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COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN AUSTRIA

Mistelbach, 23–25 April, 2026

Between 23 and 25 April 2026, a youth-led workshop transformed a corner of central Mistelbach into a new public gathering space. Organised by youth advisors Mika, Niki, and Laura in cooperation with Wonderland (Platform for European Architecture), youbest, and the city of Mistelbach, the three-day intervention was part of the broader SPACE programme and built on methods introduced at an international training in Deventer, where advisors explored participatory place-making and exchanged experiences with youth representatives from six countries.

The first two days were dedicated to upcycling. Laura facilitated a textile workshop where participants used donated fabrics to sew cushion covers for outdoor seating. Simultaneously, Niki and Mika worked with young people from the You:best youth centre on constructing furniture from donated euro palettes.

On the second day, the completed pieces were brought to the site. Local youth were consulted directly on placement, and together the group sanded, painted, and finished the furniture, with participants taking an active role throughout.

The third day brought the most visible element of the project: a large-scale mural created in collaboration with artists from Calle Libre, a Vienna-based street art collective. The day began with an automatic writing exercise in which approximately 15 young participants and two parents wrote freely about Mistelbach, what they value, what they wish for, and what they feel is missing. From the ideas gathered, two words emerged as most resonant: Connect and Act.

These became the foundation of the mural, with small groups of youth each painting one letter alongside the Calle Libre artists. The three days concluded with a collective pizza party, the first event held in the newly created space. The workshop also produced a clear finding for future planning: Mistelbach needs more permanent, weather-protected public spaces for young people in or near the town centre, particularly for those commuting between school, transport, and leisure.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN AUSTRIA

Mistelbach, 23–25 April, 2026



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN KOSOVO

Prishtina, 13–15 May, 2026

As part of the SPACE project, the University of Prishtina – Faculty of Architecture organized and implemented a Community Workshop from 13–15 May to explore how temporary and community-led interventions can activate underused public spaces and strengthen local ownership. The workshop brought together local users, students, community representatives, and facilitators in a collaborative process focused on understanding, reimagining, and testing new possibilities for the selected public space.

The activity unfolded through three interconnected phases. Participants first explored the site and reflected on its existing conditions, everyday use, and untapped potential. Building on these observations, they engaged in collaborative design sessions to generate ideas and define possible interventions. The process concluded with the implementation of selected temporary actions directly within the space, transforming ideas into tangible interventions. Following the workshop, the interventions were further activated and evaluated through two Pop-up Events, organized on 22–23 May. These activities tested the space through temporary uses and community engagement, creating opportunities for interaction, observation, and reflection on how small-scale actions can influence everyday urban life. By combining discussion, co-creation, implementation, and testing, the process transformed participants from observers into active contributors. The activities demonstrated how participatory and tactical approaches can support more inclusive, vibrant, and community-oriented public spaces. The Community Workshop and Pop-up Events form part of the broader SPACE project approach, promoting collaborative practices and empowering local communities to actively participate in shaping their urban environments.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN KOSOVO

Prishtina, 13–15 May, 2026



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN SERBIA

Padinska Skela, May, 2026

Last May, within the framework of a placemaking education process in Padinska Skela, a 3-day community workshop was organized by Placemaking Western Balkans, bringing together young people and local stakeholders to collaboratively explore ideas and solutions for transforming neighbourhood public spaces into more inclusive, functional, and accessible environments.

Through a walkshop and interactive field exploration, participants identified places where young people already gather, as well as areas in need of improvement. This process helped connect existing municipal plans with everyday lived experiences in the neighbourhood.

The second day focused on hands-on co-creation sessions, where children and young participants shared ideas, reflected on their observations, and developed proposals for better and more inclusive public spaces based on identified needs and wishes.

The process concluded with the co-development of a Neighbourhood Action Plan, in which participants translated their ideas into concrete spatial interventions and aligned them with the municipality's broader consultation process regarding future neighbourhood development.

The activity highlighted the value of engaging young people in placemaking education and in shaping more inclusive and responsive public spaces within their community.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN SERBIA

Padinska Skela, May, 2026



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN ALBANIA

Vau i Dejës Municipality, 15-17 May, 2026

Environmental & Territorial Management Institute, within the framework of the SPACE Project, organized a 3-day community workshop from 15-17 May in Vau i Dejës Municipality, bringing together local youth, municipal representatives, and project experts to collaboratively explore ideas and solutions for transforming public spaces into more functional, inclusive, and accessible environments for the community.

Through interactive discussions and co-creation sessions, youth participants actively shared their ideas, identified local needs and challenges, and contributed to the development of innovative concepts for neighborhood interventions that reflect the priorities of their community.

The activity concluded with the preparation of a Neighborhood Intervention Action Plan, a youth-centered vision aimed at creating more inclusive and sustainable public spaces, while also strengthening the role of youth in local decision-making and community development processes.



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN MONTENEGRO

Ulcinj, 27–29 April, 2026

Within the framework of the SPACE Project, NGO New Horizon delivered a three-day Community Workshop on Youth-Led Change, Public Space, and Civic Engagement from 27–29 April 2026 in Ulcinj, Montenegro. The activity was designed to encourage young people to explore their role in shaping public spaces and to strengthen their capacity to initiate positive changes in their local communities.

The training brought together young participants in a collaborative learning environment combining theory, group discussions, and hands-on community action. Participants explored youth participation, the right to the city, and inclusive public spaces, reflecting on local challenges and how young people can drive positive change in their communities.

The programme unfolded in three phases. First, participants were introduced to the SPACE project and discussed civic engagement and youth participation. Second, they focused on inclusive cities and participatory placemaking, exploring examples of youth-led urban interventions and developing ideas for local improvements. In the final phase, they put ideas into practice at a local high school by repainting and redesigning outdoor benches to improve the shared space. The activity ended with reflection, documentation, and evaluation.

By combining learning, dialogue, co-creation, and practical action, the Community Workshop empowered participants to move from learners to active agents of change. It showed how participatory approaches and small-scale interventions can help create more inclusive public spaces while strengthening civic responsibility and ownership, in line with the broader SPACE project's goal of promoting active citizenship and youth engagement.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN MONTENEGRO

Ulcinj, 27–29 April, 2026



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN THE NETHERLANDS

Deventer, 18–22 May, 2026

As part of the SPACE project, a series of Community Workshop activities was organised in the week of 18–22 May in Deventer, engaging local youth across different locations in the neighbourhood. The process focused on reimagining the public space in front of the Piet van Donk plein at the De Scheg sports centre, exploring how it can be transformed from a largely unused “concrete” area into a more attractive, inclusive and youth-oriented place.

The programme was developed as a week-long collaborative process, unfolding through different settings and methods. It began on Monday with meetings at the city hall, including discussions with local stakeholders and project partners. On Tuesday, participants gathered at Saxion University of Applied Sciences for brainstorming and scenario development due to weather conditions, focusing on ideas for activities, atmosphere, and future use of the space. On Wednesday, a key community session took place at De Scheg, combining drawings, discussions, clips and interactive formats, including Kahoots, with local youth contributing their perspectives on how the space should feel and function. The main highlight of the week was a youth workshop and pizza event on Wednesday, where participants actively co-designed ideas for a new entrance and public space design, reflecting on colours, greenery, activities, and social use. The process continued on Thursday with the development of initial design concepts together with youth at De Mall, and concluded on Friday with the finalisation of ideas and planning for next steps towards implementation.

Across the week, different groups of young people participated in creative, hands-on sessions aimed at strengthening their role in shaping their environment. Through sketching, discussion, and collaborative design exercises, they contributed directly to the vision for a more vibrant and welcoming public space. The Community Workshop demonstrated how participatory, youth-driven approaches can support the transformation of underused urban areas into meaningful places for everyday use, connection, and community life.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN THE NETHERLANDS

Deventer, 18–22 May, 2026



THE E-LEARNING UNITS

The SPACE e-learning units constitute the Young Urbanist Toolkit, a structured digital learning framework developed to support young people and youth facilitators in understanding, interpreting, and actively engaging with public space. The toolkit operationalises key principles of inclusive, safe, and meaningful urban environments into modular, transferable learning units that can be implemented across diverse local and institutional contexts.

The learning design is organised into three interrelated pillars: The Lens (Theory), The Backpack (Methods), and The Mission (Action). This structure reflects a progressive pedagogical pathway in which learners first acquire conceptual literacy on public space, spatial justice, and community assets; subsequently develop practical competencies in observation, mapping, and qualitative research; and ultimately apply these insights through co-design processes, civic communication, project implementation, and impact evaluation.

Each e-learning unit is designed as a stand-alone module, while simultaneously contributing to a coherent cumulative learning pathway. The modular architecture ensures flexibility of use across partner organisations and educational settings, while maintaining consistency in learning outcomes, structure, and pedagogical approach. This enables both independent unit delivery and structured progression through the full toolkit.

The toolkit employs a hybrid pedagogical format combining structured lecture content, interactive micro-learning activities, and concise reference materials (cheat sheets), thereby supporting both formal and non-formal educational contexts. Through this approach, the SPACE e-learning units strengthen youth capacities in spatial literacy, evidence-based inquiry, collaborative problem-solving, and civic participation. Collectively, the toolkit supports a full learning cycle of understanding, documenting, acting upon, and evaluating public space interventions, thereby enhancing youth agency and contributing to more inclusive urban development practices across participating regions.

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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