

## **IMPETUS: a European partnership to develop new forms of regulation for temporary uses in sustainable urban regeneration**

**On 17 and 18 May, Florence hosted the first kick-off meeting of the project, which was attended by regional and local authorities from six European countries. The main objective of the partnership will be to promote a policy change that can foster temporary uses and the development of sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities.**

**Italy, Spain, France, Latvia, Poland, and Romania** are the countries of origin of the local and regional authorities, their associations and development agencies that make up the partnership of **IMPETUS - IMproving local PoliciEs on Temporary UseS**.

The project, financed by the **Interreg Europe** Programme, aims to promote a change in the process of designing and implementing integrated strategies for sustainable urban development by Cities and Regions, through the **implementation of new forms of regulation aimed at encouraging the strategic adoption of temporary uses within urban regeneration plans**.

The **launch meeting** of the IMPETUS project was held on **17 and 18 May in Florence**. It included a presentation of the project's objectives, approaches, and expected results, as well as discussions on the challenges and opportunities of temporary uses in sustainable urban development strategies and plans.

### **PROJECT PHASES**

The project's approach to achieve its objective is based on the **exchange of knowledge** about interregional policies and on activities to support partner organisations and stakeholders on how to incorporate temporary uses into integrated sustainable urban development strategies.

The project will be carried out in two phases: the first, lasting about three years, will focus on the **interregional learning process** and will be based on the exchange of experiences among partners concerning the design and implementation of integrated sustainable urban development strategies and policies by Cities and Regions. The activities of this phase will be the driving force to achieve the policy change expected in the participating regions and will result in the analysis and acknowledgment of **good practices** to encourage new forms of urban governance, stimulate inclusive and accessible services and infrastructures for all, promote co-creation and co-design in partnership with inhabitants, civil society networks, community organisations and SMEs, ensuring the cooperation of all societal actors to address complex urban challenges and enable participatory urban regeneration through a local context approach.

The second phase, which will last one year, will focus on **monitoring** the effects of the enhanced policies and **evaluating** any further progress at the territorial and European levels.

## PROMOTING SOCIAL INNOVATION THROUGH TEMPORARY USES

Temporary uses consist of using empty land, buildings and spaces to experiment with innovative, cultural and social activities, stimulating a flexible approach to sustainable urban development strategies and building cities around shared values and long-term impacts, as demonstrated by their strategic adoption in many urban regeneration projects, inside and outside big cities, in recent decades.

As a result of promoting and regulating temporary uses, IMPETUS aims to encourage **social innovation**, which means the development of new forms of inhabiting spaces, new practices and services that provide a better quality of life for all. Temporary uses can encourage actors who would normally not be involved in large regeneration processes - such as **third-sector** and **cultural organisations** - to take the risk of experimenting with temporary actions in urban regeneration sites. At the same time, IMPETUS aims to stimulate policies and practices that can influence businesses operating in the field, in order to ensure that the adoption of temporary uses is understood, supported, and recognized for its value by both public and private actors. Applying temporary uses in the lead-up to urban regeneration can, in fact, be strategic and beneficial for the various actors involved, who can work together in bringing **greater quality to public spaces** and in fostering wider and **more active participation** not only by public administrations, but also by private enterprises, third-sector entities, research centres and universities, which, guided by far-sighted and enabling policies, can help change the negative perception of degradation and neglect that sometimes plagues some urban areas.

Finally, the project fits the European **Green Deal** principles and strategy and the **New European Bauhaus** initiative, fostering the creation of more **sustainable, inclusive** and **resilient** cities and regions. Temporary uses are in fact already widely recognised as testbeds for initiatives contributing to the **carbon neutrality** of Cities and to the circularity of local markets. Moreover, it often enables a reduction of new soil use, by stimulating the re-utilisation of already existing buildings within cities.

### **IMPETUS PROJECT PARTNERS**

- 1) Lead partner: ANCI Toscana (Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani Toscana) - Italy
- 2) City of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - Spain
- 3) Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency - Romania
- 4) Métropole Européenne de Lille - France
- 5) LAMA Società Cooperativa - Impresa Sociale - Italy
- 6) Riga City Council - Latvia
- 7) Mazowieckie Region - Poland
- 8) Tuscany Region - Italy (Associate Partner)

### **CONTACT**

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