***Call for proposals for the Design Day 2024***

**17 September 2024**

*"Urban planners seeking to stabilize neighbourhoods are focusing on the critical role that “third places” can play in strengthening our sense of community. Third places is a term coined by sociologist* [*Ray Oldenburg*](http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/04/13/the-pros-and-cons-of-gentrification/every-community-deserves-a-third-place) *and refers to places where people spend time between home (‘first’ place) and work (‘second’ place). They are locations where we exchange ideas, have a good time, and build relationships." (read more* [*here*](https://www.brookings.edu/articles/third-places-as-community-builders/)*)*

Dear all,

We hope you are well and ready for another exciting edition of the **EU Design Day 2024**!

Our **12th edition** will take place on **17 September in Brussels.**

We hope to bring back the networking, see many familiar and new faces and be inspired by your initiatives and projects!

The topic of this year will be: **From citizens for citizens: shared places in community spaces** and we will focus on 3 main thematic areas:

* **Green transition**: recycling and reuse, circular economy (e.g. repair cafés, recycling centres, etc.), sustainable food (e.g. shared gardens and from farm to fork), slow and soft mobility (supporting coworking spaces) etc.
* **Digital transition**: digital inclusion, use of AI, smart data management, development of digital skills, FabLab, etc.
* **Societal challenges**: maintaining local services and social links (e.g. bars, restaurants, public services, etc.), local production and consumption (e.g. maker-spaces), cultural programming, entrepreneurship support, inclusion of vulnerable groups, etc.

You will have the opportunity to learn and present examples of innovative, creative and well-functioning solutions setting up **many different types of shared places**: e.g. coworking spaces, cultural wastelands, FabLabs, nurturing third places. Often these spaces are created in **old, disused industrial or public spaces**. Through a creative process of urban regeneration, they help to limit land consumption and create attractive places for communities to meet.

What they all have in common is the **integration of spaces and skills**, **the cross-fertilisation of activities and sectors** and **encouraging community cooperation** to tackle the challenges facing their urban, rural or local area. At the level of the European Union, the so-called “third places” are seen as a key players in European initiatives. Over the last few years, these structures have become a key factor in regional development, because of their ability to create favourable conditions for the development of economic activities and social links, including in rural areas.

This event will be an opportunity to exchange good practices in terms of **cooperation between these shared places and public/local authorities** and a possibility highlight the need for support that shared places have to consolidate, develop and sustain themselves.

**Format of the event:** Networking and face-to-face collaboration are the most important parts of Design Day. We will start with a pitch presentation session in the morning (with projects and best practices), which will set the stage for the interactive workshops that will follow in the afternoon. In previous editions, the selected speakers were grouped by the organizing team according to the sector of their project/best practice/experience and invited to organize and lead the workshops. The aim has always been **to bring together experts and professionals before the event** and to encourage discussion around common challenges and goals.

**Workshops:**

Also this year we would like to involve you in the organisation of workshops to better exchange ideas and work more in-depth on the topics presented. Ideally, the workshops should be organized by a group of speakers and led by one of them. The discussion should engage the audience and address a challenge that is common to the speakers based on their presentations. The format of the workshop is open and left to the preferences of the speakers.

**Evaluation criteria:** It is important to us that we strike a balance between giving as many regions as possible the opportunity to be involved during the DD and not overloading the programme with too many speakers. Therefore, we hope you will understand that we cannot give the floor to every region that submits an application.

We will evaluate your proposals according to the following criteria:

* Clear transferability of your project/initiative to other regions
* Innovative use of design tools
* Impact - what difference will your project make?
* Sustainability - will the benefits last?
* A willingness to co-organise an afternoon workshop session is a plus.
* Balanced geographical spread
* Giving the floor to "newcomers”

**Please fill in the questionnaire below:**

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| --- |
| ***Speaker (Name, position, brief description of organization, contact details):*** |
|  |
| ***Brief description of intervention topic (max. 500 words)*** |
|  |
| ***Title of your presentation and thematic panel that it relates to (Green transition, Digital transition or Societal challenges)*** |
|  |
| ***Is the regional/local authority involved (e.g. supporting initiative or benefiting)?*** |
|  |
| ***Brief description of transferable elements and the relevance for other regions*** |
|  |
| ***Are you willing to co-organise the workshop? In case of a positive answer, could you please indicate if you would prefer to lead a workshop or just be one of the organizers?*** |
|  |
| ***Contact details (name and e-mail address) of the representative in Brussels Office:*** |
|  |

Please, return the completed questionnaire to the ERRIN secretariat by **10 June**:

**francesca.pozzebon@errin.eu**

Thank you!