Time2Adapt

Innovative Solution ID Card – T2A – Lille

EUI – INNOVATIVE ACTIONS

Time2Adapt

Fig. ¹: T²A infographic. Source: MUA

Full title of the IA project:
Time-based Innovative Measures &Experimentations to ADAPT our cities to climate change

*** MUA: Lille European Metropolis**

1. THE INNOVATIVE SOLUTION IN A NUTSHELL

- Implementing time-sensitive urban solutions and optimize resource management to enhance climate change adaptation in cities, with a focus on adjusting public space usage schedules to mitigate the effects of climate change.

- Transforming potential cool places, through cost-effective solutions, into cooler, multi-use spaces that are better adapted to heat waves, with strategies to intensify their use. It will allow, on the one hand, the metropolis to increase the supply of cool spaces, and on the other hand, those citizens in vulnerable situations related to climate change to have an easier access to these spaces.

- Utilizing art-driven participatory methods to improve accessibility and comfort for vulnerable groups, while renaturalizing urban environments.

- Applying urban design thinking and ensuring awareness, engagement and co-creation with local communities.

Fig.²: Pilot sites map. Source: Transfer Expert

Key Characteristics	Methods
Time2Adapt leverages temporal urbanism to adapt cities to climate change. It includes repurposing existing public spaces as "cool places," creating temporary installations to enhance urban cooling, and co-creating solutions with local communities to maximise the use of space over time.	The project holds two main methodological phases: (1) diagnosis, co-design with inhabitants and local stakeholders focussing on usage, test, evaluation and capitalisation; and (2) a wave of experimentations.

2. MUA'S VISION OF THE INNOVATIVE SOLUTION AND UNDERLYING MOTIVATION

By using time-based urbanism and co-creation practices, the T2A project optimizes existing infrastructure to reinvent cool places that are accessible to all, with special attention to those who are vulnerable. The MUA's vision is to foster resilient and inclusive urban development, reduce social inequalities, and help cities adapt to the climate crisis.

The desired change includes a more livable and versatile urban environment, achieved through a shift in resource management, co-creation with citizens and innovative, cost-effective methods.

Fig.³: OSV Online survey with all T²A partners. Source: Transfer expert

Local Challenges:	Local Needs:
Climate change impacts urban areas, especially during summer, stressing the fact that our cities need to be resilient to climate change. Rising temperatures make urban spaces uncomfortable particularly for populations in vulnerable situations including the elderly and low-income communities, urging local governments as MEL to implement more just and inclusive urban actions.	There is a need for Increased number of cool places on the MEL territory, digitally mapped, accessible and connected cool spaces especially in the most vulnerable areas, and an increased visibility of cool places.

Expected Impact:

The project aims to foster social inclusion by creating multifunctional, cooler and accessible outdoor and indoor public spaces during extreme weather events. It also intends to strengthen community involvement through co-creation processes and participatory urbanism. There is a strong focus on transferring knowledge between Time2Adapt and other cities.

3. POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AT THE MUA

Time2Adapt´s deployment enjoys strong political support from the Lille European Metropolis (MEL) leadership. High-level endorsement, following a direct request from the MEL vicepresident in charge of climate change, ensures that climate adaptation is a priority for the metropolitan area, beginning with Lille and Loos municipalities and aiming to replicate time-based solutions to other members of the functional area.

The MUA is definitely committed to climate change adaptation policies, and MEL's Time Office plays a pivotal role in the project's strategic vision, operating within the framework of the PCAET (Plan for Climate Adaptation and Energy Transition).

The Time office is a member of the networks Tempo territorial (FR), a French network for a time-based approach, and the Local and Regional Governments Time Network (EU), which is a useful source of inspiration and good practices, seeking to include the Time dimension in public policies and strengthen the resilience of local communities. T2A capitalises on those experiences from already experimented projects with schools open outside of teaching hours: e.g. Paris (UIA OASIS), Barcelona (UIA GBG_AS2C), Rotterdam (Green Blue Schoolyards), and Brussels (Opération Récréation).

MEL is member of several European networks such as Eurocities, ICLEI, AFCCRE, POLIS, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and has been or still is involved in 11 European projects, especially within Interreg programmes, which demonstrates its strong commitment to the EU Cohesion Policy, its urban dimension and other EU urban-related initiatives, which will help in embedding the Tme2Adapt project's outcomes into ongoing policy frameworks.

Fig.⁴ : OSV T²A presentation. Source : Transfer Expert

4. CONTEXT

MEL has the 2nd biggest population density in France and the 4th population by size, with 95 municipalities, and 1.2 M inhabitants. The area suffers a difficult economic condition, with 20% of MEL inhabitants under the poverty line and a 9.1% unemployment rate. The MEL also faces significant climate vulnerabilities, with a temperature increase of 2°C between 1955 and 2017, and forecasts anticipating increases of 1.5 to 2.7 °C by 2055.

It is crucial to find cost-effective solutions in a constrained public economic context, involving and engaging inhabitants through information and awareness campaigns and participatory approaches. The innovative solution pilot phase focuses on Lille and Loos municipalities, and has the aim to deepen experimentations to the rest of the metropolitan area.

The temporal approach allows for better resource management, more conscious urbanism, promoting better use of what already exists and intensifying how it is used to stop the current trend of inequality exacerbation. The New European Bauhaus values are implemented, promoting a co-development process to make the city more liveable, attractive, and socially just and to create fresh spaces and refuges for all.
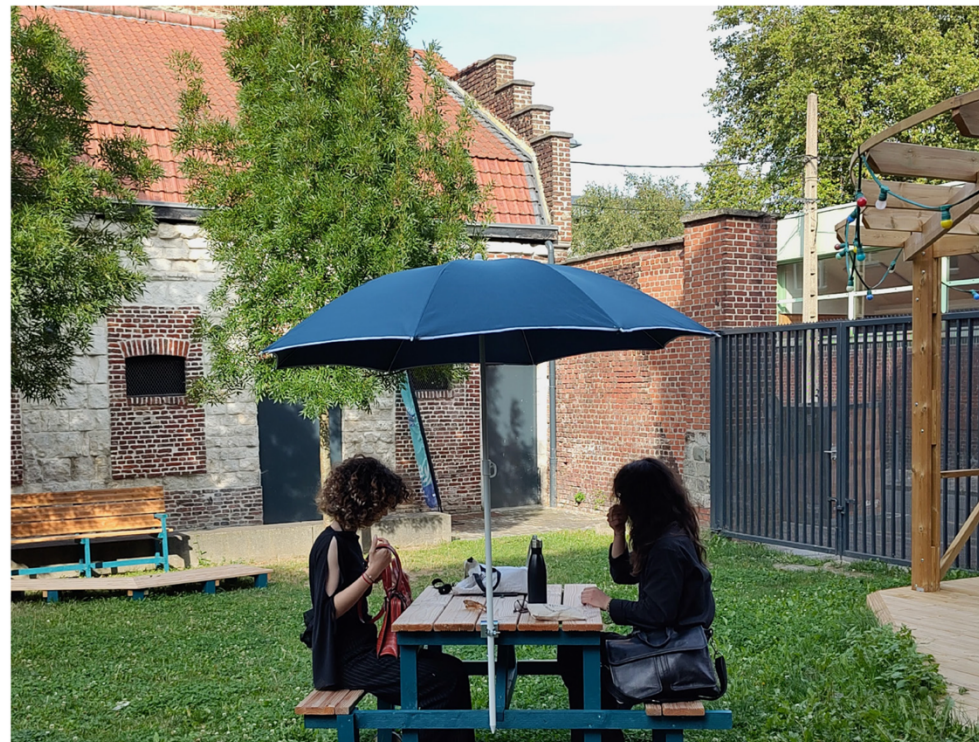
Fig. 5: Temporary installation in a cultural equipement garden, previously underused furniture created following co-design workshops with local residents, to encourage ownership of the space. Source: Transfer Expert.
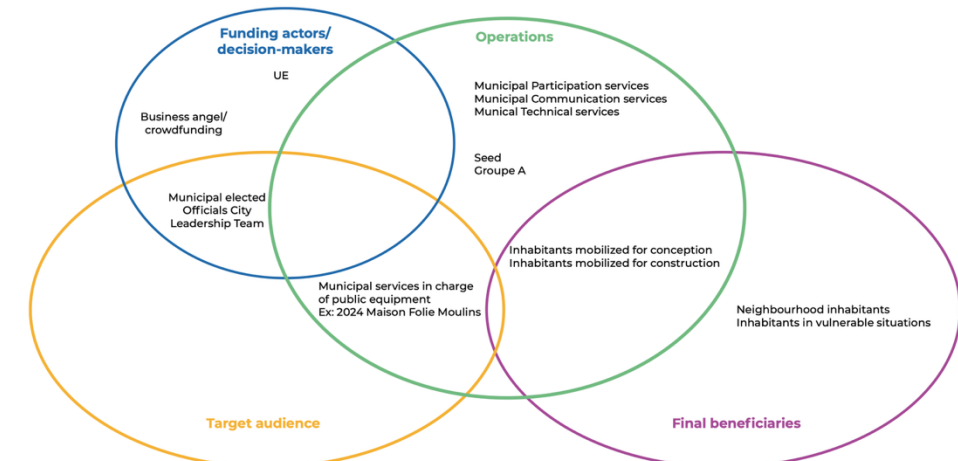
5. STAKEHOLDER ECOSYSTEMS

Time2Adapt involves a variety of stakeholders including government, civil society, and academia. Key stakeholders include local governments like the City of Lille and the City of Loos, expert urban agencies like CEREMA, organizations like SEED and Ecologie Urbaine et Citoyenne (EUC), which specialize in co-creation and participatory approaches, technical partners as ARACT specialized in human resources and working conditions, and artistic partners like Groupe A. MEL is the managing authority of the partnership.

Citizens will be engaged throughout the project timeline with local associations, cultural centres and artistic communities. Staff and unions will contribute to time use transformation, businesses will explore sponsorship options, and universities and students will analyze the urban environment and climate through various academic groups. Eurocites, CERDD, or ADEME are identified as potential actors for dissemination, while ADULM, ADEME have been identified for technical/advice support.

Participation and collaboration are integral to the solution, with all the partners contributing to the transformation of the way we build and use urban public spaces to protect ourselves from the heat.

Installation of temporary refreshing and aesthetic devices

Funding actors/ decision-makers
Operations
UE
Municipal Participation services
Municipal Communication services
Munical Technical services
Business angel/ crowdfunding
Seed
Groupe A
Municipal elected Officials City Leadership Team
Inhabitants mobilized for conception
Inhabitants mobilized for construction
Municipal services in charge of public equipment
Ex: 2024 Maison Folie Moulins
Neighbourhood inhabitants
Inhabitants in vulnerable situations
Target audience
Final beneficiaries

Optimization of opening hours

Funding actors/ decision-makers
Operations
UE
Municipal Communication services
Munical Technical services
DRH
Municipal elected Officials City Leadership Team
Municipal services in charge of public equipment
Agents
Inhabitants in vulnerable situations
Neighbourhood inhabitants
Residents of surrounding towns
Taking advantage of the new hours
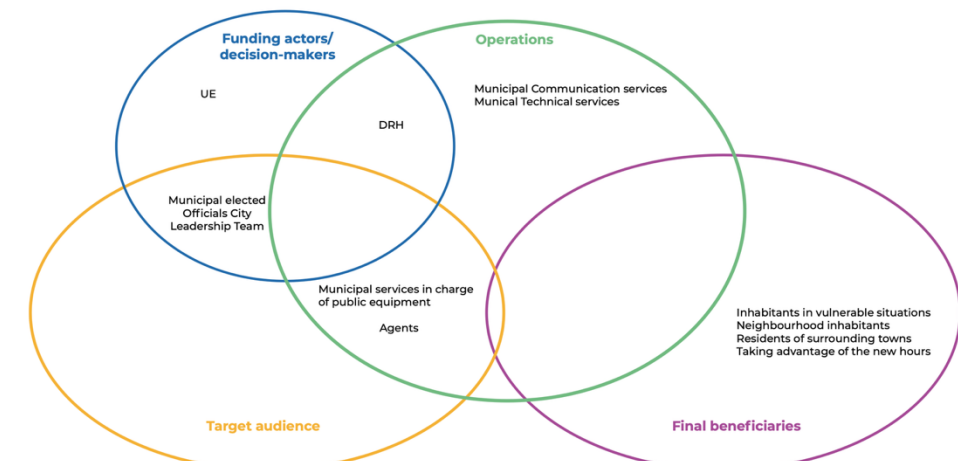Target audience
Final beneficiaries

Fig.6: Sociogram. Source: MUA + IA Expert

6. DIGITAL, GREEN AND JUST ASPECTS OF THE INNOVATIVE SOLUTION

Time2Adapt aligns with **green and just transitions** by promoting climate solutions beyond those nature-based *(e.g., temporary cooling installations)*, and time-based solutions *(e.g., public spaces schedule expansion with access to all)*, prioritizing the social inclusion *(with a particular focus on children, teenagers and the elderly)* while enhancing environmental resilient-based sustainability. The project emphasizes low-carbon and/or carbon-neutral interventions by repurposing existing spaces rather than building new ones; minimizing new constructions and limiting the use of new materials; and using local materials, when possible, from an eco-designed circular mindset, particularly for temporary installations. Inclusive lenses are applied to communication and awareness strategies and tactics proposing participatory and co-creative approaches with the local communities.

The **digital aspect** includes the development of a digital map, available online, that helps residents locate cool places, with specific participatory and collaborative functionalities designed as an open-source toolbox.

7. REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

The regulatory frameworks guiding the Time2Adapt project are rooted in the objectives of the EU Cohesion Policy 2021-2027, particularly in Specific Objective 5.1, which aims to foster integrated and inclusive development in urban areas. T2A embodies this objective through a collaborative approach that engages with a wide range of actors, from civil servants to artists alongside with community members, particularly those most vulnerable. It also contributes the Strategic Objective 2.7, which seeks to improve biodiversity, strengthen green infrastructure and reduce pollution in urban areas.

The integration of the New Leipzig Chapter principles further underscores T2A's commitment to improving urban liveability through a multi-level integrated governance structure that invites citizen participation and ensures diverse stakeholder engagement, going across municipal boundaries. Ultimately, T2A persuades the common good, creating a more inclusive and accessible city, addressing the needs of its most fragile communities.

8. MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE OF THE INNOVATIVE SOLUTION

Time2Adapt is managed by the Lille European Metropolis (MEL), applying a mixed governance model that combines leadership by the MUA and support by local authorities, such as Lille and Loos municipalities, and local partners (CEREMA, Groupe A, SEED, Ecologie Urbaine et Citoyenne (EUC), and ARACT. The governance model emphasizes co-creation and participatory approaches, involving local authorities, civil servants, citizens, artists, and eventually private sector actors (through the planned sponsorships model) in the decision-making processes.

It must be considered that the MEL has several competences, such as economic development, ecological transition and environment, water and sanitation, mobility and transports, housing, public space and roadways, and urbanism and city planning.

The main units involved in MEL, apart from the Time Office Unit in lead of the project, with a dedicated project manager and an administrative & financial manager are: The participation processes unit, the Support to EU projects department, the Public policy evaluation unit, and the Governance department. Other units also consulted or providing support to the project are: the Culture department, the Economic development department, the Sports department, the Innovative policy unit and the EU representation of the MEL in Brussels.

MEL will coordinate with its partner cities (Lille and Loos) to ensure the solutions are scalable and replicable across different urban contexts within the functional area. The city of Lille involves several divisions and directorates in the project management, such as the Division for culture and international relations, the cultural heritage Directorate, the visual arts and art in the public space Directorate, the Division for quality of life, mobility and estate, the Directorate for nature in the city, the Division for social affairs and education, the Deputy directorate general for education, and the Directorate for sports. The city of Loos relies on the General direction, with a project manager in charge of the project within the Urban renewal and sustainable development department, and the Citizenship and social life department, and the urban renewal and sustainable development department, from the technical services Direction, with operational monitoring and engineering support.

9. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

The Time2Adapt project is supported by the European Urban Initiative (EUI), which offers substantial funding of up to €5 million in ERDF co-financing. The project counts on its partners expertise and support, along with citizens participation and co-creation dynamics (please, refer to section 5), and with the administrative and financial management by MEL (please, refer to section 8).

The project requires resources for the physical transformation of the built environment on the pilot sites (it is important to mention that one of the main criteria to select pilot spaces is the potential for low-cost solutions for freshness). The resources needed include financial resources from both public and private sectors, and human resources such as urban planners, environmental scientists, community facilitators for participation and co-creation dynamics, or public space management (e.g., swimming pools, parks) experts.

The local land is owned by the public actors, which facilitates the design, development and implementation of the solutions ensuring their feasibility. Regarding the usability of the spaces and the expansion of the time usage, human resources experts and technicians (e.g. to explore options to contract staff for extended hours) take part on the project. Digital tools like online maps, and web platforms are being developed.

MEL has a history of managing large-scale projects, ensuring the availability of necessary resources. The project will explore new funding opportunities to support any additional costs arising during the evaluation phase. This may include grants, partnerships with local businesses, or collaboration with non-governmental organizations.

10. SUSTAINABILITY OF THE INNOVATIVE SOLUTION AT THE MUA

Sustainability plans for Time2Adapt focus on long-term financial and operational viability, with a set of methodologies of temporal solutions from MEL (toolbox) available to iteration from the partners through partners websites, even after the end of the project. MEL is committed to maintaining the toolbox ensuring long term access. MEL is also committed to maintain the digital map as an open source, and the artistic active design indicating the fresh places, as the Time office mission, ensuring consistency and coherence in the visual solution.

The municipalities where the artwork, furniture, and land transformations are implemented along with the extension of opening hours, will be responsible for their maintenance. Given the inherently low-cost nature of the solutions, the expected maintenance needs will be minimal. The replication and scalability of the solution in all the municipalities of the functional area is at the core of the proposal. To ensure sustainability after the project concludes, MEL will work on the organisational transformation in cities through civil servants and decision makers trainings on long-term management approaches; and pursue funding from cohesion policy sources, along with national and local public contributions, and possibly private investments. The MEL's previous experience with European projects provides confidence that effective financial mechanisms will be established to support ongoing maintenance.

11. RISKS

At the strategic level	At the project management level
Risks include potential changes in local political commitment and financial uncertainties. There are also challenges in managing multifunctional spaces and optimising opening hours, particularly on the swimming pools spaces *(e.g., finding staff willing to work on weekends might be a barrier)*. To mitigate this, on the one hand, MEL is carrying out intensive work with municipalities to get political support and on the other hand, solutions involve leveraging partnerships and engaging community members to help manage public spaces and time.	Risks include eventual delays in implementation of the already identified investments; potential barriers for citizens´ collaboration and cooperation, and the lack of availability of technical resources beyond the pilot phase, without forgetting the complexity of the metropolitan administration in linkage with all the municipalities members sharing the functional area. Mitigation measures include a well-structured project timeline, regular stakeholder communication for engagement, and flexibility in adapting the solutions based on feedback.

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TRANSFER EXPERT

Time2Adapt