

**IMPETUS**

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**Improving local Policies on  
Temporary Uses**

**1st Handbook  
April 2024**

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## 1. Introduction

IMPETUS aims to generate a policy change in the design and implementation of integrated sustainable urban development strategies in European cities and regions by **promoting and regulating temporary uses**.

**Temporary uses (TUs)** refer to the practice of using vacant buildings, empty lots, and unused spaces as sites for co-creative experimentation, unlocking a multitude of innovative cultural, social, and entrepreneurial activities. The project aims to achieve this objective through **policy learning and capacity-building activities** that aim to embed temporary uses in integrated sustainable urban development strategies.

This **Handbook** presents the takeaways of the regions from the IMPETUS exchange<sup>1</sup> and learning process during the second semester of the project, as well as the **Good Practices** collected by the Consortium. This is the first Handbook that has been published; at the end of each project semester, a new and updated Handbook will be issued, with new good practices and takeaways.

### 1.1. Objectives

The project's overall objective is **to generate a policy change** in the design and implementation of integrated sustainable urban development strategies by cities and regions by adding new layers **to promote and regulate temporary uses**.

In particular, IMPETUS aims to improve the **policy instruments** identified by each partner.

This objective will be achieved through **policy learning and capacity-building** activities on how to embed temporary uses in integrated sustainable urban development strategies. It will result in the **uptake of good practices** encouraging new forms of urban governance, stimulating inclusive and accessible services and infrastructure for all, including most vulnerable groups, fostering co-creation and co-design in cooperation with inhabitants, civil society networks, community organisations, and SMEs, ensuring the cooperation of all societal actors to tackle complex urban challenges, and enabling endogenous urban transformation through a place-based approach.

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<sup>1</sup> Bucharest-Ilfov Region (Romania), Tuscany region (Italy), Metropolitan City of Lille (France), City of Riga (Latvia), Mazowieckie region (Poland), City of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain).

The project seeks to **address the challenges European cities face**, which generate up to 85% of Europe's GDP and account for about 80% of energy use. European Cities face challenges ranging from environmental degradation and climate change to the digital revolution, from demographic transition and migration to social inequalities. The project aims to deliver innovative solutions by experimenting with new forms of governance through integrated sustainable urban development strategies, combining physical urban renewal projects with measures promoting economic development, education, social inclusion, and environmental protection. **Temporary uses are being used as testbeds** for innovating urban governance and promoting the empowerment of local actors such as grassroots citizens' organisations and SMEs. They can activate new solutions for funding, governance, community engagement and participation, which might be helpful not only for urban regeneration but more in general in the realm of social innovation and territorial development.

**The project contributes to the Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 by promoting economic, social, and environmental sustainability in urban areas and stimulating the exchange of experience about the strategic role temporary uses can play in integrated sustainable urban development.** Temporary uses foster social innovations, allowing actors with limited financial capital to take on the risk of temporary actions on the urban regeneration sites. The project also contributes to the Green Deal strategy and New European Bauhaus initiative, as temporary uses contribute to address complex societal problems through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

## 1.2. Approach

The project's approach is based on **interregional policy exchange, policy learning, and capacity building** among partner organisations and relevant stakeholders around integrated sustainable urban development. The partnership combines local and regional authorities, their association, and development agencies with a balanced geographical mix and more and less experienced public institutions. **The exchange of experience is built on the partners' competencies and know-how** in designing and implementing integrated sustainable urban development strategies and policies. Learning will inform policy and practice in the involved regions, enabling common ownership of the good practices to be adopted by the partners, thanks to the involvement of stakeholders.

The project is divided into **two main phases**: the **first phase** of three years will deal with the **interregional learning process**. If needed, this phase may also include designing one or more action plans and/or testing the transfer of good practice through a **Pilot Action**. The interregional learning process is based on exchanging experiences among partners about the design and implementation of integrated sustainable urban development strategies and policies by cities and

regions. Activities within this phase will be the driver to achieve the expected policy change in the participating regions.

The **second phase**, taking place in the last year of the project, is dedicated to **monitoring the effects** of the policy improvements and the possible achievement of **additional policy improvements**.

### 1.3. Partners and policy instruments

The consortium includes six partners from local administrations, two associate partners and an advisory partner.

#### National Association of Italian Municipalities - Tuscany (ANCI Tuscany)



Policy instrument: **ERDF Regional Operational Programme of the Tuscany Region 2021-2027.**

ANCI Toscana is the project's lead partner. It is supported by the **Tuscany Region** in its quality of MA of the ERDF ROP 2021-27 as an associated policy authority.

ANCI plays an important role as a link between the Tuscany Region and cities in matters such as territorial governance, urban regeneration, sustainable mobility, climate change and social inclusion. ANCI Toscana supported 20 Tuscan cities in developing their integrated territorial strategies for the Urban Innovation Projects, financed by the ERDF ROP 2013-2020.

#### Métropole Européenne de Lille (MEL)



Policy instrument: **Metropolitan integrated strategy for urban regeneration of districts of the French "New National Program for Urban Regeneration".**

The MEL is directly responsible for the policy instrument in question and operates in urban policies and urban regeneration on the modernisation of the territorial public action and the affirmation of

metropolises and on city planning and urban cohesion. MEL is piloting the new programme of urban regeneration, a strategy that was adopted in June 2017. It is, therefore, directly responsible for the design, implementation and improvement of the policy instrument.

## Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency



Policy instrument: **Regional Operational Programme Investment in Growth and Jobs ERDF 2021 - 2027.**

BI-RDA represents a bridge between the private and the public environment, involving academia and civil society to develop the region by attracting impactful and sustainable investments. Being responsible for developing the ROP 2021 – 2027 BI RDP, a document that sets the directions for regional development and establishes, among other things, the direction of action for improving the urban environment by regenerating public spaces. Moreover, Romania's Urban Policy 2020 – 2035 states that Regional Development Agencies should play an important role in developing financing sources to support these investments. At the same time, as the Intermediate Body for the previous PI - ROP 2014 - 2020, the agency provided non-reimbursable financial assistance for four projects aimed at improving the urban environment, revitalising cities, regenerating and decontaminating derelict industrial land (including conversion areas).

## Riga City Council



Policy instrument: **Sustainable Development Strategy of Riga 2030.**

One of the main competencies of the Riga City Council is sustainable urban development and strategic and spatial development planning. The Development Department is the leading institution in these fields and the one involved in the project. It led the design of the Riga Development Programme 2022-2027. Awareness of the potential of temporary uses in sustainable urban development was raised through



the participation of Riga City in the URBACT REFILL project. Further urban studies undertaken within the elaboration of strategic and spatial planning documents highlighted the vast unexploited potential of temporary uses in the urban environment segment, such as brownfields, abandoned industrial sites, vacant municipal land plots, etc. The baseline was assessed within the framework of the studies undertaken, including the legal aspects and best practices of forerunning cities, e.g., Barcelona, Utrecht, Berlin, and many others.

### Municipal Parking Society of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, S.A. - SAGULPA



Policy instrument: **Guanarteme-Plaza del Pilar. Culture-based urban development strategy.**

The company is currently engaged in the direct and indirect management of parking lots, the construction and promotion of resident parking facilities, and the management of regulated parking services for motor vehicles on public roads in the city, as per the agreement with the City Council.

SAGULPA is supported by the local administration of Las Palmas (**Ayuntamiento de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria**), responsible for the policy instrument, as an **associate partner** of the project.

### Mazowieckie Region



Policy instrument: **Regional Operational Programme European Funds for Mazovia Region 2021-2027**

Mazowieckie Region is the largest and most diverse voivodeship (NUTS-1) in Poland. Several cities in the region are experiencing a decline in socio-economic functions and a conflict-inducing development while recognising a critical need to repurpose numerous historical buildings once used for production, railways, and military purposes.

To address these challenges, the management and allocation of European Funds for Mazovia for 2021-2027 allow the fostering of revitalization and positive impact on the social, cultural, and economic aspects of this area.

### LAMA - Società Cooperativa Impresa Sociale - ADVISORY PARTNER



The role of LAMA is to advise the other partners for the analysis and transfer of GPs, particularly as regards:

- defining the methodology for the analysis of GPs and the mapping of the assets and needs of the partners' regional urban regeneration actors about existing policies that can support the temporary uses paradigm;
- supervising the analysis and selection of the good practices, in order to ensure their quality and relevance to the partners' needs in view of the drafting of the action plans; its role will be particularly active during the Interregional Policy Brokerage (IPB) workshops to guarantee that the level of the exchange complies with the criteria of the methodology for the analysis of GPs;
- leading and coordinating the communication activities of the project, maintaining and updating the communication channels (website, socialmedia, newsletter), the development of meeting agendas, and the dissemination of project results and GPs.

## 2. Temporary uses

### 2.1. Definitions

**Temporary use** is a practice in urbanism aiming to revitalise empty spaces in urban areas, especially abandoned and decaying buildings. Many spaces are left empty by owners because they currently do not have plans, no capital for renovation or further building, or cannot sell or rent the space at the price they want. Instead of waiting with an empty space, which can often mean being additionally taxed by the municipality, they can use it to offer a temporary use. This allows various community members to obtain the space for their social, cultural, or other needs, often under more favourable terms. On the other hand, temporary users can use the space at no or symbolic cost and often maintain the spaces themselves. This is also the case of buildings owned by public administrations, which remain underused while they might answer pressing societal needs.

The so-called 'meanwhile use' is a subcategory of temporary uses that can be useful for the IMPETUS project. A 'meanwhile use' describes a situation where a site is used for a duration of time before it is turned into a more permanent end state, taking advantage of a short window of opportunity.

Meanwhile, interventions are tactical and slot into more comprehensive strategies for planned change. They can help shape positive urban transformation.

Meanwhile uses within urban development have a primary purpose to deliver benefits to the community through predominantly social, economic and environmental outcomes. It is not exclusive to its users but includes social needs; it provides social value, informs longer-term development, and drives a new vision of city-making (ARUP, 2020). Not all temporary uses are meanwhile: meanwhile uses take advantage of a window of opportunity on a site, before and after another use. And not all meanwhile uses are short term. Some meanwhile use are offered long leases, for instance in regeneration projects spanning decades.

The adoption of meanwhile practices during what flagship research projects (the H2020 [T-Factor Project](#), on which this section largely relies) call the 'waiting time in urban regeneration'<sup>2</sup> is often **regulated** and **incentivised** by local, regional, and national **policies**, indicating the temporary character of uses in the spaces, supporting the dealing among actors within a context where investors in the area are defined, functions and positionings of stakeholders are outlined, and specific planning, construction, and consultation procedures are at play.

<sup>2</sup> That time period, usually complex and featured by construction and progressive spatial change, stands between the approval of the masterplan or pre-masterplan on the one hand, and the delivery of the regenerated areas on the other hand.

Applying temporary uses in the waiting time of urban regeneration can be strategic and beneficial for the different actors at stake. Multiple gains can be achieved, including higher quality spaces, enhanced participation, dialogue, and trust, responses to existing and emerging needs, new partnerships and collaborations, and revert feelings and perceptions of decay and abandonment. At the same time, to the extent that temporary uses unfold alongside the critical relationship between public and private interests, they can also cast shadows, including appropriation of value, economic and environmental sustainability, and legacy for communities.

Meanwhile practices observed across Europe seem to move relentlessly along this wide perimeter. **There is no unique model but rather a multiplicity of strategies** and approaches that take shape and evolve over time, unpacking and repacking interests, motivations, agendas, and drivers. They primarily depart from a common need for more flexibility and adaptation in regeneration processes, and yet their paths unfold in different ways and unravel different impacts.

There are commonalities and specificities within a general understanding of meanwhile use as more effective placemaking in structural uncertainty and as key levers to upgrade cities' software alongside the hardware of physical infrastructures.

However, there may be a frontier that is yet to be marked. A frontier where meanwhile practices can become truly transformative, becoming **collective testbeds** for novel 'regeneration codes' - **governance, finance, regulation, culture, and participation** - geared toward co-benefits, shared value, and long-term impact. Temporary uses can be designed and orchestrated by emergence to scaffold new transitions, unlocking collective imagination, agency, and legitimacy to change cities toward a preferred future.

## 2.2. Success stories inspiring our work

### ZZZ - ZwischenZeitZentrale | Bremen, Germany



- **Website:** <https://www.zzz-bremen.de/ueber-uns/>
- **Social Media:** (Instagram) [https://www.instagram.com/ZwischenZeitZentrale\\_Bremen/](https://www.instagram.com/ZwischenZeitZentrale_Bremen/)

The city of Bremen has been promoting the temporary use agency ZZZ - ZwischenZeitZentrale Bremen since 2009. It is an intermediate organisation that supports and initiates temporary use projects and advises users and owners. The City of Bremen passed a guideline on the conditions for the temporary use of public property. There is an established steering group of administration members that consults the ZZZ on topics of temporary use. The ZZZ has also a dedicated fund to support temporary use projects.

In Bremen, temporary use arises from the interaction of creative temporary users with open-minded owners of vacant buildings or lots. The ZwischenZeitZentrale identifies suitable objects, advises owners, develops concepts with users, and supports temporary-use projects, which benefits all stakeholders.

Temporary use activates vacancies and vacant lots according to the 'discounted space against temporary use' principle and creates ideal conditions for small businesses, initiatives, and associations. The payment methods of temporary users are diverse: besides rent, they contribute their labour, creativity, cultural skills, and social networks. A low rent reduces their financial risk and increases their willingness to try new usage ideas. Not infrequently, this results in long-term rental relationships from temporary use, and temporary users become permanent tenants. Owners generate income again, maintain their property, and receive a new positive

impact. On the other hand, unused spaces cause unnecessary costs, attract vandalism, and negatively impact outwardly. Therefore, the entire neighbourhood can benefit from temporary use.

The project period of ZZZ has been extended until the end of October 2024.

## PLA BUITS | Barcelona, Spain



- **Website:** <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/ecologiaurbana/ca/pla-buits>

**Pla Buits (Empty Spaces Plan)** is a programme from the City of Barcelona that temporarily uses vacant spaces owned by the municipality. This programme emerged in 2012 as a response to social demands for utilising the numerous vacant plots in the city that were undeveloped after the financial crisis.

**The programme activates these spaces with financially self-sufficient, environmental, and socially oriented activities initiated and managed by public or non-profit local entities.** The programme aims three-fold: to promote active citizenry, regenerate the social and urban fabric, and prevent the emergence of other “non-desirable” uses by filling in the space. Pla Buits operates through open calls for proposals open to locally registered civil society organisations. The activities are initially planned for a three-year period that can be extended over time, but it does not allow for permanent construction. There have been two open calls for proposals, and a total of fourteen MUs have been implemented.

**SAMOA | Nantes, France**

- **Website:** <https://www.iledenantes.com/le-projet-de-lile/les-acteurs-du-projet-urbain/>
- **Social Media:** (Facebook) <https://www.facebook.com/IledeNantesSamoa>

**Samoa is a public urban and creative development company in Nantes.** Established in 2003, it defines the overall development strategy for the island of Nantes, oversees the management of public spaces and private and public real estate operations, and collaborates with an urban planning and design team. It also promotes the growth of cultural and creative industries in the region and provides a range of services to support creative projects. Samoa works closely with the metropolitan authorities and citizens, engaging them in decision-making and ensuring their direct involvement in the project's design and implementation.

Samoa has played a crucial role in activating temporary uses in Nantes by allowing the **use of empty buildings for creative and cultural purposes, transforming these spaces into vibrant community hubs.** Its success in facilitating these temporary uses has made Nantes an attractive destination for artists and entrepreneurs, promoting the region's economic growth and cultural development. In brief, Samoa is a local public company endowed with a double competence: it is both an urban developer for an area of Nantes (the island) and an economic developer in the field of cultural and creative industries. This status gives it a certain flexibility and originality, allowing it to experiment on the territory with new ways of making the city and its uses.

### 3. Project's methodology

#### 3.1. Working process

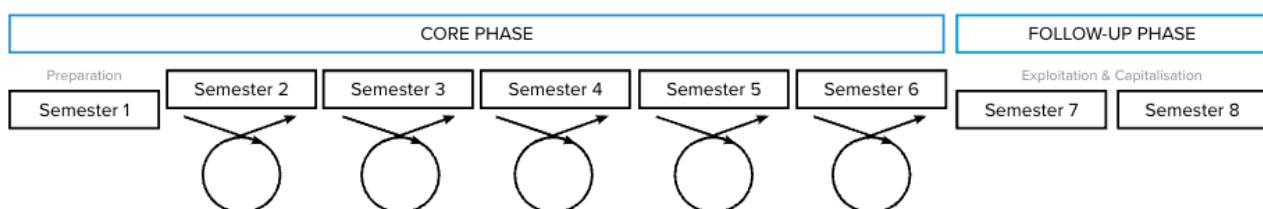
A structured **methodology aims to facilitate partners in the phases of profiling and analysing the GPs to be presented at the interregional events and provide support for evaluating the GPs identified by the project.**

The **core and follow-up phases are the** key succeeding phases that may be used to summarise the total IMPETUS deployment.

While the follow-up phase is focused on improving regional policy instruments using the insights gained from the core phase, the core phase aims to collect, connect, and analyse good practices by identifying similarities, recurrent patterns, strengths, and potential replication levers.

The following figures show the two phases of the project, highlighting the chosen method that allows the partnership and the territories to share, gather, and learn from good practices. The first picture describes how recurrent implementation cycles characterise the total project process from semesters two through six.

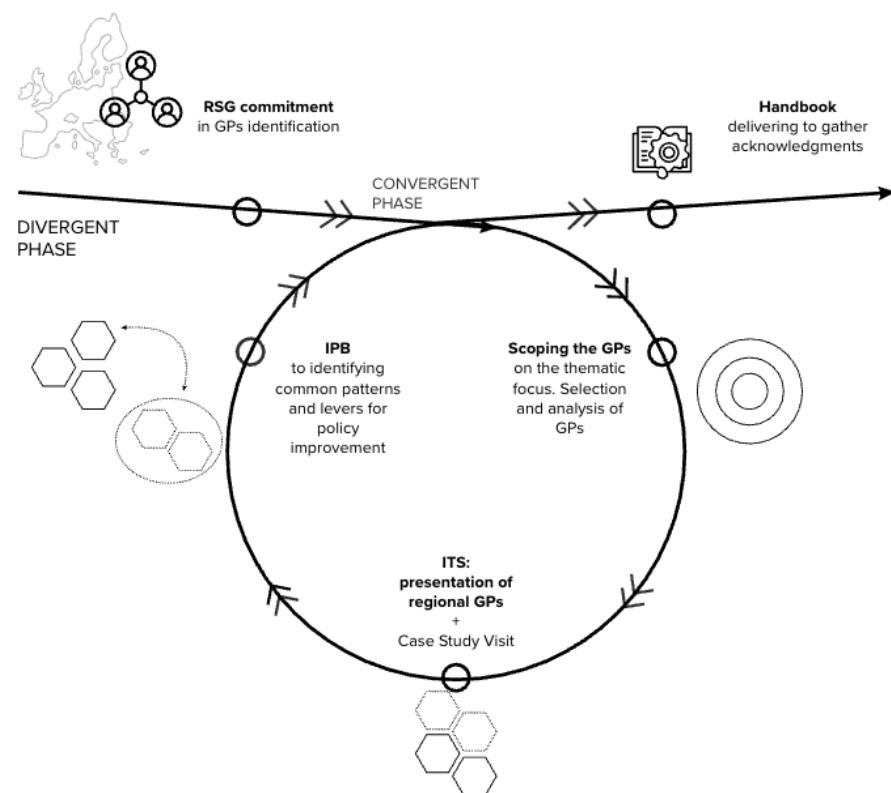
#### THE OVERALL PROCESS



The essential stations and steps that will direct the path for each semester, from 2 to 6, are shown in detail in the second picture, which delves deeply into a single loop. The loop is itself divided into two phases: a first phase characterised by divergent thinking and a second phase characterised by convergent thinking. To gather various potential best practices in the region, each partner will first take the lead and encourage the **Regional Stakeholder Groups' (RSGs)** commitment. The potential good practices must be analysed according to the semester's thematic focus. The two central meetings for exchange, devoted to peer learning, critical thinking, and mutual improvement, are the **Interregional Thematic Seminar (ITS)** and the **Interregional Policy Brokerage (IPB)** events.

The handbook's delivery closes the loop and serves as the main project's source of common knowledge, understanding, and practices.

## Semester 2-6



The IMPETUS working process involves a **recurring cycle of activities** repeated each semester on different thematic focuses.

### 3.2. Thematic focus

Every semester of the IMPETUS project has a specific thematic focus that guides the collection and discussion of good practices. Each good practice that is collected may be relevant to one or more of the focus areas:

- **Semester 2:** Alternatives and approaches to the regulation of temporary uses at regional and urban levels
- **Semester 3:** Contract models, user agreements for the use of public spaces and buildings
- **Semester 4:** Policies to support, initiate, and advise on temporary use
- **Semester 5:** Alternative financing models and mechanisms for temporary uses

The thematic focus for **Semester 6** will be defined along with the implementation of the project by the consortium.

### 3.3. Description & assessment form

Partners collect information about the good practice and assess its effectiveness based on specific criteria by filling out a **Description & assessment form**. Each semester, every partner completes the form proposing good practices delivered in their region. The form should include a general description of the good practice(s), its relevance to the semester's thematic focus, and a detailed description based on the central assessment criteria.

The assessment criteria described below provide a comprehensive and structured **approach to evaluating good practices** for temporary uses. The criteria are designed to assess the effectiveness of temporary use initiatives regarding the efficacy of local policy, policymakers' involvement, impact on the surrounding area, sustainability and inclusivity, community involvement, and quality assurance.

The criteria have been developed to ensure that the assessment of temporary use initiatives is as objective and consistent as possible. They enable a thorough evaluation of initiatives based on various factors and provide a framework for identifying strengths and weaknesses in each initiative. The scope of the assessment criteria is broad and covers various aspects of temporary use initiatives. The criteria are designed to be flexible and apply to different temporary use initiatives across different contexts and locations.

## GOOD PRACTICE DESCRIPTION FORM

**Name of the GP:**

**Organisation in charge of the GP:**

**Location:**

**Duration/Timing:**

### General Description

*Provide a general description of the Good Practice*

**Resources required:**

**Other actors involved:**

**Other relevant information**

*Insert here other relevant information e.g. useful links.*

*If you attach documents to the description form you can describe them here.*

### Affinity with the thematic focus of the semester

*Every semester of the IMPETUS project has a specific thematic focus to guide the collection and discussion of good practices. Each good practice that is collected may be relevant to one or more of the focus areas.*

*Describe how the good practice is particularly relevant to the thematic focus for this semester indicated **below**.*

*The question you should answer for Semester 2 is "**How is the practice relevant to the theme of alternatives and approaches to regulation of temporary uses at regional and urban levels?**"*

#### Semester 2: Alternatives and approaches to the regulation of temporary uses at regional and urban levels

Temporary uses face many barriers, particularly in terms of **regulation** and especially when temporary uses derive from the action of civil society groups and grassroots movements.

The puzzle work of **laws, bureaucratic procedures, and costs** that initiators must navigate to start a temporary use make it hard for communities to access and manage these spaces. Public administrations' active support is vital, along with simplifying rules, contracting, and licensing mechanisms to make temporary uses a mainstreamed tool in urban regeneration plans. Administrations can allow for experimental creation and freedom of creation within policies and regulations. There are possibilities for specifying sites for experimentation in urban land-use planning and integrating a collection of exemplary precedents into the building and planning law structure.

- Policies defining TUs
- Rules and conditions for activating TUs indicated in the policies
- Procedures and contracting mechanisms for activating TUs

## Assessment Criteria

These guiding questions and criteria are used to identify good practices that will be the object of the exchange of experience and evaluate the effectiveness of policy initiatives for temporary use. The main elements of the GPs are described according to the criteria. **Guiding questions are not exhaustive** and relevant information not covered by the questions might be added in the description.

### A. Effectiveness of local policies

need to play a crucial role in generating and supporting temporary uses. The effectiveness of local policies is evaluated based on how they contribute to creating temporary uses within the wider framework of urban regeneration policies and plans. In fact, temporary use should be aligned with local policies and regulations. It should contribute to achieving broader policy goals related to urban regeneration, economic development, and community engagement. This criterion is fundamental and closely related to all four thematic focus areas, as it assesses the **extent to which local policies and policymakers enable and support the implementation of temporary use interventions and the positive effects and outcomes that arise from these policies.** It is particularly relevant to the first thematic focus area, as it evaluates the simplification of rules and contracting mechanisms to make temporary uses a mainstream tool in urban regeneration plans.

*How have local policies and regulations enabled and supported the urban regeneration process? Did they have an effect in enabling temporary use programmes, plans, and interventions?*

*What resources, funding, or expertise has the local government provided to support the policy?*

*Have local policies provided any incentives for temporary-use projects, such as tax breaks or funding opportunities?*

*Have there been any challenges or obstacles in implementing temporary-use projects due to conflicting local policies or regulations?*

### B. Impact, results achieved on the communities

The policy that generates temporary use interventions should positively impact **the communities**. The policy should focus on interventions that create economic opportunities, improve public spaces, and enhance citizens' overall quality of life.

*How has the policy impacted the quality of life of interested communities?*

*What benefits have been realised due to the policy's temporary use projects?*

*How has the policy contributed to the improvement of public spaces?*

*Have there been any unintended negative consequences of the policy?*

### C. Community involvement

The policies on temporary use should involve and engage the local community in the design, implementation, and ongoing management of interventions. This could include forming partnerships with local community organisations, soliciting feedback from residents, and involving community members in the planning and execution of the project.

*How are local community members engaged in designing and planning the interventions?*  
*In what ways are community members involved in the ongoing management of the interventions?*  
*What strategies have been used to address concerns or feedback from community members?*  
*Has the temporary use interventions helped build relationships and trust between the community and public authorities?*  
*For what reasons?*  
*Were there any challenges or obstacles to engaging with the communities, and how were they overcome?*

## D. Sustainability and inclusivity

Policies should promote sustainable temporary use intervention, taking into account environmental, economic, and social considerations. Also, inclusion and accessibility to a diverse range of community members, including people of different ages, backgrounds, and abilities, should be taken into consideration by local policies.

*How was sustainability incorporated into the policy?*  
*What measures have been taken to promote a reduction of waste and energy consumption?*  
*Have any environmentally sustainable design features been incorporated into the policy?*  
*How were inclusivity and accessibility incorporated into the policy?*  
*What measures were taken to ensure that interventions were accessible to a diverse range of community members?*  
*How were cultural considerations and traditions incorporated into the policy?*

## E. Quality assurance: monitoring and impact evaluation

The policy on temporary use should be ideally evaluated and monitored regularly to assess its impact and effectiveness and to identify opportunities for improvement or refinement. This could include collecting data on economic, social, and environmental outcomes, conducting surveys or focus groups with community members, and using feedback to inform ongoing management and decision-making.

*How is the impact and effectiveness of the policy being evaluated and monitored?*  
*What data is being collected on economic, social, and environmental outcomes?*  
*How is feedback from community members being used to inform ongoing management and decision-making?*

## 4. IMPETUS Good Practices

During Semester 2 of the project, **9 GPs were collected** by regional partners and are described below.

### 9 Good Practices

#### Riga City Council

- Viskāļi (Institute of Design for Quality of Life)
- Temporary landscaping and urban experiments

#### Tuscany Region ANCI Toscana

- Creative Hangars – Regenerated spaces for art, culture and business

#### Mazowieckie Region

- Wołomin Activity Center
- Development of the former monastery Brewery in Węgrów for new service and catering functions

#### Métropole Européenne de Lille

- New national program of urban regeneration of Lille - old districts - transitional development of Place Jacques Febvrier
- Roubaix, renewing ideas, resources and the city, revitalising brownfield sites

#### Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency

- Procedure on temporary use of public domain

#### Ayuntamiento Las Palmas

- The Urban Gardens Environmental Education Program



## 4.1. Viskāļi (Institute of Design for Quality of Life)

### *Location: Riga, Latvia*

As a post-industrial city, Riga has undergone a radical economic restructuring over the last 30 years and still has large areas of abandoned space. The Viskāļi initiative is a vivid example of a space given a second chance.

The initiative promoted by the local NGO Free Riga, **transformed an abandoned Faculty of Riga Technical University (RTU) at Viskāļu iela into a dynamic and purposeful space**. In 2020, Free Riga secured a 20-year lease through an auction, making it the largest creative space in Riga, with 15,000 square metres for over 150 creative, social, and active residents.

**The building was open for temporary use for the first four years (2021-24), hosting a variety of activities and events.**

The long-term plan is to develop, in the building, the "Institute of Design for Quality of Life", an international innovation platform aimed to **provide affordable spaces for projects that improve quality of life and address environmental, social, and welfare issues**. The institute plans to gradually develop educational and cultural programmes, artists' workshops, research centres, facilities for start-ups, micro-businesses, NGOs, co-working spaces, and event spaces.

Currently, the main beneficiaries are the residents of the inhabited building – composed of diverse groups of society (local/international, singles/families, European artists, Ukrainian refugees, vulnerable locals and many others).

#### **Resources needed**

All the resources are generated by the residents, who share costs for utilities and invest their voluntary work in the development of the project. Residents are actively engaged in attracting funding to realise their initiatives related to community-building and new uses of temporary space.

#### **Evidence of success**

This practice is successful due to its significant impact on the community. Even if a complete life-cycle assessment of the NGO initiatives has not been performed yet, all of them have improved the quality of life of the residents inhabiting the abandoned buildings and neighbourhoods. The initiatives promote inclusiveness, entrepreneurship, job creation, and community well-being. Moreover, the successful collaboration with the public sector yielded several cultural and social projects funded by public sources.

#### **Potential for learning or transfer**

The Viskāļi initiative in Riga presents an interesting case of urban regeneration and reuse of abandoned spaces in a post-industrial city context. The initial temporary use phase before transitioning into a more permanent institution (the Institute of Design for Quality of Life) showcases a flexible approach to urban development. It also provides valuable insights on bottom-up initiatives, activating dialogues and mutual understanding with occupants of abandoned buildings, public administrations and citizens. The case is also relevant for developing a temporary use agency for a metropolitan area based on Free Riga's experience.



(Foto courtesy <https://viskali.lv/> )



## 4.2. Temporary landscaping and urban experiments

### *Location: Riga, Latvia*

The temporary landscaping and urban experiment practice in Riga addresses the need to **enhance urban environments until permanent solutions are established**. Originating in 2020 under the temporary administration of the Riga City Council, the initiative, now managed by the City Development Department, aims to green public spaces, promote pedestrian-friendly areas, and diversify urban usage, making public spaces more used and welcoming.

**Implemented annually, small-scale temporary improvement projects transform various locations, initially centred on Tērbatas Street in Riga's historic centre.** Over time, projects have expanded citywide, decentralising from the city centre to strategically significant areas, including parklets on streets and community centre territories. The practice involves cooperation between the municipality, NGOs, and residents, facilitated by the Riga City Neighbourhood Residents Centre (NRC), to ensure community engagement in planning processes.

Stakeholders include the Riga City Council, City Development Department, Education, Culture, and Sports Department, Housing and Environment Department, municipal LLC "Riga Forests," and the Territorial Improvement Administration. The involvement of citizens fosters a domino effect, encouraging private initiatives and improving access for entrepreneurs while enhancing the quality of public space for residents and other users.

#### **Resources needed**

As these are small-scale interventions, precise accounting of invested resources has not been performed. The human resources invested in this practice are municipal employees working with urban development issues. The funding for carrying out this practice comes from the municipality's infrastructure fund and changes yearly.

#### **Evidence of success**

The practice is deemed successful based on empirical evidence gathered during the "Summer street" project of 2020. Analysis revealed increased pedestrian and micro-mobility usage, along with heightened stationary activities. Despite compromises to maintain street accessibility, subsequent years saw continued positive impacts, reflected in citizen satisfaction with public space improvements. Furthermore, demographic trends in central neighbourhoods indicate a stabilisation in population decline, potentially influenced by enhanced public space quality.

#### **Potential for learning or transfer**

The use of small-scale, temporary interventions to test and demonstrate the potential for permanent urban improvements is a highly adaptable strategy. Also, the emphasis on collaboration between the municipality, NGOs, and residents, particularly through the facilitation of the Riga City Neighbourhood Residents Centre, highlights the importance of community engagement in urban development. The focus on making public spaces more welcoming and used addresses a widespread need in urban environments. This goal is particularly relevant for cities looking to improve the liveability and attractiveness of urban areas for residents and visitors alike.



(Foto courtesy [www.riga.lv/lv](http://www.riga.lv/lv) )

## 4.3. Creative Hangars – Revitalised spaces for art, culture and business in Livorno

### ***Location: Livorno, Italy***

#### **Creative Hangars transform Livorno's former transport area into a vibrant cultural district, hosting events, performances, and fostering entrepreneurial culture**

The Creative Hangars initiative responds to the challenge of revitalising the **former Livorno public transport company area (exATL)**. Abandoned in 2015, the 17,000 m<sup>2</sup> site is transformed into an 'advanced cultural district.' The project, initiated through participatory processes started in 2021, addresses the problem of the abandonment state of a strategic urban area and aims at integrating multiple different functions, all designed with the utmost attention to the new generations.

In March 2022 the regeneration of the Creative Hangars area was selected by the Tuscany Region, within the initiatives financed with the Regional Program FESR 2021-2027. The complex debuted its reuse in September 2022 with the 'Creative Hangars' event, collaborating with the Italian Pavilion at the XVII International Architecture Exhibition in Venice. In December 2022, a public meeting called "Kick Off Hangar Creativi", was held at the Hangars to publicly illustrate the proposal for the regeneration of the former exATL warehouse area and the development path of the project idea.

Temporary uses approach is configured as a useful design method to "practically" delve into some aspects on which there is uncertainty, through the implementation of real tests of the use of the spaces, in order to collect useful indications for the consolidation of the project. To define the content of the experimentation of temporary uses, the Municipality activated a further participatory process involving the cultural associations in shaping the area's design, promoting functions such as theatres, creative industries, and green spaces.

#### **Resources needed**

Duration of the Concession: 50 years  
Investment cost: approx. €26.09 million (including available amounts)  
Public contribution: €8 million from ERDF, plus €2.4 million as municipal co-financing.  
For the rest of the necessary resources: use of public-private partnerships

#### **Evidence of success**

The economic and social feasibility analysis has confirmed the project's viability, showcasing compatibility with regulations, profitability, and community willingness to contribute. The Creative Hangar has already been selected by the Region with DGR 422 of 04.11.2022, within the initiatives financed with the Tuscany Regional Program FESR 2021-2027. Along this first activation phase, keen on the engagement of the local community, the initiative has already demonstrated positive impacts on civic and social engagement and opportunities for young talents, new businesses, and cultural organisations.

#### **Potential for learning or transfer**

The practice proves particularly intriguing for other regions and cities in Europe for the following reasons:

- a) The intervention is already part of a broader policy framework, such as the Regional ERDF Programme, enhancing the value of this practice not only at the European level but also as a reference for the regional context.
- b) Creative Hangars is a practice that has repeatedly welcomed the participation of citizens and organisations, enhancing the city of Livorno's ability to engage them in a collective redefinition of public space and community functions.
- c) The practice is noteworthy as a benchmark for the incremental regeneration of an area formerly dedicated to public services and uses, designing and implementing new functions and services.



(Foto courtesy [www.\(\)](https://hangarcreativi.comune.livorno.it/)



#### 4.4. Wołomin Activity Center

##### *Location: Mazowieckie Region, Poland*

**The Wołomin Community Activity Center (CAC) project revitalises a historic power plant building at Daszyńskiego Street, creating an open and accessible place for the community.**

The Wołomin Community Activity Center project is part of the interventions funded under the Municipal Revitalization Program (2023-2030 - MRP). The project addresses the challenge of repurposing the historic power plant building of the Daszyńskiego Street in Wołomin. The public building, dating back to the 1920s, was in a state of disrepair, triggering the initiation of this transformative project. To improve the impact potential of the intervention, the Municipality of Wołomin also bought an empty plot of land adjacent to the power plant, enlarging the external green space.

The project's core objective is to create a cultural space for the local community, leveraging cultural events with the scope also to preserve the historical significance of the building. The programme of cultural events is designed together with cultural associations, NGOs, foundations, and the residents. The regeneration process has included a significant focus on energy efficiency and the environmental quality of the building. A "Revitalisation Committee" is crucial in overseeing the project deployment. The local actors carry out the planning of temporary cultural and educational initiatives in cooperation with the Municipal Cultural Center in Wołomin.

The primary beneficiaries are the diverse members of the local community, associations and NGOs. The project integrates social, economic, and environmental actions, embodying sustainable development principles.

##### **Resources needed**

Duration of the Concession: indefinite period (from Sep. 2023)

Public contribution: The local government carried out an investment for which it received funds under the Jessica loan ("Joint European support for sustainable investment in city areas").

##### **Evidence of success**

The Wołomin project yielded significant success, positively impacting the community's quality of life. Preservation of the Old Plant enriched the city's landscape, with residents enjoying diverse cultural activities. The initiative created a new space and preserved historical heritage and community involvement. Ongoing feedback analysis, focusing on the number of users and initiated projects, shows improved socio-economic indicators, already demonstrating its first successes.

##### **Potential for learning or transfer**

This practice may be of interest to other regions for several reasons. Firstly, it focuses on using unused resources through social innovation and activation of residents. Secondly, it involves non-governmental organisations, local social groups and foundations, which may inspire other communities to cooperate similarly. Third, its key principle is to assess the effectiveness and commitment of future users. Additionally, the project aims to create a new space serving all community members by organising cultural events and saving historic buildings. The project is consistent with the urban revitalisation program and has specific success metrics. Finally, project supervision covers planning cultural and educational projects, which indicates a systematic approach to social and cultural development. Together, these elements create a sustainable community development model that can be an inspiration for other regions.



(Foto courtesy [www.mdkwolomin.pl](http://www.mdkwolomin.pl))



## 4.5. Development of the former monastery Brewery in Węgrów for new service and catering functions

### ***Location: Węgrów, Poland***

**The project transforms a former brewery into a hub for social, cultural, and economic activities, creating jobs and fostering community engagement.**

The project, funded mainly by the Mazovian Voivodeship ROP, addresses the urban degradation in Węgrów, particularly in the historic abandoned brewery and park area. The practice involves conservation renovation of the former brewery buildings for various activities, including service, commercial, catering, social, and cultural initiatives. The primary objective is revitalising the urban space, creating economic opportunities, and enhancing social integration.

It also includes changing the use of common urban spaces, such as the Armii Krajowej city park and its surrounding degraded areas, to concentrate economic activities, generate new jobs and revitalise it. The project is implemented through a conservative renovation, restoration of historical elements, and the addition of connectors between buildings.

The main stakeholders include the Wegrowianka Social Cooperative, which manages the revitalised buildings, and the City of Węgrów, responsible for implementing the project. Beneficiaries encompass the local community, gaining access to new social, cultural, and recreational spaces.

Consultations with the local community are crucial to the practice, ensuring residents' participation in the revitalisation process.

#### **Resources needed**

Duration of the Concession: From July 11, 2023, to December 31, 2028.  
Public contribution: over €17 million, with significant contributions from the EU, National Funds, and the Mazovian Voivodeship. Additionally, the resources needed include buildings and spaces requiring development and the community interested in their use.

#### **Evidence of success**

The project breathed new life into marginalised areas of Węgrów, creating new job opportunities and improving access to social services and cultural activities. Monitored through annual reports, it positively impacted spatial, social, and economic aspects, contributing to the city's long-term appeal. Data collection encompassing diverse social and economic dimensions and community feedback guides decision-making processes and enables a coherent ongoing impact evaluation.

#### **Potential for learning or transfer**

The practice has the potential for learning and transfer because it involves former industrial buildings in a peripheral territory and area. The regeneration process has activated several stakeholders and actors from the business sector and civil society, connecting them in a new vision for the space, able to be a reference for future interventions.

The complementary integration of diverse public funds with the further inclusion of private investments represents a benchmark in the region on designing and planning interventions for building and space regeneration.

The project in Węgrów is an excellent example of good practice due to its multi-aspect nature and community involvement, which can contribute to raising awareness of the social economy. The practice not only addresses the principles of temporary use, but also demonstrates how they can be effectively implemented to benefit the community.



(Foto courtesy [www.wegrow.com.pl](http://www.wegrow.com.pl) )

## 4.6. New national program of urban regeneration of Lille - old districts - transitional development of Place Jacques Février

### ***Location: Lille, France***

**Febvrier Square Project, integral to the NPNRU is a tactical transitional urban planning project, pending an overall project for the city's entrance.**

The square is the subject of a tactical transitional urban planning project, pending a more comprehensive redevelopment of this city entrance and aims to rapidly remedy deep-seated dysfunctions.

Part of the broader New NPNRU, it responds to challenges like space degradation, vacant buildings, and spatial social issues in a run-down neighbourhood.

The project is coordinated by a partnership involving the City of Lille, MEL, ANRU, SPLA La Fabrique des Quartiers, Établissement Public Foncier Hauts de France, Région Hauts de France, and Action Logement. Stakeholders include residents, associations, M. Bertrand Social Centre, and M. Makeba Public Secondary School.

The goal of the project, through the restoration of urban quality and the promotion of pedestrianisation and soft transport, is to reclaim the square by taking action on several fronts: adapting public spaces to counteract the way they currently function and reintroducing positive uses; restructuring buildings and the housing offer; establishment of local services and commercial activities, particularly in the social economy.

Implementation involves phased reactivation of ground floors, calls for expressions of interest, temporary layout adjustments, and artistic interventions. Furthermore, landscape enhancements focused on greenery and biodiversity promotion contribute to the environmental sustainability of the area.

Co-production with local partners ensures inclusive decision-making. Indeed, the method used is co-producing the project with local residents and associations, through various methods such as information sessions, consultation and co-production sessions and festive events.

#### **Resources needed**

Duration of the Concession: 2019-2034  
Investment cost: 24.8M€

#### **Evidence of success**

While the evaluation assessment of Jacques Février Square is still in progress, the existing evaluation framework of the New National Urban Renewal Program by the Métropole européenne de Lille provides valuable indicators. The project has successfully engaged residents, associations, and schools, demonstrating a strong commitment to community involvement.

#### **Potential for learning or transfer**

The project is an example of tactical urbanism with potential for transfer to other regions due to its collaborative, community-driven and multi-stakeholder approach. The establishment of local services and commercial activities, particularly those within the social economy, highlights a relevant approach to urban regeneration. Other regions and cities could benefit from investigating how temporary agreements with private entities for commercial management are established. Recognising the crucial role of commercial activities in urban well-being is essential, and understanding and addressing this role also enables tackling safety challenges associated with vacant spaces, especially in public areas. The use of temporary layouts (pedestrian areas) and artistic interventions as part of the project's implementation strategy is also very relevant.



(Foto courtesy [www.lafabriquedesquartiers.fr](http://www.lafabriquedesquartiers.fr) )



## 4.7. Roubaix, renewing ideas, resources and the city, revitalising brownfield sites

### ***Location: Lille, France***

#### **Roubaix's Sustainable Cities initiative drives urban renewal, activating brownfields, fostering innovation, and enhancing residents' quality of life.**

The Roubaix area, located in the north-east of the Lille metropole, is marked by a significant number of vacant and derelict sites scattered across its landscape. This presents many challenges for the city, including rapid neighbourhood deterioration and loss of attractiveness.

Focusing on creating a more efficient city in terms of life quality and sustainable development, the Roubaix urban development project aims to restore value to brownfield sites, enhance their attractiveness, create jobs and reduce spending constraints.

Five operational levers guide the action: the creation of an endogenous structure for activating brownfield sites (Eco6TM), an e-logistics and e-commerce demonstrator, a resilience cluster promoting empowerment and entrepreneurship, a craftsmen's platform for re-use, and a self-harvesting urban market-gardening farm.

Stakeholders include the Metropole Européenne de Lille, the City of Roubaix, and SPLA La Fabrique des Quartiers, and the main beneficiaries are residents, local businesses, and the community. The goal is to help residents improve living conditions, reduce spending constraints, and increase economic opportunities. The innovative approaches foster social cohesion and empower communities, aligning with the goals of the NPNRU.

#### **Resources needed**

Duration of the Concession: 2018-2030

Investment cost: 7,1M€ (perimeter PIA), of which 2,5M€ PIA subsidy.

#### **Evidence of success**

While the evaluation framework of Roubaix practice is ongoing, the existing framework for the MEL's NPNRU provides insight into its potential success. The goal is to create an eco-friendly city with improved living standards, linking economic development and social inclusion and generating jobs. Indicators to measure the attractiveness of the area and the living space of households have already been included in the ongoing evaluation, which will assess the practice's effectiveness in achieving its goals.

#### **Potential for learning or transfer**

The revitalisation of brownfields is a central theme in many cities across Europe. The revitalisation of polluted and post-industrial areas can be inspired by the activities of the EPF (Etablissement Public Foncier) of the Haute de France Region. Interest might extend to exploring opportunities for ecosystemic services associated with new green areas and strategies for promoting and incentivising them.

Urban farming is one of the services implemented in Roubaix, as well as occupation and use agreements. In this case, it can offer insights beneficial for other cities, providing knowledge on their structure, regulation, and facilitation through public policies and norms.



(Foto courtesy [www.fermeurbainedutrichon.fr](http://www.fermeurbainedutrichon.fr) )

## 4.8. Procedure on temporary use of public domain

### ***Location: Bucharest, Romania***

**The procedure created by Bucharest's 4th District set a legal framework for granting the right of temporary and seasonal use of public spaces, promoting diverse commercial activities.**

Despite persistent barriers such as bureaucracy and funding challenges, the procedure pioneers a fair and transparent mechanism for granting the right to temporary use of public spaces, specifically encouraging seasonal commercial activities, fairs, and festivals.

This procedure aims to establish a legal and unitary mechanism for granting the right of temporary use of public places to carry out commercial activities in the 4th District of Bucharest. In this sense, the procedure establishes the guidelines regarding the criteria for awarding, in a fair, correct and transparent manner, agreements for the temporary use of public places, including sites used for carrying out commercial activities of a seasonal or temporary nature, lands located near food or non-food businesses.

The 4th District Local Council, Bucharest City Hall, and Bucharest Municipality have led this transformative effort, fostering new opportunities for local entrepreneurs and craftsmen to contribute to events, particularly in supporting traditional crafts. The procedure simplifies the access and use of public spaces, especially during the summer season, ensuring tax compliance and contributing to public space maintenance.

The norm was designed after a public consultation with citizens, which was strategic and crucial in ensuring that diverse perspectives were considered, integrating valuable insights from those directly impacted.

Beyond its immediate objectives, the initiative lays the groundwork for potential applications in the cultural sector.

#### **Resources needed**

Duration of the Concession: 2021- ongoing

Investment cost: Human resources from the 4<sup>th</sup> District Hall and the Municipality (that register, verify and approve the requests).

#### **Evidence of success**

Despite no formal impact assessment, the initiative has shown positive impacts, especially in making the bureaucratic process for the public space's use and management more accessible, which was perceived as critical by the involved stakeholders and business companies. Moreover, the impact is visible in improved maintenance of buildings and spaces. While it primarily involves commerce, encouraging the participation of craftsmen, it holds potential for the cultural sector.

#### **Potential for learning or transfer**

The practice can be interesting for other regions and metropolitan areas because it addresses, straightforwardly and explicitly, the need to open public spaces to private activities and initiatives. The fact that the call has been designed after an open consultation is crucial for further replication. It makes the instrument particularly suitable for the context and needs of Bucharest's 4th District. Due to the purpose and requirements of the practice, it is fascinating not only for the temporary commercial exploitation of public space, which is the current use, but also as a mechanism that can be open to the participation of cultural initiatives and organisations.



(Foto courtesy [www.facebook.com/femeipematasari](http://www.facebook.com/femeipematasari))



## 4.9. The Urban Gardens Environmental Education Program

### ***Location: Las Palmas, Spain***

**The Urban Gardens project aims to make use of vacant lots by establishing a series of agricultural plots that are temporarily allocated to residents.**

In Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, the urban gardens initiative addresses the issue of vacant lots, where residential buildings or roads will be constructed in the future but are currently unused. The practice introduces agricultural plots temporarily allocated to residents, transforming these neglected areas into prolific and open community gardens. The initiative aims to prevent littering, foster community interaction, provide fresh vegetables to residents, instil environmental values, and combat social isolation.

The allocation of plots is designed and implemented through an open public call legal competitive process, ensuring a fair allocation. Moreover, specific regulations guide urban garden users, defining their rights and responsibilities and outlining rules and penalties. The implementation involves a legal and competitive process for plot allocation, with specific regulations governing the use of these urban gardens.

The main stakeholders include the Technical Unit for the Environment from the local administration, which is also responsible for the Urban Gardens Environmental Education Program, and the beneficiaries are the residents who engage in gardening. The project's beneficiaries extend to social groups or entities, collectives, schools and associations and individuals who receive fresh products, fostering a sense of community and addressing social isolation, mainly benefiting the elderly.

#### **Resources needed**

Duration of the Concession: Not defined

Investment cost: The city council purchases the initial materials and provides training courses.

Additionally, the city hired a private company to conduct the training courses and maintain the common areas in the gardens.

#### **Evidence of success**

The project's success is evidenced by positive feedback from residents in satisfaction surveys, indicating an improvement in their quality of life. Positive outcomes include, in fact, increased physical activity among elderly residents as well as enhanced social interactions among all residents. However, ongoing efforts should focus on improving evaluation methods to better capture the project's effectiveness.

Challenges encountered: the main challenge has been the lack of an appropriate legal procedure to support this activity. Without a legal procedure, it is not possible to allocate a budget to this action. On the other hand, in order to have an appropriate legal framework, it is necessary to have sufficient qualified technical personnel in the Environmental Service. The current staffing levels do not allow for these actions to be undertaken.

#### **Potential for learning or transfer**

The legal framework and structured implementation provide a model that can be adapted to different urban contexts, addressing common challenges of vacant urban spaces, social isolation, and environmental degradation. Other cities can learn from this approach to community engagement, sustainability practices, and the positive impact on quality of life, adapting the initiative to local needs and regulations.



(Foto courtesy Ayuntamiento de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)

## 5. Results and insights from Semester 2

### 5.1. Opening Workshop

On September 28th 2023, an opening workshop was organised to **present the project's objectives, themes, activities and expected results** to the project's stakeholders and the general public. The event was hosted at the [Many Possible Cities festival](#) in Florence, where the "Urban Regenerations: Temporary Uses for a Participatory and Inclusive Transition" panel, moderated by LAMA and curated by T-Factor and IMPETUS projects, was the festival's opening session. Local and regional institutions and policymakers, stakeholders, media and the general public were present at the event. Good practices for a just and inclusive transition in urban regeneration were also presented during the workshop. In particular, the cases presented explored the potential offered by temporary uses in urban regeneration to support a just and equitable transition, i.e. an ecological and digital transition guided by principles of justice and equality, from a European and local perspective. The discussion covered a wide range of topics, including policies and regulations governing temporary uses, urban agencies for the re-use of abandoned or disused spaces, financial instruments to support the adoption of temporary uses in urban regeneration, opportunities offered by the re-use of spaces in Social Housing and Reception, synergies between ESF and ERDF funding for temporary management of buildings within urban regeneration pathways.

### 5.2. 1st ITS in Riga

On November 14-15th 2023, the Riga City Council hosted the first **Interregional Thematic Seminar (ITS)** of the IMPETUS project. The seminar has been attended by all project partners, along with some of the stakeholders from Regions that have been active in Regional Stakeholder Groups during the past semester.

The meeting set off the work for the core phase of the project and initialised the first project's thematic loop.

During the first day of the ITS, partners presented the **9 Good Practices** concerning the topic of Semester 2: "**Alternatives and approaches to the regulation of temporary uses at regional and urban levels**". The first day was also devoted to **study visits**.

## Study visit in Riga

The 2 study visits were held in Lastadija and Viskalu Street, introduced and led by representatives of 'Free Riga', the local NGO that brings together creative and social initiatives to transform abandoned buildings and sites into experimental places for culture and social innovation working with the temporary use model.

The **Lastadija Cultural Quarter**, since 2015, has been a platform for social and creative cultural initiatives in the city, offering space for activities, resources, volunteers and cooperation, where participants and guests work together to create an environment of self-fulfilment for themselves and others.



**Viskaļi - Institute of Design for Quality of Life** is the largest creative facility in Riga. It offers 15,000 square meters of space, including former classrooms, labs, a 500-seat cinema, warehouses and green outdoor space. Initially housing the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Transport, and Aeronautics of Riga University, the complex now hosts 150+ creative, social, and active residents. Since 2020, it's been open for temporary use, accommodating various activities.



The second day was oriented to fostering dialogue and exchange among partners: a debrief **session** was conducted to consolidate the presented elements, key features, and policy instruments from the partners, highlighting the **relevance** and **transferability** potential of the presented GPs.

The aim was, therefore, to **stimulate work with the Regional Stakeholders Groups** and key policymakers upon returning from the ITS, in **preparation for the following Interregional Policy Brokerage Event (IPB)** in Lille.

The activity was structured to facilitate active participation and open discourse among partners and stakeholders. To accomplish this, **two main subjects** were delineated, each assigned to a separate working table and oriented by two primary questions, serving as a framework for guiding collective discussions within the group.

The activity opened a further reflection at the regional and interregional levels. What emerged is a picture of the topics, **experiences, and instruments that will potentially guide the consortium's work for the following semesters**.

From the exchange of experiences between partners during the debriefing session, **four main topics** were identified **analysing the needs of partners** concerning the other GPs, and that can enable policy improvements:

1. Collaboration with the private sector, including for-profit and non-profit, and agencies for temporary uses.
2. Inclusive engagement, access, and right to the city
3. Greening, biodiversity, and urban wilderness
4. Agreements and procedures.

### **1. Collaboration with the private sector, including for-profit and non-profit, and agencies for temporary uses.**

The key to this discussion is the interest of partners in comprehending the regulatory framework governing these collaborations. They are keen to understand how agreements with private entities are formed, whether these partnerships are aimed at commercial purposes or activities of public interest.

Moreover, there is also an interest in exploring partnerships with non-governmental organisations (NGOs). A critical aspect of this element is identifying the most suitable operator to act as an "agency" in these collaborations.

#### **Related GPs:**

- Procedure on the temporary use of a public domain (Bucharest-IIfov)
- Wołomin Activity Center, Development of the former monastery Brewery in Węgrów for new service and catering functions (Mazowieckie Region/Mazovia Region)
- Viskalji - Institute of Design for Quality of Life (Riga City Council)

- New national program of urban regeneration of Lille - old districts - transitional development of Place Jacques Febvrier (Métropole Européenne de Lille)

## 2. Inclusive engagement, access, and right to the city

A key area of focus is how to encourage bottom-up initiatives that often start as spontaneous movements, and demonstrate in the early stages of the project a clear priority to align with the changing needs of the citizens. The process requires active listening and engaging with the community to support and encourage grassroots efforts.

Another aspect involves establishing partnerships between PAs and citizens to convert and reuse resources. In this context, the administration's role is to facilitate this process: an example of this approach is the Italian 'Patto dei beni Comuni,' which reflects a commitment to participatory urban space management.

Identifying different strategies and policies that help start conversations and promote mutual understanding will be interesting. These strategies can be particularly relevant when dealing with the occupants of abandoned buildings, public administrations, and citizens. In this case, the goal is to ensure the integration of diverse perspectives into urban plans, in order to foster a more inclusive community

### Related GPs:

- Creative Hangars – Regenerated spaces for art, culture and business (Tuscany Region - ANCI Toscana)
- Viskalji - Institute of Design for Quality of Life, Temporary landscaping and urban experiments (Riga City Council)
- New national program of urban regeneration of Lille - old districts - transitional development of Place Jacques Febvrier (Métropole Européenne de Lille)

## 3. Greening, biodiversity, and urban wilderness

The first focus is exploring the potential of urban gardens and considering how policies might offer financial support to spaces designated for green uses. Models like Las Palmas' citizen gardens can be particularly relevant for the surrounding areas of regenerated spaces.

The approach to urban farming and relative occupation agreements are of interest for potential application. Understanding the processes involved in regenerating a brownfield and the

ecosystem services that can be developed in new green areas helps reach the full scope and impact of transforming empty spaces into green urban areas.

**Related GPs:**

- New national program of urban regeneration of Lille - old districts, Roubaix, renewing ideas, resources, and the city (Métropole Européenne de Lille)
- The Urban Gardens Environmental Education Program (Ayuntamiento Las Palmas)

**4. Agreements and procedures:**

A recurring and cross-cutting theme - initially scheduled for discussion in the fourth semester of the project - has emerged as particularly relevant. Given the interest in this topic, it was decided to advance the timeline for a more in-depth discussion to the third semester.

The importance of understanding and analysing systems and procedures that enable temporary uses, decision-making, and administrative processes is evident. The case of Bucharest, in particular, offers enlightening lessons in procedural matters. How to effectively collaborate with NGOs and the private sector through formal agreements must also be considered.

### 5.3. 1st IPB in Lille

On January 31st and February 1st, 2024, the Métropole Européenne de Lille hosted the first **Interregional Policy Brokerage (IPB)** event of the IMPETUS project.

During the weeks before the meeting, bilateral **Online Touchpoints** were carried out between LAMA and each consortium partner to validate the results of the ITS event in Riga and prepare for the upcoming IPB event.

The third step of Semester 2 was the meeting to promote **exchange and cooperation between partners** to enhance their capacity to design regional policies.

The IPB meeting has been structured to allow an effective dialogue and exchange among the partners' regions and stakeholders.

During the first day, the IPB consisted of a **plenary session** to deepen - together with local and international experts - two of the most relevant **topics, identified by analysing the needs of partners**, that can enable policy improvements:

- Collaboration with the private sector, including for-profit and non-profit, and agencies for temporary uses;
- Greening, biodiversity and urban wilderness.

During the second day, three **peer-to-peer working groups** were set up to discuss critical features for potential transferability among project partners:

- Greening & urban planning
- European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme & Temporary Uses
- Civil society and agencies

During both days, partners had the chance to participate in two **Study Visits**:

- The transitional urban design of **Place Jacques Febvrier** and «Défi Réhabilitation» in **Lille**;
- **Condition Publique** and **Farm of Trichon**, in **Roubaix**.

## Study visits

Partners got to know the transitional urban design of **Place Jacques Febvrier**, introduced by Guillaume Dufour of SPLA La Fabrique des Quartiers. The place embodies adaptive strategies that respond to evolving urban needs, encouraging temporary uses while preserving the essence and functionality of the area.





The next day, visits were held to the **Condition Publique** and the **Farm of Trichon**, in Roubaix. The Condition Publique is a cultural space that transforms a former industrial site into a dynamic centre for creativity, art and community engagement, revitalising the urban landscape with its diverse programmes and events. The Farm of Trichon is an innovative urban agriculture project that transforms abandoned industrial sites into productive farmland, promoting local food production and community involvement while contributing to the city's sustainable development goals.





The meeting saw the first participation of the **new partner of the project “Municipal Parking Society of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, S.A. (SAGULPA)”** which is currently engaged in the direct and indirect management of parking lots, the construction and promotion of resident parking facilities, and the management of regulated parking services for motor vehicles on public roads in the city, as per the agreement with the City Council.

Local and international experts presented relevant experiences to the two topics during the plenary working groups. The experts were selected and invited based on their experiences in fields pertinent to the project: critical individuals from organisations known for their excellence in the area of TUs were invited. Additionally, the contribution of local experts enabled a deeper exploration of key elements of experiences within the Lille metropolitan area.

## 1. Collaboration with the private sector, including for-profit and non-profit, and agencies for TUs.

Ms. Lucie Renou, International Project Manager at **Samoa**, presented the **urban development project in the Île de Nantes**. Samoa is a public company (owned by Nantes Métropole, the City of Nantes, and other local institutions), it defines the overall **strategy for the development of the Île de Nantes** in connection with public policies and oversees the project management of public spaces. The area was previously an industrial centre during the 50s and 60s and has now become an important **cultural and creative hub**. The experience also included some relevant TU practices, such as [\*\*Le Karting\*\*](#), a former karting track now hosting spaces for creative enterprises; about this, the Precarious **Occupation Agreement** was also presented to partners.

Ms. Sophie Cottier, Project Manager at **Perspective Brussels**, presented the activities of the **Temporary Occupancy Desk**. The Desk is supported by two regional institutions that manage temporary occupations in the Brussels-Capital Region: [citydev.brussels](http://citydev.brussels) and [perspective.brussels](http://perspective.brussels). The Desk aims to play a role as: **facilitator of temporary occupation** through a set of practical **information**, supporting **requests and offers** of spaces and setting up **financial tools** for projects; **center of expertise - an observatory**, through territorial **analyses and specific studies** aimed at better understanding the dynamics and needs related to TUs; **assembler and ambassador**, by **mapping** and promoting all current projects and **developing the network** with players and partners, both at local and international level.

Ms. Emilie Durigneux, from **SEM Ville Renouvelée**, presented their approach and activities for TUs in the metropolitan area of Lille. SEM Ville Renouvelée is a public-private company supporting private and public actors thanks to a wide range of expertise, including **urban planning, development and construction services, real estate management, parking, and mobility**.

Prof. Marc Dumont and PhD candidate Vassili Duverly, from the **Laboratoire TVES, Université de Lille**, presented an in-depth **analysis of temporary urban planning approaches**, highlighting the different scopes and dynamics of TUs practices with particular reference to the French Urban Renewal Program (ANRU).

## 2. Greening, biodiversity, and urban wilderness

Mr. Yann Dusza, from **EPF Hauts De France**, presented the public agency's activity, particularly in **treating industrial wasteland, urban renewal, and soil restoration of brownfields**. The EPF is crucial in redeveloping post-industrial sites by acquiring, deconstructing, restoring, and selling disused areas.

The agency activates **greening TUs** to renaturate and restore soil functionalities.

Jamila BENTRAR, from the hosting partner **Métropole Européenne de Lille**, presented the **urban farming initiative "Quartiers Fertiles"** in the metropolitan area. The initiative aims to restore the function of soils that have been subject to industrial pollution by the textile industry.

During the second day, the peer-to-peer working groups aimed to facilitate **the exchange of practices and policy learning** by **identifying and discussing common patterns and transferable elements**.

The activity was structured to facilitate active participation and open discourse among partners. Three main topics were assigned to a separate working group to accomplish this. Each group was oriented by **guiding questions** from one partner (discussant) to another (host). The methodology was defined based on the insights gathered during the ITS meeting in Riga.

The discussions in **Working Group 1A** highlighted the **significant role of urban planning in advancing green initiatives** and transforming urban spaces into greener areas. Participants expressed unanimous interest in delving deeper into how urban planning can facilitate TUs and overall urban regeneration with a comprehensive perspective. For instance, the Métropole Européenne de Lille (MEL) stands out with its unique position in managing urban planning at both city and metropolitan levels, emphasising initiatives like the Quartiers Fertiles for urban agriculture and the Farm de Trichon for renaturalizing polluted soils. Conversely, challenges were noted, such as citizen objections to temporary green spaces that are eventually developed, highlighting the complexity of integrating green initiatives within urban planning.

**Working Group 1B** focused on the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Operational Programmes (OP)** and their role in supporting TUs and urban regeneration. The Tuscany Region has proactively leveraged the ERDF for urban integrated projects, aiming to address challenges such as social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and urban security through integrated programming. Similarly, the Mazowieckie Region's emphasis on integrated and inclusive development aligns with the broader objectives of cohesion policy, showcasing a commitment to revitalising urban areas through multifaceted interventions. The Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency is preparing for initiatives focusing on building rehabilitation and cultural heritage, indicating a strategic approach to urban regeneration.

**Working Group 2** highlighted the **pivotal role of civil society and agencies in urban development**, mainly through the lens of the Riga City Council's experiences. Emphasising participatory urban planning, Riga demonstrated a comprehensive approach to engaging citizens in public decision-making, exceeding legal minimums for participation. Initiatives such as participatory budgeting and collaboration with NGOs as Free Riga, highlight the city's commitment to inclusivity and responsiveness to community needs. The Tuscany Region's promotion of participatory pathways for urban regeneration, supported by ERDF funds, further illustrates the growing emphasis on citizen involvement in the redevelopment and regeneration processes. These discussions reflect a broader trend towards more inclusive urban planning practices, recognizing the essential contribution of civil society and participatory mechanisms in creating vibrant, sustainable urban spaces.

## 6. Next steps

The project's next step will be the **collection of GPs** related to the **second thematic focus "Contract models, user agreements for the use of public spaces and buildings."**:

Contract models and user agreements may change depending on the space, on the actor who intends to use it, and on the purpose of the activities to be implemented with the TU. This generates a wide range of contract and agreement types, from 'Citizen Agreements' creating a pact between local administration and local stakeholders, to private agreements for those cases where privates activate uses and have commercial purposes. Moreover, models are regulated at national, regional, and municipal levels and often integrate and overlap in their boundaries of influence. Navigating and applying different contract models is challenging for public administrations at all levels and could address how TU policies may be oriented.

The GPs collected will be presented at the **ITS event in Las Palmas, April 9-10th 2024.**