

#1

2010

City Mine(d), Echelle
Inconnue, FSSK, INURA,
Kriterion, KUD Mreza,
Precare.it, Supertanker,
Talaash, The Responsive
City, Workstation

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This booklet is made for the launch of the project City Mine(d) and its partners are doing throughout 2010. It is the first in a series we plan to keep you updated with in the course of the year.

What the partner initiatives have in common, is the ambition to change their cities and to do so by concrete actions in public space. The work ranges from architecture and urban planning to cinema, squatting, action research, publishing and debate.

We believe that the struggle for equal rights and participation takes place at the local as well as the international level, and that actions should be creative and positive. Some of us have a track record of more than a decade, others take their first steps in urban actions.

Some have a background in art, others in direct action, research or policy. Yet all initiatives emerged from the bottom up and are focal points for actions that want to change the way our cities are governed and our economy is organised.

We have chosen to publish several self-printed booklets, rather than one glossy brochure, because we want to use them to interact with you. Through the feedback we receive, our ideas will change and our maps will be re-drawn.

For contributions to the project for 2010, or to one of the booklets, contact City Mine(d) or one of the partners.

29	30	1	15	19
Jan	Mar	May	Sep	Nov

location:

KVS – Bol, 146 rue de Laeken, 1000 Brussels

agenda:

Launch of the international collaboration 2010

with:

- 13 partner-initiatives
- Erik Swyngedouw
- Wafflebank Investment Bank
- Fou de Coudre: www.foudecoudre.be
- Foire aux Savoir-Faire: www.foiresavoirfaire.org

Erik Swyngedouw

For this occasion Erik Swyngedouw was asked to speak on city, activism and post-politics, combining the latter, a more recent concern about the state of the nation, with his experience from long-standing collaboration with several of the partner-initiatives.

Swyngedouw is Professor of Geography at the University of Manchester in its School of Environment and Development. He is committed to political economic analysis of contemporary capitalism, producing several major works on economic globalisation, regional development, finance, and urbanisation. His research also addresses the question of political citizenship in the context of changing relations between state (governance), civil society, and market.

Born in Belgium and fluent in Dutch, English, French, and Spanish, he studied at Leuven, then completed a PhD entitled "The production of new spaces of production" under the supervision of the renowned Marxist geographer David Harvey at Johns Hopkins University (1991). From 1988 until 2006 he taught at the University of Oxford, latterly as Professor of Geography, and was a Fellow of St. Peter's College. He moved to the University of Manchester in 2006.

The Wafflebank Investment Bank

is the world's last remaining investment bank, founded in London in the financial annus horribilis 2008. It allows people to invest their skills or talents. By using a cheque customers make their skills available to the bank; in exchange the bank offers them a waffle and a network.

In the new decennium, the Wafflebank also breaks new ground: it opens a VC! A Venture Capital fund. In other words it aims to raise skills necessary to realise a specific project. To learn more about what the project is and how you can contribute, visit the Wafflebank branch in the KVS Foyer opened for the occasion.

Fou de Coudre

is a multidisciplinary theatre collective offering performances, interventions and creative group facilitating. Fou de Coudre stands for giving surprising impulses, uninhibited loss of reason, turning traditional patterns and stereotypes upside down and pulling people out of their daily drag.

www.foudecoudre.be

Foire aux savoir-faire

The aim of the Foire aux savoir-faire is simple: “share the taste and techniques of DIY-ing for the fun of learning and teaching, of applying your creativity, to soften your environmental impact and to adjust your consumption to your needs;” but the consequences are enormous: more fun, less waste, happier people and more money stays in your pocket.

Visit them in the KVS Foyer and from now on do it yourself!

www.foiresavoirfaire.org

29	30	1	15	19
Jan	Mar	May	Sep	Nov

location:

London, UK

agenda:

Launch of the film about micro-initiatives in London
as part of Micronomics

with:

-City Mine(d) London

-Spectacle, independent film makers

www.spectacle.co.uk

-cyclist collective Bicycology

www.bicycology.org.uk

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29 Jan	30 Mar	1 May	15 Sep	19 Nov
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location:
Brussels

agenda:
start of the Month of Micronomics

- with:
- City Mine(d) and its Micronomics network
 - MicroMarché
 - Les Bains::Connective
 - . . .

Month of Micronomics

After 2 (or 3) Micronomics Festival we already lost count, so time to do something completely different. We aim for creating a project that uses the different types of skills we came across with Micronomics in a project that provides an opportunity to test those skills, learn them, teach them, show them, and well ok, show them off also. So it will be social, smart, fun and functional.

We will use 3 weekends in May, and will involve local as well as international connections. Don't plan anything else over the May weekends, Micronomics needs you!

29 Jan	30 Mar	1 May	15 Sep	19 Nov
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location:

Ljubljana, Slovenia

agenda:

Preparation for November Forum

with:

-Kud Mreza

-13 partner-initiatives

-...

29 Jan	30 Mar	1 May	15 Sep	19 Nov
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location:

Flagey – 27 rue de la Croix, 1050 Brussels

agenda:

Forum with conclusions of Call for Ideas

with:

- 13 partner-initiatives
- 75 ideas from Brussels
- 75 ideas from abroad

November Forum

The project we are doing throughout 2010 culminates in a Forum. Its name is still unclear, but its ambitions are sharp: it will show and celebrate grassroots creativity from different European cities.

The Flagey infrastructure is made available to us on 19 and 20 November, and we can invite up to 75 people to come to Brussels to share their ideas and to network, network, network. The rest is still open and will develop throughout the year. Ideas are very welcome.

call for ideas



launch after 29 January

IDEAS

by **Local groups**
on how local actions can
help international
collaborations

Local groups

are existing or specially formed
groups who are

- LOCALLY ACTIVE
- NOT PART OF EU NETWORKS
- POSITIVE and CREATIVE

IDEAS can be neighbourhood work, public art, research ideas, policy proposals as long as the ideas can work locally and impact internationally;

examples are: doing things in different cities at the same time, writing to the same local government from different countries, tour different cities with the same object, ...



INVITATION



19 – 20 – 21
November 2010

FORUM FLAGEY

**75 international + 75 Brussels
= 150 IDEAS**

Online community

With the things we create, do or learn, many of us try to have an impact beyond our local community. We want to share thoughts and experience with people in different countries and

**share thoughts
and experience
with people in
different
countries**

even different time zones; and find complicity and back-up on the other side of the globe. Although technology should allow this type of collaboration, in practice it rarely does. Many explanations can be found, from the practical – I can't be

bothered to switch on all these different communication machines–, to the political -Google and Facebook are looking over your shoulder. But we think there must be a way.

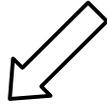
We want to find out which communication tools you are already using, and which subjects you would like to hear and talk about. This helps us to build a system that allows you to keep your finger on the pulse and exchange ideas and plans about city, economy, democracy, culture, politics, urban interventions, and the things we never thought of ourselves.

**share
what we
do and
how we
do things**

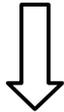
The right mix of communication tools is required for an international group of people to communicate regularly, get to know each other and each others work and to interact. We want people to share what they do and how they do things in order to learn from each other how to do it better.

Which in turn should allow us to have more impact on the city, its economy and democracy.

Online community



to collaborate



WORKSHOP

place to SHARE
ideas, opinions, experience

contains



coffee machine

where you catch up and make new plans
tools: chat, Skype



drawing table

where you can brainstorm together
tools: whiteboard, Mindmap



ballot box

ways to get quick responses to ideas
tools: surveys or polls



printing press

where you write text together
tools: wiki



to showcase



SHOPWINDOW

place to SHOW
who you are, what
you do, when you
have an event

contains



profiles



calendar

Step 1 in developing the online community is the launch of a survey about Who uses What. We are currently preparing this survey in different European Countries, where locals call it:

City Mine(d) undersøgelsen

έρευνα του City Mine(d)

L'enquesta Ciutat Mina(da)

Проучването на City Mine(d)

Prieskum City Mine(d)

Das City Mine(d) Survey

City Mine(d) Sondage

Indagine di City Mine(d)

De City Mine(d) enquête

The City Mine(d) survey

City Mine(d) Sondagem

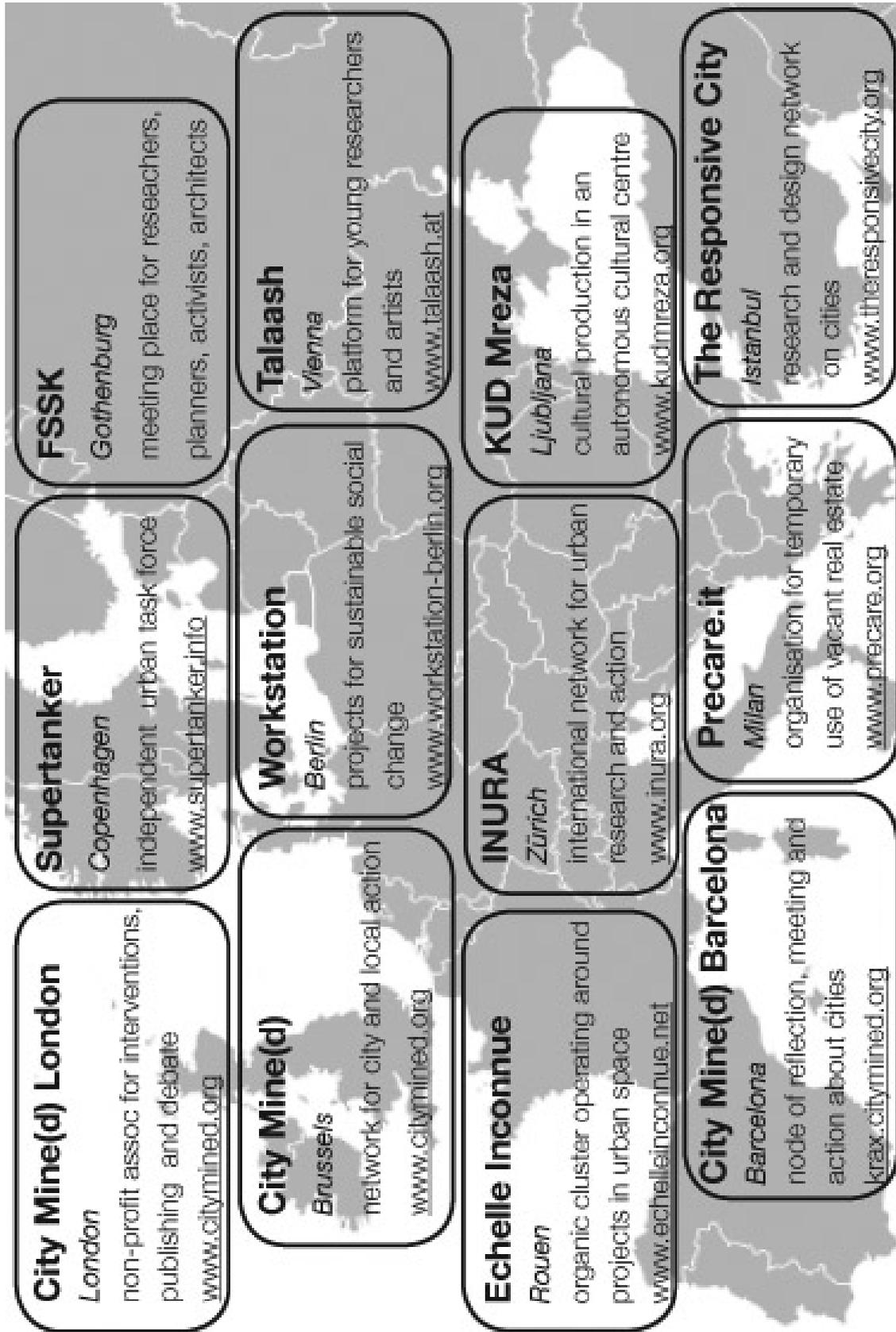
Sondaž City Mine(d)

City Mine(d) – kysely

City Mine(d) undersökningen

Sondaj City Mine (d)

Partners



City Mine(d) (°1997)

Brussels

City Mine(d) emerged in 1997 from a network of urban activists, residents, artists, architects and cultural and social organisations. Over the last 12 years it developed over 100 urban interventions in deprived areas of Brussels, but also worked in Belfast, Rotterdam, Sheffield, Milan and Berlin. The work ranges from open air cinema and theatre to architecture and direct action.

City Mine(d) combines projects in public space with support for micro-initiatives, debate and influencing the urban agenda. City Mine(d) currently prepares Micronomics in May 2010 and an international forum in November 2010.

City Mine(d) Barcelona (°2002)

Barcelona

City Mine(d) Barcelona is the local branch of City Mine(d). It organises:

- Jornadas Krax: an annual meeting of the network of urban initiatives from Caracas to Tokyo;
- Krax.TV: a series of documentaries and master classes;
- Krax.la Gira: an exchange programme in which urban initiatives share technical or cultural experience
- Krax.citymined.org: a blog with contributions from the entire network.

In the past City Mine(d) was active in the neighbourhood Poble Nou, and recently finished a mapping exercise with the residents of Barceloneta and with graphic designers from the group Iconoclasistas from Buenos Aires.

City Mine(d) London (°2003)

London

City Mine(d) was founded in London in 2003 as local branch of City Mine(d).

It combines:

- production of interventions in public spaces of deprived areas: PingPongProject in Wembley or Carbuncles Way in Tottenham;
- publication of brochures: Networkbook for Urban Parts, Toolbook;
- workshops relating to the development of the Kings Cross railway station or the Olympics2012.

Since 2007 City Mine(d) London develops a focus on the urban economy through Micronomics. It currently works on a short film showcasing and networking micro-initiatives.

Echelle Inconnue (°1998)

Rouen

Echelle Inconnue started in Rouen in 1998 around the preoccupation: “what is this space we live in? Is it architecture? Urbanism?” This interrogation about city is expressed in projects in public space with architects, artists, students, residents, homeless people, the travelling community or militants, in projects ranging from mapping exercises, building projects up to a cattle run in their home city of Rouen.

Echelle Inconnue sets up workshops in those places where people they work with are living (a travellers' site, homeless centre, alter-globalist village), geographically covering cities like Annemasse, Naples, Budapest, Montréal, Bordeaux and Orléans.

Kriterion (°2006)

Sarajevo

Kriterion is an art house cinema plus cultural stage in Sarajevo that combines culture, employment and entrepreneurship. Students, supported by a board of experts, are responsible for its management. After a number of years, they have to make room for a new generation. This constant rotation puts Kriterion at the forefront of changes in society, provides Sarajevo with experienced young professionals and increases chances of young people on the labour market.

Kriterion develops regular screening of art house and socially engaged movies, movie meetings [dedicated to the state of regional cinema through workshops, screenings and round tables].

INURA (°1991)

Zurich / Berlin

INURA is a network of people involved in action and research in cities. The Network consists of activists and researchers from community and environmental groups, universities, and local administrations, who wish to share experiences and to participate in common research.

Examples of the issues that Network members are involved in include: major urban renewal projects, the urban periphery, community-led environmental schemes, urban traffic and transport, inner city labour markets, do-it-yourself culture, and social housing provision. In each case, the research is closely tied to, and is a product of, local action and initiative.

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KUD Mreza (°1995)

Ljubljana

KUD Mreža was founded in 1995 in the autonomous cultural centre Metelkova Mesto in Ljubljana, now a complex of artist's studios, clubs, galleries and concert halls. Since then, it has been active in the field of fine art, sculpture, video and theatre productions.

KUD Mreža organises cultural and educational events (exhibitions, concerts, round table discussions, workshops, public lectures), organises residencies, and manages both the Menza Prikoritu concert hall and the Alkatraz Gallery. It collaborates regularly with local and foreign artists in various other diverse urban art projects. It also organises the annual Red Dawns feminist and queer arts festival.

Precare.it (°2007)

Milan

Precare.it was launched in 2007 by neighbourhood association Cantieri Isola, research laboratory Multiplicity.lab from the Politecnico of Milan and City Mine(d).

It aims at providing urban social movements – including local residents, activists, artists, researchers – with space in vacant buildings where they can start of their activities.

Precare encourages owners to allow temporary use of their unoccupied buildings; to raise awareness about the fact that an empty good, even for a few weeks, could allow an individual or a group to realise a project, stage a performance, initiate a research project or create a meeting place. Precare was initially started in Brussels in 1999.

Supertanker (°2002)

Copenhagen

Supertanker is a network of activists interested in culture, urban space, community, discussion and design. They develop and carry out experiments and dialogues which take the shape of workshops, conferences, the realisation of projects, public events and mapping exercises.

Supertanker wants to create a place in urban planning projects for the everyday life experience. For this it developed an alternative participation method which it calls “Fri Proces”.

Supertanker has worked with the City of Copenhagen, the community of Christianshavn, with the children of Hillerød Skole to develop their own primary school and with the University of Roskilde to give a studio a facelift in DIY-spirit.

Talaash (°2008)

Vienna

Talaash is a Vienna-based platform for young artists and researchers working on the South Asian Region.

It organises public events, makes the work of young people available and visible to a wider audience, organises the exchange of knowledge and sets up breakfast meetings and Urdu and Hindi language classes.

Talaash's main aims are:

- supporting projects, initiatives and ideas of young people in the field of arts and social science.
- exchanging ideas and knowledge across continents, to dismantle stereotypes of „Third World“ countries and citizens and making a global experience valuable for the European local context.

The Responsive City (°2004)

Istanbul / Delft

The Responsive City is a network of designers, architects, planners, researchers and neighbourhood groups.

It works with neighbourhood organisations (like Gulensu in Istanbul) to help develop a vision about their neighbourhood; with governments of cities (like Almere and Istanbul) to develop city visions and strategies; and creates new education methods of approaching and designing cities, such as 'city design games,'

The Responsive City focuses on cities from the Middle East, Balkans as well as European cities influenced by migration from the East.

It is currently working on a real-time research and action project (Istanbul 2010), and mapping the dynamics of Cairo (Mapping Cairo).

Workstation Ideenwerkstatt Berlin (°1998) Berlin

The Workstation is active in Berlin since 1998. It is interested in arts, culture and social matters. Activities currently develop along 4 axes:

Projekt Arbeit: questions the notion of Labour and Work in our society, and develops new strategies and ideas for what work can be

Urban development and Garden Project: encourages people to actively participate in the shaping of their city, both in masterplanning as in concret realisation of urban gardens

New Media: involves the running of a media room employing 5 people, Linux user-groups and free wireless internet clouds

Project Initiatives: projects that emerged from the Workstation but now exist independently.

contact

for more information

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the Brussels Regional Government



the Flemish Regional Government in Brussels



the City of Brussels

