FUTURE FORWARD

Youth Innovations for Inlusive Cities - Poland, Spain, Turkey, Portugal

WELCOME

THEN

Young people are a force that will bring about great changes in the near future – they are creative, positive, and full of passion and energy. The problem often lies in the fact that their voices are not fully heard. The idea behind this project is to give them some influence over changes – allowing them to analyze and suggest what could be improved in our cities and surroundings. Each city faces different challenges and deals with them in its own way. Analyzing solutions from other countries and working together can help us address these issues. It's time to give young people the initiative.

NOW

Our project has achieved something incredible. It has brought together young people from different countries, cultures, and religions. It has shown that together, we can accomplish something truly amazing. Through teamwork, exploring our cities, and sharing experiences, we have been able not only to create this magazine but also to build friendships that will last a lifetime. Let this be a reminder that when we come together, borders disappear, and possibilities become endless. The friendships we've built and the lessons we've learned will stay with us forever, shaping a brighter future for all of us.

Jacek Pawski

Jacek Pawski, Founder

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SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable cities prioritize renewable energy sources, green architecture, and efficient public transportation to reduce their carbon footprint.

SUSTAINABILITY URBAN AGRICULTURE

What is it?

Urban agriculture refers to the practice of growing food within cities, using available spaces such as rooftops, balconies, community gardens, and even vertical farms. This approach allows urban populations to produce fresh vegetables, fruits, and herbs locally, reducing dependence on traditional rural farming and long-distance food transportation.

How does it work?

Urban agriculture operates through various methods, including hydroponics (growing plants without soil), aquaponics (combining fish farming with plant cultivation), and traditional soil-based gardening. Some cities encourage urban farming through community initiatives, while others integrate large-scale vertical farms powered by advanced technology. Residents, businesses, and local governments often collaborate to create and maintain these green spaces.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

Urban agriculture addresses several urban challenges, including food insecurity, pollution, and lack of green spaces. By producing food locally, it reduces the carbon footprint associated with transporting agricultural goods from rural areas. Additionally, urban farms contribute to improved air quality, help lower urban temperatures, and promote biodiversity. Socially, they foster community engagement and provide opportunities for education and employment.

SUSTAINABILITY
URBAN AGRICULTURE

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?

One successful example is Singapore, a city-state that has embraced vertical farming to enhance food security. With limited arable land, Singapore has invested in high-tech urban farms such as Sky Greens, which uses rotating vertical towers to maximize crop yield. As a result, the city has increased its domestic food production while reducing reliance on imports. Urban agriculture has also been adopted in cities like New York, Tokyo, and Berlin, improving access to fresh produce and promoting sustainable living.

How does this solution align with sustainable development?

Urban agriculture supports the principles of sustainable development by balancing environmental, economic, and social needs. It reduces resource consumption, minimizes waste, and promotes circular economies where organic waste is repurposed as compost or bioenergy. Moreover, it fosters social inclusion by providing job opportunities and enhancing food equity in underserved communities. By integrating agriculture into urban planning, cities can create resilient, self-sufficient systems that benefit both people and the planet.

SUSTAINABILITY ELECTROMOBILITY

What is it?

Electromobility refers to the promotion of electric-powered vehicles (EVs) as a means of transportation, supported by the development of charging stations for electric cars and bicycles. This solution often includes the implementation of charging infrastructure across various districts and a subsidy program aimed at encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles and bicycles.

How does it work?

Electric vehicle charging stations are strategically placed throughout urban areas, usually in residential, commercial, and public spaces, to facilitate convenient charging for electric cars and e-bikes. The subsidy program helps reduce the cost barrier for residents and businesses to purchase electric vehicles and bicycles by providing financial incentives or rebates. This encourages more people to switch to electric mobility, reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

- Air Pollution: By promoting electric vehicles, this solution reduces the emissions of harmful gases, such as CO_2 and nitrogen oxides, produced by traditional gasoline and diesel cars. This leads to cleaner air in urban areas.
- Traffic Congestion: With the adoption of e-bikes and electric cars, cities can reduce congestion caused by traditional vehicles, as electric vehicles are often smaller, quieter, and more efficient in traffic.
- Noise Pollution: Electric vehicles produce much less noise than combustion engine vehicles, leading to quieter urban environments.
- Energy Efficiency: Electric cars and bicycles are typically more energy-efficient than fossil-fuel-powered vehicles, reducing overall energy consumption in the transport sector.

SUSTAINABILITY ELECTROMOBILITY

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Cities like Amsterdam (Netherlands) have pioneered the development of electric mobility through a wide network of EV charging stations and substantial subsidies for electric vehicles. Amsterdam has seen a notable impact, including:

- Increased adoption of electric vehicles, with thousands of EVs now on the roads.
- Significant reductions in air pollution, especially in highly urbanized areas.
- Improved quality of life due to reduced noise pollution and traffic congestion.

Other cities such as Oslo (Norway) and San Francisco (USA) have also implemented similar strategies with positive results, further demonstrating the effectiveness of such solutions.

How does this solution align with sustainable development?

The solution of widespread electric vehicle adoption and the development of charging infrastructure supports sustainable development in several key ways:

- Environmental Sustainability: By reducing carbon emissions and air pollutants, electromobility contributes to cleaner air and less environmental degradation, helping mitigate climate change.
- Social Sustainability: It enhances the quality of urban life by addressing health problems related to air pollution and noise, creating safer and more livable cities.
- Economic Sustainability: The program supports a green economy by fostering innovation in clean energy and technology, creating jobs in the electric vehicle and renewable energy sectors, and potentially reducing energy costs in the long term.

SUSTAINABILITY ECO-TRANSPORT

What is it?

The Eco-Friendly transport is way of sustainable transport that promotes sustainable transportation to reduce carbon emissions because they don't use fossil fuel (electric vehicles or bikes) and/or they are shared with other people (public transport).

How does it work?

Creating bike lanes in cities and towns, use of electric vehicles and offering free or affordable public transportation.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

The Eco-friendy transport can solve the air-pollution problems, so we will have better air quality and less respiratory problems. Besides, it facilitates travelling safely from one place to another and it reduces traffic congestion.

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?

In Valencia we can find bike lanes and electric buses. Moreover, the government is financing public transport so it is more affordable, especially for young people. This means that more people are travelling and they don't have to take their cars so much or spend so much money on trains, buses and underground.

How does this solution align with sustainable development?

Eco-Friendly Transport aligns with sustainable development by reducing carbon emissions, air pollution which is good for climate change.

SUSTAINABILITY RENEWABLE ENERGY

What is it?

This solution involves the widespread installation of photovoltaic (solar) panels on public buildings (e.g., schools, hospitals, government offices) and residential buildings to generate clean, renewable energy. Financial incentives are provided to encourage residents and businesses to adopt solar energy systems.

How does it work?

Photovoltaic panels convert sunlight into electricity, which can be used to power buildings or fed back into the grid. The system includes energy storage solutions (e.g., batteries) to store excess energy for use during cloudy days or at night. Governments or local authorities provide financial incentives to offset installation costs, making it affordable for residents and businesses to transition to renewable energy.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

- Energy Dependence: Reduces reliance on fossil fuels and non-renewable energy sources.
- Air Pollution: Decreases greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and public health.
- Energy Costs: Lowers electricity bills for residents and businesses over time.
- Climate Change: Contributes to global efforts to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change.

How does this solution align with sustainable development?

- Environmental Sustainability: Reduces carbon footprint and promotes the use of renewable energy.
- Economic Sustainability: Creates jobs in the renewable energy sector and reduces long-term energy costs.
- Social Sustainability: Improves air quality and public health, benefiting all residents.

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Many houses and buildings in Valencia are already using solar energy from installed panels (even our school in Benigànim). It has reduced carbon emissions and the money people spend on electricity

SUSTAINABILITY ZERO WASTE

What is it?

The zero waste approach aims to minimize waste production, promote recycling, and create a sustainable consumption culture. To increase awareness and support businesses in waste reduction, various educational campaigns and incentives are implemented.

How does it work?

Educational Campaigns:

Awareness programs on waste management and recycling are organized in schools, workplaces, and community centers. Citizens are educated on sustainable shopping habits, composting, and reducing plastic usage. Awareness campaigns are conducted through social media and traditional media to spread zero waste consciousness.

Support for Local Businesses:

Businesses adopting waste reduction policies receive tax reductions or incentives. Restaurants, cafés, and stores promoting reusable packaging are provided with special support programs. Businesses using recyclable or biodegradable materials are encouraged through certifications and official recognition.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

These initiatives aim to guide individuals and businesses toward a more sustainable lifestyle, fostering an environmentally conscious societal transformation.

SUSTAINABILITY PASSIVE BUILDINGS

What is it?

Passive buildings are energy-efficient structures designed to minimize energy consumption for heating and cooling. They rely on high-quality insulation, airtight construction, and energy-efficient windows to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures with minimal reliance on external energy sources.

How does it work?

Passive buildings use a combination of design strategies to reduce energy consumption. These include:

Thick insulation to prevent heat loss.

Airtight construction to minimize air leaks.

Triple-glazed windows that maximize thermal efficiency.

Heat recovery ventilation (HRV) systems to maintain fresh indoor air while reducing heat loss.

Strategic building

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

o High energy consumption: Reduces dependency on fossil fuels and lowers energy bills.

o Carbon emissions: Cuts greenhouse gas emissions by using less energy.

o Urban heat islands: Helps regulate city temperatures by improving thermal efficiency.

o Housing affordability: Lowers long-term operational costs, making housing more affordable over time.

In which city has this solution already been implemented, and what impact has it made?

One notable example is Frankfurt, Germany, which has adopted passive building standards for both new constructions and retrofitted older buildings. The implementation has led to a 90% reduction in energy consumption compared to conventional buildings, significantly cutting carbon emissions and lowering energy costs for residents.

How does this solution align with the concept of sustainable development?

Passive buildings contribute to sustainable development by:
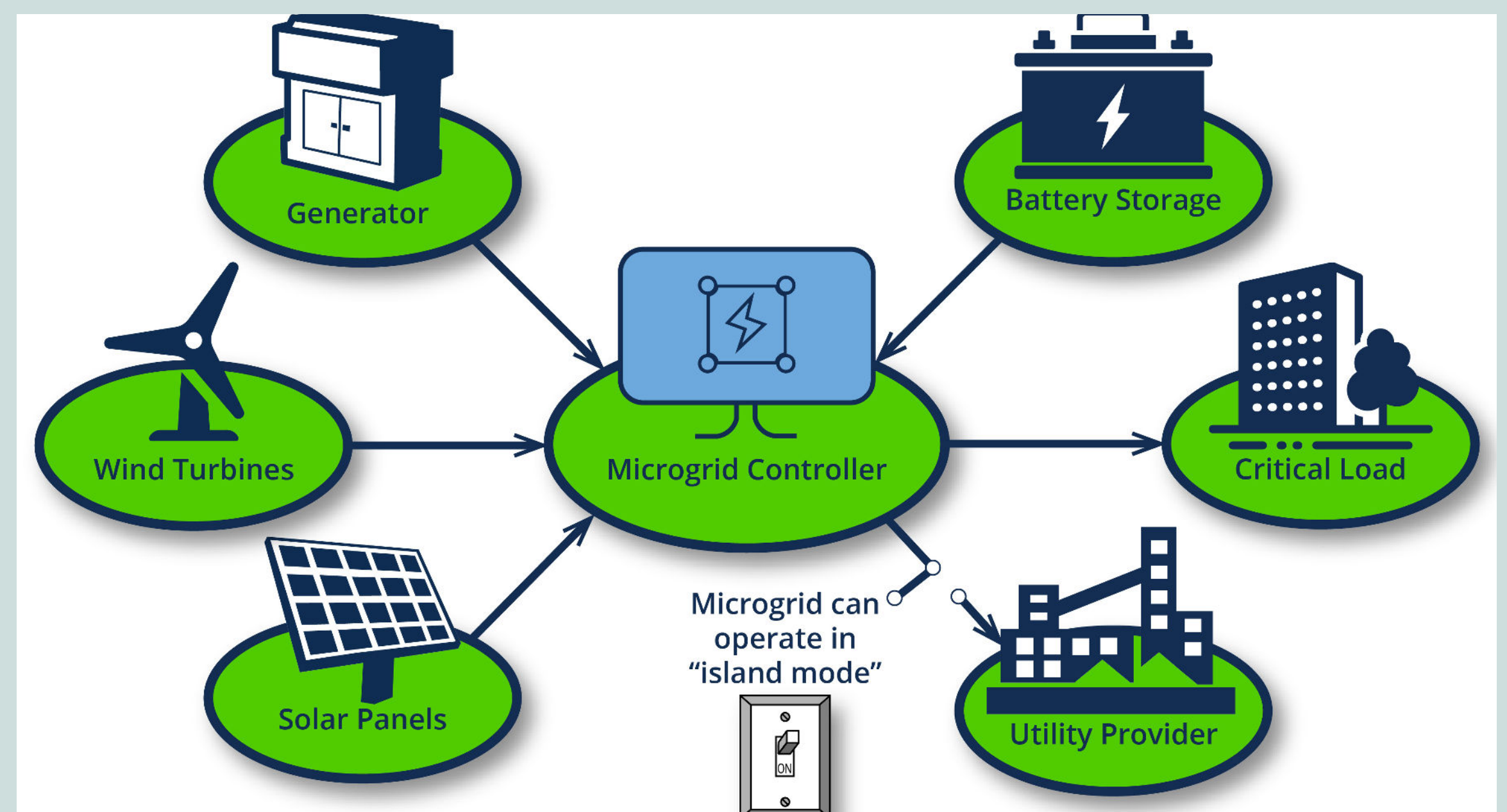
o Reducing energy consumption and carbon footprints.

o Promoting long-term economic savings for residents.

o Enhancing indoor air quality and overall well-being.

o Encouraging cities to transition towards greener, more resilient infrastructures.

SUSTAINABILITY MICROGRIDS

What is it?

A microgrid is a small-scale, localized energy system that can operate independently or in connection with the main power grid. It is powered by renewable energy sources like solar panels, wind turbines, and battery storage, ensuring a reliable and sustainable electricity supply.

How does it work?

Microgrids function by:

o Generating electricity from renewable sources such as solar and wind.

o Storing excess energy in batteries to ensure continuous power supply.

o Using smart grid technology to balance energy distribution efficiently.

o Operating autonomously during power outages or grid failures, ensuring local resilience.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

o Energy dependency: Reduces reliance on centralized power plants and fossil fuels.

o Power outages: Enhances energy resilience by providing backup power during blackouts.

o Carbon emissions: Promotes clean energy, lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

o Energy access: Provides electricity to underserved or remote areas.

In which city has this solution already been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Brooklyn, New York has implemented a microgrid through the Brooklyn Microgrid Project. This initiative allows residents to generate, store, and trade solar energy locally. The project has increased energy independence, reduced carbon emissions, and demonstrated the potential for community-driven energy solutions.

How does this solution align with the concept of sustainable development?

Microgrids support sustainable development by:

o Reducing dependence on non-renewable energy sources.

o Enhancing energy security and resilience.

o Lowering electricity costs for communities.

o Empowering local energy production and decentralized energy management.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Access to education, healthcare, and cultural activities plays a key role in improving well-being in urban environments.

QUALITY OF LIFE CAR-FREE ZONES

What is it?
Car-free zones are designated areas in city centers where motorized vehicles are prohibited, allowing only pedestrians, cyclists, and public transportation.

How does it work?
Access to private vehicles is restricted.It's only for public transportation and it also has bike lanes and pedestrian walkways.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?
Traffic Congestion: Reduces the number of vehicles on the road, easing traffic flow in surrounding areas.
Air Pollution: Lowers emissions from vehicles, improving air quality and public health.
Noise Pollution: Creates quieter, more peaceful urban environments.
Public Safety: Reduces accidents and makes streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

In which city has this solution already been implemented, and what impact has it made?
In Valencia city centre, there are car-free zones where people can walk or ride their bikes safely, thus improving the quality of life of their citizens.

How does this solution align with the concept of sustainable development?
It reduces traffic congestion, carbon emissions and promotes cleaner air. It also improves public health and safety.

QUALITY OF LIFE QUIET ZONES

How does it work?

Quiet Zones are specially designed areas in city parks or near workplaces that incorporate natural elements to create a calm, peaceful environment. These zones aim to provide a space for individuals to relax, recharge, and escape from the stress of urban life.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

Urban noise pollution, stress, and lack of green spaces. It also relieves burnout, mental fatigue, and improves well-being.

In which city has this solution already been implemented, and what impact has it made?

The city of Valencia has numerous green areas that help reduce pollution in the city. Citizens and tourists go there to relax, do sport or escape from the stress.

How does this solution align with the concept of sustainable development?

Quiet Zones align with sustainable development by improving the quality of life in cities.Furthermore, they promote mental and physical health.

QUALITY OF LIFE
CREATIVE SPACES

What is it?

Creative Spaces are multidisciplinary centers that combine art, science, and technology to foster innovation and creativity. These centers provide access to modern tools such as 3D printing, artisan workshops, and biological labs, encouraging collaboration between artists, scientists, and the general public.

How does it work?

Creative Spaces are designed to be accessible hubs where individuals can experiment and create. They offer state-of-the-art facilities, such as 3D printers, CAD software, biological labs, and craft workshops, which allow users to design, prototype, and develop new ideas. These centers often host workshops, events, and collaborative projects, and are open to both professionals and amateurs.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

Creative Spaces address multiple urban challenges such as lack of community engagement, limited access to advanced technology, and the need for creative outlets. They provide a space for innovation, promote cross-disciplinary collaboration, and make advanced technology accessible to everyone, including underserved communities. They also contribute to reducing the gap between science and art, promoting a culture of learning and sharing.

In which city has this solution already been implemented, and what impact has it made?

One example of Creative Spaces is Fab Labs, which have been implemented in cities like Barcelona and New York. These spaces have empowered local communities by providing access to high-tech tools and fostering innovation. In Barcelona, the Fab Lab network has contributed to local startups, social enterprises, and educational initiatives, improving both economic and social development. These centers have promoted sustainability through the creation of eco-friendly products and the sharing of knowledge.

QUALITY OF LIFE CREATIVE SPACES

How does this solution align with the concept of sustainable development?

Creative Spaces support sustainable development by promoting innovation, collaboration, and the efficient use of resources. They often emphasize eco-friendly practices, such as the use of sustainable materials in workshops, recycling of resources, and the integration of green technologies. Additionally, by providing tools for local talent, these spaces help to reduce the need for large-scale manufacturing, encouraging localized, sustainable production of creative and scientific projects. They also contribute to social sustainability by fostering inclusive, accessible communities for people to learn, create, and collaborate.

QUALITY OF LIFE PUBLIC HEALTH

What is it?

Public health initiatives involve expanding healthcare infrastructure to improve overall well-being. This includes the development of preventive programs, mental health centers, and the promotion of physical activity through sports events and community engagement.
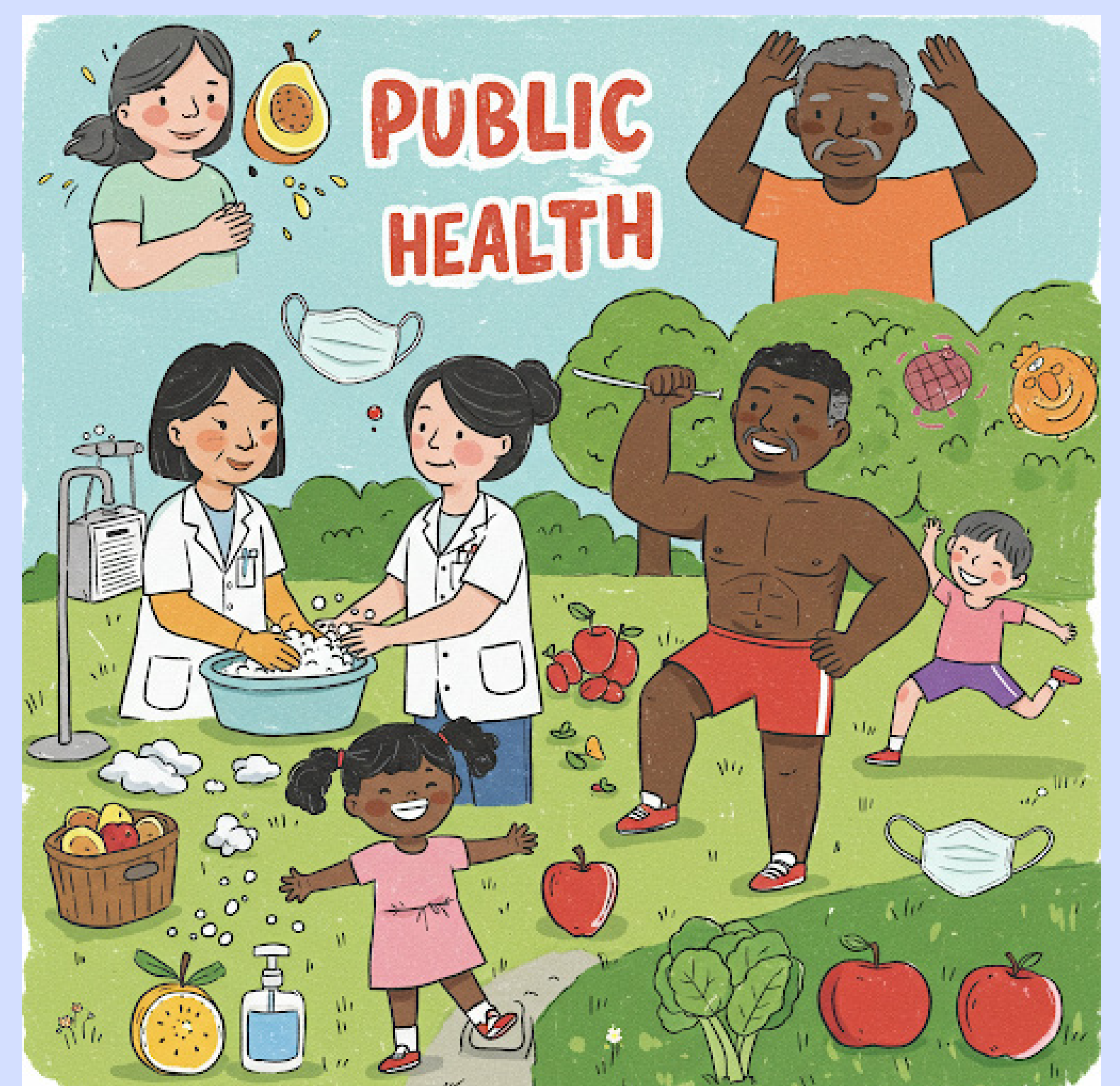
How does it work?

o Preventive programs focus on early detection and disease prevention through vaccinations, health screenings, and public awareness campaigns.

o Mental health centers provide accessible counseling and psychiatric care to address issues like depression, anxiety, and stress.

o Sports events and physical activity programs encourage an active lifestyle, reducing risks of obesity, heart disease, and other chronic conditions.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

Overburdened healthcare systems: Reduces hospital admissions by emphasizing prevention.

o Mental health crises: Provides accessible care and support for mental well-being.

o Sedentary lifestyles and obesity: Encourages physical activity to improve overall health.

o Healthcare inequalities: Expands access to essential health services for underserved communities.

In which city has this solution already been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Copenhagen, Denmark has successfully integrated public health initiatives, focusing on mental health awareness, preventive care, and active lifestyles. The city's investment in bike-friendly infrastructure and public sports events has led to higher life expectancy, lower obesity rates, and improved mental well-being.

How does this solution align with the concept of sustainable development?

Public health initiatives support sustainable development by:

o Promoting preventive healthcare, reducing long-term medical costs.

o Enhancing mental well-being, leading to a healthier and more productive population.

o Encouraging physical activity, lowering risks of chronic diseases.

o Ensuring equitable access to healthcare services for all citizens.

QUALITY OF LIFE CHEAP HOUSING

What is it?

Affordable housing programs aim to provide accessible, low-cost housing for young families, seniors, and low-income individuals. These programs support the construction of subsidized housing, offer rental assistance, and promote mixed-income developments to ensure diverse and inclusive communities.

How does it work?

o Government subsidies help developers build affordable housing units.

o Rent control policies ensure that housing remains accessible to low-income residents.

o Public-private partnerships encourage investment in cost-effective housing solutions.

o Innovative construction techniques, such as modular homes and sustainable materials, lower building costs.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

o Housing shortages: Increases the supply of affordable homes in urban areas.

o Homelessness: Provides safe and stable housing options for vulnerable populations.

o Gentrification: Helps maintain economic diversity by preventing displacement of low-income residents.

o High living costs: Reduces financial strain on families and individuals struggling with rising rents.

In which city has this solution already been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Vienna, Austria has one of the world's most successful affordable housing programs. The city's social housing model ensures that over 60% of residents live in high-quality, affordable housing. This initiative has kept rents stable, improved social integration, and provided long-term economic security for residents

How does this solution align with the concept of sustainable development?

o Reducing economic inequality and promoting social inclusion.

o Encouraging sustainable urban planning with energy-efficient housing.

o Supporting healthy living conditions, leading to improved public health.

o Ensuring long-term housing stability, strengthening local economies.

QUALITY OF LIFE CITY FOR YOU

What is it?

The app of the future that will help you navigate, adapt, and make the most of your city experience.

How does it work?

Access a wide range of public services, from healthcare to local administration, all in one place – with real-time updates, easy navigation, and online forms to save you time and effort.

Discover exciting cultural events happening in your city with just a few clicks: a modern, user-friendly platform to stay connected to the best local experiences!

Effortlessly learn how to protect and improve the environment around you – a cutting-edge tool to help you make eco-friendly choices every day.

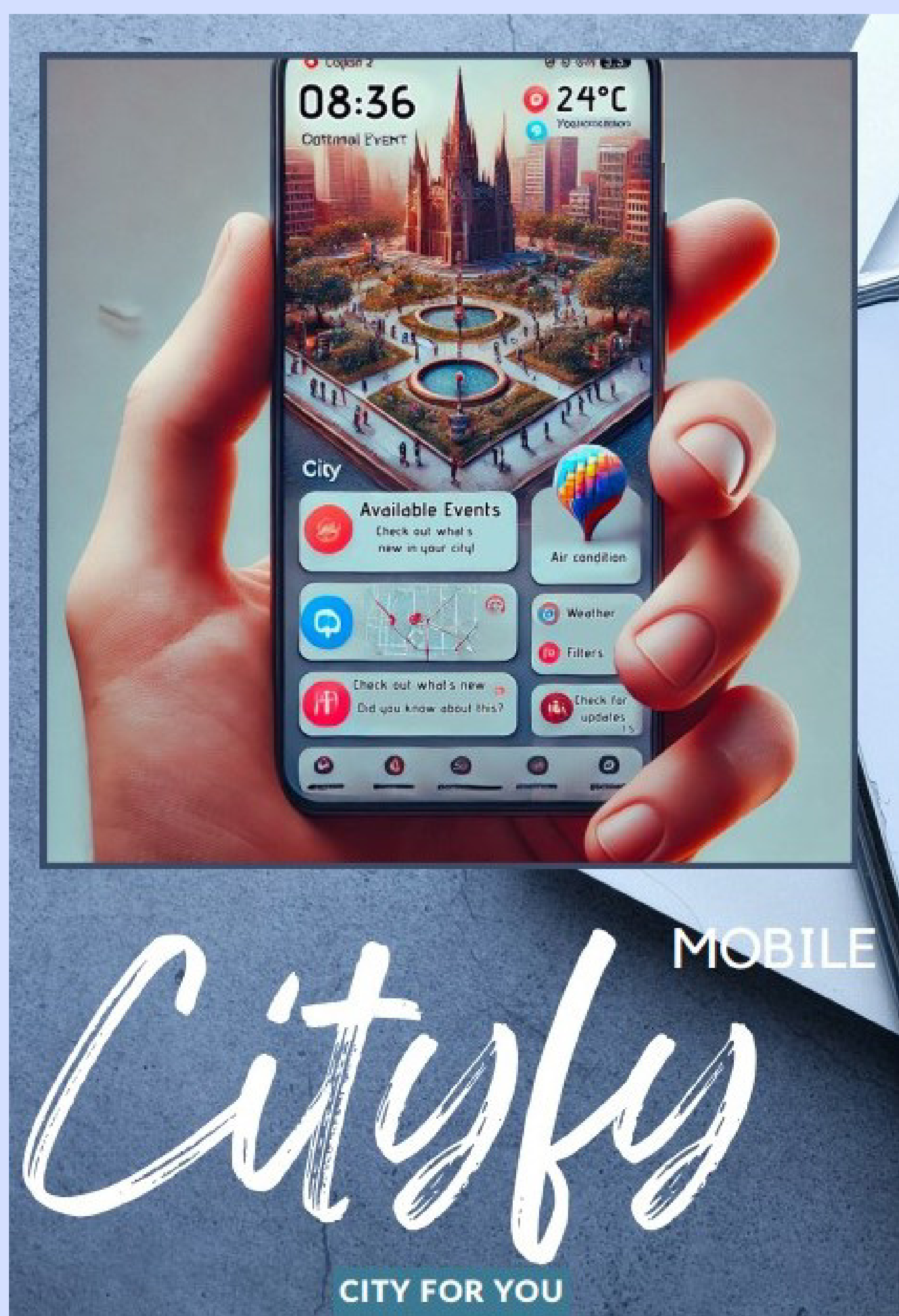**What problems of modern cities does it solve?**

This app addresses several challenges of modern cities. It simplifies access to public services, reducing bureaucracy and saving time for residents. It enhances cultural engagement by keeping users informed about local events, fostering community connections. Additionally, it promotes environmental awareness by providing tools for eco-friendly living. Overall, it helps citizens navigate urban life more efficiently and sustainably.

In which city has this solution already been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Barcelona has a smart city platform that provides real-time updates on public services, transport, and sustainability efforts, improving efficiency and accessibility.

Singapore uses a Smart Nation initiative that connects citizens to digital services, streamlining administrative tasks and encouraging eco-friendly habits.

Tallinn (Estonia) has an e-Governance system that allows residents to access healthcare, administration, and public services online, reducing bureaucracy.

QUALITY OF LIFE CITY FOR YOU

How does this solution align with the concept of sustainable development?

Efficient Use of Resources – By digitizing public services and administrative tasks, the app reduces paper waste and the need for physical visits, cutting down on energy consumption and emissions.

Encouraging Eco-Friendly Choices – The app provides users with real-time environmental updates, waste management tips, and sustainable lifestyle recommendations, empowering citizens to make greener decisions.

Promoting Smart Mobility – Integrating navigation tools helps users optimize transportation, reducing traffic congestion and encouraging the use of public transit, cycling, or walking.

Enhancing Community Engagement – By connecting users with cultural events and local initiatives, the app fosters a sense of community, encouraging participation in sustainable projects.

Resilience and Adaptability – Real-time updates on city infrastructure, climate conditions, and public services help cities and citizens adapt to environmental and social challenges more effectively.

Overall, the app supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and Goal 13 (Climate Action).

YOUTH CONTRIBUTION

Young people contribute to cities by driving innovation, promoting sustainability, and actively participating in community projects.

YOUTH CONTRIBUTION CULTURE AND ART

What is it?

This initiative provides young artists with opportunities to create murals, organize open-air concerts, and host outdoor film screenings, enriching the cultural scene of the city.This initiative provides young artists with opportunities to create murals, organize open-air
concerts, and host outdoor film screenings, enriching the cultural scene of the city.

How does it work?

Local governments allocate specific areas for street art and cultural events. Open-air exhibitions, concerts, and film nights are organized to engage the community.
Young artists contribute to beautifying urban spaces and strengthening social connections.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

Encourages artistic expression among youth.
Addresses the lack of cultural and artistic events.
Enhances the aesthetic appeal of cities while fostering creativity.

In which city has this solution already been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Berlin, Germany: Street art and cultural festivals have significantly boosted tourism and community engagement.
Buenos Aires, Argentina: Legal mural spaces have supported emerging artists, transforming urban spaces into vibrant art hubs.

How does it relate to sustainable development?

Promoting art and culture supports social cohesion, enhances public spaces, and nurtures young talent, making cities more inclusive and engaging.

YOUTH CONTRIBUTION TECH LABS

What is it?

This project establishes creative spaces where young people can learn programming,
robotics, and engineering while receiving mentorship from industry experts.

How does it work?

Technology hubs or school-based labs are equipped with necessary tools and software. Students develop hands-on projects in coding, AI, and robotics. Experts and mentors guide young learners, fostering innovation and problem-solving skills.
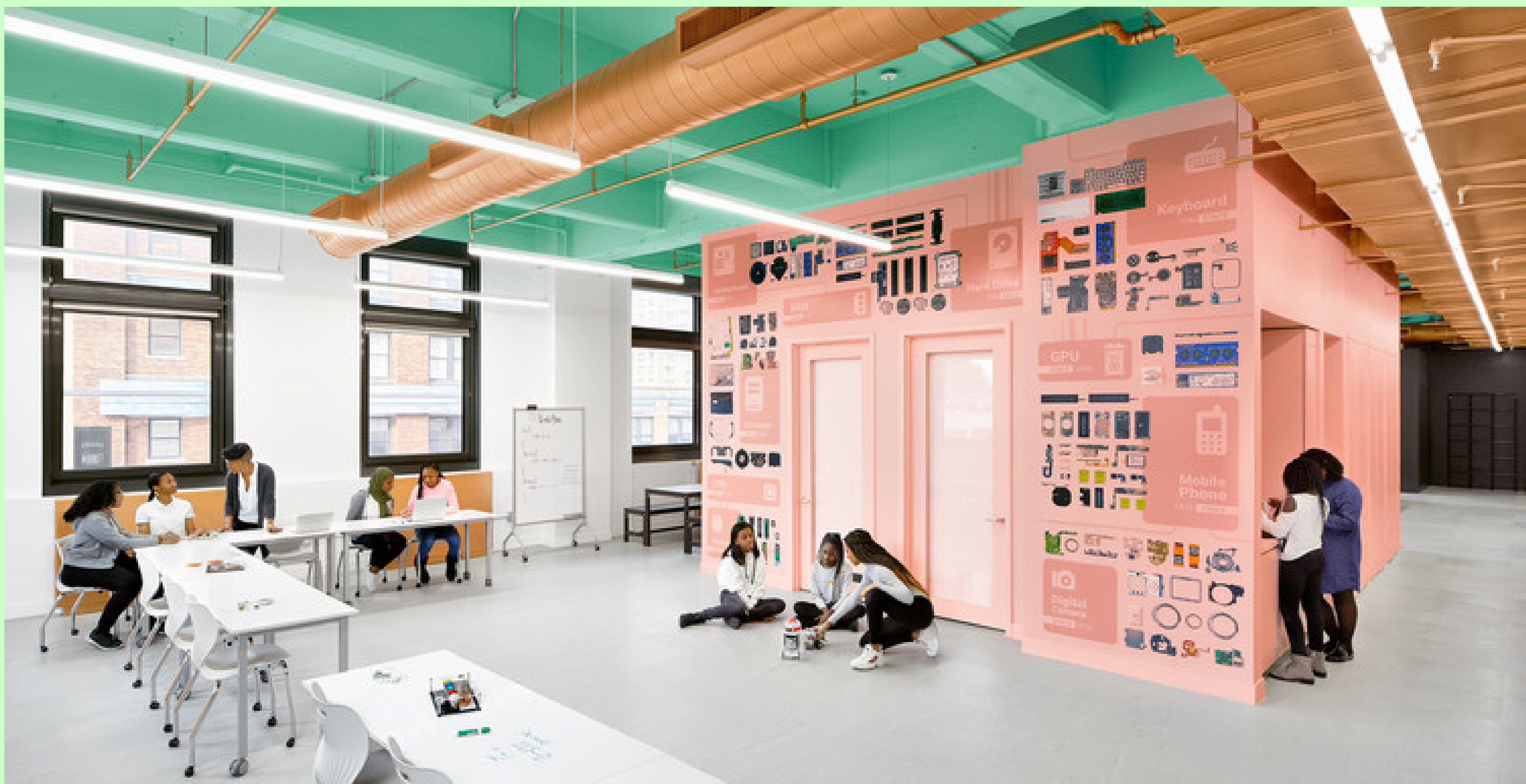
What problems of modern cities does it solve?

Provides access to digital education and technology resources.
Prepares youth for future careers in STEM fields.
Enhances digital literacy and fosters entrepreneurship.

Where has it been implemented, and what was its impact?

Boston, USA: MIT-supported workshops have introduced students to robotics and engineering.

Stockholm, Sweden: Free coding labs have encouraged young entrepreneurs and tech startups.

We hope that these developments, which worked in these countries, will also be successful in our countries.

How does it relate to sustainable development?

By improving digital skills, this initiative enhances career opportunities for youth, fosters technological innovation, and supports long-term economic growth.

YOUTH CONTRIBUTION ECO ACTIVISM

What is it?

This solution involves engaging young people in environmental activities such as tree planting, city clean-up drives, and awareness campaigns to promote ecological sustainability and foster a sense of responsibility toward the environment.

How does it work?

Schools, universities, and local organizations collaborate to organize events where young people participate in activities like planting trees, cleaning public spaces, and recycling

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

It helps restore green spaces and reduce pollution, promotes recycling, reduces climate change and provides young people the opportunity to contribute to their communities.

Where has it been implemented, and what was its impact?

In our school we have a committee formed by teachers and students with the aim of making our school and town (Benigànim) more sustainable.

How does it relate to sustainable development?

It contributes to reforestation, waste reduction, and pollution control. It also raises environmental awareness.

YOUTH CONTRIBUTION YOUTH COUNSILS

What is it?

It is an opportunity for young people to participate in important decisions or changes in their city or town.

How does it work?

Some representatives from the city/town participate in meetings with city officials and they can propose new ideas, collaborate on urban projects, provide feedback or organize events that promote youth engagement.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

Young people get interested in the councils of their town and provide their opinion, offering a new perspective.

Where has it been implemented, and what was its impact?

In Benigànim there is a youth council which implements eco-friendly solutions for the town as well as organizes social events. In the town of Xàtiva, there is a young council with representatives from every school and they participate in decisions related to sustainability and education.

How does it relate to sustainable development?

They promote social sustainability through the inclusion of young people in community life and decision-making. It ensures that cities are more equitable and the needs of future generations are taken into account.

YOUTH CONTRIBUTION CITY HACKATHONS

What is it?

City hackathons are competitive events where students and young professionals collaborate to develop innovative solutions for urban challenges. These hackathons focus on issues such as transportation, sustainability, public health, and digital governance, encouraging creativity and technological advancement.

How does it work?

o Participants form teams to brainstorm and prototype solutions.

They receive mentorship from industry experts and urban planners.

o The event typically lasts 24-48 hours, ending with a pitch session.

Winning ideas may receive funding or incubation for further development.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

o Inefficient urban systems: Generates new solutions for transportation, waste management, and public services.

o Lack of citizen engagement: Encourages young people to take an active role in city development.

o Slow technological adoption: Promotes the use of AI, IoT, and smart city solutions.

o Employment gaps: Provides networking opportunities and career pathways in technology and urban planning.

Where has it been implemented, and what was its impact?

Amsterdam, Netherlands, hosts the Amsterdam Smart City Hackathon, bringing together students, professionals, and startups to design solutions for sustainability, mobility, and digital transformation. The event has led to real-world innovations, such as smart waste collection systems and data-driven urban planning tools.

How does it relate to sustainable development?

City hackathons contribute to sustainable development by:

o Encouraging smart urban planning for efficient resource management.
o Fostering education and skill-building among young professionals.
o Driving innovation for greener and more livable cities.
o Promoting community collaboration, ensuring diverse voices contribute to city improvements.

YOUTH CONTRIBUTION EDU PROGRAMES

What is it?

Educational programs are workshops and training sessions focused on entrepreneurship, new technologies, and ecology. They aim to equip young people with practical skills to participate in city development and address urban challenges.

How does it work?

o Entrepreneurship training helps young people develop business ideas and startups.
o Technology workshops teach coding, robotics, and digital innovation.
o Ecology programs educate participants on sustainability, green energy, and climate action.
o Partnerships with schools, universities, and local businesses provide mentorship and hands-on experience.
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What problems of modern cities does it solve?

o Lack of opportunities for young people to engage in urban development.
o High youth unemployment due to a lack of job-ready skills.
o Limited awareness of sustainability and environmental issues.
o Slow adoption of innovation in local economies.
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Where has it been implemented, and what was its impact?

Helsinki, Finland, has introduced entrepreneurial and technology-focused educational programs through initiatives like Helsinki Education Hub. These programs have helped young people launch startups, develop green solutions, and gain employment in tech industries, contributing to a more innovative and sustainable city.

How does this solution align with the concept of sustainable development?

Educational programs support sustainable development by:
o Empowering youth with knowledge and skills for the future.
o Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship to strengthen local economies.
o Encouraging environmental awareness and sustainable practices.
o Creating an engaged and informed society that contributes to city development.

INCLUSIVENESS

Inclusive cities ensure equal access to education, healthcare, and job opportunities for all residents, regardless of their background.

INCLUSIVENESS COMMUNITY HUBS

What is it?

Multicultural Community Hubs are public spaces designed to promote social integration among diverse ethnic and cultural groups. These hubs offer language courses, job training, cultural events, and support services for immigrants and marginalized communities. Additionally, intercultural programs create platforms for dialogue between different social groups, including intergenerational and intercultural workshops.

How does it work?

The hubs operate as community centers where residents can access education, legal assistance, and social activities. Programs include language classes, employment workshops, cultural festivals, and mental health support. These centers are run by local governments. Furthermore, intercultural programs involve activities such as storytelling sessions, collaborative art projects, and discussion forums that foster understanding and collaboration between various social groups.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

Modern cities often struggle with social exclusion, segregation, and lack of opportunities for marginalized groups. Multicultural Community Hubs and intercultural programs foster social cohesion, bridge cultural divides, and help immigrants integrate into the local economy and society. Intercultural programs specifically address misunderstandings between groups, promoting mutual respect and cultural appreciation.

INCLUSIVENESS COMMUNITY HUBS

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Toronto, Canada, has established multiple community hubs that provide essential services to immigrants and refugees. These hubs have increased employment rates, reduced social isolation, and strengthened multicultural harmony, making Toronto one of the most inclusive cities in the world. Additionally, European cities like Berlin and Amsterdam have successfully implemented intercultural workshops, resulting in increased cross-cultural dialogue and a more inclusive society.

How does this solution align with sustainable development?

This initiative supports social sustainability by promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities. It also contributes to economic sustainability by helping individuals gain skills and employment, ultimately reducing inequality and fostering a more resilient society. Intercultural programs further strengthen social bonds, creating a more unified and cooperative urban environment.

INCLUSIVENESS BARRIER-FREE CITY

What is it?

It is a project that aims to make cities more accessible for disabled individuals, old people and parents with children. The expansion of the sidewalks includes arrangements such as ramps, elevators and disabledfriendly public transport.

How does it work?

Paths and sidewalks are widened so that the disabled and parents who use strollers can move comfortably. Ramps and elevators are added to buildings and public transportation. Sound traffic lights are installed for the visually impaired. Public transportation vehicles are made disabled friendly.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

It makes it easier to move in the city for disabled individuals. Increases participation in social life and prevents social isolation. It creates a safer city environment.

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Barcelona has taken important steps towards becoming one of the most accessible cities in Europe. Thanks to the wide sidewalks, disabled friendly public transportation and sound traffic lights, disabled people in the city can move much more comfortably.

How does this solution align with sustainable development?

This solution helps to the creation of sustainable cities by providing equal living conditions for all. It also supports economic development by increasing people's participation in social life and business life.

INCLUSIVENESS COMMUNITY KITCHEN

What is it?

Community kitchens are shared spaces where individuals, especially those facing financial difficulties, can come together to cook and eat. These spaces offer a solution to food insecurity by providing access to affordable or free meals while fostering social connections. They can be run by local governments, charities, or community groups.

How does it work?

Community kitchens operate on a collaborative model. They may provide ingredients, cooking facilities, and volunteers who help prepare meals. Some kitchens function as "pay-what-you-can" spaces, allowing people to contribute based on their ability. Others focus on collective cooking, where participants prepare meals, which they can take home. Many also organize cooking workshops and nutrition education programs.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

Food insecurity – Helps low-income individuals and families access nutritious meals.

Social isolation – Creates a space where people can connect and support one another.

Food waste – Often utilizes extra food from local markets, restaurants, or food banks

INCLUSIVENESS COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?

One notable example is Toronto's Community Kitchens program in Canada. These kitchens have helped low-income individuals access affordable meals, reducing food insecurity in marginalized communities. They also promote social integration by bringing people from diverse backgrounds together. Studies show that participants develop better cooking skills, leading to healthier eating habits and improved overall well-being.

How does this solution align with sustainable development?

Community kitchens support sustainability and social integration by reducing hunger, promoting healthy eating, minimizing food waste and strengthening community connections. They create inclusive spaces where people can access nutritious meals while building a more resilient and supportive society.

INCLUSIVENESS DIGITAL LEARNING

What is it?

There are free learning centers with internet, computers, and educational materials for children and teens in need.

How does it work?

Free study areas open to students are founded in cities. Computer and internet access is provided. Additional lessons are given by volunteer teachers. Access to online education platforms is offered..

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

It helps financially disadvantaged children keep up
with their education. It helps them to be more successful in business and academic life by gaining reading and writing skills. It provides equalisation in education.

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Some schools and non-governmental organisations in Madrid provide free education support to low-income families. Students who participated in these programs became more academically successful and their access to technology increased

How does this solution align with sustainable development?

This project reduces social inequalities by ensuring that education is accessible to everyone. Access to quality education is an important step that improves economic development and social justice in the future

INCLUSIVENESS BUDGETING

What is it?

It is a democratic process that allows citizens to decide how to use a portion of the city's budget. Through voting and consultation workshops, residents propose and prioritize projects that address community needs.

How does it work?

The city government allocates a part of the city budget to fund projects voted by citizens.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

It increases citizen participation in decision and strengthens democracy. The use of the city budget is more transparent. It addresses citizens' necessities.

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?

In Xàtiva, citizens can access the digital platform to suggest projects and also to vote for them. Every year, the most voted project is implemented.

How does this solution align with sustainable development?

Promoting equity, inclusion, and efficient use of public funds.

INCLUSIVENESS
FREE PUBLIC WI-FI

What is it?
It provides free public Wi-Fi and access points, enabling residents to use computers at no cost.

How does it work?
This solution works by setting up public Wi-Fi networks in key areas such as parks, libraries or community centers. It also provides access points where people can use computers for free.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?
It provides digital tools to low-income residents or those without personal access to the internet or computers giving these people more education and job opportunities.

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?
All towns and cities in our region have public libraries with computers and wi-fi connection for people who need to use them.

How does this solution align with sustainable development?
Promoting social sustainability, ensuring that all citizens, regardless of income or background, have equal opportunities to access the digital world. This initiative fosters inclusivity by providing essential tools for education, employment, and social participation. Moreover, it contributes to economic sustainability by enabling individuals to access job opportunities and business resources that can lead to personal economic growth.

INCLUSIVENESS SENIOR SUPPORT

What is it?

Senior support programs aim to enhance the quality of life for elderly citizens by providing sports, cultural, and educational activities, as well as improving public transportation accessibility. These initiatives help seniors stay active, socially engaged, and independent.

How does it work?

o Sports and fitness programs encourage physical activity through adapted exercises like yoga, swimming, and walking groups.
o Cultural and educational activities include art classes, community events, and lifelong learning courses.
o Accessible public transport ensures that seniors can move around the city easily with low-floor buses, priority seating, and discounted fares.
o Community centers and social programs provide spaces for interaction, reducing loneliness and isolation.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

Social isolation and loneliness among elderly citizens.

Limited mobility due to inaccessible transportation.

Lack of physical activity, leading to health problems.

Few learning and engagement opportunities for seniors.

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Stockholm, Sweden, has implemented senior-friendly policies, including free fitness programs, cultural passes for museums and theaters, and accessible public transport initiatives. These efforts have helped increase life satisfaction, reduce elderly health issues, and improve social inclusion.

How does this solution align with sustainable development?

o Promoting health and well-being among older citizens.
o Encouraging social inclusion and lifelong learning.
o Ensuring equitable access to urban infrastructure and services.
o Supporting active aging, reducing healthcare costs, and improving overall city livability.

INCLUSIVENESS ACCESIBLE SERVICES

What is it?

Accessible services refer to initiatives that improve access to public offices, healthcare facilities, and essential services for people with disabilities and non-native speakers. These include translation services, assistive technology (apps, speech-to-text tools), and Braille signage to ensure inclusivity and equal access to information.

ACCESSIBLE SERVICES

Where has this solution been implemented, and what impact has it made?

Toronto, Canada, has successfully expanded translation services and accessible technology in public offices and healthcare centers. The city provides interpretation services in over 180 languages, Braille street signs, and hearing loops in public buildings, making services more inclusive and improving communication for all residents.

How does it work?

o Translation services provide real-time interpretation in public offices and hospitals for non-native speakers.

o Mobile apps and digital tools assist visually and hearing-impaired individuals by converting speech to text or providing sign language support.

o Braille signage and audio navigation systems help visually impaired residents navigate public spaces.

o Accessible websites and digital platforms ensure that government and healthcare information is available to all.

What problems of modern cities does it solve?

o Language barriers in government offices and healthcare facilities.

o Limited accessibility for visually and hearing-impaired individuals.

o Exclusion of non-native speakers and people with disabilities from essential services.

o Difficulty in accessing emergency and public health information.

How does this solution align with sustainable development?

o Promoting social inclusion and equal rights.

o Ensuring access to essential services for all residents.

o Enhancing urban resilience by making emergency and healthcare information accessible.

o Fostering a more inclusive and diverse society.

THANK YOU

Shaping the Cities of Tomorrow – With Your Ideas!

What if the future of your city was in your hands? Future Forward: Youth Innovations for Future Cities brings together groundbreaking ideas from young people across Europe who took on the challenge of transforming their urban spaces.

From greener parks to smarter transport solutions, this book showcases the boldest, most creative visions for the cities of tomorrow – all imagined by young minds just like yours. Their voices, often unheard in decision-making, take center stage here, proving that fresh perspectives can lead to real change.

Get inspired by their ideas, explore new possibilities, and see how the youth of today are shaping the future of urban life. Because the best innovations start with your vision.