



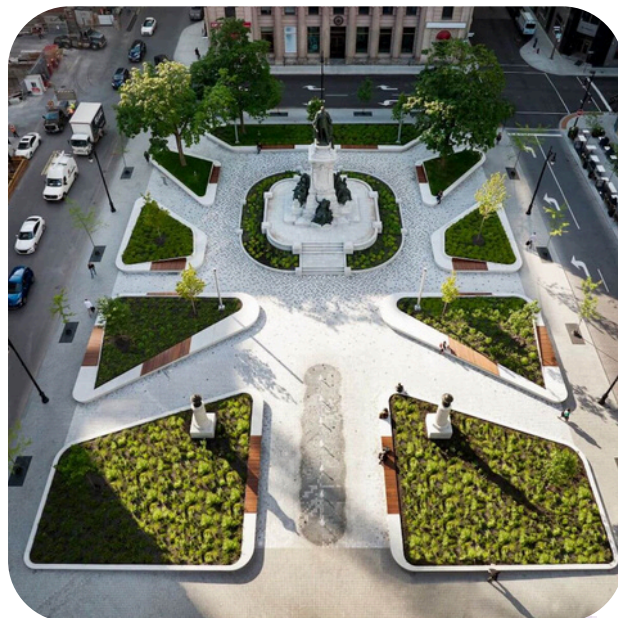
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BULLETIN No. 1

Main goals & objectives of the SPACE PROJECT:

- Empower young professionals to influence urban planning with a focus on upgrading informal settlements.
- Provide tools and methodologies for youth involvement in urban development.
- Strengthen local youth engagement in community-based urban upgrading efforts.
- Share project outcomes and methodologies widely via online events and virtual platforms.



Key results of the project:

- Developed a report on the status of informal settlements.
- Conducted capacity-building activities for 20 youth workers through mobility programs.
- Created and delivered a digital training toolkit on urban development for youth.
- Empowered and engaged at least 20 young people using the training toolkit.
- Reached over 1,000 individuals through dissemination events and digital outreach.



KICK OFF MEETING

Belgrade, 30–31 January, 2025

The #SPACE Project officially launched with a two-day kick-off meeting held in Belgrade, Serbia, gathering all project partners from across the Western Balkans.



The two-day meeting served as a platform for:

- Introducing the project vision, objectives, and expected outcomes
- Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of each partner
- Reviewing the work plan and project timeline
- Discussing communication strategies and tools for efficient collaboration
- Identifying key indicators for monitoring and evaluation

Partners also engaged in thematic discussions around:

- The socio-spatial challenges of informal settlements
- The role of youth in participatory urban planning
- Strategies for improving public space accessibility and inclusivity

RESEARCH REPORT



In this deliverable, we have finalized a report based on fieldwork in six partner regions—each including one peri-urban and one rural community—exploring how young people interact with and influence public spaces. Through baseline studies, youth surveys, and focus groups, we gathered in-depth insights into their needs, perceptions, and visions for more inclusive environments. The findings, presented in detailed regional modules, will shape the next phase of the project. This research also forms the basis for new training materials aimed at equipping youth trainers across Europe to more effectively involve young people in designing public spaces that truly reflect their voices and priorities.

LOCAL EVENTS



Kosovo



Netherlands



Montenegro



Serbia



Austria



Albania

TRAINING FORMAT

Drawing on insights from our research in six diverse regions, we have designed a transnational training format specifically for youth trainers. This format aims to equip trainers with practical tools to foster more inclusive, youth-centered public spaces, while also encouraging cross-border learning and collaboration. A key highlight will be a gathering in the Netherlands later this year, where participants will step beyond their local contexts to share experiences and engage with the Dutch model of community-driven placemaking.



To ensure the exchange remains rooted in real-world application, each partner will also organize preparatory and follow-up workshops in their own countries. This multi-layered approach connects international inspiration with local implementation, strengthening both the impact and relevance of the training.

The project brings together six organizations from EU and Western Balkan countries with a unified goal: to transform informal settlements by youth, for youth. Spanning a duration of 24 months, the initiative focuses on key activities such as conducting research, providing training and educational opportunities for youth workers through mobility programs, and actively involving young people in local community-based initiatives.

The partners of this consortium are:



Wonderland Architecture

www.wonderland.cx



Universiteti i Prishtinës

www.uni-pr.edu



Placemaking Western Balkans

www.placemakingweb.org



Environmental and Territorial Management Institute

www.etmi-al.org



New Horizon NGO

www.ngo-horizonti.org



Saxion University of Applied Sciences

www.saxion.edu

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