

Local demonstrator project status update

Februrary 2020



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STATUS UPDATE on Local Demonstrator projects

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Compilation of TOOLS and LESSONS to note

Appendix 1 - Design thinking tools for developing projects

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Color indicators:

 **REFERENCE**
 **TOOL**
 **LESSON**

1/10 Šnipiskės - Vilnius - Lithuania



The culture house in Šnipiskės, from *Laimikis.lt* archive

The project activities have been dividing in 3 main parts. The activities and research of the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University and the department lead by Jekaterina Lavrinec. The activities take place in the autumn semesters and in year 2020 the autumn semester will be looking particularly at the theme of cultural planning. Student works will culminate sometimes with a physical objects, sometimes not. They are using different media in every project. Secondly, *Laimikis.lt* own activities in the neighborhood, such as the parking lot project and thirdly, there is a collaborative activity involving the municipality of Vilnius which is looking at the landscape and gardening in the area.

The students found out that the main challenge is the disconnectedness in the area. There are several project ideas, for example, looking at the “local heroes” – people who take care of neighborhood. There is potentially a series of photo-interviews. Another idea involves the local cultural music night club. It is an ageing area, there a lot of people who would like to be involved. There is a possibility, that if they come and help in the night club, then they get tickets for the evening events.

In parallel, there is also the National Gallery willing to participate with activities for children. This LD project is a series of acupuncture happenings/ interventions.

Iza Rutkowska, the artist will come for the second time soon and then end of April. She will work with redesigning the art centre, planning to create an animal out of it.

2/10 Visaginas - Utena - Lithuania



From artists' Lucyna Kolendo diary

Oksana now is formally employed by the Vilnius Gediminas University. In Visaginas there is very strong support from the city – Asta. The municipality has confirmed, that they want to host the lab in Visaginas in 2021. They will help with installations in public space. There is interest from the municipality as they want to create a **culture policy document**. Oksana is in the arts and culture council in Visaginas and broader region and will be closely working in the production of this document. This cultural document is a way to include in the city council documents the activities and people, who are usually left out. Social interactions, gardening, games, festivals, culture of the city etc.

There has been a change of the Minister of Culture. They want to have guidelines on participatory cultures. Oksana wants to have informal meetings in public space. It could be interesting to make guided tours – safaris with the policy makers. One game discussed has been Bruno Latour's *Parliament of things* where one uses objects to talk about certain issues. (wood, trashcan etc. to create different perspectives).

The artist Lucyna works on the base of urban stories and asks questions like “*who are the creators of the city?*” As they come from many spheres. She runs an alternative discussion in the city. There are also interviews and this is all part of the vision process. The artist wants to cooperate with the library – she provided the idea to work with Oksana's previous research. Her second visit will come soon. She explored narratives in the city – she was recording the sounds. Meeting musicians in Visaginas. She was attracted to the idea of city in the woods and the theme *city and nature*.

Jekaterina would like to see Visaginas as a hub of excellence and include them more in the Vilnius hub and other activities taking place in Vilnius.

3./10 Gaarden - Kiel - Germany



The culture house in Šnipiskės, from Laimikis.lt archive

There is currently a strong 4 person team - Nina and Nadine (artists), Lea, the project leader, and a student. Local politicians often pass by and are interested in the process. Christoph Adloff, Head of East Coast Offices City of Kiel is also often involved. The local department comes more often to the meetings. In terms of a reference group, currently people have so many networks and rounds and they do not see the need to be in another network, but they are thinking of organising a lunch with the local stakeholders.

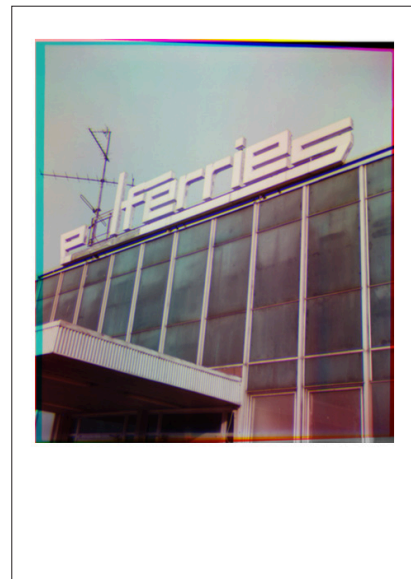
The mapping phase was really broad and it was hard to narrow down ideas. There were series of walks - *Exploring Gaardens corners* is the name of most walks and also the name of their whatsapp group. There is a strong 15 people group always attending the walks and events. There could be a risk, that this group is becoming too closed and doesn't manage to create the needed resonance.

There is a large body of work done by the artists. List of quotes, excel sheet of locations, stories etc. They have a lot of sounds and stories. A lot of mental maps of artists and others. Currently there is a process of compiling this material and presenting it in a coherent way. Unique within the LD projects is that in Kiel there is one artist(s) through the whole process. They had market of senses, illegal bill posting, posters with slogans. They have divided garden in 3 parts. Bulgarian part, central part and the shipyard. Then there is a workshop for visioning of 2025. Thursday - walk, Friday - vision workshop, Saturday – demonstraton. They are planning to do these weekends 3 times. Around 30/40 people came the last time. One of the risks is, that people only post ideas on the wall and walk away, it is important to raise a discussion.

University of Muthesius is planning a semester work theme “meeting” and Lea has an idea to suggest they do it Gaarden. They could use the material they have generated.

Local project info site: <https://www.kieler-ostufer.de/soziale-stadt/projekte/cultural-planning/>

4/10 Nowy Port - Gdańsk - Poland



From Edd Schouten and Inga Erdmane's artist diary. It can be found here https://urbcultural.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/UCP_Gdansk_No-Mans-Land_art-zine_Nowy-Port.pdf

The whole visioning process started with posting posters in the area, posting in Facebook groups, district groups, local organisations. An architect, working for a public/private partnership for the city got involved. After the first meeting some people returned. They had a visioning workshop, in November, trying to cross mental boundaries. The outcome of the visioning process was a *Compass*. This is a set of guidelines, visions, which keeps the rest of the project in line. **"This is just to check if we are still in the frame of what you wanted to do."**

Having tried, the 10-100-1000 years *Building conversation* tool, introduced in Copenhagen visioning lab, they must admit, that it was a good exercise to get people out of their everyday lives, it has risen also a lot of environmental questions.

Now they are designing towards a competition, organised by City Culture Institute, so basically, the local partners of the project are using the funds, to create an open competition for ideas. Whole budget for competition is 60 000 zloty (around 13 000 eur). Open CCI project they started in City Culture Institute to give small funds. The key thing is to start the collaboration with the local citizens earlier to create an environment, where everyone is co-designing the project. In this project Open CCI (City culture Institute) is collaborating with UCP. **"Our call was unique, because we asked for cultural planning, social issues, consider city perspective."** People will be voting later. Currently they are in a stage of helping everyone to crystalize their ideas and help with the designing of the project. They are using different design thinking tools. (Appendix 1 we offer blank sheets of the some of the design tools they offered the participants in the design workshop) **"Today (20/02) they will come with an idea and the team will help with the problems."** There is a rule, that if you want to participate in the project, you have to come to the meetings. **"There might not be just one winner, we encourage people to join the winning teams or we suggest other ways to get funds."**

Edd Schouten and Inga Erdmane were here as artists. Interview with them can be found here: <https://urbcultural.eu/news/artists-residencies/interview-with-inga-erdmane-and-edd-schouten-nowy-port-no-mans-land/?fbclid=IwAR1uPXjBIsSvF9nGkbsapmiXuJrnUcQbY2vdxUS-WD6h3KC3vU2sEMdJql-o>

5/10 Stare Przedmieście - Gdańsk - Poland



"Solo tower" by artist in residency Milda Laužikaitė

They did mapping last June 2019. Visioning have been done as a workshop, but noone who lives there showed up. Drop in park idea? Like a Pori shop. **"We tried the same process as in Nowy Port also in Stare Przed and it didn't work. It was expected as the network map visualisation showed - there are no connections between the individual players. It is a vacuum place. A no place. People don't have ties to the place. They did visioning workshop, but the only people who came were NGOs from outside. Only one artist – Nikolai came, he was the only person living there. We want to continue more with mapping. We will be joining forces with our production team, but we do not know what is our capacity to reach local inhabitants. Maybe we can reach people who work there. Art academy, students houses."**

The point of interest in the project is the park. The renovation project for the park has been chosen. Will this project will link community? It might, on a landscaping level. There was a public consultation for the project in the beginning. There could also be option to work near the kayaking club as people showed, that it is important in the mental mapping. It has crystalized, that doing something in the park on the behalf of the people is the way to go – then it will be harder for the city to ignore. Perhaps there could be activities around the conference? There should be a series of events there?

Building on IKM practice, there could be a neighborhood kit which could be placed in different places. Local demonstrator project idea - <http://streetwaves.pl> <http://streetwaves.pl/2014/> They could imagine to enclose the park and talk about *inside/ outside and living room*. There could be cardboard fountain and cardboard benches etc and a sign: "This is not a park". "What does it mean to be a park" They have a case study of another park, which was unsuccessful because they asked for ideas and couldnt fulfill them. Idea to install this in the park instead of tent - <https://plastique-fantastique.de> There was also an idea to use existing IKM infrastructure – the timber frames, chairs, etc and create open studio on the park.

6/10 Lindholm - Guldborgsund - Lolland - Denmark

Here where we live/ Her hvor vi bor



Film project with the artist in residency Julie Myers.

Link to the *Here Where We Live* booklet https://urbcultural.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/UCP_Guldborgsund_mapping-1.pdf

Since this project is based on working with two schools in the neighborhood, the main issue, is that the merger of the two schools is happening over the summer, so the process will be disrupted. Another stakeholder in this process is a real-estate company *Realdania*, who is investing in the Lindholm park. The big transformation is starting now and will go on for 2 years. The main dilemma is whether to connect the DP with the park project.

Question – *should this project just concentrate in the school or go broader?* The decision is to keep relations with school, but go broader. Another school is also having an art project (Osterskole). SWOT happening in 3 weeks (11/03) while the exhibition from the previous UCP project stages is still happening in the city hall. There has been great work with the artist and the children.

Museum Lolland-Falster will continue to work with girls and mothers. Local youth house is planning a festival – it is possible to connect the DP with the festival? It would be a good idea to have a fest during the summer, while still involving the schools.

In Guldborgsund they have a steering group and a working group (1 person). One of the main challenges is the municipal structure and their ideas. There has also been switches of people, which has affected the work flow of the DP.

Some of the ideas was to create a film on how they see the future of the place, it could be a childrens' parliament where they have money they could use. Changing the place – understanding of it, idea of it, you do not have to build necessary. It is content, that is lacking. Children can be the starting point to change of the perspective of the place. It could be interesting to let children be guides in the area. It could be fruitful to work with the school council and the main discourse could be about the future of kids.

One could see the issues of ghetto in the output of children's mapping exercises. Exhibition was a key event in the process, so there is a reference to the stakeholders to see the children's perspective.

They have applied for funding and probably will receive. Nordea have launched "where we live" funding and their project was called "where we live"!

Local project info site - <https://www.guldborgsund.dk/herhvorvibor>

Interview with Trevor Davies about the project in the exhibition <https://www.facebook.com/voresguldborgsund/videos/2590202437890904/>

7/10 Daugavgrīva fortress - Bolderāja - Rīga - Latvia



From Komēta festival archive, former torpedo workshop in the fortress space to be transformed...

The *Komēta* festival team has currently landed in the project idea - to use the former torpedo workshop. This building will be easier to obtain as it is not as historically valuable as the tower, which was the previous idea. The process of trying to work with it, however, lead the project in new directions and connected with new people. They managed to have meetings with the new owners and they are really open and looking for ideas on how to develop the fortress.

Current project idea is a culture / zero waste / anthropological cafe, which would be part of a sequence of events. 8 weekends, from June til August. Part of the project would be a thorough survey of the visitors of the place, which will be a great help for the anchoring of the project in discussions with the owners. On Saturdays there would be craft workshops/ lectures with a youth focus. In general, the focus is on young audiences. Souvenirs could be created. There had been great experience with a girl who made shirts and earned money during *Komēta* festival. On *Sundays Fundays*, which is the KKC concept, there would be vinyl duels, so sundays would have a music theme.

The unique aspect of the project is that the cafe would be a "visioning cafe". Bartenders in the café would be actors/ performers/ comedians who can improvise. If it is a couple - the question would be: "where they want to marry?" If they are children: "where they would like to play?" Through this it would be understood whether such a place in the fortress would be interesting.

The festival organisers see this as becoming an annual system of events, breaking out of the once a year big bang, but keeping the energy flowing. Fortress is not a year round destination in a broad sense, but can host year round small events on more creative themes. The sustainability of small things, like ceramists, candle makers etc. could be prototyped and tested through the year. There could be a community of artists, dance school sessions, film student sessions, ecologists etc. The project started with a festival, but then it can expand to a 3 month active period perhaps.

On the operations level - they are having a working group, some bartenders from Kanepes cultural centre, anthropologists and Dāvis are working on the cafe. They also want to have a moving platform for happenings and a data collection team. Seeing Sarkandaugava newspaper idea they see, that this could be also in Bolderāja and they could cross advertise.

There is gamification process in the local arts school, which could link in some events, but is not really linking. They have applied for extra funding from the city and the state. They have received extra funding for the artists (Edd and Inga) who are continuing their work.

8/10 Sarkandaugava - Rīga - Latvia



Work of Edd Schouten and Inga Erdmane during the artist residency. Čau Rīga - booklet/ diary from artist in residency "Institute for X" - https://urbcultural.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/UCP_Riga_Institute-for-X_booklet-Sarkandaugava.pdf

The project organizers have set out ambitious, but clear aims for their project. These have come out of extensive research in what are the issues and needs in the area. **What we want to achieve:** *the streets are safer, young people have public space, they become the owners of it. City initiatives are working in the empty spaces. Local businesses are involved in the community life. Fewer enclosures (fences, etc.) New recreational areas at the river side, playgrounds, parks, clean-ups of empty plots and lots of benches. Various social networking sites have emerged both inside and out. Less division of society by ethnicity, etc. There is a bigger single channel of social networking. Billboards outside for information exchange. More people take the initiative themselves. Citizens know each other, people respect and support each other.*

Suggested network of coordinators: Free Riga (proposes to coordinate it all) + enterprises + city council institutions + local inhabitants. They were inspired from an example in Denmark, where if a group of people over x amount gather with one interest, the city council provides an instructor. This could be a great outcome of this project.

The kick-off of the project is planned to be an online questionnaire. Parallel to that – questionnaire as a little newspaper posted to every citizen as a postal ad. There could be inspirational pictures in the newspaper. Free Riga would like to see what people are interested in, what kind of activities they are also able to offer, and to see if that could be paired with the empty public space or the empty buildings. The second stage of the project is planned to be a cultural forum, where everyone who will have completed the questionnaire will be invited to. In the forum, they will be invited to think together how to start hobby groups, interest groups, etc. Then Free Riga will try to find space for them to operate. Next big event in the project is planned for August, called "Creative Sarkandaugava month" A lot of public events. All the workshop groups, who have met in May are showing off what they have done.

They have applied for extra funding from the city. 3 other different kind of funds from city and state. The local partner for both demonstrator projects is Riga City Development Department. They have organised two reference group meetings already. Comment from someone from the city council: *If there is a clear plan, then it is easier for existing organizations to get started. Like here for example with Free Riga and this project.*

9/10 Pori - Satakunta - Finland



Find more about Boris/Borealia activities in <https://www.facebook.com/Boris.Borelia/>

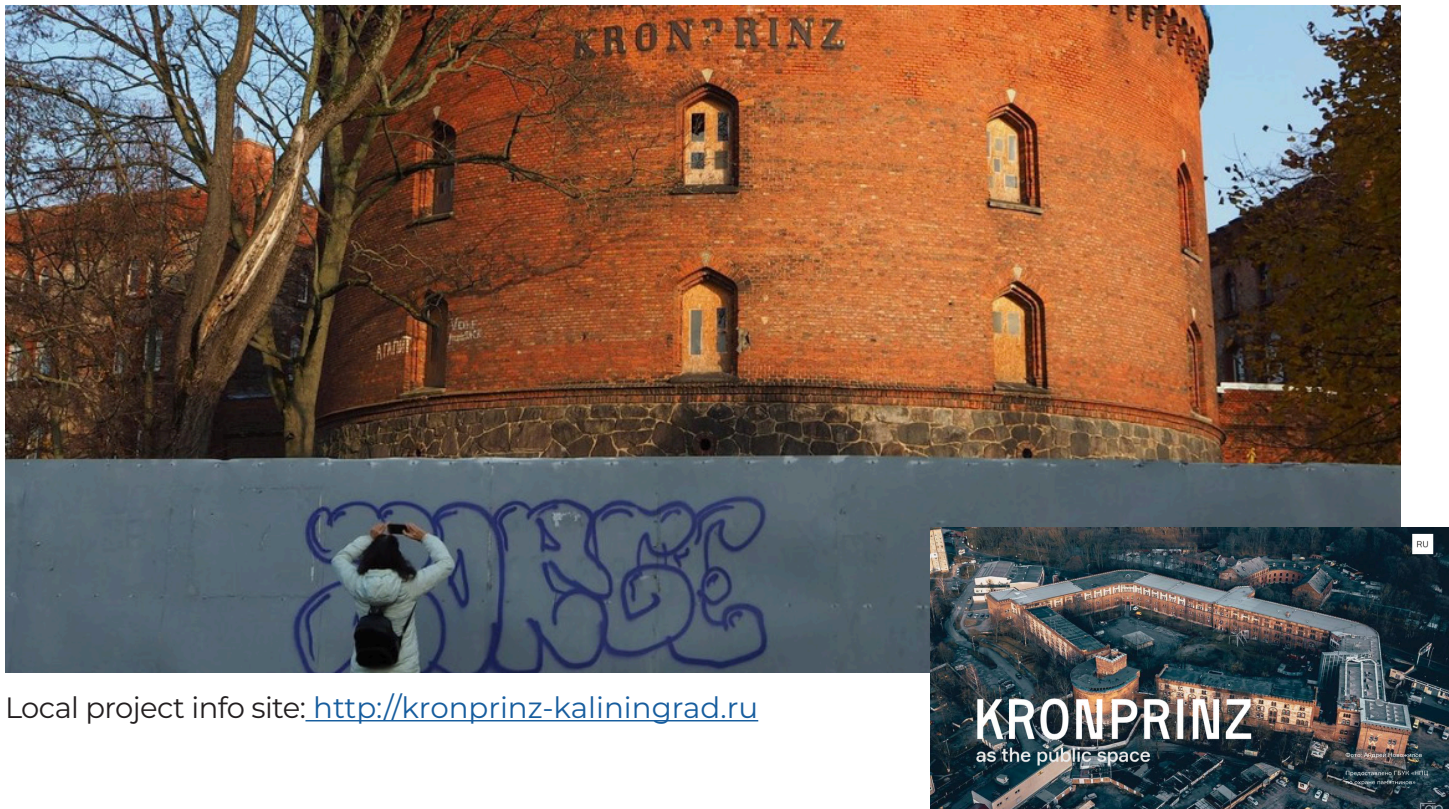
After the Pori shop activities, the Pori City Planning Department started an in-depth planning project using Pori shop outcomes and most importantly, this plan includes more cultural aspects of the city.

Each day City departments came and had meetings in Pori. Now the space will be used for other events by the city departments. Pori is now a public services pop-up space. A sort of yes office. Planning department will finance Jonas to work with them from March. His role is to oversee if the process of the new planning document aligns with the ideas expressed in Pori shop, to sort of, keep the compass. They are also part of an existing URBACT project, so they want to merge forces.

Boris/Borelia is still a physical and active meeting group. 3 people from the group are hired from the City Culture Department, for 3 months until the end of April. Ville (artist), Tommy (sociologist, researcher), Milla (communications person, guru of social media). They are going to do interventions on different scales. To name one – public sculpture with the building process visible for 2 weeks and possibility for people to participate. Another project, called *random acts of kindness*, to encourage kindness in public space and social media. They have received funding 10 000 EUR for this project.

Harri and Jonas started to work on the timeline of the history of planning in Pori. They want to build on the notion of Pori as a town of resistance, the rebelling in 60's. There are a lot of people, who have knowledge about this history. This is to talk about the importance of cultural spaces. To talk about the importance of the *Hesburger*, for example. When there is nothing going on in Pori at night, there is always Hesburger. It is also a social space as people can find refuge there. They will get the shop for a couple of weeks before it is torn down. *Pori Burger?*

Blue line (the river area focus) is still in question, could it be part of an existing process? Is there a need for new partners? In Pori shop there was some data collected on the river theme, however, the river did not come up so much. It would be great to do it in the timeline, but not as a separate project. There could be a workshop, similar to Pori on the river, and then there could be a mapping situation there. There should be a similar energy going like in Pori shop. Perhaps even the next lab could take place around the river basin.



Local project info site: <http://kronprinz-kaliningrad.ru>

A site for the LDp in Kaliningrad was selected. This is a yard and adjacent area of the Kronprinz barracks in Kaliningrad. Since 2003 and 2006, BB NCCA has operated a tower and part of the attic of the Kronprinz barracks, a 19th century monument of history and culture, which is to become a venue for contemporary arts and culture. Today reconstruction works, which are to be completed in 2020, are underway. BB NCCA operates only a small part of the monument. Other spaces are operated by a big number of diverse tenants - educational institutions, companies renting offices, a cafe, dance studios, dentists etc. The area of the monument is quite run down and its potential is not used - neither as public space for locals nor as a tourist site. Thus, P14 decided to focus LDp on this site with a view of activating tenants of Kronprinz barracks and residents of the adjacent area and engaging them into development process.

The site for the LDp in Kaliningrad was presented to project partners during the Urban Lab in Pori on 23-24.10.2019. Chief Architect of Kaliningrad A. Anisimov contributed to the presentation with commentaries on the potential role of the site in the development of the whole city.

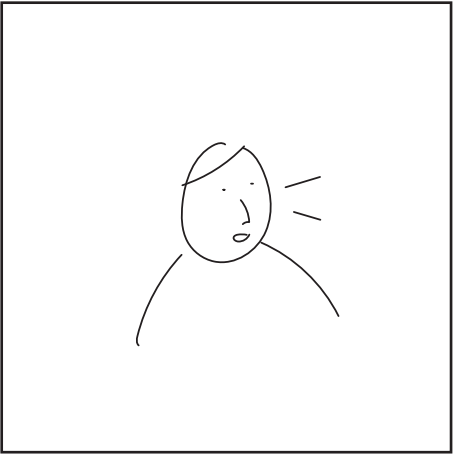
Mapping stage of the project has been launched. P14 commissioned two studies: **“History of the defensive barracks Kronprinz neighbourhood in Kaliningrad”** which was undertaken by Ilia Dementiev, PhD in History, in November 2019. The main aim of the study was to analyse the role of the area in the history of Königsberg-Kaliningrad, to identify historically determined specific features of this area and explore possible ways of using the historic experience of the neighbourhood and its residents for improving quality of life of local citizens, urban environment and realization of tourist potential of its cultural heritage sites. The other one: **“Needs and expectations of «Kronprinz» tenants and residents of adjacent areas in relation to the development of Kronprinz barracks”** undertaken by the social researcher Anna Alimpieva, PhD in Sociology. 12 mental maps of 26 tenants were collected, a survey with 152 residents of adjacent areas carried out, 1 focus group organised, 23 mental maps of local residents collected. Based on these materials a final report (102 pages) was provided. A mapping workshop was organised on 17.11.2019. More than 30 people, invited through an open call, took part in it. These included representatives of key tenants (stakeholders), such as the Kaliningrad branch of the Moscow State University of Technologies and Management, local artists, historians, tourist guides, urban activists, students and residents of the adjacent area. They appreciated the dialogue that has been launched by the event. The workshop, perhaps, was the first event dedicated to the future of «Kronprinz», which has brought together so many and so diverse participants and stakeholders.

APPENDIX 1
Tools used by City Culture Institute in their process in Nowy Port.

Building a project profile

Name of the idea/ project	For whom?
6 main points of the idea	
What may not work?	
How can you counteract that?	
Who and what do you need?	

Building a user profile



Passions, interests, skills:

Personality traits:

Values and beliefs:

First and last name:

Age:

Place of residence:

Education, work:

Family:

Needs:

Problems:

What he/she thinks and feels?

What he/she hears?

What he/she sees?

What he/she says and does?

Building a user profile

Who are we designing our project/ activities for?

Formulation of the need, design challenge through the question “How could we..?”

Continue the thought by using words such as “so that” or “through”

How could we...

Notifying the key aspect of the project, the most important aspects of the project and then the secondary priorities of the project.

Compass

Compass element	How does the project respond to it? How does the project refer to it?
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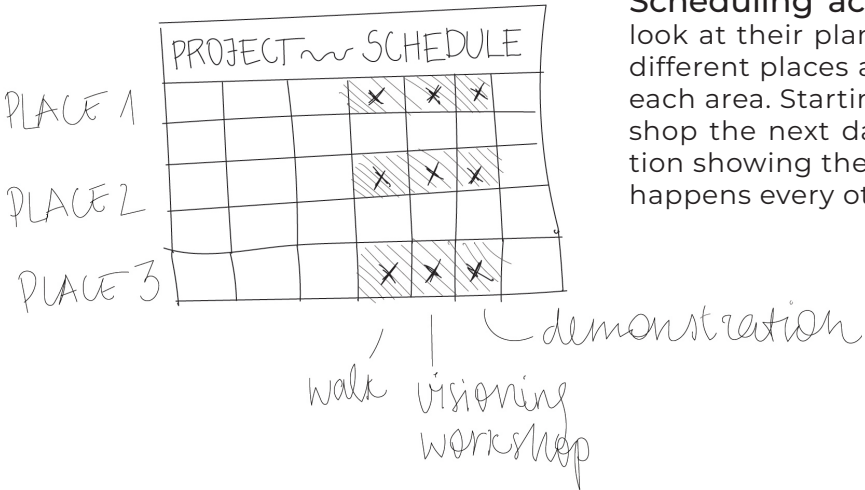
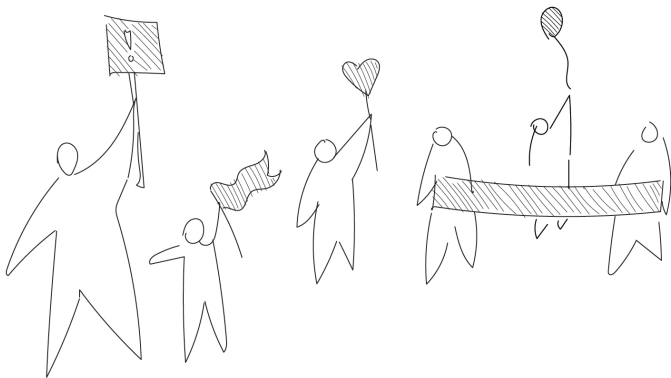
IDEA	
S - substitute	
C - combine	
A - adapt	
M - modify	
P - put to another use	
E - eliminate	
R - reverse	

APPENDIX 2 - Interesting tools and lessons from the LD processes



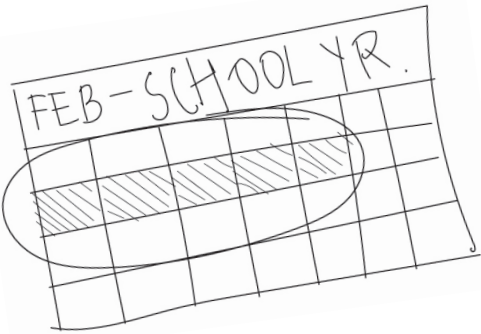
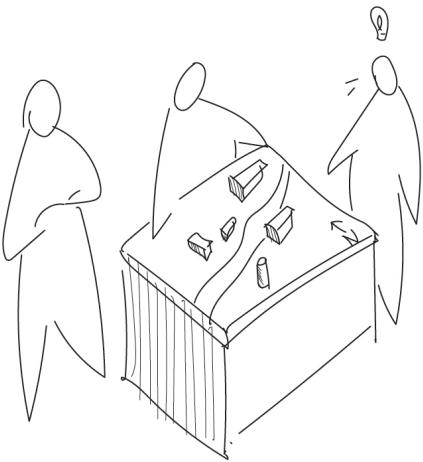
Bruno Latour’s Parliament of Things By relieving stakeholders, politicians and other entities, who are expected to always represent an opinion of an institution, the discussion about our environment can be more fruitful when each person is assigned an object. One only speaks from the point of view of this object. This is a method developed by Bruno Latour in 1991 and practiced world wide. <https://theparliamentofthings.org> This method was discussed to be useful in **Visaginas** LD project to bring together public administration and public.

Demonstration! As demonstrated by the LD in **Kiel**, a demonstration can be a good way of working on different new levels. 1. Challenge the local authorities about what is allowed in the public space, 2. bring people together in a naive activity, which has activism in the roots of it, 3. make yourself known for wider audiences!

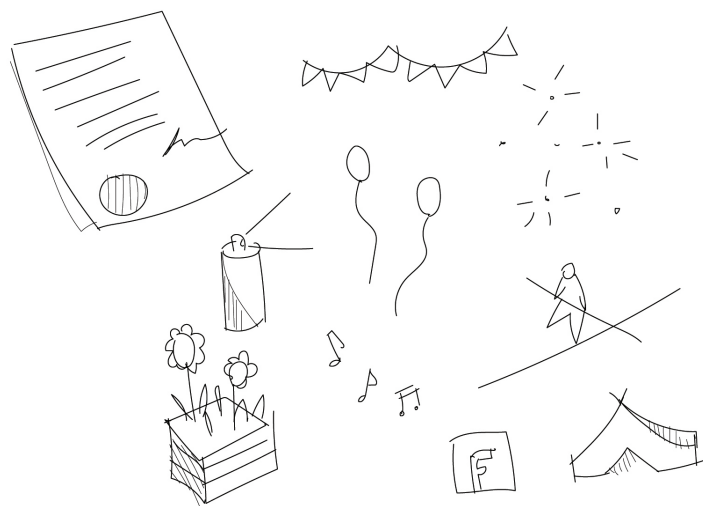


Scheduling activities. Inspired by the **Kiel** LD, we look at their planned activities. They are working in 3 different places and applying same 3 step program in each area. Starting with a walk, then a visioning workshop the next day and finishing with a demonstration showing the outcomes of visioning. This program happens every other week.

Involving university students. An example from **Vilnius** LD shows, that by working with university students, one can expect a large variety of ideas and processes as well as a much more extensive research than one single researcher could do.

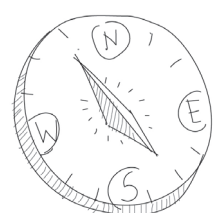
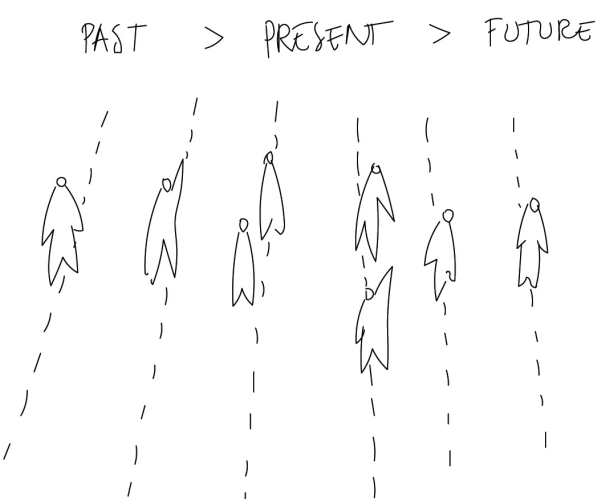


Working with schools. Inspired by the process of gamification in **Bolderāja, Riga**, we want to underline the possibilities of working with schools. In Latvia, there is a project week traditionally in February, for all school years, from 1st-12th grade. This week is the most flexible throughout the whole year when students usually engage in a research and presentation of a certain topic. This is a great time to come with an offer for school activities!



Culture policy document. Inspired by **Visaginas** LD, we recognize the importance of creating a culture policy document on a municipal level. In this way activists, artists, urban gardeners, street artists, facebook groups, community organisers, NGOs and others are represented in planning documents. Many of these are very often left out of different documents and end up sometimes as an uncomfortable happenings in the city as there is no legislation for them, but essentially they are the ones creating the culture of the city.

Building Conversation. As introduced in Copenhagen Urban Lab in autumn 2019 and tested by the **Nowy Port** LD, we would like to emphasize this as a tool for loosening up the communities and releasing some tension before the work on a project. Building Conversation is developed by a collective of artists, all in their own way fascinated by what happens when we talk with each other. Inspired by conversation techniques from all over the world they execute and perform different conversations together with participants in cities all over Europe. The one particular game, which is said to come from the Maui communities is a discussion game where people imagine themselves in different times. These could be 10 000 ago - 100 years ago - 10 years ago - now - 10 years in future - 100 years in future and 10 000 years in future. One can jump from a time line to time line and express their opinion about a certain discussion topic from that stand point. In Nowy Port it was shown to create a more climate-conscious process. <https://www.buildingconversation.nl>



Compass. The notion of compass has been discussed in **Nowy Port** and also **Pori** LDs. In Nowy Port, the organisers are helping groups of people go through the design stages of their projects and one of the main ones being the creation of compass. Always look for the main core characteristics and aims of your project and reflect back at those throughout your process as it can surely divert!

Open call! We would like to point out the interesting approach by **Nowy Port** LD as they have suggested an open call for projects in their community. City Culture Institute <http://ikm.gda.pl> has previous experience with their project Open CCI, which is essentially participatory budget, or community project budget. They are then taking different applicants through this process together and they are expected to decide between themselves which project should be realised!



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