

# Welcome

## Synthesis webinar: Results and insights from ERA-NET Cofund Smart Urban Futures (#ENSUF)

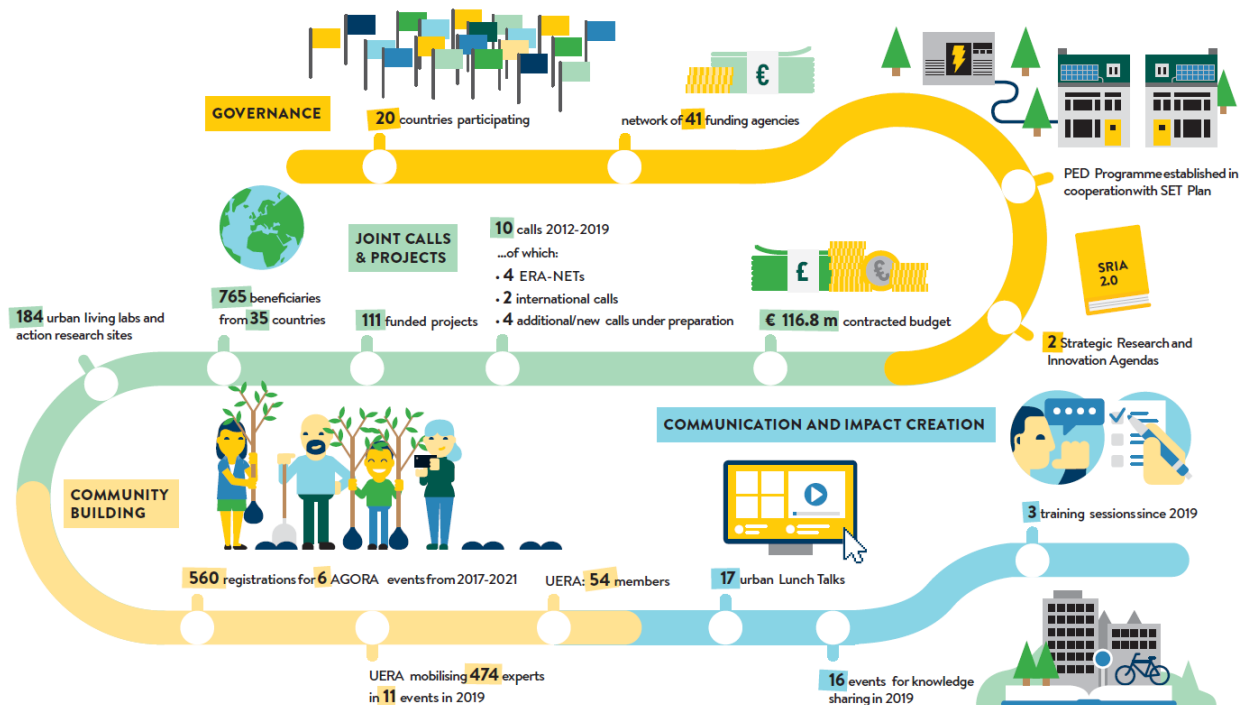
*We will soon start*



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 693443

Drop your questions and  
comments in the chat  
and the QA at any point  
during the webinar

# JPI Urban Europe



## Program

14.05 – 14.30: ENSUF in numbers and contributions to policy objectives  
Presentation by Robert Hawlik, AIT Austria

14.30 – 14.50: Co-creation and capacity building by the projects  
Interview with Katarina Larsen, KTH Sweden

14.50 – 15.25: Panel discussion with projects and questions from the audience

*Drop your questions and comments in the chat and the QA at any point during the webinar*

# The ENSUF policy recommendations



Urban living labs 2.0?

## 1. URBAN GROWTH AND DECLINE

About #ShrinkingCities, #IndustrialTowns, #Migration and #UrbanManufacturing

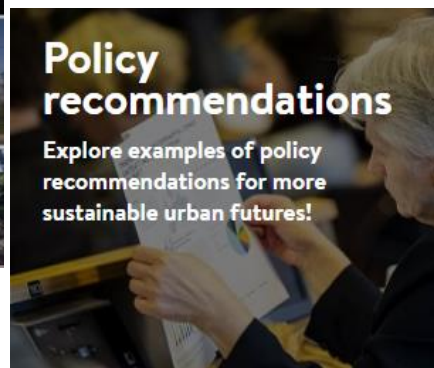
## 2. FLOOD RESILIENT CITIES

About #FloodPrevention, #FloodGovernance and #CitizenScience

## 3. IMPROVING URBAN NEIGHBOURHOODS

About #SocialHousing, #UrbanIntermediaries, #PublicSpace and #Libraries

## Resources on our web



All ENSUF materials: [jpi-urbaneurope.eu/calls/ensuf-call/](https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/calls/ensuf-call/)

# **ENSUF in numbers, and contributions to policy objectives**

Presentation by Robert Hawlik, AIT Austria

## Co-creation and capacity building by the projects (1)

Katarina Larsen, KTH, interviewed:

1. SoHoLab – The regeneration of large-scale social housing estates through living labs
2. Smart Uribl – Smart urban intermediaries – trans-European research, learning & action  
Smart Urban Intermediaries: ‘People who make a difference in neighbourhoods’
3. BRIGHT FUTURE – Bright future for black towns: reinventing European industrial towns and challenging dominant post-industrial discourses
4. CAPA.CITY – Building capacity to transform existing residential subdivisions into smart and robust urban ecosystems

## Co-creation and capacity building by the projects (2)

- “The interviews with project leaders showed a long-term commitment to working with questions of local capacity building.”
- “One door-opener was to enable involvement of larger private company to be part of the process of crafting solutions.”
- Five general lessons about how to create impact and capacity building:
  1. Catalyse both on local capacity and your international teams
  2. Learn on location: be on site and in the urban lab
  3. Co-creation between actors builds legacy
  4. The legacy of ENSUF projects can benefit from continued attention and support
  5. Conceptual developments during practical exercises

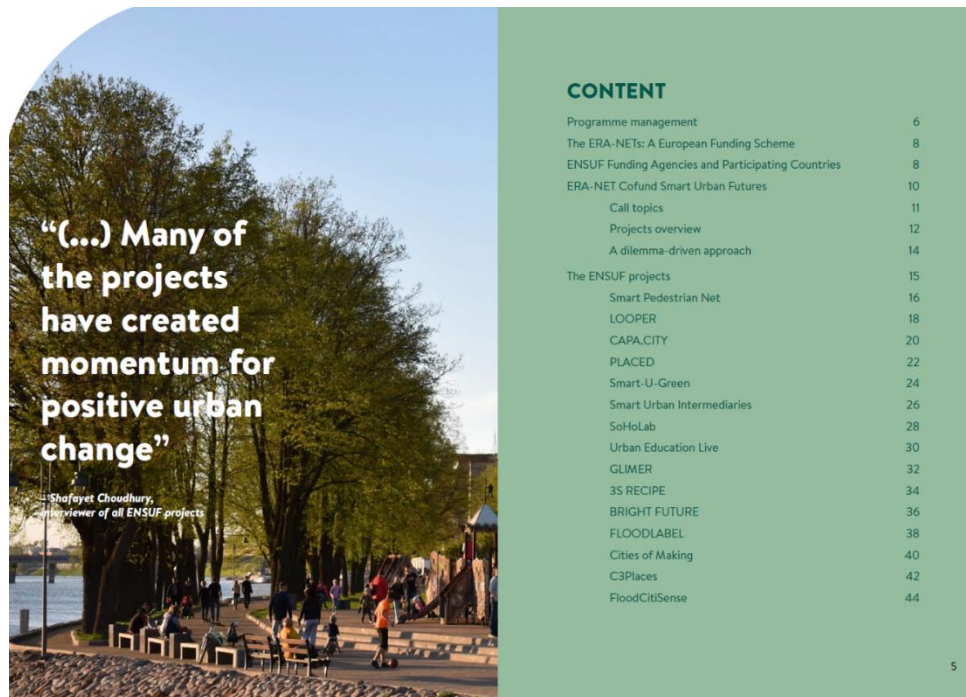


## Panel discussion

- Merlijn van Hulst from the ENSUF project Smart Urban Intermediaries
- Oswald Devisch, from the ENSUF project CAPA.CITY
- David Bole, from the ENSUF project BRIGHT FUTURE
- Christian Wilk, Research Programme Administrator, European Commission
- Jonas Bylund, Research- and innovation officer, JPI Urban Europe
- Katarina Larsen, KTH Sweden
- Robert Hawlik, AIT Austria

# The ENSUF Projects Results Catalogue

Interested in handling urban dilemmas? The project results have been tagged with the dilemmas they can correspond to!





## BRIGHT FUTURE

### BRIGHT FUTURE FOR BLACK TOWNS: REINVENTING EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL TOWNS AND CHALLENGING DOMINANT POST-INDUSTRIAL DISCOURSES

It does not take long to find grim narratives about how post-industrial towns “fails to adapt” to the 21st century. Many of those narratives focus exclusively on economic issues. The BRIGHT FUTURE project, however, set out to translate socio-cultural qualities of small industrial towns into social innovation, with the purpose to adapt and improve both resilience and sustainability. The project examined local narratives in five industrial towns across Europe: Velenje (Slovenia), Fieni (Romania), Kajaani (Finland), Heerlen (Netherlands), and Corby (UK). The project discusses a new urban policy- and research agenda tailored to small industrial towns.

#### THREE TYPES OF INDUSTRIAL TOWNS AS POINT OF DEPARTURE

The distinction between “industrial” and “post-industrial” is not obvious - there are towns with an industrial heritage that still have industrial elements in them. A large part of Europeans live in these areas as opposed to larger metropolitan areas. BRIGHT FUTURE brought forward three types of industrial towns: 1) the historically industrial town, 2) the post-socialist industrial town and 3) the Nordic types.

#### UNDERSTAND LOCAL INDUSTRIAL NARRATIVES TO ENABLE BRIGHT FUTURE POLICIES

One part of the project's results suggest that it is important for policy- and decision makers to identify which of the types best mirror their town. One of the projects major

conclusions is that policies need to be place-specific. There is a pre-conceived idea that populism and xenophobia in European towns are a reaction to issues like shrinking economies, unemployment or the rise of the creative class. BRIGHT FUTURE argue that policymakers must understand and implement place-specific narratives and policies: industrial narratives. BRIGHT FUTURE uncovered the connection between local industrial narratives and the rise of right-wing populism. Imported stories, narratives and visions (from for instance metropolitan areas or larger cities) are not the way forward for sustainable development of industrial towns.

#### NARRATIVES OF THE GLORIOUS PAST, TOGETHERNESS AND FEAR OF CHANGE

BRIGHT FUTURE used narrative analysis as a methodological tool and after having collected extensive data, three main narratives became evident: “the glorious industrial past”, “camaraderie in the face of industrial decay” and “the fear of change”. The latter derive from stories of “being under attack” from outside forces like metropolitan policies and globalisation and how this undermines communal solidarity. Right-wing populists tend to kidnap these stories for electoral success. Neoliberal policy developments and concepts like “creative industries” and “knowledge economies” felt alien to these communities.

BRIGHT FUTURE has not only outlined what positive qualities industrial towns contain, but also shown ways for policy makers to tap into the right kind of local story and ensure more sustainable developments in a broad sense.

#### PROJECT FACTS

**Duration:** 2017-2020

**Involved Cities:** Velenje, Fieni, Kajaani, Corby, Heerlen

**Partners:** Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, University of Eastern Finland, University of Amsterdam, University of Bucharest, Social Life Limited, The Young Foundation

**Budget:** 1.313.000 EUR

**Web:** [jpi-urbaneurope.eu/project/bright-future/](http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/project/bright-future/)

**Result interview:** [jpi-urbaneurope.eu/industrial-towns-can-have-bright-futures-if-we-find-the-right-stories/](http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/industrial-towns-can-have-bright-futures-if-we-find-the-right-stories/)

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Photo: Smart Urban Intermediaries

## SMART URBAN INTERMEDIARIES

SMART URBAN INTERMEDIARIES – TRANS-EUROPEAN RESEARCH,  
LEARNING & ACTION

In smart cities technology and data is considered central to improve urban systems. However, projects like Smart Urban Intermediaries (SmartUrbI) argue that you cannot have smart growth without a human touch. The project ran urban living labs (ULL) in Birmingham, Copenhagen, Glasgow and Amsterdam to advance knowledge of how intermediaries innovate and generate smart urban development and innovation, and create opportunities for dialogue and learning.

### STUDYING SMART URBAN INTERMEDIARIES (SUI) ACROSS EUROPE TO ENABLE POSITIVE URBAN CHANGE

The Smart Urban Intermediaries project has investigated the different ways in which certain individuals use their skills, energy and contacts to make a difference for neighbourhoods- the so called Smart Urban Intermediaries (SUI). SUI tend to have social skills, an understanding for multiple urban issues, and knowledge of their neighbourhood. The project SmartUrbI made observation studies, rough SUI together from different areas, and conducted over one hundred interviews with forty SUI in four cities, looking for what SUI require to be a source of positive change for urban areas. In other words, the project studied not urban problems or challenges per say, but the people that try to fix them.

### ALLOWING THE RISKS OF UNCERTAINTY TO SUPPORT DRIVEN COMMUNITY- AND PLACEMAKERS

Results circle around two key findings in particular: 1) SUI does community making and placemaking and 2) SUI builds networks and grow and flourish from being part of networks. SUI tend to work very resources efficient and their work is place oriented to bring about change. Their work in turns creates networks, and when SUI were invited to transnational labs to meet SUI from other countries, they reported a steep learning curve from the exchange. SUI are very driven community makers and from studying this, SmartUrbI developed recommendations to help SUI also take care of themselves in this hard and committed work.

The project has put forward recommendations for how organisations and local governments, as well as R&I programs, can create the conditions that enable intermediaries to become even more effective and resilient- and how not to build structures that tend to favour tech innovation only. On this note, the project encourages trust between decision makers and SUI and to “allow the risks around uncertainty”- considering that SUI operate and bring about value and change outside more formalised initiatives.

Partners involved in the SmartUrbI project argues that intervention, prevention and investing in this piece of work will not only add value but may save money. The vision of a socially smart city creates the opportunity to develop, amplify and deepen their impact long into the future.

#### PROJECT FACTS

Duration: 2017-2019

Involved Cities: Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Birmingham, Glasgow

Partners: Tilburg University, Roskilde University, The University of Edinburgh, University of Birmingham, Danish Town Planning Institute

Budget: 1.119.000 EUR

#### Web:

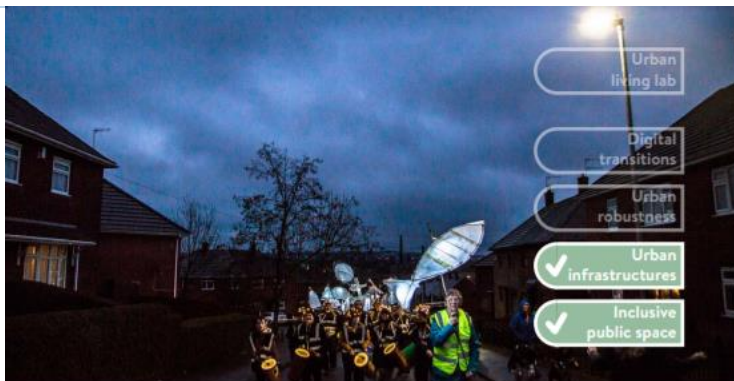
[www.smart-urban-intermediaries.com/](http://www.smart-urban-intermediaries.com/)

#### Result interview:

[jpi-urbaneurope.eu/smarturbiresults](http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/smarturbiresults)

E-mail: [m.j.vanhulst@uvt.nl](mailto:m.j.vanhulst@uvt.nl)





## CAPA.CITY

### BUILDING CAPACITY TO TRANSFORM EXISTING RESIDENTIAL SUB-DIVISIONS INTO SMART AND ROBUST URBAN ECOSYSTEMS

CAPA.CITY developed a theoretical and operational framework to support collective capabilities- and create smart and robust urban ecosystems. The project operated in five residential subdivisions located in Belgium, Denmark and France.

#### SUBURBANITIES- TOWARDS COLLECTIVISM OVER INDIVIDUALISM?

Many suburbs were built in a time where people held ideals based on rugged individualism and had aspirational notions of suburban affluence. Can we still articulate and express what the good suburban life looks like? CAPA.CITY has offered suburbanites tools to create collectives that co-designs solutions and strategies for connecting with institutions that have the capacity to realise change. CAPA.CITY looks at a very specific type of suburban dwelling, commonly found in Europe, classed as residential subdivisions. These are typically "detached single-family houses built from the sixties onwards," in Marseille, France; Roskilde, Denmark; and Stadsregio Turnhout, Belgium. These places represent a range of European experiences and are suitable for the project's capacity building methodology.

#### METHODS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN SUBURBANITIES

CAPA.CITY successfully identified three location-based experimental learning methods which allow researchers to build trust and create a proper picture of suburban life: prototyping, telling and enacting. When in the process with residents, CAPA.CITY did

"The Flemish collective are even getting into conversations with large local actors (...) about bigger structural changes in their area."



not start with big issues like the environment and the economy. Instead, they started by focusing on building a personal story around a specific area. Final results display that modern suburbanites are much more open to collective action than their predecessors (such as removal of fences, shared gardens, sharing storage space). CAPA.CITY has provided residents with a toolkit/game to create a network of useful contacts, tools needed for change, and an understanding of the processes for engagement with larger actors to last after project deadline. For instance, The Flemish collective are even getting into conversations with large local actors about bigger structural changes in their area.

#### PROJECT FACTS

**Duration:** 2017-2019

**Involved Cities:** Périgueux, Aix-En-Provence, Turnhout, Lanaken, Ågerup, Nykøbing, Asnæs

**Partners:** Hasselt University, Infrastructures, Roskilde University, GivRum, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Marseille, In Vivo

**Budget:** 472.000 EUR

**Web:** [www.capa-city-ensuf.eu](http://www.capa-city-ensuf.eu)

**Result interview:** [jpi-urbaneurope.eu/capacityresults](http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/capacityresults)

**E-mail:** [oswald.devich@uhasselt.be](mailto:oswald.devich@uhasselt.be)

## Quotes

1. “You have to trust people to know what they are doing as much as we trust technology.”
2. “Industrial towns can have bright futures if we find the right stories”
3. “Actors, organizations and residents in the urban local setting can be smart rather than ‘smart cities’ as such.”
4. “The interviews with project leaders showed a long-term commitment to working with questions of local capacity building.”
5. “Legacy in ENSUF departs from co-creation processes being integrated in the project design already when planning and applying for funding”

## Thank you for joining!

- The synthesis reports will soon launch at [jpi-urbaneurope.eu](http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu) and via the event site
- All ENSUF resources are available at [jpi-urbaneurope.eu/calls/ensuf-call/](http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/calls/ensuf-call/)



*“It did not start with the project,  
and it did not end with it”*



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