#3 2010

Month of May
Month of Micronomics

Intro p 2
29 January p 3
30 March p 4
1 May p 5
15 September p 8
19 November p 9
online community p 11
loyalty card p 15
Month of May Projects p 17
Contact p 34
Support p 35

You are reading booklet #3 (yes you are), with the same structure as #1, printed in January. It tells you about the MONTH OF MAY, MONTH OF MICRONOMICS and about City Mine(d)'s ambitious plans for 2010 in Brussels, London, Ljubljana, other cities and online; and it reports on what has been done until now.

URBAN BECAUSE OF THE CITY

Since 2006, Micronomics brings together initiatives stretching from urban gardening over bicycle projects and neighbourhood initiatives to DIY-ing and actions to support the rights of citizens of a different colour of skin, sexual orientation or social class. They share a spontaneous and informal character, have no employer or employees, and most of all they are urban not despite the city, but because of the city.

The Month of May, Month of Micronomics is also the third of five key moments that bring City Mine(d) and its international network from January in KVS, to November in Flagey, to raise awareness about the importance of urban micro-initiatives. Meanwhile, we have invited our partners in other cities to campaign for and on public space in their own city, all on the same day: 15 MAY.

TELL US WHAT YOU WANT TO DO

If it looks as though we printed this booklet on our office printer, well that's because we did. No glossy magazine for us, we want to be able to change things at the very last moment, while we print, and even after shipping the first load. Because we want your feedback: tell us what you think, tell us what you know and tell us what you want to do (differently).

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

29 Jan	30 Mar	1 May	15 Sep	19 Nov

Conclusions of the first key moment in our European Collaboration

The collaboration emerged around
the issue of small-scale urban initiatives,
and aims for:

- strengthening urban micro-initiatives
- using the network as a lever at the local level
- support urban micro-initiatives in their ambition to have an impact at the local level, while also influencing wider agenda's
- initiate a recognition of urban micro-initiatives at a European scale

To achieve this, City Mine(d) and its 13 partners will organise an Urban Platform on 19, 20 and 21 November in Flagey, Brussels. This will be an occasion to present 75 local initiatives from all over Europe, and to exchange and share practices and experience

On the evening of 29 January over 200 people gathered to listen to Nikolai Jeffs making a round up of the evening, and to professor Erik Swyngedouw talk about "Whose right to the city?"
It provided a good opportunity to take action with the Foire aux Savoir-Faire , the opening of the Waffle Bank 'Venture Capital' (Fou de Coudre) and a presentation of dry toilets by Patrick Wouters. But most of all it was the occasion to inspire actions throughout Europe with the work done in the worksession.

29 Jan	30 Mar	1 May	15 Sep	19 Nov

Filming and networking micro-initiatives in London

Since early spring City Mine(d) London together with independent tv production company spectacle are making a short film about micro-initiatives in London. Until now they have spoken to the people of Bicycology - a cyclists' collective that offers a range of activities to promote cycling and makes the links with wider issues of environmental and social responsibility - and Refugee Youth - a community of young people from around the world, a network of youth groups working together across London, and a family full of Food, Fun and Friendship!

To back up their story, they are also talking to people who dedicate their lives to thinking, deciding, explaining or governing, for which they have already interviewed Columbia University Prof. Saskia Sassen, renowned for her analysis of cities, globalisation and migration. To be continued.

Useful links:

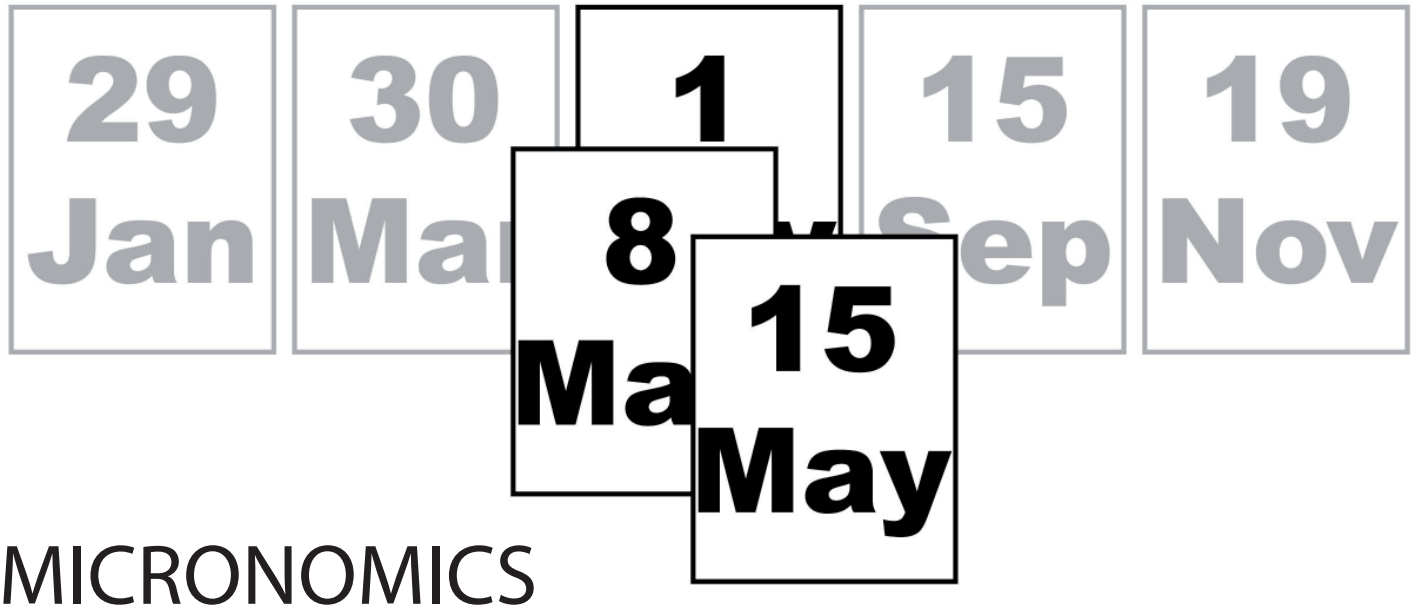
http://www.bicycology.org.uk

http://www.refugeeyouth.org

http://www.spectacle.co.uk

and interviews on

http://www.spectacle.co.uk/archive_category_filter.php?id=18



MICRONOMICS

1 MAY

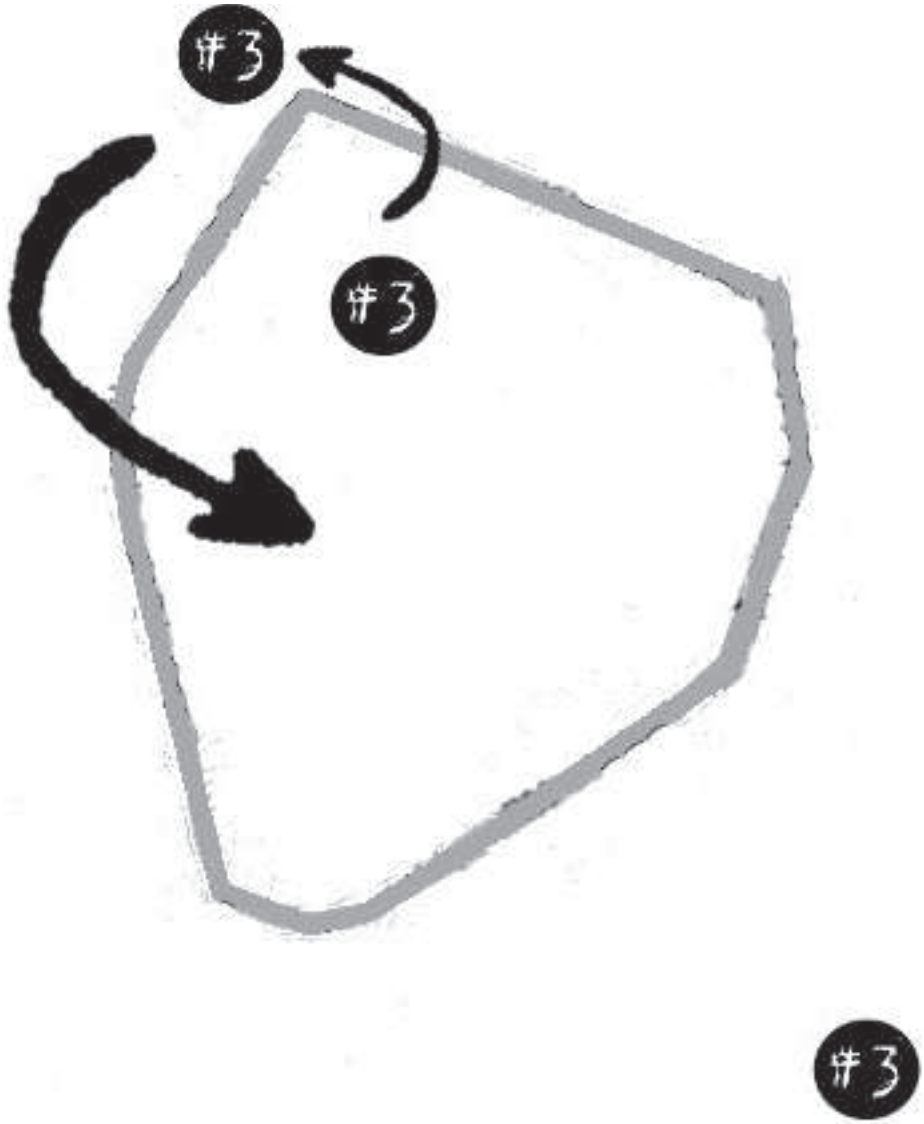
With a first halt at MicroMarché (Cooperative Creators Market), having it's very own public space now in the heart of Brussels, we go back to where it all has begun for Micronomics. In "do-it-yourself"-market form, we join Bains Connective (Artistic Lab) and the Thematics 'Do it yourself' and the MicroMarchands and their festive MayDay market, from 11a.m. to 11p.m.

8 MAY

Micronomics goes west to the popular neighbourhood Molenbeek, where we link up with local activities, the social restaurant « Les uns et les autres » and Zinnekes and Molenbeekois. (cut out your loyalty card at p. 15)

15 MAY

May 15th brings us to the south-east symbolic place of Flagey, heart of Ixelles' cultural life, but also at the centre of infinite discussions about what a public space should be.



MICRO NOMICS

Have you ever imagined using your cities' streets, squares or parks to make, do, learn, teach, share or show things? Or to work on things like how to use left-over spaces to grow food, get rid of the waste we create by making and eating food, or just just talk about ways to prepare a good meal? When was the last time you had a picnic in your city?

Micronomics tries all these things and more. On the first 3 Saturdays of May 2010, we bring together a wide variety of initiatives that use urban spaces as places of expression, experiment and debate. They stretch from urban gardening over bicycle projects and neighbourhood initiatives to DIY-ing and actions to support the rights of citizens of a different colour of skin, sexual orientation or social class. What they have in common is their spontaneous and informal character, their non-hierarchical structure, and the fact

URBAN GARDENING
BICYCLE PROJECTS
NEIGHBOURHOOD INITIATIVES
DIY-ing

Our caravan contains dry toilets, mobile gardens, machines to make soup and sauce, biogas digesters and all those who feel like joining in ; and we will halt at 3 symbolic places in the city (see next pages).

Micronomics is convinced that an urban public space is something to be used, and that is exactly what we will do. And we won't be the only ones: on the final day of this Month of Micronomics, our actions will be joined by similar initiatives about public space in London, Paris, Berlin, Gothenburg and Istanbul, to make this the international Campaiging Day for public space.

Feel like joining, contact City Mine(d) on: info@citymined.org

location:
Ljubljana, Slovenia

agenda:
Preparation for November Forum

with
- KUD Mreza and other groups from Slovenia
- 13 international partner-initiatives.

The meeting will take place at the Autonomous Cultural Centre Metelkova during the week that hosts the annual celebrations of the squatting of the centre in 1993. Apart from further defining various contents and strategies that we have in common, and that could be developed into a possible platform, we will also concern ourselves with finding ways by which local initiatives while, for instance, remaining quite specific and particular, can nonetheless still benefit from international dialogue and leverage. The context of the meeting should also allow for many informal, yet still productive, contacts and exchanges with diverse individuals and groups either working within Metelkova or outside it. At the same time, preparations for the November Forum in 2010 will also include at least some provisional explorations into the possibilities of our activities and development in 2011.

29 Jan	30 Mar	1 May	15 Sep	**19 Nov**

Urban Platform Flagey 19 - 20 Nov

On the Urban Platform, individuals and organisations from 13 cities, from Gothenburg to Istanbul and from London to Sarajevo, present activities by which they shape their cities. It is an occasion for meeting among local and international initiators, with the wider public, elected politicians, civil servants, urban planners, researchers and entrepreneurs to exchange knowledge and experience, and to strengthen local initiatives by showing international affinities.

The streets, squares and parks we share with the people we don't know, make up the beating heart of our cities. There is a wealth of initiatives that uses urban public spaces as places of expression, experiment and interrogation. They are cultural, social, economic or political projects stretching from urban gardening over bicycle projects, neighbourhood initiatives to exchange systems and actions to support the rights of citizens of a different colour of skin, sexual orientation or social class.

Although these initiatives are often explicitly local, we can find them in almost every metropolis. The Urban Platform brings initiatives who normally act very locally to Brussels, to discover what they have in common, make even plans, but most importantly send a common European signal about the importance of public spaces in our cities.

Residents of Brussels, active citizens, thinkers and daredevils meet to find like-minded's during the Urban Platform, influence policy makers, convince researchers and make plans to improve their cities.

Collaboration leading to the Urban Platform

An important conclusion of #1, the January worksession and presentations, was: "this network should allow people and organisations normally excluded to take part in a European meeting and maybe even benefit from a European network." We now propose to push this reflection to its limits.

Would it be possible to create a European network that distinguishes itself from others by the fact that it is not self-referential but refers to local and public activities?

Would this mean that the aim of our meeting in November is to create forms of collaboration and solidarity between micro-initiatives, outside the already established European structures of which City Mine(d) and others are part?

The questions remain unanswered, but in the coming months we would like to work on them.

The collaboration for the coming months is structured around 4 parts:

1. Discourse
-what we would like to demonstrate / bring across ?

2. Actors
-what interest can participants have?

3. Horizon
-How to consolidate collaborations after November?

4. Practical
-Who comes to the Platform in Brussels?

Campaiging Day and Online Community are also tools to facilitate the collaboration.

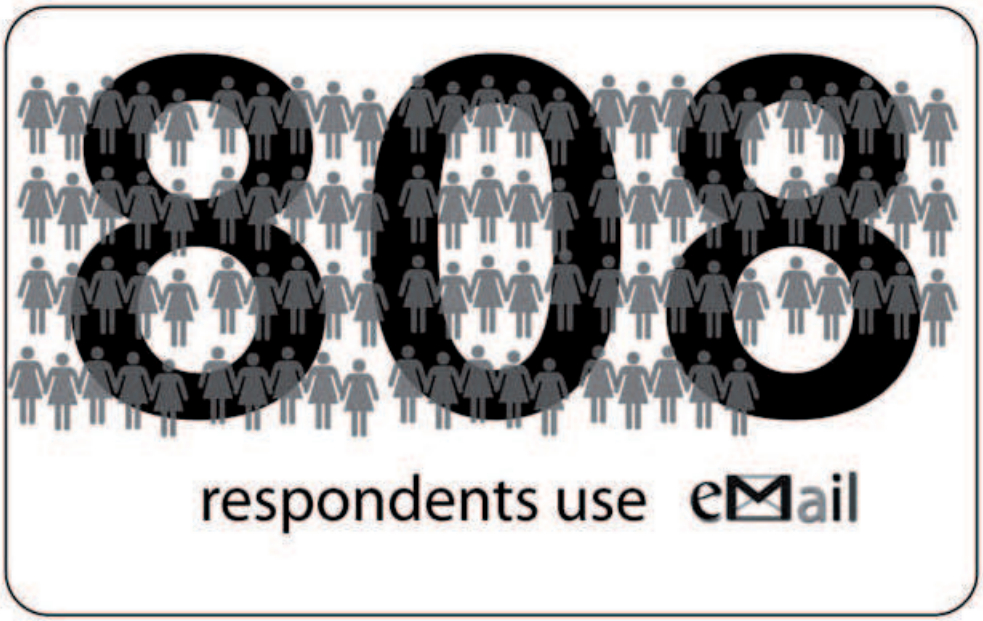
Online Community

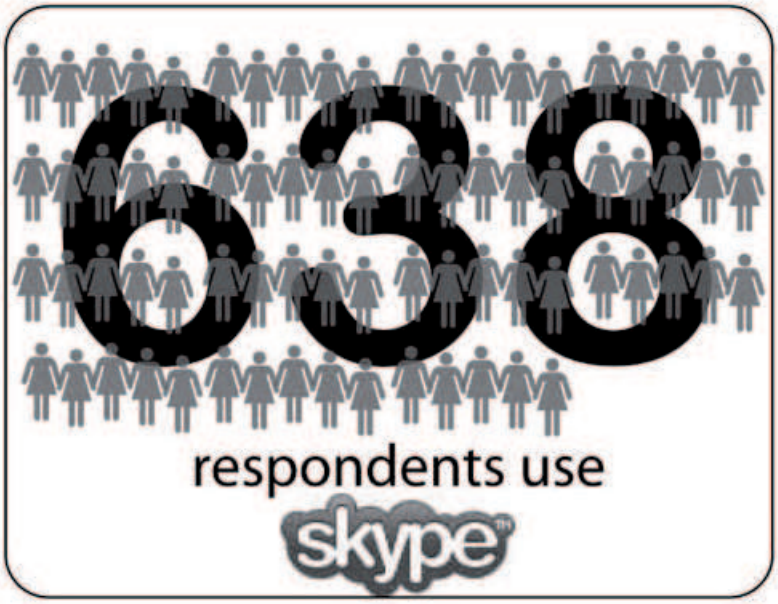
Between 6 and 20 April 2010, City Mine(d) investigated the online habits of its global network. Its online survey reached 1,241 people in 19 languages on 6 continents -if penguins would have fingers to click we would have covered all 7- , of whom 850 answered all 11 questions we put to them.

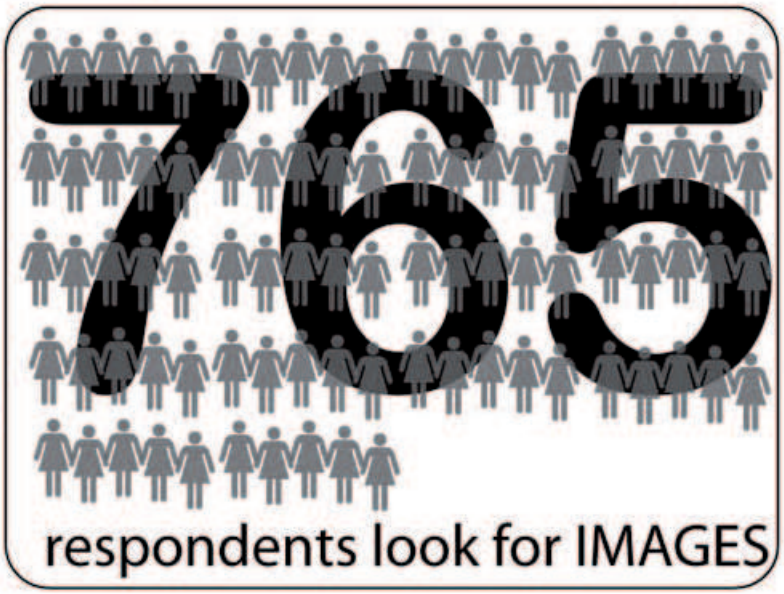
10 things we didn't know from our network:

° 95% use their EMAIL every day, half send more than 3 emails per day, 21% more than 9; 77% subscribe to email lists
° 75% use Skype, 2/3 of them to make cheap phonecalls or chat, 26% log on immediately when they switch on their computer, half of whom invisible. [Google talk or MSN messenger only reach 5%]
° 50% use Facebook, 19% log on immediatley when they switch on their computer
° 20% use Twitter, a third of them every day
° images are the most important source of information [91% look for them, 2/3d upload themselves], followed by video [75% look up, 1/3 upload], then audio [48% look up audio, ¼ uploads]
° 50% publish their activities in blogs and agenda's online, 2/3 of whom to attract an audience or visitors, 1/3 to spread the message
° the top 3 subjects in the network are Urban Art, Activism and Interventions
° 70% would like to receive more information, most of them on a monthly basis, ¾ via email, 2 in 5 via published articles, the same for images
° 2 in 3 would contribute themselves, preferably by email, then images, then published articles
°and the best news: 85% of respondents wants to be part of a network of people that respond to (a lack of) changes in urban

Report Online Survey







= 85 respondents = 1 %

850 respondents took the complete survey

So now what?

We will use this information to start making a cocktail of communication tools tailored to the needs of our network. It will allow them 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 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.

cut out your own LOYALTY CARD for 8 May

Soupe Machine

SoupO' graphe

Salsa du hasard

Topino

Les uns les autres

Toilettes sèches

Use-it

Klorofil

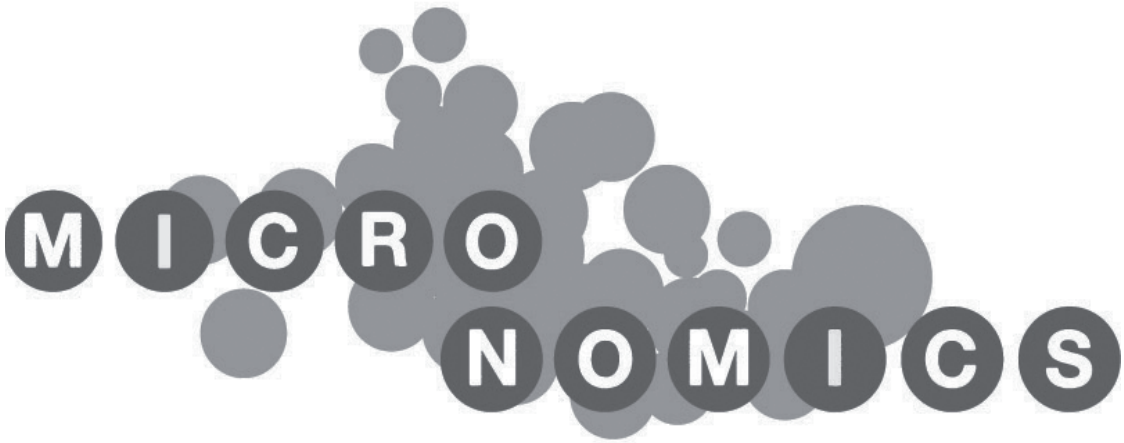
Miss vertigo

Doxa Scopie

Pavillon VHS

cut out your own LOYALTY CARD for 8 May

Put your Micronomics sticker here



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Month of May Projects

COMMUNITY GARDENS
Début des Haricots
1/05 • 14:00-16:00

Mapping of Brussels' community gardens

Where to find a community garden in Brussels? That is the question that gave rise to a project to map out and network community gardens. Workers' gardens, teaching gardens for schools, social integration gardens or collective gardens, Brussels knows a wide variety of community gardens. An increasing number of citizens is concerned about their links with nature and the origin of their food. However, an increasing amount of arable land is threatened by real estate development. This mapping project aims at raising awareness, to connect and mobilize users of community as well as those interested, in order to protect these last remaining spaces of food production in the city. Concretely, an open source interactive map of Brussels' urban gardeners will soon be available online.

SOUP MACHINE

01/05 •

08/05 •

15/05 •

Is it possible to turn a fresh vegetable into hot soup in less than 7 minutes? By mechanical device? Outside, on the pavement? It would at least make city spaces more fun, offering food and a technological feat, but at the same time it would also make people think about eating in the city: where to get a fresh carrot or a leek near the place where the soup machine stands; are vending charts only used provide un-healthy food like hot dogs or hamburgers; what makes a good soup?

A challenge City Mine(d) could not miss out on, so they promptly started working on the Soup Machine. Powered by muscles and a bit of propane gas, the Soup Machine, will be what the sun is to Barcelona's public spaces, or the beach to Miami. Only smaller. But also warm, enjoyable, and leisurely.

Come see the Soup Machine in the making, contribute your culinary, technological or social know how to make the machine actually work, or be a test taster on 1, 8 or 15 May.

GREFFONS
Doxa Scopie
http://doxa-scopie.blogspot.com
08/05 • 13:00 – 18:00
15/05 •

We never really realised it, but we are often everyday DIY-ers.
Doxa Scopie proposes for Micronomics its micro-initiative, ”le greffon” [transl: the cutting] .

Le greffon???
It is a modular element made of cardboard, plastic, wood, textile ... depending on what we find.
Le greffon is a useful growth, moveable at pleasure, depending on needs, available space and possibiliities.
Le greffon was created to make our presence in the city easier, more comfortable and more accessible and challenges the ways we use the structures (furniture, small posts, ...) we find in public space.
We will be present on two occasions to reveal different greffon-systems.
Along with other micro-initiatives it will create a festive space in Molenbeek.
At Flagey we will mainly ask questions: where do we settle? Where do we take root?
On this site the “greffons” redefine more intimate spaces, and present in sneak-preview a new creation: the “tout en kit”, from shelfdress to tututable via sandwishwaistcoat ... we promise you a pleasant promis-cuity.

SEEDBALLS & VERTICAL GARDENS
Klorofil, OKNO, FoAM
http://klorofil.be,
www.okno.be,
www.fo.am
1/05 • 11:00 – 13:00 • Seedballing
15/05 • Vertical Gardens

By promoting urban agriculture, Klorofil, in collaboration with OKNO and FoAM, wants to show that each citizen is capable of growing his or her own vegetables, herbs and fruits, hereby turning the city into a greener place, richer in oxygen.
Simultaneously with the development of a collective vegetable garden on the roof of the ancient Bellevue brewery, Klorofil spreads the green virus through seedballing, the construction of small vertical vegetable gardens, indoor gardening, etc.

Interested in joining the green army?
Send an email to: hans@klorofil.be

MISS VERTIGO

www.leblogdemissvertigo.blogspot.com

8/05 • 13:00 – 18:00

15/05 •

This is a bio package
This is a food package

Because everybody is entitled to a bit of flavour,
because not all of us have a garden or a plot of land,
Miss Vertigo demonstrates how to make little wonders out of 3 times nothing and
and a bit of pedal power.
Because sports keep you in shape!

VERTIGO: [qual. adj.] Opinions differ on its origin. Studies by renowned academics into the origin of the word vertigo, point towards the contraction « vert(e) » and « go ». « Go » for some refers to « going green», for other a diminutif of « goût » (taste).
But could Vertigo not just be the tasty mix of all that?
Eating Vertigo : treating yourself to something, re-discover taste through a more green, creative, surprising kitchen. The vertigo eater can be found in the most diverse shapes, classes and sizes.
Living Vertigo: be in balance with the environment while fully respecting oneself. Be responsible, all of us at our own measure.
Vertigo day: let us have a vertigo lunch and, inspired by the city of Ghent who encourages its residents to make their own lunch, start an exciting adventure here in Brussels.

MOBILE SALON
Cyclo
www.recyclo.org
1/05 • 11:00 – 18:00 • workshop
15/05 •

Wheelchairs

CyCLO has a large stock of second hand bicycle spare parts. Out of these, we assemble high quality second hand bikes. As a consequence of this quality, we cannot re-use every spare part. Besides, the most common repair – a flat tire – generates enormous quantities of inner tubes.
The wheelchairs on micronomics give another destination to bike frames and inner tubes, which yields a strong, comfortable and beautifully designed product.
Please be seated and relax!

PICYCLETTE
Cyclo
www.recyclo.org
01/05 •
15/05 •

You can find public toilets on every corner in Paris, Vienna, Amsterdam and in any other big European city. But not in Brussels. Citizens, shopkeepers and tourists keep complaining about the rather unpleasant smell of urine that hangsin the streets of the European capital. On the pressing demand of residents and action groups the city of Brussels installed 14 urinals and 3 public toilets accessible to ladies. CyCLO suggests a viable alternative for places without public toilets. The mobile picyclette can be easily transferred to another location by anyone who knows how to ride a bike.

SALSA DU HASARD
Ivana Serovic & Marie Storup
08/05 • 13:00 – 18:00
15/05 •

The Salsa* du Hasard recipe:

Make a bowl with a banana leaf
Spin the wheels one by one.
Chance will choose the ingredients,
you choose the doses.
Press play, time for a song,
make up your own sauce.

A small booklet is available to keep track of all discoveries,
do not hesitate to add your recipe!

The tasting table is filled in the course of the day
Salads and bread tempt you to taste all sauces.
Will this end in a large contest?
Who will win the “First Super Salsa Award”?

*salsa= Spanish for sauce

sOep'Ographe
Emanuelle Debacker
& Christelle Brulle
01/05 •
08/05 •
15/05 •

Gastronomic Public Writer

The art of "sOep'Ographie" consists of collecting culinary stories of all those who feel like sharing them.
At the same time it is about challinging these stories.
The "sOep'Ograph" plays the role of transmitter of culinary know how, in order to preserve, reveal and spread its secrets. At the same time a visit to the "sOep'Ograph" is also the occasion to stop and think for a minute about our dietary habits [production, transport, distribution, preparation, conservation, ...]. However, if disclosing a tiny confidentiality can challenge or lead to action ...

« Lend me your pen
to dream a soup»

SOLAR COOKING
Jan Pille
15/05

Solar Cooking workshop/demonstration
(depending upon the weather)

Cooking without stove or fire is possible and is currently being done quite successfully in different parts of the world. How? Just by concentrating sun-rays and using their heath in a clever way. The system is available in different types, some expensive and hard to put together, others easy to assemble and cheap as chips. During the 15 May workshop I will show passers-by how all this can be done in a cheap and easy way. I will use the 'Cookit'-model, already used by a Dutch NGO to reduce forest cutting in Africa. More information about the Cookit can be found on http://www.solarcooking.nl/. Other types and how to make them are on http://www.solarcooking.org/plans/.

BRUSSELS D.C.
3 man with a mission
01/05
08/05
15/05

Construction of Dry Toilets + Compost Questions and Mapping

Brussels District of Columbia/Europe or Brussels Dry Closet?! Brussels DeConstruct oR Brussels DeCompose?!

A somewhat self-assured Brussels is cleansing its black water in far away lands. While the dry alternative is not only an energy bomb, but also a magical fertiliser, useable on the spot. Good earth through turds and no little relief. And/or the other way round. Hang Brussels out to dry, healthy and on site. Of the required sites, 3 models will be mapped out. Mapping device is a wheel barrow, celebrated four by four of every outdoor person and on closer look spitting image of … a confor/m/table toilet. Lack of land leads to far too many of them rusting away on terrains subjected to rain. Roll out your wheel barrows, and push them through from one Brussels green pole to the next via the offensively public system of Brussel D.C.

To get an impression of what to expect on your plate, appetisers are served 25/04, 11am in and near Dé Boomgu/aard in Jette.

TOPINO
www.topino.be
01/05 • 11:00 – 16:00

Topino is an online platform for the direct exchange with the producer of fruit, vegetables and other local produce. The platform allows you to look for products as well as offering them.

Topino promotes the consumption of local produce by connecting customers directly to their nearest producer. Topino rests upon the pillars of sustainable development and proposes a ballanced approach of economy, environment and society.

VERMICOMPOSTAGE
Mawena Carteret
01/05
15/05

° 1 simple and too little known device to reduce waste!
° 1 way to produce compost without even having a garden.

With very few resources and space, it is possible to reduce your volume of rubbish by "composting" part of your food waste

the concept is easy:
1 or more wooden or plastic boxes (preferably recovered or recycled);
1 space to put them in your flat, house or dwelling (a closet, cellar, attic or part of the kitchen…) ;
some waste eating worms (who will take residence in the boxes)
After that, rather than throwing it in your waste bag, you put peels of fruit and vegetables, teabags and coffee ground in the worm boxes.
The worms will digest and re-digest the waste, reducing its volume by up to 80%.
Other advantage is that the "vermicomposte" produces a liquid fertilizer and a useful compost for house or balcony plants.

VHS PAVILLION
Ognev Vlaminck – Les Tisseurs Urbains
www.t-u-s.be
1/05 • en continu
8/05 • en continu

These times of constant evolution, linked with mass-consumption, produce an unexpected surplus of recyclable objects. The VHS-cassette is only one of them. The materials it consists of can not be melted again and contains different materials that make recycling very expensive. Therefore we can only get rid of them by burning or dumping in a landfil. By developing an alternative use of the cassettes, we can save the environment from a serious amount of waste. Shape, size and colour are remarkably similar to that of a slate tile. Starting from that position the roofing of this pavilion consists entirely of VHS-cassettes

SHOPPING LISTS
Esteban Miraflores
1/05 • 11:00-14:00

Collectors of cacti, stamps or electric trains ... what could be more banal; but you know the collectors of shopping lists abandoned in supermarket trolleys? Meet them on Micronomics' 1st of May at Micromarché « Do It Yourself » between 11am and 2pm. Compile together with him a shopping list and in return he will send you a cooking recipe or your horoscope (it all depends!). Shopping lists reveal a lot about you and your lifestyle. A project by the Argentinian photograper Esteban Miraflores.

FRIGOBOXSCOOTERS
aka cruizin coolers
www.groovygreen.be

A l'occasion de Micronomics, Groovy Green prête ses glacières-moto électriques. Ce moyen de transport ludique est le prédécesseur des véhicules "plug-in" que nous espérons retrouver bientôt en quantité sur nos routes... Le moyen de transport idéal pour les sorties estivales: cool drinks, cool driving.

CONTACT

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Met steun van de
Vlaamse overheid

the Brussels Capital Region

REGION DE BRUXELLES-CAPITALE
BRUSSELS HOOFDSTEDELIJK GEWEST

the Flemish Regional Government
in Brussels

VLAAMSE
GEMEENSCHAPSCOMMISSIE

VLAAMSE
GEMEENS
CHAPSCO
MMISSIE

the City of Brussels

VILLE DE BRUXELLES
STAD BRUSSEL