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# Summary of EIT Community NEB Citizen Engagement Activities 2022

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## ProModSe project [Warsaw Poland & Lviv Ukraine]: Modular Refugee Settlement

Lead partner: Warsaw University of Technology

Fund by EIT Community: 15 000 EUR

**Main goal of the project:** Developing a method for the rapid construction of a settlement for approximately 3,500 people, including social infrastructure, based on replicable elements at micro, mezzo and macro scales. Target group are people displaced from eastern Ukraine due to the war. Planning based on three design scales: macro (settlement), meso (quarter), and micro (module/segment).

**Main achievements:** A housing estate proposal planned on a plot of land declared for refugee housing - in Ukraine Lviv Riasna district. The project gave hope to vulnerable people displaced by war so they are not left alone.



**Potential next steps:** Standards for Modular Refugee Settlements were developed to scale the project further and to allow NEB assumptions to be implemented in modular housing - estate, quarter, and segment/module scale. The project had enabled extensive international and national contacts, planned to be implemented/constructed and scale the project further

## EITra project [Rubí, Spain]: Elderly on Track

Lead partner: Fundació Centre D'innovació I Tecnologia De La Upc [CIT UPC]

Fund by EIT Community: 15 000 EUR

**Main goal of the project:** Identify and evaluate safe, comfortable and healthy walking routes for elderly people in Rubí (Metropolitan Area of Barcelona). Encourage active mobility among the elderly.

**Main achievements:** Three walking routes were established in Rubí to improve elderly people's mental and physical health through active mobility, encouraging social inclusion and re-connecting with nature. The participants highlighted the need for shaded, wide, soft, resistant, and flat pavement. An essential element for their walks was also frequent stops. These stops should have benches, trees, water fountains, public toilets, and eating places nearby. Additionally, segregating car traffic, bicycles, and scooters away from the pavement makes their walking experience safer and more comfortable.



**Potential next steps:** Good practices reports on planning participatory workshops and designing walking routes for the elderly had been published to foster replicating the project.

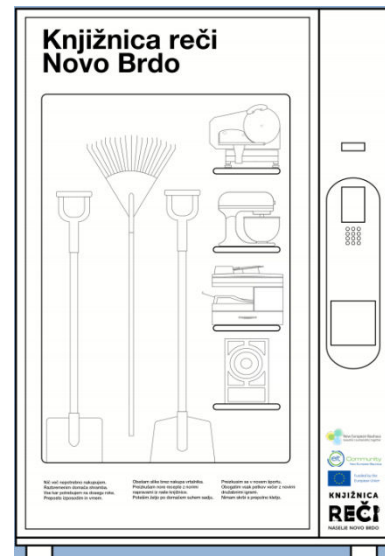
## Building Sharing Community project [Ljubljana, Slovenia]

**Lead partner:** Library of Things Ljubljana

**Fund by EIT Community:** 13 750 EUR

**Main goal of the project:** Improved sharing economy practices for the tenants of Novo Brdo neighbourhood, the youngest neighbourhood built by two public housing funds (state and municipal).

**Main achievements:** Three methods of sharing economy had been successfully tested: library of things [LOT], clothes swapping and book exchange. The most frequently rented items of the LOT are a video projector, projecting screen, electric tools (drill, sander, circular saw, etc.), certain kitchen appliances (food dehydrator, air fryer), and an overlock sewing machine. First, users needed to recognize the benefits of the service since their good experience can motivate others to start using the library. The other request expressed by the residents was the children's clothes swap, and the First clothes swap was organized in the end of November with 20 parents and their kids attending the event. The main impact of the project is the operating library of things, which will be open at least until the end of 2023.



**Potential next steps:** A group of motivated parents decided to volunteer as clothes swap organizers in 2023 once per season, and the bookshelf is a permanent addition to public space in the neighbourhood. Overall a clear potential to be repeated on other neighbourhoods.

## SS-NGOR project [Sofia, Bulgaria]: STATION SOFIA –New Greenways for Old Railways

**Lead partner:** Urban Ideas & Design Association

**Fund by EIT Community:** 15 000 EUR

**Main goal of the project:** StationSofia (Stochna Gara) was once the reason for the industrialization and residential development on the north side of the railroad in Sofia, meanwhile currently unused. The project main goal to empowering citizens with the information and tools to get involved in the co-creation and decision-making processes of this neglected area.

**Main achievements:** The process of stating the most significant issues & needs helped to conclude the collective image of this zone today and the most pressing challenges to address. The project successfully reached the planned outputs & outcomes, namely: collective vision, co-definition of 3 pilot projects for immediate implementation, guiding principles, governance model, and action plan for the realization of the pilots, good practice examples & change in the planning culture.

**Potential next steps:** The activities brought diverse actors to discuss the completion of potential pilot projects and everyone's involvement. Consequently, they are more enthusiastic, open and willing to search for ways to realize and implement the ideas. Future meetings are scheduled to specify the following steps to take the initiative further.



### Podilsky courtyard for local community project [Kyiv, Ukraine]

**Lead partner:** Podolianochka NGO

**Fund by EIT Community:** 15 000 EUR

**Main goal of the project:** Create a comfortable public space, solve problems of the district, to serve as educational co-creative, and become a model for interaction between the local community, government and business.

**Main achievements:** Podil residents received a chance to think and dream about the future and relieve the tension caused by the war — and people were grateful for that. Moreover, this experience showed that even in times of war, it is possible to unite people and inspire them with the help of various participation practices and a common idea of making their space a better place to stay and to live. The project developed the concept of arranging some parts of the courtyard with residents.

During the project implementation, special attention was paid to the co-creation of public space as a place of interaction and learning of the local community, the implementation of tools for forming a sustainable ecosystem of human coexistence. Overall the main structural output of the project is a pavilion for garbage containers that was installed on the St.Yurkivska, 2-6/32, created within a tactical intervention that improved the space of the neighbourhood. This tactical intervention changed the attitude of the locals towards garbage storage — this place does not have to be dirty, cluttered, and "invisible". This can be done in such a way that you want to be proud of it and love it.

**Potential next steps:** The project Leader established a close relationship with the apartment building co-owners association and plans to do joint projects in the future.



### CONNECT project [Timisoara, Romania]: COMMUNITY 4 TIMISOARA

**Lead partner:** Helixconnect Europe S.R.L.

**Fund by EIT Community:** 15 000 EUR

**Main goal of the project:** Showcase the roles of foreign people, especially Ukrainian people but also citizens from countries with historical intersectionality with Romania, by raising awareness of the role foreign people can play in the development of the city of Timisoara.

**Main achievements:** Outreach strategies were identified to enable the engagement of diverse groups of ethnic minorities and migrants. Citizens got closer to refugees and groups at risk (and vice versa), and actual friendships/ties were made. This was especially fostered by creating a new common language for refugees and locals, an artistic one, to cope with the language barrier. The main impact of the project is the achieved social impact, the engagement of minority and/or refugee backgrounds (>65% of the overall participants are women) and via the 5-challenge-identification workshops help them build a micro-community and support system while identifying their needs.

**Potential next steps:** Aligning with Cultural and Creative Smart Specialization strategies from the region to facilitate investment & innovation Embedding CONNECT outcomes in Timisoara Capital of Culture 2023 Activities . Launch an urban NEB lab. An aspirational outlook, visioning a „dream plan” for up-scale, even if it is idealistic at this point: “Build the community of citizens while building the community of innovators! A true place-based development NEB power-house in Western Romania that will accelerate ideas and solutions for urban development with NEB principles”



## HARBOR project [Paris, France]: Highlight actions re-connecting citizens with the beauty of the river

Lead partner: ARS LONGA

Fund by EIT Community: 15 000 EUR

**Main goal of the project:** Before being annexed by cement companies, restaurants, or fly boats, the Seine had long been a public space where many Parisians practiced sailing. The overall goal of the HARBOR project was to create a new rendezvous to re-active the river as a common good, a venue to celebrate the Seine.

**Main achievements:** The project created a gateway to new or rediscovered practices, a learning process on four pillars: creativity & innovation of techniques, living archive heritage, inclusion, training existing and new trades on the water and around the river. The project main impact is social inclusion, and also a high-level politician – the Minister of Culture Rima Abdul-Malak – was present during the Odyssee Seine Festival regatta.



**Potential next steps:** A construction and learning guide created to foster replication and scale-up. The festival is planned to be continued annually with the HARBOR project and is planned to be part of the cultural Olympic program of the Paris Olympic Games 2024.

## 'Adáma' project [Eleusis, Greece]: Community togetherness for a sustainable future

Lead partner: Panagiotis Gkiokas & CO L.P.

Fund by EIT Community: 14 875 EUR

**Main goal of the project:** Eleusis is a hub for the country's industrial development, with an impact on the environment. In addition, became a natural home for the concentration of industrial activity from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The project's overall goal was to find the three major environmental challenges the city of Eleusis is facing and to co-create a rollout strategy by engaging the local community to suggest strategic solutions to these environmental challenges.



**Main achievements:** The main impact of the project is that the local communities were able to actively take control in decision making processes that directly affect their quality of life, but also new collaborations were ignited, new networks of connections were built, and novel grounds were set for a further development of the proposed methodology. The participants' core suggestions to tackle the environmental challenges are as follows:

- ✓ More green areas, tree planting, creating green zones & parks
- ✓ Recycling: educational activities, compensatory recycling
- ✓ Coastal front: Reuse of the coastal zone, move port authority offices and activities beyond the center of the city, beach cleaning, sea cleaning
- ✓ Industrial activity: deindustrialization, implement EU regulations on coexistence with industries, reduction of pollutants

**Potential next steps:** The tested methodology is adaptable to different locations where industrial pollution is dominated.

## H4H project [Limerick & Ennis Ireland]: Horticulture for Everyone

Lead partner: Mid West Simon Community  
Fund by EIT Community: 15 000 EUR

**Main goal of the project:** The project's overall goal was to cultivate self-sufficiency, a sense of belonging, and self-esteem through horticulture.

**Main achievements:** Two polytunnels were successfully erected and engaged with a horticulture instructor and delivered horticulture training to teach clients about horticulture, growing food, and sustainability. The project promoted responsibility and communication as well as overall positive relations among clients in the project. Besides the part where clients were learning about natural ways and



processes of growing their own food - it was an important social interaction and ability to be part of something communal that gives clients satisfaction and the opportunity to express themselves by trying something new. Clients seemed more interested in growing fruit and vegetables than in other garden elements. The food component was the big draw/interest. The main impact of the project is that it improved the participants' mental health and well-being and provided a valuable outlet and purpose for clients. Participants connected with nature and with other people through the project. Positive activities were provided, where vulnerable clients could be outdoors, learning new skills while building a sense of ownership and responsibility.

**Potential next steps:** Clients plan to continue to nurture plants, propagate the next set of seed trays and maintain polytunnels in winter months. There is a good potential for engaging wider community with vulnerable clients (homeless) via sharing their passion for gardening. Broadening the scope is also outlined, eg.: getting laying hens, planting an orchard, and planning a beach trip to harvest seaweed.

## FoodLie project [Liepaja, Latvia]: Growing Food in Liepaja

Lead partner: ASTE. Art, Science, Technology, Education  
Fund by EIT Community: 15 000 EUR

**Main goal of the project:** Raise awareness of food culture and sustainable gardening practices in Liepaja.

**Main achievements:** Several walk-and-talk interviews and discussions with private gardeners, stakeholders, and communities were conducted to gather data. Artists were also involved in the project and developed and presented new original artworks within the food and gardening culture, attitudes towards food and gardening approaches to nonhuman actors, ecological philosophies, and eco-ethics. Overall the project implementation faced many challenges, such as working with the targeted local citizens and gathering the evidence in a structured way.



The main impact of the project is the created digital recordings and 360-degree exhibition experience (available in VR and internet browser). These AR artworks are available to the public using the mobile app ART+ in different places in Liepaja.

**Potential next steps:** The gardening practices used in Liepaja, especially in private gardens, could be further generalised for other mid-size industrial cities. However the project faced challenges to engage with citizens, which limit the replicability of the methodology.

## **SOCIAL4FOOD project [Arsoli, Italy]: Social farming for stimulating transgenerational knowledge transfer and production of typical local FOOD**

**Lead partner: National Research Council of Italy**

**Fund by EIT Community: 14 938 EUR**

**Main goal of the project:** Social farming activities to stimulate the farming and cooking of a very ancient and high-quality bean typical of this town, named “fagiolina arsolana”.

**Main achievements:** Abandoned green spaces were repurposed into a social farm, and training activities were carried out to engage citizens and stakeholders. Participants have reached a new cultivation/cooking experience in which they apply the concepts and knowledge acquired during the concrete experience phases. In the green social laboratories



were able to learn how to grow, harvest, and cook the fagiolina. A culinary challenge was organised during the “fagiolina festival” as a competition. Participants cooked typical recipes by applying the concepts and knowledge acquired during the culinary laboratory. The co-created social farm, the vegetable garden provided social inclusion opportunities to people; shared ideas between older and younger generations.

**Potential next steps:** In the coming years, management of the social farm is ensured by the Municipality of Arsoli, Pro Loco of Arsoli, Social elderly center of Arsoli, and local farmers of the association “Amici della fagiolina arsolana”. The collaboration agreement contains the activities for the management of the social farm. The project has good replicability potential in the neighbouring territory to stimulate knowledge transfer or scale-up potential of the methodology for production of typical local food in other regions.