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HUMAN CITIES: Challenging the city scale

Duration: October 2014–September 2018 (48 months)

Financing

Funded by Creative Europe 2014–2020, the European Commission's framework programme for supporting culture and audiovisual activities.

**HUMAN
CITIES**



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Project description

The focus of this third Human Cities project is on analysing, testing and implementing the process of engaging people in jointly creating urban public spaces in contemporary cities and challenging the scale and “flow space” of cities in Europe today. People are the key to designing new public spaces in a network society. The goal is to go beyond planned projects implemented in cities to study and understand the strength of unplanned activities and ideas in public spaces. Projects build on one or more Human Cities shared values: empathy, wellbeing, sustainability, intimacy, conviviality, mobility, accessibility, aesthetics, leisure, imagination, sensoriality, respect and solidarity.

By rejecting compartmentalised disciplines, this European project partnership brings together designers, architects, sociologists, art historians, bloggers, philosophers, urban planners and artists all involved at one point in the evolution of public spaces. Through applied research and shared creation, the Human Cities network appears as a continuous human-driven cultural project addressing the position and status

of people in relation to their cities and ever-changing flow space(s).

Project results

Some field studies will be carried out in the initial stages of the project to discover and create a review of participatory design initiatives in public space in partner countries. Next, an experimentation programme will be held. This implies all sorts of activities such as campaigns, projects and programmes to support joint work on existing initiatives or to create new ones in order to test new methodologies in the process of creating urban public space. The outcomes will be evaluated by collecting users' experiences. The results will be integrated into a travelling exhibition. A research publication will be published at the end, addressing the professional community and the general public.

To strengthen the project and the European spirit of the network, nine international exchanges and discussion workshops will be held, as well as two international conferences. The results of the experiments will be presented to the general public through eight exhibitions held during major design events in the

partner cities. In Ljubljana, this travelling exhibition will be held in late 2016 and related to some other activities in the city (e.g., BIO/Design Week 2016). An activities programme of accompanying artistic and design interventions in public space will be held to share the project with people not involved in design. As a part of the exhibitions, some educational tools for children and schools will also be created.

Between 2016 and 2018, education and training sessions will be jointly organized by partner cities at five design centres. The aim of these masterclasses for professionals is to challenge the city dimension in jointly creating contemporary public spaces and creating new response scenarios to ongoing processes in contemporary societies to improve the quality of life in cities today.

Project partners

The project is led by *La Cité du design* (France) and involves the following partners:

- Polytechnic University of Milan (Italy);
- Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia);

- Clear Village Charitable Trust (UK);
- Estonian Association of Designers (Estonia);
- FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences (Austria);
- Aalto University (Finland);
- Cieszyn Castle (Poland);
- Pro Materia (Belgium);
- Association Design Week (Serbia);
- BEAZ/Bilbao-Bizkaia Design and Creativity Council (Spain).

The project team at the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia: Lucile Fauviaux (intern), Nina Goršič, Matej Nikšič (project leader) and Biba Tominc.

More information:

<http://humancities.eu>

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