



## FACTSHEET:

# MAPPING VACANT SPACES

### WHAT?

Cultural and artistic initiatives find it increasingly difficult to find suitable space for their activities in the city of Cluj. The available space tends to be concentrated in the city centre, leading to gentrification. The city launched an experiment in a peripheral neighbourhood to map the available, vacant spaces in that area.

The mapping of these spaces took the form of an urban exploratory walk through the neighbourhood, followed by a roundtable discussion with the stakeholders. It became clear that there are indeed empty or underused properties with an uncertain legal status and little immediate perspective for valorisation. Such spaces have great potential for temporary use.

### LESSONS LEARNT

An in-depth analysis of the plots and buildings discovered during the exploratory walk is needed. Moreover, the walk has also shown a need for the creation of a digital platform where vacant spaces can be presented and through which users can obtain information and access. Ideally, this would also function as an interactive environment for discussion between all actors. The next step is a more in-depth analysis of the available spaces. The municipality can play a role as mediator between owners and potential tenants or users.

### HOW TO TRANSFER

Thanks to the participative format, this event brought out more opportunities than a top-down analysis would have. It is a good way to reach many different target groups and involve them from the initial phase of the process, that is the choice of a pilot area for the experiment. The owners of the properties are crucial players, but they are not always easily approachable. It is useful to pre-identify owners and intuit their potential needs. The benefits of temporary use must be clear to them and to potential users alike.

### WHEN?

2017

### WHERE?

Cluj-Napoca, Romania

### WHY?

- Unearthing hidden spaces for cultural and artistic activities
- Reduction of running costs of vacancy
- Activation of peripheral neighbourhoods

- **Organise an exploratory walk with local stakeholders**
- **Map temporary use opportunities in a pilot area**
- **Create awareness and interest in areas with potential for temporary use**