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BULLETIN No. 2



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SPACE training
format – How can
youth play a role
in transforming
public spaces
through active
participation?
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in Vienna



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Pre-Workshop SPACE Project

Ahead of the one-week international training in Deventer, the SPACE partners organized a one-day pre-workshop with their selected youth workers. This preparatory activity was carried out simultaneously by all project partners and served as a crucial step in building a shared foundation before the main training.

The pre-workshop introduced participants to the SPACE project's vision, objectives, and timeline, while also fostering trust and collaboration through creative ice-breaking activities. Youth workers exchanged experiences from their local contexts, discussed challenges in vulnerable neighborhoods, and reflected on the role of young people in reclaiming and transforming public spaces.

Participants reviewed the comparative research findings from across partner countries, highlighting both commonalities and differences in youth participation and placemaking practices. They also engaged with key theoretical concepts such as placemaking, community as experts, and understanding vulnerability and informality. Case studies from Europe and beyond provided inspiration for future actions.

Finally, the pre-workshop outlined logistical details for the upcoming training in the Netherlands and clarified expectations for the post-training community actions that each participant will help host in their own neighborhood. These actions will translate the knowledge gained in Deventer into practical initiatives, ensuring that youth play an active role in shaping inclusive and vibrant public spaces.

The pre-workshops highlighted that youth are not just participants, but essential actors in transforming public spaces – bringing local knowledge, creativity, and community energy into placemaking processes.

Pre-Workshop Gallery



Training Week in Deventer

October 27 – 31, 2025

Late October in Deventer brought together youth workers from the Western Balkans, Austria, and the Netherlands for a week of exchange and discovery under the SPACE Project. From the very first evening at Café Glas in Lood, the atmosphere was one of warmth and curiosity, with participants meeting face to face and sharing stories across borders.

The official program opened at City Hall, where local leaders and experts in youth work and urban planning highlighted the importance of placemaking and community activation. The following hours took the group into the countryside — Lettele, Okkenbroek, and Bathmen — where volunteers and youth organisations showed how rural communities create opportunities to keep young people engaged. The presentation of PJB Bathmen, with its 450 active members, stood out as a powerful example of youth-led community building.

Midweek, the focus shifted to urban spaces. At the Deventer Library, engineers and architects shared insights on designing inclusive public areas. Later, participants split into two groups to explore Colmschate and Deltabuurt, meeting migrant students at the ISK school and walking through vulnerable neighbourhoods. Both groups reunited at The Mall youth centres, where cooking and sharing dinner with local youth became a highlight of connection and cultural exchange. The evening continued outdoors with Raster youth workers, guiding participants through public hangouts and showing how informal spaces can be transformed into safe meeting points.

On the final day, the energy of Impacter introduced a fresh approach to youth activation: listening first, then matching young people with volunteer opportunities that fit their interests. At Saxion University, participants chose between thematic tracks on placemaking, activation, and networking, before gathering for a collective wrap-up to reflect on lessons learned. The week closed with drinks at Proeflokaal Davo, where new friendships and partnerships were toasted.

By the time departures began on 31 October, participants carried home more than just notes and contacts. They left with stories of rural resilience, urban creativity, and shared solidarity — experiences that will continue to inspire youth work across Europe.

Youth work thrives when spaces, people, and networks come together.

The Deventer program showed that whether in rural villages or urban neighbourhoods, creating inclusive public places, activating young people through meaningful opportunities, and building strong networks across borders are essential to keeping communities vibrant. The week proved that collaboration between local initiatives and international partners can turn challenges into shared solutions — and that youth themselves are the strongest drivers of change.

TRAINING WEEK GALLERY



Midterm Meeting in Vienna

November, 26 - 29. 2025

In late November 2025, Vienna became the meeting point for partners of the SPACE project, who gathered for their midterm meeting at WUK, the well-known cultural center on Währinger Straße.

Participants arrived on the evening of the 26th, filling the city with a sense of anticipation as colleagues from across Europe reunited after months of online collaboration.

The official program began the next morning, when Wonderland welcomed the group and set the tone for two days of reflection and planning. SAXION opened with a recap of the international workshops held earlier in the year, prompting discussions about achievements and lessons learned. After a brief coffee break, the focus shifted to the Toolkit and Community Workshops under WP3, followed by dissemination updates from New Horizon, who encouraged each partner to define their communication goals for the coming months. Lunch at Vinzi Rast offered a moment of pause before the afternoon sessions resumed with an in-depth look at the e-learning platform, one of the project's central outputs.

The day concluded with collaborative work on the Midterm Report, where all partners contributed to refining the document and aligning on next steps.

The second full day began with coffee and informal conversations before UP led a detailed session on WP4, covering the e-learning platform and the upcoming multiplier events. The room quickly filled with ideas as partners brainstormed workflows and coordinated responsibilities. After lunch, the group continued with activities linked to WP4 outcomes, using the time to explore possibilities and clarify expectations for the next implementation phase. The day ended with closing remarks from Wonderland, who summarized the progress made and outlined the path forward.

On the 29th, partners departed Vienna with renewed motivation and a shared sense of direction. The meeting had served as a vital checkpoint—an opportunity to reconnect, evaluate progress, and strengthen the collaborative spirit that drives the SPACE project. As they left the city's trams, cafés, and winter atmosphere behind, participants carried with them a clearer vision for the year ahead and a reinforced commitment to shaping meaningful community-focused outcomes across Europe.

The Midterm Meeting in Vienna reaffirmed our shared commitment to collaboration, clarity, and meaningful impact.

Through open dialogue, joint planning, and renewed motivation, we strengthened the foundation that will guide the SPACE project confidently into its next phase.

INTERIM MEETING GALLERY



The project brings together six organizations from EU and Western Balkan countries with a unified goal: to transform informal settlements by youth, for youth.

Spanning a duration of 24 months, the initiative focuses on key activities such as conducting research, providing training and educational opportunities for youth workers through mobility programs, and actively involving young people in local community-based initiatives.

The partners of this consortium are:



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