



Unlimited\_Cities\_Beta@Multigation

#### Role of Open Guides

Open Guides provide frameworks for deploying the Multigation method that can be freely adapted by cities to effectively respond to specific geographical, cultural, and urban contexts. Adaptations and modifications of documentation and software are permitted provided they comply with Creative Commons CC BY SA and GNU AGPLv3 licenses.

#### Community and Capacity Building

The Multigation approach fuses the two logics : Community Building sparks engagement and shared vision (via participative co-imagination with Unlimited Cities and voting on Variations), while Capacity Building equips communities (notably with open guides and urban development framework) to deliver sustainable, high-quality urban transition projects.

#### Multigation Research Context

The Grüze Plus district of Winterthur in Switzerland is one of the selected sites with Başakşehir in Turkey for the pilot phase of the research project Multigation, part of the Driving Urban Transition program (DUT) co-funded by the European Union.

#### Research consortium



**Cooperation partners** : Ayuntamiento de Pamplona, Comune di Bergamo, Coventry University Fab Lab Coventry, ENoLL European Network of Living Labs, République et Canton de Genève, VITO Voor Technologisch Onderzoek N.V.

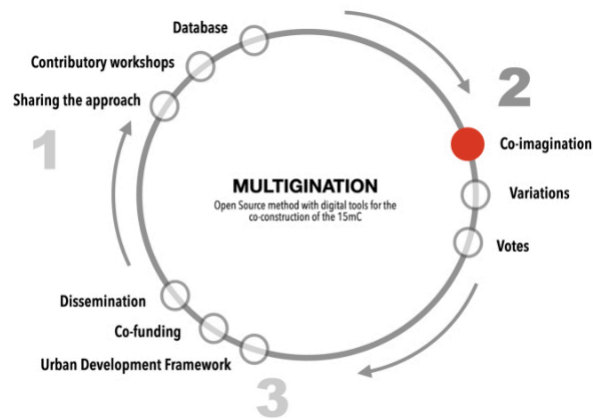
Design and Production: Open Urbanism Foundation

# Unlimited Cities

Co-imagination in Public Space : the Paradigm Shift

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Courtesy Stadt Winterthur

The Grütze Plus district of Winterthur in Switzerland is one of the selected sites for the pilot phase of the European research project Multigation Driving Urban Transition. The first stage involves a co-imagination phase with citizens and stakeholders using the Unlimited Cities platform, enhanced with a marketplace. This will be followed by stages of voting, crowdsourcing, and blended finance.

Multinational Research Consortium: Hes-so Valais, Open Urbanism Foundation, Tampereen ammattikorkeakoulu, Başakşehir Living Lab, Drees & Sommer, Stadt Winterthur and zhaw.

# Transforming participation, renewing democracy

Why does the Deputy Mayor of Asnières in Switzerland see *Unlimited Cities* as a platform that changes the relationship to citizen, while the Mayor of Montpellier in France views it as a way to renew democracy?

## Experts' mindset has changed

There has been a shift that has led political leaders involved in urban planning to view Unlimited Cities as a turning point for citizen participation and democratic practices.

# The turning point with Unlimited Cities is the 360° openness of participation, which changes everything.

Citizens and stakeholders have complete freedom to contribute in the future of a territory. This data-driven approach provides political authorities and their urban planning departments with invaluable and unprecedented insights essential for informed decision-making.

In contrast, traditional methods limit participation to topics predefined by political and technical experts. These methods have a narrower scope and are less capable of detecting societal issues, emerging innovations, and weak signals that could lead to success in overcoming transition challenges.

Multigination's strength lies in its ability to enhance Unlimited Cities with a participatory economic dimension and a voting system on large-scale territorial options. This allows citizens to contribute financially to micro-projects they wish to see implemented in the short term and to enrich the conceptual framework and ownership of large-scale developments led by municipalities.



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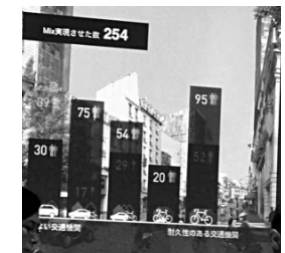
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Cities that use the *Unlimited Cities* open source platform typically follow three steps:

1. Preparation: collaborative workshops with planners, citizens, and stakeholders to select key themes and elements for the app.
2. Ideation: over 2–3 weeks, mediators invite citizens in public spaces to share reasoned ideas for improving the area, collecting data and images.
3. Feedback event: events to showcase and analyze data, demonstrating how citizen input enriches urban strategies initiated by municipalities.



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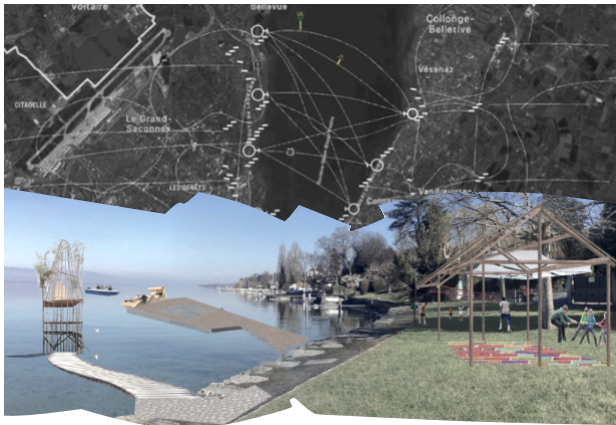


## 2 concrete examples

Unpredictable and decisive outcomes emerging from the collaboration between urban planning departments and civil society with Unlimited Cities.

### Free Space Geneva

The project aims to create a carbon-free mobility system across Geneva's harbor to reduce car usage. Originally developed in a small village, the project now benefits from the support of Innosuisse and several foundations.



A network of paths in the countryside connected to a public transport network of electric boats capable of taking bikes quickly and easily across the lake and right into the centre of Geneva. With positive side effects in terms of public health, tourism, logistics, and economic resilience.



### Ligne Chrono Grenoble

A decentralized urban planning approach involving multiple public spaces aimed at revitalizing an underutilized high-capacity public transport network for the Grenoble metropolitan area and transport operator Transdev.



The initial plan of the metropolitan authority and the transport operator was to improve signage and the comfort of bus stops. However, the vision co-developed with citizens was more ambitious and holistic, linking quality of life, public transport and active mobility.