TRAINING

Use of Public Space & SUMP

Irina ROTARU | Cities on the Move (CiMo)
CONTENT

INTRODUCTION | brief presentation of the training and of the trainer

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC | definition, role, use and design of public space

INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION OF THE TRAINEES | name + experience + keyword

ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES | examples + practical exercise

PUBLIC SPACE & SUMP | case studies from Spain, France, Romania ...

GAME PLAY | solutions for problematic public spaces in the host city

CONCLUSIONS | summary + feedback on outcomes and future needs
INTRODUCTION

BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE TRAINING

Specific objectives

• Increasing the understanding and awareness of the value of public space as an economic resource but also as urban life asset – rising awareness

• Fostering the capacity of building effective solutions enabling the sustainable distribution, configuration and use of public space – capacity building

• Understanding how to develop and implement effective mechanisms that could favour a more sustainable design and use of public space – development of constructive thinking and innovative tools

• Increasing the capacity of critical analysis and negotiation – positioning

• Familiarisation with the existing tools and processes influencing the use of public space as well as with their sound management and combination – experience exchange
INTRODUCTION

BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE TRAINING

Methodology

**Blended learning** training mixing theory with online and offline practical applications: case studies analysis, role play, situation positioning, games, movies etc.

Provide the structure & some guidelines – to ensure a common understanding

**we are building together** the training experience

your input is essential
INTRODUCTION

PRESENTATION OF THE TRAINER

CITIES ON THE MOVE is an international and interdisciplinary think and do tank based in Romania and concerned with the sustainable evolution of cities and communities. Its members are developing applied research projects and advising public institutions, communities and private companies in the conception and implementation of their policies, programmes and projects in the fields of urban mobility, urban planning and design, environment and cultural heritage.

Irina ROTARU
President of Cities on the Move
Background in architecture and urban design and planning
Highly interested in cities and their communities’ sustainability
Integrated approach considering different perspectives
INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

PUBLIC SPACE

- **definition**
- **design**
- **role**
- **use**

**space of mobility**

@Vlad Eftenie Bucharest, 2016

@IR Riccione, 2012

@Paris City hall – Roads and Urban Mobility Department, 2017
INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

PUBLIC SPACE

Definition design role use

space of urban life

@ IR Milan (up), Brighton (down) 2013

@ Vlad Eftenie Paris, 2016
INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

PUBLIC SPACE

**definition**

*a city is living through its public spaces, while public spaces are living through the activities that are taking place there, hence through its use.*

**design**

**role**

**use**
A place, in wide definition, for everybody to enjoy their coexistence and represent their collectivity and common interest without drowning or disaggregating their diversity.

(Urban dictionary, 2005)
Simplified history of the changes in the understanding and configuration of public space induced by the diversification and development of the travel modes (and demand)

• At the beginning: reduced number of motorised vehicles. 
  *city* = more like a general shared space

• 19th C – beginning of 20th C: Generalisation of the car use as a feature of the modern society
  distinction *footways* - *roadway* (+most of the efforts done to comfort car use)

• 20th C: diversification of the transport modes + public transport development
dedicated infrastructure for the different modes of transport

• 21st C: ecologic concerns + revival of a more human approach
generalisation of the active travel infrastructure + revival of the shared space
with priority to pedestrians and clean means of transport
INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

PUBLIC SPACE

definition  design  role  use

19th C – beginning of 20th C: Generalisation of the car use as a feature of the modern society

street was seen as a space connecting destinations optimised for motorised traffic A TRANSIT CORRIDOR conceived to reconcile high speeds with safety by considering technical aspects like:

• The kinetic effect of velocity and mass
• The time-distance separation between visual stimulus, muscle activity and vehicle response
• The mechanics of braking and acceleration
• The relation between speed and street geometry – curvature radius, lane width
• etc.
INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

PUBLIC SPACE

20th C: **diversification** of the transport modes + **public transport development**

More comprehensive understanding of the **STREET AS A SPACE FOR EVERYBODY**

Consideration of **functional, economic, social and aesthetic criteria** such as:

- the **economic vitality** of the shops bordering the street;
- the **physical comfort** of the adjacent **residents** (especially the noise and pollution levels);
- the **security of the children** that go to school via or play on the footway/pavement;
- the **comfort of elderly or impaired people** when crossing or walking along the street;
- the **ambience** of the street in general.
INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

PUBLIC SPACE

21st C: ecologic concerns + revival of a more human approach
public space conceived to incite the adoption of more sustainable mobility
solutions that are clearly favoured through all means (configuration, finishing and
regulation of public space)

STREETS AS PLACES OF URBAN LIFE

Decisive efforts to produce a significant shift in mentalities and mobility choices,
but also to transform travel into a pleasant experience beyond of its basic functional

Key message: cities & streets are for people, not for cars and should comfort a
large variety of uses
INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

PUBLIC SPACE

the new approach in urban mobility planning

Existing Approach

Demand

Supply

The balance was kept by increasing the amount of supply in accordance with the demand growth.

New Approach

Environment

Financial Limit

In this new approach, the balance is kept by reducing both sides, considering the traffic impacts and financial status.

Source: "Jutai-kanwa no Chie Bukuro", Japan Society of Traffic Engineers
GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

PLEASE:

1. THINK OF A PROBLEMATIC SPACE / USE CONFLICT SITUATION in your city and try to symbolically describe it through a single word

2. TELL the others:
   - your name
   - some basic information about you: your profession, background, actual position, institution you are working for, level of experience with SUMP s
   - a brief description of the space and situation you thought of
   - your key word

3. WRITE on your badge:
   - your name + institution + job
   - your key word
ACTIVE PUBLIC SPACE:

- A dynamic space, that contributes to the city life (& economy)
- Usually multiple functions/uses - added value to the urban vitality
- A place full of people, where people like to be
- Usually, rich in meaning
- Endowed with tangible, but also intangible value
PUBLIC SPACE THAT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT:

- Derelict, abandoned area, “friche”
- Leftover space
- A wasted empty space, where people do not like to be
- Sometimes dangerous or associated to unpleasant feelings, where people do not feel secure
- An ugly place with no particular use or sense
- Forgotten space
- ....
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES
EXAMPLES:

COLLECTIF ETC (France)

Organisation started in 2009 in Strasbourg, by some freshly graduated architects and artists, trying to invent themselves a “job” in the absence of a standard one.

Promotion of a new way of thinking urban spaces and life, working together with the residents

A flexible network of social and artistic interventions, meetings and debates

Community creators /activators

*Intervention in San Cristobal De Los Angeles neighbourhood, in Madrid, Spain – image before and after*

source: http://www.collectifetc.com/realisation/
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES
EXAMPLES:

COLLECTIF ETC (France)

source images: http://www.collectifetc.com/realisation/
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES

EXAMPLES:

COLLECTIF ETC (France)
AAA - atelier d'architecture autogérée (France)

collective platform for active involvement of citizens in very palpable issues related to everyday life but with high impact on the mind-set, attitudes, behaviours, sense of community and identity

Explorations, actions & research on urban mutations and cultural, social and political emerging practices in the contemporary city

R-Urban, source: http://www.spatialagency.net/database/aaa
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES
EXAMPLES

AAA - atelier d'architecture autogérée (France)

Ecobox, source: http://www.ryerson.ca/carrotcity

R-Urban, source: Zumtobel
ZEPPELIN Association (Ro)

Initiative group dealing with the revival and promotion of the abandoned industrial sites and of the innovative activities that can be hosted there.

Reactivation of abandoned spaces
Carol Factory, source: Zeppelin Association
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES
EXAMPLES

ZEPPELIN Association (Romania)

Magic Blocks: a project including small minimal interventions made with recycled materials in order to improve the derelict spaces in a socialist housing estates according to the needs expressed by their residents.

Magic Blocks, situation before & after the intervention
source: Zeppelin Association
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES EXAMPLES

ZEPPELIN Association (Romania): Magic Blocks

The improvised urban furniture was moved in many places of the target area for testing their functioning in various configurations.

Magic Blocks, situation after intervention
source: Zeppelin Association
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES EXAMPLES

ZEPELLEN Association (Romania)
Small Ideas for a Big City (2008)

16 alternative projects to improve public spaces in Bucharest
Small ideas, cost-wise, which could truly improve the quality of life and certain urban situations.
Designed by the members of Zeppelin and by young invited architects, the proposals submitted to authorities and to the wide audience addressed various places, from abandoned sites to the residual areas of large housing neighbourhoods, and spaces in the heart of the historical centre.

https://e-zeppelin.ro/en/small-ideas-for-a-big-city/
RiconquistaMi, Milan (Italy)

A project for Milanese public spaces promoted in 2013 by Politecnico di Milano in the framework of the initiative Campus Sostenible and in collaboration with the City of Milan and various associations and citizens.

It is intended to experience new forms of urban spaces co-produced together with local people and visitors and highly involving artistic activities (drawing, painting, playing, dancing, cinema, theatre ...). The first interactive shows of this kind enabled the transformation of the large parking from Piazza Leonardo in Milan into a pedestrian area.

Preparation of the 1st game play
Source: Facebook page of ReconquistaMi
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES EXAMPLES

MACAO (Italy)

Protest movement coming with concrete solutions + lobby for the sustainable capitalization of the urban built environment

Milonga evening
MACAO headquarters,
Source:
http://www.macaomilano.org/

Piazza MACAO - the starting of MACAO movement with the protests in front of Torre Galfa, Milan, May 2012
Source:
http://www.macaomilano.org/
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES

EXAMPLES

STREET DELIVERY (Bucharest, Romania)

@ Mediafax, StreetDelivery Bucharest 2013

@ Vlad Eftenie, StreetDelivery Bucharest 2017
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES EXAMPLES

STREET DELIVERY (Bucharest, Romania)
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES
EXAMPLES

STREET DELIVERY (Bucharest, Romania)

@ radioiasi.ro, StreetDelivery Iași 2017

@ gokid.ro, StreetDelivery Bucharest 2017

@Dreamstime.com, StreetDelivery Bucharest 2017
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES
EXAMPLES

STREET DELIVERY (Bucharest, Romania)

@bucurestiulmeudrag.ro
StreetDelivery Bucharest 2017

StreetDelivery Bucharest 2012
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES
EXAMPLES

SQUARE CAT (Bucharest, Romania)

This is an project of a comics artist (nicknamed Cibo) who is using a hideous cat contortioned in all the imaginable possible ways in order to mark the abandoned spaces in Bucharest desperately “crying” for new uses and a new life.

Source: Cibo
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES
EXAMPLES

Laborator Brăila (Romania)

Set of 15 low-cost small-scale play installations developed under the name Brăila Parasitism addressing some immediate needs or reflecting some situations contributed to the animation and revival of the Danube water front in Brăila.

Project developed by the “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucharest in partnership with Bergen School of Architecture and with the support of Brăila Municipality.

One of the installations: an old garage ironically installed on the beach – the most controverted intervention  Source photo: Adevarul.ro
tactical urbanism
http://www.streetfilms.org/transform-your-city-with-tactical-urbanism/

pop-up park Canberra 2016 – the Backyard experiment
https://www.archdaily.com/805639/6-low-cost-techniques-to-activate-underused-urban-space

Jaime Lerner on Making Curitiba’s First Pedestrian Street in 72H
https://vimeo.com/12472279
ACTIVATION / REACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES

TOOLS FOR STARTING THE CHANGE (bottom-up)

- Temporary use (cultural and leisure activities, commercial activities, experiments testing different possible vocations and configurations etc.)
- Experimental co-design of a space
- Campaigns (integrating social interactions, meetings, debates, surveys ...)
- Guerrilla interventions (usually illegal interventions meant to rise awareness on a certain issue)
- Tactical urbanism
- Street art (sometimes also used as urban mark like in the example of the Square Cat initiative in Bucharest)
- Protests
- ......
WHAT CITIES CAN DO TO CREATE BETTER PLACES FOR SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY & SOCIAL INTERACTION

HOW to create render cities more people friendly
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZORzsubQA_M

The Superblocks concept in Barcelona
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWW9Z6FKSCE starting from min 0:52

and in Vitoria Gasteiz
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_h7BvDDf4u8
WHAT CITIES CAN DO TO CREATE BETTER PLACES FOR SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY & SOCIAL INTERACTION

the SUMP of Vitoria Gasteiz (Civitas Prosperity Champion City)

The Superblocks concept & its integration in the SUMP

- space inside the superblock for pedestrians & cyclists.
- Private cars and public transport restricted to the streets surrounding these blocks (the so-called main roads).

The superblock concept (source: Agencia de Ecología Urbana de Barcelona)
the SUMP of Vitoria Gasteiz (Civitas Prosperity Champion City)

The Superblocks concept & its integration in the SUMP

- 77 superblocks to be implemented progressively in correlation with other measures regarding the city centre access restrictions, new traffic signal priority for the new public transport network, new pedestrian and bicycle network implementation and urban freight logistics
- Reduction of the public space for cars
- Different uses of public spaces, not just transport corridors

Wanted: Greater diversity of activities, better accessibility in the intervened area, public transport promotion & road safety.
WHAT CITIES CAN DO TO CREATE BETTER PLACES FOR SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY & SOCIAL INTERACTION

the SUMP of Vitoria Gasteiz & the Superblocks concept

Sancho el Sabio Street after the development of a superblock in that area
Source: Victoria Gasteiz municipality

Public Space & Mobility Planning in Paris

- a city of short distances
- dense underground network
- Well-balanced proportions of the streets
- Crossed by a river

But

- Heavy traffic
- High levels of pollution

1960s’ motto: “The city must adapt itself to cars”
1970s’ motto: “If Paris wants to drive, let’s do it!”
Public Space & Mobility Planning in Paris

Measures to solve the problems:
- Increase of the price of car parking + limitation of the available spots
- Interdiction of polluting vehicles in the city
- Development of the tube and train networks – extensions + new stops
- New tram lines
- One Bus Rapid Transit along the Seine and one linking the railway stations
- Plan Velo 2015-2020 + cycling infrastructure & facilities
- Self-service electric car started in December 2011
- Cars banned on Champs Elysées one Sunday/month
Public Space & Mobility Planning in Paris

Increase in the surfaces allocated for pedestrians and cyclists
Ex: Place de la République

Left: before / Right :after  Source: Paris City hall
Public Space & Mobility Planning in Paris

Road space re-allocation for pedestrians and cyclists
Ex: Right bank of Seine rendered a multifunctional area: active mobility, cultural & recreational activities

Left: before / Right: after   Source: Paris City hall
Public Space & Mobility Planning in Paris

Road space re-allocation for pedestrians and cyclists

Ex: Right bank of Seine rendered a multifunctional area: active mobility, cultural & recreational activities

Left: before / Right: after  Source: Paris City hall
Public Space & Mobility Planning in Paris

Promoting diversity of activities

Source: Paris City hall
The 10 PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC SPACE in London – by Ben Rogers

1. Learn from city’s architectural history - layout and **mix of activities** on offer
2. Make the most of the **historic built form** – preserving often varied, cultures, styles and technologies
3. Design streets and squares so that they **need no extensive monitoring or maintenance**
4. Keep **public space truly public** - private roads, streets and gated developments should not be permitted
5. Build to a **human scale** - narrow streets are, as a general rule, better than wide, and small blocks better than large for the street-line
6. Plan and design to **generate outdoor activity** - an area needs a good level and mix of activity if its streets are to feel lively and safe
The 10 PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC SPACE in London – by Ben Rogers

7. Plan, design and manage **for small businesses** - Small businesses take a long-term interest in a neighbourhood and give it personality and character

8. Where possible, design and manage roads and streets on ‘**shared space**’ principles – the fewer road signs and street markings the better

9. Make **public space green** - trees and plants, and the wildlife they sustain, humanise a city and draw people outdoors

10. **Engage the public** in the design and management of public space - the principle of public ownership is inherent in the concept of public space
A. Splitting in 4 groups + each group chooses one of the problematic areas in the host city to improve + proposes a solution + identifies the tool/tools used and the stakeholders involved (45 min)

B. Presentation of the solution proposed by each team + discussion how this would fit into a SUMP (30 min – each team has 3 min for the presentation + the rest is for translation/discussions/comments)
CONCLUSIONS & OUTCOMES OF THE TRAINING SESSION

Brief summary - keywords

Quick feed-back
There are plenty of resources available

Vitoria-Gasteiz Sustainable Mobility and Public Space Plan  

Ten Strategies for Transforming Cities and Public Spaces Through Placemaking  

Lively Cities. Reclaim Public Spaces for Public Use - INTERREG IVB project  

Sharing the City: 5 Takes on How We Should Create and Use Public Space | Martin Barry  
https://www.archdaily.com/887157/sharing-the-city-5-takes-on-how-we-should-create-and-use-public-space

Embodying the City: Identity and Use In Urban Public Space | Dana Lyn Dougherty  
https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/32225/bookfinal2.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
There are plenty of resources available

4 ways to make a city more walkable | Jeff Speck
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cL5Nud8d7w

How public spaces make cities work | Amanda Burden
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7fRIGphgtk&t=624s


Collective culture and urban public space | Ash Amin

Giving back public space to pedestrians and cyclists in Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain)

CIVITAS e-courses | www.civitas.eu
There are plenty of resources available

Streets: the best use of public space? | Claire McConnell

Urban acupuncture | Tiago Oliveira
http://thoughts.arup.com/post/details/360/urban-acupuncture

Reigniting civic space | Nille Juul-Sorensen
http://thoughts.arup.com/post/details/421/reigniting-civic-space

Stations: design them for new mobility | Ryan Falconer
http://thoughts.arup.com/post/details/529/stations-design-them-for-new-mobility

Cities, cars and setting greener standards | Francesco Petrella

Going underground: using cities’ hidden space | Anna Lan
Your One-Stop-Shop

CIVITAS PROSPERITY is a member of the European Platform on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans and produces a number of technical reports and other strategies to provide insights on SUMP.

Find out more at www.eltis.org/mobility-plans and www.sump-network.eu

Get in touch with CIVITAS PROSPERITY

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Thank you for your participation!

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