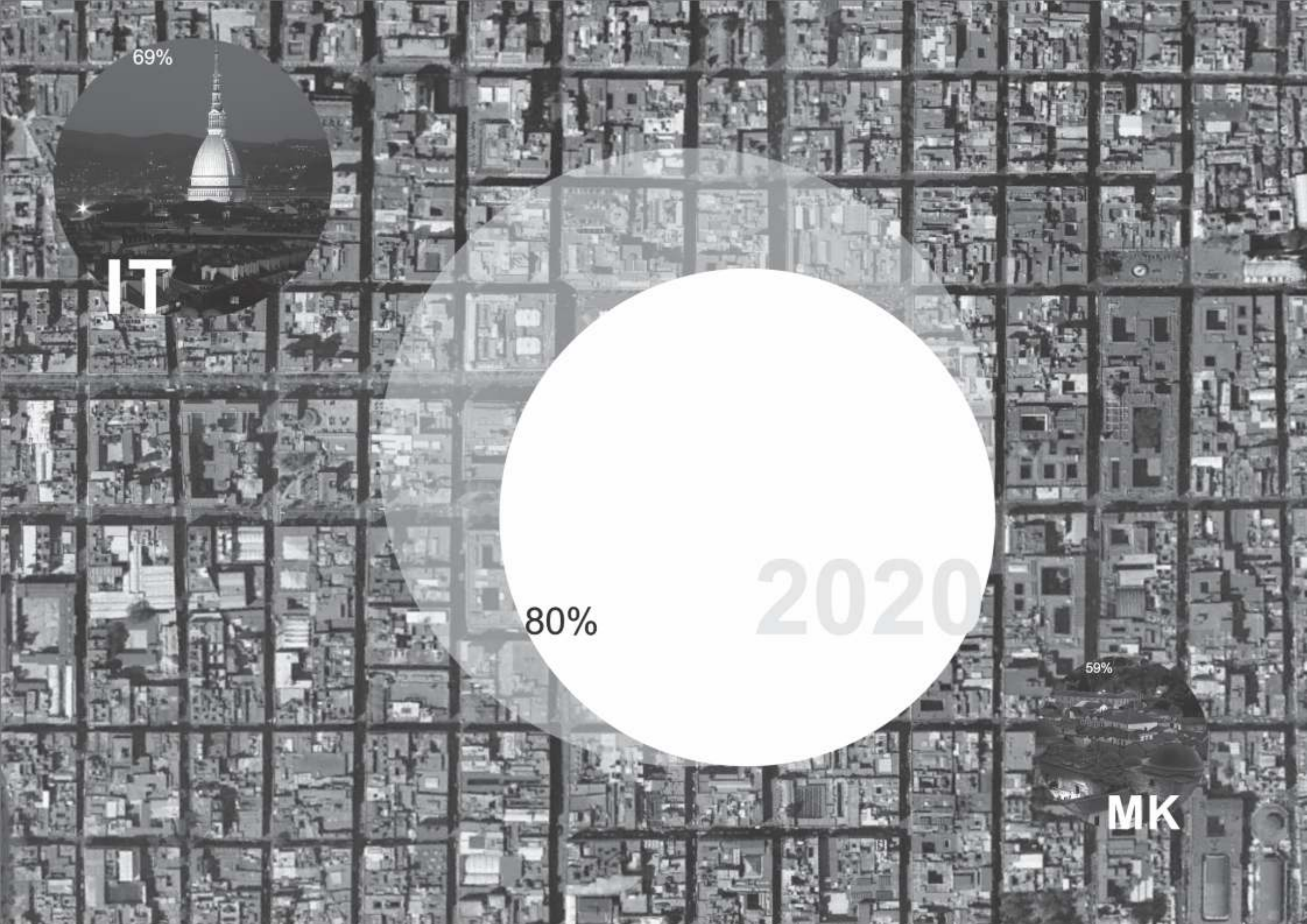
OIKONET

A global multidisciplinary network on housing research and learning

Catalogue of Citizens Initiatives in Skopje: Mapping the Civic Society

Ognen Marina

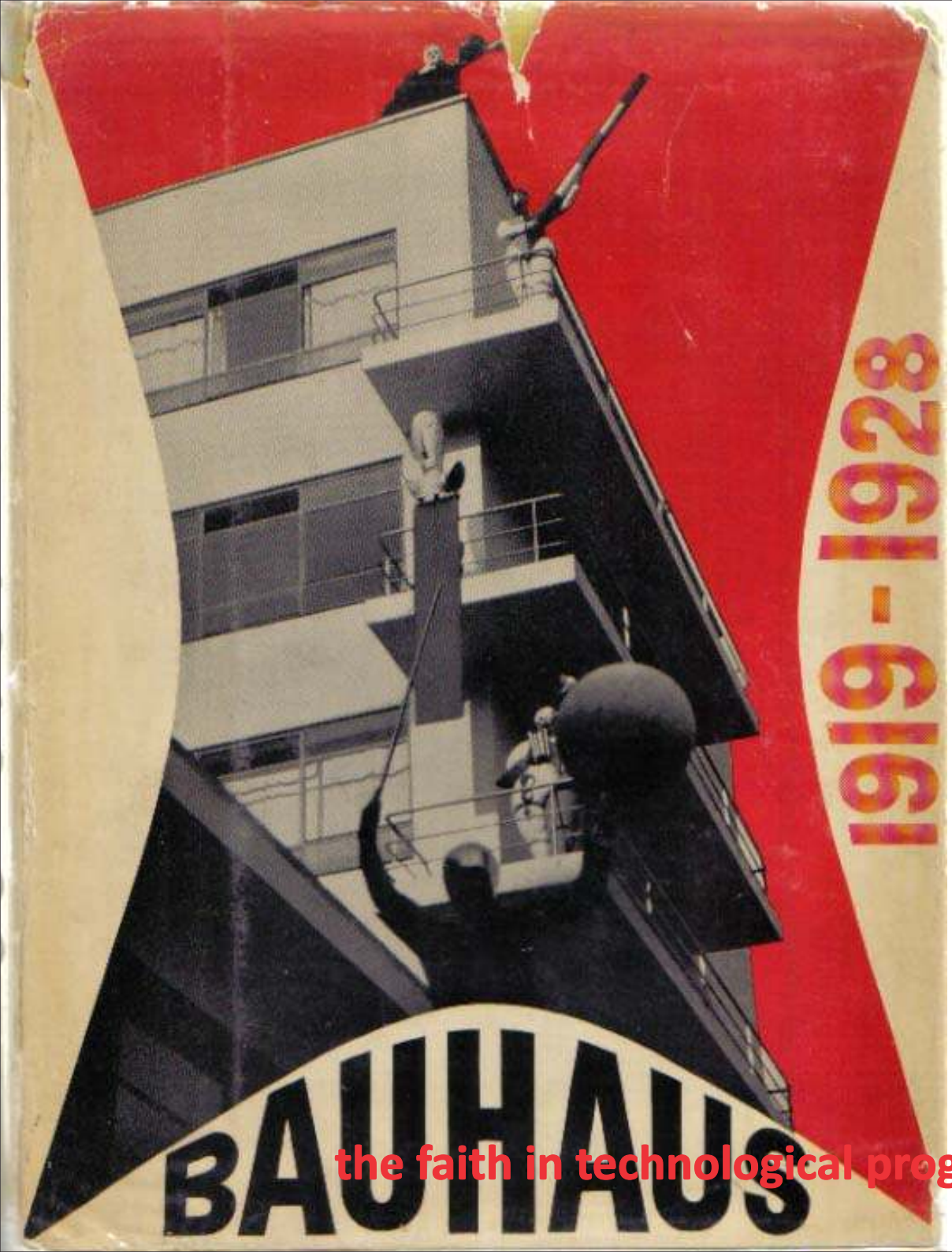
Faculty of Architecture, University SS. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, Macedonia


69%
IT
80%
2020
59%
MK

“Cities, like dreams are made of desires and fears…” (I. Calvino)

Natural order of the cities (Laugier)

rational and irrational are not mutually exclusive (Piranesi)



the faith in technological progress for building a better world

the role of the public in mediating the order in the city

society as total installation (control of public space)

spatial practice!

Henri Lefebvre

social praxis!

Piere Bourdieu

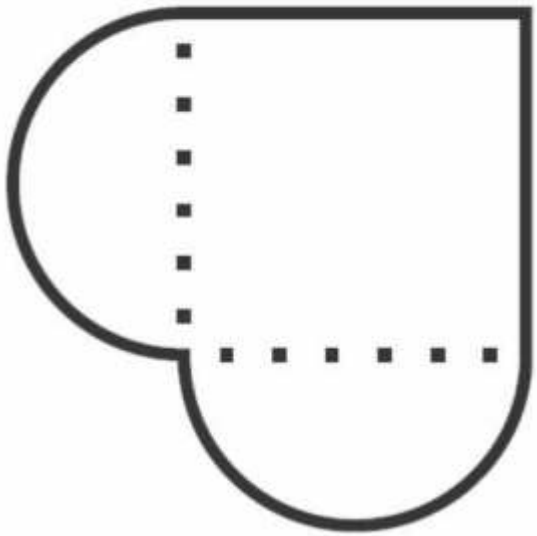
the financial crisis / the crisis in the society

the crisis of the society / de-legitimation of the system

POLICE
the landscapes of our collectivity are still the places of conflict!

new inclusive and sustainable collectivity!

new urban paradigm



URBAN COOKS

city made by citizens

Culture

Urban Cooks Platforms: Bottom-up urban planning is a project funded by Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) under Culture Programme 2007-2013, Strand 1.2.1.- 2013 “Cooperation Measures”

URBAN COOKS PLATFORM

Objectives of the project is to understand the framework around citizen initiatives in Madrid, Belgrade and Skopje, to learn how does existing programs in other cities work, taking a critical look of them, and to define a program, having in mind particular frameworks of each cities.

Final goal is to design a protocol, methodology or platform for supporting citizen initiatives, not only in Madrid, Belgrade and Skopje, but rather an exportable model for Europe and other countries.

We can conclude that:

THE MORE SATISFIED PEOPLE ARE WITH THEIR COMMUNITIES, THE STRONGER THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING

TO BELONG MEANS TO BE CONTENT.

TO BE CONTENT MEANS TO BELONG.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

REACTOR

research in action

WWW.RECTOR.ORG.MK

Civic engagement is related to the sense of **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**.

In Macedonia citizens are divided...

57%

I BELIEVE THAT

IT IS MY PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

TO ACT TOWARDS IMPROVING MY COMMUNITY

43%

I BELIEVE THAT

IT IS NOT MY PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

TO ACT TOWARDS IMPROVING MY COMMUNITY

3 OF 4

THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKING IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY

MORE THAN EVERY OTHER

WOULD LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THESE DECISIONS

FOR

77% OF ADULTS

73% OF YOUNG PEOPLE

IT IS VERY/PARTIALLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE INFLUENCE

THOSE WITH A HIGHER EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT HAVE A STRONGER DESIRE FOR ENGAGING AND INFLUENCING DECISIONS

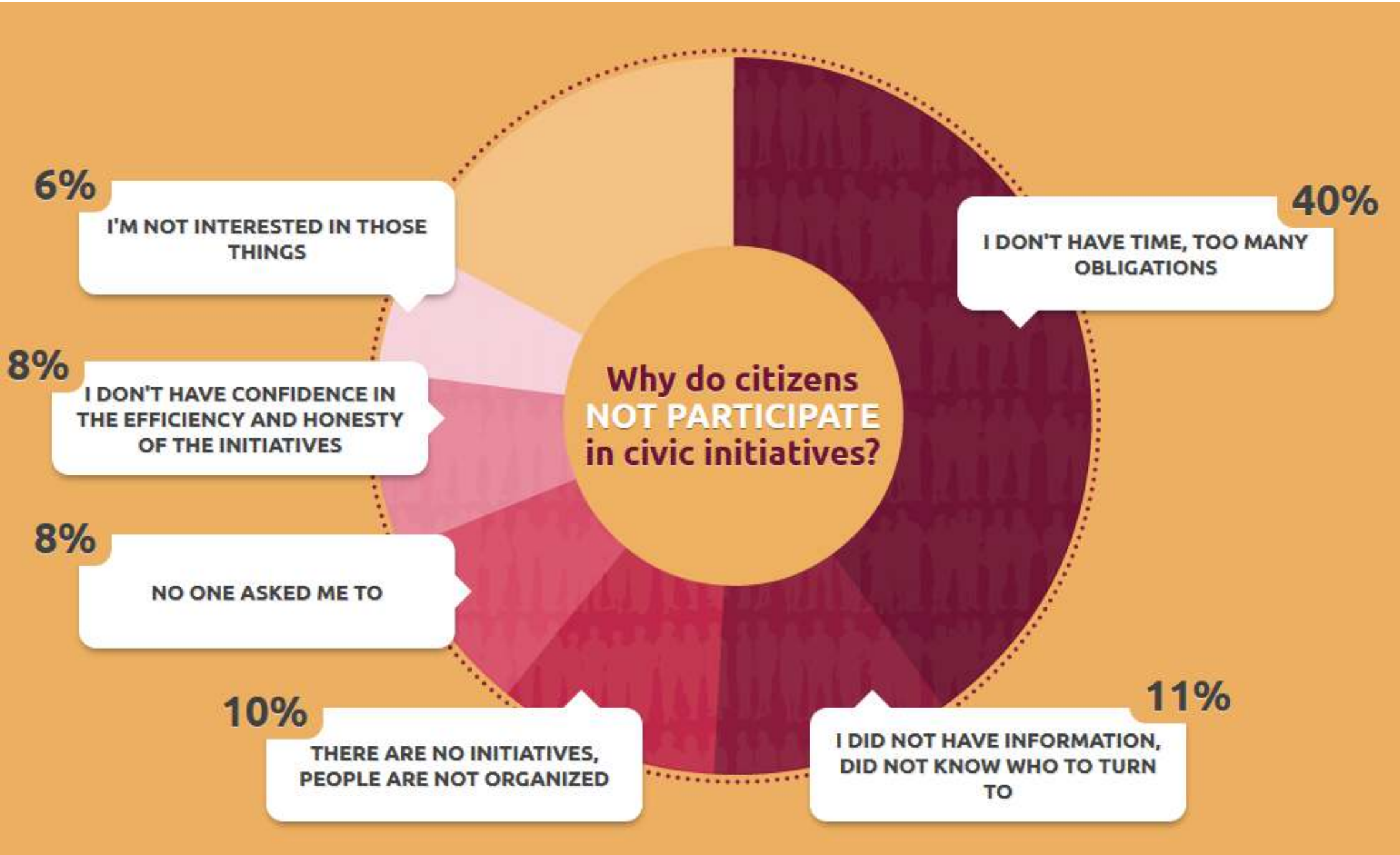
FOR **YOUNG PEOPLE** IT IS **LESS IMPORTANT TO HAVE INFLUENCE**, HOWEVER **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IS THE SAME**

Despite the great **DESIRE FOR ENGAGEMENT** and the sense of **RESPONSIBILITY** to the community, **THERE IS NEVERTHELESS PESSIMISM** when it comes to the possibility for influencing decision-making in the local community.

To what extent do citizens believe they can change something?

THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOUTH AND ADULTS IN TERMS OF HOW MUCH THEY BELIEVE THEY CAN CHANGE SOMETHING ON THE LOCAL LEVEL.

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE LEAST INTERESTED IN INFLUENCING DECISION-MAKING ON THE LOCAL LEVEL.


Why do citizens NOT PARTICIPATE in civic initiatives?
40%
I DON'T HAVE TIME, TOO MANY OBLIGATIONS
11%
I DID NOT HAVE INFORMATION, DID NOT KNOW WHO TO TURN TO
10%
THERE ARE NO INITIATIVES, PEOPLE ARE NOT ORGANIZED
8%
NO ONE ASKED ME TO
8%
I DON'T HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE EFFICIENCY AND HONESTY OF THE INITIATIVES
6%
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THOSE THINGS

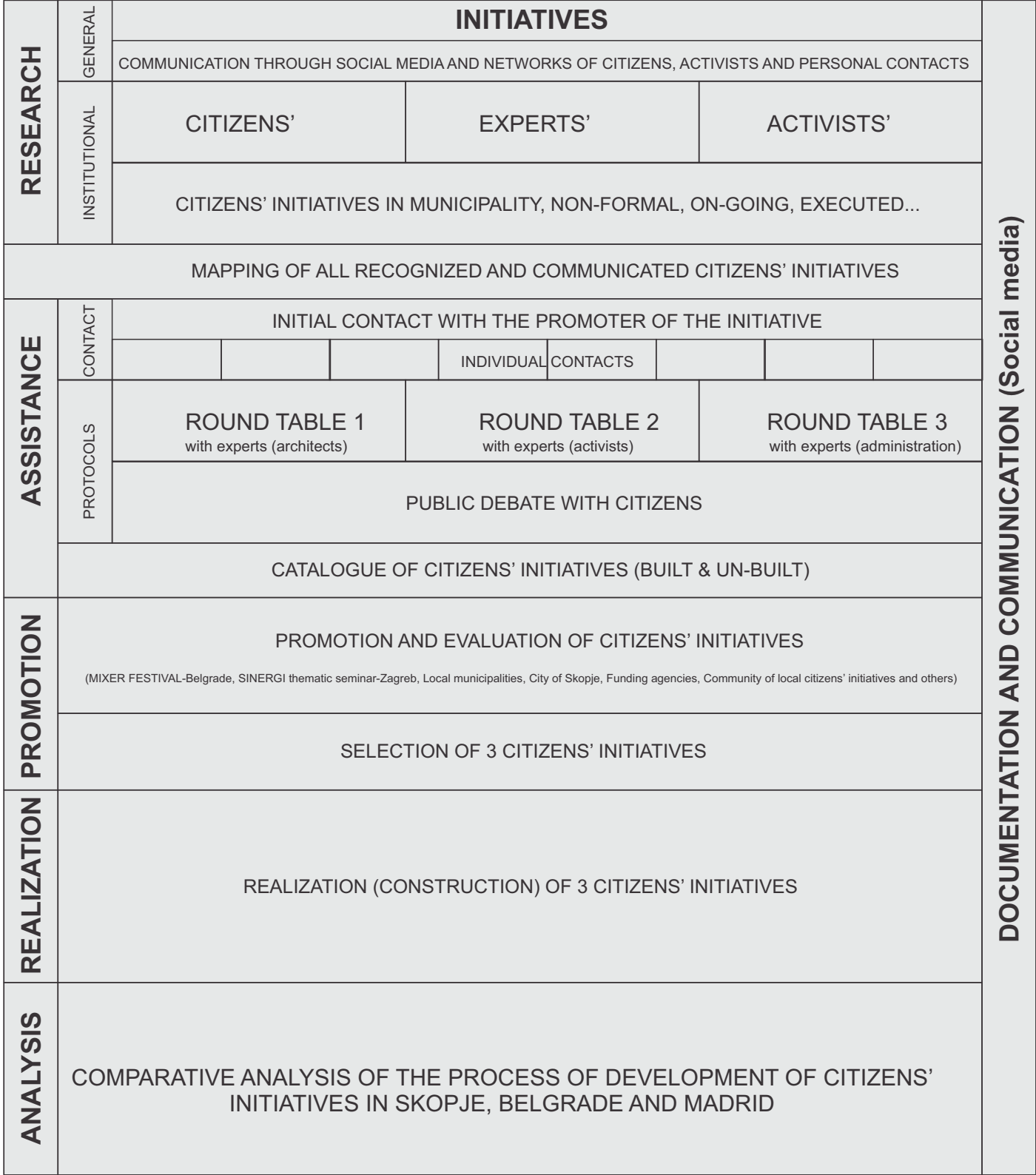
CITIZENS WHO BELIEVE IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COOPERATIVE MECHANISMS ARE MORE CONTENT WITH THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

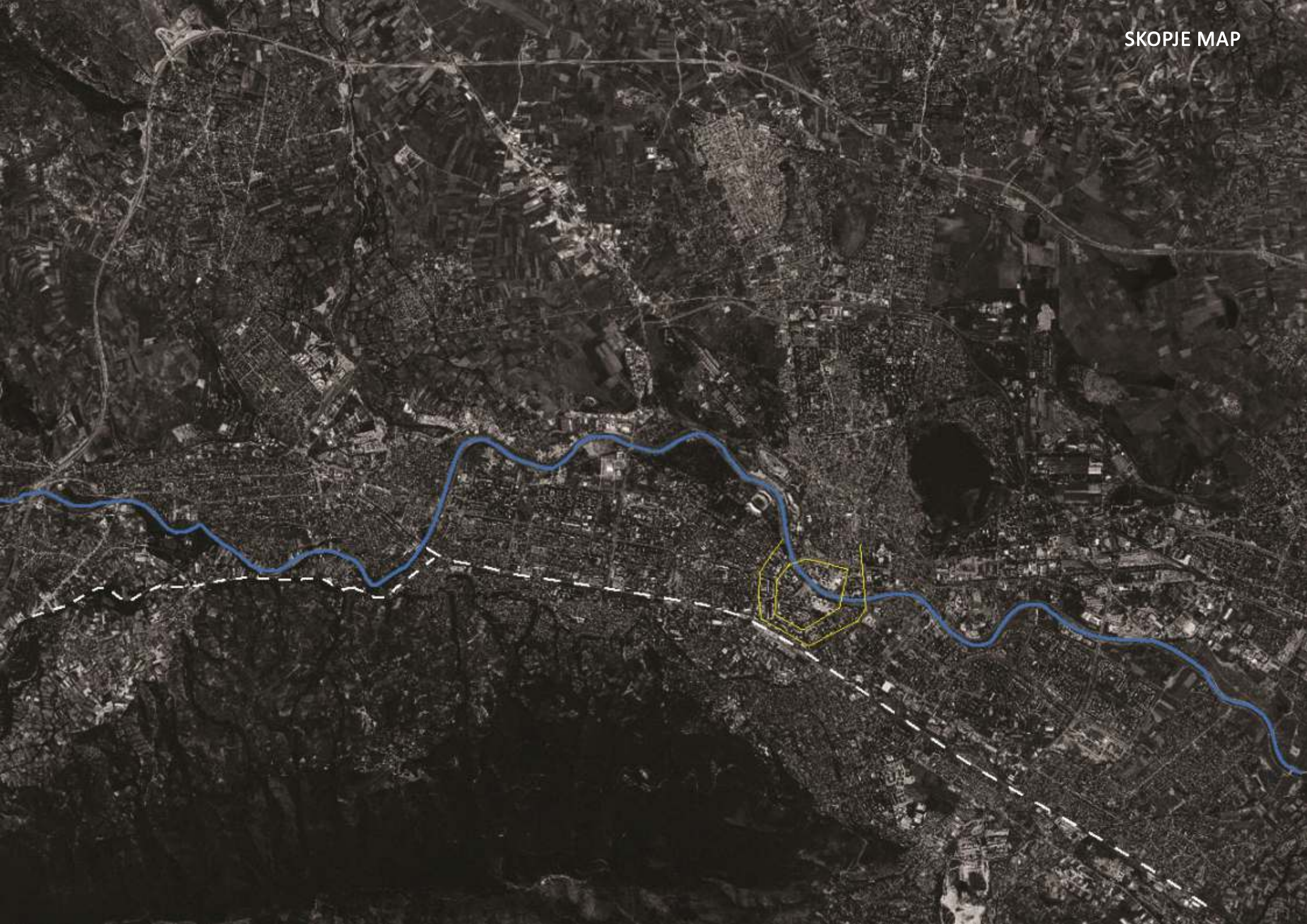
THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE EFFECTIVENNES OF ADVERSARIAL MECHANISMS CONSIDER IT MORE IMPORTANT TO INFLUENCE DECISSION-MAKING.

This emphasizes the importance of the existence of

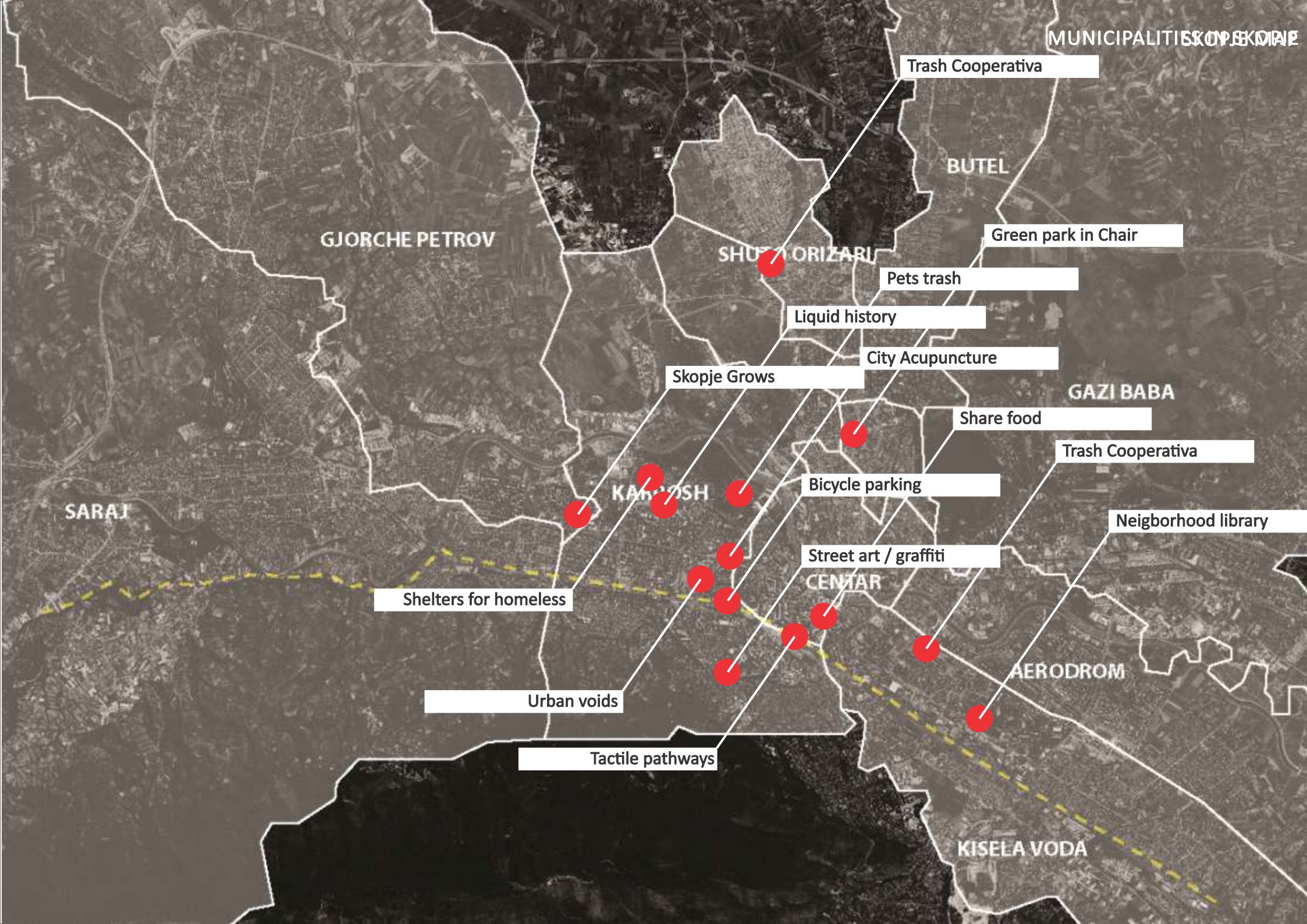
A COOPERATIVE SYSTEM BETWEEN CITIZENS AND THE AUTHORITIES

URBAN COOKS METHODOLOGY




SKOPJE MAP

MAP OF URBAN INITIATIVES
Trash Cooperativa
Green park in Chair
Pets trash
Liquid history
City Acupuncture
Skopje Grows
Share food
Trash Cooperativa
Bicycle parking
Neigborhood library
Street art / graffiti
Shelters for homeless
Urban voids
Tactile pathways


MUNICIPALITIES OF SKOPJE
Trash Cooperativa
BUTEL
GJORCHE PETROV
Green park in Chair
Pets trash
Liquid history
City Acupuncture
Skopje Grows
GAZI BABA
Share food
Trash Cooperativa
Bicycle parking
SARAJ
Neigborhood library
Street art / graffiti
CENTAR
Shelters for homeless
AERODROM
Urban voids
Tactile pathways
KISELA VODA

CATALOG OF URBAN INITIATIVES IN SKOPJE

SKOPJE GROWS

Initiative for reanimation of the public spaces, children's playground and green spaces in Skopje

Initiator

Reactor & Arhitektri studio

Site

Debar Maalo and Bunjakovec Quarter , Skopje

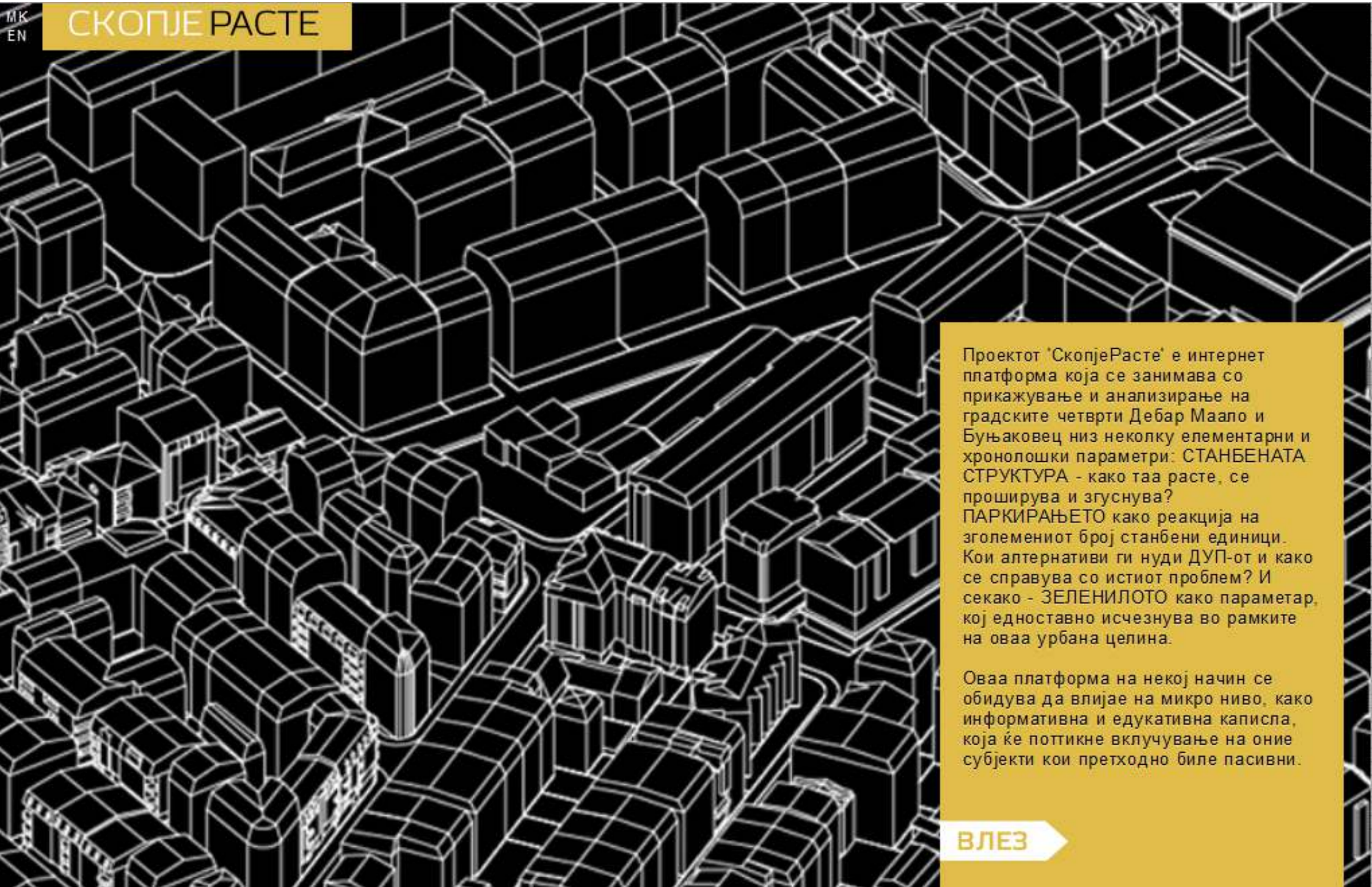
Target group

Skopje citizens (Debar Maalo and Bunjakovec Quarter)

Date

May 2012

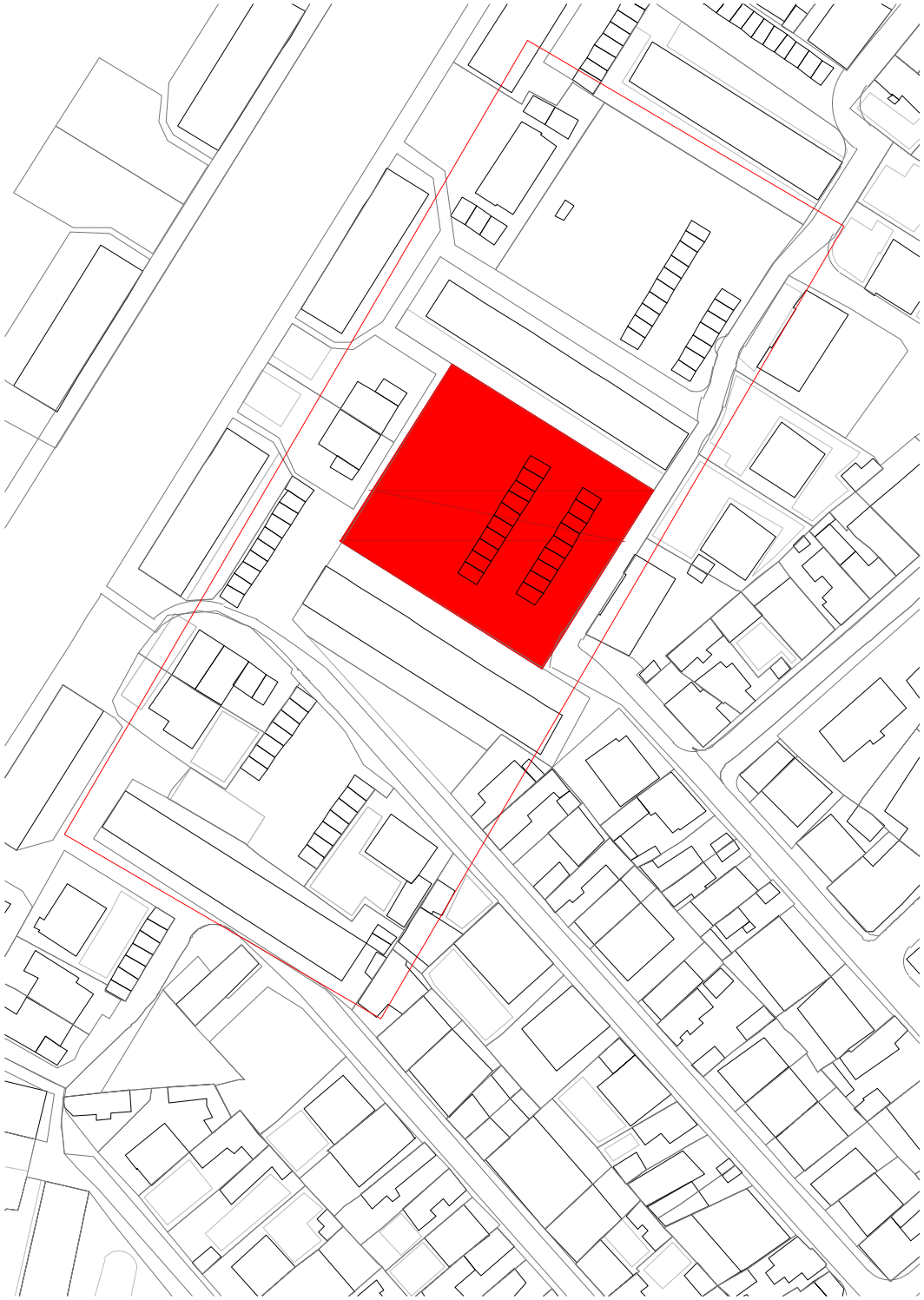
СКОПЈЕРАСТЕ



Проектот "СкопјеРасте" е интернет платформа која се занимава со прикажување и анализирање на градските четврти Дебар Маало и Буњаковец низ неколку елементарни и хронолошки параметри: СТАНБЕНАТА СТРУКТУРА - како таа расте, се проширува и згуснува? ПАРКИРАЊЕТО како реакција на зголемениот број станбени единици. Кои алтернативи ги нуди ДУП-от и како се справува со истиот проблем? И секако - ЗЕЛЕНИЛОТО како параметар, кој едноставно исчезнува во рамките на оваа урбана целина.

Оваа платформа на некој начин се обидува да влијае на микро ниво, како информативна и едукативна каписла, која ќе поттикне вклучување на оние субјекти кои претходно биле пасивни.

ВЛЕЗ



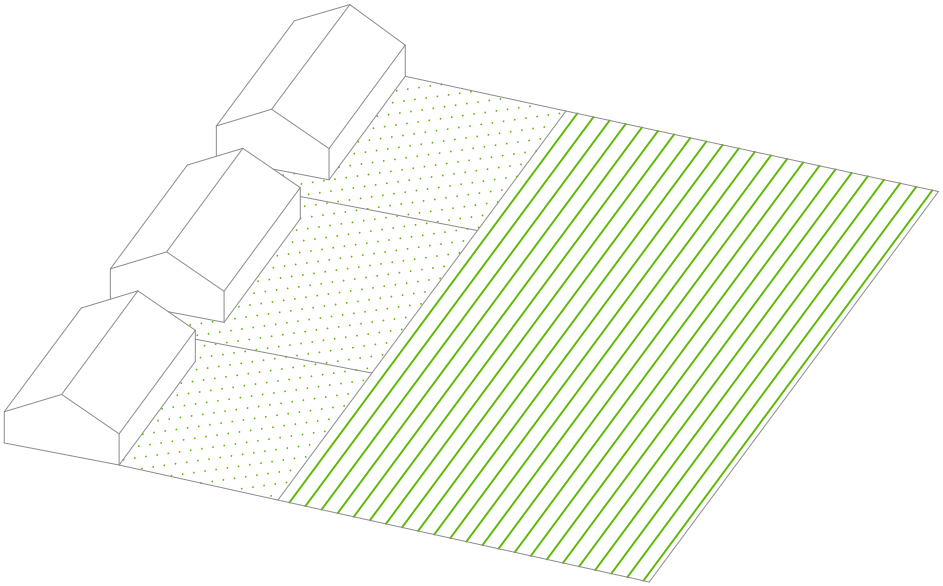
The idea for such initiative comes from the acknowledgment that larger part of the public green areas in the cities in Macedonia are an easy target for the densification wave of the urban mass especially in the centers. The platform www.skopjeraste.mk platform explains in a simple and transparent visual language the process of invasion of the free areas through chronological and programmatic dissection. The lack of areas of this type in Skopje is a contemporary problem which we think, should be dealt with a broad civil initiative in an informal way. This approach is common and is widely used to a good effect in transforming the public spaces in the past 20 years outside the reach of the mechanisms of the urban planning system. The initiative will offer a frame in which this model of cooperation and realization can be replicated in other similar situations and will benefit in the communication between the authorities and the citizens who use the public space.

Location

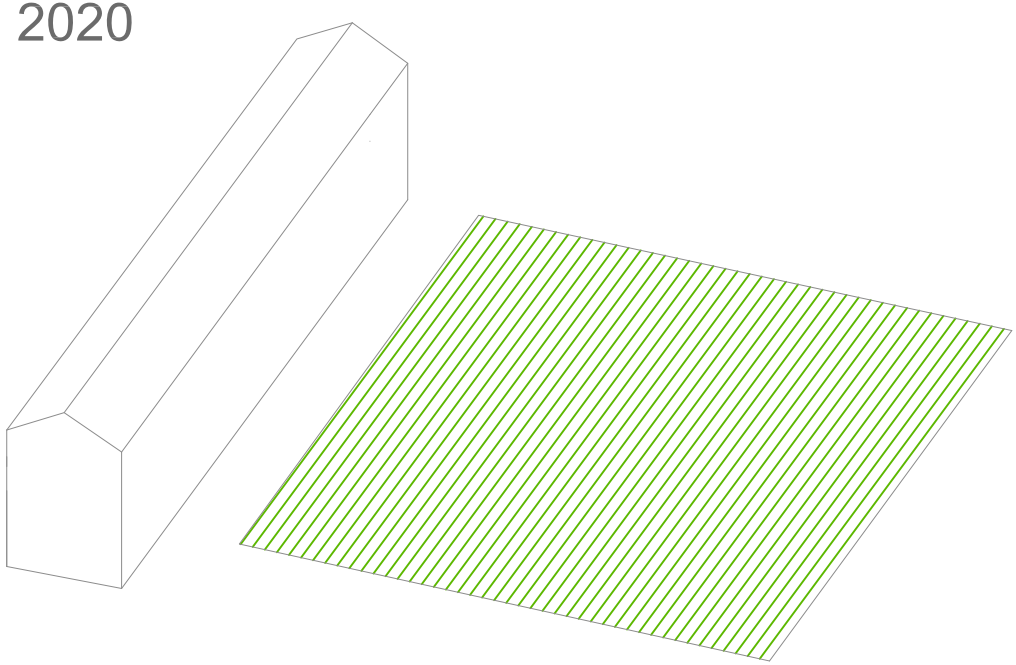
Debar maalo neighborhood

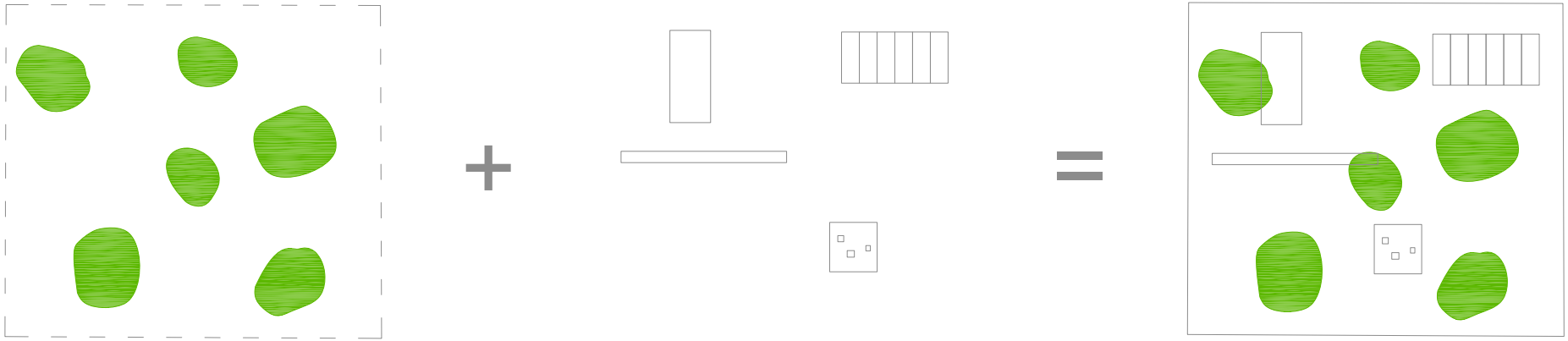
Transformation of private gardens into public green areas without specific character or program.

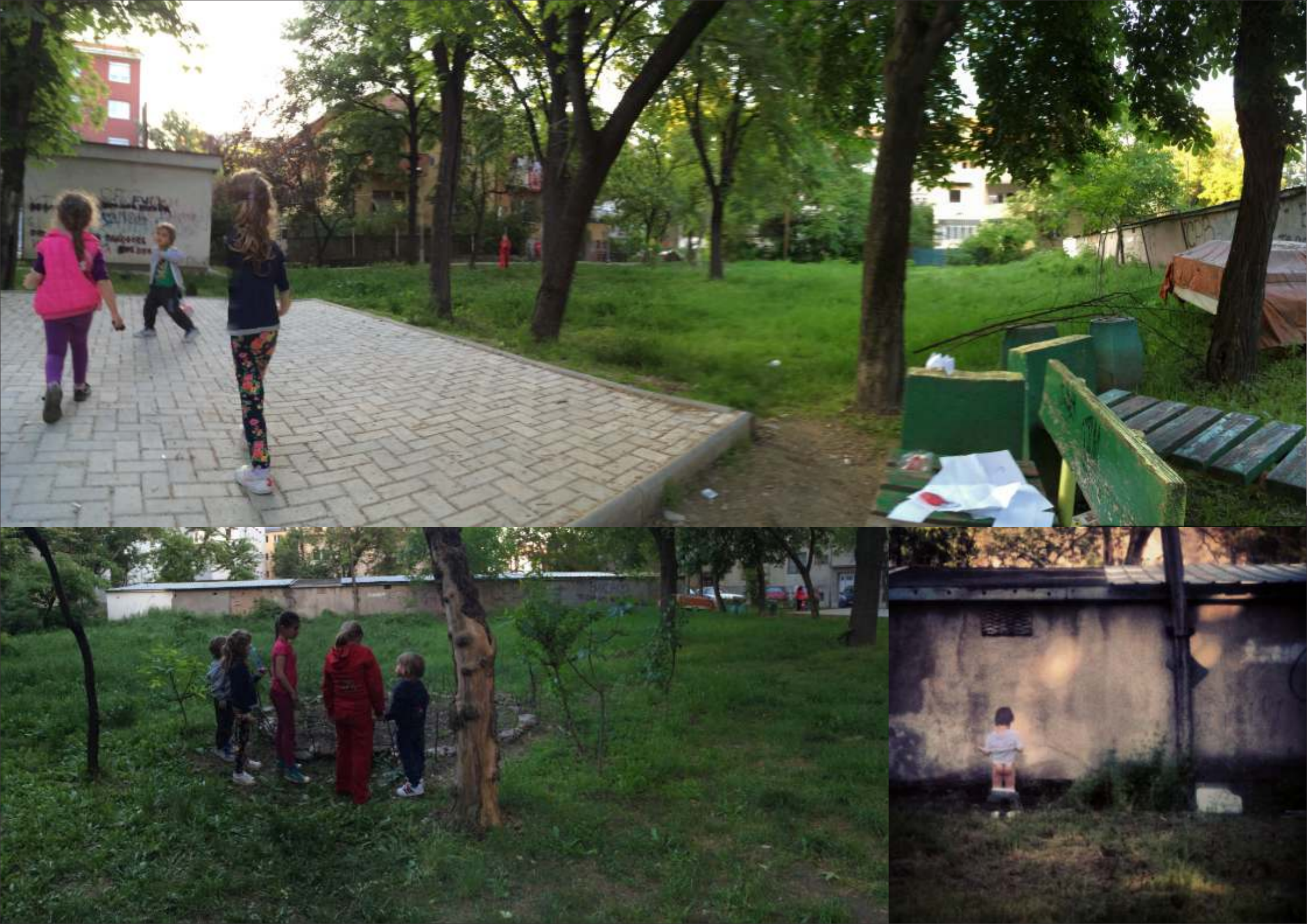
1960



2020







Date

April 2014

Target group

The local community (young mothers, gardeners, retired persons, unemployed, artisans and artists,

Site

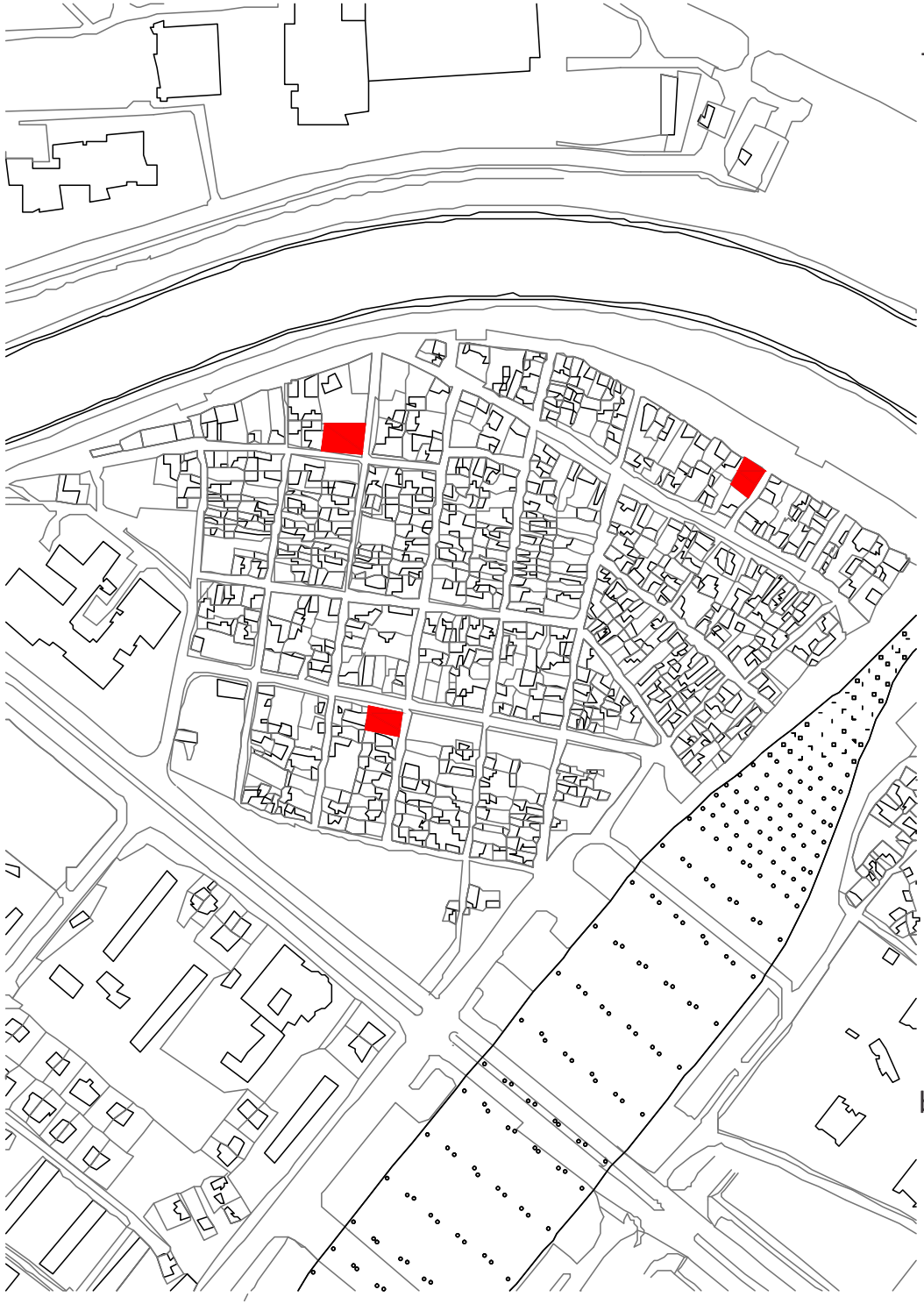
Various sites in Skopje

Initiator

Trash Cooperativa

TRASH COOPERATIVA

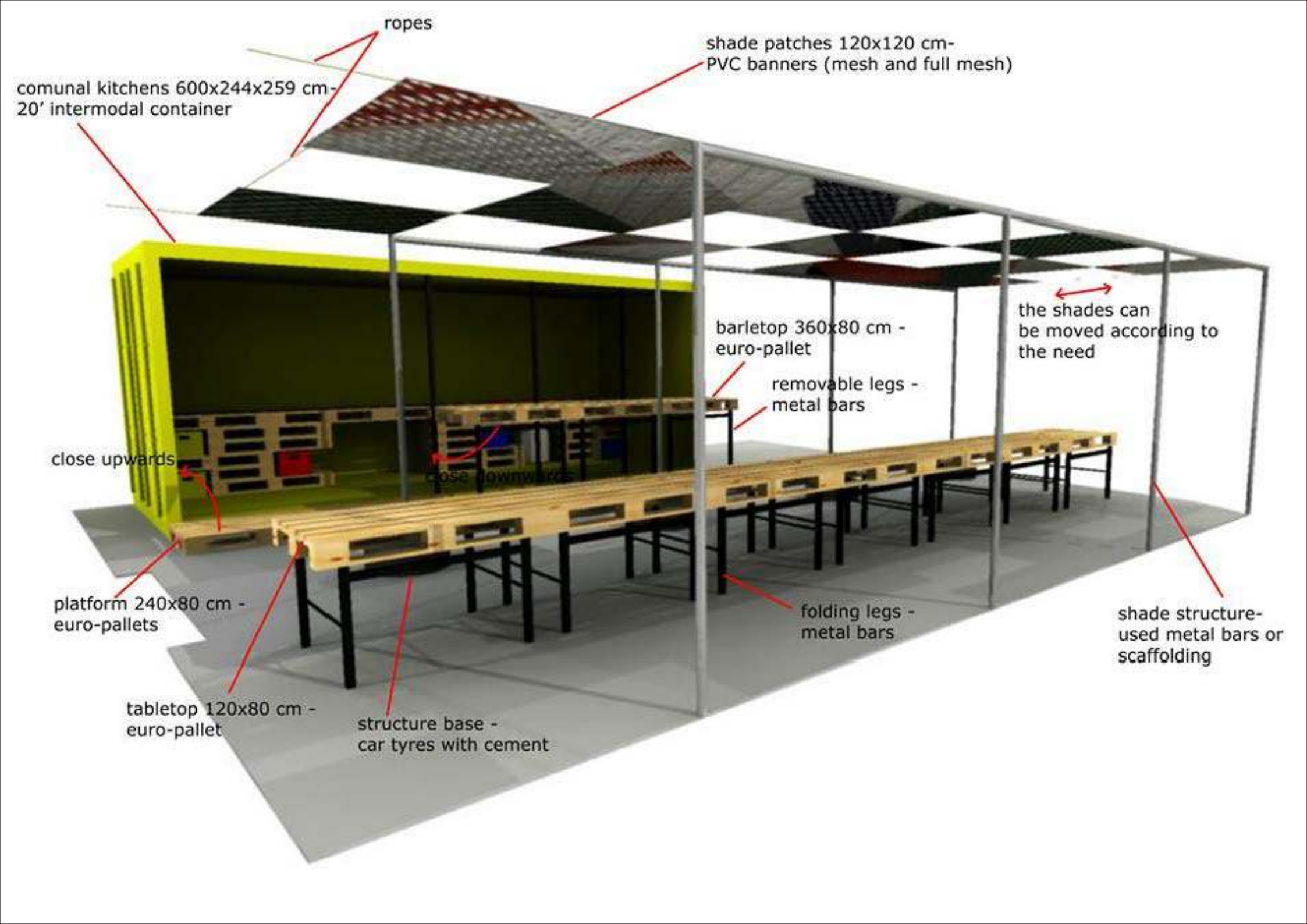
is envisioned as a multyfunctional cooperative public space fully designed and built of discarded objects and materials.



Trash Cooperativa is envisioned as a multifunctional cooperative public space fully designed and built of discarded objects and materials. The building is intended for the local community with the purpose to provide a public space for hanging out, group cooking and preparing of pickle, organizing events, local celebrations, markets etc. The key element of the project is a communal kitchen, built from a 20' intermodal container. To create the entrance of the kitchen one side is cut open and serves as main the access point. Using wooden pallets, the kitchen elements are created (plastic crates are used as drawers and barrels as washing utility) and the bar. All the exterior furniture is also created using wooden pallets and metal bars or metalux elements. To create the cover around the kitchen, we have used patches of PVC advertising banners (full-mesh and mesh in order to give a more dynamic shade) tied with ropes in a matrix that creates modules for adjustment of the shape and size of the cover. To secure the cover we have used metallic poles and bases created from car tires and cement. All the parts can be assembled/ dissembled in order to use a little space possible when not in use. Its parts can also be rearanged so to serve different purposes. Trash Cooperativa is a bottom-up project, that can be self sustained by the sale of products and objects, and even provide a small retribution for the persons in charge of its maintenance.

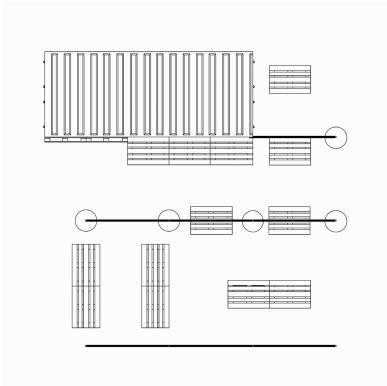
Location

Madjar neighborhood


ropes
shade patches 120x120 cm-
PVC banners (mesh and full mesh)
comunal kitchens 600x244x259 cm-
20' intermodal container
the shades can
be moved according to
the need
barletop 360x80 cm -
euro-pallet
removable legs -
metal bars
close upwards
close downwards
platform 240x80 cm -
euro-pallets
folding legs -
metal bars
shade structure-
used metal bars or
scaffolding
tabletop 120x80 cm -
euro-pallet
structure base -
car tyres with cement

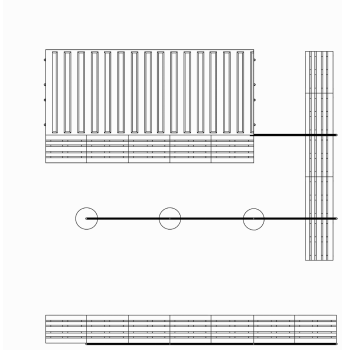
DISTRIBUTION MODEL 1

Possible distribution during local neighborhood gatherings and parties. The kitchen with the bar serves as selling point of beverages and food. the entrance platform is closed to limit the entry.



DISTRIBUTION MODEL 2

Possible distribution during an artisan market. It can be organized by the locals or renter to other entities.



SOLID HISTORY + LIQUID INFORMATION = IDENTITY
LIQUID + TIME = HISTORY

Date

June 2010

Target group

The local community and residents of the neigborhood

Site

Debar maalo neighborhood

Initiator

GRADGRAD

LIQUID HISTORY

is an initiative to add a new "invisible and liquid" layer of history in the pavement and at the streets of the neigborhood

Location

Orce Nikolov street

Водата која тече од олуците при скопските поројни дождови, низ каналите на тротоарите се слева на улиците. Со поставување на канали од материјал кој при допир со вода пројавува структура/запис која е поинаква од неговата вообичаена состојба пренесуваат информации. Овие информации се врзани за објектите, просторот, настаните, луѓето и историјата на местотот каде е олукот. Оваа суштинска поврзаност на постоечкиот елемент- олукот, со неговата функција-процес и новиот елемент-вода кој е неопходен услов за појавност на знаците е основата на динамичкиот процес на создавање на урбаниот идентитет низ препрочитување на старите и новите слоеви на градот.

Овие нови, меки конструкции се темпорални и видливи само во одреден временски период и под одредени услови. Искуството на нивното читање е уникатно и неповторливо исто како што е неповторлива комбинацијата на истите услови. Потоа повторно исчезнуваат во структурата на каменот чекајќи ја следната прилика. Тие се дел од контекстот и со ништо не се разликуваат од постоечките материјали. Нивната реализација е суштински поврзана за градот таков каков што е. Новите урбани маркери се дел, точки од новата урбана топографија која го создава нашиот идентитет. Поврзувајќи ги урбаните маркери со биоразградлива боја во мрежа на врски меѓу нив се создава нова, урбана топографија. Оваа мрежа е секојпат различна, секојпат создава нови врски и секојпат нуди различна информација. Поврзувајќи ги елементите на градот (објектите, луѓето, дрвјата, олуците, светилките, тротоарите…) се создаваат нови и нови конфигурации. Овие мрежи се врските кои ги градиме со градот и со луѓето во него. Тие се урбаните маркери кои исчезнуваат во тек на неколку дена и повторно се создаваат. Тие се основата на нашата слика за градот и за нас самите. Создавањето на овие мрежи е низ работилница со деца и возрасни која може да се случува во сите делови од градот. Темата на секоја работилница може да

ВРЕМЕ ДЕН 1

ВРЕМЕ ДЕН 2

ВРЕМЕ ДЕН 3

ВРЕМЕ ДЕН 4

ВРЕМЕ ДЕН 5

СТАНБЕН ОБЈЕКТ 1924 ГРАДСКА ВИЛА

1927 УЛИЧНА РАСВЕТА

КАЛДРМИСУВАНА УЛИЦА

НОВА УЛИЦА

СТАНБЕН ОБЈЕКТ 1927

СТАНБЕН ОБЈЕКТ 1927 АРХИТЕКТ ВУКО ТАШКОВИЌ

1924 ГРАДСКА ВИЛА

1924 КАЛДРМИСУВАНА УЛИЦАТА

1927 АРХИТЕКТ ВУКО ТАШКОВИЌ

СТАНБЕН
ОБЈЕКТ ИЗГРАДЕН
1947947
ГОДИНА ВО СКОПЈЕ
НА УЛ. ОРЦЕ НИКОЛОВ
ОД АРХИТЕКТ
ЛУДЈЕК КУБЕШ
КАКО ОДЛИЧЕН ПРИМЕР
МОДЕРНА НА
АРХИТЕКТУРА
ОД 00000 ВЕК
0202020
КАДЕ СЕ МЕШААТ
ТРАДИЦИОНАЛНИТЕ
КОНЦЕПТИ
СО СОВРЕМЕНАТА
ИДЕО
ЛОГИЈА НА ВРЕМЕТО

SOLID + LIQUID = PLACE

SOLID HISTORY + LIQUID INFORMATION = IDENTITY

TACTILE PATHWAY

is an initiative to adapt the streets and sidewalks in the center of the city with urban elements for assistance of visually impaired citizens

Date

May 2008

Target group

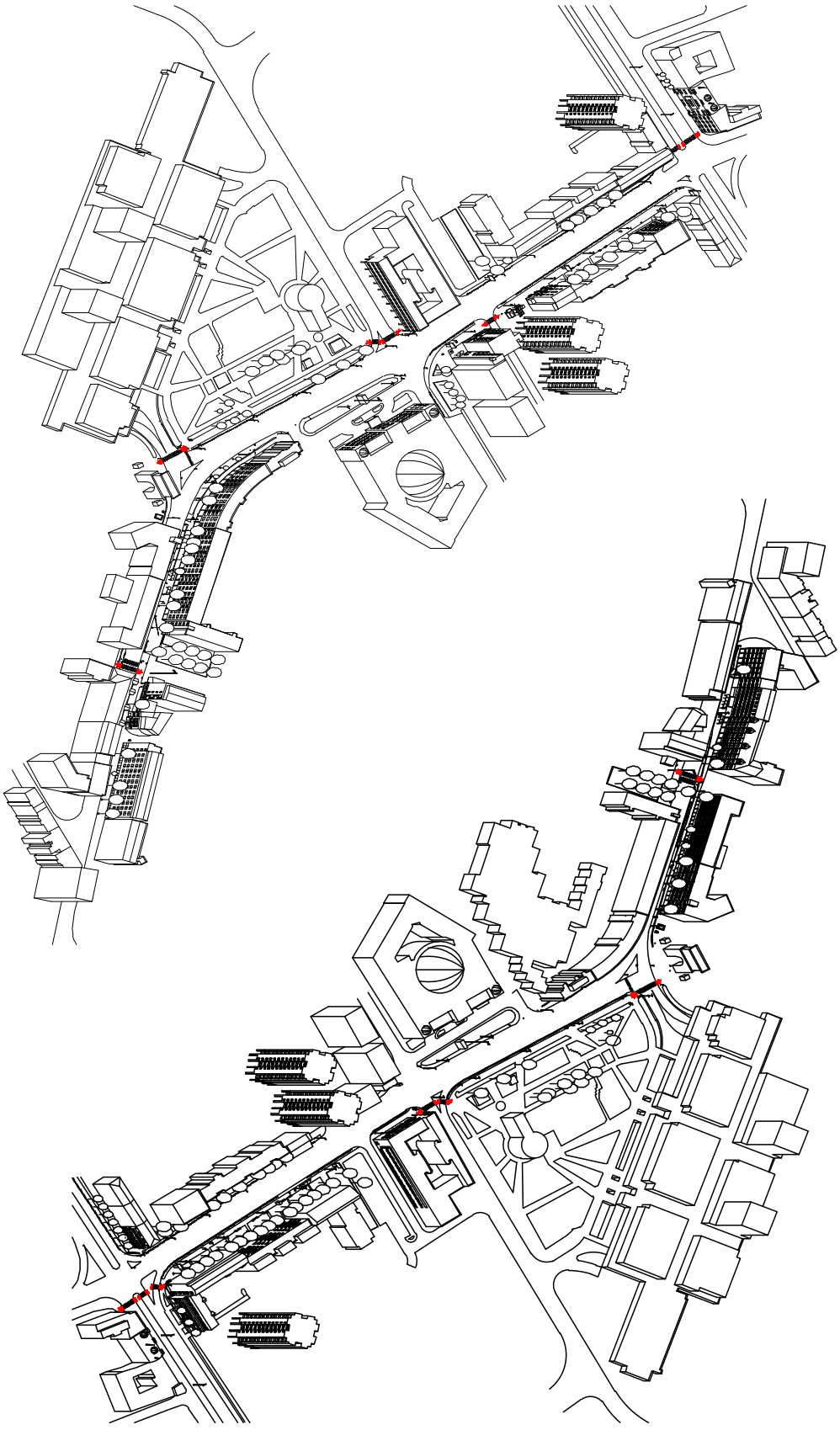
Visually impaired persons

Site

Center of Skopje

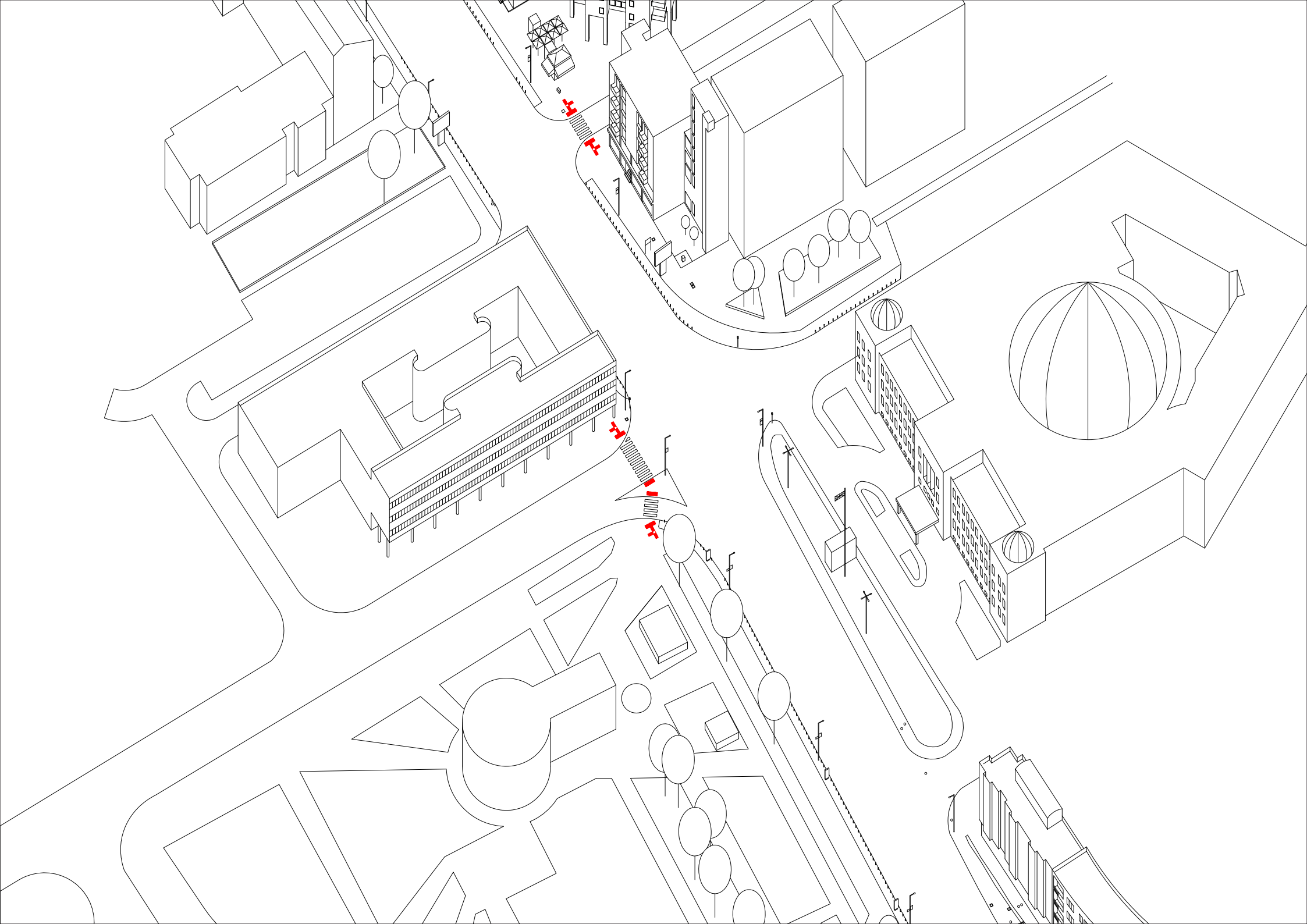
Initiator

National Council of organizations of people with handicape in Macedonia



Location

Dimitrija Chupovski street



Description

Tactile pathway

URBAN ACUPUNCTURE

implementing individual solutions to improve urban life and solve a problem faced by residents

Date

May 2012 (completed 2013)

Target group

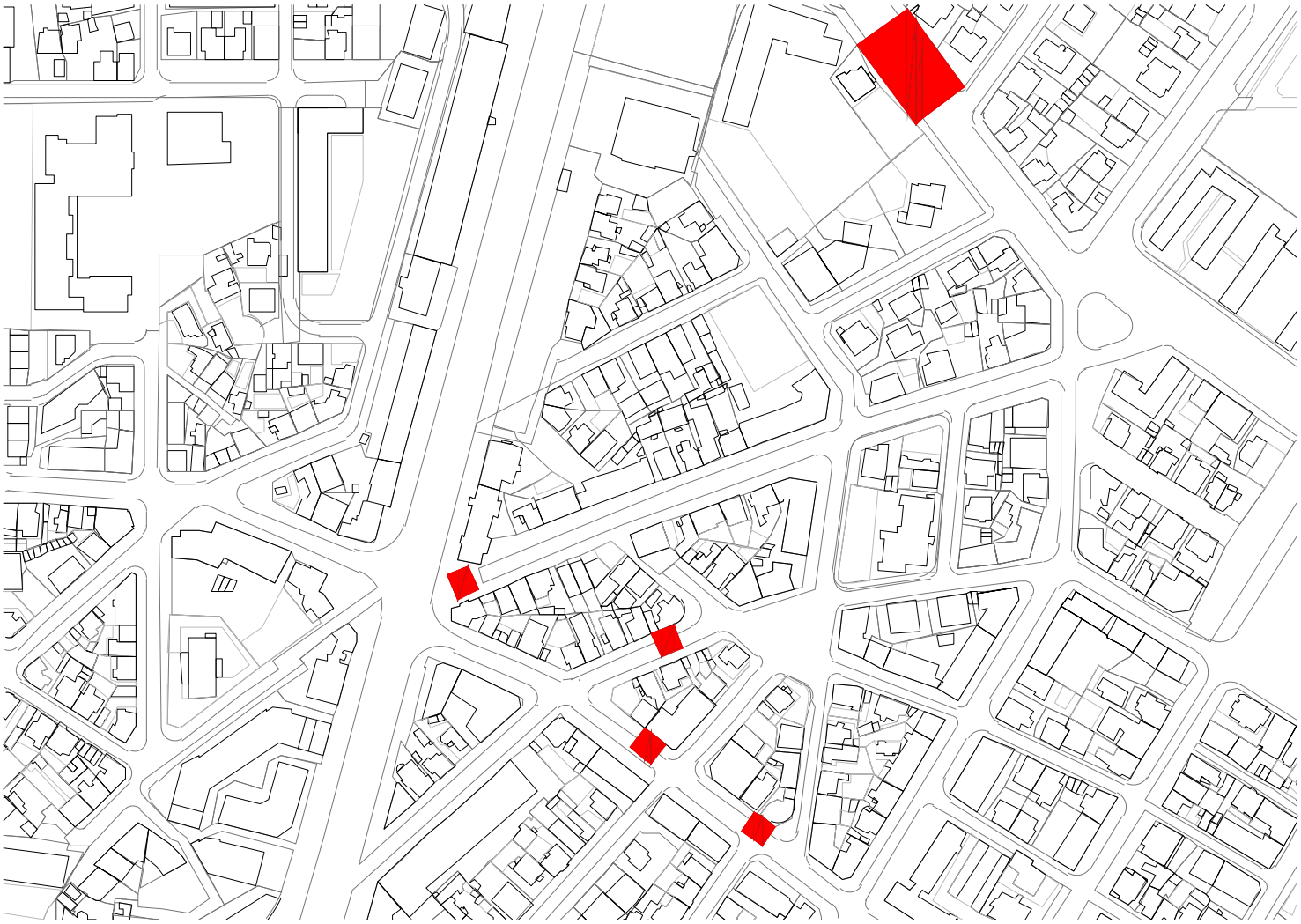
Citizens of Municipality of Centar

Site

Debar maalo neigborhood

Initiator

Public room



Location

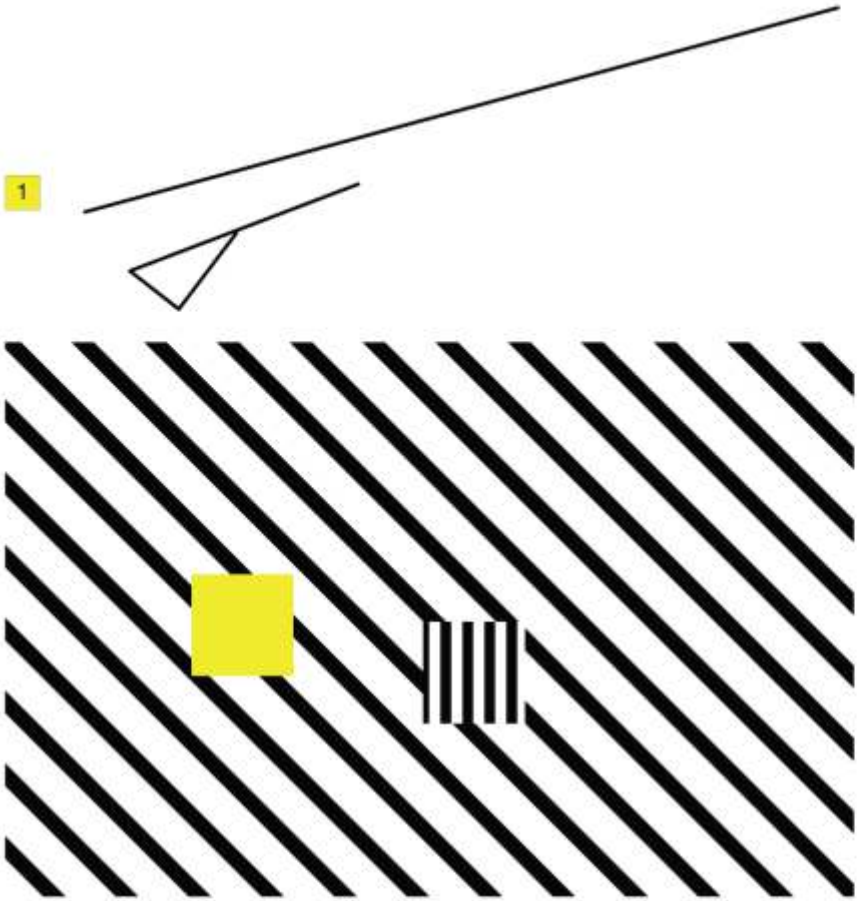
Various sites in Debar maalo

City Acupuncture is a 24 month project is organized in cooperation with 5 associations from 4 different countries of Southeast Europe, in order to improve the quality of urban life through international cultural exchange. With this project, the City Acupuncture is the foundation for regional co-operation, with the role of culture as an important element in strengthening regional cooperation and development. The project involved interdisciplinary and international experts and types of students tasked to explore (on site) regional identity, urban planning and culture of a settlement in a particular city.

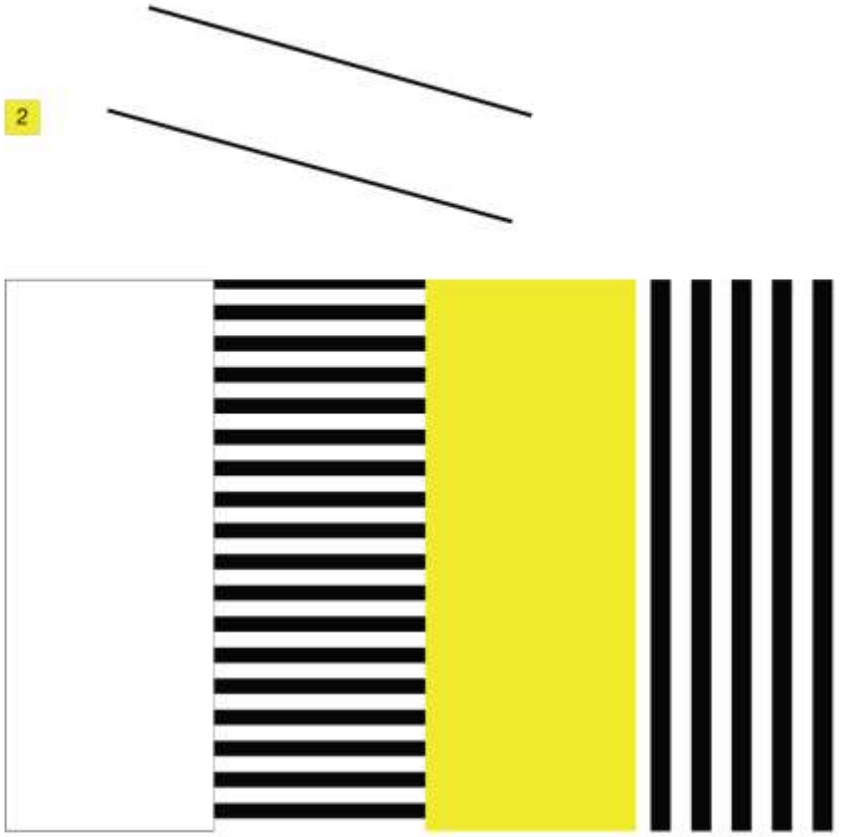
Description

Urban acupuncture

1



2



BICYCLE PARKING

Initiative objective is to increase the awareness and stimulate the bicycle traffic

Date

August 2013

Target group

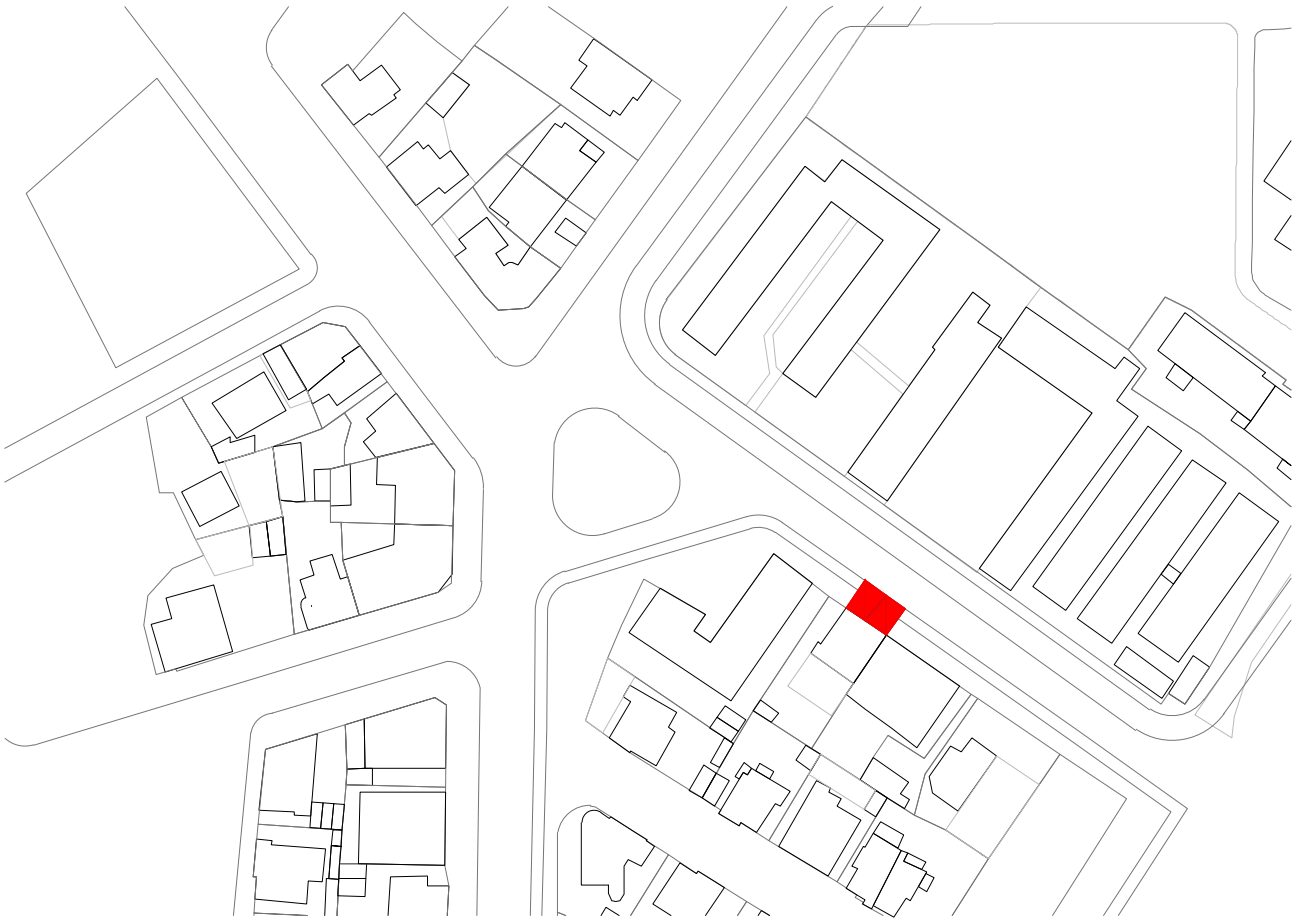
Cyclists

Site

Debar maalo neigborhood

Initiator

Arhitektri studio



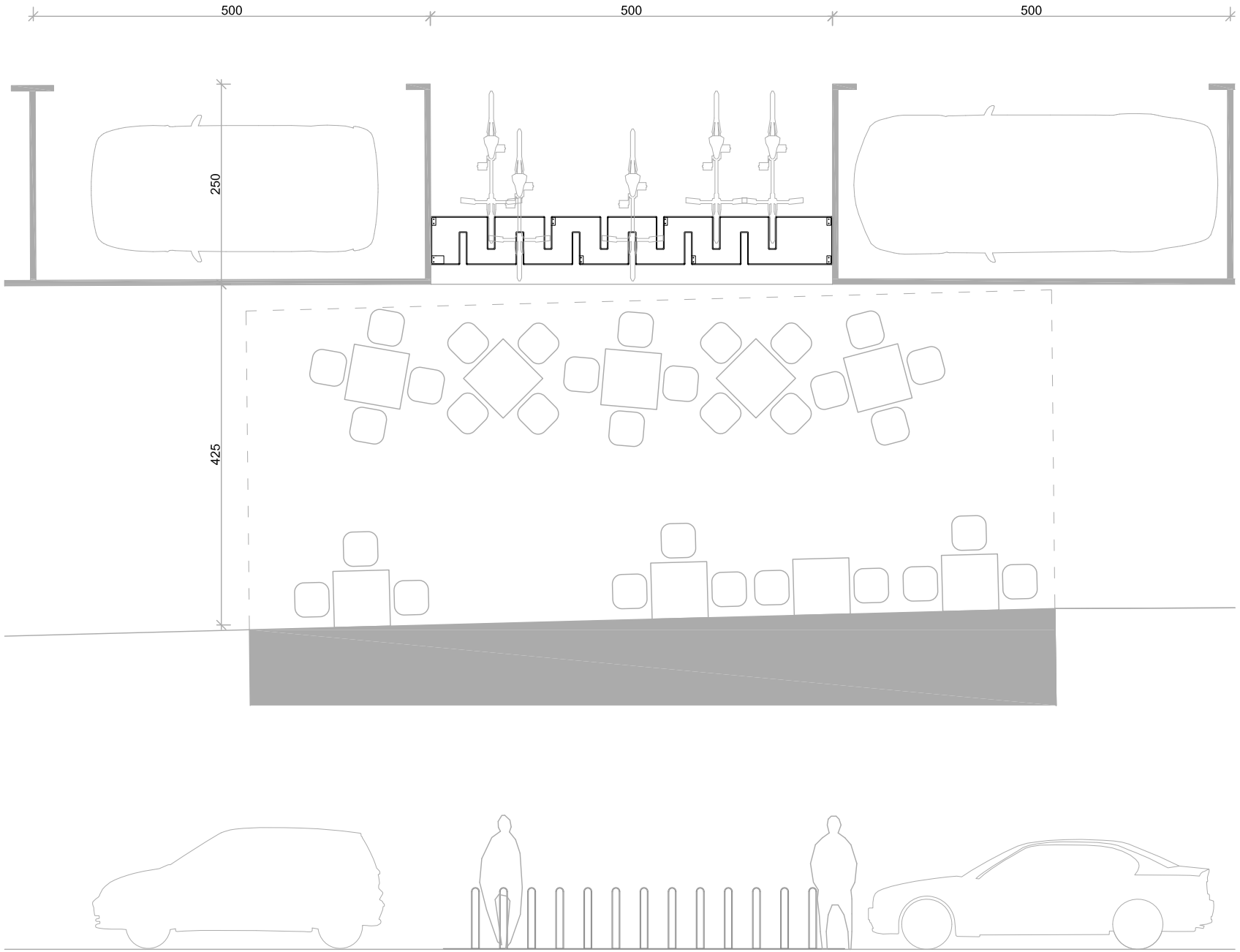
Location

Mihail Cokov st.

The idea is to set the bicycle frame / bicycle parking at multiple locations in Skopje, and on every 100 parking spots for motor vehicles to mark at least one of those parking spots as bicycle parking. One parking spot for a car (2.5m/5m) accommodates 13 bicycle parking spots.

Bicycle parking

Plan



Elevation

SHARE FOOD AND BOOKS

initiative for anonymous share of food and books in the neighborhoods

Date

April 2014 (realised)

Target group

Skopje citizens

Site

Skopje

Initiator

Anonymous

БИБЛИОТЕКА
БЕСПЛАТНА РАЗМЕНА НА КНИГИ

СПОДЕЛИ ХРАНА
FREE MEAL

URBAN COOKS SPICING UP THE CIVIC SOCIETY IN OUR CITIES

conclusions (guidelines)

Interaction is Integration

participation as a social & spatial practice

participation makes community meaningful

Thank you!

ognen marina

Faculty of Architecture University Sts. Cyril and Methodius Skopje Macedonia

Lifelong Learning Programme

This project is funded with support from the European Commission (Project number 539369-LLP1-2013-1-ES-ERASMUS). This publication reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

WWW.URBANCOOKS.EU

HOME ABOUT ACTIVITIES EXPERTS INITIATIVES RESEARCH PRESS

A project that seeks to integrate the knowledge and the experience of professionals from various European countries, together with local communities. Basurama (Madrid), Mikser (Belgrade) and ISPJR (Skopje) together with citizen initiatives and other experts will develop an innovative methodology for bottom up initiatives serving for mediate between their needs and the public administration and other entities, basing on successful examples in the field of citizen participation.
The main goal of the project will be to design a common and exportable toolkit to support citizen initiatives that manage and create public space, and moreover the creation of local action platforms "Urban Cooks Platform" in each participant city, but with the aim of being replicable in other cities through the methodology developed during the project.