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Good Practice from Riga, Latvia: «Sports Palace Gardens»

Urban Community Gardening

Nika Kotoviča

City of Riga, Urban Planning Expert

nika.kotovica@riga.lv

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«Riga Sports Palace»

2020



«Sports Palace Gardens»

Urban Community Gardening

«**Sports Palace Gardens**» is an initiative organized by active residents of Riga.

In 2020 this initiative **opened an inactive territory** of former soviet sports centre, a private property that had been abandoned, deprived and closed to residents, and **put it into public temporary use**.





The Scene

Today the place holds **150 garden spaces**, as well as mobile gardening boxes of different sizes and heights to make them **easily accessible to everyone** including people with disabilities, children, and seniors.





Business Case

Starting from 2020, **small urban gardens** were made available to local community members for rent, for **a symbolic fixed fee of EUR 5** per garden box / per season.

Utilities and services (e.g., water, electricity, bio-degradable toilets) available to gardeners for **a fixed fee of EUR 60 per season**, however, considerable discounts are offered to vulnerable gardeners.





Stakeholders

«Sports Palace Garden» initiative relies on **socially active residents** as well as on the support of **commercial partners** involved in the implementation of this initiative under non-commercial agreements:

- **Clean-R** (waste management company). *Educates on good waste management practices and takes care of the garbage collection from the territory*
- **ALPS** (landscape architects). *Gives thoughtful suggestions on how to make the territory friendly for people and the environment*
- **fonFilms** (creative studio). *Documents the development of the initiative in photography and video*
- **GARDENIA** (retailer of garden tools). *Provides the watering hoses for the gardens*
- **HUSQVARNA** (retailer of power tools). *Makes sure that the volunteers have the necessary power tools*
- **Puķu lauki** (gardening). *Provides the initiative with the most exquisite perennials to delight the public*
- **LED** (retailer of LED lights). *Makes sure that celebrations can continue after sunset*
- and many other





Community Role and Involvement



This initiative **encouraged** the residents of neighbouring community to take an active part in the development and improvement of their neighbourhood.

The involvement of various stakeholders representing interests of local community and other democratic bottom-up initiatives, is **one of the key values** of the garden.



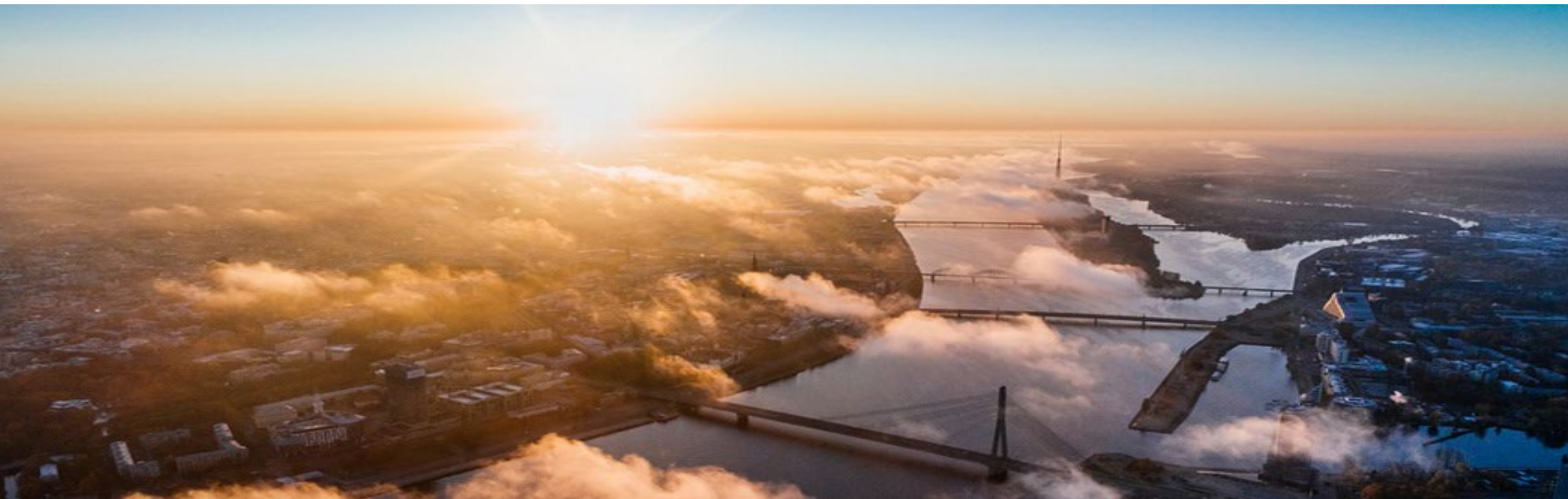




Conclusion



Time for
questions



Thank you!

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