

Community-led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns (COMUS)

3rd Training Workshop - Urban Planning

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Venue: Hotel Vozdvyzhensky (Kyiv)

Art and Culture College (Pryluky)



- **09.30 – 09.45 - Welcome address**

- The Ministry of Culture of Ukraine (First Vice Minister)
- The Parliament Committee on Culture (Head of Committee)

- **09.45 – 11.00 - Workshop session I**

- Project update: *COMUS – Community –led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns*, status of implementation and next steps, Philip Stein, Lead Expert COMUS
- Roundtable: brief profile of participants
- Workshop objectives and expectations



Questions for each country:

1. What is the state (in brief) of COMUS Project in each country?
2. What do you expect to achieve, by the end of this project?
3. How could this workshop help?



Workshop objectives:

- To promote an integrated approach in urban planning
 - To discuss the use public space in urban planning
 - To explore potential synergies between COMUS and local strategic documents
- +
- To facilitate sharing of practices amongst COMUS countries and other European countries
 - To support progress on COMUS action plans



- **11.15 – 12.45 - Workshop session II**

A. Presentation:

Heritage as asset vs liability. Planning challenges in heritage towns.

Demystifying the integrated approach: easier said than done.

+ Overview of lessons learned and examples of (best) practices in European countries.

B. Facilitated discussion.



Let's talk fist sustainability of small heritage towns.

Empirical trends:

- The future is 'urban'
- Growth concentrates in large cities
- Agglomeration effects

The future is of mega-cities.



~~COMPLETE
CONTRAST~~



Small heritage towns are reliant on a different paradigm of thinking.

- Livability
- Conviviality
- Hospitality & local products

<> Positioning away from the noise, chaos, speed and crowding of big cities.



Small heritage towns are reliant on a **different paradigm of thinking.**

“Livability is essentially about the designing of places where people choose to live and work. [..] Four overarching themes:

- Environmental quality
- The physical attributes of places
- The functional effectiveness of places, and
- The social behavior and public safety in places.”

P. Knox, H. Mayer – Small Town Sustainability



Planning challenges

1. Provision of good quality vibrant public space
2. Ensure adequate mobility for people and economic activity
3. Stimulate commercial use (in a way that it does not affect the local productive system)
4. Support residential use (housing) and limit negative impact of gentrification



Critical aspect in livability: “third places ” and community

- Variety of places for informal interaction, adequate to all seasons;
- Good infrastructure; clean and attractive environment;
- Vibrancy: events, initiative groups, community habits;
- > sense of place, belonging, vitality, historical and cultural continuity.





Public space as place where people meet



Sibiu, RO

Public space as funplace

Public space as host of temporary events (here a temporary market of local producers)

Braşov, RO



TÂRGUL ROADELE PĂMÂNTULUI® BRAŞOV - ROMANIA



Slow Food® Braşov

Bun. Curat. Cinstit



Mobility challenge:

~~Task: fit more cars~~

Task: help people reach from A to B, in an easy, safe and enjoyable manner

Walkability

Cycling

Public transport



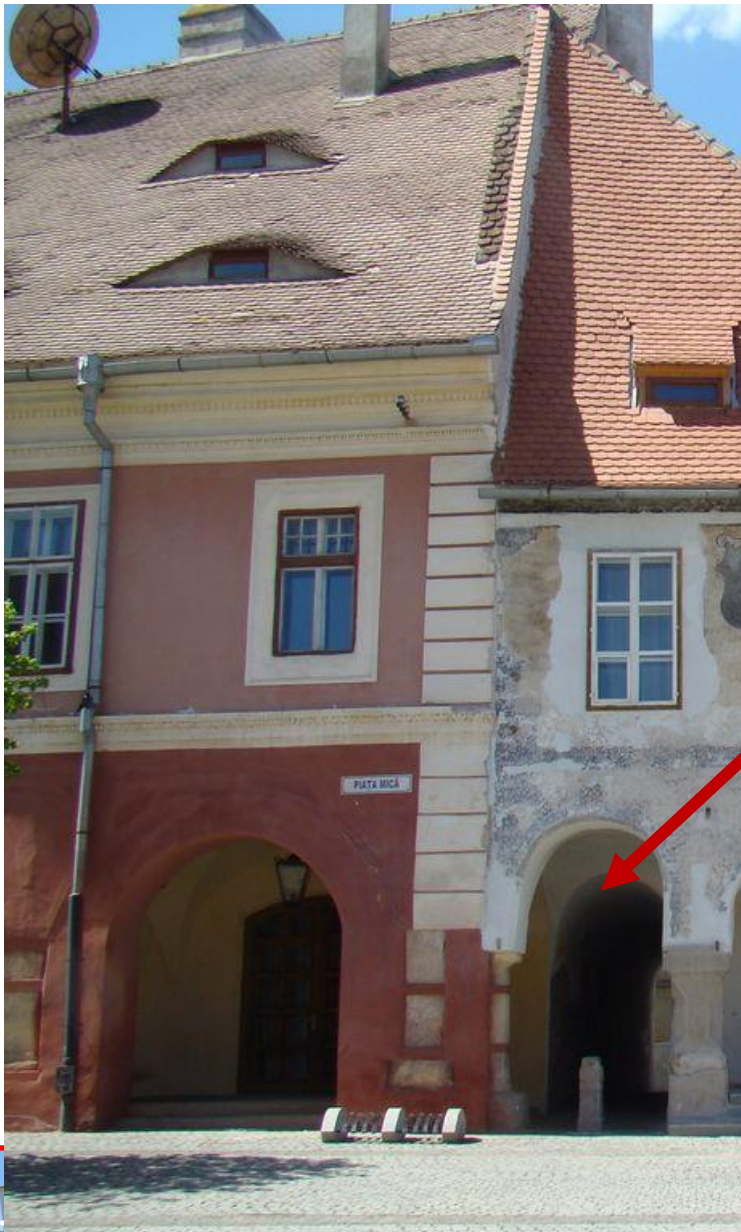
Less car traffic

Less pollution and noise

Healthier and safer

+ Encourages interaction, connects places unreachable by car, sustainability of shopping streets





Walkable: shaded wide sidewalks or pedestrian streets, access to the mobility impaired



3. Commercial challenge

Vibrant implies economic activity.





Historical centre of Slatina
(72.000 people, RO)

Porto, PT



Suburban retail



VS

Inner city retail



- Understand real estate markets in your towns: prices, demands/offers, barriers (eg. uncertain property / cadastre);
- Fiscal zoning tools;
- Local authority: active player on the real estate market;
- Bring people, businesses will follow;





- Pedestrianized, wide sidewalks to host open air coffee tables
- Street trading Department of Islington: offers licenses for street trading – place for 32 stalls, selling a diversity of products – and connection to utilities (eg. Electricity)
- Market promoted as weekly event

4. Housing challenge

Heritage is expensive.

This is a red dot building in Bucharest.

At the next high intensity earthquake, this building will fall.



- Gentrification will happen
- Public intervention is necessary
- Collective action is often a barrier. Grow capacity of homeowner associations;



<integrated> planning:

- Spatial integration: buildings vs places;
- Thematic integration: thinking in silos vs overall vision
 - Heritage conservation + quality public space + mobility = good ambiance
 - Hard infrastructure and soft measures - building oriented actions vs people oriented actions;
- Institutional joined-up work: have people with different mindsets and personalities work together



Planning challenges: Liveable towns where people choose to live and work.

1. Provision of good quality vibrant public space
2. Ensure adequate mobility for people and economic activity
3. Stimulate commercial use (in a way that it does not affect the local productive system)
4. Support residential use (housing) and limit negative impact of gentrification



- Group task: Perspective taking.

Take your resident hat.



YES/NO:

Question 1: If money would not be a problem, would you still live in your town?

Question 2: Do you hope for your kids to stay in your town?



- Group task: Perspective taking.

Take your citizen hat.

- How does liveability would feel in your town?
- Where do you spend time, besides work & home?
- How do you go around the city?
- Would you buy an old house? Why (not)?



Thank you for your attention!

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