



# Prototyping Innovation Policies with(in) cities

Innovation Area:  
New European Bauhaus

**Bratislava, Slovakia**



# How does “prototyping...” work?

This City Case Description is the outcome of a policy prototyping exercise within a city ecosystem. Once the ekip research team has explored a policy area and its connection to cultural and creative industries (CCIs) and innovation, we ask: what would this mean in a local city context?

Together with local stakeholders, we test how a draft policy recommendation might stimulate innovation. Using Portfolio Sensemaking, stakeholders simulate an innovation portfolio, analyse the strengths and gaps of the local support system, and identify what resources are needed to realise the portfolio.

## Bratislava Context & Area of Focus

Bratislava context underscores the importance of contextualizing NEB initiatives at the district level, ensuring that interventions are tailored to the unique characteristics and needs of each community. Engagement of NGOs, developers, public sector entities, retailers, transport operators, local government, academia, and educational institutions is crucial. Leveraging primary schools as hubs for community activities, sports, and leisure, thereby strengthening community ties.

Participants advocated for a smart city paradigm where residents find all necessary amenities within their district, reducing the need for long commutes and enhancing urban livability.



### CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

**Challenges Identified:** Outdated laws, norms, and standards hindering progressive urban planning.

Inflexible public transport systems not meeting the evolving needs of residents.

**Opportunities Highlighted:** Generational shifts offering fresh perspectives and innovative solutions.

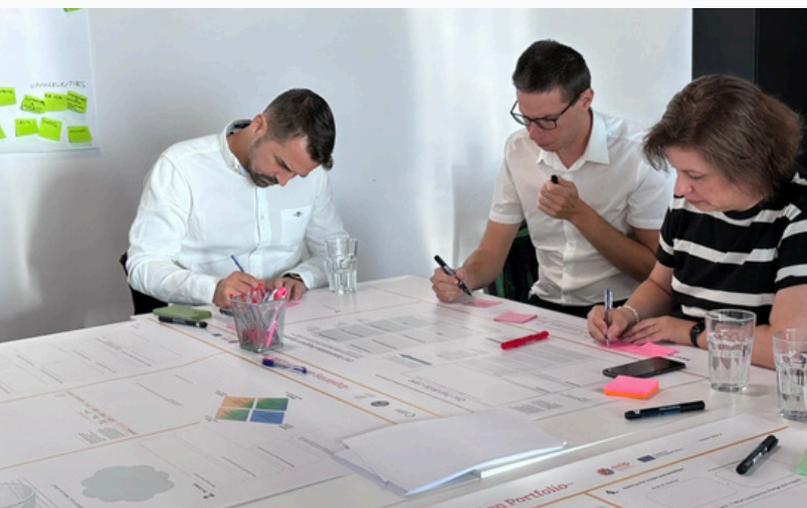
Reuse of existing spaces, including brownfields, to reduce urban sprawl.

Visionary projects integrating parks, city forests, and natural landscapes like the Bratislava Forests, the Danube River, and the Carpathians.



# Portfolio sensemaking

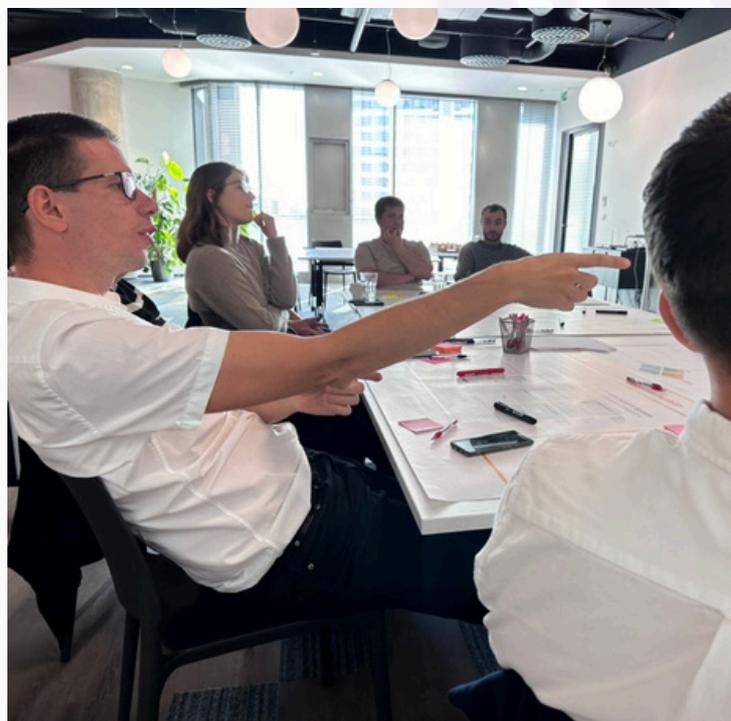
## LIVING DISTRICTS



The concept envisions a network of interconnected neighborhoods that foster sustainability, community engagement, and economic vitality. This vision builds on several existing frameworks already shaping Bratislava's urban development, including the City for Children initiative focused on creating safe and inclusive spaces for young residents, and the Net Zero Cities approach aimed at achieving carbon neutrality through integrated energy and environmental strategies.

## ► Change Indicators

- **Transport Behavior:** Shifts towards sustainable transportation modes.
- **Demographic Mix:** Diverse population reflecting various age groups and backgrounds.
- **Public Space Utilization:** High usage rates indicating vibrant community engagement.
- **Satisfaction Rates:** Positive feedback from residents on living conditions.
- **Permanent Residence:** Increased rates of long-term residency.
- **Water Consumption and Recycling Rates:** Metrics indicating sustainable resource usage.



# Who was there?

A BROAD MIX OF STAKEHOLDERS CO-CREATED THIS CASE

## CCI ORGANISATIONS

Slovak Chamber of Architects



## BUSINESSES

Immocap, Corwin SK a.s.



## LOCAL AUTHORITIES

City of Bratislava, Metropolitny  
institút Bratislava



## OTHERS

Creative Industry Kosice,  
Manifest 2020

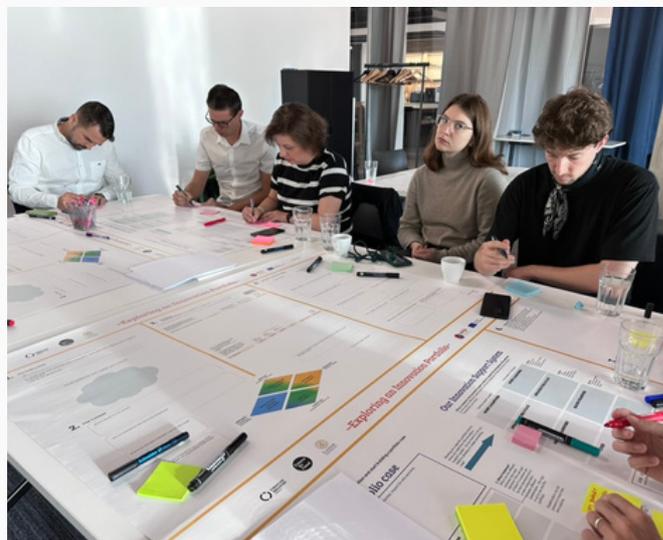


# Analysis

## THE LOCAL INNOVATION SUPPORT SYSTEM

### Existing Support Systems:

- Fee for City Development: Secondary taxation/fee mechanism obligatory for all developer companies operating in Bratislava.
- City Budget Allocations: Funding from municipal sources for prioritized initiatives.
- Ruzinovske Zahradky (Ruzinov District GardensProject): Ongoing projects contributing to building of communities and providing more inclusive public spaces.
- Internal Courtyards Project : Infrastructure projects supporting district development.
- MIB and City Collaborations: Joint efforts to drive urban innovation.



### Areas to be Developed:

- Public-Private Partnerships (PPP): Collaborative ventures between the public and private sectors.
- Architectural Initiatives: Design-focused projects to enhance urban aesthetics and functionality.
- Cultural Projects: Initiatives supporting cultural development and community engagement.
- Scheme Development: Establishing frameworks for development fees and setting district priorities.



# Conclusions

## & RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Establish Strategic Action Teams*

Form interdisciplinary groups to oversee NEB initiatives, ensuring comprehensive planning and execution.

### *Enhance Stakeholder Collaboration*

Foster partnerships between public entities, private sector players, NGOs, and the community to leverage diverse expertise and resources.

### *Prioritize Sustainable Practices*

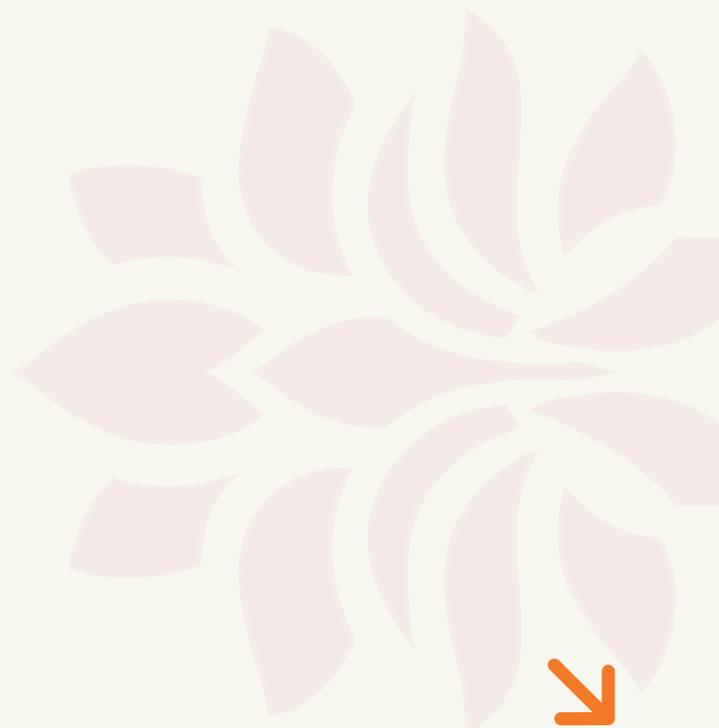
Integrate energy-efficient solutions, green infrastructure, and sustainable mobility into all urban development projects.

### *Promote Cultural and Social Engagement*

Support cultural initiatives and community activities to enhance social cohesion and enrich the urban experience.

### *Implement Pilot Projects*

Launch pilot initiatives in selected districts to test NEB strategies, gather feedback, and refine approaches before scaling up.





## Our methods

### THE INNOVATION PORTFOLIO POLICY CANVAS

The Prototyping Workshop Methodology and the Innovation Portfolio Policy Canvas guide local stakeholders to analyse their local ecosystem, make an inventory of actors and resources, identify and create a potential innovation portfolio and analyse their local innovation support system.

### THE OPSI MODEL

The OPSI-model (Open Public Sector Innovation OECD) is adapted to analyze the innovation character of the policy area. Participants explore whether the policy involves new legislative measures or is more exploratory in nature, allowing for a deeper understanding of how the policy might influence the local ecosystem

### THE LIEPT MODEL

The Lund Innovation Ecosystem Portfolio Tracking (LIEPT) model is a tool that provides a framework for tracking changes in innovation portfolios in ecosystems where impact and growth happen not in one organisation but in many. This relies on collaborative efforts by many stakeholders.

## What is ekip

The ekip partnership funded by the European Commission consists of 5 universities, 4 consultancies, 4 creative and cultural organisations and 4 cities. Together we develop innovation policies for the cultural and creative industries in Europe. We do that in various ways: through research, consultations and interaction with people in the sector at policy labs and focus groups and assessments in city ecosystems.

## Want to know more? Want to do it in your city?

Would you like to explore the topic of Ecodesign further? Visit the [Fashion Transition: Eco-Design for Circularity](#) on ekip website, where you'll find relevant policy posters, presentations, videos, and articles.

You can even host your own session in your city! It's an empowering and insightful way to bring together local stakeholders across sectors and disciplines for a focused discussion on a topic of shared importance. The ekip method and approach are open for anyone to use including a Facilitator's Guide and templates available in the ekip Knowledge Bank under [Tools and Methods](#).

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**Košice, 2025**

*Disclaimer:*

*Each City Case Description reflects the views of workshop participants. It is a perspective from one city context, intended to inspire and ignite action*



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