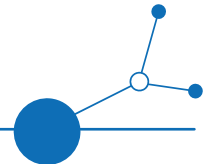




PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO TRANSFORMING
METROPOLITAN TERRITORIES IN THE OSTRAVA
METROPOLITAN AREA AND THE STUTTGART REGION



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A. Participatory approach to transforming metropolitan territories in the Ostrava Metropolitan Area and the Stuttgart Region

1. Initial information about the pilot action

<p>Metropolitan areas executing pilot action</p>	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area (the City of Ostrava as a project partner) Verband Region Stuttgart - Stuttgart Region Association</p>
<p>Study cluster and tool chosen</p>	<p>Study cluster: Metropolitan Prototyping Academies - Innovative cooperation and transferability locally and internationally</p> <p>Lighthouse Metropolitan Area: Metropolis GZM (Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia)</p> <p>Tool studied within the cluster: Prototyping Academies</p>
<p>The pilot action</p>	<p>The pilot action called “Participatory approach to transforming metropolitan territories in the Ostrava Metropolitan Area and the Stuttgart Region” consisted of two parts as it was developed separately by the two above-mentioned metropolitan areas which focused on the participatory approach to pressing needs in their territories. The participatory approach is a crucial element of this pilot action in two metropolitan areas and is testing the adaptability of the Prototyping Academies tool developed by the Metropolis GZM.</p> <p>Participatory approach to the strategic change of the Dubina city quarter within the Ostrava Metropolitan Area:</p> <p>The pilot action (PA) focused on the analyses of structural and material problems in Dubina, a city quarter of Ostrava, and on the subsequent proposal of solutions and ways out. Dubina is a city quarter of Ostrava, a large housing estate area, characterised by large blocks of flats. Dubina is not endowed by its own administration, neither is it firmly defined as a statistic unit. In terms of self-government, Dubina is part of the City District “Ostrava-Jih” (“The South of Ostrava”). Statistically, Dubina city quarter is divided into three smaller “settlement units”. Subject to the piloting was the housing-estate quarter. The preliminary research and also the data and experiences collected in the previous years indicated that this neighbourhood experienced the occurrence of diverse phenomena, such as public use of drugs, trading cheap apartments and renting them to socially</p>



	<p>disadvantaged people. Some residents complained about the alleged anonymity in the large blocks of flats, they inhabited, and about the lack of common identity and the lack of a community spirit. Therefore, the pilot action involved several stakeholders who participated in activities focused on identifying challenges and opportunities, evaluation of data, and possible further steps.</p> <p>Participatory approach to resilient industrial sites in the Stuttgart Region:</p> <p>The Verband Region Stuttgart (VRS) elaborated a concept on how to use the participatory approach of Prototyping Academies to transform an existing industrial estate. Stuttgart Region is undergoing a process of economic transformation. Industrial companies are looking for space to develop and implement new technologies. Designating new land for commercial development is difficult because the region is already densely populated. This makes it even more important to make better use of existing industrial sites by making them attractive, adaptable, and resilient. This involves aspects such as climate change adaptation, renewable energy supply, urban space quality and new mobility concepts. The participatory approach of Prototyping Academies allows the diversity of challenges to be identified from the outset and all relevant stakeholders to be brought together.</p>
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2. The importance of pilot action

<p>The justification for the choice of the selected tool</p>	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area: The Metropolitan Prototyping Academies are a participatory, project-based tool, focused on learning in urban innovation and on the development of innovative solutions for urban environments. The tool was internationally developed. The pilot action of the City of Ostrava / Ostrava Metropolitan Area (“PA”) used this tool in its practical and methodological version, as it had been practised in the “Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia” area (“GZM Metropolis” or “GZM”).</p> <p>Prototyping is the process of creating prototypes concerning urban space by developing solutions, testing them in the urban environment and evaluating them with a focus on their transferability, all this by constantly involving the stakeholders of the piloted area (local governments, schools, social institutions, medical institutions, enterprises, service providers, civic activists</p>
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	<p>etc.) as well as involving the general public (inhabitants, citizens, all social or age groups concerned).</p> <p>The Metropolitan Prototyping Academies as a participatory tool bring together the representatives of various institutions, different local and metropolitan stakeholders, activists, citizens, experts or academics to collaboratively design and test solutions. The tool was the best suitable to grasp a wide range of problems in a large area of the city quarter of Dubina, populated by 12,6 thousand inhabitants.</p> <p>Stuttgart Region: Prototyping Academies were chosen because they are an experimental and flexible tool that allows one to address a specific challenge by involving the relevant community. The tool involves a participatory process that leads to co-creating and piloting solutions before final decisions are made. The prototyping process is very interesting because the final result is not known at the beginning, but is developed together during the prototyping process.</p> <p>VRS decided to test this tool because it is very flexible and can be adapted to different fields of action. In addition to the chosen theme of resilient industrial sites, it can be used in the fields of landscape development or housing.</p> <p>As the Verband Region Stuttgart has a formal competence in regional planning, they are particularly interested in non-formal tools that allow them to better steer metropolitan cooperation processes.</p>
<p>The justification for the selection of the pilot action</p>	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area: The selection of the Metropolitan Prototyping Academies as a tool to be used for the PA in Dubina was justified by a wide range of reasons and interests. The most important motivation came from the bottom-up - as the public demand (citizens' feedback gained via diverse channels in previous years) signaled recurring (and possibly increasing) problems and was reflected and formulated in political interest. The public demand thus naturally reframed into the political demand "to do something there".</p> <p>The democratic demand was, in a "pre-history" of the PA, transferred into initial steps done by the City Atelier of Spatial Planning and Architecture ("MAPPA"), an organization founded and subsidized by the City of Ostrava, whose tasks are the conceptual and strategic work in the field of urban planning, tendering architecture competitions, popularizing topic of urban planning to the broad public etc. In this preliminary stage, the MAPPA drafted a document, which described the situation on-spot and proposed a framework of possible next steps to tackle the identified situation.</p>



	<p>The summary draft by the MAPPAs was used as a preparatory basis to learn about the area and its needs. As the PA team stepped in, practical measures started to be considered for the area. The task to identify a topic for the MECOG-CE pilot action thus, on the right spot of the timeline, met with the task to re-define this city quarter of Ostrava.</p> <p>The city quarter of Dubina provided the best opportunity to use the Metropolitan Prototyping Academies method and to transfer this best practice from the Metropolis GZM to the Ostrava Metropolitan Area.</p> <p>Stuttgart Region: Like many European metropolitan regions, the Stuttgart Region is undergoing a process of economic transformation. Regional companies, as well as companies from outside the region, are looking for space to develop and implement new technologies. Designating new land for commercial development is difficult because the region is already densely populated. This makes it even more important to make better use of existing industrial sites by making them attractive, adaptable, and resilient. The further development of existing industrial areas will focus on climate change adaptation, renewable energy supply, urban space quality and new mobility concepts.</p> <p>The participatory approach allows the diversity of challenges to be identified from the outset and all relevant stakeholders to be brought together. The transformation of existing industrial areas is a complex process that can only be successfully tackled if all relevant stakeholders are involved and given the opportunity to contribute their needs and ideas.</p>
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3. The core of pilot action

<p>Description of the pilot action</p>	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area: The first step was to analyse and describe the current situation followed by the creation of a long-term action plan consisting of soft activities and infrastructure projects to support sustainable development in the neighbourhood. Upon this, further steps followed:</p> <p>1) Defining the area and its stakeholders</p> <p>Precisely defining the spatial perimeters of the area to be piloted. Choosing participants for the Working Group. First draft of steps to be done.</p>
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2) Initial meeting of the Working Group

In an open and intense discussion, held on June 24th, 2024, the Working Group members were asked about the biggest challenges, strengths and weaknesses of Dubina, the area's priority spots with development potential, ideas and opportunities for social and spatial development in Dubina.

3) Quantitative evaluation: socio-demographic paper

Socio-demographic research and the summarizing of the data gained in this research were tasks performed in-house, by the Strategic Development Department of Ostrava, simultaneously to the PA's participatory activities. The collected data are attached in Annex ([full Czech version](#) and [English summary](#)) to this report.

4) Qualitative evaluation

The qualitative evaluation consisted of the following activities:

a) Structured interviews with stakeholders

15 respondents were carefully chosen from different social, professional and age groups, e.g.: civic activists, the political leadership of the city district, officials of the city district or of the municipal police, a general practitioner (doctor), local representatives of the youth and of the elderly, people interested in the topics of housing or of leisure time activities in the area etc. The purpose of the individual interviews was to verify the information obtained in the Working Group and to acquire further informational inputs.

b) Questionnaires, surveys among inhabitants

The survey action was provided by the Sociology Department of the University of Ostrava in October and November 2024 and was carried out using a combination of two methods: Pen and Paper Interviewing ("PAPI") and Computer Assisted Web Interviewing ("CAWI"). The online questionnaire was prepared in-house, by the staff of the Strategic Development Department of the City of Ostrava, and was promoted mainly via the communication channels of the City of Ostrava, but also in external chat groups in social networks etc.

At the same time, data collection using the PAPI method took place directly in the streets of Dubina, in personal contact with residents. The total number of completed questionnaires from both methods was 482, with 175 questionnaires obtained by using the PAPI method and 307 by the CAWI method.



The survey was oriented on topics that reflected the key aspects of life, specifically leisure activities and options for spending free time, existing and missing services in Dubina, the social climate in the locality, and reasons for moving from Dubina or for staying there. The [results in Czech](#) are attached in Annex to this report, incl. a [summary in English](#).

c) On-site observations

On-site observations were conducted by sociology students from the University of Ostrava in October 2024. The purpose of the observations was to impartially observe everyday life directly on the spot, by emerging into the daily rhythm of the public space. The [results in Czech](#) are attached in Annex to this report, incl. a [summary in English](#).

d) Expert consultations

The PA team was especially in touch with the social housing expert from the Department of Social and Health Issues, with whom the situation in Dubina was consulted in detail and in a broader context of the contemporary challenges in the housing market and of social trends in general.

5) Second meeting of the Working Group (“WG”)

The second meeting of the WG Dubina on November 28th, 2024, was dedicated to the presentation and verification of the results gained so far. Before the meeting, the participants were asked for their opinions and proposals in an (internal) online questionnaire.

During a walk through the area, places with development potential were shown to the WG members.

Then, the WG members discussed their impressions from the walk in Dubina and thematized possible subsequent actions. The structured discussion concentrated on the same topics as the guided walk: **underpasses/city gates, courtyards/greenery, and surroundings of primary schools.**

The recommendations of the WG will be analysed and considered by drafting an Action Plan for Dubina.

Stuttgart Region: The pilot action consists of the development of an implementation concept for the application of the Prototyping Academies model in an exemplary existing industrial estate. Based on the regional interest in transforming existing businesses into resilient, sustainable business parks, the Prototyping Academies tool



was used to test a hypothetical participatory process in an existing business park. The concept comprises the following phases:

Preparation:

- Definition of the scope of action and the local authorities to be involved, planning of the Prototyping Academies procedure.

Approaching the municipalities and selecting a project area:

- Publication of a call for tender or direct contact to one pre-chosen local authority, consulting local authorities in the tender procedure, setting up a jury, decision on the project area.

Project-specific preparation:

- Exchange with local/regional key stakeholders, the adaptation of the pre-defined procedure, assignment of external moderation, definition of stakeholders to be involved, invitation to the stakeholders, site visits on the project area, preparation of the first workshops.

Project phase 0 - Kick-off:

- Kick-off Meeting with involved stakeholders, presentation of project aims and Prototyping Academies process.

Project phase 1 - Problem definition:

- Understanding the local situation and challenge, selection of external experts, assignment of external studies, invitation of further stakeholders if necessary, sighting of the analyses, adjustment of project aims.

Project phase 2 - Development of measures:

- Joint analysis of problems and challenges, joint elaboration of potential measures, and definition of a set of measures to be implemented as prototypes.

Project phase 3 - Implementation:

- Identification of ways to implement the prototyping measures, set up a timetable and financing scheme, and implementation of the prototyping measures.

Project phase 4 - Evaluation and finalisation:

- Joint evaluation of the prototypes, recommendations on durable measures, decision in local board, public final event.

Follow-up - Lessons learnt:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elaboration of guidelines for the transfer of the identified measures to other industrial areas within the metropolitan area. <p>The concept contains a description of each of these phases, including the identification of relevant stakeholders to be involved, as well as a timeline and the definition of milestones.</p> <p>The concept and its English summary can be found in Annex.</p>
<p>Innovativeness of pilot action</p>	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area: The piloting happened in a large, quite densely populated area, which provided the chance to intensively involve residents, schools, civic activists, and all other important local actors, to reveal the biggest problems of the given locality and to find their solutions together. The broad scale of prototyping in Dubina can be considered an innovative feature, as the Prototyping measures in similar areas in other cities were concentrated mostly on the micro-scale of individual streets, squares or even on partial sectors of those streets and squares.</p> <p>The formalized involvement of partner cities from the Ostrava Metropolitan Area (OMA), who face similar problems in housing estates and who can therefore transfer good practice, can be considered as an innovative element added to participatory activities, which otherwise would be practised locally, by involving the directly concerned stakeholders or inhabitants of the area only. Here, the usual methods of civic participation gained another dimension, a metropolitan one. The metropolitan, and potentially even international, European, dimension of the PA in Dubina, is an innovative feature, if compared to usual actions conducted in similar areas before.</p> <p>Stuttgart Region: The Prototyping Academies tool is not yet known in Germany. Similar participatory processes such as superblocs or pop-up activities have been carried out for transport projects or residential areas. No standardised participatory and experimental method has yet been developed for industrial areas. If successfully implemented, the pilot action process approach can also be used for other situations that can be solved in a participatory manner.</p>
<p>Demonstration and test of the selected tool</p>	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area: Ostrava has a long track of previous experiences involving its residents in decision-making and planning. The goal in Dubina was first to analyse and describe the situation on the spot and later to create a long-term plan of soft activities and infrastructure projects to sustainably develop the neighbourhood. Specific about this PA was that the tool of Prototyping Academies</p>



	<p>was applied and that its application demonstrated, how this participatory tool can be transferred within the OMA.</p> <p>The situation in Dubina, as discovered in the course of the piloting, was characterized by some negative impacts on the quality of life and by an unambiguous impact on the image of this city quarter. Traces of social exclusion, anonymity in large housing estates and the decreasing feeling of public safety had the potential to be pressing issues that need to be addressed by supporting a more engaged community. The residents’ participation in the development of housing estates is of immense importance.</p> <p>By addressing the topics of social exclusion, anonymity in the environment of large housing estates, or the topic of a decreasing feeling of safety in public space, the PA of Ostrava aimed at discovering the potential of forming communities, building a local identity, and increasing civic engagement and trust.</p> <p>This orientation on community building is highly transferable, as it meets the contemporary challenges in many European cities, especially in metropolitan areas, and it does not require a huge allocation of funds.</p> <p>Stuttgart Region: The Prototyping Academies tool has been tested on one industrial site. In terms of content, the results can be transferred to other industrial sites within metropolitan areas or form the basis of a regional development concept for existing industrial sites. At a methodological level, Prototyping Academies can be a tool to be used in other situations of metropolitan interest, such as landscape and riverside development, mobility and transport issues, or housing.</p>
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4. Strengthening metropolitan cooperation and governance

<p>Impact on metropolitan cooperation and governance</p>	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area: Ostrava’s pilot action, as a project with a high potential of transferability, contributed to the strengthening of metropolitan cooperation in the OMA. This goal was reached by pro-actively involving key local stakeholders and representatives of cities, who face similar challenges in their housing estates. The involvement of metropolitan stakeholders happened both conceptually and practically. The practical involvement had the form of inviting stakeholders from other OMA cities. The conceptual involvement had the form of addressing the issues of ambivalent</p>
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	<p>phenomena in housing estates, and by proposing methods, how to deal with those issues.</p> <p>Stuttgart Region: In technical terms, the existence of sustainable and resilient industrial sites that are attractive and suitable for forward-looking technology companies is an issue of major importance for metropolitan areas. The better existing industrial sites are transformed, the less need there is for new industrial sites to be developed in the open countryside. The transformation of existing industrial sites is therefore crucial for sustainable metropolitan development, enabling technological and economic progress while preserving nature and the landscape in a densely populated region.</p> <p>Methodologically, Prototyping Academies are a valuable tool for engaging a wide range of stakeholders in a participatory and collaborative problem-solving process. Participatory approaches such as Prototyping Academies ensure a broad commitment and understanding of all relevant stakeholders and allow to minimise opposition and resistance. Implemented in a collaborative way, such tools can sustainably improve and strengthen metropolitan cooperation and governance.</p>
Involvement of metropolitan stakeholders	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area:</p> <p>All cities standing for the largest or structurally most important in the OMA were invited to participate in the meetings held during the process of pilot action and the outcomes were shared with them. Furthermore, they have been also invited to two regional stakeholders' meetings, which will take place right after the end of the pilot action. The first meeting of metropolitan Working Group is scheduled for December 3rd, 2024, the other one is planned for end of January 2025. The January meeting will have the form and content of a RSM meeting. In both of these meetings, the participating OMA cities will be made familiar with the PA results and will be invited to externally participate in the development of a "new solution", upscaling the PA. This approach ensures the metropolitan scale of the pilot action and its results.</p> <p>Stuttgart Region: The pilot action consisted of the development of a concept which was created by the regional planning department of VRS in cooperation with the regional Agency for Economic Development. Metropolitan stakeholder groups have been identified, e.g. companies and their employees, property owners, service providers, local administration, politicians, and residents of neighbouring residential areas. The definitive selection of</p>



	stakeholders depends on the choice of the respective industrial site, and they will be thoroughly involved in the following phases of the participatory approach.
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5. Results

Results of the pilot action	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area: The PA brought these immediate results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A set of quantitative data on the area and its inhabitants was collected and will be used as a basis for the designing of further actions. ■ A set of data from qualitative feedback was gained and will be used in decision-making processes. ■ The drafting of an Action Plan for Dubina was kicked off. The Action Plan will be finalized in December 2024 and will start to be implemented in 2025. ■ A community of local stakeholders was formed and will maintain cooperation with the Town Hall on issues concerning the social and spatial development of Dubina. ■ A community of metropolitan stakeholders was formed and will maintain cooperation with Ostrava on issues concerning the development of similar city quarters. <p>Stuttgart Region: As part of the pilot project, the Prototyping Academy process for the transformation of an existing business park was played out. The individual action steps, in particular the number of topics and workshops, were defined, the stakeholders to be involved were identified and the process was timetabled. The procedure was reflected upon and evaluated in a stakeholder workshop with competent representatives from the regional planning department of the Verband Region Stuttgart. The advantages and disadvantages of the process were analysed.</p> <p>It was concluded that the Prototyping Academies instrument is well suited to tackling complex planning situations in a participatory manner. It was noted that stringent moderation is necessary to implement the process. It was emphasised that the aim of the process must be clearly defined by the participants at the beginning so that they recognise the added value of their involvement, and that the selection of relevant stakeholders is crucial.</p>
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	<p>The open end of the prototyping process was seen positively. As a representative of the Lighthouse Metropolitan Area, Metropolis GZM, emphasised several times, with the Prototyping Academies “the journey is the goal”, i.e. there can be no failure. Every result is a gain, even if it ends in relatively small measures such as the establishment of a regular round table. The fact that the result may ultimately differ from the solution assumed at the beginning is what makes the process so exciting and valuable.</p> <p>The creative and experimental character of the tool is particularly worth emphasising. The tool helps to identify positive effects, break through old structures and ways of thinking and initiate concrete solutions. The structured process helps to keep the goal clearly in sight. In addition, prototype measures are easier to finance than large-scale processes.</p> <p>The multifunctional applicability of the tool was also emphasised. The jointly developed measures can be of different types, investment-related, procedural or regulatory.</p> <p>It was criticised that the process is relatively time-consuming due to its participatory elements and that there is a risk of getting lost in too many sub-problems.</p> <p>In this respect, the expectations of the tool were met.</p>
<p>Transferability</p>	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area: The PA in the housing estates of Dubina has a high transferability potential. Prototyping means connecting different actors, citizen groups, and stakeholders, and involving them in solution-oriented participatory activities. As such, the tool is the most suitable for transferring to other cities and metropolitan areas, where it can help to identify the social and material problems in the piloted area, and for finding ways to solve the identified problems in a socially and urbanistically sustainable way. A key issue is the dependence of the tool on the local willingness of other municipalities or MAs, yet the exemplary scale and execution of the PA in Dubina are suitable to fit the individual needs of stakeholders under all possible circumstances. The low-cost profile of the Prototyping tool is also an advantage. The PA in Dubina clearly demonstrated that the transfer of Prototyping Academies, as developed by the GZM, is possible. The transfer proved as successful, the tool proved to be transferable between metropolitan areas.</p> <p>Stuttgart Region: The transferability of Prototyping Academies was thoroughly considered during the elaboration and evaluation of the</p>



pilot action. As the tool is an experimental, soft and flexible tool, a high potential of transferability to other metropolitan areas is seen.

The tool is particularly suitable for informal processes that can support and round off formal planning processes. Thanks to its participatory nature, the Prototyping Academies enable an unbiased approach to a problem situation, the identification and involvement of a wide range of stakeholders and their different needs and perspectives, as well as a practical approach to a specific problem. This process is initially independent of the specific spatial situation and can be applied to a wide range of issues in different spatial constellations.

Prototyping academies can be used to tackle various thematic challenges, whether in the field of infrastructure, mobility, landscape, residential or commercial development. The tool is explicitly transferable to diverse challenging situations throughout the whole metropolitan area of Stuttgart and will help to foster inter-municipal cooperation as it underlines the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, also from different local authorities.

Besides the use in the Stuttgart metropolitan area, the development of a model solution approach based on a prototype with the subsequent possibility of transferring it to similar problems within the metropolitan area represents great potential for almost every metropolitan area in Europe.

However, the concrete prototyping process will have to be adapted to the individual situation regarding the thematic topic and the respective metropolitan area and its governance framework.

6. Subsequent activities

Subsequent activities

Ostrava Metropolitan Area: By mid-December 2024, the results of the quantitative and qualitative evaluations, expert consultations and WG meetings will be summarized in an **Action Plan for Dubina**. The draft of the Action Plan will be distributed to the involved stakeholders, their remarks and notes will then be considered in the final version. The Action Plan for Dubina will formulate the main challenges and priority areas in Dubina and it will propose a first package of practical solutions.

Another part of subsequent activities will consist of practical actions. In the following months after the Prototyping, the MAPPA will propose **fast-track solutions and small-scale activities** for 2025.



This first package of practical solutions will aim at immediate changes and at creating social or spatial attractors to initiate a lasting change in the perception of Dubina and the quality of public space. A second package of solutions, which will later be proposed by the MAPPA in cooperation with the responsible departments of the municipal administrations and with the Technical University of Ostrava (“VŠB-TUO”), will be concentrated on long-term social measures and at larger-scale investments.

In 2025, practical steps leading to the **creation of a Community Centre** will be undertaken. The need to create a Community Centre **as a place of community building** has become obvious already during the preparation phase and has been vocalized during the piloting by many stakeholders. Community building can happen by proposing leisure time activities for all age groups (sports, fitness, culture etc.), by organizing free-time education, by providing safe space (especially for children and youth, who suffer under social alienation in a large housing estate quarter, or for mothers, who stay at home with small children) and possibly also by proposing services, which have been detected as missing (a café).

In 2026, a **Development Plan for Dubina** will be drafted. The Development Plan will serve as a strategy paper for long-term structural changes in the area.

As part of further follow-up activities, the Ostrava team will create **a model of housing estate revitalization and community development** that can be replicable in the OMA cities and beyond the scope of the OMA. Sharing the best practice and its metropolitan and international transfer will represent an innovative approach to tackling urban challenges and will support metropolitan cooperation followed by metropolitan development. The methodological framework gained in Dubina will represent a part of the subsequent activities to the PA, which will be concentrated on the upscaling of the Prototyping tool to a qualitatively higher level.

Stuttgart Region: Within the pilot action, a concept on how to implement the tool of Prototyping Academies for the transformation of an existing industrial site was developed. The next step consists of implementing this concept on-site. This is planned for the first half of 2025. Depending on the result of the on-site implementation, a decision will be taken on the further use of Prototyping Academies in the daily work of the regional planning department of Verband Region Stuttgart. A high potential of applicability is seen in participative procedures regarding infrastructure, landscape or



	housing development. The results of the implementation will be presented in the planning committee of the regional assembly in the second half of 2025.
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7. Project management of pilot action

The process of pilot action	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area: The team, that jumped in to pilot the project in Dubina, was composed mainly of specialists from the Strategy Development Department of the Ostrava City administration (“City Hall”), in cooperation with architects and urbanists from the city atelier MAPPa. The teamwork was fuelled by the collaboration with external activists, connected with the area by their public engagement, and supported by external specialists, e.g. from the University of Ostrava. Municipal officials from other departments of the City Hall of Ostrava and the administration of the City District were also actively engaged during different stages of the piloting, according to their specializations and responsibilities. The timeline of actions started in May 2024 by meetings with the MAPPa and by internal meetings with local stakeholders and ended in November 2024 by conclusions from obtained data.</p> <p>Stuttgart Region: The pilot action was designed by a couple of members of the regional planning department of Verband Region Stuttgart, with the support of the coordinator of European Affairs. The design process took place from May to November 2024.</p>
Methods of work in the metropolitan area	<p>Ostrava Metropolitan Area: In the course of conducting the PA on the social and spatial revitalization in Dubina, Ostrava involved metropolitan stakeholders, to share and disseminate the good practice of this PA across the OMA. A community of interested cities from the OMA was formed to reflect the similarities, to share input of experiences from the work with similar challenges in their municipalities and to provide feedback consequently focused on the transferability of the tested tool. The community had the form of a loose group of municipal officials from the concerned cities, who were invited to common meetings and asked for their opinions. The PA consisted of meetings with stakeholders, interviews with decision-makers and citizens, on-site observations, public surveys and creating analysis and other documents.</p> <p>Stuttgart Region: The process started with an on-site visit in Katowice in May 2024 where all relevant information about Prototyping Academies was presented by GZM experts.</p>



	<p>The concept was then developed in several meetings at Verband Region Stuttgart, via the exchange of draft documents, and a stakeholder meeting with nearly the whole regional planning department. External experts of the regional Agency for Economic Development have been involved in the process.</p>
<p>The reflection of the initial work setup and time plan</p>	<p>The partners of the study cluster jointly outlined the tasks and timetable in the initial work set-up and time plan document. Although, due to the general time plan of the MECOG-CE project, the piloting started just before the summer vacations, some of the most intensive actions (e.g. the structured interviews in Ostrava) took place during the vacation time with unchanged intensity. The initial set-up of activities was stuck to, the time plan was carefully monitored due to the strong commitment of the project team. The planned procedure as well as the foreseen timetable were realistic and have been respected.</p>
<p>Problems and deviations</p>	<p>No problems or deviations have occurred during the pilot action. The PA team continuously monitored the timeline and the fulfilment of tasks. A pro-active communication was maintained within the MECOG-CE project leadership, as well as with all involved stakeholders. The careful management of the PA was the best guarantee of a smooth process, without any deviations.</p>

8. Joint development and cooperation with partners

<p>Processes of co-design and peer-review</p>	<p>Within the MECOG-CE cluster “Metropolitan Prototyping Academies - innovative cooperation and transferability locally and internationally”, two project partners were executing this PA, and were therefore active as “learning metropolitan areas”: Ostrava (City of Ostrava) and Stuttgart (Stuttgart Region Association). Consequently, the process of a peer review happened between Ostrava and Stuttgart, supported by the GZM, as the cluster’s lighthouse metropolitan area, and by the City of Brno, as the MECOG-CE project lead partner.</p> <p>Both learning MAs first studied the Prototyping methodology in a joint effort. The ideas of the learning MAs were discussed, and the learning MAs received feedback in online calls and in face-to-face communication exchanges, e.g. during a site visit in Katowice in May 2024 or during the MECOG-CE transnational meeting in Ostrava in September 2024. This exchange of views and knowledge created a strong basis for further steps.</p>
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	<p>The peer review was a valuable part of the learning and executing processes connected to the PA.</p> <p>Thus, during the work of the cluster, partners transferred and shared the information, knowledge, and remarks through several means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ on-site study visit to thoroughly describe and discuss the studied tool;■ online meetings with experts;■ online peer-review meeting to evaluate the pilot action;■ workshop with experts already involved in Metropolitan Prototyping Academies;■ direct Q&A sessions during the online meetings, the workshop and the on-site visit;■ presentations on the form of the pilot action and its progress;■ online support if necessary;■ raising questions and comments during meetings and study visit; <p>All these means ensured a cooperative approach to the development of pilot action including all study cluster members.</p>
<p>The guidance provided by the lighthouse metropolitan area</p>	<p>The Lighthouse Metropolitan Area GZM provided excellent information about the Prototyping Academies tool and support throughout the pilot action process. As described below, several online meetings were held to exchange information and discuss the development of the pilot action, but the most impressive and helpful event was the comprehensive study visit in Katowice on 9 May 2024. Several experts presented different prototyping academies, providing an in-depth insight into this tool. A study tour of the university campus, the result of a Prototyping Academy, completed the insight into the tool.</p> <p>This disseminating process made it possible to receive reflections on the tool directly from the source, where multiple GZM municipalities had experimented with the Prototyping tool on different occasions and introduced various measures in their territories, after conducting the Metropolitan Prototyping Academies in the urban environment of their cities.</p> <p>The learning partners in the Prototyping cluster learned, how to use the Prototyping tool in the process of creating prototypes in relation to urban space. The GZM motivated the learning MAs to test the tool in the urban environment. The lighthouse MA provided support by engaging its internal and external experts, it provided constant</p>



	<p>feedback and encouragement to proceed with an open-minded approach and openness to new ideas, collected on the way.</p>
<p>Meetings and study visits</p>	<p>Besides the exchange of ideas in written form, the following meetings and study visits were organized within the MECOG-CE cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4 April 2024 - the first online meeting - detailed description and explanation of the methodology of Prototyping Academies and its stages; initial thoughts and needs in pilot action territories; ■ 9 May 2024 - Study visit in GZM - Katowice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Participation of partners from the City of Ostrava and Stuttgart Region Association, □ Workshop with the participation of Prototyping experts as lecturers showcasing good practices, □ Presentations on best practices (Radzionkow, Dabrowa Gornicza, Tychy), □ Study tour around the campus of the Silesian University, as an example of a Prototyping Academies, included visiting and discussing the results of a prototyping action, encountered on the bank of the Rawa River in Katowice; ■ 11-12 September 2024 - monitoring of advancement in the execution of pilot action within the meeting in Ostrava, presentations of the Metropolis GZM and of both piloting partners: the Stuttgart Region Association and the City of Ostrava; ■ 1 October 2024 - online review meeting with PA's expert, Michal Lorbiecki. He had participated in the Prototyping Academy in Tychy, related to the refurbishment of parking spaces. The expert held an open discussion with two Pilot Action MAs, listened to their reflections on Prototyping Academies, and discussed the obstacles and advantages of the tool. The discussion was honest and productive - the expert touched upon each experience within the Prototyping Academy held by Tychy, not only the good aspects but also the mistakes made in the process. This meeting also served as a peer-review meeting of the pilot action.

9. Summary of the pilot action

<p>Summary</p>	<p>The pilot action “Participatory approach to transforming metropolitan territories in Ostrava Metropolitan Area and</p>
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Stuttgart Region” tested the possibilities of adapting the Prototyping Academies tool. This tool was chosen because it is an informal, experimental and flexible tool that allows one to address a specific challenge by involving the relevant community. The tool involves a participatory process that leads to co-creating and piloting solutions before final decisions are made. Besides the chosen topic of resilient industrial sites in the Stuttgart Region and of social revitalisation in the Ostrava Metropolitan Area, its usage can be imagined in the fields of landscape development, infrastructure development or housing.

Ostrava Metropolitan Area: To face the challenges encountered in the housing estate of Dubina, such as anonymity, lack of spaces for community building, allegedly increasing use of drugs, renting apartments to socially disadvantaged citizens for unfair prices or decreasing quality of public space, the City of Ostrava, as a member of the MECOG-CE cluster on Prototyping Academies, conducted participatory activities and summarized socio-demographic and socio-economic data with the aim of revitalizing the housing estate in the Dubina city quarter and of proposing solutions to the identified social challenges.

The participatory activities were designed as challenge-oriented actions involving residents, entrepreneurs, schools, and other key local actors to identify the locality’s most pressing problems and to develop solutions together.

The collected data provide a solid fundament for ideas, small-scale projects, strategic proposals and investment incentives in the upcoming years.

Stuttgart Region: The Verband Region Stuttgart elaborated a concept on how to use the participatory and informal approach of Prototyping Academies to transform existing industrial sites into resilient future-oriented industrial sites.

Stuttgart Region is undergoing a process of economic transformation. Industrial companies are looking for space to develop and implement new technologies. Designating new land for commercial development is difficult because the region is already densely populated. This makes it even more important to make better use of existing industrial sites by making them attractive, adaptable, and resilient. This involves aspects such as climate change adaptation, renewable energy supply, urban space quality and new mobility concepts.



Within the concept elaborated by Verband Region Stuttgart as a pilot action, the individual action steps, in particular the number of topics and workshops, were defined, the stakeholders to be involved were identified and the process was timetabled. The procedure was reflected upon and evaluated. The advantages and disadvantages of the process were analysed.

The next step consists of implementing this concept on-site. This is planned for the first half of 2025. Depending on the result of the on-site implementation, a decision will be taken on the further use of Prototyping Academies in the daily work of the regional planning department of Verband Region Stuttgart.

Joint conclusion: During the pilot action, the Lighthouse MA GZM provided excellent information about the Prototyping Academies tool. Several online meetings were held to exchange information and discuss the development of the pilot action, but the most impressive and helpful event was the comprehensive study visit in Katowice. Several experts presented different prototyping academies, providing an in-depth insight into this tool. A study tour of the university campus, the result of a Prototyping Academy, completed the insight into the tool. The expectations on the tool were met in Ostrava Metropolitan Area and Stuttgart Region and the pilot action was jointly developed.

The Prototyping Academies instrument is well suited to tackling complex planning situations in a participatory manner. The open end of the prototyping process was seen positively. The fact that the result may ultimately differ from the solution assumed at the beginning is what makes the process so exciting and valuable.

The multifunctional applicability of the tool was emphasised. The jointly developed measures can be of different types, investment-related, procedural or regulatory.

Prototyping Academies are thus seen as a valuable tool for engaging a wide range of stakeholders in a participatory and collaborative problem-solving process. Prototyping Academies ensure a broad commitment and understanding of all relevant stakeholders and allow to minimise opposition and resistance. Implemented in a collaborative way, such tools can sustainably improve and strengthen metropolitan cooperation and governance.

Both partner metropolitan areas, Ostrava Metropolitan Area and Stuttgart Region, adapted this tool to their needs and context. They reflected that the tool is transferable to their territories thanks to



	<p>the thorough participatory approach used. Moreover, the pilot action done by both partners contributed to the transforming metropolitan territories and serves as an example for other areas which would like to implement the participatory approach to their pressing needs.</p>
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