

Making cities in the age of uncertainty

/WHY THE PROBLEM



Urban regeneration is challenged by the multiple crises we face. Climate change, rising inequality, democracy deficits, and labour disruptions are turning cities into engines of exclusion, eliminating the inclusive, participatory spaces that are so crucial for urban prosperity.

Overly rigid top-down approaches to masterplanning have left yawning scars in our cityscapes: unfinished neighbourhoods, brand-new buildings standing empty, soulless districts that become monuments to the paradox of urban regeneration. Even when it appears successful on the surface, the process can hide the violent displacement of low- and middle-income populations, a phenomenon that is most commonly called 'gentrification'.

Cities need new models. New tools that will let them keep pace with the complexity, rapid change, and continuously emerging needs of our neighbourhoods. Urban regeneration is not only about the hardware of urban life—the construction of new buildings and infrastructure. It is about regenerating human connections and the social, economic and cultural software that makes cities thrive.

/HOW WE WORK

T-Factor is a Horizon 2020 research and action project co-funded by the European Commission. We bring together a diverse array of world-class thinkers and practitioners to create new knowledge, tools and capabilities to unlock the transformative potential of meanwhile spaces in urban regeneration, turning the 'time' factor into a strategic asset for prototyping just, sustainable, and inclusive futures in cities.

We leverage public, private and community support to help urban regeneration integrate new tools and approaches through our different lines of work:

T-Factor's Advanced Research studies some of the most innovative, effective, and forward-looking examples of meanwhile spaces in Europe and around the world to transform their stories into practical insights for public officials, private developers and grassroots communities.

T-Factor's Local Pilots are our proofs of concept, where we will put our Advanced Research outcomes into practice in six early-development areas in the European Union.

T-FACTOR IN NUMBERS

12 countries
14 cities
8 Advanced Research cases studied across **3** continents
6 Local Pilots for new toolkits, ideas, and methods in meanwhile-space creation
 Pilot areas gather a total **€10** billion in public and private investment
 More than **100** community leaders engaged as global T-Factor stakeholders
25 partners developing a global community of practice for the study of meanwhile spaces in urban regeneration

We want to turn meanwhile spaces into a strategic field of action for deploying new ways to plan, design, fund, govern and regulate sustainable and thriving urban regeneration.

T-Factor ensures that cities, real estate developers, academics, and grassroots organisations are part of the same conversation. Our results will be publicly available. Follow our progress on our website and social media.

/MEANWHILE SPACES PROTOTYPING PARTICIPATORY URBAN FUTURES

The gaps left by infrastructure-only approaches to urban renewal have created some surprising opportunities. Vacant buildings, plots, and unused spaces have been filled by temporary, community-built cultural, social and entrepreneurial activities that have added collective animation to the city-making process.

Often, these initiatives have built real social capital and taken on leading roles in rebuilding the social and economic lives of areas in the midst of regeneration. In many cases, they have become permanent fixtures of the local landscape, acting as prototypes for resilience and adaptation.

We call these temporary initiatives

meanwhile spaces



Temporary use can become a core asset in urban regeneration. Governments, real estate developers, academia, business, grassroots communities and neighbours can be spurred to creatively collaborate when the proper tools and institutional framework transform that uncertainty into sustainable innovation. It's a win-win situation for all stakeholders.

/WHO WE ARE

CITIES

Camden Borough
 City of Lodz
 City of Dortmund
 Bilbao Ekintza
 ANCI Toscana
 City of Kaunas

BUSINESSES

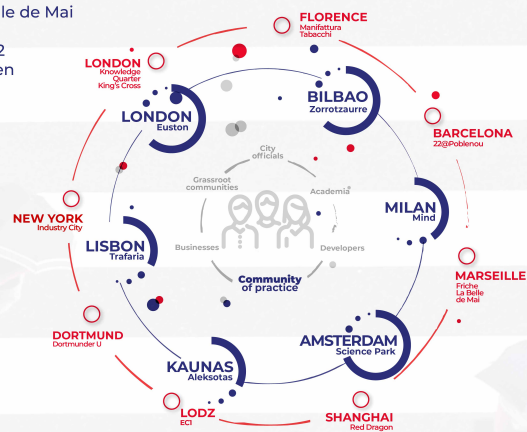
Plus Value
 LAMA Agency
 Tecnalia
 LAND Italia
 Futuribile
 i-Propeller

UNIVERSITIES

University of the Arts London
 Aalborg University
 Tongji University
 Politecnico di Milano
 Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
 TU Dortmund University
 Università Statale di Milano
 Kaunas Technology University
 NOVA University Lisbon

GRASSROOTS

Friche la belle de Mai
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 Espacio Open



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