ALTERNATIVE YOUTH URBANISATION – RECLAIM THE CITY!

Report of the study session held by
Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe

in co-operation with the
European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe

European Youth Centre Budapest
12 – 19 June 2016

This report gives an account of various aspects of the study session. It has been produced by and is the responsibility of the educational team of the study session. It does not represent the official point of view of the Council of Europe.

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About the Organisers

Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDN)1 is a capacity-building network of youth organisations committed to the development and implementation of Green2 ideas in Eastern Europe. CDN gathers 18 member and 6 partner organisations – youth wings of Green parties and NGOs whose work is rooted in Green values. CDN's political focus is on Eastern Europe where the organisation works with local partners. CDN also collaborates with organisations and activists from the rest of Europe who want to support a Green Eastern Europe.

Green ideas have various representations all over the world. Yet, the basic, non-negotiable principles remain the same: Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Participatory Democracy, Non-violence, Sustainability and Respect for Diversity.[3]

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1   http://www.cdnee.org/
2   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_politics
3   https://www.globalgreens.org/globalcharter-english#preamble

Council of Europe

CDN received financial, institutional and educational support from the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in the framework of its yearly programme of study sessions. This cooperation reflects the principles of co-management and partnership with young people and their organisations that are in the focus of the youth policy of the Council of Europe - an investment in the empowerment of youth organisations and activists to take part in decision-making processes both locally in their own communities and internationally.

Commons, sustainable lifestyle, healthy and liveable environments, public spaces, transport, quality of life, social relations, direct democracy, youth participation and decision making are some of the fields connected with urbanisation that are widely discussed all over Europe. The Council of Europe supports young people's initiatives related to the exploration of each of these fields. The visible and publicly accessible results of these are a number of publications and manuals produced in collaboration with young people and the Council of Europe. Some of these inspired and supported development of the idea and methodology of our study session as well:

- Manual on human rights and the environment (2013)[4]

- Landscape facets. Reflections and proposals for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (2012)[5]

- Cultural Routes management: from theory to practice (2015)[6]

- Compass - Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People[7]

One of the main priorities of the Council of Europe is the development of young people's and youth organisations' competences and knowledge to influence decisions in democratic processes which correlates with exploring new innovative forms of participation of youth as active actors in building green cities – one of the study session's main aims.

CDN and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe co- organised this study session in order to build a society that respects human rights, promotes cultural diversity and aims for social inclusion.

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4   https://book.coe.int/eur/en/environment-general-publications/5719-e-pub-manual-on-human-rights-and-the-environment-2nd-edition.html
5   https://book.coe.int/eur/en/environment-general-publications/4924-landscape-facets-reflections-and-proposals-for-the-implementation-of-the-european-landscape-convention.html
6   https://book.coe.int/usd/en/cultural-heritage/6426-cutural-routes-management-from-theory-to-practice.html
7   https://book.coe.int/eur/en/human-rights-education-intercultural-education/6764-compass-manual-for-human-rights-education-with-young-people-2012-edition-fully-revised-and-updated.html

Alternative Youth Urbanisation: Reclaim the City! Study Session
REPORT

1. Executive summary

In early 2013 the **Alternative-Urbanisation working group of CDN** was founded as an outcome of CDN's seminar on direct democracy and cities. The working group has brought a new breath to the Network and drew the attention of Eastern European Young Greens and of CDN's member organisations[8] to the topic. After several international and a number of on-line activities related to the topic which followed-up each other, the working group agreed that a lack of participation of young people in decisions related to their local communities, especially to the creation of cities is still a huge problem, especially in Eastern Europe. They decided to organise a study session which will emphasise the values of direct democracy, solidarity and inclusion to this process and empower young people to get active on the local level.

Non-formal education was used as a creative, participatory, peer-to-peer learning which allows all involved to express themselves and learn in a safe, supportive environment using the methodology which suits to different learning styles. This type of education is CDN's choice when it comes to the educational part of our work, including this study session.

The **facilitating team** was composed of five young people coming from the member organisations, the working group and Young Greens from different parts of Europe. **Participants** have been chosen according to the profile agreed to during the preparatory meetings of the facilitating team. They were well prepared in terms of topic related knowledge and some of them had enough experience to be considered multipliers of the results of the Study Session in their communities.

The **programme** of the study session started with a group building, getting to know each other, an introduction to non-formal education, and continued through the following **thematic blocks:**

1. Introduction to the topic: What does Alternative Urbanisation mean in terms of the cities as we know them? What should be taken into consideration when discussing such a wide concept?

2. Youth, city and participation: Which of the needs that young people have are directly correlated with their habitat; Who are the ones making decisions and responding to these needs? How do we make a change? What drives us towards activism?

3. What do others do? We put effort into getting familiar with local initiatives to alter existing urban practices and shared examples of local struggles for more democratic societies in Eastern Europe as well as sharing participants' experiences in such struggles in order to learn from those practices and explore their applicability to different socio-political contexts.

4. What can we do in concrete terms? By using examples of different campaigns we came up with

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8   https://www.cdnee.org/m-o/member-organizations/

the steps for creating a successful campaign in order to have an impact on the local and European level.

This report describes the main issues tackled during the project and serves as an educational pack on alternative urbanisation for its **readers** - the participants of the study session and other young people, CDN and its members, Young Greens all over the world as well as other organisations which are co-operating with the Council of Europe or dealing with similar topics.

In the following lines, the results and main conclusions of the discussions, definitions and questions raised, conflictual opinions and observations of the participants, team and experts as well as services and fields related to alternative urbanisation will be presented in the form of articles. The chapters ahead **summarise conclusions about certain subjects addressed throughout the study session.**

2. Introduction

2. 1 Aims and Objectives

Aim:

To enhance the participation of youth in the creation of sustainable green cities, by taking part in decision making processes or direct actions in their local communities based on and working for the principles and values of direct democracy, solidarity and inclusion.

Objectives:

1. To explore and raise awareness on youth ownership of their environment, based on responsibility and action. To analyse and define the needs of youth as active users and creators /shapers of public space and public services to contribute to productive, safe, healthy, inclusive, and well planned green cities.

2. To learn about sustainable practices from entrepreneurial and grassroots actions in urban life. To examine and share these practices with young people in order to stimulate participation and equality, and contribute to youth employment and quality of life.

3. To translate findings and conclusions into tools, mechanisms and methods that ensure the sustainability of the study session outcomes.

2.2. Participants

Participants of the study session were selected upon criteria of organisational, geographical, cultural, gender and age diversity as well as experience with the topic.

All of the participants share a membership in youth organisations or an activist background in their respective countries. Around half of the group consisted of members of Green Youth organisations from Eastern Europe as well as members of CDN's Alternative Urbanisation Working Group. The other half were activists, youth workers, public employees from all over Europe and Kazakhstan who are already involved or interested in the field of Alternative Urbanisation.

Young People (participants and team): 38
Countries represented: 23
Average participant's age: 24.18
Gender: Women (19) 50%, Men (18) 47.4%, Other gender (1) 2.6%
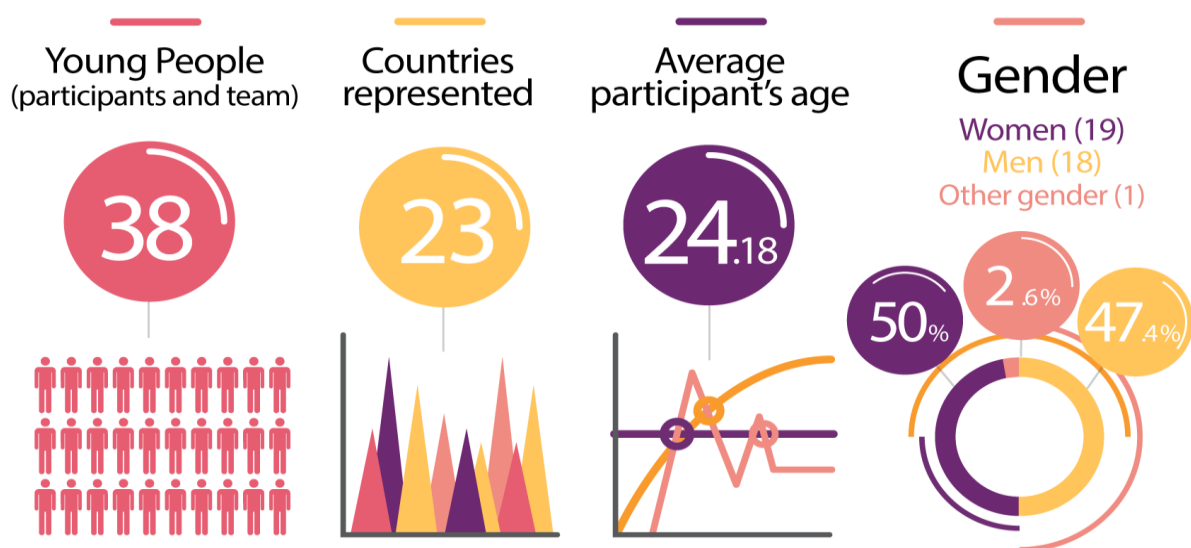
2.3 Topics

Alternative urbanisation is a wide concept. Therefore, there were several sub-elements and multiple issues raised during the study session. **Gentrification** was one of the most discussed subjects. This was a term which many of the participants were not familiar with, but from one day to another it became the most often mentioned word, even in informal discussions. **Public spaces** and reclaiming/renewing these were dominantly present in discussions, as well as private and public ownership. **Segregation**, **housing** and (public and private systems of) **transport** were matters that participants identified as highly important. **Sustainable techniques of building and infrastructure**, urban agriculture (food systems), and the effects of non-sustainable urbanisation on the environment were mentioned on several occasions.

The participants had the opportunity to internalise what they had seen during the study visits to

different organisations in Budapest which work on the issues of **homelessness**, **transportation**, **local production**, **housing**, **self-organising**, **cooperatives** etc. Examples of massive **protests** and **mega projects** were brought up: Gezi Park (Turkey), „Skopje 2014" (Macedonia), „Belgrade Waterfront" (Serbia), Mashtots Park (Armenia), along with exemplar cases of different **social movements** which had emerged from responding to those issues. **(A)politicisation of the struggles and movements** draw the attention of participants as well. Issues related to **youth participation**, particularly how young people can take an **active role in decision making,** and which are the **means of participation** (projects, initiatives...) available to them were discussed hand in hand with the ways of how to address **policy makers**; who are the **stakeholders**, and what is the role of politicians in our societies. These were accompanied by the concrete tools for **campaigning**, for widely promulgating good ideas.

2.4 Background

Youth activism, direct democracy and urbanisation became topics of utmost interest for CDN member organisations - Green Youth from all over Eastern Europe, after CDN's "Youth and the City – direct democracy on spot" seminar that was held in spring 2013 in Azerbaijan. Upon the members' initiative, the Alter-Urbanisation Working Group was established with an aim to deal with development of youth initiatives aiming to influence and shape their direct surrounding and living space (Urbanisation) using the methods and principles of direct democracy. CDN work in that direction continued trough a summer camp "Regenerate Europe! Youth Activism, Political Participation & Direct Democracy" in Croatia 2013. Under the influence of CDN newly founded Working Group, the topic of youth participation and direct democracy were broaden to the issues of governance, urbanisation, commons[9], and exploring youth initiatives. In April 2015, the "Sharing is Caring! Collective Action and Common Solutions"seminar was organised in Armenia. Its main focus was Commons and initiatives oriented towards reclaiming public areas in Eastern Europe such as "Gezi" Park in Turkey, "Varšavska" Street in Croatia, "Vake" Park in Georgia, "Mashtots" Park in Armenia or "Peti" Park in Belgrade. However, all the initiatives concerning the mentioned examples were mainly reactionary, with an intention to stop what was already decided and after the violation of public spaces and human rights had already started.

With this study session CDN aimed to emphasise importance of youth participation in decision making processes regarding urbanisation by assuming a proactive role of young people in changing and defining the development of their local communities.

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9   The **commons** is the cultural and natural resources accessible to all members of a society, including natural
     materials such as air, water, and a habitable earth. These resources are held in common, not owned privately.

3. Programme – inputs and discussions

3.1 Introduction to the topic

In order to understand what cities are today, we need to clarify which are the existential needs and social values rooted into the essence of the cities. The cities we know today are a product of long and complex history. They have been planned and/or built in different ways and for different purposes. During the study session we have approached cities as human habitats, places where all segments of people's' lives take place: reproduction, production and culture. We explored the correlation between cities and social rights, taking into consideration the other species and the environment. On the other hand, we were realistic, bearing in mind that solving current problems is a long-term process which requires structural changes in decision making, better education, especially on civic rights, participation and democracy.

Cities have become the main places for us to live in: more than 54% of the world's human population lives in urban areas. *Cities are places where people realise their social rights such as the right to education, the right to housing, the right to adequate standard of living, the right to healthcare and the right to science and culture.* Cities should, though not only, provide the services and infrastructure required for us to realise those rights.

Housing

Housing refers to ensuring that the members of society have a home in which to live, whether this is a house, or some other kind of dwelling, lodging, or shelter.

Humans are the only beings to be without a natural habitat. A shelter is necessary for survival, and therefore the reproduction of human society. There is no society without housing, regardless if it being provided/distributed fairly/equally, which brings us to different ideas about how housing should be made, organised and distributed. This led us to the question of whether the housing should be a result of collective or individual effort.

The conclusion that participants reached is that the way housing is currently presented as an individual need and therefore regulated by the free market, is unfair and leads to unaffordable housing. This phenomenon is common in post-socialist cities as public spaces are increasingly privatised and became inaccessible to some parts of the society. This system deepens inequality and increases homelessness and many other social issues, which triggers exclusion. Housing should be regulated by the local community and decisions should be made on the principle of direct democracy and subsidiarity in order to ensure equal access to basic rights such as shelter for everyone.

In most of the participants' countries, employment possibilities and housing facilities are not sufficient to absorb the huge influx of people moving into the cities from rural areas. This forces lower-income citizens to move to more affordable parts of the city, usually on the periphery, far away from the services and often poorly connected to the city centre. In many countries this

phenomenon causes segregation and reproduces social problems, poverty and a rigid class structure.

Social housing refers to rental housing which may be owned and managed by the state, by non-profit organisations, or by a combination of the two, usually with the aim of providing affordable housing. This way the local communities or states can regulate the housing of its citizens according to their needs. It can also be seen as one of the solutions for the problem of housing inequality. There is an increasing trend towards privatisation of social housing. Instead, social housing in its most affordable form should be promoted and made more accessible.

Transport

For its inhabitants, living in a city means that everyday activities require constant travelling and moving from one part of the city to another. Public transportation provides people with mobility and access to employment, community resources, healthcare, and recreational opportunities. It benefits those who choose to ride, but especially those who have no other choice: many people cannot afford to own a car and must rely on public transportation.

Public transportation also helps to reduce traffic jams and travel times, air pollution, and energy and oil consumption, all of which benefit both riders and non-riders alike.

For whom are the street made? Are they are made for cars? Traffic jams are a widely-spread problem in the cities and the solutions we see in our societies sum up in the sentence: „Let's make streets wider!''. On the other hand parking places are becoming a very big issue in the cities. Parking places use a lot of public spaces and decrease walking zones for passengers and often turn parks into parking lots.

There is a positive example from **Tallin: public transportation is free**[10] for all the residents, financed by taxes. This system enables people from the suburbs and from low-income areas to move freely while searching a job, accessing social services or simply spending their free time around the city. In Tallin, the use of cars has decreased, as well as the violence, since the new system was introduced.

Public Spaces

Public spaces are those spaces not owned by private individuals and accessible to everyone for free.

The existence and accessibility of public spaces, such as streets, squares, parks, forests, beaches etc. in cities are vital. These are the traditional forums of markets, commerce, artists and musicians, as well as recreation, commute. These are the locations where citizens can express their political views via street actions, demonstrations, petitions and so on. Therefore, their status as public goods along with their openness is a necessity for a democratically functioning society.

A café can be located in a park. Yet, sitting on a bench in the park is free unlike sitting in a café only

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10 www.tallinn.ee/eng/freepublictransport/

a couple of meters away. Massive privatisation of public spaces and sticking price tags on places that just yesterday one could have used for free is a common practice in European cities nowadays, as participants agreed. Commercialisation of those spaces is decreasing the quality of life of those who are already marginalised due to their social status as well as young people (who are often marginalised too). Public spaces have deeper connections with many social issues such as social mobility, social diversity, common responsibility and solidarity among the community which a public space belongs to. It is not a coincidence that many massive protests in the recent European history have been triggered by violation of public spaces and their more or less successful commercialisation.

Is the reason for building small squares instead of big ones or dividing the existing ones into few smaller ones (e.g. by buildings or shopping malls) actually a way to prevent massive protests and therefore protect the current ruling elites? - this interesting question was raised but remained unanswered.

Sustainability

Ideally, cities are built for the people and by the people. However, people are not isolated from their environment and should be responsible for the other species that they share the planet with, as well as for to the future generations who depend on decisions made today. In this regard, we often mentioned „green" cities and „sustainable" cities. But what is sustainable?

Most of the participants heard of different pillars of sustainability: economic, social, environmental, but also political and cultural pillars. To define sustainability, participants assumed that „political" and „cultural" are comprehended under the term „social".

Sustainable development is reached only if economical development is in balance with environment and the social community needs are fully reached (picture 1), taking into account both the present and the (far) future.

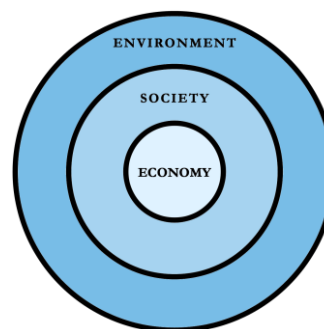On the other hand, these three pillars cannot be separated from each other - every economic activity is at the same time social activity, but not every social activity is economic; every social activity happens and correlates with the environment, as humans are a part of it, but not every environmental activity is social (picture 2).

Picture 1   *Picture 2*

ʌ   VS   ʌ
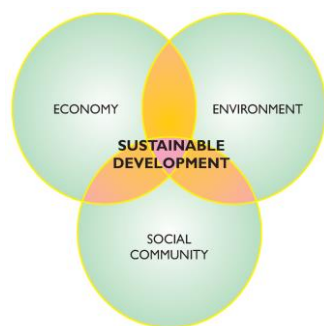
A point raised was that sustainable development is considered to be an old concept: development assumes growth. But could the growth, in the point of history when we are already experiencing consequences of climate change and other burning ecological issues, be considered sustainable at all? As an alternative, the concept of **Degrowth**[11] is getting more attention, especially among Greens.

Even though issues in the cities are numerous and often very complex, we came up to understanding of interrelation of different factors which need to be taken into consideration when building ideal cities or improving existing. Changes in the cities are constantly happening and cannot be stopped. However, it is up to us if and how we want to be part of these changes and turn them into opportunities.

Gentrification

Gentrification is a process by which higher income households <u>displace</u> lower income residents of a neighbourhood, building appreciation and increase in economic value, changing the essential character and flavour of that neighbourhood. Gentrification has three specific characteristics: displacement of original residents, physical upgrading of the neighbourhood, particularly of housing stock; and change in neighbourhood character.

Gentrification was an omnipresent term in the discussions. In the following chapter an example of type of gentrification which participants were most familiar with („mainstream" gentrification) will be presented as well as several questions raised and proposed solutions for preventing this type of gentrification.

The term gentrification originates from 60ies in Western Europe. Even though it is still a taboo as many would say that gentrification is not happening in their cities, the process is taking place in many cities around the world. It usually starts in low-income city areas. In European cities it is common that those areas are targeted by artists and culture workers (aka culture class) due to low rent prices. They self-organise and start running galleries, places for cultural activities, creating different forms of art etc. Those places are becoming more popular, especially as they are open and accessible for all and at the same time offer a range of content for especially young people. Therefore, the value of the places is raising and they start attracting other artists and especially young people. This is a first step towards commercialisation of those places and/or a trigger for companies to use the opportunity for accessing a special type of customers in these neighbours. Similar type of places are being born around the first one, which attracts even more people and requires more space for new shops, cafes etc. More attractive the place gets, the higher rent becomes. In certain point the locals cannot afford to live in their old apartments any more, so they move to the other low-income part of the city.

Driven by various examples of gentrified areas in their cities and some they had the opportunity to

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11 http://www.degrowth.org/

visit in Budapest (e.g. Aurora[12]), the participants wondered how such an exclusive process can be triggered by initiatives which promote openness and inclusiveness as their values. These newly opened places in low-income areas are often places where cultural and political creativity is happening, where young people are encouraged to freely express themselves and enjoy their free time in a constructive way. In another hand, parts of cities which are ruined down are being renewed by such progressive projects and revitalising parts of cities is a good thing. For some of the participants this was enough to conclude that gentrification is not necessarily a bad thing. However, even though many agreed that gentrification in this case was not intentional, unlike ,,classical'' or ,,luxury'' gentrification, it is by no means an argument for saying that gentrification is good. Today many people take gentrification as a beautification process and focus on the aesthetics rather than the social exclusion based on socio-economic profile it brings.

But how not to go further than the ,,first step'' of gentrification (in the above mentioned case)?

One of solutions is to start with these processes in big blocks of buildings where it is hard to go further with gentrification.

It is a process and sometimes it is up to the people who live/work in these parts of the city where it is going to go. Gathering people at such places is a good thing as members of civil society organisations are often based there. Those (young) people are responsible to include the locals into their projects and find ways how to penetrate the community and get local people engaged.

Those neighbourhoods are attracting big businesses which easily win the price competition with the local products. It would be good if prices can be controlled, but in the free market system it will unlikely be possible. Until the economic system changes, the customers need to change their consuming behaviour as they are the ones contributing to gentrification. ,,We have to show them (customers) what is a price of that coffee in Starbucks. Not all people coming there are aware of what they lead to.'' one of the participants said.

If the housing system was better systematically planned and controlled, prices of services in the neighbourhood might still increase, but displacement would be unlikely to happen as rents will be fixed. If places for rent such as bars, cafés, galleries, were owned by municipalities or cities, fluctuation in prices could have easily be prevented by local policies which prioritise local businesses.

Local communities need to be ready and to react once companies start taking over their neighbourhoods. Role of local activists and other activists' support in sensitisation and awareness raising of potential negative consequences of gentrification is crucial. Therefore, constant education of young people, local communities, activists and people included in potentially gentrified zones is very important. Role of the young people is to empower the communities and build solidarity among each-other. We want to see locals opening cafés, not multinational coffee companies.

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12 http://auroraonline.hu/

3.2 Youth, city and participation

3.2.1 Decision making and Solidarity

A run-down park in a quiet neighbourhood needs some reparations. An investor wants to build a shopping mall. What will happen? How will members of the local community, civil society and politicians position themselves?

Our participants had an opportunity to explore the process of decision-making on the level of a local community by taking part in a role-play. Arguments were tabled, interests collided, and finally – decisions were brought in three different groups for the same case. Interestingly, all the groups came up with different decisions. This shows that a **good lobby, the way the arguments are proposed and demands are articulated as well as with whom one allies have a lot to do with the final outcome of the decisions on local projects.**

Participants agreed that in these type of situations reaching a consensus among the citizens is very important. The biggest problem was that citizens were not listening to each-other and were pushing for their own ideas. Politicians and investors are usually much more powerful then citizens. Therefore, the only way to reach the consensus is through harmonising different variables within the group and coming out together as one. „Individualism and stubbornness won't get the job done.", as one of the participants said.

Often, interests of different groups within the society are in conflict. Young people would prefer an accessible place for gathering where they can express themselves freely, while families with young children would rather have a very calm park where children can play. The question is: how to make sure everyone is satisfied? The answer, according to participants, lays in the fact that **our needs are endless in a consumption-oriented society, but the mutual understanding, intergenerational and interclass solidarity must be the leitmotifs of decision-making in our societies.** We need to work hard in order to change the unfair system we live in.

3.2.2 Why am I an activists?

Tracey Wheatley, a very experienced, lifelong activist and environmentalist brought the participants to a very personal pathway to their deepest roots of activism. She encouraged them to reminisce upon their own beginnings and to remember the reasons that got them where they are today – values, beliefs, issues, context, and triggers. Recalling initial events, feelings and motivation which triggered individuals to become activists was very welcomed by the participants. Being an activist is not an easy task especially when the efforts are enormous, but the results are not in accordance, as participants agreed.

A remark was made questioning the motivation to fight for „the rights of whales in Canada" instead of trying to solve problems in their own communities. After a round of discussion the conclusion was that injustice is all around - **comparing different oppressions and ranking them is not the way to go.** Everyone has the right to choose their battles to fight and to devote themselves to the

issues which they are eager to react to, no matter on which continent they might happen or regarding who or what they might be affecting. It is important what one is inspired by at the first place.

Integral Theory[13] has been mentioned and so has been its correlation with building up the activists' groups and movements. This theory comes down to four steps: (1) people get initial thoughts and feelings about certain issues in their societies and a need to react. (2) They start a journey of finding a group of like-minded people – they search, investigate, share their thoughts and finally start working back to back. (3) They work on the issues together, get mixed up, get sweaty, laughing and crying together until the moment of (4) experiencing the collective consciousness, solidarity and empathy, and realising that they belong to something in space and time that is bigger than them, that is special, that is precious and that is bringing change. Many agreed that this was the first time they had ever structured their „path of activism" this way, but that this is, indeed, how it developed in their cases.

Tracey concluded that "inter-connectedness with other similar-minded people takes the engagement and activism to a new level. It is the biggest challenge, but also the biggest chance that we have. It has the potential to spill over into a movement that supports the action we need to make a real change in the society or its parts".

3.3 What do others do

3.3.1 The citizens' struggle for public space in post-socialist cities

The forthcoming lines present the content of a lecture of the freelance journalist and academic Iskra Krstic, as well as the participants' discussion which followed. The chapter is focused on the particular situation of post-socialist Eastern European cities, most of which are located in former Eastern Bloc countries.

The uniqueness of their situation derives from their shared political history and their mutual, in some cases rather troublesome transitional period from socialist economies with authoritarian political structures into market economies and supposedly pluralist democratic systems. The unregulated and hurried nature of this transition brought about some unexpected changes within their municipal societies, which, over time, became characteristic issues burdening their urban areas.

Disappearance of public spaces

Following the regime changes in the former Eastern Bloc countries, the number and area of open public spaces have been steadily declining, which phenomenon has "*became a hallmark of urban*

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13 https://integrallife.com/integral-post/overview-integral-theory

change in the post-communist period".[14] With the fall of the socialist governments and the decrease of state owned property, investors saw great opportunities in the state supported privatisation of companies, along with public services, and the influx of foreign capital reduced commons even further. This tendency was and still is welcomed and backed by governments that see the public expression of political views through demonstrations as a threat to their power, thus they are actively undermining the process of democratisation. Furthermore, the decline affects the most marginalised and economically disadvantaged members of the society the gravest, for illegal shelters are demolished, unregistered inhabitants are sent away from their residences and homeless people are criminalised, and have less and less places to move to.

Privatisation of the housing market

Public spaces were not the only victims of the massive privatisation movement. The housing market, which was formerly owned by the society in theory, and was owned and regulated by the state in practice, also provided a promising opportunity for investors, after the collapse of the communist regimes and the transition into market economies. Capital flew into the development, construction and renovation of real estates, and consequently, as the quality and the comfort of the residences increased, so did rents and house prices. This phenomenon was especially common in central districts, where most services and facilities are located. Areas in the city centres became more and more expensive, pushing the economically disadvantaged ever further to the outskirts of the cities, creating ghettos and slums, and increasing socio-economic inequalities within the population.

Interestingly, another factor contributing to the growing inequality is the **private ownership of real estates.** As a consequence of widespread privatisations, private home-ownership in Eastern European cities is 90% on average, which can be considered especially high compared to 67% in the US[15]. High home-ownership creates an inflexible market, and makes rental prices more expensive. Furthermore, the appearance, spread and popularity of gated communities, condominiums and guarded estates among the upper classes further decreases the area of open, public spaces, and quite literally establishes fences between socio-economic classes. For example, in 2008 there were 57 **gated communities** in Prague while 16 others were under construction[16], and in Warsaw there were between 200 and 300 guarded estates in 2006, and their numbers continue to grow.[17]

The necessity of home-ownership holds its own risk on an individual level as well. During a discussion with Iskra following her presentation, the participants touched on the subject characterising not only Eastern, but also South-West Europe, particularly Portugal and Spain. Prior

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14 Hirt, S., & Stanilov, K. (2009). Twenty years of transition: The evolution of urban planning in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, 1989-2009. Nairobi, Kenya: U.N. HABITAT.

15 Hirt, S. (2012). Iron Curtains: Gates, Suburbs, and Privatization of Space in the Post-socialist City. John Wiley & Sons Incorporated

16 Brabec, T. (2010). Gated communities: residential separation an privatisation of public space in Czechia. Prague: Univerzita Karlova

17 Zaborska K. 2006. Osiedla strzeżone – bezpieczne domy szczęśliwych ludzi?, in Duda T (ed.) Dynamika przestrzeni miejskiej. Poznań, Wydawnictwo Poznańskie: 61-70.

to the collapse of the housing market in 2008, a craze of foreign currency mortgages and loans swept across lower income countries in Europe, promising low interest rates and easy accessibility. The loans affected a large number of people and caused fierce debates in the countries affected, and some laws were put into effect as damage control measures, such as eviction moratoriums during the winter period. The solution, however, is yet to be presented.

Environmental concerns

The environmental issues present in post-socialist cities should be mentioned and that they are closely related to privatisation. The disappearance of public space is strongly connected to the sharp decrease of green spaces in cities. Both private and governmental investments seem to not account for or completely ignore the destruction of parks, forests and in general green areas within cities when it comes to implementing large scale projects.

A textbook example of investments destroying nature in cities is the **Liget Project[18] in Budapest**. The government is planning on building a new museum district in one of the oldest and biggest parks in Eastern Europe based on questionable economic considerations, putting in jeopardy the future of the park, greatly decreasing the local green area, a recreational and commercial public space of the city, while ignoring the public outcry opposing the project.

Another example comes from **Moscow**: between 1991 and 2001, approximately 750 hectares of forest disappeared from the once lush greenbelt of the city. During the same timeframe forests in metropolitan Moscow declined by 15 percent and grass areas shrunk by 55 percent, while impervious surfaces increased by 26%.[19] In **Sofia** 30% of public green space has been reportedly "lost in transition".[20]

The deterioration of green areas raises health concerns as well, for the fewer floras is left in cities the lower the air quality is going to became due to increased air pollution. The disappearance of plants with fibrous root systems also increases the chances of urban flooding.

The role of governments

Arguably one of the beneficiaries of the transition and the concurrent issues were and still are the governments in power. Eastern European countries are generally plagued by similar and intertwined issues, such as widespread state corruption, social fragmentation, economic marginalisation, and the rise of ethnic-nationalism. Although the post-socialist transition was promising the age of pluralism and democracy, the current tendencies are showing a very different picture: democratic institutions are limited and stripped from their authorities, freedoms are diminished, and the will and needs of the civil society are disregarded. The best example is the **Belgrade Waterfront project**: a sizeable real estate deal with a foreign investor to change the landscape and the structure of the capital forever, backed up by questionable economic arguments, and carried out in a non-transparent

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18 http://www.ligetbudapest.org/eng/
19 Boentje, J., & Blinnikov, M. (2007). *Landscape and Urban Planning, 82,* 208-221.
20 Hirt, S. (2013). Whatever happened to the (post)socialist city? Cities, 32.

nature, ignoring both the concerns of the public and a committee of architects, while endangering the existence of many residents. The project presumably serves the economic interests of government officials and other authorities related to them, and the majority of the civil society is opposing it; nevertheless, their worries are ignored, and the exact details of the deal remain unknown.

The case, however, is not isolated. **Hungary's nuclear deal with Russia**, or the controversy surrounding **Poland's Constitutional Court** all show the same symptoms of democracy deficit.

Illustration: Protests in Belgrade opposing the Belgrade Waterfront project in April 2016 Photograph: Darko Vojinovic/AP

Meanwhile the governments are using the tool-sets of populism and nationalistic emotions to convince their electorate that their actions are benefiting both them and the country. Moreover, Eastern European leaders are using each other's examples to justify their actions, and are looking at each other for experience and methods of governance, thus perpetuating the status quo of the region. Whether this may be a fault of a failed transitional period falsely promising quick and overestimated prosperity, or the societies of these countries lack the social solidarity that would prevent the use of such tools by their leaders is debatable.

The post-modern hyperspace, and future prospects

What was concluded from all of the above based on the input of the participants is that post-socialist Eastern European cities have reached a state in which individual citizens have lost their ability to affect not only their city, but their immediate living area, due to the global prioritisation of foreign capital, individuals and companies of influence, and due to the civil society being left out from the decision making mechanisms. Fortunately, there are efforts combating this tendency, such as alternative urbanisation projects, practical street arts, civil disobedience, petitions, demonstrations etc.

3.3.2 Local struggles

Many participants came from the countries where people have recently raised against various projects, policies or governments' decisions which were perceived as unfair. Therefore, they have shared those with each other in order to explore different possibilities for fights on the local level as well as to understand the background of the local struggles. On the other hand, there are many good examples worth sharing which serve as inspiration for proactive reaction.

In **Warsaw**, for example, one of the participants has been involved in a project based on participatory budgeting - a process of democratic deliberation and decision-making, and a type of participatory democracy, in which people decide how to allocate part of a municipal or public budget. This project is implemented in every district and neighbourhood of the city. Many of the activities are about inclusion of marginalised groups. What they managed to do is to improve the communication between people living in the particular districts and the governance in particular neighbours. There are examples in the other countries where young people developed smartphone applications for certain areas in the city: users are invited to answer what they what to see/do in specific areas. One more example related with participatory involvement of the citizens was given. On the city's website ideas about renewing public spaces can be uploaded. The best idea is chosen and the ones who suggested can get a grant for its implementation.

An example of a local politician who designed a part of the city - a small community which takes care of the neighbourhood was brought up. Though, some participants highlighted that usually politicians who do such projects non-transparently manage the public money. Also, the local initiative should be bottom-up. Another concern regarding local authorities occurred related to the direct investments to municipalities' space. Municipalities usually sell space to investors way under the market price with an excuse of supporting opening new job places. The contracts are never reviewed.

Yerevan, Armenia

From 2008 to 2016, various civic initiatives in Armenia tried to raise awareness of local problems and solve some of them, but there were no mass protests that could challenge the government and spark major changes in society. Some of the last protests arose when public transportation prices increased. The pressure of the people was strong and the municipality apologised.

In December 2011, Yerevan city hall moved dismantled shopping pavilions onto the territory of **Mashots Park** in the city centre which caused a wave of anger from the public. The first protests in support of preserving the park came at the end of January 2012 under the banner of an initiative called "We are in charge of our country". These protests grew in size, and the protesters occupied the construction site. This is one more example of how a fight for nature, trees and flowers grew into a rethinking of public spaces. This was a fight for public ownership, and it was no accident that one of the slogans of this protest, which later grew into a slogan for greater civil action, was "Give what's public to the public".

Lately, around 2000 protesters gathered in Yerevan to protest planned hikes in electricity tariffs. The protests are known as **Electric Yerevan Protesters'** march had been stopped by the police. In response, the protesters sat down where they were and remained through the night. The next morning, police forcibly dispersed the protest with water cannons, and detained around 250 people. This is one of the protests with the most dramatic images of the dispersal and video clips showing plain-clothes officers harassing and attacking journalists. The number of protesters arose to 20000. Protests entered the next stage: organisers are introducing a better management, disseminating protester guidelines (no alcohol, mutual respect, tidiness), and organising a general assembly with broad representation from civic initiatives and thematic working groups open to the public for discussing issues related to the protests.

Istanbul, Turkey

The protest started unexpectedly as a reaction to increasing the authorisation of public spaces. The project was about building a shopping mall in the Gezi park. The trees started to be cut, but the authorities claimed that they will change the space just a bit. People intervened and occupied this public space with tents which were burned by the police later. Social networks helped the news to spread rapidly which has increased number of protesters as well as international support.

Taksim square, the cultural centre of Istanbul, was important place for protests for a long time, but now it is closed for demonstration and the government send people to demonstrate in the outskirts of the city. The media was blindfolded and people realised that media don't correspond to reality.

Skopje, Macedonia

Series of protests were organised against highly non-transparent government's project **Skopje 2014** in Macedonia which purpose was giving the capital a more ,,classical" appeal by the year 2014. The project consists mainly of the construction of museums and government buildings, as well as the erection of monuments depicting historical figures. The project turned into a scandal based on corruption and uncontrolled erection of monuments and buildings all over Skopje. Citizens oppose the government's proposals of new urban planning. Civil society is disappointed by academia's lack of reaction. Police force manages to reduce the amount and intensity of demonstration by intimidating through brutality and violence. One of the final objectives of the protests is to change the government. Students are strongly involved in social movements; they are often the ones to start those movements.

The similarity with the protests against ,,Belgrade Waterfront", ,,Gezi", ,,Mashots" and other is the fact that they are both initiated and led by young people. But even more importantly, politicisation of some of thee protests is perceived by some protesters as if they would lose its social perspective. Participants concluded that in most of the countries in Eastern Europe, being political is often associated with current governments, particracy and corruption. Therefore, politicisation of protests is hard to happen so do a persistent change in those societies.

Massive protests can bring a change, can bring up a new movement, but can also leave an army of apathetic former protesters who lose their faith in change.

Propaganda is very often used by the governments to delegitimise social movements and demonstrations. This is where high importance of independent media lays.

How we will look to the problem for a bit broader perspective? Nowadays tensions are omnipresent in Europe - with different intensity, in different areas. Big changes are coming from different origins: social movements, government renewals, election campaigns. These are consequences of tensions. Political systems are accessible to people in different ways as there are different voting systems. Usually proportional systems are more present in Western Europe and non-proportional ones in Eastern. Some of them can be considered objectively unfair. Public opinion on the quality of the political systems varies a lot from one country to another.

Aspiration for certain movements to reclaim the state as representatives of the people is a common phenomenon. For example, of Syriza (Greece) and Podemos (Spain) are doing this very well. Therefore, **protests must be continued and politically articulated in order to create a sustainable and politically constructive structure.**

3.3.3 Organisations' Visits

Participants visited five different NGOs in Budapest involved with the practical execution of different practices and methods or working on the issues and for the values presented during the study session.

The visited NGOs were:

KÉK (Kortárs Építészeti Központ)[21] – The Contemporary Architectural Centre is an independent architectural cultural centre operated by young Hungarian architects, artists and civilians. The Centre aims to open new perspectives in architectural and urban thinking in Hungary through its fresh, provoking and focused programs, relevant also in international context. This organisation is currently the only internationally acknowledged professional platform representing contemporary architecture in Hungary. The centre focuses in methods, formats and possibilities of *urban regeneration, sustainable innovation, policy and debate* (committed to bring more transparency into decision-making related to architecture and planning) and connecting architecture, culture and community.

Hungarian Cyclist Club[22] - HCC is the most significant civil organisation in the Hungarian cycling society and affiliated organisation of the European Cyclists' Federation. The Club has built up a network of local activist bodies all around the country, and it organises volunteer professionals into working groups for infrastructure, communication, education, etc., thus creating an effective matrix of local and professional knowledge in every field related to cycling. The main goal of its activity is to *popularise cycling as a mode of transport*, raise its significance, and create its culture.

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21 http://kek.org.hu/en
22 http://kerekparosklub.hu/english

Cargonomia[23] - Cargonomia is a progressive urban cooperative of three socially and environmentally conscious enterprises operating in or near Budapest. Based on the principles of *sustainability* and *fair trade*, a primary goal is to increase access to locally produced products by promoting direct trade from local producers to consumer communities who are seeking healthy and environmentally conscious food options. Through the cooperation food products will be distributed to customer-partners throughout the city using locally manufactured cargo bikes.

Budapest Methodological Centre of Social Policy and Its Institutions (BMSZKI)[24] - BMSZKI is the largest *homeless service provider* in Budapest. With its constantly changing and developing institutions, BMSZKI is one of the largest social service providers in the country and the Central European region. They offer temporary accommodations and night shelters. Their Day Centres provide services to people sleeping rough or staying at night shelters; these are basic services that other people can use in their homes.

Aurora[25] - Aurora is an initiative that has strong ties with the local community and supports local initiatives and NGOs to gain visibility and to strengthen and improve the quality of their work. They also organise concerts and other cultural events, social gatherings, etc. They work most with *marginalised groups* such as Roma community and are volunteer driven.

After the visits, the participants were given some time to reflect on their experiences, share them with the others and discuss the applicability of the methods observed and the possibilities of such organisations in their respective countries given their political situations. The thoughts shared showed a mixed picture. On one hand the example of Malta and its cyclist community was promising: the Maltese cyclist community is growing, has a sphere of influence and as more people join their ranks the achievements reached by the Hungarian Cyclist Club can be taken as examples for them to follow, or their methods of addressing the stakeholders and making their voices heard could be copied.

Furthermore, we were presented with great examples of sharing economy, reciprocity and solidarity from Germany, where one website offers certain skills in exchange for the skills of other people, completely removing any monetary currency from the equitation (time banking). As for another German example beneficial for all parties involved, a participant mentioned the system of old people taking youth or young couples into their homes for them to combat loneliness and find helping hands around the house; in return, often students or youth can find affordable accommodation for themselves. A similar example from Albania was mentioned as well, which uses the division of responsibilities to get people together: different families from different parts of the country move in to another family in order to experience how they live and to be able to understand and appreciate the daily work they are doing, while learning about different habits, routines and cultures.

Some people were inspired by their experiences. One Armenian participant highlighted the

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23 http://cargonomia.hu/?lang=en
24 http://bmszki.hu/en
25 http://auroraonline.hu/

possibilities of using Cargonomia's reciprocity based economy in local Armenian businesses, which could only operate on similar basis, given that at the present they lack the monetary resources to continue their work within the confines of a currency based market economy. BMSZKI's work with homeless people was praised by one participant, based on the comparison they made with the situation in Georgia. This participant emphasised that the practices observed could be applicable in her own community as well, given there is will on the government's side to do so.

Of course, some political systems simply do not allow the „naissance" and operation of grassroots civilian initiatives, especially if they criticise the decisions of the government. Saddening examples were mentioned from Kazakhstan, where partaking in public gatherings and demonstrations is punishable by law, therefore the applicability of the tools of civil disobedience is highly questionable in their case, highlighting the importance of context. Many Eastern Europeans agreed: it is much easier to occupy an empty building in Germany than in Armenia, given the different state of political freedoms in the two countries.

The participants have concluded that it is important to treat every single initiative according to its own social and cultural context. They have also agreed that **any initiative can only be successful, if its target groups are distinctly identified, if the action is timely and if it ensures the continuous and constant involvement and interest of the local community through the understanding of the movements' needs, goals, and causes.** Hence, recognising these factors early on is of outmost importance.

3.4 What we can do

3.4.1 Campaigning

Based on the campaigning session, we have come up with several points to be taken into consideration when planning a campaign. Moreover, we de-constructed several examples of existing campaigns and discussed the main points in the context of those examples.

I Goal, aim or purpose of a campaign states what needs to be changed in order to solve the addressed issue. After discussions of given examples from No Hate Speech Movement Campaign (Council of Europe), Rusty Radiator (SAIH), "Have a break" (Greenpeace) we concluded that the aim should be specific, fit into a single sentence and understandable by all.

Example: "Have a break" - a campaign initiated by Greenpeace with an aim to stop Nestle's massive exploitation of rain forest.

According to the chosen aim, a **target group** should be defined. The target group is consisted of those who have the power to effect the changes the campaign calls for.

II Narrative: formulating a campaign story can be challenging and there are lots of factors that can define it. Based on the examples we understood that each narrative can be determined by three parts:

-Situation *(Where it is happening?)*

-Scene *(What is going on?)*

-Setting *(Who is the main actor?)*

Whether we create a hero, emotional attachment, urgency or a happy end, the story must be connected with the message we would like to spread.

Rusty Radiator campaign by SAIH was created with a main actor Michael in Africa, with the aim to break stereotypes, and call for an action.

III Communication goals vary according to different target audiences. This is the norm in advocacy campaigns as primary and secondary target audiences need to be reached differently and will likely take different types of action. Ex: The campaign we made in our group work had two target groups – youth and city council which then led to discuss about the approach to them. Positive, provocative, fun and emotional approach was decided for young people where on the other side demanding, strict, expertise-based and concise approach with the City Council.

For spreading our message, we can use different **communication channels**: social media, website, newspapers, mailing, or direct one to one contact.

Example: No Hate Speech Movement Campaign against racism and xenophobia on the internet, uses an online platform for reporting hate speech online.

IV Mobilisation is a process that engages a range of people to raise awareness or/and demand a change. It can include petitions, elections, social media support etc. Mobilisation comes after the aim, target group, narrative and communication channels are determined.

Example: With "Have a break" and No Hate Speech Movement campaigns we've concluded the internet plays a significant role in many mass mobilisation efforts. In both cases mobilisation happens online when people can act and make a change with signing a petition or reporting.

4. Main Outcomes of the study session

According to the feedback received, the knowledge on the main topics discussed was increased among participants. High level of inspiration and motivation to work on the topic in the future was emphasised in participants' evaluations. This was reflected in the high number of assignees to the **Alternative Urbanisation working group** after the event. Participants acknowledged the importance of taking an initiative, developed a critical vision of the issues, and acknowledged the peer to peer and non-formal education methodology. They identified similarities and differences between issues in different communities, cultures and countries, as well as understood the causes and consequences of some of those.

As an outcome, series of articles on the working group's blog[26] have been published by the Blog Committee as well as the video[27] by the Video Committee.

At the end of the study session, participants developed their personal action plans including a detailed list of concrete steps to be taken in the following months regarding the implementation of the learnt material.

Strategically, this project contributed to CDN on several levels:

Firstly, member organisations' capacities increased trough building skills and knowledge of their members. Moreover, most of the member organisations have already worked on the topic, so this project was an additional boost or a refreshment for their activism in the urbanisation field on the local level.

Young Greens gained an opportunity to experience working in a preparatory team and therefore build their facilitating, moderating and project-management skills. Therefore, these people, apart from bringing the knowledge and skills back to their organisations and communities, will actively contribute to the Network and build internal capacities of CDN structures such as executive committee, working group and prep-team members, secretariat etc.

Out of special importance for CDN is to establish a strong relation with young activists from the countries where CDN member organisations are inactive or non-existing in order to ensure balanced support to young people all over Eastern Europe. As the study session was attended by members of various initiatives from different countries, we had an opportunity to strengthen the ties with activists from all over Europe, especially Russia, Montenegro and Kosovo.

The biggest success for CDN was the number of participants who assigned to the working group. This proved the importance of the topic for the young people as well as value of the working group's previous work. At the moment of writing this report or two months after the event took place, the working group has more active members and activities than ever. The comprehensiveness of the topic and number of negative as well as inspiring practices in members' communities are challenging, but very inspiring as there is a lot of space for young people to

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26 https://alterurbanisation.wordpress.com/study-session/
27 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8KQnADKscs&feature=youtu.be

position themselves and influence decision-making. Therefore, the working group is preparing a project proposal for the European Youth Foundation[28] of Council of Europe whose work and grants they got familiar with during the study session.

Main learning points:

One of the main learning points for participants was acknowledging the multifacetedness of urban problems – exploring the relation between urbanisation and other social issues such as homelessness, segregation, various types of discrimination; its relation with (the lack of) democracy, and breaking the common opinion that the lack of green spaces and environmental issues are the main problems concerning urbanisation, as well as how multiple perspectives and levels of approach can be developed in order to address those problems. It was also emphasised that both the problems and the solutions are multifaceted, and any effort to tackle the problems and reach solutions can be valuable as the issues consist of many layers.

A very important learning point was understanding what gentrification is, how gentrification happens, what the process behind it is and what can be done to transform the process or mitigate its consequences. Participants identified relevant stakeholders and understood decision-making processes in societies; they have learned how to identify the main points, how to make a good campaign, and how to start it without any formerly existing background structures. New, sustainable and progressive methods in providing energy and necessary resources for a city arose as learning points and, although only through building an ideal city, they have learnt how to implement these methods in practice. Participants identified similar problems and issues in different societies and learnt about solutions coming from local communities; studied examples of different local initiatives and case studies (Malmo, Budapest, Belgrade, Nairobi, Tokyo, New York, Detroit, Cape Town) as well as sustainable city infrastructures: water drainage systems, cycling paths, public transport, housing, urban energy production, urban agriculture, green spaces, recycling, and tactical urbanism.

As for intercultural learning, similarities of issues in post-soviet countries were identified, and awareness was raised concerning solidarity in the struggles, and breaking stereotypes.

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28 http://www.coe.int/en/web/european-youth-foundation

5. Follow-up activities

1. The main follow-up foreseen is continuation of participants' engagement within the Alter-Urb Working Group. Fields that the WG is working on:

1. Revising **aims and the objectives** of the WG, structuring the work in several sections, and dividing tasks according to long and short-term activities;

2. **Movie Nights** – organising public on-line discussions on (documentary) movies related to cities and urbanisation. Results of these discussions are published at the working group blog[29].

3. **Blog** – researching and writing series of articles on gentrification (which sparked a lot of discussions during the study session); conducting interviews with local activists in the working group members' countries and creating and sharing an interactive map of good practices in Europe.

4. Clearly define and develop, plan and fund-raise for the **ideas** emerged during the study session

In a long term: camping at abandoned places in order to bring attention to the importance of the value of spaces and the ways we can use them with an idea to reclaim spaces; support locals in local initiatives such as creating community gardens, organising local workshops and opening discussions on public spaces; visiting local squats, urbanisation initiatives, and urbanists etc. interviewing them, publishing the stories on the blog; organising a Travelling Theatre in order to bring together topics such as city and migration or space and feminism; organising training courses for young people and communities on how to self-organise, on social rights and advocacy; organising exhibitions of the artworks created in and about cities; organising webinars; creating publication and recommendations on how to organise those events.

Project idea of the Working Group Committee:

The project is comprised of two parts: (1) alternative urbanisation course and (2) field studies.

(1) The first part implies the creation of an online course for selected and enrolled participants to attend online lectures related to the topic of alternative urbanisation. The course will cover various topics such as: community building in the cities, circular economy, re-development and place making in the cities, alternative financing etc. All the topics covered will be focused on alternative urbanisation. The aim of the alternative urbanisation course is to enhance the theoretical knowledge of interested activists related to the topics. The series of course will be recorded and uploaded onto the web and will be accessible for everyone.

The first part of the project aims to empower both researchers and practitioners, who work on the topic of alternative urbanisation. For that reason, the courses will be conducted by the master's or post-graduate students, who have researched certain topics of alternative urbanisation. That will help them spread their ideas and their work and make it more public. On the participants' side, the target group of the project is young activists from Europe, who are dedicated to the topic and strive

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29 https://alterurbanisation.wordpress.com/category/wg-activities/

to boost their knowledge and their understanding of it.

(2) The second part of the project implies field studies in different cities throughout Europe that are engaged in the European-wide project titled "Cities in Transition". The field studies will be relevant to the courses conducted during the study period and aim to enhance the practical knowledge and skills of the participants.

6. Conclusions

The topic of alternative urbanisation and **youth ownership of their communities** is very relevant for young people and it has been shown that there is a need for understanding **multifacetedness and inter-connection of urbanisation and other social issues,** as well as their influence on young people's lives. **Housing and decision-making on the local level** are some of the burning issues which concern young people, and we see a clear need to continue working in this direction, especially with the local communities and activists in the field.

Similar patterns of environmental problems are evident in different countries throughout Europe and beyond. **Privatisation, discrimination and exclusion** of various groups and communities, violent and non-violent forms of **deprivation**, from **access to public spaces**, erosion and **violation of human rights** regarding the environment and urban issues, show similarities. Citizen struggles and creative solutions to these problems in different context might offer us a fresh look and opportunities to learn from each other. Young people can develop a holistic understanding of such issues and build skills to fight with the problems at different levels.

The essential importance of study sessions like this therefore lies in informing about and educating on the subject, **providing tools and methods for the creation of multipliers** and for advocacy. Young people play a crucial role as potential activists, politicians, decision-makers, but among all active citizens and shapers of their societies.

7. Appendices

-PROGRAMME-

Sunday, 12th June 2016

Arrival of participants
19:00 Dinner
20:30 Welcome evening

Monday, 13^h June 2016

08:00   Breakfast
09:30   Opening of the Study Session / Getting to know each-other
11:00   Break
11:30   Agenda presentation / Team Building activity
13:00   Lunch
14:30   Introduction to non-formal education // Introduction to the topic
16:00   Break
16:30   Quiz – how much do we know about our cities?
18:00   Committees
18:30   Reflection group
19:00   Dinner
20:30   Organisational mixer

Tuesday, 14th June 2016

08:00   Breakfast
09:30   What is our perfect city? (workshop)
11:00   Break
11:30   Exploring freedom and challenging democracy in cities (role-play)
13:00   Lunch break
14:30   Guest Speaker: *Tracey Wheatley, Védegylet Civil Association*
16:00   Break
16:30   Funny gentrification (cartoon and a discussion)
18:00   Committees
18:30   Reflection group
19:00   Dinner
20:30   Intercultural night

Wednesday, 15th June 2016

08:00   Breakfast
09:30   Study visits to local organisations
13:00   Lunch break (out)
           Free afternoon in the city
19:00   Dinner out
           Free time

Thursday, 16th June 2016

08:00	Breakfast
09:30	Reflection on the Study visits & Needs assessment
11:00	Break
11:30	Participatory urban planning
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Case Studies 1
16:00	Break
16:30	Case Studies 2
18:00	Committees
18:30	Reflection group
19:00	Dinner
20:30	Urban Documentary Night

Friday, 17th June 2016

08:00	Breakfast
09:30	Guest Speaker: *Iskra Krstić, Mašina*
11:00	Break
11:30	Exchange session: Local struggles
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Example of a campaign: No Hate Speech Movement
16:00	Break
16:30	Campaigning Skills Development
18:00	Committees
18:30	Reflection group
19:00	Dinner
20:30	Board Games Evening

Saturday 18th June 2016

08:00	Breakfast
09:30	Open Space
11:00	Break
11:30	Follow-up
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Personal evaluation
16:00	Break
16:30	Evaluation and Closing/Certificates
19:00	Dinner
21:00	Farewell Party

Sunday 19th June 2016

Departure

7.2 Alternative Youth Urbanisation – Reclaim the city!
12-19 June 2016, Budapest

-LIST OF PARTICIPANTS and PREPARATORY TEAM MEMBERS[30]-

	First Name	**Country**	**Organisation**
1	Keida Ushtelenca	Albania	Albanian Youth Green Forum
2	Glejdi Floku	Albania	National Territorial Planning Agency
3	Lia Alaverdyan	Armenia	Partnership For Green Development
4	Hmayak Arakelyan	Armenia	Partnership For Green Development
5	Khayyam Namazov	Azerbaijan	MİL Network
6	Vahid Aliyev	Azerbaijan	Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDN)
7	Georgi Michev	Bulgaria	Bulgarian Young Greens
8	Teo Gregov	Croatia	Croatian Sustainable Development
9	Tereza Hronová	Czech Republic	Mladiinfo
10	Mariam Dzneladze	Czech Republic	Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDN)
11	Mariam Khizanashvili	Czech Republic	Georgian Young Greens
12	Teo Comet	Finland	Federation of Young European Greens
13	Sopiko Shubitidze	Georgia	Tbilisi Fabian Society
14	Nigar Nazirova	Germany	Youth Come On
15	Marzhan Nurzhan	Germany	EUF/ European University of Flensburg
16	Simon Gergely Császár	Hungary	The Future Can Be Different
17	Yermek Abilgaziyev	Kazakhstan	Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia in Kazakhstan
18	Emira Polloshka	Kosovo*	3E- Education for Energy and Environment
19	Mendim Avdyli	Kosovo*	Environmentalist Without Borders
20	Gordan Popov	"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	MODOM
21	Milan Nikolovski	"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDN)
22	Ljubisha Sardelic	"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	MODOM
23	Elena Asprovska	"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Red Cross - Berovo, MEDS (Meeting of Design Students)
24	James Gabarretta	Malta	Malta Green Youth
25	Vanja Dabižinović	Montenegro	Club Alpbach Montenegro
26	Joanna Górska	Poland	Polish Young Greens
27	Varvara Borodkina	Russia	LabGrade - the laboratory of urban planning
28	Kirill Matrenin	Russia	Students society of RNRMU
29	Liudmila Gavrilenko	Russia	The Novosibirsk State University of architecture and Civil Engineering
30	Isabella Nilsen	United Kingdom (Scotland)	People and Planet
31	Nikoleta Petković	Serbia	Serbian Green Youth
32	Mira Mulaimovic	Serbia	Serbian Green Youth
33	Sofiia Yarmosh	Ukraine	Green Party of Ukraine in Cherkasy

Team Members:

1	Katarina Pavlović	Serbia	Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDN)
2	Djalel Boukerdenna	Spain	Red Equo Joven
3	Kim van Sparrentak	Netherlands	DWARS, GreenLeft Youth
4	Predrag Momčilović	Serbia	Serbian Green Youth
5	Lidia Chirita	Moldova	Gutta Club

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30 ** All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.*

Cities and urbanism:

http://unhabitat.org/

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/cities/

https://www.theguardian.com/cities

http://www.art.net/~hopkins/Don/simcity/manual/history.html

https://issuu.com/streetplanscollaborative/docs/tactical_urbanism_vol.1

https://exploring-and-observing-cities.org/

Degrowth:

http://vocabulary.degrowth.org/

http://www.greattransition.org/publication/the-degrowth-alternative

Gentrification:

https://gentrificationblog.wordpress.com/

https://www.brookings.edu/research/dealing-with-neighborhood-change-a-primer-on-gentrification-and-policy-choices/

Sustainability:

http://www.iclei.org/

Positive environmental justice in deprived neighbours in the Netherlands;

Master thesis, Kim Van Sparrentak

http://library.wur.nl/WebQuery/clc/2067028

List of links where information about the study session was posted:

CDN website:

http://www.cdnee.org/alternative-youth-urbanisation-reclaim-the-city/

EduActive website:

http://www.edu-active.com/camps/2016/apr/10/study-session-alternative-youth-urbanisation-recla.html

MladiInfo website:

http://www.mladiinfo.eu/2016/04/13/study-session-alternative-youth-urbanisation-reclaim-city-budapest/

Official Change website:

http://officialchange.com/?s=alternative&x=0&y=0

Serbian Green Youth Website:

http://bit.do/http-www-zelenaomladina-org-reclaim-the-city-study-session

World of Jobs:

http://www.trainingsnews.com/study-session-alternative-youth-urbanisation-reclaim-the-city/