

## Warsaw hosts the Interregional IMPETUS Project Seminar on temporary uses for urban regeneration.

International delegates will gather for two days to discuss the role of urban agencies in revitalising empty spaces, fostering the exchange of good practices and the knowledge of cities and regions on the topic.

*WARSAW, Poland*—Following successful meetings in Riga, Lille, Las Palmas, and Bucharest, the IMPETUS project partners are convening in **Warsaw** for their **3rd Interregional Thematic Seminar**. Representatives from Italy, Spain, France, Latvia, Poland, and Bosnia and Herzegovina are expected on **October 16 and 17** to discuss the topic '**Urban agencies for temporary use**'.

In the context of urban regeneration, **temporary use** constitutes experimental and innovative solutions to revitalise abandoned or underused structures and spaces. These initiatives allow new functions and meanings to be attributed to neglected places, contributing to economic and social development. Revising spaces that would otherwise remain unused, temporary uses create opportunities for **community engagement, social interaction, and economic activity**.

The IMPETUS seminar will focus on the key role of **urban agencies**, which have a dedicated intermediary role in **facilitating and managing temporary use projects or initiatives** that aim to revitalise vacant or underused urban spaces for creative, social, or economic purposes. These agencies can take various forms, such as public, private, or public-private initiatives. Their key functions include supporting, initiating, or coordinating temporary use projects, mediating between stakeholders, and streamlining the process by offering operational support, resources, and guidance on legal and safety matters. Ultimately, the agency facilitates the transformation of vacant urban spaces by providing essential assistance and coordination to all parties involved.

The theme will be explored through presentations of **good practices** from the experiences of the cities and regions involved in the project. The knowledge exchange will also include key stakeholders invited by the project partners and guest experts from European agencies or initiatives with expertise in the field.

## MAZOWIECKIE REGION'S ROLE IN THE IMPETUS PROJECT

The Mazowieckie Region is engaged in the project with the specific aim of improving the **Regional Operational Programme European Funds 2021-2027** that contributes to the achievement of the Cohesion Policy objectives, including the creation of a more competitive and smarter, greener and low-carbon Europe, better connected, with a stronger social dimension and closer to its citizens.

The policy instrument provides for interventions to **revitalise underused or abandoned urban areas** and **improve the quality of urban spaces**, stimulate the activity and cooperation of local communities, promote entrepreneurship, self-employment and the social economy.

*'As the Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship, we have a great success in cooperation with the Capital City of Warsaw. On October 16, the 3rd Interregional Thematic Seminar will be held with partners from many European regions, including - at the seat of the Marshal's Office, where we will welcome the entire IMPETUS Steering Committee. We are pleased that we can propose a Good Practice from our region, which is "Spółdzielnia" and the Wolskie Cultural Center. Mazovia can be an inspiration in the field of Temporary Use, and above all this semester - it gives a good example of constructive cooperation of local government units. The Interreg project is an extraordinary exchange of experiences, in which, by expanding the stakeholder base every day - we have the opportunity to develop as a region and promote modern initiatives of Mazovia - and in particular from cities such as Warsaw, Żyrardów or Wołomin. One of the main attractions of the study visit will be a joint tour of the City of Żyrardów and former factory areas, as well as the Wolski Cultural Center, which allows residents to develop jointly used urban spaces for the purpose of social activation. We are trying to expand the stakeholder base of the Interre project and together we are promoting the entire region by finding further Good Practices.'* says **Blanka Zienkiewicz-Czerwińska** - Department of Regional Development and European Funds, Department of Development and Management of the Regional Innovation Strategy, Marshall's Office in the Mazowieckie Voivodeship in Warsaw.

## 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

Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency - Romania

Métropole Européenne de Lille - France

LAMA Società Cooperativa - Impresa Sociale - Italy

Riga City Council - Latvia

Mazowieckie Region - Poland

Municipal Parking Society of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, S.A. (SAGULPA) - Spain

City of Sarajevo - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tuscany Region - Italy - Associated partner

City of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - Spain - Associated partner

## **CONTACT**

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