Small Initiatives, Big Challenges

For 5 years, City Mine(d) has been connecting 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 their use of their creativity to make daily life in cities more enjoyable.

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

The big challenges we are confronted with today, like the environment, solidarity or democracy, seem to limit us in our daily lives. 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.

In November, City Mine(d) gathers about 30 initiatives from 13 European cities, in an Urban Platform, to exchange and show their relation to these big challenges, present their approach and inspire people to action.

The Platform will take place over 3 days:
Friday 19 November: public debate in the Flagey building
Saturday 20 November: closed workshops hosted by locals in their home
Sunday 21 November: a Bazaar of initiatives, proposals, plans, opinions and activities

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. This ecological aspect and the availability to all of its light symbolise the work of those involved. The streetlight will be present in public space during the 3 days of the Urban Platform.

The connections we've made over the past 5 years will not evaporate after the Urban Platform. An Online Community will provide a place for initiatives and groups to show their work, and see that of other at the other end of the world. In addition to this tool, 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 network has the potential of becoming an urban movement.

http://urbanplatform.citymined.org