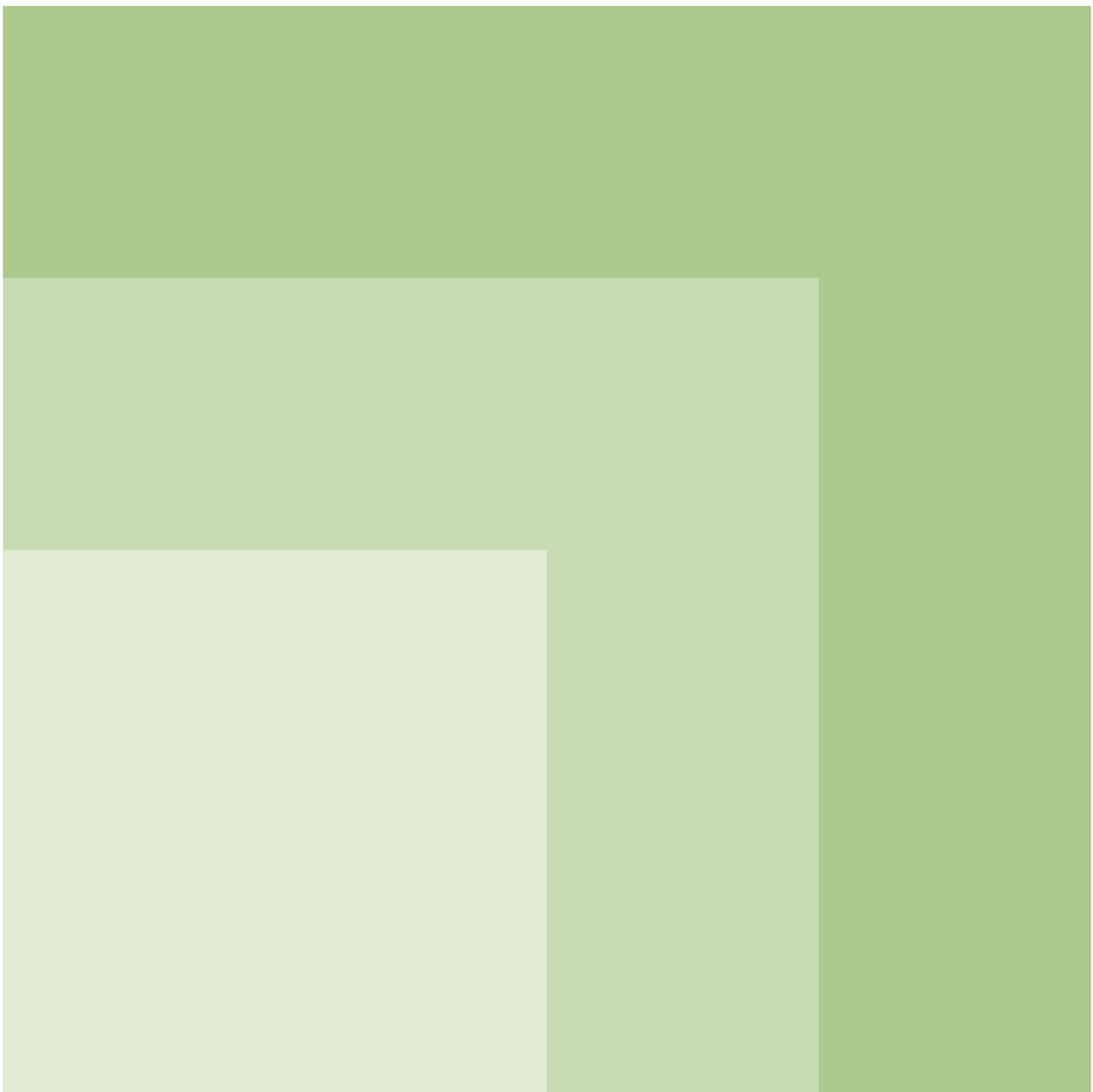


Stories from the unseen



2023

SAFE

SUSTAINABLE, ACCESSIBLE
FUTURE ENVIRONMENTS



The course is a collaboration
between five European
Universities



UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA (UL)

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WYSZA SZKOŁA GOSPODARKI Z SIEDZIBA W
BYDGOSZCZ UCZELNIA NIEPANSTWOWA (WSG)

ISP KIEL

2023

Univerza v Ljubljani



UNIVERSIDAD
DE GRANADA

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About the project

The main goal of the SAFE project is to increase awareness of safe accessibility, diversity, and inclusion, and to promote the right to a sense of security in cities, including people with limited abilities, disabilities, and various cultural and socio-economic backgrounds in the EU. With a transdisciplinary, international approach, the project partners, by involving target groups, locals, and business owners, will strive to promote tolerance for diversity, inclusivity for all, and safety in local communities. As part of the project activities, partners will develop a digital toolkit and innovative educational materials for various users and target groups. The partners will create a joint international study module: understanding and designing urban concepts for a safer, more accessible, inclusive, diverse, and secure urban space.

YOUNG MOTHER

In Anika's opinion the area is safe, but it has all to do with her attitude towards life. She has a very brave mindset of not being afraid of the people who are under the influence of drugs. Her way of dealing with them is to treat them with respect but still maintain her own space and not to let them to influence her actions. She had not experienced any dangerous situations in Gaarden, but her friend had been in a situation where a person on drugs had confronted her and thrown a rock thorough a window.

She likes the sense of community in Gaarden. People look out for other people's children. Apparently, this is not a common practise in other communities. She has not faced accessibility issues in the area, even when moving with the kids, although she does not like the fact that the small kids have to see the daily drug usage going on and has to explain to them about it.

She is missing a place for the parents to relax and sit down and grab a coffee, so another café in the area would be appreciated. Sometimes when she interacts with other people who do not live in Gaarden, she wonder if she can tell them she is from Gaarden, since the area has a stigma around it.

Anika

ELDERLY PEOPLE

Kirsti is 77 years old and since it was just snowing she found the ground very slippery and dangerous in the Elisabeth street. The street is also made of different materials and she does not know where she should walk to avoid slipping. That's why she decided to use the cycle paths. Also the rubbish makes it quite difficult to walk on the streets. She does not find the neighbourhood dangerous although it is true that some buildings are a bit dilapidated. She noticed that there were some men in front of a shop which made her feel a bit insecure. If she had been alone in the street, she would have changed pavements.

She often uses public transport, but she finds it difficult to cross the big bridge that crosses the city. On the bridge there are too many stairs and this makes her tired. Also, the lift does not work sometimes. When she travels she likes to visit city parks to enjoy nature, but at night she prefers to avoid them as they are usually not well illuminated. When she is travelling she always takes her mobile phone with her and if she is travelling for a long time, she usually takes the laptop with her. Although it is true that she finds it difficult to find her way around using her phone, she finds it confusing to understand. She prefers to find her way around cities by looking at signs and street names. She has not had any bad experiences while walking in the neighbourhood. The only thing she could point out is that she didn't like the long bridge to get to Gaarden.

When she goes to the airport to travel, she prefers to go directly to the counters for help, although sometimes she finds it difficult to ask for some help. She has also noticed that she can't carry much weight while travelling.

Kristi

MIGRANT WOMAN

Varduhi is 38 years, lives alone with two kids and originally comes from the Armenia. She moved from Denmark and lives in Gaarden for 6 years. She speaks about Gaarden as special place and she expresses love and hate for Gaarden. Love because of the closeness to city centre, beach and hate because of the drugs and trash quantity. Sitting in the community centre, she praise it as good for the kids, socializing and activities. She lives with her two kids near the Vineta-platz in rented apartment. Apartments in the building are public, so the rent is lower and for getting this kind of apartment, you need to have papers and fulfil conditions. The neighbours are diverse, Armenian, Polish, Albanian etc. The interviewee says that it is easy to meet people and that Gaarden is small so “everybody knows each other”. She feels safe and shares that she have not felt discriminated in Gaarden, mentions nice school and kindergarten. She shared a story with us that a man once assaulted her and drug user on the street helped her with telling the man to leave her alone. She says that the most dangerous is Elisabeth strasse and she wouldn't let her kids go alone on that street, but the kids freely run and play in the playground in front of the home building. There is many police on the street, they are friendly and if called they come fast if called (1 min). She found job by herself, but there is many organizations, which offer help. There is also community courses where women can get educated, degrees and certificates. She showed some prospects, which contain different organised activities and other helpful information of Gaarden. In the public space and Vineta-platz she doesn't like the trash and trash quantity. In addition, there are many pigeons. She does not understand why people throw trash on the street and that the users of the space should change the mind-set of leaving and throwing the trash on the streets. Throughout the conversation woman said that she would like to stay in Gaarden forever and is excited about future improvements.

Varduhi

DISABLED PEOPLE

In the heart of Kiel's Gaarden neighborhood, a man named Frank thrived amidst the vibrant community despite the challenges life had thrown his way. Frank, now in his late fifties, had lived his entire life in a wheelchair. He'd become an integral part of the social fabric as a devoted volunteer at a bustling center focused on families and children. With a warm smile and a heart brimming with kindness, Frank dedicated his time to fostering connections among community members. He believed in the power of unity, especially in a neighborhood that had undergone significant changes over the years. Twenty years ago, accessibility was a distant dream. Buses lacked ramps, and the streets were an obstacle course for people with disabilities. However, Frank had witnessed positive changes. Ramps had become a common sight, offering smoother mobility for wheelchair users. Despite these improvements, navigating the bustling streets remained perilous due to drivers often overlooking pedestrians in wheelchairs. Frank's advocacy for safety stemmed from the deteriorating condition of Gaarden. He reminisced about a time when children roamed freely at night, a stark contrast to the current unsafe environment. This shift weighed heavily on his heart as he longed for the days when the neighborhood buzzed with youthful laughter after sunset.

As someone accustomed to his disability from birth, Frank empathized with newcomers to the world of physical limitations. He acknowledged the stark contrast between his lifelong condition and the struggles of those grappling with newfound disabilities due to accidents or aging. Gaarden had made strides in adapting to disabilities, boasting specialized facilities and playgrounds catering to children in wheelchairs. Yet, challenges persisted. The speed at which traffic lights switched posed a hazard, leaving little time for safe passage across bustling thoroughfares. Amidst discussions about development, Frank held a differing opinion regarding trams. His concern wasn't just about the congestion they might cause but also the potential danger they posed to his wheelchair. The thought of getting caught in the tram lines loomed as a serious apprehension, making him hesitant about their introduction in the neighborhood. Despite the hurdles and concerns, Frank remained steadfast in his commitment to fostering a supportive community. His dedication as a volunteer in the social center stood as a testament to his unwavering spirit and his belief in the transformative power of togetherness, aiming to create a safer and more inclusive environment for all in Gaarden.

Frank

ELDERLY PEOPLE

The elderly lady has been living in the area for 30 years. She has been also working 10 years in social projects. One of the biggest problem especially at Schulstrasse is parking because you have to look for a parking spot for 20-30 minutes and then walk to actual destination same time. Because it was snowy day she mentioned the problem that on that days they clear the pavement for the bicycles and not for walkers. The profile of the streets also lacks of real bicycles lanes that only exists on zhe Main street. While passing the bus station she pointed on men that were on alcohol or other substances. She told us they are not dangerous but it makes people feel unsafe. Also the trash and other belongings of the people living there. Many of the buildings had fences around and she explained us that it is because of urination although because there is a lack of public bathrooms in Gaarden. The city, to save money, sold public toilets to the owners of restaurants and other private services. So if you want to use them, you need to use their service, buy something or pay for the use of WC. That prevents a lot of people from using bathrooms. By her informations half of habitants of the district have immigrant background. However, they all come together and live equally next to each other. According to her, there are no crimes related to hate and discrimination really. They are more related to alcohol and drugs scene. There are no german markets butchers and bakeries only other ethnicities' businesses. That is because they are cheaper, and people in the district simply mostly choose the cheapest option. She told us that there is a big rotation of people - they come here cause of cheap rent, and when their lives get better they move out. That makes them not really committed to the district and caring about it. Our guide said that nowadays, city try to rent empty spaces to the local artists to avoid more casinos showing up. The artists cooperate with each other and try to make the neighborhood better place. When we asked, why she still live here, although so many people have left, she said she likes that it is loud, lively, authentic, diverse, united, and with "soul". She also enjoy helping people there and be part of society. And it is not as dangerous, as it might appear at first. The biggest change she would like to see in the future is more encouragement towards parents, so they kids attend school. She mention it is often, especially immigrant families, that they don't realize how important and necessary is school in Germany, and they don't send their kids there, for example to protect them from bullying. That really reduce their opportunities in future life.

Elderly lady