

Inclusive health and wellbeing in cities: Āgenskalns market development project in Riga

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Outline

1. An urban place in making: Āgenskalns market in Riga
2. Informing theoretical frameworks
3. Idealism and reality of co-production of public space
4. Questions, discussion

Āgenskalns market in Riga



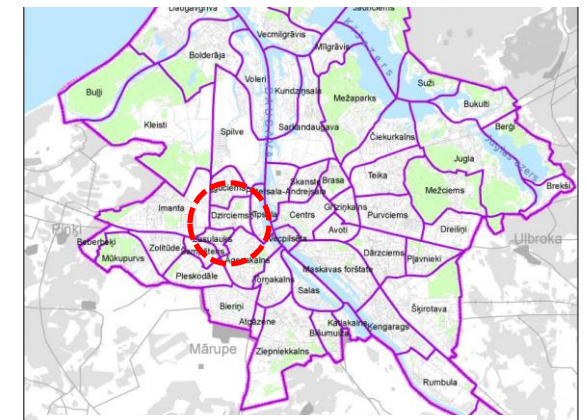
Geographical map



Photos: Kalnciema Quarter and Latvian National Library



Project: Development of Āgenskalns market into a creative food hub



Neighbourhood map



Project: Context and policy background

EU integrated approach to human-centred cities



15 Horizon 2020 urban sister projects



Inclusive Health and Wellbeing
in Peripheral Small and
Medium Size Cities



IN-HABIT project

Objective

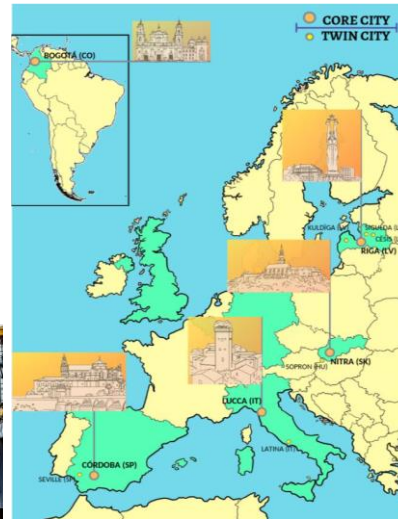
To foster inclusive health and wellbeing in peripheral cities: **Cordoba** (Spain), **Riga** (Latvia), **Lucca** (Italy), and **Nitra** (Slovakia) by mobilizing *undervalued resources*:

- ✓ Green infrastructure;
- ✓ Food;
- ✓ Human-animal bonds;
- ✓ Culture and arts.

Focus on gender and diversity.



Cities



Key concepts

- ✓ **Co-creation** for urban design
- ✓ **Multi-stakeholder governance** and People Public Private Partnerships - **PPPPs**
- ✓ **Innovation**: social, nature-based, cultural, digital
- ✓ **Systemic solutions by reconnecting**: people, policies, nature, societies

IN-HABIT in Riga: Development of Āgenskalns food hub

Goal	Directions of work	Activities planned
To promote healthy and inclusive communities in Āgenskalns neighbourhood in Riga by developing Āgenskalns market into an open and creative food hub.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sport and playground infrastructure2. Community kitchen as a social laboratory for healthy food3. Eco-island and waste reduction site4. Online food purchasing system	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ New green zones and sports facilities✓ Interactive events for children✓ Educational courses for urban gardeners✓ Behavioural games guiding consumption✓ Novel food chain arrangements✓ Culinary events and educational activities✓ New waste collection and re-use practices

IN-HABIT context in Riga

IN-HUB formation

IN-HUB is a community innovation incubator



Communication



In-habit timeline

2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025

Developer's timeline



Market renovation
Private investment



Online market
Private investment



Square reconstruction
Community project



Community theatre
ERASMUS+

Future projects:

- ✓ Energy efficiency
- ✓ Logistical centre
- ✓ Children tourism

C I T Y P L A N N I N G P R O C E S S

Photos: KQ

IN-HABIT
activities

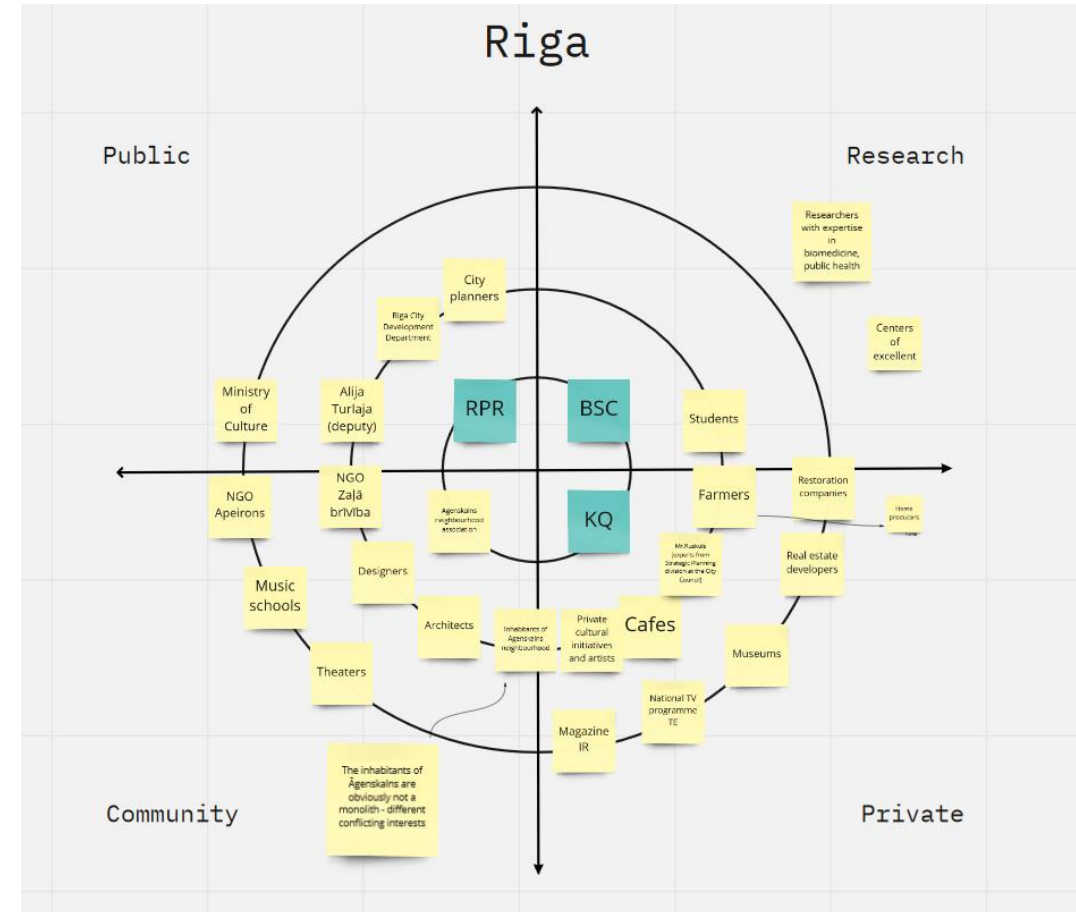
Timelines

Developer's
activities

IN-HABIT in Riga: Activities so far

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RIGA IN-HUB

- Core team established (bi-weekly online meetings)
- Stakeholder mapping performed
- Structure of IN-HUB discussed and internally agreed upon (three concentric circles)
- IN-HUB discussed at stakeholder workshop in December 2020
- Local community activators selected (training events in March & April 2021)
- Open call for User Advisory Board (published on Kalnciems Quarter social media, various stakeholders approached directly)
 - 9 members selected, 4 thematic sub-groups proposed
 - First meeting scheduled on 31 March
 - Memorandum of understanding drafted (to be signed by all members)

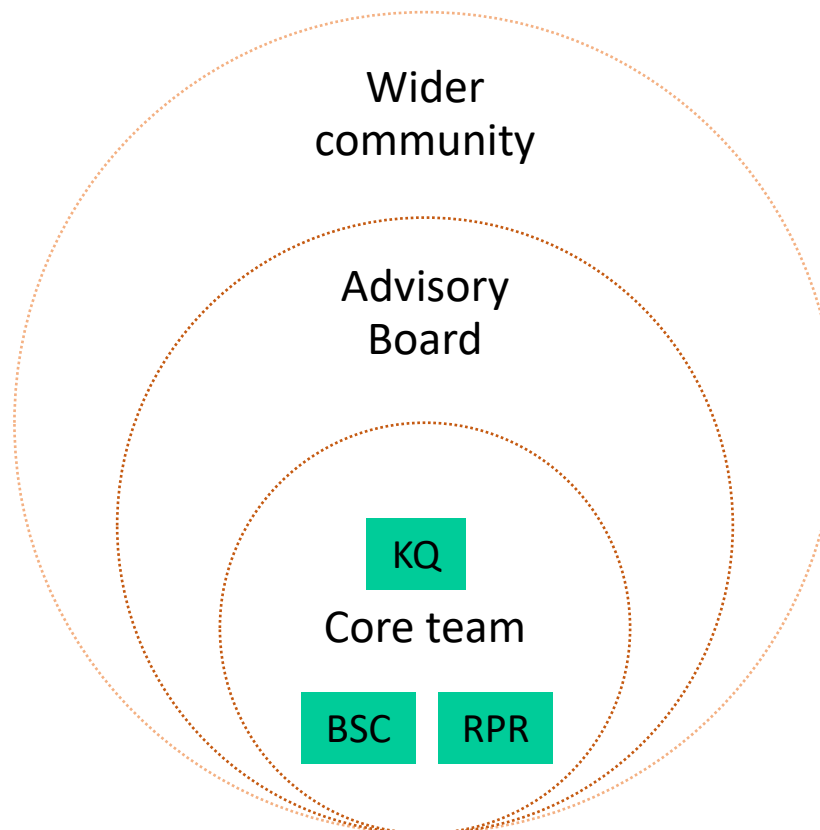


Balanced representation of PPP partners

Composition of Riga IN-HUB

Advisory Board representation:

- Green Freedom
- Deputy of City Council
- LGBT organisation *Mozaika*
- Permaculture Assn.
- Neighbourhood Assn.
- Ethnic minority organisation
- SME
- Architect



Groups to benefit



Groups potentially left out?



Involvement, commitment and sustained participation are key for the IN-HUB
Boundaries are left porous for inclusion

Next steps in Riga IN-HUB activity

- Advisory Board meetings, public consultation – spring, summer 2021
- Elaboration of Visionary and Integrated Solutions Plan – autumn 2021
- Co-design and implementation of ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ actions – 2022-2025
- Continuous monitoring, consultation and evaluation

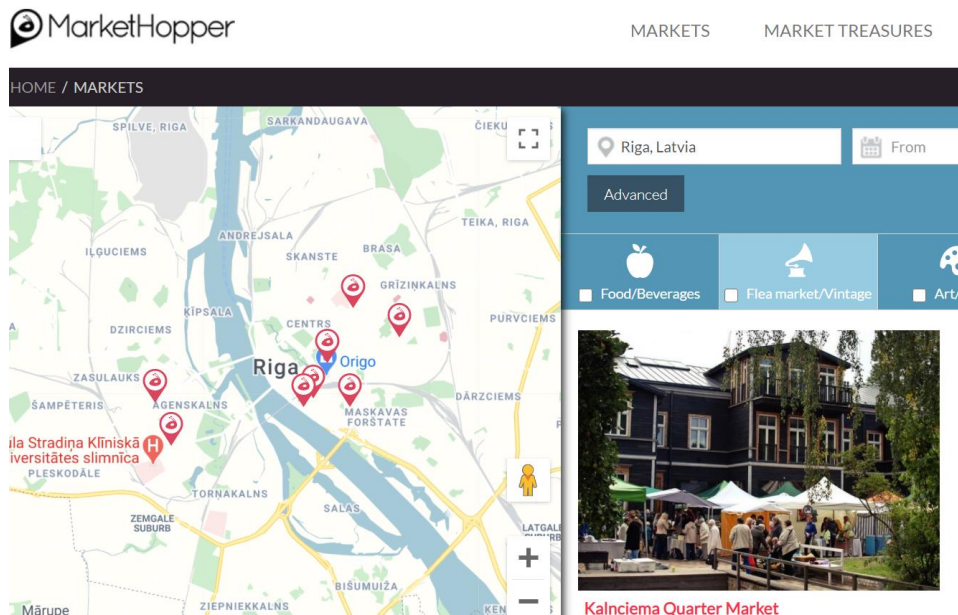
Theoretical frameworks: relational space

Concepts	Definitions	Āgenskalns market
Absolute space	Composed of physical boundaries and artefacts	STRONG
Relative space	Composed of institutional divides and cooperation	MEDIUM
Relational space	Composed of network ties	STRONG
Smart development	Identifying, prioritising and supporting smart growth initiatives	STRONG

Adapted from: Ovaska et. al. (2021) Network Governance Arrangements and Rural-Urban Synergy. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 2952. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13052952>

The Riga IN-HUB will work with different spatial concepts
Relational space will be explored in relation to network governance

Theoretical frameworks: digitalisation



MarketHopper: an information platform on farmers markets globally developed by KQ in 2015 within the framework of SUPURBFOOD project

Anticipated digital solutions in the Riga IN-HUB:

- ✓ People counting sensors
- ✓ Behavioural games
- ✓ Mobile experience sampling APP

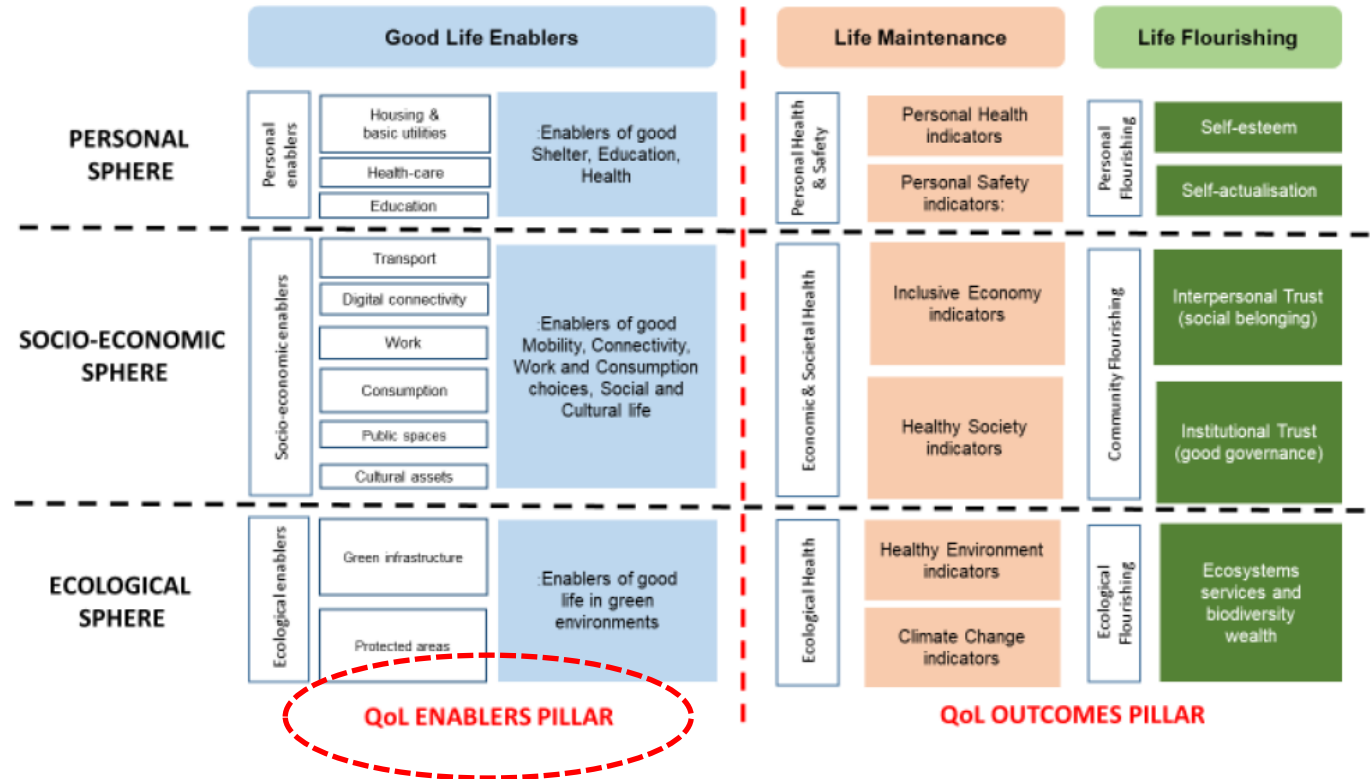
Anticipated impact on:

- ✓ Digital marketing
- ✓ Digital socialisation
- ✓ Digital governance

Digital technologies should be combined with social solutions
Together they can make *digital game changers* and achieve impact

Theoretical frameworks: territorial quality of life

Figure 1 The Territorial Quality of Life measurement framework



Sessa et al (2021) ESPON / QoL – Quality of Life Measurements and Methodology / Final Report

The Riga IN-HUB strives for contribution wellbeing *enablers*

Theoretical frameworks: radical inclusion



How to foster
accessibility?

How to promote LGBTQI+
debate?



How to involve seniors?

What is RADICAL INCLUSION:

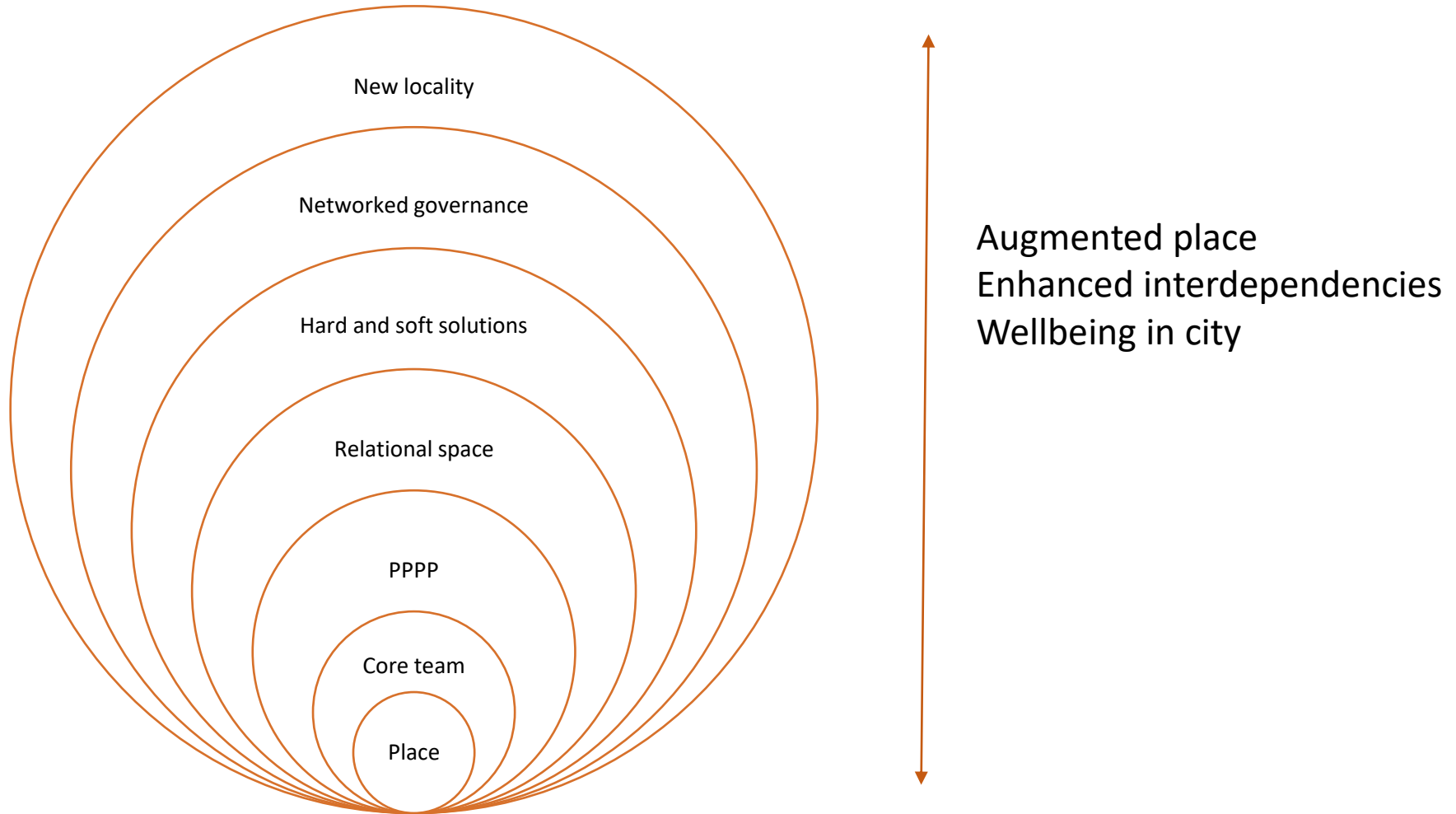
- ✓ Full spectrum of diversity
- ✓ Structural and ideological *overcomes*
- ✓ PPPP as inclusion mechanism

How to include economically
vulnerable?



It is important to concern the full spectrum
of diversity

To conclude: the concepts



To conclude: idealism and reality of co-production of public space

Visionary, just, green and productive cities as EU policy targets

Social justice central in new urban policy agenda

Challenges in developing an urban food hub: identity, functions, financing

Building an IN-HUB requires listening to the community, facilitation, organisation, time

LU students are invited to become a part of the Riga IN-HUB!

Thank you

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