

Riga welcomes Project IMPETUS as a European initiative to improve temporary use policies

Taking place on November 14th and 15th, the Interregional Thematic Seminar marks the beginning of the programme of knowledge exchange and best practices sharing under the Interreg Europe project IMPETUS.

RIGA, Latvia — The **Riga City Council** will host the **First Interregional Thematic Seminar** (ITS) of the **IMPETUS** project on **November 14th and 15th**. IMPETUS, funded by the **Interreg Europe** Programme, aims to transform the way cities and regions design policies to support a sustainable and just transition for European cities. Among the several available trajectories and features for urban and territorial regeneration, IMPETUS has a specific focus on the role of **temporary uses** for abandoned or underutilised spaces. The ITS will bring together experts, practitioners, policymakers, and stakeholders from Latvia, Spain, Romania, Italy, France and Poland to explore **'Alternatives and approaches to the regulation of temporary uses at regional and urban levels'**.

*'Similar to many cities in Europe, there is a lack of common understanding regarding a unified temporary building and environmental usage policy in Riga. Renovation of degraded buildings is a time and resource-intensive endeavour, which is why often owners are unable to restore them alone, leaving these buildings unused and abandoned for years. The same applies to abandoned land and degraded infrastructure. The new use of abandoned objects is recognized as one of the tools that allows the city to easily **adapt to changes** and **empower citizens** to implement their own initiatives. Furthermore, degraded and abandoned objects can become a good place to **experiment** with various **innovative and unexpected solutions** that may not be ready to implement in new construction projects'* explains **Dagnis Samausks**, Head of Project Management Board of the Riga City Council City Development Department.

Riga City Council is one of the partners of the project, and participates with the aim of improving **'Riga Development Programme 2022-2027'** to be the main normative framework supporting temporary uses and intervention in the Capital.

Beyond Riga, during the Seminar, each IMPETUS partner will present some selected **good practices** involving temporary uses gathered during the regional stakeholder group meetings that take place periodically throughout the duration of the project in every Region involved. The term 'good practices' refers to successful and innovative policies that have adopted approaches, methods or strategies tested and applied in public interventions on urban and territorial planning and management, specifically focusing on urban regeneration projects. These practices must have demonstrated their effectiveness in addressing the challenges of urban regeneration and must have the potential to be transferred and adapted to other regions or contexts.

The selected good practices will provide the basis for the **1st Interregional Policy Brokerage (IPB)**, which is the next event on the agenda of the IMPETUS partners and will be held in **Lille** in the coming months.

ABOUT THE IMPETUS PROJECT

IMPETUS aims to change how cities and regions design sustainable development plans, including temporary uses for abandoned or underutilised spaces to be regenerated. It will learn from different policies and build the capacity to make it happen. This will lead to better urban governance, accessible services, and collaboration with local communities, with the aim of increasing access and opportunities for the most vulnerable categories of residents and city users. It will work with residents, civil society, and small businesses to tackle urban challenges together and improve policies on temporary uses that may be considered innovative tools to transform cities through a place-based approach.

The project is co-financed by the [Interreg Europe programme](#), through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and runs for four years, starting from March 2023.

IMPETUS PROJECT PARTNERS

ANCI Toscana (Association of Tuscan Municipalities) - Italy - Lead partner

Tuscany Region - Italy

City of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - Spain

Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency - Romania

Métropole Européenne de Lille - France

LAMA Società Cooperativa - Impresa Sociale - Italy

Riga City Council - Latvia

Mazowieckie Region - Poland



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