

Urban regeneration and policies on temporary uses: IMPETUS project meets in Bucharest

On June 11th and 12th, project partners from six European countries will convene in Bucharest for their second Interregional Policy Brokerage Event, where the city stands at the forefront of the European exchange of experiences aimed at improving cities' and regions' capacity to formulate local policies for temporary use in regeneration projects.

BUCHAREST, Romania — Following previous meetings in Riga (Latvia), Lille (France) and Las Palmas (Canary Islands), representatives of **local and regional authorities** involved in the IMPETUS Project will convene in **Bucharest** on the **11th and 12th of June** to continue the capacity-building and exchange of good practices for temporary uses, which was launched in March 2023. Guests from Italy, Spain, France, Latvia, and Poland will attend the event.

The IMPETUS Project, 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, focusing specifically on the role of **temporary uses** for abandoned or underused spaces. The project partners are exchanging insights and practices from their respective cities and regions regarding **contract models and user agreements for public spaces and buildings** in urban regeneration projects. In Bucharest, the discussion will focus on the most relevant features of the selected good practices, to understand their transferability potential and, therefore, their possible application to projects in other regions and cities.

"The Bucharest-Ilfov region is developing under the impact of population and economic growth, but at the same time is accumulating dysfunctions caused by physical degradation of the buildings and urban infrastructure. The poor quality of public spaces and insufficient enhancement of cultural infrastructures and heritage negatively impacts the level of cultural and economic development of Bucharest. Moreover, the region is facing a shortage of quality green public spaces, with degraded or vacant lands and buildings. Romania's Urban Policy 2020 - 2035 foresees within the policy priorities, the regeneration of urban areas, among which, the revitalization of existing urban assets, based on the principle of circular and productive reuse of vacant properties, in order to regenerate vacant or underused urban spaces.

The seminar held in Bucharest, will allow partners and their stakeholders to exchange views regarding urban revitalization and temporary uses of spaces and buildings, with study visits at The Forts of Bucharest (a military objective built during the reign of King Carol I, which is now a heritage site considered to have potential as a model of rehabilitation and reintegration in the urban circuit) and Hala Laminor (a national heritage objective, built in 1938 in the Malaxa industrial site, featuring a metal structure and modern architecture, which was taken over in 2014 by the 3rd District City Hall of Bucharest and underwent a complex process of restoration and consolidation in order to serve as urban revitalization project with social, economic and cultural benefits”, explains Matei Smădu, Project Development Expert at the Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency.

The **Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency** is engaged in the project with a distinct goal of improving the **Regional Operational Programme Investment in Growth and Jobs ERDF 2021-2027**, which has the general objective of contributing to the strategic vision of the Bucharest – Ilfov Region by supporting smart, sustainable and inclusive economic development in order to improve living standards and increase resilience to societal challenges.

Specifically, the project will address the strategic development objectives SO10 - Protect and capitalise on cultural heritage and stimulate the development of infrastructure that contributes to social inclusion in the community and SO11 - Support territorial strategies for an integrated approach to the specific challenges of urban areas, which translate into Priority Axis 7 - An attractive and inclusive region that finances actions to improve the urban environment by regenerating public spaces.

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 - Associated Policy Authority
Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency - Romania
Métropole Européenne de Lille - France
LAMA Social Cooperative - Social Enterprise - Italy
Riga City Council - Latvia
Mazovia Region – Poland
Municipal Parking Society of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, S.A. - Spain
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria City Council – Spain – Associated Policy Authority

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