#5 2010

URBAN PLATFORM
BRUXXEL
19/20/21 NOV

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Photo : Thibaut De Lestré

1. INTRO

This booklet concludes a series of 5 micro-publications. Each booklet accompanied an activity that was a step in the preparation of the Urban Platform, an open and inclusive gathering of small initiatives in Brussels. Together, these booklets are also the track record of our attempts to forge lasting connections between the initiatives from the different European cities that are involved. The Online Community that will be launched on 21 November, and the collective ambitions expressed in this booklet, reflect how we work on an infrastructure to make connections possible between people who are physically removed but who have common concerns about environment, solidarity and democracy, and want to address these from the bottom up.

This is at the same time also the conference brochure for 3 very different days that make up the Urban Platform: a **DEBATE** with international speakers that explains our work to an audience beyond those already active, but also to researchers and policy makers; closed **WORKSHOPS** hosted by Brussels' locals

in their living room that explore shared subjects and strategies of initiatives from 19 cities; and a **BAZAAR** of thought and action where mapping the neighbourhood is combined with walks and talks.

The collaboration of the past year illustrates that initiatives dealing with environment, democracy and solidarity emerge in every European city. Those involved are just a tip of the iceberg, and there are surely a lot of initiatives out there waiting to happen. Therefore, we would like to hear what you think, what you know and what you want to do (differently). So make yourself known: connect to the Online Platform or add what you know to our online encyclopaedia http://wikimined.citymined.org, get involved in realising the collective ambitions, contact somebody in a city near you [see contacts at the back], or become a point of contact yourself. Your turn!

2. SMALL INITIATIVES, BIG CHALLENGES

City Mine(d) connects urban gardeners to cyclists, DIY-ers to urban planners, and kitchen chefs to IT-ers through projects in public space. What these people have in common is the use of their creativity to make daily life in cities more fun and more fair.

These initiatives don't exist to make money or to gain power, but they emerge according to desires or in response to local and urgent needs. At their level, they involve people removed from party politics, ethical consumption or the environment, as well as activists and militants in all those fields.

The big challenges we are confronted with today,

that relate to the environment, solidarity or democracy, seem to limit us in our freedom to explore, to produce and even to travel. Taking tables outside in the street and inviting the neighbours, making things yourself and changing derelict places in urban gardens are all positive and creative initiatives, but they are also answers to those big challenges.

The connections we have made will not evaporate after the Urban Platform. An Online Platform will provide a place for individuals and groups to show their initaitives, and see that of other at the other end of the world. In addition to this tool, the idea of a charter will be presented to the public. It describes what the initiatives have in common, will state their political aspirations and will inspire people to action. As such, the connections can be recognised and made useful as an urban movement.

3. INITIATIVES

The projects listed below show the diversity and themes the Urban Platform deals with, and that make up our network. We subdivided them in themes, not to frame or pigeonhole them, but to make reading easier. Many other ways of organising them are as relevant. Categories and tags are th ones used in the Online Platform.

>>

CREATIVITY
>>

Creativity refers to creating something new out of nothing, and to finding original solutions to problems. The creations of these groups are situated in the field of the arts, of living together, of neighbourhood and community. They create, recycle, re-use or reshape. Their interventions use public space as a place of meeting, debate, contestation and skill-sharing, and remind people of the alternative proposals that are always present in cities, and which play a role beyond the here and now.

>> KUD MREZA,
Ljubljana, SL
art, art intervention, education
www.kudmreza.org

>> BOKS, Ljubljana, SL
education, occupation,
public space, visual arts

>> Freiraumlabor, Berlin, DE
architecture, education,
urbanism
http://freiraumlabor-berlin.blogspot.com

>> Contact-Dance, Milan, IT
occupation, performing arts,
public space, skill sharing

>> Bains-Connective,
Brussels, BE
art, performing arts, visual
arts, laboratory
www.bains.be

>> Nadine, Brussels, BE
art, gardening, laboratory,
media, technology
www.nadine.be

>> Ransfiesta, Brussels, BE
art intervention, DIY, emancipation, inclusion, neighbourhood, public space
www.bruxel.org/ransfiesta

>> Recyclart, Brussels, BE
art, employment, inclusion, neighbourhood, public space, urbanisme
www.recyclart.be

>> Au Quai, Brussels, BE
art, emancipation, laboratory, occupation, way of life

>> Bouillon Malibran, Brussels, BE
art intervention, emancipation, food, inclusion, neighbourhood, public space

>> Les Ateliers Claus, Brussels, BE
DIY, performing arts, laboratory, way of life
www.lesateliersclaus.com

>> Globe Aroma, Brussels, BE
art, creativity, emancipation, inclusion, migration
www. globearoma.be

>> Viaindustriae, Foligno, IT
media, technology, visual arts
www.viaindustriae.it

>> Refugee Youth, London, GB
art, inclusion, migration, shelter
www.refugeeyouth.org

>> Doxa Scopie, Grenoble, FR
empty space, gardening, re-use, recycling, urbanism
http://doxa-scopie.blogspot.com

FREE SOFTWARE >>

In addition to software that can be copied and modified without restriction, the movement also links to political activities for free access to the internet. It is in general with GNU-initiator Richard Stallman called “a technical means to a social end”.

>> Transit, Barcelon, ES
access, inclusion, media, open source, technology
www.transit.es

>> Freifunk, Berlin, DE
access, media, open source, public space, technology
http://start.freifunk.net

>> Constant, Brussels, BE
DIY, information, laboratory, media, technology
www.constantvzw.org/site

>> iMal, Brussels, BE
art, DIY, laboratory, media, technology
www.imal.org

>> OKNO, Brussels, BE
art, gardening, laboratory, media, technology
www.okno.be

DIY
>>

From simple home improvement, the term Do It Yourself has become a term to describe a wide variety of activities that range from independent media, pirate radio, self-publishing, crafting, printing and cinema, to recycling and recovering activities. All by people who just start doing, without the aid of professionals or experts. In addition to creating new objects, they also raise awareness about issues of environment, waste and mass consumption.

>> Foire aux Savoir-Faire, Brussels, BE
creativity, inclusion, re-use, skill sharing, small economies
www.foiresavoirfaire.org/

>> Kunst-stoffe, Berlin, DE
laboratory, re-use, recycling, small economies
www.kunst-stoffe-berlin.de

>> The Foundation for Living culture "White Crows", Lodz, PL
creativity, neighbourhood, public space, way of life, small economies
www.bialegawrony.org/

GARDENING >>

In this case more specifically urban gardening combines the re-use of derelict space with raising awareness about food distribution and the access to food in the city, but also about nature in the city and biodiversity.

>> Klorofil, Brussels, BE
DIY, empty space, skill sharing, neighbourhood, public space
http://klorofil.be

>> Le début des haricots, Brussels, BE
food, DIY, public space, skill sharing, small economies
www.haricots.org

>> Urbanacker, Berlin, DE
empty space, food, urbanism
www.urbanacker.net

>> Tree Nursery, London, GB
food, occupation, skill sharing
www.hackneyenvironment.org.uk/TNFG

MOBILITY >>

In a way to deal with – or counter – the car-dominated city, these projects test alternative modes of transport, and struggle for rights of pedestrians and cyclists. Their actions touch upon issues of how the city is planned, how we move about, and how to reduce our impact on the environment.

>> Bicycology, London, GB
bicycle, DIY, empty space, occupation
www.bicycology.org.uk

>> Dioxyde Gambette, Brussels, BE
bicycle, DIY, employment, service, small economies
www.dioxyde-de-gambettes.com

>> Brusk, Brussels, BE
architecture, education, skate, small economies, urbanism
www.brusk.be

>> Streets belongs to us organisation, Istanbul, TR
nieghbourhood, pedestrian, public space, urbanism

>> Cyclo, Brussels, BE
bicycle, DIY, employment, re-use, service
www.recyclo.org

TERRITORY >>

Land is often the structuring concept in discussions of identity, citizenships rights and representation in political decision-making: the difficulty to claim basic human rights without “domicile” or “permanent place of residence” it is an experience homeless people, refugees and ex-pats share with voluntary nomads.

>> Im.ausland, Vienna, AT
emancipation, inclusion, migration, way of life

>> HALEM (Habitants de logements éphémères et mobiles), FR
occupation, shelter, way of life
http://halem.infini.fr/

>> Échelle inconnue, Rouen, FR
architecture, inclusion, emancipation, public space, art intervention
www.echelleinconnue.net

URBANISM >>

Urbanism covers both the organising and regulating of the use of land – urban planning – as well as the shaping of the built environment and public spaces of the city – urban design. It deals with phenomena all cities are confronted with like urban regeneration, speculation and gentrification. These projects use their creativity to think again about these system, and even to try an alter them.

>> Supertanker, Copenhagen, DK
architecture, empty space, inclusion
www.supertanker.info

>> KRAX, Barcelona, ES
art intervention, creativity, neighbourhood, public space
http://krax.citymined.org

>> Play the city, Istanbul, TR
architecture, games, inclusion, public space
http://theresponsivecity.org/2010/01/17/play-the-city

>> Bureau Vers Plus de Bien-être (V+), Brussels, BE
architecture, public space, shelter, service
www.vplus.org

>> Espace approprié, BE, ES
architecture, art intervention, DIY, public space, re-use
http://espace-appropriе.blogspot.com

>> Platform of Sariyer neighbourhoods associations, Istanbul, TR
neighbourhood, public space

>> Local à louer, Lyon, FR
architecture, design, emancipation, public space
http://localalouer.blogg.org/

>> Map-it, Brussels, BE
architecture, games, public space, technology
http://map-it.be

>> Maximalisme, Brussels, BE
art intervention,design, DIY, reuse, public space
www.maximalisme.be

>> FSSK, Gothenburg, SE
architecture, neighbourhood, public space
www.gu.se

SHELTER >>

The word refers to a structure that provides cover. In a wider sense it has also become a physical or social structure for those in need of a roof, food or medical aid. Here, it refers to initiatives that started to deal with these issues because the governing structures failed to do so. They do so in a spontaneous way, from the bottom up, and with all the help they can get

>> Chez Nous / Bij ons,
Brussels, BE
emancipation, inclusion, social care, solidarity
http://users.skynet.be/cheznous.bijons

>> 1 Hope association and Solidarity studio,
Istanbul, TR
inclusion, social care

>> Clinic, Ljubljana, SL
inclusion, medical care, social care, solidarity

SMALL ECONOMIES >>

These small scale projects represent and create new forms of exchange and distribution. They include local exchange systems, creators markets, alternative currencies, but also co-housing and other ways of sharing daily spending that not only save money but also reduce environmental impact. Their activities distort or divert the traditional economic system.

>> Kriterion, Sarajevo, BA
art, employment, visual arts
www.kriterion.nl

>> Micromarché,
Brussels, BE
creativity, DIY, market,
employment, service
www.micromarche.be

>> Hedehusene,
Copenhagen, DK
market, urbanism
http://hedehusene.org/marked-i-hedehusene

>> POSECO, Brussels, BE
education, emancipation,
inclusion, information,
solidarity
www.poseco.be

>> Workstation, Berlin, DE
art intervention, employment, public space
www.workstation-berlin.org

INFORMATION >>

Information and knowledge are not equally accessible to all. To change this, people launch independent initiatives in different media. They cover radio, newspaper and film, but also new media, posters and libraries. Access to all information and knowledge for all.

>> Agence Alter, Brussels, BE
education, employment, media, solidarity
www.alter.be

>> Infoshop, Ljubljana, SL
DIY, media, skill sharing, solidarity

>> Alternative Interpreters System (ALIS), Athens, GR
open source, skill sharing, technology
https://sites.google.com/site/interpretationspider

>> Radio Student, Ljubljana, SL
DIY, media
www.radiostudent.si

>> Spectacle, London, GB
DIY, education, neighbourhood, service, urbanism
www.spectacle.co.uk

>> Variant, Belfast, GB
art, media, visual arts
www.variant.org.uk

4. URBAN PLATFORM 19-21/11/2010 PROGRAMME

>>

19/11/2010 DEBATE

FLAGEY / 1050 BXL / 19:00

In response to local and urgent needs, but also out of curiosity or desire, people have always set up small initiatives. These have given rise to inventions like motion pictures or home computers, to new types of organisation like co-operative enterprises or micro-credit facilities, and even to new values like those promoted by the environment movement.

More recently, the creativity and responsiveness of these initiatives, has been harnessed by politics, as well as business and research. Talk of “big society” [UK government] or “good society” [opposition], “citizenship” or “social innovation” [EU Commission] are merely different ways of using people’s own initiatives in the running of the state. Companies like Nokia, IBM and Microsoft spend a considerable part of their research budget in an “open source community” they still criminalised a decade earlier as “hackers”. As recently as in 2009, Elinor Ostrom was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics for her argument that

DEBATE

the commons – the resources we share, like air and water – can also – and maybe even better – be managed from the bottom-up.

In a very direct way, the collapse of the banking system, the threat of global warning and the rise of extreme right politics, remind us of the bigger questions we are currently confronted with. How do we distribute wealth more fairly, how do we reduce our impact on the environment, how do we involve all concerned in decision-making.

In the debate of 19 November, we discuss the relationship between small initiatives, and these big challenges. We ask representatives from government, business and NGO's to position themselves towards this question, and debate them with each other and the audience.

19/11/2010

PANEL

JANET NKUBANA
[RWANDA] GAHAYA LINKS

Janet Nkubana is the founder and president of Gahaya Links, a Rwandan handicrafts organization that empowers local rural women to achieve economic stability. These women include victims of genocide, both Hutu and Tutsi widows, women with HIV, and women with husbands in prison. Their working together and side-by-side contributes to reconciliation as well as to a solution to rid their communities of poverty. Hence the name : peace baskets.

Gahaya Links has rigorous training programs where women learn weaving techniques and receive information about family planning, HIV/AIDS, finances and nutrition. The women find a new sense of self-determination because they are able to earn their own income, take control of their own futures, and play a leadership role in improving their communities. Gahaya Links connects more than 3,500 artisans in 40 cooperatives and associations all over Rwanda.

Janet arrived in Rwanda from exile in Uganda in 1994, and eight years later, brought a display of Rwandan baskets to the US government's officiam Smithsonian museum in Washington, DC. By 2005, the high-range department store Macy's was selling the baskets made by rural women in Rwanda. These baskets are not only creating income for local women but are spreading a message of hope and peace throughout the world.

JON CRUDDAS
[UK] LABOUR MP

Jon Cruddas is the Member of Parliament for Dagenham and Rainham. He was first elected in 2001 to the seat of Dagenham, and was re-elected in 2010 to the marginal seat of Daggenham and Rainham, where he succesfully fought both the Conservative Party and the extreme right British Nationalist Party.
Jon holds an M.A. and later a Ph.D. in Philosophy of the University of Warwick. In 1989, he became a policy officer with the Labour Party before becoming the chief assistant to the General Secretary of the Labour Party in 1994. After the 1997 general election, he became the deputy political secretary to the new Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and as the link between the Prime Minister and the trade unions, he worked heavily on the introduction of the National Minimum Wage.

Jon ran for the Deputy Leadership of the Labour Party in 2007. He was the only backbencher to enter the contest and campaigned around rebuilding the relationship between the leadership and working people. On the first round he emerged with the most first preference votes but ultimately came third. Since then he successfully used his standing within the party to deliver for constituents. Whether it was stopping plans for a prison or building the case for new build council housing.

MICHEL GENET
[BELGIUM] GREENPEACE

Michel Genet has been director of Greenpeace Belgium for 2 years, where he helped

prepare the NGO's position for the Copenhagen Climate Summit, campaigns for the phasing out of nuclear energy, involves the organisation in the economic debate and works on the links between environment and social justice, by supporting the opening of offices in Africa.

Greenpeace Belgium is an non-profit organisation that has 50 members of staff, involves about 150 volunteers and activists, and has about 100,000 members. To guarantee its independence from government or enterprise, it is funded solely through gifts from the public. Greenpeace builds its lobbying campaigns on non-violent direct actions.

Michel Genet is an economist and urban planner. He briefly worked at the Institute for Social and Economic Research (UCL), and Belgacom, before being director at Crédal for 8 years. Crédal is a social credit organisation that specialises in giving loans to social enterprises and micro-credits to people excluded from the banking system, but also launched social credit and support to women who want to set up an own enterprise.

AROUND THE DEBATE

ALTERNATIVE INTERPRETERS SYSTEM (ALIS)
How to allow people who speak different languages to take part in the same debate? How to keep such a debate open and interesting? And how to keep solutions affordable? Starting from these question, **ALIS** started building their own translation system. An open source alternative to expensive translation cabines. On their website you can find plans to build consoles and transmitters yourself. And during the debate of 19/11 you can test it yourself.
>> BRING YOUR MOBILE PHONE AND YOUR HEADSET!

VVVIDEOMATON
A roving microphone after the debate is one way to involve the audience in the debate. But everybody knows how intimidating public speaking can be. That's why we offer a video-recording option. The intimacy of a closed cabin allows you to give your opinion on the link between small initiatives and the bigger challenges. The camera links your recording directly to the **WWWeb**.

>> CONSULT ALL THE VIDEO REPLIES ON
HTTP : // URBANPLATFORM.CITYMINED.ORG/VVVIDEOMATON

Initial installation : designed and developed by iMal (www.imal.org) for the **OFFFCAM** project – tuned for the Urban Platform.

LES UNS LES AUTRES

After the debate the people of the Social restaurant from Molenbeek tempt you with food and drinks to stay a bit longer to continue conversations, to discover projects, and to feel the urge to start your own. Bringing people from different backgrounds, convictions and ages together around good food, that is what **LES UNS LES AUTRES** is about.
WWW.LESUNSETLESAUTRES.BE

PACKS AND OTHER HACKS

Every conference has its own "Conference Pack" with programmes, participants, brochures, etc. The Urban Platform also has its pack, but one we hacked. Everything you receive is self-made, recycled or re-used, and instead of business cards, participants offer you objects that convey information, good ideas and motivation.

>> Miss Vertigo : rings of inner tubes and spices
>> Maximalisme : videjojos
>> Cristina Braschi : business cards from packaging cardboard
>> Okno-Klorofil : Seed Balls
>> Koen Daems : "the social key-ring"
>> sOep'Ographe : soup recipes collected on the street
>> Constant : tuned business cards
>> Lieven Soete : folders from old Ransfiesta posters
>> Recyclart : scrap material from FABRIK
>> Thomas Laureyssens : MAP-it stickers
>> 68/Septante : postal cards
>> City Mine(d) : Conference Packs
50% fabrics of wind-battered umbrellas
50% inner tubes of punctured bicycle-tyres – stapled

made in Yper66 (Bxl), Maison de Quartier Libérateurs (Bxl), JES (Bxl), Metelkova (Lju), Living rooms

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HACK THE CONFERENCE PACK STATS

WORKERS 69

\+

HOURS OF WORK 43

\+

WIND-BATTERED UMBRELLAS 66

\+

PUNCTURED INNER BICYCLE-TYRES 230

=

FINISHED CONFERENCE BAGS 237

\+ PLEASURE (UNMEASURABLE)

TOTAL # OF SESSIONS : 10 / BUDGET (TOTAL) : 60 e

/: YPER66-BXL / METELKOVA-LJUBJANA / LIVING ROOM / MAISON DE QUARTIER LIBÉRATEURS / JES ANIMATOREN

AROUND THE DEBATE

/ **= 3,43**

HOURS PER BAG

/ **= 5,5**

BAGS PER PERSON

/ **= 3,5**

BAGS PER FOUND UMBRELLAS

/ **= 1,03**

BAGS PER INNER TYRE

OTHER RESULTS / NON-MEASURABLE:
BAG-PROTOTYPES / PHOTOSHOOT PROTOTYPES / MANUAL&CHAIN-ORGANISATION / PROCESSING OF RESOURCES / FREESTYLE SESSIONS /

OTHER OBJECTS REPRESENTING NETWORK:
RINGS / CARDS / JOJO'S / SEEDBALLS / COGS&GEARS / SOUP-RECIPES / SOCIAL KEY-RING / PHOTO-STRIPRULER / FABRIK-SCRAPS / MAP-IT STICKERS

19/11/2010

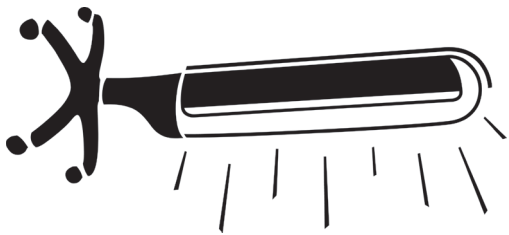
LOCAL ACTIONS

The Urban Platform unites over 60 people from 19 cities from across the European continent. They want to show, strengthen, promote and promulgate their initiatives in art, open source, DIY, gardening, cycling, mobile housing, architecture, care informationand micro-economy. To show everybody what it is about, films, photographs and objects from the different locations will be presented. Some of them even allow you to get started yourself.

reVERBer

As a symbol, we use a motorway streetlight mounted on the legs of an office chair. The creation of this object speaks of re-using materials, transforming them and sustainable development. In addition to its ecological aspect (re-use, recycling, sustainablity) and the possibility to make light anytime, anyplace, anywhere, the lamp symbolises the work of those involved in the Urban Platform. Look out for mobile streetlights in public space!

Design: Thibaut Delestré, **thanks to:** Knoll international, ISFCE, Agence routes et traffic.



19/11/2010

AROUND THE DEBATE

20/11/2010

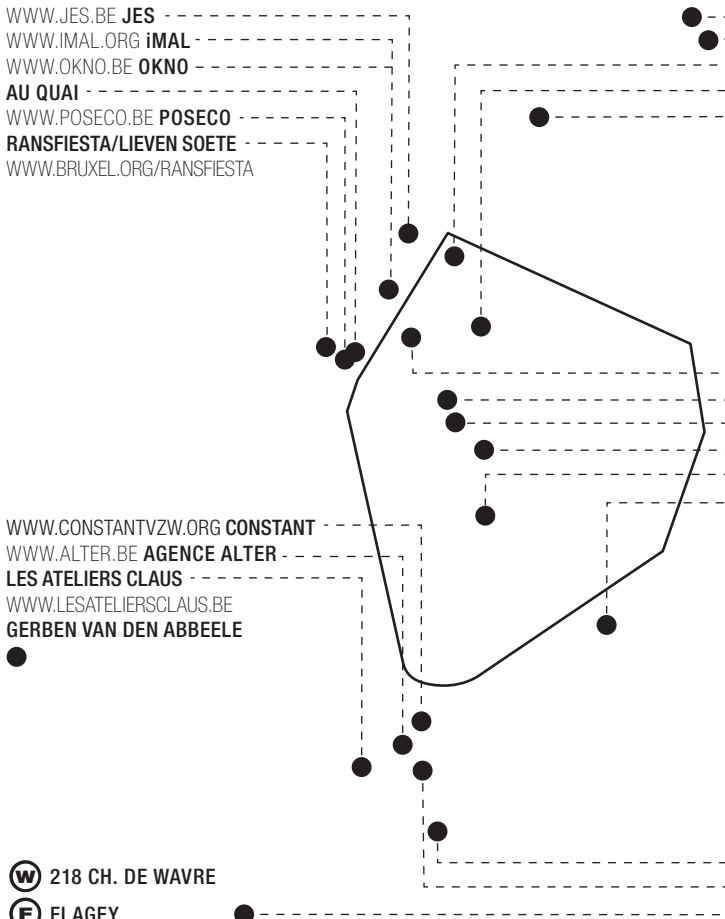
On Saturday 20 november 2010, over 100 practitioners, activists, artists, creators, local residents and cyclists from 19 cities will pool their thoughts in workshops, and will come together in the evening to talk to each other and to those interested.

>>

PART 1: CLOSED WORKSHOPS

On the basis of different themes, like the use of public space, free access to the internet, mobile habitats, urban and spatial development, cycling in the city or even health care, the visitors are allocated to small groups.

Hosted by locals from Brussels in their own home or workspace, these groups give their opinion on questions relating to their work, but through their host also get an opportunity to taste a bit of Brussels. A reflection/action workshop.
[See map **>>**]


WWW.JES.BE JES
WWW.IMAL.ORG iMAL
WWW.OKNO.BE OKNO
AU QUAI
WWW.POSECO.BE POSECO
RANSFIESTA/LIEVEN SOETE
WWW.BRUXEL.ORG/RANSFIESTA
WWW.CONSTANTVZW.ORG CONSTANT
WWW.ALTER.BE AGENCE ALTER
LES ATELIERS CLAUS
WWW.LESATELIERSCLAUS.BE
GERBEN VAN DEN ABBEELE
W 218 CH. DE WAVRE
F FLAGEY

WORKSHOP HOSTS / BRUSSELS

KOEN DAEMS
NADINE WWW.NADINE.BE
BRUSK WWW.BRUSK.BE
MICROMARCHÉ WWW.MICROMARCHE.BE
TARMAK-CYCLO WWW.RECYCLO.ORG

EMMANUELLE DEBACKER
BIJ ONS/CHEZ NOUS HTTP://USERS.SKYNET.BE/CHEZNOUS.BIJONS
SOPHIE HOLEMANS
GLOBE AROMA WWW.GLOBEAROME.BE
RECYCLART WWW.RECYCLART.BE
IAN DYCKMANS
LE DÉBUT DES HARICOTS WWW.HARICOTS.ORG
MAXIMALISME/OGNEV VLAMINCK WWW.MAXIMALISME.BE

GRISTINA BRASCHI HTTP://ESPACE-APPROPRIE.BLOGSPOT.COM
BOUILLON MALIBRAN
FREDERIK SERROEN
V+ ARCHITECTS WWW.VPLUS.ORG
BAINS CONNECTIVE WWW.BAINS.BE

20/11/2010

PARTIE 2: POOLING OF THOUGHTS

218 CH. DE WAVRE / 1050 BXL / 19:00-23:00

After their workshops, all participants gather on the Chaussee de Wavre to meet opinion-leaders, policy-makers and others of power or influence, among whom yourself. An evening of cross-fertilising, exchange and forging of different alliances.

>>

>> HARICOTS

The Brussels urban gardeners collective “Le Début des Haricots” starts cooking. “Beans for peace” is their way to share culinary (vegan) pleasures with all those who can enjoy vegetables that are in season. Food for thought, food with a passion.

>> DJ

Discussions, (dis)agreements and drinks are accompanied by DJ Mr James First / Mr Jack Ricosac and his Eclectic Lounge of solid oldskoolvinyl.

POOLING OF THOUGHTS

20/11/2010

21/11/2010

Closing day of the Urban Platform! This is where we pass on to action. We invite everybody with an idea, a plan, a project or an opinion to share it, state it, or apply it to the European Neighbourhood.

A last-minute update breaking news programme will be made available in your conference pack, on the website and in the Chausse de Wavre 218 in the course of the 3 days.

>>

BAZAAR

"The Cathedral and the Bazaar" (1996) is an essay by Open Software guru Eric Raymond. In it, he states that computer software used to develop like cathedrals were built – by a professional expert like the master builder – but that in the future they will emerge like a Bazaar, where different approaches exist next to one another and reinforce each other.

In analogy with this vision, we close the urban platform with a bazaar. Local-international collaboration and building upon each other's projects does not happen according to a pre-designed plan of experts and professionals. The organic, the openness and the diversity make up its richness.

Between 10 am and 10 pm foreign and Brussels initiatives gather in a big, hands-on Bazaar of proposals, opinions and activities. Everybody is welcome to share an idea, a plan, project or opinion, to test or to apply it to the European neighbourhood. Single restriction : bring your own network, make even more connections in the course of the day and bring the "movement of and for people from different cities" already into practice.

5. PROCESS

Although the process was formally kicked off in KVS, Brussels on 29 January 2010, most of those involved had been collaborating before. City Mine(d) was able to concentrate similar initiatives in Barcelona – with annual “jornadas” and the network Krax- and in Brussels and London – with Micronomics and the Wafflebank. They shared concerns about the way local issues can be addressed in a globalised world, with a focus on creativity, basic democracy, self-initiative and inclusion.

With the aim of creating momentum that could involve a wide variety of groups from all over Europe, a five step process was envisaged.

>>

>> #1: WORKSHOP IN BRUSSELS with participants from 13 countries, followed by a public launch of the process for an audience of about 200 people.

>> #2: A SHORT FILM IN LONDON, documenting the work of 3 local initiatives and their role in London's current economic climate.

>> #3: THREE WEEK-ENDS OF MICRONOMICS IN BRUSSELS, starting at the MicroMarche, Molenbeek and place Flagey, and culminating in a campaigning day that inspired people to action for public space in Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Göteborg, Istanbul, London, Los Angeles, New York, Sofia and Vienna.

>> #4: A MEETING IN METELKOVA, Lubjlana coincided with the 17th anniversary of occupation of the former military compound.

>> THE URBAN PLATFORM is the final step in this process. For the first time it allows those already involved to invite their own network to a meeting, making it the largest gathering of small initiatives in a long time. It aims to build lasting connections and formulate collective ambitions, and looks for answers to this nagging question "What can small initiatives doin relation to big challenges."

6. COLLECTIVE AMBITIONS

ONLINE PLATFORM

We believe that a truly democratic, non-hierarchical collaboration with many partners over long distance requires a good communication infrastructure. Those involved need to be able to show what they are doing, and when and where they are doing it, and be able to contact those who are doing similar things.

In April 2010 City Mine(d) asked 1,241 people on 6 continents how they communicate online. Although 3/4 of them use Skype, and half of them are on Facebook, it turned out that 95% of them prefer to communicate via email.

With this, and other lessons learned from the survey, we sat down with Barcelona-based group Trànsit to build an online community, a platform for people who do things in their city and want to communicate this online.

You will be able to subscribe to this Online Platform on 21 November 2010 during the Bazaar.

Meanwhile http://wikimined.citymined.org is already online. Our own wikipedia is a collection of definitions by individuals and groups who do things in the city. Writing definitions of concepts and actors in the city is a way of giving them a place, or depriving them of space. Defining is a privilege and can become a very powerful position. We believe that it is an act of emancipation and of reclaiming space to be able to write your own definitions. That is why we launched Wikimined.

RESOLUTION

A "resolution" can be: a **STATEMENT** that is being debated; the **COMMITMENT** to a project, or a written **CONCLUSION** by a group of people. For the international collaboration we started in the beginning of 2010, it is all three.

On the eve of the Urban Platform, the **STATEMENT** that we continue to debate is: what can small initiatives do in the face of the large challenges we are confronted with. What does a meeting of a travelling community mean in relation to larger migration; what does a bicycle project do for the traffic jam we are stuck in; how does an open source software project

address the issue of unequal access to information and knowledge.

At the start of the 3 day meeting, those who started the collaboration are convinced that international connections help them in their local struggles. It gives them a sense of shared ambitions, ideas on how and why to intervene,or respect from those who hold power. Therefore, they are all **COMMITTED** to continue this collaboration. They resolve to express their shared ambitions, and put in place tools to make communication easier, like an Online Platform.

Throughout the past year-long process, recurrent themes and concerns have emerged. They have to do with living in an urbanised world, finding alternatives to an exploiting economic system, or involving experienced know-how in decisions that shape all our lives; to name but a few. **CONCLUSIONS** are currently being drawn, and will be discussed during the Urban Platform. At some point we would like to summarise these conclusion in a document. we like to refer to as a charter, and of for which you can find some sketches on the next page.

CHARTER

~~MANIFESTO~~

I. THIS IS US → make clear who we are so others can join

FROM THE BOTTOM UP

SMALL INITIATIVES

LOCAL
SOCIAL
URBAN
POSITIVE
NON-HIERARCHICAL
SELF-INITIATED
SPONTANEOUS

EG: NEIGHBOURHOOD, CYCLING, SKATERS, TRAVELING COMMUNITIES, URBAN GARDENING DIY, LOCAL ECONOMY, ...

II. GOALS WE SHARE

SHARE WHAT IS AVAILABLE

- **SOLIDARITY** → MORE EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH
  - WE ALL MAKE THE ECONOMY, STUPID!
  - ↳ MICRONOMICS : STRATEGIES TO INCREASE WEALTH, HEALTH OR HAPPINESS
  - ACCESS TO CARE
    HOUSING
    FOOD
- **DEMOCRACY** → PARTICIPATION
  - HAVE A VOICE IN THE DECISIONS THAT IMPACT ON YOU
  - BE AROUND THE TABLE, NOT ON THE MENU
  - → MANAGE COMMONS LIKE AIR, WATER, SPACE
    ↳ KRAX
- **ENVIRONMENT**
  - RECYCLE RE-USE
  - → ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE & OIL PEAK
  - USE NATURAL RESOURCES MORE RESPONSIBLY SUSTAINABLY

III. KEEP IT UP-TO-DATE

DO-IT-YOURSELF
GROW IT YOURSELF

HOW DO I JOIN?

IS IT PUBLISHED?

HOW DO I ADD GOALS
CHANGE

WHERE?

DO WE NEED A LOGO

7. SUPPORT

>>

<< *"The true value of a human being can be found in the degree to which he has attained liberation from the self." This expression by Albert Einstein fits volunteers like a glove. Cohesion allows people to defend their own interests, and the interest of others, and thereby the common good.*

The voluntary sector directs society towards a more caring society. As it happens, many small initiatives together change the course of society.

Volunteers realise something fundamental, namely solidarity. They also carry out something very fundamental, namely meaning. Caring for each other adds meaning to our lives. As such, the countless associations, groups, clubs and NGOs make up valuable social capital.

Solidarity makes up a social dynamic. The independent self-organisation can transform sympathy into solidarity. The third sector concentrates our good intentions into social force and change. Government has to support and value voluntary work, because it promotes social cohesion, it increases democracy and it is a laboratory for new initiatives.

For those reasons it very much want to support those people who take up responsibility. >>

STEVEN VANACKERE, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affaires and Institional Reform

<< In my policy I always strive for a judicious approach built upon research and supported by civil society. Making policy is not a solitary occupation, and even less something that is done from behind a computer on the top level of an office tower. Good governance has always been one of my guiding principles, which for me also includes strengthening organisations that actually deliver.

But good policy has to be tested and challenged. My experience here is that grass roots organisations practising urban archi-puncture have an important role to play here.

Particulary in an urban context I support organisations like City Mine(d) and projects like this one. Because I believe that new urban actors have the flexibility and autonomy it takes to deal with the diversity of challenges of the contemporary metropolis. As such, they lead the way for institutions to adapt to today's reality.

In addition to that, you show that internationalisation and globalisation requires local actors to adapt as well. In that also, you point in the direction we all gradually will have to take. >>

PASCAL SMET, Flemish minister responsible for Brussels

THIS URBAN PLATFORM WOULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT ...

Thibaut Delestré, Walter Vanden Bossche, Eva Wilsens, Hans De Man, Anne-Sophie Van Neste, Barbara Van Dijck, Tim Cassiers, Stijn Oosterlynck, Pascal Debruyne, Edgar Szoc, Ludo Moyersoen, Frederik Serroen, Joost Vandenbroele, Linda Boudry, Mark Trullemans, Paul Blondeel, Eric Corijn, Thomas Laureyssen, Carolien Zandbergen, Cristina Braschi, Gerben Van Den Abbeele, Sophie Hollemans, Ian Dyckmans, Dominique Nalpas, Ognev Vlamink, Lieven Soete, Koen Daems, Emmanuelle Debacker, Christelle Brull, Aurelia Van Gucht, Aline Rigaux, Peter Heyndrickx, Toos Vanliere, Axel Claes, Eric De Jonghe, Annemie Maes, Kenny Louveaux, Sophie Bassi, Ann Segers, Yasmine Dumoulin, Diane Nelis, Bert Segers, Hilde Meeus, Veronique Simonnet, Wim Vandenberghe, Daniela Coimbra, Rashmi Thapa, Nathalie Leysen, Nathalie Mathieu, Joy Priska, Clément Aubey, Etelka Radoia, Kristel Niisuke, Kirsten Moller, Anna-Karin Johansson, Ben De Melker, Perrine Boissier

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

Le Début des Haricots, Restaurant Social de Molenbeek Les Uns les Autres, Maison de Quartier Molenbeekois « Libérateurs », animatorenopleiding JES, Groupe d'Animation du Quartier Européen (GAQ), Association de Quartier Léopold (AQL), Bral, IEB, Bouillon Malibran, Collectif Artivistes, REAL-Trajectories Sint-Lucas, Import.Export Architecten, iMal, In De Keuken, Radio Campus, Get Basic, Agence Alter, Jo Voets, 68/Septante, all workshop hosts.

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8. CONTACTS

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DEBATE
19/11/2010

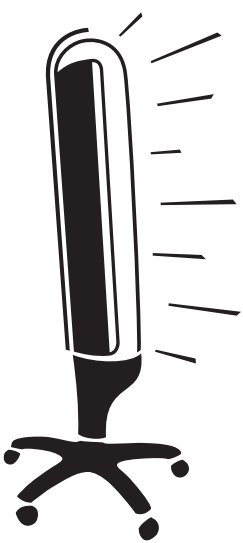
FRIDAY / 19:00 / FLAGEY

19:30: 3 speakers will give their opinion on the issue of “small initiatives, big challenges”
22:00: reception & outcomes of local actions

WORKSHOPS
20/11/2010

SATURDAY / 19:00-23:00 / 218 CH. DE WAVRE

PART 1: closed workshops hosted by Brussels locals in their homes
PART 2: pooling of thoughts (public)



BAZAAR
21/11/2010

SUNDAY / 10:00-22:00 / 218 CH. DE WAVRE

We invite everybody with an idea, a plan, a project or an opinion to share it, state it, or apply it to the European Neighbourhood.