D.3.2.3   Position Transnational Paper
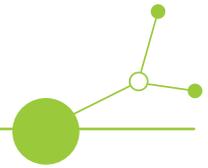
Annex 1: Funding Opportunities for the Continuation and Uptake of PopUpUrbanSpaces

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Annex 1: Funding Opportunities for the Continuation and Uptake of PopUpUrbanSpaces

1. Introduction

1.1. Transnational policy proposal 9

This document was developed in the framework of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project (Facilitating Shift Towards Active Forms of Mobility by Changing the Attitude and Travel Behaviour of Residents Through the Use of Green, Low-cost Tactical Urbanism and Placemaking Solutions), under Work Package 3 (WP3). The document aims to draw the attention of the responsible European institutions, agencies, and policymakers to the opportunities for improving current frameworks and designing new ones that support sustainable urban mobility and behavioural change through tactical and participatory spatial interventions.

The current document has been developed as part of Work Package 3 - Solutions and policy recommendations of the project *PopUpUrbanSpaces – Facilitating Shift Towards Active Forms of Mobility by Changing the Attitude and Travel Behaviour of Residents Through the Use of Green, Low-cost Tactical Urbanism and Placemaking Solutions*, co-financed by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme of the European Union.

The transnational policy paper has been prepared and supported by the Institute for Spatial Policies (IPoP), in cooperation with all project partners. It represents a joint effort built upon the lessons learned from the project's pilot actions, capacity-building activities, and strategic work on promoting sustainable, people-oriented mobility planning in Central Europe.

2. Transnational policy proposals

In this chapter the transnational guidelines, strategies, programs, regulations, frameworks are presented which has connections to the topic of the *PopUpUrbanSpaces project*. In case of each main topic, firstly the given guidelines, strategy, program, regulation, framework is summarised; which is followed by a description how it is connected to the PopUpUrbanSpaces project. At the end of each subchapter relevant document(s) are listed, with concrete policy proposals.

2.1. Transnational policy proposal 1

European Green Deal

The European Green Deal is the EU's overarching growth strategy to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. It sets an integrated policy vision linking climate, energy, mobility, biodiversity, agriculture, and the circular economy. In the field of mobility, the Green Deal commits to reducing transport emissions by 90% by 2050, advancing sustainable and smart mobility, and ensuring a just transition that leaves no region or citizen behind. It functions as a political and strategic umbrella under which sectoral strategies – such as the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy - are implemented and aligned.

PopUpUrbanSpaces contributes to the Green Deal's objectives by directly engaging citizens in the cultural and behavioural transformation needed for decarbonisation. Its tactical urbanism and communication activities translate high-level EU ambitions into visible, human-scale experiments that make the benefits of sustainable mobility tangible in everyday life. By promoting awareness and participation, the project helps build local ownership of the Green Deal transition and demonstrates how cohesion-funded initiatives can mobilise public support for climate-neutral cities. In doing so, it operationalises one of the Green Deal's central messages: that sustainability must be both systemic and social - driven by people as much as by policies.

Available document: European Commission (2019): COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, The European Green Deal.

Transnational policy proposal 1: In case practical examples would be mentioned in subchapter 2.1.5, tactical urbanism and communication initiatives could be part of the list mentioning tangible solutions resulting in decarbonisation.

2.2. Transnational policy proposal 2

Sustainable & Smart Mobility Strategy (EU)

The Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy (SSMS), adopted by the European Commission in 2020 as part of the European Green Deal, provides a roadmap for achieving a 90% reduction in transport-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It envisions a transport system that is smart, competitive, safe, accessible, and sustainable, structured around three pillars: making all transport modes more sustainable, making sustainable alternatives widely available, and putting in place the right incentives to drive the transition. The strategy includes 82 specific actions covering digitalisation, alternative fuels, modal shift, and urban mobility innovations, framing the EU's transport decarbonisation agenda for the coming decades.

The SSMS aligns directly with PopUpUrbanSpaces' mission to shift mobility behaviour and reclaim urban space from private cars. While the strategy focuses on technological and systemic transformation, PopUpUrbanSpaces complements it by addressing the human and behavioural side of this transition. By using tactical urbanism and digital campaigns to demonstrate and communicate sustainable mobility alternatives, the project helps create the societal readiness and citizen awareness needed to implement the SSMS's ambitions at local level. Its outcomes can inform how EU mobility strategies translate into tangible, place-based actions that engage citizens and decision-makers in advancing low-carbon, people-centred mobility.

Available document: European Commission (n.a.): *Sustainable & Smart Mobility Strategy*. Putting European transport on track for the future.

Transnational policy proposal 2: In Chapter Flagship 3 „Making interurban and urban mobility more sustainable and healthy" several points could be

supplemented by addressing the behavioural side of the envisaged transition (and offering possible solutions such as tactical interventions and digital campaigns).

2.3. Transnational policy proposal 3

EU Urban Mobility Framework

The EU Urban Mobility Framework, published by the European Commission in 2021, provides updated guidance for cities and regions to deliver on the Green Deal and the SSMS. It promotes an integrated approach to urban mobility that combines sustainability, resilience, and digital innovation, encouraging cities to adopt Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) as their main planning tool. The Framework highlights the role of active mobility, public transport, shared mobility, and zero-emission logistics, and it introduces a renewed focus on urban nodes within the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), acknowledging cities as critical connectors in Europe's transport system.

The Urban Mobility Framework's call for more inclusive, participatory, and data-driven mobility planning strongly resonates with PopUpUrbanSpaces' practical methods. Through temporary interventions and communication campaigns, the project embodies the Framework's principles by engaging citizens and local stakeholders in co-creating and testing sustainable mobility solutions. Its transnational exchange of pilot experiences provides concrete evidence on how to operationalise the Framework's objectives in small and medium-sized Central European cities. Moreover, PopUpUrbanSpaces contributes to the EU's ambition of mainstreaming SUMPs by linking tactical urbanism experiments to formal planning and policy recommendations, thus bridging the gap between temporary innovation and long-term mobility strategies.

To ensure that successful practices inspire other cities and towns, EU should lead the creation of a European platform for tactical urbanism that collects, documents, and disseminates experiences from cities. By communicating successful examples at the European level, municipalities can gain ideas, confidence, and motivation in understanding that tactical approaches are being applied successfully across many contexts, not only in a few pioneering cities. Additionally, successful examples description contains information on measured outcomes to supply municipalities and regions with know-how on what and how to measure success of the actions. On top of that, communication tools such as graphics, texts etc. could be shared to stimulate creative communication and promotion of such actions with an intention of reducing the political risks associated with the restrictions of the use of personal vehicles.

Available document: European Commission (2021): *COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS,* The New EU Urban Mobility Framework.

Transnational policy proposal 3: The EU should support the creation of a European platform that systematically collects, evaluates, and disseminates successful tactical urbanism practices from cities of all sizes. By sharing documented outcomes, evaluation methods, and communication tools, the

platform would support evidence-based implementation of SUMPs, inspire municipalities across Europe, and reduce political risks associated with sustainable mobility measures.

2.4. Transnational policy proposal 4

Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Regulation (including "urban nodes" requirement)

The TEN-T Regulation establishes the framework for developing a comprehensive European transport network that ensures efficient, safe, and sustainable connectivity across all Member States. It identifies core and comprehensive network corridors integrating rail, road, waterway, and port infrastructure. The upcoming revision introduces strengthened requirements for urban nodes - cities located along the TEN-T corridors - mandating them to prepare Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans and promote multimodal integration, clean transport, and seamless last-mile connections. This represents a significant step toward embedding urban mobility into the EU's transnational transport governance.

PopUpUrbanSpaces provides valuable bottom-up insights into how urban nodes can implement the TEN-T objectives in a socially engaging and cost-effective way. Its demonstration actions show how tactical, low-cost interventions can improve the livability and functionality of spaces that form part of wider transport networks, while its digital campaigns promote behavioural change critical to achieving multimodal integration. The project's findings could help refine how cohesion policy supports urban nodes in meeting their TEN-T obligations, ensuring that infrastructural investments are complemented by civic engagement and behavioural measures that make sustainable transport both functional and attractive.

<u>Available document</u>: The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union (2024): *REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1153 and (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013.*

Transnational policy proposal 4: When detailing the possible parts of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, there is an opportunity for listing practical tools, such as tactical methods for testing sustainable mobility solutions.

2.5. Transnational policy proposal 5

Guidelines for Developing and Implementing a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP Guidelines)

The SUMP Guidelines provide methodological support for cities in developing and implementing comprehensive mobility plans that integrate all transport modes while aligning with sustainability, accessibility, and quality-of-life objectives. Updated in 2019, they reflect lessons from across Europe and promote participatory planning, monitoring, and evaluation. The guidelines encourage cities to move beyond infrastructure-focused solutions and adopt holistic, evidence-based

approaches that combine mobility management, land-use planning, and behavioural measures to achieve lasting modal shifts.

PopUpUrbanSpaces contributes to the practical application of the SUMP Guidelines by offering hands-on experimentation tools that feed into sustainable mobility planning. Its tactical interventions serve as living laboratories where concepts from SUMPs - such as active mobility promotion, public participation, and space reallocation - are tested in real contexts. The project's digital campaigns complement this by fostering awareness and acceptance, key prerequisites for successful SUMP implementation. By transforming planning principles into visible action and measurable behavioural change, PopUpUrbanSpaces supports the continuous learning and policy feedback loops envisioned by the SUMP approach, helping cities bridge the gap between planning and public engagement.

By enabling municipalities to test and demonstrate tactical measures in real urban conditions, it helps them translate long-term goals into visible, evidence-based actions. Embedding this approach within the SUMP framework would make it a systematic part of sustainable mobility planning, supporting cities in managing change more effectively and inclusively.

▢ Tactical urbanism is most effective at the municipal level, where cities can use it to test, communicate, and measure the effects of sustainable mobility measures before investing in long-term infrastructure.

The inclusion of tactical urbanism in SUMPs would provide a practical and flexible tool for municipalities to experiment with small-scale interventions that align with strategic mobility goals. The EU's role is to support this process by promoting the integration of tactical methods within the SUMP framework/guidelines and providing targeted funding that enables cities to implement, evaluate, and communicate such actions, when they are in line with strategic goals noted in the regional or local SUMP. That is relevant to avoid misuse of tactical measures.

Tactical transit is most effective at the regional level, where it can help test and improve connections between municipalities and enhance regional accessibility. Tactical urbanism and tactical transit measures should form part of the action plans of regional and municipal urban mobility plans, ensuring alignment with their strategic goals. The European union should provide funding for the implementation and promotion of tactical transit through projects, dedicated programmes, or direct financial instruments that enable municipalities to carry out such actions. Additionally, it makes sense to support integration of measures, that contribute to climate change adaptation and resilience, if possible. Funded measures should include clear objectives for monitoring, communication, and public engagement to increase understanding and acceptance of mobility changes. Funding could as well include supporting public private partnership, when the aims related to mobility are met (modal split change, e.g.).

Available document: Rupprecht Consult (2019): Guidelines for developing and implementing a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, 2nd edition.

Policy proposal 5: The EU should encourage the systematic integration of tactical urbanism and tactical transit within Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) as flexible tools for piloting, communicating, and evaluating sustainable mobility

measures at municipal and regional levels. EU support, including targeted funding, should enable cities to implement, monitor, and communicate such actions in line with SUMP objectives, helping reduce risks and inform long-term investment decisions.

2.6. Transnational policy proposal 6

European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) / Territorial Agenda of the EU

The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), adopted in 1999, was the EU's first comprehensive framework for coordinated spatial planning. It introduced key principles such as balanced polycentric development, sustainable mobility, and territorial cohesion. Its legacy continues through the Territorial Agenda 2030, endorsed in 2020, which reaffirms the importance of place-based, integrated, and participatory approaches to territorial development. The Territorial Agenda provides two main objectives - A Just Europe and A Green Europe - and calls for cooperation across all levels of governance to address spatial inequalities, environmental challenges, and urban-rural interdependencies.

PopUpUrbanSpaces exemplifies the Territorial Agenda's call for place-based and participatory approaches by empowering cities and communities to co-create local mobility and public space solutions. Its transnational partnership directly contributes to the Agenda's goal of strengthening territorial cohesion through knowledge exchange and joint experimentation. By integrating urban and rural perspectives in its activities, the project also echoes the Agenda's emphasis on functional territories and urban-rural linkages. Ultimately, PopUpUrbanSpaces acts as a practical illustration of how cohesion policy can operationalise the Territorial Agenda's vision - turning spatial planning principles into lived experience through tactical urbanism and social innovation.

Available document:

European Commission (1999): *ESDP : European Spatial Development Perspective: Towards balanced and sustainable development of the territory of the European Union.*

Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Territorial Development and/or Territorial Cohesion (2020): *Territorial Agenda 2030.* A future for all places.

Transnational policy proposal 6: The Territorial Agenda could integrate additional aspects for sustainable urban mobility plans – including and promoting tactical interventions.

2.7. Transnational policy proposal 7

EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), launched in 2011, is a macro-regional framework that brings together 14 countries to strengthen cooperation and cohesion along the Danube River basin. The strategy aims to foster sustainable development, connectivity, environmental protection, and socio-economic integration across a highly diverse region encompassing EU, candidate, and neighbouring countries. Its objectives are organized into four pillars: (1)

Connecting the Region, (2) Protecting the Environment, (3) Building Prosperity, and (4) Strengthening the Region. Within these, specific priority areas target sustainable transport, urban mobility, energy efficiency, innovation, and institutional capacity. EUSDR operates as a platform to coordinate policies and funding sources, particularly cohesion policy instruments such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Interreg transnational programmes.

The EUSDR is highly relevant to PopUpUrbanSpaces because it explicitly promotes sustainable mobility, urban innovation, and multi-level cooperation - all central to the project's aims. Under Priority Area 1B – Mobility and Multimodality in Road, Rail and Air Transport and Priority Area 10 – Institutional Capacity and Cooperation, the EUSDR supports actions that make transport more sustainable, inclusive, and people-centred. PopUpUrbanSpaces contributes to these objectives by demonstrating innovative, low-cost urban interventions that foster behavioural change and awareness among citizens and decision-makers - directly supporting EUSDR's goal of "improving mobility and connectivity" while strengthening local governance. Moreover, by translating pilot experiences into policy recommendations for cohesion policy, the project aligns with EUSDR's function as a policy leverage platform, ensuring that experimental urban mobility solutions influence future EU and national investment frameworks in Central Europe.

Available document:

M&e Factory (2025): Process / Implementation Evaluation, Final Report.

European Commission (2025): *REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies.*

Transnational policy proposal 7: The 12th Chapter of the European Commission's 2025 Report could be completed with suggestions about digital campaigning fostering behaviour change and awareness among citizens and decision-makers.

2.8. Transnational policy proposal 8

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) was adopted in 2014 and covers nine countries - four EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia) and five non-EU partners from the Western Balkans. It aims to foster economic and social prosperity, environmental sustainability, and connectivity across the Adriatic–Ionian basin. EUSAIR is structured around five thematic pillars: (1) Blue Sustainable Economy, (2) Connecting the Region, (3) Environmental Quality, (4) Sustainable Tourism and (5) Improved Social Cohesion. The strategy promotes coordinated policy development and investment across borders, emphasizing maritime cooperation, sustainable transport corridors, and integrated territorial development through shared governance among national and regional authorities.

EUSAIR's "Connecting the Region" pillar supports integrated and sustainable mobility across coastal and inland areas - a goal that resonates strongly with PopUpUrbanSpaces' vision of

reclaiming urban space from car dominance. The strategy's emphasis on cross-sectoral cooperation and public engagement aligns with the project's Show & Tell methodology, which demonstrates sustainable mobility concepts through visible, people-centred interventions and digital awareness campaigns. By translating tactical urbanism practices into policy-relevant lessons, PopUpUrbanSpaces contributes to EUSAIR's ambition to foster more liveable, connected, and low-carbon communities across the macro-region. Moreover, the project's capacity-building and transnational learning components can serve as transferable models for EUSAIR partners, strengthening how macro-regional cooperation can influence cohesion policy instruments towards participatory, human-scale mobility planning.

Available document:

European Commission (2025): *COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on the revised Action Plan of the EU Macro-Regional Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region.*

Transnational policy proposal 8: The "Transport and energy" and the "Grater social cohesion" sections in the 4th Chapter of the European Commission's 2025 Report could be completed with suggestions about low-carbon tactical solutions as a form of participatory, human-scale mobility planning.

2.9. Transnational policy proposal 9

EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP), endorsed in 2015, covers 48 regions across seven countries - five EU Member States (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia) and two non-EU countries (Liechtenstein and Switzerland). It addresses the unique environmental, social, and economic challenges of the Alpine area, focusing on three thematic policy objectives: (1) fair access to job opportunities and competitiveness, (2) sustainable internal and external accessibility, and (3) an environmentally sustainable and resilient Alpine region. EUSALP's governance is structured through nine Action Groups, which facilitate cross-border cooperation and stakeholder engagement across multiple governance levels.

EUSALP's Action Group 4 on Mobility promotes low-carbon, efficient, and inclusive transport solutions in challenging Alpine contexts, which parallels PopUpUrbanSpaces' emphasis on small-scale experimentation to reshape urban mobility. The project's approach - using temporary, cost-effective interventions to test new urban mobility concepts and raise public awareness - complements EUSALP's goals of balancing accessibility with environmental sustainability. Both initiatives highlight that behavioural change and civic engagement are as essential as infrastructure investment in achieving sustainable mobility. By showcasing tactical urbanism as a practical policy innovation method, PopUpUrbanSpaces offers EUSALP actors a replicable model for piloting people-focused mobility measures, while also reinforcing the strategy's objective of translating local experiments into transnational policy learning and improved cohesion policy frameworks.

Transnational policy proposal 9: In the "Thematic focus and objectives" section of the White Paper, a possible focus could be recommended for the Mobility Action Group in form of tactical urbanism as a replicable model for piloting people-focused mobility measures.

2.10. Transnational policy proposal 10

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) was the first macro-regional strategy, launched in 2009, and it encompasses eight EU Member States around the Baltic Sea. Its overarching goals are to (1) save the sea, (2) connect the region, and (3) increase prosperity. EUSBSR focuses on addressing shared challenges such as environmental degradation, connectivity gaps, and economic disparities through enhanced policy coordination, multi-level governance, and targeted investments. The strategy operates through Policy Areas and Horizontal Actions that encourage cooperation across national and sectoral borders, linking local development with macro-regional objectives.

The EUSBSR's Policy Area "Transport" seeks to improve connectivity and promote environmentally friendly transport solutions through cooperation and innovation - objectives that mirror PopUpUrbanSpaces' transnational efforts. The project complements the strategy's goals by focusing on the social and behavioural dimension of sustainable mobility, an aspect often underrepresented in large-scale transport initiatives. Through its digital campaigns and participatory pop-up interventions, PopUpUrbanSpaces provides practical insights into how citizens can be engaged as active partners in reducing car dependency and reclaiming urban space. These experiences can inform EUSBSR's policy dialogues on sustainable urban transport by offering tested communication and engagement approaches that strengthen the societal foundations of green mobility. Furthermore, the project's outcomes illustrate how cohesion-funded urban experimentation can enhance macro-regional collaboration on climate-neutral mobility solutions.

Available documents:

European Commission (2012): *COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS concerning the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.*

European Commission (2021): *COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, ACTION PLAN [COM(2009) 248 final].*

Transnational policy proposal 10: It is suggested that in both the "Transport" and "Spatial planning" subchapters of the European Commission's Action Plan a possible focus can be placed on the social and behavioural dimension of sustainable

3. Summary

This transnational position paper demonstrates a strong alignment between the objectives of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project and a wide range of EU-level and macro-regional policy frameworks addressing sustainable mobility, climate action, spatial development, and territorial cohesion. Across these strategies, there is a shared recognition of the need to reduce transport emissions, prioritise active and people-centred mobility, and strengthen participatory and integrated planning approaches. However, the analysis also reveals a recurring gap between strategic ambitions and their practical implementation at local level, particularly in small and medium-sized cities with limited capacity and higher political risk.

In this context, PopUpUrbanSpaces provides a concrete and transferable response. Through tactical urbanism interventions and targeted digital communication, the project demonstrates how temporary, low-cost, and participatory measures can make abstract policy goals visible, test solutions in real-life settings, and build public acceptance for sustainable mobility transitions. These methods function as effective "bridging tools" between long-term strategies and on-the-ground action, supporting behavioural change, evidence-based decision-making, and more inclusive governance processes.

The paper therefore calls on European institutions, national authorities, and programme bodies to move beyond viewing such approaches as isolated pilots. Instead, tactical urbanism and communication-driven experimentation should be systematically embedded into policy frameworks, planning guidelines, and funding instruments, including SUMPs, urban node requirements, and macro-regional strategies. Scaling up these methods as standard tools can accelerate implementation, reduce risks, and support the transition towards healthier, more liveable, and climate-neutral cities across Europe.
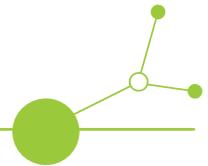
Funding Opportunities for the Continuation and Uptake of PopUpUrbanSpaces

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1. About this document

This document was developed in the framework of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project (Facilitating Shift Towards Active Forms of Mobility by Changing the Attitude and Travel Behaviour of Residents Through the Use of Green, Low-cost Tactical Urbanism and Placemaking Solutions), under Work Package 3 (WP3). It is directly linked to the deliverable D.3.2.3 Position Paper and contributes to the section C.8 Long-term Effects and Durability of the project's Application Form.

The main purpose of this document is to identify and map potential funding opportunities that can support the further development, scaling, and transfer of the project's results after its official completion. The focus is on both national and international funding schemes that are relevant to sustainable urban mobility, tactical urbanism, and placemaking. This funding roadmap is intended to assist project partners and other stakeholders in maintaining and expanding the impact of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project in the long term.

Understanding the available funding landscape is essential for ensuring the long-term impact and sustainability of project results. Without a clear overview of accessible financing options, even the most innovative and impactful pilot actions risk remaining isolated or short-lived. By identifying concrete funding opportunities that align with the thematic focus of PopUpUrbanSpaces, this document empowers partners to plan strategically for the future, build on existing achievements, and scale up successful approaches. Moreover, a well-informed view of the funding environment enables more effective cooperation among stakeholders, supports replication in other urban contexts, and strengthens the overall capacity of cities and institutions to implement people-centred, low-cost urban mobility solutions.

The analysis covers funding sources in at least four participating countries, including but not limited to: Slovenia, Croatia, Poland, Hungary, Italy, Austria, and Germany, depending on national relevance. In addition, selected cross-border and transnational programmes (such as Interreg Italy-Austria, Interreg Italy-Slovenia, Interreg Lithuania-Poland, and the Baltic Sea Region Programme) are also examined.

In selecting relevant funding opportunities, special care was taken to ensure a strong connection between each identified programme or call and the core themes of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project – active mobility, tactical urbanism, and placemaking. This thematic alignment guarantees that any future actions derived from the project will build directly on its original goals and areas of expertise. Furthermore, priority was given to funding schemes that are accessible to at least two project partners, supporting the transnational dimension of the project's legacy. This approach is intended to foster continued cross-border cooperation and facilitate knowledge transfer, fully in line with the Interreg programme's principles.

The document concludes with a set of professional recommendations, highlighting the most promising funding sources identified during the mapping process. These recommendations aim to guide the partnership in future efforts to secure resources for sustaining and expanding the outcomes of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project.

2. Mapping of National Funding Opportunities

To support the continuation and upscaling of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project results at the national level, this chapter presents a structured overview of relevant national funding opportunities related to sustainable urban mobility, with a special emphasis on tactical urbanism and placemaking approaches. The mapping process focused on identifying funding schemes that are currently available in the following countries, depending on their relevance and accessibility: Slovenia, Croatia, Poland, Hungary, Italy, Austria, and Germany.

From a methodological perspective, the identification of national funding sources was carried out through a collaborative approach involving project partners. A standardised template was developed to ensure a consistent data collection process across countries. This template (presented in Annex 1) was shared with each partner, along with a request to review and report on funding programmes and calls available in their respective countries and national languages. The objective was to collect funding opportunities that could realistically support the continuation of specific aspects of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project within their own national contexts.

The resulting national funding map provides a practical tool for consortium members to navigate their local funding environments and to strategically plan further activities that build on the achievements of the project.

2.1. National Funding Landscape – Austria

In Austria, a number of national and regional initiatives provide a strong framework for continuing the results of PopUpUrbanSpaces, especially in the fields of sustainable urban development, climate adaptation, and resilience. These initiatives address challenges such as land use, water management, and the transition to climate-neutral cities, offering a wide range of opportunities for municipalities, NGOs, enterprises, and research institutions.

One important scheme is the Blau-Gelber Bodenbonus (Blue-Yellow Soil Bonus), which is financed through the regional water and landscape funds of Lower Austria. The program supports the unsealing

of previously built-up or sealed land, reintegrating it into the natural water cycle. This action contributes directly to climate change adaptation, improved rainwater management, and the ecological revitalization of urban and peri-urban areas. By restoring soil permeability, the initiative also reduces flood risks, supports biodiversity, and enhances the overall quality of life in urban neighborhoods. The fund is open to both public and private institutions as well as enterprises, with flexible funding amounts depending on the local focus and context. For projects inspired by the PopUpUrbanSpaces approach, this initiative offers opportunities to replicate small-scale interventions that reconnect ecological and social functions in cities.

Another central program is the Mission Klimaneutrale Stadt – Technologien und Innovationen für die klimaneutrale Stadt 2025, financed by the Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure in cooperation with the Climate and Energy Fund. This initiative provides substantial resources—up to EUR 1.5 million per applicant—to support research, innovation, and demonstration projects aimed at achieving climate-neutral, resilient, and climate-adapted urban environments. The scheme encourages the development of technical, socio-ecological, and economic system solutions and explicitly supports demonstration activities at the urban district level. Special attention is given to both small- and medium-sized cities and to urban pilot projects in larger metropolitan areas, including the creation of local hubs for climate-neutral and climate-resilient neighborhood development. The program is highly relevant for building on PopUpUrbanSpaces results, as it emphasizes integrated urban transformation processes, innovative partnerships, and the scaling-up of experimental approaches into mainstream strategies.

2.2. National Funding Landscape – Croatia

In Croatia, several national-level funding mechanisms provide promising opportunities for the continuation and further development of initiatives similar to PopUpUrbanSpaces. One of the most significant among these is the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) mechanism, which plays a central role in channeling resources from the Integrated Territorial Program 2021–2027 towards sustainable urban development. A total of €681 million has been secured for this purpose, representing 13.05% of the national ERDF allocation, which is considerably above the EU minimum requirement. The ITI framework is applied in 22 urban areas, covering Croatia's largest metropolitan regions such as Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, and Osijek, as well as medium-sized cities and smaller county capitals. Its thematic focus includes sustainable and smart urban transport, revitalization of brownfield locations, cultural heritage and tourism development, green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and the creation of multifunctional public spaces. These priorities are directly aligned with the objectives of tactical urbanism and participatory public space interventions, meaning that PopUpUrbanSpaces-style activities can be effectively embedded into larger integrated strategies. Through

the ITI, Croatian municipalities and urban areas can secure substantial resources to test, adapt, and scale innovative public space interventions, ranging from temporary mobility pilots to participatory design processes that involve citizens in reshaping their environment.

In parallel, Croatia's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) represents another important instrument that offers a broad framework for funding the green and digital transformation of urban environments. With a total envelope of €2.9 billion from the European Union, the plan was created to address the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic while building long-term resilience. It emphasizes objectives that resonate with the themes of PopUpUrbanSpaces, such as promoting renewable energy use, advancing sustainable urban renewal strategies, enhancing energy efficiency, and supporting awareness-raising campaigns for climate adaptation and sustainable mobility. The plan also integrates large-scale investments into transformative initiatives, including the North Adriatic Hydrogen Valley, the expansion of the LNG terminal on Krk Island, and the development of sustainable transport infrastructure. Although many of these measures are broad and infrastructural, the RRP also leaves room for smaller-scale interventions, especially those focusing on digitalization, social resilience, and the promotion of new urban lifestyles. In this sense, it can serve as a complementary pathway for continuing pilot-level actions inspired by PopUpUrbanSpaces, particularly if they demonstrate synergies with Croatia's long-term energy and climate goals.

A further opportunity is provided by the Urban Development Fund, a newly introduced financial instrument within the 2021–2027 period that combines loans with grant components for public sector entities. With a budget of €172 million, this instrument has been designed to increase the financial capacity of cities and municipalities to implement ambitious urban projects, while reducing financial risks through favourable conditions. Up to 50% of the loan amount can be converted into a grant if projects succeed in meeting targets related to sustainability, social inclusion, and urban aesthetics. This performance-based feature makes the Urban Development Fund particularly suitable for experimental or demonstrative actions where cities are willing to test new approaches but also need financial security. PopUpUrbanSpaces-type interventions, which combine tactical mobility improvements, placemaking, and citizen engagement, fit well into the logic of this instrument, as they can provide measurable impacts in terms of inclusivity, sustainability, and improved quality of life.

Taken together, these instruments create a well-structured ecosystem of funding opportunities in Croatia. While the ITI mechanism ensures long-term integration of tactical urbanism into comprehensive urban development strategies, the RRP provides broader national resources linked to resilience and green transition, and the Urban Development Fund offers flexible, risk-reduced financing for innovative municipal

projects. By strategically connecting PopUpUrbanSpaces results with these mechanisms, Croatian partners can secure the continuation of pilot initiatives, while also embedding them into national and regional policy frameworks that guarantee their sustainability and potential upscaling.

2.3. National Funding Landscape – Hungary

When reviewing national funding opportunities in Hungary, the Territorial and Settlement Development Operational Programme Plus (TOP Plusz) emerges as the most relevant option, particularly for partners with a municipal background. While no current calls explicitly target tactical urbanism or placemaking, several instruments within the programme allow for the integration of such approaches into broader urban development projects.

TOP Plusz, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the Hungarian government, supports comprehensive and integrated urban development in Hungarian cities and towns. The programme prioritizes sustainability, quality of life, and community-oriented planning – offering fertile ground for incorporating elements of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project.

Relevant calls include:

— TOP_PLUSZ-4.1.2-23 – "Bringastrada" Programme: Focuses on developing regional and urban cycling infrastructure. While primarily infrastructure-oriented, there is room to embed pilot actions such as temporary bike lanes or awareness campaigns aligned with active mobility goals.

— TOP_PLUSZ-1.3.1-21 – Support for Sustainable Urban Development Strategies (SUDS) Encourages municipalities to develop or revise their strategic frameworks. These strategies can include participatory planning tools and tactical interventions like pop-up public space testing and co-creation events.

— TOP_PLUSZ-1.2.1-21 – Livable Settlements: Supports inclusive, green, and community-centered urban developments. Tactical urbanism elements, public space activation, and placemaking interventions can be included as components of broader urban improvement concepts.

— TOP_PLUSZ-1.3.2-23 – Sustainable Urban Development (larger cities): Aims to fund complex, integrated projects improving urban mobility and quality of life. Demonstration actions such as street redesign, temporary installations, or active mobility pilots can be supported if framed within a strategic development plan.

These funding opportunities collectively provide a strong foundation for the continuation and local adaptation of PopUpUrbanSpaces results in Hungary. If aligned with municipal strategies – such as

Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) or local climate action plans – tactical urbanism and placemaking activities can be embedded in long-term urban development pathways and receive stable financial support.

In addition to the TOP Plusz programme, smaller-scale initiatives aligned with the PopUpUrbanSpaces approach may benefit from the **National Cooperation Fund (NEA)**, specifically through its *Mobility and Adaptation Collegium*. This Hungarian government scheme provides flexible funding (typically between €2,500 and €20,000) to civil society organizations for grassroots projects focused on active mobility, community engagement, and environmental adaptation. While infrastructure costs are not eligible, NEA funding is ideal for piloting tactical interventions, organizing awareness campaigns, and implementing participatory placemaking actions at the local level – making it a highly accessible tool for NGOs to continue and adapt PopUpUrbanSpaces results.

2.4. National Funding Landscape – Poland

In Poland, one of the most relevant opportunities for the continuation of PopUpUrbanSpaces-type activities is the Green Urban Transformation Instrument (GUTI), which is financed through the National Recovery Plan (Krajowy Plan Odbudowy). This initiative is designed to comprehensively support the green and energy transition of cities across the country and provides a substantial framework for projects aiming to combine urban development with environmental sustainability. The funding scheme is accessible to a broad range of actors, including local government units (cities, functional areas, inter-municipal agreements, associations of municipalities, counties, and their unions), entrepreneurs, research institutions, energy communities, housing cooperatives, cultural institutions, universities, and non-governmental organizations, among others. The grants available start from a minimum of EUR 50,000 per applicant, and the funding period spans from 2022 until 2026.

The overarching goal of the initiative is to support investments that contribute to the greening of urban areas, tackling climate change, promoting sustainable resource use, reducing pollution, and protecting biodiversity, while at the same time revitalizing buildings and urban spaces. The scheme has a strong urban focus, addressing both infrastructural improvements and social aspects of city life. More specifically, the intervention seeks to minimize human impact on the environment by promoting rational resource management, raising public awareness of environmental issues, and ensuring that ecological considerations are integrated into urban planning processes. It also aims to shift the development model of Polish cities toward sustainability by prioritizing measures that mitigate or adapt to climate change and fostering circular economy approaches.

In addition to its environmental focus, the initiative places a strong emphasis on improving the quality of life and health of residents. It promotes the creation and enhancement of public spaces that support leisure and natural functions, encourage changes in mobility patterns by prioritizing walking and cycling, and improve access to environmentally friendly public services. By addressing mobility, energy, and public space simultaneously, the scheme mirrors the integrated approach promoted in PopUpUrbanSpaces, making it particularly relevant for ensuring the transfer or continuation of project results.

The program also supports investments that enhance the attractiveness of Polish cities as centers of environmentally friendly, circular economy-driven activities, thereby fostering conditions for healthy social capital and local economic development. Another important dimension is strengthening energy resilience and combating energy poverty, ensuring that urban transformation is socially inclusive and benefits all residents.

Overall, the Green Urban Transformation Instrument represents a comprehensive and flexible funding opportunity that aligns closely with the objectives of PopUpUrbanSpaces. Its focus on revitalization of urban spaces, promotion of sustainable mobility, climate change adaptation, and community-oriented development makes it a natural candidate for ensuring that the innovative practices and approaches developed during PopUpUrbanSpaces can be further developed and embedded in the Polish urban context.

2.5. National Funding Landscape – Slovenia

In Slovenia, there are several funding opportunities that could be relevant for ensuring the continuation and sustainability of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project. One of the most promising initiatives is the Call for proposals for the selection of projects for the implementation of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) of the Local Action Group (LAG) "Heart of Slovenia", co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The next call, which will be the third in the current programming period, is expected to be launched in October 2025. It is designed to support projects that contribute to integrated and inclusive local social, economic, and environmental development. The scheme provides up to 80% public support, with a maximum of EUR 30,000 for non-investment projects and EUR 60,000 for investment projects. Eligible applicants include local action groups, individual entrepreneurs, and legal entities, and projects can be submitted either individually or in partnership. Importantly, both investment and non-investment initiatives are eligible, provided that they are aligned with the objectives of the Local Development Strategy and that they are not completed prior to signing the co-financing contract.

The aim of the initiative is strongly connected to the goals of the European Cohesion Policy Programme for the period 2021–2027, particularly Policy Objective 5, which emphasizes bringing Europe closer to citizens through sustainable and integrated local development. Within this framework, the "Heart of Slovenia" LAG has defined five priority measures: supporting rural entrepreneurship, developing sustainable tourism, promoting sustainable agriculture and local food self-sufficiency, preserving the environment and cultural heritage, and strengthening local communities. Among these measures, the latter two are particularly well aligned with the vision and objectives of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project, as they highlight the importance of safeguarding cultural and natural assets while also enhancing the resilience and cohesion of local communities. Projects supported under this initiative are expected to improve the quality of life for local populations, enhance access to services in both urban and rural areas, promote intergenerational cooperation, and provide better opportunities for disadvantaged groups. They also foster innovation and creativity in the use of local resources, support (eco)tourism, and contribute to more sustainable patterns of development. As such, this funding scheme could be an excellent opportunity for ensuring the replication, transfer, or continuation of PopUpUrbanSpaces activities, especially those focusing on cultural and community-based interventions.

Another highly relevant initiative in Slovenia is the Public call for co-financing of sustainable mobility measures for the period 2023–2029, financed through the Cohesion Fund with an 85% EU share and 15% national co-financing. Unlike the previous initiative, this call is specifically targeted at municipalities that have already adopted an Integrated Transport Strategy. The funding available is significant, ranging between EUR 125,000 and EUR 2,500,000 per project, and it aims to support investments that create more sustainable, safe, accessible, and environmentally friendly transport solutions at the local level. The main focus is on reducing dependency on personal motorized vehicles and instead improving infrastructure for public transport, cycling, and walking. Eligible measures include the comprehensive redevelopment of streets and roads according to sustainable mobility principles, the creation or improvement of designated spaces for public passenger transport, and the development of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

The long-term objective of this initiative is to increase the share of sustainable modes of transport within municipalities, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution linked to traffic. At the same time, it is expected to improve the quality of life by making mobility more convenient, safer, and more inclusive. For municipalities involved in PopUpUrbanSpaces, this call could provide an excellent opportunity to further integrate the principles of sustainable mobility and public space regeneration into their urban planning and investment strategies. The emphasis on participatory planning and integrated local strategies also resonates with the participatory and citizen-focused approaches that have been central to PopUpUrbanSpaces.

Taken together, these two Slovenian initiatives illustrate that there is a favorable policy and funding environment for the continuation of projects such as PopUpUrbanSpaces. While the ERDF-funded Local Action Group initiative emphasizes small-scale, community-driven projects focusing on cultural, social, and environmental development, the Cohesion Fund-supported mobility initiative offers larger-scale investment opportunities for municipalities to reshape local transport and public spaces in line with sustainability principles. Both streams could serve as important vehicles for ensuring that the outcomes and innovative approaches developed during the PopUpUrbanSpaces project are not only maintained but also scaled up and integrated into broader local and regional development strategies.

3. Mapping of International Funding Opportunities

In addition to exploring national-level funding schemes, the identification of international funding opportunities plays a crucial role in sustaining and scaling up the results of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project. International programmes – particularly those co-funded by the European Union – offer valuable resources to support cross-border cooperation, policy experimentation, and the transfer of innovative urban practices across regions.

This section presents a curated overview of selected international programmes and funding calls that align thematically with the core areas of PopUpUrbanSpaces: active mobility, tactical urbanism, and placemaking. The objective is to guide project partners and like-minded stakeholders in identifying funding sources that enable transnational collaboration, support the replication of successful pilots, and promote policy learning in line with European cohesion and sustainability goals.

The listed opportunities prioritize accessibility for at least two consortium partners and focus on schemes where community-driven urban innovation and participatory planning can be meaningfully embedded.

3.1. Interreg Italy-Austria

The Interreg VI-A Italy–Austria Programme is a European cross-border cooperation initiative co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It aims to enhance territorial cohesion and joint development in the Alpine border regions of northern Italy and southern Austria, supporting cooperation between public bodies, civil society, SMEs, and research actors. The programme promotes sustainable, inclusive, and innovation-driven cross-border development through funding projects that address five main priorities:

1. Innovation and Enterprise

2. Climate Change and Biodiversity
3. Sustainable and Cultural Tourism
4. Local Development (CLLD)
5. Reducing Cross-Border Barriers

These thematic areas align well with the goals of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project, especially in relation to local development, sustainability, and citizen-centered innovation in public spaces. The next section explores those specific objectives that appear most relevant for scaling up or further developing the approaches piloted in the PopUpUrbanSpaces project.

SO2.7 – Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

Under Priority 2, this specific objective aims to foster resilience to climate change and to protect biodiversity in the Alpine region through coordinated cross-border action. Recognizing the ecological and social value of natural and urban ecosystems, the programme supports efforts to reduce pollution, promote green infrastructure, and increase public awareness around environmental protection. The main actions include:

– Awareness-raising, information and training activities
– Cross-border policy development and coordination
– Transfer and implementation of green technologies and practices
– Community engagement in biodiversity protection and pollution reduction

These activities are designed to strengthen cooperation across borders, particularly in mountainous and urbanizing areas, through participatory and innovative approaches to environmental sustainability.

The goals and tools of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project closely align with this specific objective, especially in terms of reducing pollution in urban areas and promoting green, people-centered spaces through behavioural change. PopUpUrbanSpaces helps tackle the challenges of car-dominated public spaces – such as air pollution, urban heat, and loss of biodiversity – by demonstrating how tactical urbanism and community-driven placemaking can reimagine streets and squares as healthier, greener environments. The project's pop-up interventions and digital campaigns encourage more climate-friendly travel behaviour, reduce dependency on private cars, and contribute to cleaner, more resilient urban ecosystems.

Within this funding framework, Austrian and Italian eligible partners could:

– Implement pilot pop-up interventions in Alpine towns that highlight how reducing car use can improve air quality and create space for green infrastructure

- Adapt and apply PopUpUrbanSpaces' digital awareness-raising tools to educate the public on the environmental impacts of mobility choices
- Deliver training programmes for local stakeholders on climate-responsive urban planning using placemaking and tactical urbanism approaches
- Facilitate cross-border knowledge exchange on reusing underutilized public space to strengthen ecological resilience

As such, the Interreg Italy–Austria Programme provides an ideal opportunity to replicate, adapt, and scale up the core methods and outcomes of PopUpUrbanSpaces in ways that directly contribute to climate action and biodiversity goals at the regional level.

SO4.6: Supporting culture and sustainable tourism for economic development, social inclusion, and social innovation

In priority 3 (Sustainable Tourism and Culture), this specific objective of the programme focuses on strengthening the cultural and tourism potential of the cooperation area in a way that balances environmental protection, economic growth, and social cohesion. Although the region already attracts around 50 million tourists annually, there is still untapped potential in improving its attractiveness and competitiveness, particularly through better coordination, sustainability, and cross-border synergies. The programme promotes interventions that increase the accessibility and value of cultural heritage – adapting to diverse visitor profiles in terms of age, language, interests, and modes of interaction. Actions include the enhancement of tourism offers, the protection and promotion of natural and cultural landscapes, the development of sustainable tourism products, and the integration of technology and innovative practices.

In this framework, we propose to further develop the concept of flexible, human-scale urban interventions, such as pop-up public space solutions and placemaking activities, as tools to support sustainable tourism and enhance visitor experience. These types of interventions can transform underused or transitional urban spaces into vibrant, culturally enriched destinations, encouraging visitors to engage with local heritage in a more dynamic and accessible way. Pop-up actions are adaptable, low-cost, and inclusive, making them ideal for piloting new tourism-related services or guiding visitor flows in a more sustainable manner.

Moreover, the integration of travel behaviour change methodologies – originally used in urban mobility planning – offers additional value in the tourism context. Encouraging tourists to adopt more sustainable modes of transport (e.g., walking, cycling, shared mobility) not only reduces environmental impacts, but also supports deeper, more meaningful engagement with local culture and communities. When combined, placemaking and behaviour change approaches create new opportunities for storytelling, community participation, and local economic benefits – turning mobility itself into part of the touristic experience.

These solutions contribute directly to the programme's aims by promoting cultural and tourism innovation, improving the quality and inclusiveness of the visitor experience, and advancing the green transition of the sector through concrete, visible, and replicable actions.

SO5.1: Enhancing an efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular with a view to resolving legal and administrative obstacles in border regions

In priority 5 (Reducing Cross-Border Obstacles) this specific objective focuses on improving cross-border governance by addressing the administrative and legal barriers that continue to hinder cooperation between regions. Although many border areas share economic, cultural, and environmental characteristics, collaboration is often limited by fragmented regulations, incompatible systems, and procedural inefficiencies. To overcome these obstacles, the programme supports the development of joint legal-administrative solutions, cross-border public services, and the harmonisation of policy frameworks. It aims to foster multi-level governance by involving actors at local, regional, and national level, thereby laying the institutional foundations for long-term cross-border integration.

In this context, we see strong potential to build on the results of previous pilot actions in urban mobility and placemaking, which successfully demonstrated how temporary and low-threshold interventions can influence behaviour, improve the liveability of public spaces, and foster civic engagement. In particular, the policy recommendations and tested solutions emerging from these pilots could be meaningfully transferred and scaled up within a governance-oriented framework under this priority.

By embedding these outcomes into a dedicated project focusing on administrative and legal cooperation, we propose to develop methodologies and operational models that help public administrations adopt, replicate, and institutionalise such approaches across border regions. This would allow for structured cross-border knowledge transfer, support the removal of procedural and legal barriers to implementation (e.g. around permitting, procurement, or temporary use of space), and promote the integration of citizen-driven innovation into local public policy. Through this, the programme's objective to reduce cross-border obstacles would be achieved not only through legal harmonisation, but also through the practical alignment of governance tools and institutional capacities.

3.2. Interreg Italy-Slovenia

The Interreg VI-A Italy–Slovenia Programme is a cross-border cooperation initiative under the European Territorial Cooperation objective, aiming to promote integrated and sustainable

development in the Italy–Slovenia border area. It is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The programme builds on years of successful cooperation between the two countries, and in the 2021–2027 period it places a strong emphasis on green transition, resilience, connectivity, governance, and inclusion. The programme area includes Italy (Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (entire territory) and the Province of Venice) and Slovenia (Obalno-kraška, Goriška, and Gorenjska statistical regions). Programme Priorities (2021–2027)

1. a more competitive, innovative and smarter Europe,
2. a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy, a resilient Europe
3. a more social and inclusive Europe
4. for an efficient public administration.

In the following section, we will review the specific objectives that offer the most promising opportunities for building on the achievements of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project.

SO7 – Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

The Specific Objective 7 – *Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution* – sits within Priority 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe of the Interreg VI-A Italy–Slovenia Programme. This objective recognises the exceptional natural value of the programme area, which includes Natura 2000 sites, UNESCO-listed landscapes such as the Karst region and the Dolomites, and a wide variety of ecosystems. At the same time, it acknowledges the increasing vulnerability of these areas due to pollution, climate change, tourism pressure and insufficiently coordinated management.

To address these challenges, the programme promotes joint strategies for nature conservation and pollution reduction, the development of green and blue infrastructure (especially in urban and peri-urban areas), and pilot actions for visitor and land-use management. It encourages cross-border cooperation among public authorities, civil society and local communities, and builds on successful projects from the previous programme cycle. The flagship strategic project POSEIDONE, focused on coastal biodiversity and marine sustainability, exemplifies the programme's ambition to combine environmental protection with participatory governance and innovation.

This objective offers clear potential for further developing and scaling up the results of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project. Although the original project focused on sustainable mobility and placemaking in functional urban areas, its approach to reclaiming car-dominated public space through temporary, people-centred interventions aligns well with the principles of green infrastructure, environmental quality, and nature restoration promoted by SO7.

In particular, PopUpUrbanSpaces pilot actions contributed to reducing pollution and anthropogenic pressure in urban centres by encouraging active modes of transport and reshaping behaviour through tactical urbanism. These interventions demonstrated how even small-scale, reversible actions can have measurable effects on urban quality, biodiversity (e.g. through greening of paved surfaces), and the perception of nature in everyday spaces.

Under SO7, this approach could be extended to include placemaking as a tool for ecological restoration and green infrastructure deployment, particularly in areas where urbanisation threatens fragile landscapes or biodiversity corridors. Pilot interventions might focus on transforming heat islands into micro-habitats, testing "nature-first" spatial planning techniques, or developing temporary green infrastructure linked to climate adaptation (e.g. rain gardens, shade corridors, edible landscapes).

Moreover, the capacity-building methods and policy recommendations developed in PopUpUrbanSpaces can feed into the cross-border cooperation mechanisms foreseen by the Italy–Slovenia Programme. This includes supporting joint urban greening strategies, harmonised guidelines for inclusive land-use planning, and collaborative tools for community engagement in environmental stewardship.

SO6 – Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

The Specific Objective 6 – *Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation* – is part of Priority 4: A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights of the Interreg VI-A Italy–Slovenia Programme. This objective builds upon the extraordinary richness and diversity of the programme area's cultural and natural heritage, which includes UNESCO-protected sites, intangible traditions, and vibrant linguistic minorities. Tourism plays a key role in the local

economy but is currently undergoing a structural transformation toward more ethical, inclusive and sustainable models, especially in response to the long-term effects of the pandemic.

The programme aims to foster an integrated approach to cultural and tourism development that addresses environmental sustainability, social inclusion, digital transformation and innovation in parallel. This includes the creation of new cross-border tourism products, the revitalisation of tangible and intangible heritage, and the enhancement of education and employment opportunities in tourism and cultural sectors. Particular emphasis is placed on smaller and lesser-known destinations, rural and peri-urban areas, and on ensuring that benefits reach local communities. The programme also aims to leverage key events, such as the European Capital of Culture 2025 (Nova Gorica · Gorizia), and aligns with macro-regional strategies like EUSAIR.

This specific objective presents highly relevant opportunities for the continuation and upscaling of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project, which has demonstrated how temporary placemaking interventions can contribute not only to sustainable mobility but also to urban regeneration, cultural engagement and community well-being. The core methodology of PopUpUrbanSpaces – using participatory, low-cost interventions to reclaim public space and change behaviour – can be effectively applied to support sustainable tourism development in underutilised or transitional areas.

In particular, the project's tested tactical urbanism methods can be integrated into tourism strategies that seek to improve the visitor experience, activate local heritage assets and promote alternative, low-impact destinations. Temporary spaces created through pop-up actions can host cultural activities, promote local identities, or serve as info points along thematic itineraries. These actions also provide visible platforms for community involvement, helping local residents shape how their spaces and stories are presented to visitors.

Moreover, the project's focus on digital storytelling and awareness-raising fits well with the programme's ambition to digitalise the tourism and culture sectors. The communication tools and behaviour change strategies developed in PopUpUrbanSpaces could be repurposed to promote sustainable travel choices, raise awareness about cultural diversity, and make tourism offers more accessible to disadvantaged groups.

Finally, the territorial plans and policy recommendations elaborated during the project provide a ready-made base for creating joint cross-border strategies, particularly for small towns and rural areas wishing to develop tourism offers in line with the programme's ethical and inclusive values. As such, Specific Objective 6 offers a highly relevant framework for transforming the legacy of PopUpUrbanSpaces into lasting cultural, economic and social value for the Italy–Slovenia border region.

Specific Objective – Enhancing efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions

This Specific Objective is part of Priority "A better cooperation governance" of the Interreg VI-A Italy–Slovenia Programme 2021–2027. The objective addresses one of the key structural barriers to effective cross-border cooperation in the programme area: the persistence of legal, administrative and linguistic obstacles that complicate the coordination of services and limit accessibility – especially for people living in remote areas or belonging to disadvantaged groups.

Despite a well-established tradition of cooperation and multilevel governance in the Italy–Slovenia border region, there remains a strong need to simplify administrative processes, align service provision, and build more inclusive and responsive cross-border systems. This applies particularly to areas such as public transport, healthcare, labour market access and digital services, where improved coordination can generate significant benefits for cross-border residents, commuters, students, and tourists alike.

To this end, the programme supports actions that aim to increase governance capacity and optimise services for citizens. These include joint investments in ICT-enabled solutions for service delivery (e.g. e-health, digital access), bilingual public service offerings, training for local and regional authorities, and strategies for improving multimodal accessibility. Cross-border exchange of knowledge and alignment of practices will be key levers to reduce fragmentation and improve efficiency.

This objective offers significant scope for building on the outcomes of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project, especially by focusing on the institutional and governance dimensions of sustainable urban mobility. While the original project demonstrated the power of tactical interventions and digital

awareness campaigns to shift behaviour, its longer-term success depends on how local administrations integrate these methods into their policies and workflows.

Under this objective, PopUpUrbanSpaces results could be scaled up through initiatives that embed placemaking and behavioural change tools into public administration routines, develop legal and procedural frameworks for temporary use of public space, or pilot joint mobility planning initiatives between neighbouring municipalities across the border. Furthermore, the project's participatory methodologies could be used to train public servants and civic actors in co-design processes, inclusive urban governance, and cross-border service coordination – thus contributing directly to the goal of stronger, citizen-focused institutional cooperation.

Finally, PopUpUrbanSpaces' territorial plans and policy recommendations offer a strong basis for launching cross-border governance experiments – particularly in relation to shared transport systems, digital information services, and engagement platforms for residents and visitors. In this way, this specific objective provides the ideal governance framework for transforming the project's tested innovations into durable public services and cross-border administrative models that better respond to people's everyday needs.

3.3. Interreg Lithuania-Poland

The Interreg Lithuania–Poland Programme 2021–2027 is a cross-border cooperation initiative designed to strengthen ties between the neighbouring regions of southern Lithuania and northeastern Poland. The programme addresses common territorial challenges and opportunities by supporting joint actions that improve the quality of life and promote long-term, sustainable development.

The programme covers three Lithuanian counties (Alytus, Marijampolė, and Kaunas) and two Polish voivodeships (Podlaskie and Warmian-Masurian). These border regions share many socio-economic similarities, face common environmental and demographic challenges, and benefit from strong historical and cultural connections.

Programme priorities:

1. Promoting environmental wellbeing and strengthening crisis management
2. Promoting physical, emotional and cultural wellbeing

3. Strengthening cooperation of local, regional and national stakeholders
4. Improving connectivity

Together, these priorities reflect the programme's integrated approach to supporting greener, more inclusive, and better-connected communities on both sides of the border.

In the following section, we will explore the specific objectives within these priorities that present the most promising opportunities for continuing and scaling up the results of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project.

Specific Objective RSO2.7 – Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

This specific objective falls under Priority 1: Promoting environmental wellbeing and strengthening crisis management of the Interreg Lithuania–Poland Programme. It addresses the urgent need to protect biodiversity, develop green infrastructure, and reduce various forms of environmental pollution in the cross-border region. The objective emphasizes improving stakeholder capacities in nature protection, supporting environmental education, enhancing green public spaces, and implementing pollution reduction measures. It also supports crisis management capacities, including monitoring and preparedness systems, while fostering environmental awareness and cooperation between Lithuanian and Polish stakeholders.

Types of actions supported under this SO include:

– Joint development or improvement of biodiversity-rich green infrastructure (e.g. parks, green roofs, schoolyards),
– Environmental awareness and education initiatives,
– Solutions for wastewater and rainwater use,
– Actions to reduce water pollution in cross-border catchment areas,
– Exchange of good practices and policies in nature preservation,
– Community-involving pilot actions enhancing sustainability and ecosystem services.

The continuation of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project could find a highly relevant framework within this specific objective, particularly through its emphasis on green infrastructure in urban areas and pro-environmental behavioural change. PopUpUrbanSpaces aims to reclaim car-dominated

public spaces and convert them into people-centred environments. These goals directly support the development of green urban infrastructure, one of the central action lines of this SO.

Furthermore, the project's core methodology – using tactical urbanism and placemaking to demonstrate the value of greener public spaces and raise awareness about the negative impacts of car-centric mobility – strongly aligns with the SO's objectives around environmental education and awareness. The digital campaigning tools developed in the original project also offer transferable models for cross-border environmental engagement campaigns.

A follow-up project could therefore:

- Pilot new types of green urban interventions (e.g., schoolyard greening, pop-up microparks, temporary green corridors),
- Engage local communities through joint Lithuanian–Polish environmental education campaigns,
- Promote shared governance approaches to planning and maintaining urban green infrastructure,
- Develop recommendations for scaling nature-based mobility alternatives (e.g. walking and cycling) in small and medium-sized towns.

By combining green infrastructure investments with citizen engagement and behavioural tools, the evolved PopUpUrbanSpaces model can directly contribute to the ecological revitalisation of urban spaces while strengthening cross-border cooperation on environmental wellbeing.

3.4. Interreg Baltic Sea Region

The Interreg Baltic Sea Region (BSR) Programme 2021–2027 is a transnational cooperation programme that supports integrated territorial development and innovation across the Baltic Sea Region. It provides funding for projects that address common challenges and opportunities shared by countries and regions bordering the Baltic Sea, aiming to foster innovation, sustainability, and improved governance through cross-border collaboration.

The programme encourages partnerships among public authorities, research institutions, NGOs, and businesses to develop, pilot, and implement solutions that support smarter and greener development, resilient communities, and better governance.

The programme covers Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany (northern part), Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden and Norway (as a full member).The programme also supports cooperation with organisations from countries such as Belarus and parts of Russia (although participation is currently limited due to geopolitical circumstances).

This wide geographical reach allows the programme to address transnational challenges such as climate change, demographic shifts, and urban development from a regional perspective.

Programme Priorities

1. Innovative societies – driving innovation capacities and smart specialisation.
2. Water-smart societies – tackling water-related challenges and supporting sustainable water management.
3. Climate-neutral societies – promoting energy efficiency, circular economy, low-carbon development, and climate resilience.
4. Cooperation governance – improving multi-level governance and fostering stakeholder involvement in regional development.

In the following sections, we will explore those specific objectives of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme that offer the most promising opportunities for continuing and scaling up the results of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project.

Programme Objective 3.3 – Smart Green Mobility

The Programme Objective 3.3 under Priority 3: Climate-Neutral Societies of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme aims to promote smart, green, and low-carbon mobility systems that function efficiently across urban, rural, and cross-border areas. The objective supports actions that improve mobility efficiency, integrate multiple transport modes, and accelerate digitalisation to reduce emissions and optimize movement. A key focus is on harmonizing mobility standards between regions and encouraging the adoption of intelligent green solutions among citizens, businesses, and public authorities.

Supported activities include the development of common standards for interoperability of mobility systems, piloting innovative digital tools that regulate and optimize traffic, and promoting smart freight and passenger transport systems that reduce environmental impact and congestion.

This programme objective offers a strategic opportunity to expand the impact and scope of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project by embedding its core principles – behavioural change through tactical urbanism and digital campaigns – into broader smart and green mobility frameworks.

While PopUpUrbanSpaces addressed the challenges of car-dominated functional urban areas (FUAs) through "Show and Tell" methods, future projects aligned with this objective could focus on harmonizing these interventions across borders, integrating them into regional mobility planning, and linking behavioural change with digital mobility management systems.

A continuation project could contribute by:

- Developing cross-border standards for temporary and permanent placemaking interventions that promote modal shift;
- Piloting data-driven, digitally supported pop-up strategies to test and predict sustainable mobility behaviours;
- Collaborating with local authorities and transport operators to implement co-created smart mobility campaigns, using lessons from previous tactical interventions;
- Supporting the integration of pop-up urbanism with multimodal transport planning in small and medium-sized cities across the Baltic Sea Region.

By scaling up the PopUpUrbanSpaces concept under this objective, partners can help create low-emission urban spaces while strengthening cooperation on intelligent and inclusive mobility policies, making it a highly suitable direction for transnational project development.

4. Recommendations for Future Funding Opportunities

This document concludes with a set of guiding principles instead of fixed funding recommendations, as selecting the most appropriate call requires an in-depth understanding of each partner's strategic goals and local context.

We encourage all project partners to explore both national and international funding opportunities, including EU cross-border, transnational, and interregional programmes. While this report has highlighted a selection of Interreg programmes and specific objectives that align with the PopUpUrbanSpaces project's core themes, it is important to note that this list is not exhaustive. In this topic area, it is advisable for each partner to review all relevant funding instruments available in their respective countries and regions.

Each organisation is best placed to determine which type of continuation or scaling initiative it wishes to pursue based on local needs and development priorities. Whether the goal is to scale up tactical urbanism interventions, improve travel behaviour through awareness campaigns, or integrate placemaking into broader territorial strategies, identifying the most suitable funding scheme must be a tailored process.

What this document has successfully demonstrated is that the logic and development priorities of European Territorial Cooperation programmes are highly compatible with the objectives and results of PopUpUrbanSpaces. The project's alignment with sustainable mobility, citizen engagement, spatial quality, and urban-rural integration makes it a strong candidate for future cooperation frameworks.

The same logic applies to national funding opportunities, where a different approach may be needed. In many cases, these opportunities may not take the form of dedicated small-scale calls but rather offer scope for integrating PopUpUrbanSpaces results as sub-projects within larger development initiatives.

5. Annex 1 – Template for partners

EMFIE is investigating leverage of PopUpUrbanSpaces funds. During this work, our experts examine international opportunities for continuing PopUpUrbanSpaces results to be granted using several potential funds which are available in English.

Since funds on national level are mostly available in national language, we kindly ask you to send us the maximum of 3 most important initiatives (grants, calls for proposals, applications, funds) which are potentially suitable to finance your work after project closure on national level – by filling in the template below. Of course you can delete / add rows, based on the relevance.

The final result of this work will be an extremely complex and widespread transnational resource map, from which project partners will see the potential financial background of continuing PopUpUrbanSpaces's result.

Name of the initiative	
Link of the initiative	
Financed by	
Eligible organizations	

Available grant per applicant (in EUR)	
Period to be financed	
Main aim of the initiative	
Summary of the initiative	*Please give about half page discription*

Please copy and paste the table above as many times as many initiatives you want to introduce.