



WeGenerate

PEOPLE-CENTRIC SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS



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Newsletter 1

May 2024

Greetings from the WeGenerate Project Team!

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the WeGenerate project! We are excited to share updates, progress, and insights from our multidisciplinary efforts aimed at revitalising our cities and fostering sustainable development.

IN THIS ISSUE

The Project: Learn about the goals, scope, and consortium behind our urban renewal endeavour.

Demo Cities: Dive into the details of our cities work packages driving transformation in various aspects of urban life.

Highlights: Call for Fellow Cities, Second Consortium Meeting in Bucharest, and the WeGenerate Social Innovation and Participatory Action Cookbook.

Ongoing Work: Learn about what we have been working on since the beginning of our project

Upcoming Events and Opportunities: Stay informed about upcoming workshops, conferences, and ways to engage with the project.



THE PROJECT



WeGenerate – Co-creating People-Centric Sustainable Neighbourhoods through Urban Regeneration is a 4-year Horizon Europe research and innovation project running until October 2027. It is developed by [21 partners from 9 different countries](#).

WeGenerate is all about bringing people together to shape the future of their communities during urban regeneration. Instead of just building for people, we're embracing a new approach where we build with them. That means everyone – cities, citizens, businesses, researchers, and more – works together to create neighbourhoods that are sustainable, resilient, inclusive, and simply beautiful.

It revolves around the stories of four neighbourhoods and their communities located in different parts of Europe: [Bucharest](#) (Romania), [Cascais](#) (Portugal), [Cesena](#) (Italy) and [Tampere](#) (Finland). Each one is unique, with its own set of challenges and stages of development, but they all share a common goal: positive change.

WeGenerate is here to help these communities reinvent themselves, uncovering new values and opportunities along the way. Through collaborative efforts, we aim to **revitalise neighbourhoods, enhance infrastructure, promote social inclusion, and create vibrant, resilient cities for future generations**.



DEMO CITIES



The WeGenerate four cities, our Demos, are addressing different challenges in their journey of urban renewal. Let's take a closer look to their intents within the **WeGenerate** framework!

BUCHAREST: Open Campus for People and Climate

Bucharest District 2 objectives are centred on **holistic urban revitalisation, social inclusion, and sustainability**. By starting from a comprehensive analysis of a neighbourhood and scaling up to the district and city levels, the project aims to foster a nuanced understanding of local dynamics.

It also focuses on **enhancing social cohesion** by providing open spaces for

communal interaction within the local community. These spaces aim to address various societal challenges, fostering public engagement and breaking down barriers between vulnerable groups. By promoting social bonding and inclusivity, the initiative seeks to create a more cohesive and resilient neighbourhood.

Finally, the project will **develop an urban regeneration model that goes beyond spatial and energy considerations**, prioritising the cultivation of new social and cultural values. This holistic approach aims to create a sustainable, inclusive, healthy, and safe neighbourhood where residents can thrive. Moreover, the initiative explores the potential for creating an **energy community** within the demo neighbourhood and targets to scale up successful practices and solutions from the neighbourhood level to the district and city scale, evaluating the necessary framework conditions for replication in other areas.

CASCAIS: Social Neighbourhood as an Active Energy Community

Cascais outlines multifaceted objectives, aiming to address **various aspects of sustainable urban development**. The demo emphasises the a deep understanding of local challenges, needs, and motivations, highlighting the significance of contextualising interventions to effectively tackle community issues.

It also seeks to **establish a regeneration model** for the Socially Inclusive Decarbonisation of the neighbourhood. This involves defining strategies and frameworks that prioritise both social equity and environmental responsibility.

Lastly, the demo places a strong weight on **citizen engagement**, aiming to empower residents and ensure their **active participation in the energy transition process** while aligning with broader EU and national sustainability objectives. And it aims to foster collaboration and synergy with other relevant EU projects at the local level, promoting knowledge exchange and collective action towards common sustainability goals.

CESENA: Re-Activating Urban Space from City Gateway to Neighbourhood

Cesena aims to achieve several objectives focused on **urban revitalisation and sustainable development**. Firstly, it seeks to employ **innovative methods and solutions in collaboration with the local community** to reconnect the currently disjointed Railway Station area and the Vigne Neighbourhood. This involves fostering community engagement and testing novel approaches to urban design and connectivity.

The project also aims to establish the new Cesena 'Gateway' as a **pioneering hub** within a **broader ecological and mobility network**, promoting multimodal and active modes of transportation throughout the city. By enhancing connectivity and accessibility, the initiative aims to encourage **sustainable travel options** and create a more environmentally conscious urban environment.

Finally, the demo strives to **reinforce urban resilience through small-scale interventions**, such as acupuncture pilots, focused on enhancing public spaces.

These interventions not only contribute to the city's ecological transition but also promote social interaction and community cohesion.

TAMPERE: Human-Centric Walkable City

Tampere's objectives underscore a **forward-thinking approach to urban planning and regeneration**, leveraging Extended Reality (XR) technologies to enhance decision-making processes and foster inclusive community engagement. Utilizing XR tools such as 3D models and Digital Twins, which will be integrated with existing city infrastructure and digital solutions, it aims to **create digital assets that support people-centric urban planning and robust regeneration processes**. This will be the ground for promoting sustainable development and data-driven decision-making. Furthermore, Tampere aims to **pioneer innovative approaches to urban development**, particularly in creating a 'Walking City' concept that prioritises sustainability, safety, resilience, inclusivity, and accessibility, ensuring that urban spaces meet the diverse needs of the community.

Additionally, the project explores **the potential of the Metaverse** in the city context, recognising it as an unexplored opportunity for Tampere to follow the path for facilitating a new era of digital urban interaction and engagement.

For further information about our Demo Cities, click [here](#).



HIGHLIGHTS



Call for Fellow Cities

Our project places a strong emphasis on community involvement and participation. With that in mind, one of our first initiatives was the launch of a [Call for Fellow Cities](#), where we invited local authorities (cities and regions) from all EU Member States and the 16 Associated countries to the Horizon Europe programme to apply a subcontracting agreement through the WeGenerate project. **More news on this call will follow!**

Consortium meeting in Bucharest (23-25 April 2024)

Bucharest District 2 was the inaugural host among the four demo cities for the **second consortium meeting of the project**. This gathering provided a platform to dive into discussions concerning the demo site in Bucharest.



Each local partner - District 2, UTCB, and Engie, presented their unique perspective on the Bucharest regeneration project. Visits to the demo site provided insight into the project's future outcomes and fostering idea-sharing on area regeneration.

All four demo cities gave an update on their project status, exchanged ideas about their respective action plans and addressed important aspects of the project, including impact models, digital twins, and future strategies.

For more details about this meeting, click [here](#).

Social Innovation Cookbook

The **WeGenerate Social Innovation and Participatory Action Cookbook** is hot off the presses and we are pleased to share it with you!



It contains a curated collection of proven recipes that transform urban communities, for and with people.

To learn more about the WeGenerate Cookbook, click [here](#).



ONGOING WORK



The Demo Cities' first approaches

Cesena has begun the initial activities to lay the groundwork for the planned intervention at the Vigne-Railway station. This process included several key activities, including a series of online meetings and work sessions with the Local Circle (LC) to align on project goals and approaches. [Learn more](#).

Cascais has been deeply involved in a variety of activities to further the objectives of the WeGenerate project. The focus has been on coordinating local stakeholders through regular meetings and establishing efficient communication channels within the community. [Learn more](#).

Thorough visits were conducted to the designated demo site for the project, situated in **Bucharest District 2**. The impact area encompasses vital community assets, including a school, hospital, student dormitories, various residential structures, and commercial entities. [Learn more](#).

Tampere has focused on citizen engagement and residents' participation in urban development planning and decision-making using digital tools. The creation of a digital twin of the railway station area green urban space is being developed. [Learn more](#).

WeGenerate Demo Cities workshop

In June, our Demo Cities will hold a workshop in Tampere, where the Tampere's Cityverse pilot idea will be presented. This workshop will allow to deepen knowledge on topics such as equality and inclusivity to avoid enlarging the digital divide and the use of technology and the metaverse to make the city services more accessible to people. There will also be a walking tour on the demo area of the Tampere city and the creation of synergies with the local event [IMAGINE](#).

Spreading the news

We are pleased to announce the launch of the [WeGenerate website](#), which has been live since January 2024. **Visit often to stay up-to-date with the latest news, and updates** about people-centric urban regeneration.

Additionally, you can connect with us **through your preferred social media platform**. Scroll down to the bottom of this newsletter to find the links to our Facebook, X, and LinkedIn profiles.

Last but not least, we will publish the WeGenerate newsletter twice a year. If you're reading this but didn't receive it directly, **you can subscribe to have future issues sent straight to your inbox**. So sign up and ensure you don't miss the next edition!

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Smart Cities Symposium Prague](#), Prague, 23-24 May 2024

[Urbis Smart City Fair](#), Brno, 4-6 June 2024

[IMAGINE - Imagine the Metaverse](#), Tampere, 11-12 June 2024

[Empowering Cities - Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities conference 2024](#), Valencia, 25-26 June 2024

[Urban Future](#), Rotterdam, 5-7 July 2024

[European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns](#), Aalborg, 1-3 October 2024

[European Week of Regions and Cities](#), Brussels, 7-10 October 2024

[Smart Cities Expo World Congress](#), Barcelona, 5-7 November 2024

We invite you to join us on this journey toward a more vibrant, equitable, and sustainable urban future. Together, we can create cities that thrive for all.

For more information and updates, visit our project website or follow us on social media.



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