



LIVING STREETS



Partner meeting

Rotterdam, 27-28 October 2016

MINUTES

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1 Where were we in Ghent?

Pepik and Dries reminded us the outcomes of our first meeting in Ghent in July, based on the **Digital memory aid** they prepared: (click on the image)

FOR SCREEN READING

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE IN YOUR CITY?

**MEETING WITH AND STAYING AT
LIVING STREET PIONEERS IN GHENT**



*Digital memory aid international partner meeting
LIFE Living Streets-project in Ghent
4th and 5th of July 2016*






Co-funded by the LIFE Programme
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2 Where are we now?



<p>Ivanic-Grad</p> <p>We will close streets in April or May 2017, activities are being prepared with NGOs and stakeholders</p>	<p>Rotterdam</p> <p>There are in total 6 dream streets this year. We expect 3 or 4 more applications from citizens this year to organise a dream street. One of the dream streets is getting bigger and taking over the whole island.</p>	<p>Milton Keynes</p> <p>We organised internal meetings in the council to build consensus and ensure support. Now we will contact citizens.</p>
<p>Torino</p> <p>We will target a historical area in the city that has already pedestrian streets limited to 30km/h, but this speed limitation is not respected. We will liaise with the Torino Living Lab which is already implementing the smart square project including activities in this square, such as urban gardening. The Living Streets project and the Smart Square project will be connected and we'll be looking for synergies. We will make a call to look for people as mediators/facilitators to work with the citizens. We are building a platform where citizens can exchange ideas, raise problems. We will look at citizens as partners and not as customers.</p> <p>We will work with elementary and primary schools. The area has mixed inhabitants with different needs and there is need for mediation. Young families want the streets to be closed down, but mediation will be needed with other families.</p>		<p>La Rochelle</p> <p>A "children street" event has been organised in June: a street has been closed in front of one school, with cycling activities. Now other schools want to do the same!</p> <p>The market place was closed temporarily to the car during the summer and the shopkeepers had a 25% increase in terms of income. This created a favourable environment to test the Living Streets in La Rochelle/ ENGAGE posters will be done with shop owners who use cargobikes.</p>
<p>Brussels</p> <p>The first Living Street has just been organised. It was an experiment and we think that the results were not visible enough. Participants want to create a 2nd Living Street this winter, for one week instead of two months. Besides we are preparing 2 other Living Streets in other parts of the city.</p>	<p>Zadar</p> <p>We have done meetings with stakeholders. We will target an area close to the city centre which is not very alive. The area needs to be cleaned and probably some investment in the infrastructure is needed. We'll organise activities in spring 2017.</p>	<p>Ghent</p> <p>17 Living Streets have been organised this year. Participants are now completing a survey. Some workshops will be organised in some streets in November. Lab of Troy will step back and the ambition of the municipality is to lead the Living Streets initiative next year.</p>

3 World café – sharing progress and questions

3.1 Interdepartmental meetings and Action Plan

Reminder for project deliverables:

Action A2 Internal involvement of municipal departments and political support:

Deliverable	Deadline
3 programmes and lists of participants from the inter-municipal meetings	Jun 2016, Nov 2016, Oct 2017
1 Action Plan for the Living Street experiment	September 2016

Ivanic-Grad	Brussels	Milton Keynes
<p>Simple organisation in the municipality: just 2 departments and 20 employees. We organised 3 meetings: 1st meeting with the mayor, secretary, deputy mayor and 2 head of departments; 2nd one with colleagues, incl. permit issues and urban planning; 3rd one with a consultant from who is working with us.</p>	<p>Interdepartmental work is a challenge for us as there are 10 departments in the municipality and a complex organisation. As a first step we organised a working group. We also need to find the right process to be able to fund these citizen-led activities in a legal way.</p> <p>The city was not able to give the money rapidly enough and one shop gave 3000 euros in advance and they provided electricity for the light. The cleaning service of the city does not clean the streets that are closed and the citizens needed to do it themselves. They only told it at the end of the 1 moth experiment and they took the responsibility of doing it during the process. The citizens declared that 1 month is the maximum they can support. They want to do it a second time, but not for a longer period.</p>	<p>Different teams are involved: culture, sustainability, urban design, planning and mobility. We need to develop work across departments. We will approach the local parish councils but the timescale of the project is to think first of better placed areas to act first. We target 3 areas of MK (a newly built area, unused land and a regeneration area). We will involve the regeneration team, to use this as an example for future regeneration. Involvement of the transportation team is difficult. As an example from Ghent, Lab of Troy reframed their role towards this department and just asked them only “please do not make it impossible”.</p>
Torino	Zadar	Rotterdam
<p>3 municipal departments are involved: social innovation, regeneration, organisation & mobility. Meetings are organised once a month. We have met the new political team. The political party changed, but the district has a left wing party.</p> <p>We are preparing a tender to look for a company that will accompany citizens.</p>	<p>There is a negative image of the council, the idea is to reach the people via the local board. This board is elected by the people to represent the neighbourhood to the municipality, it is funded by the municipality.</p> <p>We could organise an event with the presentation of the project, and connect it to the ideas of the people.</p>	<p>We have an action plan and a communication plan. There is an existing dynamic as the initiative is part of a funding scheme (city lab). Our biggest challenge is the balance to find between temporary activities and permanent ones, as some citizens would like permanent dream streets. Our ultimate goal is to work in a different way with citizens and to use this instrument to make the city greener.</p>
La Rochelle		
<p>The first action took place in the marketplace this summer.</p>		

3.2 Action and reflection networks of stakeholders and citizens + local visions

Reminder for project deliverables:

Action A3 Stakeholder and citizen involvement: creation of action and reflection networks:

Deliverable	Deadline
2 programmes and minutes of neighbourhood meetings	April 2018
20 ENGAGE posters	April 2018
1 common vision document about the local Living Street	Feb 2017

Ivanic-Grad

I will lead this project as a citizen, not as a civil servant. We will close part of one street. There, there is one electric charger but no electric car yet. The company of electric bikes asked to join the project. We spoke to citizens and NGOs who are interested in gardening (balcony gardening). The street will be closed for 2 weeks in May and October. A competition of gardens to be organised; beginning of May next year (elections) so maybe best to do it after the elections. We will organise some design workshops and we will ask schools to draw.

Brussels

Catching the interest was easy but convincing was difficult! A press article has been done at the very beginning of the living street process so there was a lot of pressure on the participating citizens. We need to give time to people to develop their project, so we should not organise such promotion next time.

Citizen engagement is strong, it is quite easy to have people interested in the idea, but it is difficult to have them to commit, to take part. With patience and energy, the initiative is extending in the neighbourhood and people are more and more committed. Social plan – feedback from the people: complex thing to do in terms of getting to know people, a lot of the work done is not visible. At the end of the project some things were visible too (they built a big table, a tree, lights, etc.). Still it needs to be made more tangible as not all benefits are visible. Making the intangible tangible!

Torino

The old part of the city is not designed for cars so cars are everywhere. There are problems with the pedestrian areas (narrow streets, limited speeds), built 50-100 years ago. It is made pedestrian, but it is not working. We will connect it to the smart square: vegetable garden (1 square meter, solar power and local water for watering), sports for adults, children). Mainly families of 40 years old with children. The problem: to involve the other people.

There is need for a dialogue with citizens. With living streets a mobile information point will be installed to collect complaints from older people at the market, at shops and also at the schools – organising outdoor activities when children finish their school day.

Mixed population in the area: migrants, families with children, artisans (they need to access the area by car sometimes), elderly.

Milton Keynes

We'll have a workshop with the Community Action MK on 23 November.

They are engaging with the community group to foresee anti-council feelings, getting an artist engaged to make the citizens' ideas visual. Mostly due to the grid structure, there is no community on the streets. However, a particular area of the city is designed differently as a city street design and could be possibly one of the target area for the living streets, which needs to be seen as a new evolution.

Rotterdam

Citizens want a permanent initiative. They want to change normal structures.

We are looking for internal structure to change the way of thinking in internal organisation. To make it structural it takes more years.

An advice from Lab of Troy: don't make it permanent immediately, but keep it as an experiment to explore other options. Keep the dynamic alive, the dynamic is fluctuating, the needs are evolving and changing. Work on the dynamics and work with changing needs, have a multi flexible environment to adapt according to the needs of the people. It needs monitoring and accompanying in time after the enthusiasm phase is ending. It requires some "maternage".

General thoughts	La Rochelle	Zadar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One common threat: the relations between citizens and city organisations is maybe not one of trust => tough • Important to identify people's motivation • Living Streets are used as a mean to lead to <i>something</i>, the context is different in each setting as well as citizens' objectives. 	<p>At La Rochelle, we started with the children streets and by asking people to be involved from the ground.</p>	<p>The trust level is quite low. Our strategy is to go and talk! Area – almost near the city centre, it is not alive. Create synergy with the project and other initiative and problems locally.</p>



4 Coaching session with Milton Keynes

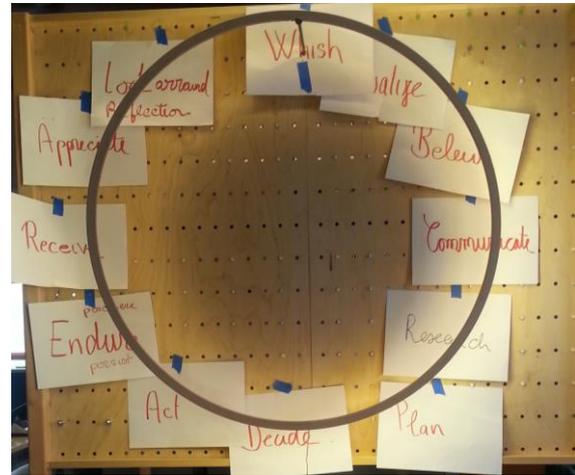
Where are you in the creation process?

➔ Between *decide* and *do*

At MK we have briefed councillors, engaged organisations and emailed a questionnaire to councillors to give out to their streets. A workshop has been organised in council chamber in September.

As a start between 1 and 3 streets will participate for 1-2 months. They shared ideas with what they want to organise (music, art, talk show, street parties). The objective is more community cohesion.

The culture municipal team is interested in the creative aspect of the initiative. It will be linked to the activities organised in 2017 for MK's 50th anniversary. The challenge will be to work on the right locations. How to get streets to volunteer?



Challenges from MK:

- Getting streets to volunteer, to step forward, fill in the questionnaire etc by the councillors, regeneration team
- Visibility. The concept is still vulnerable. How can you communicate something that is vulnerable?
- Working more within the government in MK, talking to each other – step 1: building the cohesion internally
- Different stages are needed to go through from the top down, to ensure that the different internal layers are committed
- Engage with the local community to bring in the people

Brief advice:

- What is important is to have a network, work with civil society organisations, which will take time. The groundwork is really important (Matthew Clifton).
- Don't incorporate the living streets in another project, otherwise you will follow the dynamics of the OTHER project.
- Don't ring the people in the streets, but go and meet them. Not only the representatives of the Parrish, but the citizens directly.
- The role of the elected members is also to ensure that the project is not impossible.
- You need to start with being Trojan, start with the small things, go talk to the citizens, don't start with a big communication that could create a feeling of "danger". Communicate directly in the streets, NOT in big media (local newspaper, TV channels, etc.).
- An elected representative should probably not talk to the citizens directly, but rather the civil servants.
- Go out to people who we know and who could be interested, start experimental, start small. If it fails it does so at a small scale.



Inputs from partners:

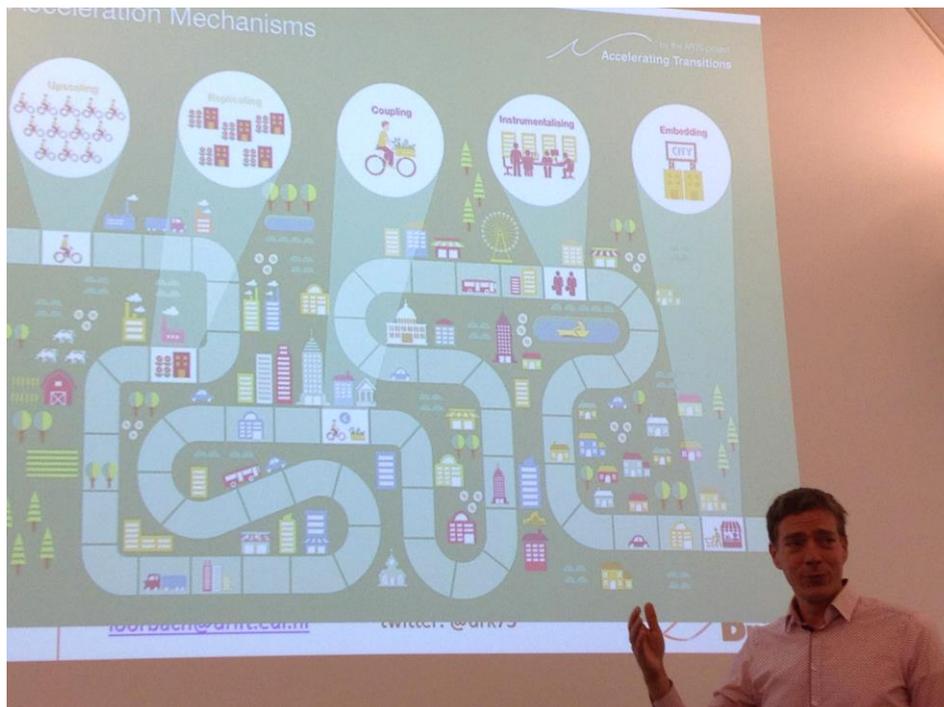
- Communication is vulnerable as the success is not there yet.
- It is important to work with relays.

5 City Safari

3 study visits have been organised – [description](#).

About the Peperklip: <https://youtu.be/lrs27cA0f5Y> | [presentation](#)

6 Inspirational speech and suggestions

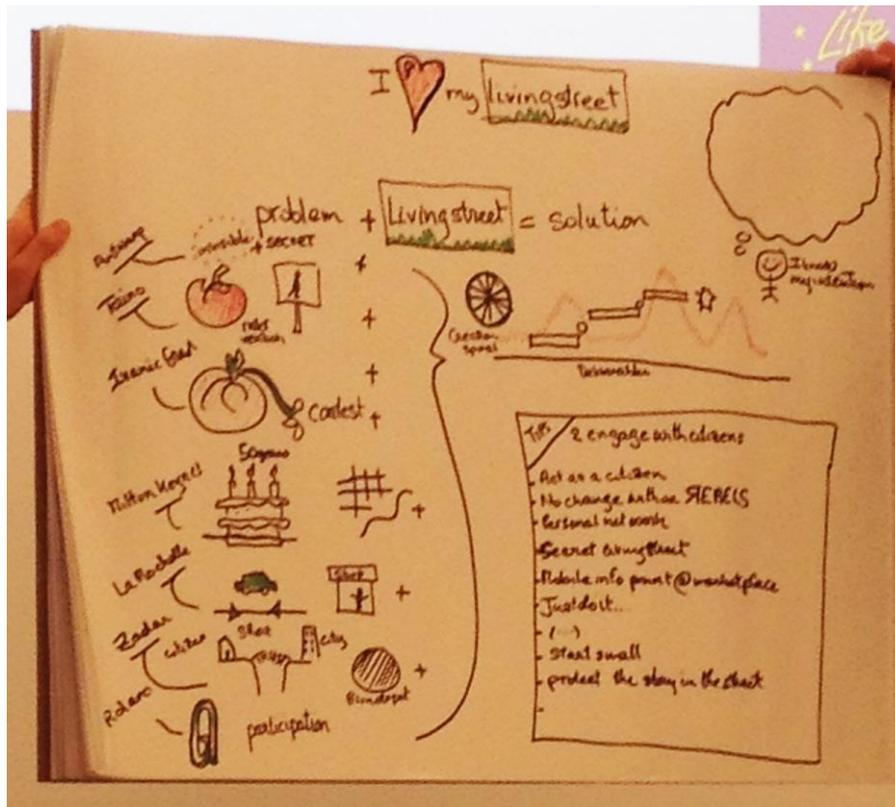


Derk Loorbach, director at DRIFT, a leading research institute in sustainability transitions, gave an inspirational speech ([>Presentation](#)). The basics of the transition theory is not to change only the rules, but link it to behaviour and cultural changes. They are structural and they need to be linked to experimentation; they often start small and then they become more visible and they start to diffuse. The Living Streets initiative from Ghent already moved towards this direction.

Transitions are working on one hand on innovation and on the other hand on understanding the tensions in the existing system. Use the transition system to strategise!

Transition arena: there is always energy in the system are we are to identify all the actors (citizens, stakeholders) that have more energy and that can step out of the regular policy context and can work on the transition. They can take back these ideas to their regular system and their regular environment, their own context and introduce change there. This is how a movement can grow.





Upcoming actions and ideas to take back home:

- Investigate on the transition network – Hopkins
- Follow the development within the TRANSIT project (www.transitsocialinnovation.eu); theory of transformative social innovation; Transformations conference in 2017 in Dundee <http://www.transformations2017.org/about>
- Brussels will organise a winter edition of the Living Streets and a second one in March
- Torino will organise the Living Street in May, working with schools, tender in the beginning of the year for public participation expert and collect the ideas; 2nd edition in October
- 18-19 June 2017 – Ghent transition arena
- Milton Keynes: April-May 2017

Ideas for the next meeting:

- Include a specific time frame on the real stories of Living Streets from the pilot cities, feedback on the implementation of the living streets
- Getting to meet citizens

7 Administrative and technical reminders

Deliverables

ENGAGE posters: Energy Cities will organise a bilateral meeting with each partner.

LIFE administrative requirements were presented by Ellen von Rekowski-Degott from the external monitoring team.



Ann, Brussels: *We need to achieve more internal cohesion.*

Loredana, Torino: *cross network is important, but it is more complicated when going up in hierarchy; we need to match ideas and instruments from other projects.*

Rossana, Torino: *A good start, I am not alone. It is important to create a powerful network and I am feeling more powerful now.*

Christine, MK: *I am glad we are together. A webinar doesn't replace a meeting, gaining momentum inspiration, recharging batteries.*

Vlatka, Ivanic-Grad: *No changes without rebels. It could be a new slogan of Living Streets.*

Kinga, Energy Cities: *The attitude of each person in the group changed compared to the first meeting. We are all feeling more confident, we are engaged in Living Streets, we feel empowered and confident to go out there are talk to the people and facilitate change!*