as her hair, while our web presence on different social media channels, is almost like art.



MIHAI STAMATI
object designer

The most serious object designer in the world. His students and some novices might be afraid of him, but we all know his kindness, subtle sense of humour and readiness to create truly unique objects.

YOUR SUPPORT

We are very grateful to every single person and organisation that supported us so far. If you would like to sustain our activity we would be glad for any donation using the following channels:

Instagram: @centruldeurbanism

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
CentruldeUrbanism/](https://www.facebook.com/CentruldeUrbanism/)

PayPal: PayPal.Me/CentruldeUrbanism

Patreon: CentruldeUrbanism

CONTACT US

We are open to establish new connections and partnerships. Please feel free to contact us:

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PARTNERS



Solidarity Fund PL în Moldova
Centrul de Informare pentru Autoritățile Locale



