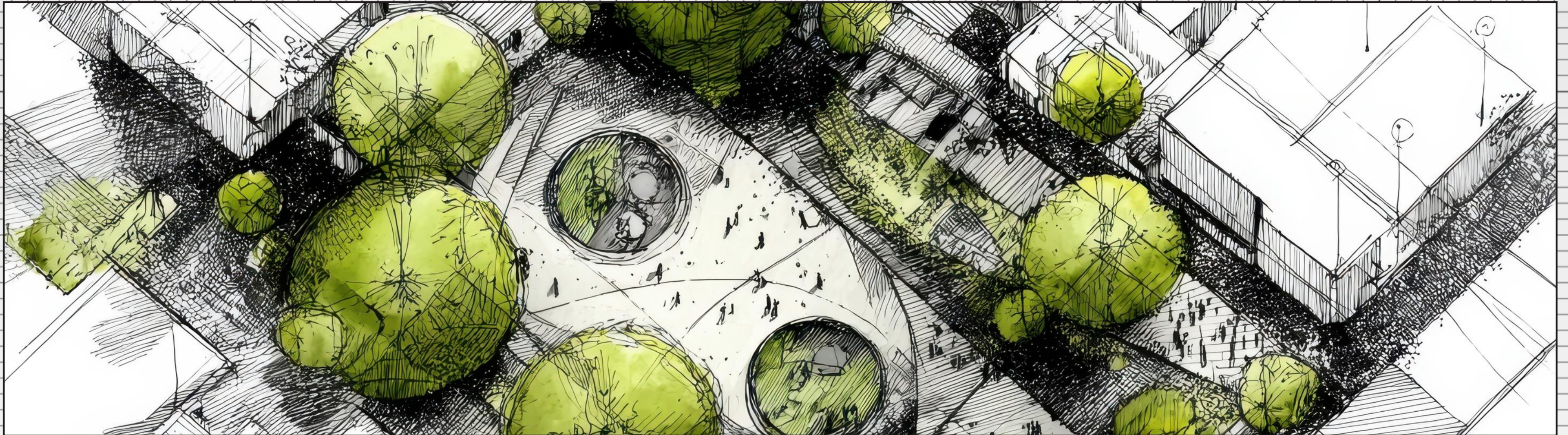


Petra Grgasović ERKON d.o.o.

Participation and Transformation: CITYWALK 2.0



Sustainable Urban Design | Citizen Participation | Smart Technologies | Transport Planning | Resilient Infrastructure



What is this presentation about?

How the transformation of public space can include:

- Citizen participation
- Strengthening political commitment
- Creating impact through small-scale interventions

Citywalk 2.0 project

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- Builds on the heritage of CityWalk (2016-19), awarded the RegioStars Public Choice Award
- Main goal is to promote energy transition by drastically reducing energy use of urban transport by shifting from car-based to active mobility and public transport
- 14 partners from 10 countries, 10 municipalities

Citywalk 2.0 key elements

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- (i) Redesigning streets to encourage active mobility and discourage car use
- (ii) Changing the travel behaviour of citizens
- (iii) Strengthening the political will and commitment to implement the transformation.

Citywalk 2.0: City of Karlovac

VISION

By 2030, Karlovac will, by prioritizing active travel modes such as walking and cycling, complemented by reliable and attractive public transport, aim to transform streets into inclusive, people-centred spaces.

Through innovative street redesign, promoting a culture of sustainable travel behaviour, and engaging decision-makers and politicians to support these, Karlovac will aim to reduce car dependency, thereby reducing the energy demand for urban transport and ensuring a healthier, more connected urban future for its citizens.

Key output 1: Local Action Plan

Improve urban streets by reallocating road space to pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport by 2030



SC 1

SC 2



Reduce car dependency by shifting travel behavior

SC 3



Increase the level of political commitment for sustainable mobility



Activities 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3



Activities 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3



Activities 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4

City of Karlovac:

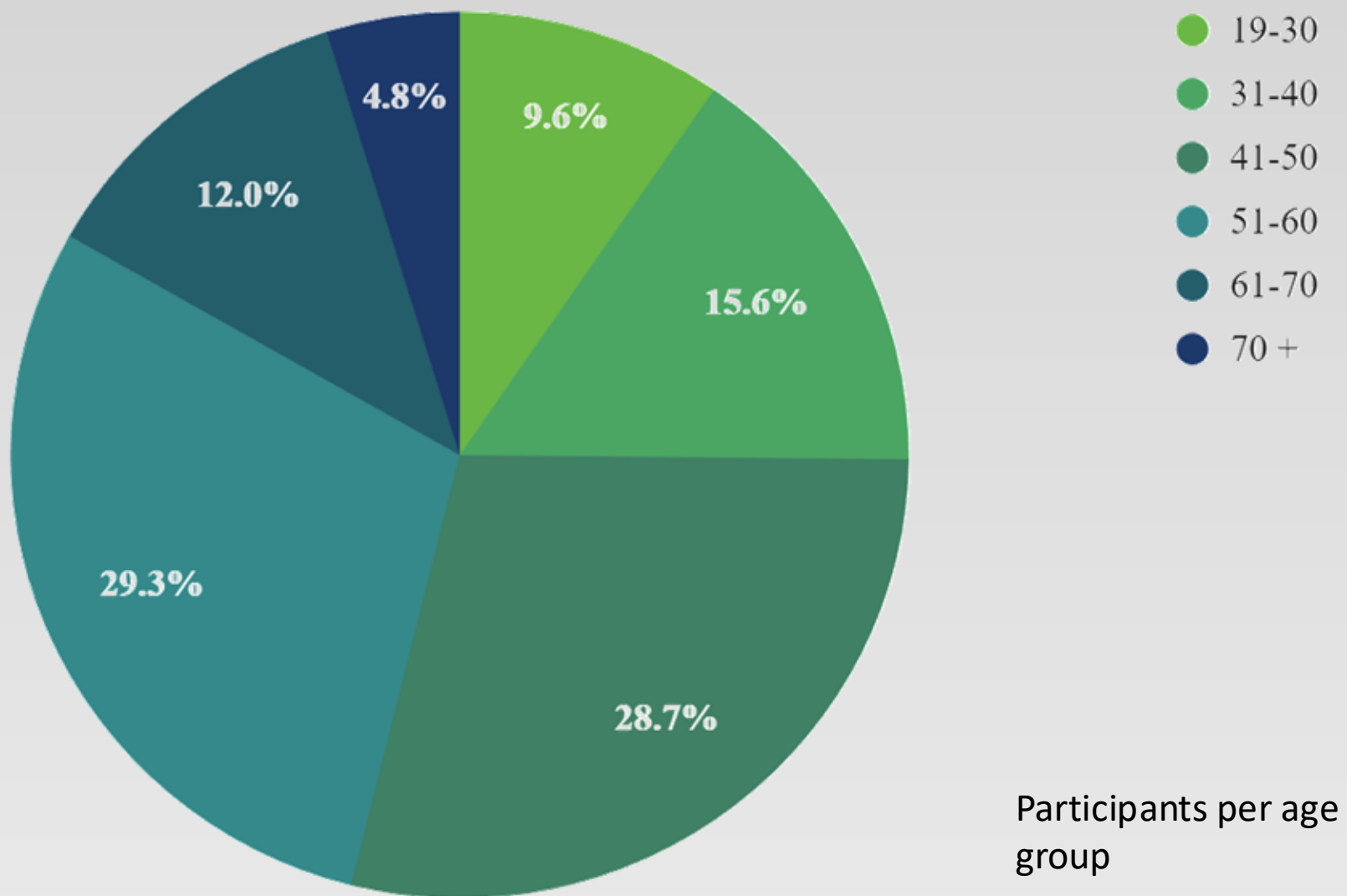
Mapping citizen behaviour & needs

Interreg
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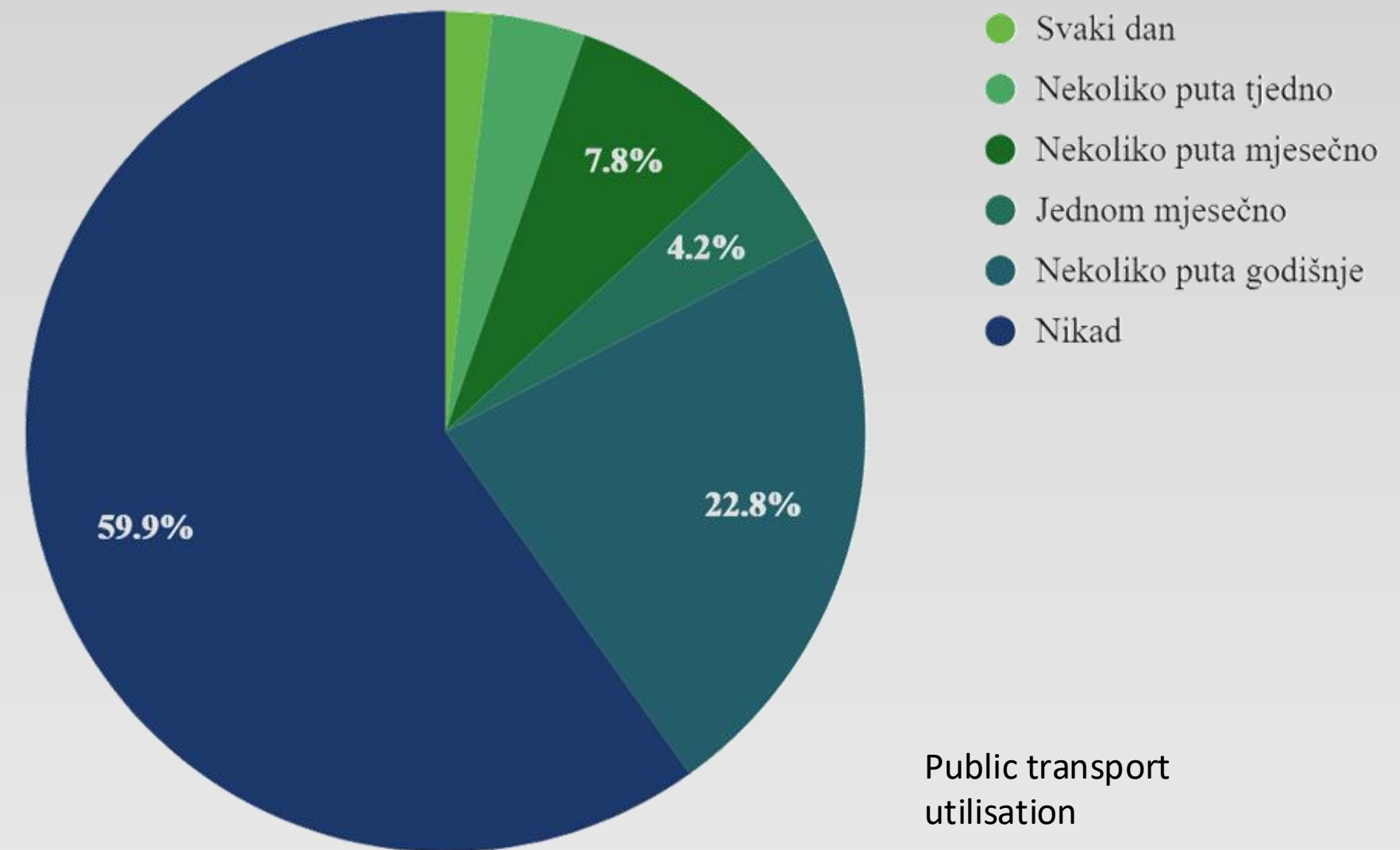


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Participants per age group



Public transport utilisation

Surveys

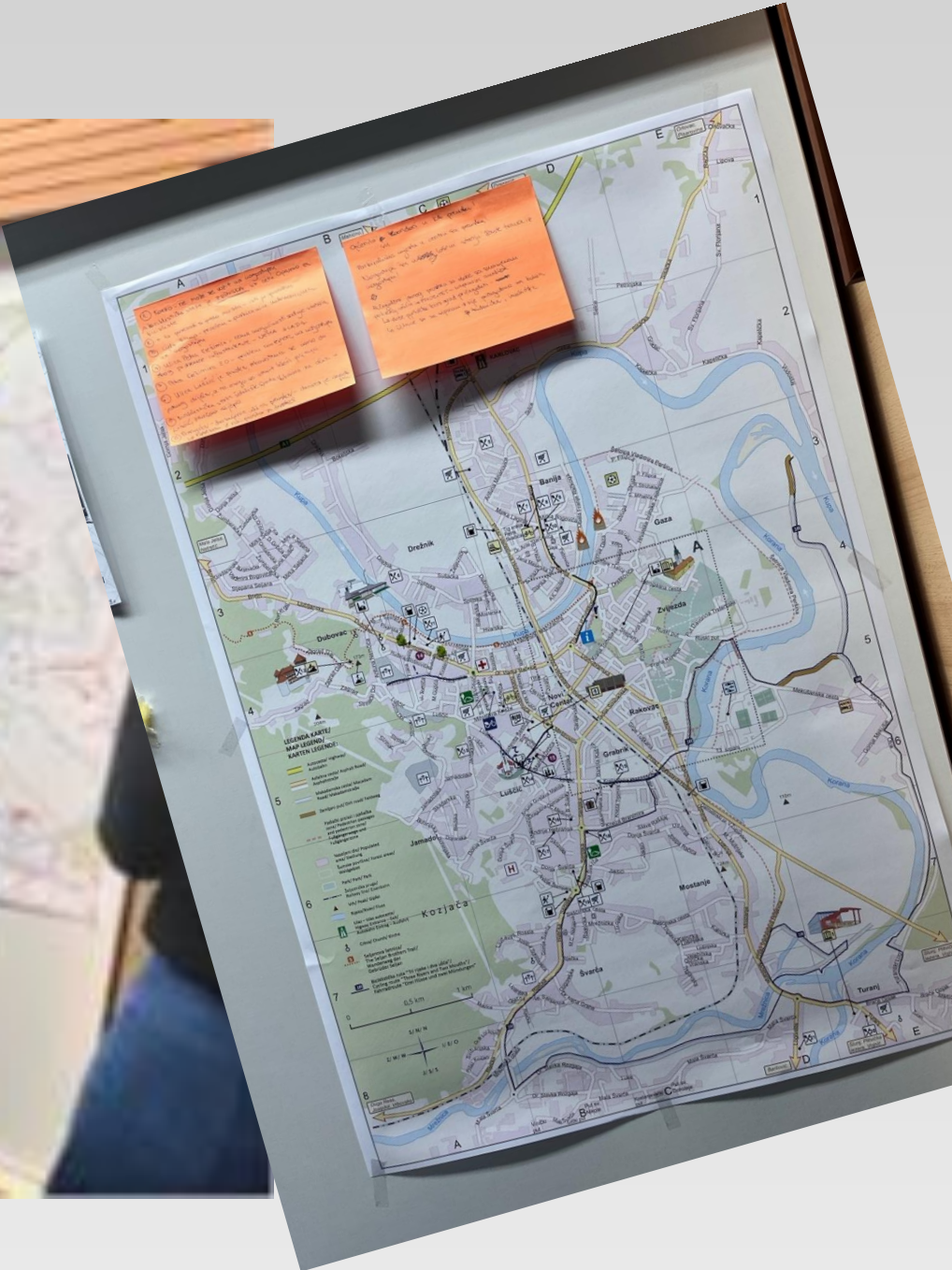
City of Karlovac: Mapping citizen needs

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Focus group: Persons with disabilities

City of Karlovac: Mapping citizen needs

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Focus group: Institutional and NGO representatives

City of Karlovac: Engaging the citizens

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Focus group: Secondary schools



City of Karlovac: Engaging the citizens

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Primary schools: Engagement of teachers,
students and parents



Strengthening political commitment

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Interviews with the decision makers

- Conducting structured interviews with the decision-makers contributes to a broader understanding of how decisions around urban mobility are made at the local level, the existing levels of motivation, the institutional and political structures in place, and the challenges or enabling factors that influence the transition toward cleaner, more energy-efficient transport modes.

Strengthening political commitment

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Study visit for the decision-makers

- Time: April 2026
- Place: Copenhagen (DE) and Malmö (SE)
- Purpose: learning from the best, exchanging with peers
- Target group: Mayors, Vice Mayors, Councilors...
(political level)





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Best practice from Malmö



Summer Sqaare: Before



Summer Sqaare: After

Best practice from Malmö: Summer in the Summer Square



Key learnings:

- Communication!
- Participation + creativity
- Testing, monitoring, iterating & improving
- Pilots are small but meaningful!

Success factors of public space and citizens' behaviour transformation

Impacting all three pillars at the same time:

- Street redesign
- Behaviour change
- Political commitment

Karlovac: Small-scale pilot



Trg hrvatskih branitelja: Redefinicija Karlovca kao “grada susreta”

<https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/citywalk-2-0>

How to plan a future city?

The future is uncertain, so our cities must be adaptable.

Planning for flexibility rather than fixed solutions allows cities to respond to changing environmental, social, and economic conditions.

This is only possible when we understand the people who live there—their needs, habits, and aspirations—because resilient cities are built around the communities they serve.

Thank you!



<https://erkon.hr/>

Designing creative approaches to improving space, mobility and behaviour.