

# Micro interventions of urban regeneration



## Brief description of the activity

Micro-interventions of urban regeneration is an activity aimed at taking care of the public space through volunteering.

## Micro interventions of urban regeneration

### Topic, objective and methodology:

The objective of this activity is to activate a group of participants in order that they will feel involved in taking care of a public space, through volunteering, together with the community.

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The methodology used is to create a non-formal context in which participants from different countries can share ideas and feel integrated in the territory while taking care of a public space through volunteering. Many foreign people don't feel integrated in the territory where they live and with the community.

The constant commitment to set up a management committee that takes care of a public space, is a very important resource in terms of integration and interculture.

This allows communities to develop urban solutions in a creative way, through collective processes encouraging an active and positive participation.

This activity consists of three main moments, which use differ-

ent methodological approaches:

**Preparation:** the group starts with the participatory planning of the specific interventions to be implemented. To facilitate this phase, the tools of brainstorming and world café will be used.

**Micro-interventions:** the group puts in practice what has been planned together, in voluntary micro-interventions.

**Shared management regulations:** the lived experience is reworked and it is decided together how to give the microintervention future sustainability through the development of a shared regulation and the creation of a management committee.

**Duration:**

The first phase of the activity should last two hours, in order that participants have enough time to share their ideas, to identify a public space of interest and to plan the microintervention of urban regeneration.

About the second part, the microintervention, the duration depends on the nature of the planned intervention, and it is connected with the kind of activity the group of participants have designed.

The third part, the shared regulation setting, should last two hours, in order that participants can express their feelings about the experience and set together an informal regulation and a citizens committee to take care of the urban space.

**Location:**

The location for activities one and three should be the youth centre, a non-formal environment in which participants can create workgroups where to share and collect ideas and

strategies to imagine a new intervention for the urban space identified, as well as the constitution of a common regulation for the future activities to plan together with the community.

The location for the second activity, the microintervention, is the public abandoned place itself, in which the ideas of participants can be realized co-creatively.

**Materials:**

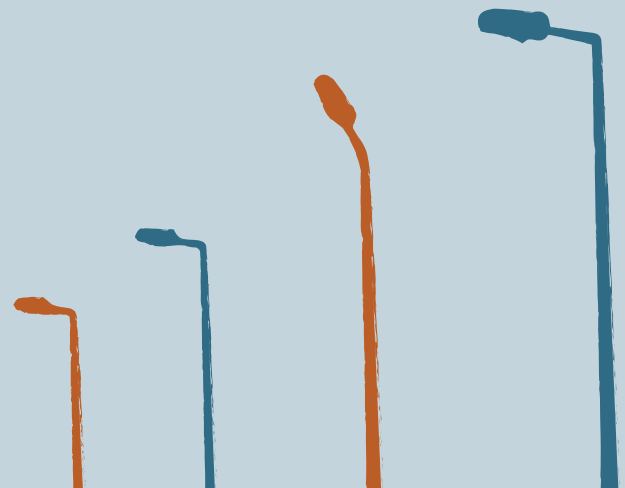
- Tables
- Chairs (according to the number of participants expected)
- Flipchart
- Paper
- Markers
- Other materials according to participants' needs (designed with participants according to their planned activities of microinterventions)

**Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:**

No particular skills are required

**Participants involved:**

This kind of activity does not fit with a monocultural group of participants. It is advisable to have participants of at least three different nationalities, but the success of the activity is directly proportional to the variety of the group.



## Steps:

### Before

**Preparation:** In this phase, involve a group of participants from different cultures and facilitate a brainstorming to gather ideas about the public space to take care of. Participants will discuss about both the choice of public space and the type of micro interventions to be implemented.

Identify an abandoned public space, taking into consideration the ideas and thoughts of the participants. To create a relaxed and non-judgmental environment, in which everyone can feel free to express themselves, it is advisable to use the methodologies of the World Café and that of brainstorming. The World Café methodology is a simple and effective tool when you want to facilitate a dialogue in a large group.

Prepare the setting by setting up the location as a bar,

with tables and chairs depending on the number of participants. The process begins with the first of three or more rounds of twenty-minute conversation for small groups of four (maximum five) people seated around a table. At the end of the twenty minutes, each member of the group moves to a new table. You can choose to leave one person as the "table host", who does not change tables and who welcomes the next group and briefly updates them on what happened in the previous round.

All participants are invited to share insights or other results from their conversations with the rest of the group. These results can be graphically reproduced in a variety of ways. It is recommended to use graphics and drawings on a whiteboard in the center of the room to make a visual impact of the work being done.

In this phase make sure to also share with the group the choice of materials they may need to carry out their micro-intervention project. (for example: wood, stones, paint, trees, chairs, carpets etc.)

## During

**Microinterventions:** This is the phase in which the micro interventions are carried out. Starting from the data collected from the work sessions to identify the problems of the neighborhood, the needs and expectations of the people who live there, and after having designed a shared idea for urban regeneration, in this phase the participants take action to realize the micro-intervention.

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This is a cooperative and intercultural work in which everyone can give their personal contribution to improve the urban environment as the group of participants works together on the abandoned public place, to create a better environment for the community.

The working group, made up of participants from different cultures, is organized into smaller groups to plan and prepare the intervention. This includes collecting materials and redesigning the space so that it better responds to the needs of the community.

This allows participants to develop urban solutions in a creative way, through collective processes that encourage active and positive participation.

## After

After the activity, participants should have a moment of reflection to gather shared and personal impressions of the experience they just had.

The discussion can be guided by a series of targeted questions:

### 1. Experience in general

- How did the experience go?
- Do you think your ideas have been taken into consideration?
- Do you agree with the common intervention projects?

- Did the experience go as you expected? What happened that you did not expect? Why?

## 2. The group

- How was the relationship between participants?
- Did you learn more about them?
- What obstacles did you overcome together?
- Have you found a common solution?

## 3. The participants

- What did you think during the activity?
- Did you find things in common with other participants?
- Was what happened different from what you expected? Why?
- What could you have done differently?

## 4. Future

- What have you learnt from this experience?
- What activities would you like to plan in the future?
- How is your connection with the other participants now?

Starting from this guided discussion, it is possible to create with the group a shared regulation of the space object of the intervention and a "city management committee" to take care of the microintervened space in the future.

The committee should be as formal as possible in order to maintain the flexible structure in which each member of the group can make their personal contribution to take care of the abandoned public space.

This also represents an opportunity to involve more citizens in the maintenance and management of urban space and future interventions.

## Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

Micro-interventions of urban regeneration promotes interculture because it allows participants from different cultures to feel responsible for a place together with a wider community, meeting and respecting the needs of all.

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Through volunteering, participants can set up a management committee in order to take care of the public abandoned place.

This common management has a great value in terms of integration, because it allows to have different people from different cultures coexist together and live the city in a different way, based on cooperation and exchange of different points of view.

It furthermore triggers interculture engagement between participants and local communities by promoting the

exchange of experiences, knowledge and skills. As such, collecting memories, needs and expectations activates processes of place-making, reinforces local identity and inspires a sense of belonging.

