

CATALYSE Workshop – Order of events

as of 14th October 2013

The CATALYSE workshop is a three-day working session from 21st to 23rd October 2013 in the Atelierhaus in Essen City-Nord.

The aim of the workshop is to design a concept together with local and international players, communities, residents, and planners, for a better involvement of citizens in urban planning and development with the help of cultural projects. Contrary to conventional civic participation programmes based on formal procedures and hearings where objections and concerns can be voiced, this approach is based on the principle of **horizontal urban development**. The perspective on civic participation is changing - residents in cities are not longer just participants but, ideally, co-producers of the city.

The EU-funded project CATALYSE research and action workshop (RAW), conducted by the three partners Forum Avignon, Paris, BM 30, Bilbao, and ecce, Dortmund 2013 and 2014, is a **three-day**, transnational exchange between 30 participants focussing on “trans-sector innovation in urban development through culture and creative industries”.

The venue for the CATALYSE workshop in Essen will not be a traditional conference or office space but a quarter where this kind of urban transformation is really taking place – as in Bilbao, London or Paris. The workshop will be based on the project idea “Shaking Hans”, which was developed by an international team of creative professionals and artists at the Forum d’Avignon Ruhr 2013 (workshop group Urban Space): The idea is to integrate the sceptic in us directly in the development and invigoration of our own living spaces.

Day one will be used for an introduction into the subject, the presentation of the participants, and a guided tour of the quarter. Essen’s City-Nord itself is a dynamic district that is currently undergoing strong changes. It is both humus for, and a source of inspiration on, how a design concept for horizontal open forms of civic participation can emerge from the initial “Shaking Hans” idea. Examples of successful unions of urban players help to reveal the potential hidden in the district. **Day two** will commence with input on horizontal urban development by the project assistant Vilim Brezina. Afterwards three different topics will be examined to decide the direction to take in the intended project. The project is not only designed to work for Essen’s northern districts but also to function as an inspiration, or as a model, for other cities. The first topic will serve for collecting desirable utopias and undesirable dystopias – in Essen’s northern districts and beyond.

The second topic deals with the exploration of own potential for, and experiences with, civic participation processes. Which role can I play? How can I contribute? How can cooperatives between me/us with active groups be initiated locally to shape the development of the district?

The third topic will institute a debate on the specific ideas developed. How can the idea “Shaking Hans” be advanced and how, specifically, can it be implemented? Which setting is required to activate residents locally to become designers of their city? Citizens and creative professionals from Essen’s northern districts can give important input with their positive and negative experiences. The workshop wants to be more than a mere theoretical model but discuss realities and develop a new form of joint urban design.

Consequently, the perspective taken of actual practices plays a central role: the London artist Cedar Lewisohn will present a couple of European examples of real participation and urban development dealing with this subject. Afterwards, Florian van Rheinberg will illustrate this based on the local example of the mural art project “Waende Südost” in Essen.

After the lunch break comes the conceptual phase. In a hosted workshop, the projects, roles and ideas previously collected will be jointly turned into a specific project with measures, targets and priorities. Following project development, concrete practices will be on the agenda again, with the day ending traditional drinking hall excursion to the project “Waende Südost”: here, civic participation in union with an artistic development of the neighbourhood is reality.

The third and final day is also the first return flow day of the project. The results will be incorporated in a short presentation and thoroughly examined under the supervision of a facilitator during the first part of the day. Criticism and concerns and any possible weaknesses of the project will be discussed and corrected where required. Optional components of the concept can be discussed too. Then the project will be presented and debated before a panel of experts. The workshop ends here, but the return flow phase will be continued virtually. The results will be brought into a clear concept form by the project assistant and sent to the workshop participants by email or publicly on Facebook/Twitter for them to reflect on it.