



Center Rog: Adaptive Reuse and Participatory Revitalisation of a Historic Factory

📍 Slovenia
📍 COUNTRY

🏛️ City of Ljubljana
📍 URBAN AUTHORITY

💰 25,000,000 EUR
📍 FUNDING

🏛️ 100% City Government Investment
📍 FUNDING SOURCES

🔄 Ongoing
📍 STATUS

👤 Renata Zamida
renata.zamida@center-rog.si
📍 CONTACTS



📍 Revitalisation of a former bicycle factory into a public creative hub with nine production labs, studios, a library, and an edible park. The strategy combines heritage renewal, participatory governance, and accessible design, creating an open institution for makers, professionals, and residents.

📍 ABOUT 📍

📍 A long-term process transformed a derelict heritage factory into a creative hub guided by participatory development with more than 6,000 stakeholders over 10 years. The aim was to retain the building's industrial legacy while creating an open, accessible makerspace, aimed at design, architecture, engineering and applied arts; with nine labs, studios, residencies, and an edible park. Strict heritage rules shaped the design, while the city ensured long term funding and institutional stability

📍 PROJECT STRATEGY 📍

📍 City of Ljubljana, Center Rog public institution (established and financed by the City of Ljubljana), heritage protection office, architects (BAX Studio), local creatives, international partners, community members, former RogLab users (pilot project for the future Center Rog), library service, volunteers, EU funding bodies

📍 KEY STAKEHOLDERS 📍

📍 The approach shows how long term participatory processes, strong public commitment, and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings can deliver vibrant creative spaces. Other cities can replicate the mix of open access, phased development, and co decision structures.

📍 POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFER 📍

📍 Culture and cultural heritage, Local production, Urban regeneration

📍 THEMATIC AREAS 📍

📍 Citizen engagement, Financial sustainability, Urban design

📍 OPERATIONAL TOPICS 📍

- Strict heritage rules increased complexity and cost
- Energy demands of the large building and machinery
- Balancing affordability with financial sustainability
- Technical upkeep of an extensive multi use facility
- Building international visibility for a new institution

📍 CHALLENGES 📍

📍 Almost 3,000 members within two years, far above the five year target of 1,000. Full labs and sold out programmes. High daily usage by students, creatives, and residents. A once vacant site has become a lively part of central Ljubljana.

📍 EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS 📍

- Major increase in public use with 3,000 members
- Strong mix of amateurs and professionals
- Shared use of space, high inclusivity
- Revitalisation of a central neighbourhood
- High engagement through participatory budgeting
- Successful reuse of machinery and adaptive heritage renewal
- Nominated for the Mies van der Rohe Architectural Awards 2026

📍 RESULTS AND IMPACTS 📍



Regeneration of McKee Barracks, Dublin

📍 Ireland
📍 COUNTRY

📍 Dublin, EMR
📍 URBAN AUTHORITY

📍 Not publicly itemised
📍 FUNDING

📍 Defence Forces estate management, conservation architects, engineers, heritage officers, specialist, etc.
📍 HUMAN RESOURCES

📍 Ongoing
📍 STATUS

📍 Eamon Mc Carney
EMcCarney@taylormccarney.ie
📍 CONTACTS



📍 A long-term conservation and renewal programme that restores the historic buildings of McKee Barracks while adapting them for modern Defence Force's needs. The project preserves architectural heritage, revitalises an important city site, and supports high quality facilities within a protected campus.

📍 ABOUT 📍

📍 The regeneration addresses years of underinvestment in a protected military campus. The strategy restores historic façades, roofs, brickwork, and joinery while providing modern internal layouts for administration and training. High quality conservation guides all decisions and ensures that operational upgrades respect the character and significance of the original nineteenth century complex.

📍 PROJECT STRATEGY 📍

📍 Department of Defence, Defence Forces, heritage authorities, conservation specialists, engineers, construction contractors, specialist trades, and Dublin City Council in a planning and heritage context.

📍 KEY STAKEHOLDERS 📍

📍 The project shows how historic institutional campuses can be renewed through phased conservation, collaborative delivery, and careful planning. Other cities can benefit from approaches that combine heritage repair, adaptive reuse, and long-term stewardship of protected structures.

📍 POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFER 📍

📍 Multiple buildings have been fully conserved and returned to active use. Historic materials have been repaired or reinstated. High craftsmanship standards have been achieved through specialist heritage trades. The campus is visibly renewed and better equipped for Defence Forces needs.

📍 EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS 📍

📍 Culture and cultural heritage, Urban regeneration, Local production and traditional crafts, Circular economy and heritage reuse

📍 THEMATIC AREAS 📍

📍 Urban design, public procurement, capitalisation

📍 OPERATIONAL TOPICS 📍

- Working within a protected architectural conservation area
- Ensuring heritage compliance while upgrading services
- Coordinating works across a large, active military site
- Sourcing traditional materials and skilled craftspeople

📍 CHALLENGES 📍

- Restoration of significant historic buildings
- Renewal of a strategic city centre campus
- Preservation of traditional crafts and building methods
- Improved quality and functionality of Defence Forces facilities
- Reduced long term maintenance demands through high quality conservation

📍 RESULTS AND IMPACTS 📍



Viskaļi - platform for social and creative innovation

Latvia
COUNTRY

City of Riga
URBAN AUTHORITY

20,000 EUR/per month
FUNDING

Local income (Residents)
FUNDING SOURCES

Concept Development - Renovation 2027-2029
STATUS

Zane Rugena
zane@freeriga.lv
CONTACTS



Viskaļi is a social revitalisation project in a former Technical University faculty between five neighbourhoods in Riga. Since 2020 a community of 200 residents has used its 15,000 sq.m for social and creative initiatives, cultural programmes and non-formal education. In its next phase Viskaļi will turn former education space into a mixed-use hub with community housing, entrepreneurship incubator, cultural space and urban tourism area, grounded in circular economy and inclusive placemaking

ABOUT

Viskaļi tackles Riga's lack of inclusive city-making in a context of some 1,400 vacant and degraded buildings. In a lakeside area between five neighbourhoods it tests a model of inclusive, sustainable, community-led placemaking: 200 people co-create uses for a former faculty, try co-living, co-management and business ideas, and gain NEB recognition, turning unused spaces into shared urban resources. The project continues despite financial challenges: rising heating costs since Russia's war in Ukraine, Covid-related disruptions, team burnout and the fact that the building is owned by the University, which limits funding options and flexible use of the space.

CITY STRATEGY

Local neighbourhood NGOs
Municipality
Real estate developers
Representatives of NGOs working on inclusive society, people with disabilities and related issues
Artists and cultural curators
Social entrepreneurship association
Researchers
Architects and city planners

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The project offers a scalable model for engaging communities and diverse users in placemaking aligned with city strategies, turning vacant buildings into resources for circular economy goals and addressing social challenges.

POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFER

Productive, smart and connected, Green, Just and Inclusive

THEMATIC AREAS

Strategy, Governance, Participation and Communication, Resource and funding, Scaling up and transfer

OPERATIONAL TOPICS

- No financial support from Municipality or garment since the building belongs to the University
- Macro interventions - Covid, heating prices after Russia invaded Ukraine
- Lack of capacity - NGO that's mission is to provide affordable spaces under the market price in old, used buildings can't finance big team or fast development.

CHALLENGES

Since 2020, 5,000+ events, over 700 residents have joined Viskaļi; 200 people use the building daily. 4 shared co-work spaces created, 7 social initiatives support marginalised groups, 12 Universities, art schools, researchers (international) has used Viskaļi case for research or for school programs.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

- One of the largest creative and social innovation projects in the Baltics
- Carries out more than 800 cultural and non-formal education events per year
- Attracts and provides services and opportunities for marginalised groups (Ukrainian war refugees, people with special needs, etc.)

RESULTS AND IMPACTS



Portumna Courthouse, Galway County Council

📍 Ireland
📍 COUNTRY

🏛️ Galway County Council, NWR
📍 URBAN AUTHORITY

💰 3,200,000 EUR
📍 FUNDING

🇪🇺 Ireland's Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
📍 FUNDING SOURCES

📅 Completed July 2025
📍 STATUS

👤 Ronan Conway
rconway@galwaycoco.ie
📍 CONTACTS



📍 Galway County Council has demonstrated visionary leadership and genuine community commitment through the revitalisation of Portumna Courthouse. Portumna Courthouse is a striking 19th-century building that stands as a prominent figure in the heart of the town's streetscape. Once dormant for over two decades, it has been reimagined as a vibrant, inclusive, and multi-functional civic hub, breathing new life into the town centre and reconnecting people with place

📍 ABOUT 📍

📍 Located in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, on the shores of Lough Derg, Portumna is a town rich in heritage and natural beauty. Yet like many rural towns, it faced challenges of vacancy, underused assets, and a need for renewed civic energy. The Courthouse project responded to these needs by embracing the values of the New European Bauhaus, sustainability, inclusion, and beauty and aligning with the Town Centre First policy. The Council's approach has been rooted in shared stewardship, working hand-in-hand with the local community to ensure long-term care and relevance. By appointing a dedicated manager and supporting the launch of a social enterprise café, the Council has created meaningful employment and empowered local voices.

📍 CITY STRATEGY 📍

📍 Galway County Council, Department of Rural and Community Development, Portumna Chamber of Commerce, Portumna Tidy Town, Portumna Town Hall Committee.

📍 KEY STAKEHOLDERS 📍

📍 Scalable Vision: Portumna Courthouse is the first of several regeneration projects planned by the Urban and Rural Regeneration Team. It serves as a blueprint for future initiatives across the county, demonstrating what's possible when local government and community collaborate with purpose.

📍 POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFER 📍

- 📍 Day to day management and operations.
- 📍 Community expectation that a Council employee will be on site full time
- 📍 Operational and investment budget.

📍 CHALLENGES 📍

📍 Just and Inclusive

📍 THEMATIC AREAS 📍

📍 Territorial Focus

📍 OPERATIONAL TOPICS 📍

- 📍 Growing number of visitors attending events at the Courthouse.
- 📍 A successful launch of the adjacent café which now employs five local staff.
- 📍 Rising demand for venue hire and remote working spaces.
- 📍 Local shops and services have reported increased customer engagement.
- 📍 The Courthouse has become a focal point for community gatherings, cultural programming, and civic dialogue.
- 📍 The project has supported a network of local suppliers and tradespeople.

📍 EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS 📍

- 📍 Revitalised Town Centre: Increased footfall and activity have brought new life to Portumna.
- 📍 Empowered Local Enterprise & Creatives: The space now gives opportunities to create new platforms for local talents.
- 📍 Strengthened Community Identity: Portumna Courthouse has become a shared space for a wide spectrum of local groups and individuals.
- 📍 Heritage Preservation: preventing deterioration while breathing new life into its historic fabric.
- 📍 Employment Creation: The adjacent café, launched in October 2025, employs 6 staff.
- 📍 Multi-Use Activation: The building now supports a wide range of uses
- 📍 Sustainability: The project has been designed with long-term viability in mind.

📍 RESULTS AND IMPACTS 📍



Cultuur & Campus Putselaan, Rotterdam

📍 The Netherlands 🏛️ Municipality of Rotterdam
⋮ COUNTRY ⋮ URBAN AUTHORITY

💰 5,000,000 EUR 📄 EU NEB for Phase 1 - EUR 1/1.3 million
⋮ FUNDING ⋮ FUNDING SOURCES

🕒 Ongoing
⋮ STATUS

📧 Sebastiaan Spierings
 sp.spierings@rotterdam.nl
⋮ CONTACTS



📄 Cultuur & Campus Putselaan (C&CP) pilots a new approach to city making through education, research, policy and culture at the heart of Rotterdam South. It facilitates the coming together of different types of knowledge - theoretical, practical, from the arts and sciences - with the lived experiences of citizens. The ultimate goal is a territorial transformation through a scale-up to a large Cultuur Campus located near the current pilot Cultuur & Campus Putselaan

⋮ ABOUT ⋮

📄 Cultuur & Campus Putselaan (C&CP) pilots a new approach to city making through education, research, policy and culture at the heart of Rotterdam South. It facilitates the coming together of different types of knowledge - theoretical, practical, from the arts and sciences - with the lived experiences of citizens.

⋮ PROJECT STRATEGY ⋮

- 📄 • Gemeente Rotterdam (Municipality of Rotterdam)
- Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
- European League of Institutes of the Arts
- Codarts Hogeschool voor de Kunsten (Codarts University of the Arts)
- Afrikaanderwijk Coöperatie (Afrikaanderwijk Cooperation)
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI-EURO)
- Buzinezzclub Foundation
- Hogeschool Rotterdam (Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences)
- Nationaal Programma Rotterdam-Zuid (National Program Rotterdam South)

⋮ KEY STAKEHOLDERS ⋮

📄 This project provides insights in how to more efficiently and effectively organize governance and procurement with multiple large institutional partners with different strategic goals and legal frameworks. Furthermore C&CP highlights the importance of actively creating an in-between-space where residents students, cultural entrepreneurs and institutions are able to interact in a more equitable context

⋮ POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFER ⋮

📄 Job creation and entrepreneurship ; just and Inclusive & Green

⋮ THEMATIC AREAS ⋮

📄 Governance, Participation and Communication

⋮ OPERATIONAL TOPICS ⋮

- 📄 • Governance and procurement: The lack of its own legal entity led to complications with regards to governance.
- Physical challenges: Renovating a historical building in a sustainable manner, whilst also improving accessibility and bringing back historical elements is complex (space for elevators, fire resistance requirements, fossil-free heating, etc)

⋮ CHALLENGES ⋮

- 📄 • Energy retrofit: The natural gas heating system was replaced by District Heating using waste heat from the Port of Rotterdam and waste management facilities and PV-panels were fitted.
- Accessibility: The renovation included the retrofitting of an elevator, accessibility ramp and several accessible toilets.
- Through colour-historical research into the original paint layers, the building was restored to its original colours and styles from the 1920s.
- Two dancefloors were laid out in the building.

⋮ EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS ⋮

- 📄 • District heating was built in.
- 38 PV-panels were fitted.
- 1200m2 of multi-use space was realised including 2 dancefloor.

⋮ RESULTS AND IMPACTS ⋮



Culture as the intermediary, Aarhus

Denmark
COUNTRY

Aarhus
URBAN AUTHORITY

271,245 EUR annually - Fundraising based
FUNDING

Cross-departmental teams, volunteers, etc.
HUMAN RESOURCES

Ongoing – from 2014 to present
STATUS

Lone Jensen
lonej@aarhus.dk
CONTACTS



Using culture and unused municipal buildings as a bridge between citizens and authorities, Aarhus Youth Culture House (UKH) co-creates innovative solutions to complex urban challenges through participatory experiments that strengthen inclusion, integration and civic engagement.

ABOUT

The practice reactivates unused municipal buildings as cultural spaces co-created by youth, citizens and authorities. It tackles social inclusion and community cohesion while preventing urban decay. Culture acts as an intermediary, connecting different municipal departments and citizens through participatory design and experimentation

CITY STRATEGY

City of Aarhus (Departments of Culture, Children & Youth and Social Welfare and Employment); youth organisations; educational institutions; NGOs; local citizens and artists; civil society groups

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The approach is adaptable to any city with vacant spaces and a will to involve citizens in problem-solving. It promotes culture as a neutral ground for dialogue, helping municipalities co-create with residents while addressing inclusion, urban renewal, and governance challenges

POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFER

A thriving youth centre now serves people aged 15–30, with a self-managed council and public youth meetings. The initiative gained political support, reduced homelessness, and brought life to run-down buildings

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

Urban regeneration, Social inclusion, Culture and Cultural Heritage

THEMATIC AREAS

Citizens Engagement

OPERATIONAL TOPICS

- Sustaining long-term funding and political backing.
- Finding and preparing suitable temporary buildings.
- Maintaining youth engagement and turnover of participants.
- Coordinating across multiple municipal departments.
- Balancing flexibility with safety and oversight.
- The building must remain liveable and adaptable, constantly evolving to meet changing needs — a continual, though rewarding, challenge.

CHALLENGES

- Addressed the need for a youth cultural centre, which has now become permanent and is being expanded with two additional facilities.
- Secured the involvement and support of major stakeholders, including political and civil service leaders; with three municipal departments funding the project, ensuring shared ownership and accountability for its success
- Implemented a participatory approach that has build trust among young people.
- Fostered connections between diverse youth groups whose paths might not otherwise cross.
- Responded to the need for housing for homeless young people by establishing 12 homes, achieving positive outcomes in helping young residents rebuild their lives.

RESULTS AND IMPACTS



The Model, Sligo

📍 Ireland
📍 COUNTRY

🏛️ Sligo County Council, NWR
📍 URBAN AUTHORITY

💰 2,500,000 EUR
📍 FUNDING

👥 Multidisciplinary team for design, Steering Committee and PM Team.
📍 HUMAN RESOURCES

📅 Complete 2001-2002
📍 STATUS

👤 Michael Carty
mcarty@sligococo.ie
📍 CONTACTS



📍 Urban regeneration project to capture and capitalise on the rich and diverse cultural history evident in Sligo. Dedicated infrastructure provision to display and inform local, regional and international audiences building of the rich tapestry of visual, literary and dramatic arts active in the community

📍 ABOUT 📍

📍 Dedicated infrastructure provision to display and inform local, regional and international audiences building of the rich tapestry of visual, literary and dramatic arts active in the community. Supporting the transformation of existing repository of cultural activities through the delivery of a leading cultural and civic amenity space driving the Arts related activity in the North West of Ireland.

📍 CITY STRATEGY 📍

- 📍 Project Brief Development - reaching a common understanding of the project's objectives and scope among multiple partners and stakeholders with different priorities and expectations
- Financial assembly - mobilising sufficient and stable funding to sustain the project over time.
- Resource commitments - Ensuring adequate human and organisational resource

📍 CHALLENGES 📍

📍 The experiences gleaned from the project can be shared and replicated if the logical approach at project initiation, involving clarity of vision, inclusive and broad stakeholder engagement, adequate resource commitments and professionally resourced and managed throughout the programme delivery is retained, to ensure the vision is delivered

📍 POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFER 📍

📍 Urban Regeneration, Culture and Cultural Heritage
📍 THEMATIC AREAS 📍

📍 Urban Design
📍 OPERATIONAL TOPICS 📍

📍 Sligo County Council, Gov Agencies
📍 KEY STAKEHOLDERS 📍

📍 Urban regeneration of The Model provided the context and acted as a contemporary catalyst positioning Sligo as a leading agent in artistic programming in the region, drawing on past celebrated artists while successfully attracting new contemporary artists to commission and exhibit internationally renowned works into the regenerated space to profile the space and its renown more broadly.

📍 EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS 📍

- 📍 Increase Public awareness and attendance - Original business case projects were exceeded
- International recognition
- Community appreciation
- World class facilities
- Civic engagement

📍 RESULTS AND IMPACTS 📍



Shackleton Experience

U Ireland
 ::: COUNTRY

U Kildare County Council, EMR
 ::: URBAN AUTHORITY

U 7,500,000 EUR
 ::: FUNDING

U Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) contribution €5,207,500 KCC match funding: €1,792,500
 ::: FUNDING SOURCES

U Construction Started in November 2024
 ::: STATUS

U Annette Keaveney
 akeaveney@kildarecoco.ie
 ::: CONTACTS

U The Shackleton Experience is a permanent exhibition dedicated to the life and legacy of polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, who was born in County Kildare. The project involved the conservation of a 300-year-old building in Athy and the construction of a contemporary glazed extension — referred to as the “iceberg”. The project was complex and multifaceted. From the outset, the project was shaped by strong collaboration between the design team, the interpretive and exhibition designers, and the contractors responsible for both the conservation works and the new build. Environmental control was a key consideration throughout, too.

::: ABOUT :::

U Our strategy focused on conserving the 300-year-old building, adding a contemporary glazed “iceberg” extension for exhibitions, and delivering a rich visitor experience through design, interpretation, and environmental control. Collaboration among designers, contractors, and specialists ensured sensitive integration of old and new, highlighted by Shackleton’s Cabin. Despite challenges in budget and extension delivery, the project achieved lasting preservation.

::: CITY STRATEGY :::

U KCC Management Team, Consultant Teams, Museum Board (old and new), Fáilte Ireland, Conservation Specialist

::: KEY STAKEHOLDERS :::

U A key takeaway from this project is the value of having a robust Part 8 supported by detailed design. A more detailed early design would have allowed for better-informed decisions, clearer understanding of conservation implications, and a more accurate budget baseline. This is a learning that will be carried forward into future projects.

::: POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFER :::

- Managing the project budget while making conservation-led decisions that were essential for the long-term integrity of the building.
- Contractor coordination: Following a successful design phase and once the project moved into the construction phase, communication and responsiveness became increasingly difficult.
- Temperature and environmental control

::: CHALLENGES :::

U Just and Inclusive - Culture and Cultural Heritage, Urban Regeneration

::: THEMATIC AREAS :::

U Resource and Funding, Participation and Communication, Governance

::: OPERATIONAL TOPICS :::

U The successful conservation of the existing structure, which was approached with care and sensitivity, ensuring the historic fabric was protected and enhanced. The new extension was designed to complement the original building while offering a bold architectural statement that supports the exhibition’s narrative.

::: EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS :::

- Conservation of a 300-Year-Old Historic Building. The sensitive restoration of the existing structure
 - Integration of Significant Artefacts into Public Display.
 - Catalyst for Local Regeneration and Civic Pride
 - Enhanced Tourism and Economic Potential by creating a high-quality visitor experience, with knock-on benefits for local businesses and future investment opportunities.
- Successful Collaboration Across Disciplines. The project demonstrated strong coordination between conservation experts, architects, interpretive designers, and contractors, resulting in a seamless integration of heritage, architecture, and storytelling.

::: RESULTS AND IMPACTS :::



Digital twinning of historic buildings – the case of Löfstad manor

Sweden
COUNTRY

Löfstad manor
URBAN AUTHORITY

Total budget was part of a larger research project
FUNDING

Completed - 2021-2024
STATUS

Gustaf Leijonhufvud
gustaf.erik.leijonhufvud@uu.se
CONTACTS



This strategy implements a parametric digital twin of Löfstad Manor, using IoT-sensor networks and cloud analytics to continuously monitor indoor climate and heritage structure. The main objectives are to safeguard cultural value, optimise energy- and ventilation-systems and prevent deterioration of historic fabric. Impacts include identification of high-humidity zones, data-guided conservation decisions and scalable tools for other heritage buildings.

ABOUT

The strategy addresses the challenge of safeguarding heritage buildings while lowering energy use. At Löfstad Manor, a digital twin integrates 3D models and IoT indoor climate sensors. It supports preventive conservation, optimised climate control and improved visitor operations. Enabled by collaboration between heritage experts and engineers, it demonstrates scalable methods for sustainable management of historic properties.

PROJECT STRATEGY

Building owner and manager, the regional museum (responsible for visitor operations), the county board, researchers

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Knowing where to measure and with how many sensors
- Data management & data quality
- Data interpretation and analysis

CHALLENGES

The strategy is transferable as it uses low-cost sensors and open data standards. It shows how digital twins and long-term monitoring can support preventive conservation and energy optimisation.

POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFER

Green, Energy Transition

THEMATIC AREAS

Data Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

OPERATIONAL TOPICS

The developed system successfully monitored indoor climate, providing live data useful for decisions on interventions and management strategies that balance preservation needs, operational costs, energy efficiency and environmental impact

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

- Shows the benefits of extensive monitoring
- Emphasize need of interdisciplinary dialogue (conservator, building manager, engineer)
- Usefulness of digital twin for long-term management

RESULTS AND IMPACTS