

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	4. STICHTING PLACEMAKING EUROPE (PLACEMAKING EU)
PIC number:	898831295
Project name and acronym:	101081474 Placemaking for Citizen-led Missions in SE Europe — PLACE

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	16
Event name:	SEE Placemaking Learning Exchange 2
Type:	Webinar Series
In situ/online:	online
Location:	online
Date(s):	7 February, 21 February and 1 March 2024.
Website(s) (if any):	
Participants	
Female:	79
Male:	36
Non-binary / prefer not to say	3
From Austria:	2
From Belgium:	2
From Bulgaria:	3
From Croatia:	15
From Denmark:	2
From Finland	1
From Germany:	7
From Greece	2
From Hungary	5
From Ireland	2

From Italy	22		
From the Netherlands	11		
From Poland	5		
From Portugal:	1		
From Romania:	1		
From Slovakia:	3		
From Slovenia	31		
From Spain	3		
From Sweden	2		
Total number of participants:	118	From total number of countries:	19

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The SEE Placemaking Learning Exchange 2 webinar series was delivered across three sessions on 7 February, 21 February and 1 March 2024. These webinars were an opportunity for participants to learn about placemaking and collaborate in a transnational collective space. The target audience was citizens from both SE Europe and across the wider EU. The webinars were designed so participants could learn about specific cases, reflect on key lessons and ask questions in conversation with the speakers. These were 75 minute sessions, made up of main presentations, Q&A and discussion. The topics of these three webinars were:

- Post-earthquake Placemaking in Ōtautahi
- Danube Riverfronts
- Growing Placemaking in SE Europe

The content of the three webinars is further outlined below.

In addition, on 27 February and 5 March we held smaller online learning exchanges specifically on Growing Placemaking in Slovenia.

Across these online learning exchanges, we welcomed a total of 118 unique participants from 19 EU member-state countries – a number of whom attended multiple sessions. We also had about 70 additional participants from other countries around Europe and the world (or we missed the data needed to confirm their residence country). We only counted participants who were connected to a webinar for at least 25 minutes.

Of the participants from the EU member-state countries 79 identified as female and 36 as male, 1 as non-binary and 2 preferred not to say.

This EDS is published at www.korimako.org (see PLACE project page under 'Our Projects')

Placemaking Learning Exchange: Post-earthquake Placemaking in Ōtautahi

In the first session on 7 February, we focused on the experiences of two leading placemaking organisations from Ōtautahi/Christchurch in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

After the 2011 earthquakes, Christchurch New Zealand was getting a lot of international recognition for the creative grassroots urban innovations and placemaking actions being led by citizens. These actions were catalysed and supported by community organisations set up after the earthquakes like Gap Filler and Life in Vacant Spaces. Now, 13 years since this disaster and after a period of enforced rapid urban change, we heard about lessons learned, successes, happy stories, legacy and some frustrations along this journey.

The speakers were:

- Ryan Reynolds: Co-Founder of Gap Filler - Ryan is a leading community changemaker in Ōtautahi. He helps communities to use urban prototyping approaches to take tangible, temporary and iterative steps towards bigger community transformations. He was instrumental in creating the Gap Filler story.
- Lydia Hannah Thomas from Life in Vacant Spaces – Lydia is a multi-disciplinary artist and events curator. As a director at Life in Vacant Spaces Charitable Trust, she leverages her artistic talents and networking passion into dynamic and adaptable approaches to creative community development.

This Learning Exchange session highlighted some great stories of powerful placemaking from Ōtautahi/Christchurch; and valuable lessons on the challenges that community leaders can face between awesome placemaking, and really influencing the power and interests that influence urban development.

Unfortunately, it proved harder to motivate attendees from the EU for this session, and less than half of the attendees came from EU member states. Even though there was a lot to learn from the experience in New Zealand.



Placemaking Learning Exchange: Danube Riverfronts

During the second webinar on 21 February, we explored how placemaking actions can strengthen the connection between nature and social and cultural infrastructure. Also, how programming and activation can blur the boundaries between land and water, resulting in the creation of vibrant, dynamic, and permeable places that foster enriching experiences.

This webinar showcased recent initiatives and research in placemaking along the Danube - Europe's longest river; exploring how local communities, artists, urbanists, and architects from Belgrade, Golubac and other places are employing innovative design approaches to rejuvenate Danube urban riverfronts, transforming them into dynamic and lively public spaces.

The speakers were:

- Milena Ivkovic - an accomplished architect, public space designer, and civic engagement innovator. As the leader of the Placemaking Western Balkans think-tank in Belgrade and the urban communication office BLOK 74 in Rotterdam, she is at the forefront of driving transformative change. Milena's expertise lies in participatory urban renewal, the development

of innovative concepts for good public spaces, and pioneering gamification techniques to effectively communicate intricate urban complexities.

- Nikola Mitrović - a dynamic architect, dedicated PhD student, and accomplished Junior Researcher at the Department of Urbanism, Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, Serbia. A valued collaborator of the Association Placemaking Western Balkans, he brings his extensive experience from numerous EU projects to the Association. Nikola is a unique thinker at the intersection of urban studies, human geography and design, with a specific focus on the revitalization of pedestrian spaces in post-socialist cities.



Placemaking Learning Exchange: Growing Placemaking in SE Europe

For the third session, on 1 March, we shared overall learnings and insights from the PLACE project, focussed on the theme of opportunities for Growing Placemaking in SE Europe.

Within the Thriving Communities initiative we see community placemaking as a vital part of creating radical community change. One, because fantastic public spaces have many direct community benefits. Also because the process of placemaking helps us to develop our collaboration and civic imagination capacities, which are essential for creating wider change. So, we think every community needs to be doing a lot of 'placemaking for civic imagination' work - recognising that there is still a large gap to fill to achieve this.

We shared how we have been advancing this work under the Placemaking for Citizen-led Missions in SE Europe (PLACE) project – with a series of local placemaking processes in Slovenia, Croatia and Sicily; along with international learning and capacity building events.

The PLACE project partners presenting at this session were:

- Giulia Sala from PUSH
- Marta Popiolek from Placemaking Europe
- Ivana Šatrak from KLIK
- Tim Taylor from Korimako

We discussed ways to better grow community placemaking in SE Europe.



PLACEMAKING LEARNING EXCHANGE: GROWING PLACEMAKING IN SE EUROPE

Friday 1 March 2024
10:00AM - 11:15AM CET

placemaking
europe

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PUSH.



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Placemaking Learning Exchanges: Growing Placemaking in Slovenia

In context of the wider learning session we held on Growing Community Placemaking in SE Europe, we held 2 smaller online discussions on growing placemaking in Slovenia (27 February and 5 March). Here we also shared our observations from the PLACE work, and discussed opportunities for collaboration and finding resources to help grow placemaking action in Slovenia.