

Living Labs Case Studies

KÖME Association of Cultural Heritage Managers

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1. An introduction to your organisation

- In this introductory paragraph, please include a description of your institution in the context of place, type of institution and number of staff including volunteers. Please describe any past experiences your organisation had with participatory practices prior to starting the RECHARGE NEXT journey.
- Please link the final version of your Canvas here.
- Any other relevant background information.

Name of the Partner Organization: KÖME (Association of Cultural Heritage Managers)

Country and City of Operation: Hungary, Budapest

Location (map pin): Official address: H-1143, Budapest, Ilka u. 46.
Internép: H-1081 Budapest, Népszínház u. 26.

Main Contact Person (name, email, phone number): (Mr) Árpád Böczén,
arpad@heritagemanager.hu +36203659954

Email Address: info@heritagemanager.hu

Legal form: nonprofit association

Number of Employees: 4 (25 members consisting of the general assembly of the association)

KÖME – Association of Cultural Heritage Managers is a community of people working in heritage-related fields in Hungary. KÖME is an organisation that has been dealing with bottom-up heritage making since 2012. We create discourse platforms on heritage, promoting a holistic ecological mindset and collaborative, horizontal work structures.

One of our focus activities has become Internép in People's Theatre street of Budapest, which we do in close collaboration with the transdisciplinary artist group [Pneuma Szöv.](#)

Internép is an emerging heritage institution in the 8th district. It has been launched in October 2023 by us. Internép aims to develop this historically rich area by safeguarding its heritage and empowering inhabitants as active agents of heritagisation combined with a strong ecological, environmentally conscious approach.

Some of KÖME's project related activities:

Heritage & art: We work with artists, art organizations and art education institutions on a regular basis. We also work for fostering cooperation between artists and

heritage institutions, or creation processes where heritage values become a starting point for exciting artistic work. Our long-term collaboration partner is [Pneuma Szöv.](#), with whom we have developed [TV Free Europe](#), a network of partners from 5 countries joining forces in a common retro-futuristic tele-theatre channel actualising and questioning the System Changes of 1989.

Ecological heritage: Amongst our members and partners there are many who work with nature protection and natural heritage. For KÖME it's especially important to convey traditional and contemporary ecological knowledge, so that they become part of our everyday practices. Lately we have worked with a peat bog near Budapest, for which we conceived a theme trail.

Work with communities: We cooperate regularly with municipalities, citizen groups, educational organizations and institutions to prepare decisions, strategies or to actualize concrete programs.

Interpretation: Heritage interpretation transforms phenomena into experiences, it opens up meanings and correlations connected to them, inspires to think, involves different views and encourages action. KÖME mixes the holistic view of heritage interpretation with our experiences of ecological embeddedness. We are members of the international network of Interpret Europe, in collaboration with which we have developed certified training on different areas of heritage interpretation.

Last version of the canvas: https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVKsX349Q=

2. Why become a RECHARGE NEXT Living Lab?

- Describe why you wanted to adopt a participatory practice to solve your challenge.
- List the objectives you identified for your Living Lab and describe how you have achieved them, using this table:

Building Népszínház (People's Theatre) means acting and interacting on the basis of an artistic approach in creative, open and collaborative ways with other people and non-human entities in order to develop our identities and a sustainable and livable common future.

We wanted to adopt a participatory practice to get a basis for building up a network, a system of collaboration through different resource and asset sharing based platforms in the Népszínház street to involve people with different backgrounds in the artistic, collaborative development of the street.

Objective	How you have achieved the objective
To involve the stakeholders to start mapping the resources we can share in the future. Map the resources we can use in our ongoing work and in the annual street celebration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Established network of the actors of the neighbourhood ('Népszínházvíziós csoport' - People's Theatre Visionary Group) 2. Two-monthly regular workshop with the network of actors 3. Common database creation and the first entries of the sharable resources of the network (library of things)
To take the first steps towards the development of a basis (incl. the core team) around Internép	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We invited local artists, creative people to the events to contribute 2. We accepted local offers to do things with/in the space (e.g. knitting workshop, family events, concert) 3. We encouraged our guests to become volunteers at different levels
To connect people with very different backgrounds through common activities to strengthen social cohesion and environmental consciousness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We organised different events in public spaces where spontaneous encounters of people combined with conscious tools of involvement created the collaborations 2. We organised the street celebration event where we integrated all the previous smaller initiatives to catalyze collaborations, meetings.
To show people with the experiments of the micro park how local resources and the public spaces can be used in a more environmentally sustainable way, and to support a better common life in the urban environment	We organised several artistic (e.g. concert, art performance) and community (e.g. cooking) events and started to keep a photo diary on instagram
To catalyze the exchange of different resources within the community	We accepted different objects from people regularly and gave out things for others. We have just started to work out a system of this exchange in the form of regular events. This initiative goes beyond the framework of Recharge Next but the project gave us the opportunity to take the first steps.

3. Data collection

- Please add any outstanding data to your KPI documents ([Tailored KPIs](#) and [Shared KPIs](#))

4. Your Living Lab activity

Continue the story of your lab since first reporting in October 2024 - with any further co-creation or co-ideation workshops, prototyping and testing workshops or sessions:

Co-ideation

11 April 2024- Népszínházvíziós találkozó #1 (People's Theatre Visionary meeting #1)

Where: it took place Internép Café (the living lab location)

With whom: local municipality, civil organisations, cultural and creative actors, socio-cultural institutions, changemakers, cultural places of the neighbourhood

Main goals: The aim was to make the participants feel good, to break out of the habitual patterns of thinking and to look and see with different eyes. This meeting was an exercise, a proposal for cooperation, a zero step that we have taken together. The essence of People's Theatre for us is to do something together, just as the essence of theatre for us is to collaborate. We wanted to revive the spirit of the People's Theatre together at the workshop. So the aim was rather to release social energy, and this can even have a strong effect on change.

Activities: Agenda of the workshop (timing and activities)

9:30-10:00 arrival (each participant had to give a new name to him/her which is valid in the People's Theatre)

10:00-10:15: short intro of the roots of People's Theatre

10:15-10:30: Individual 'speed research' of the street according to drew action cards

10:30-11:00: creating narratives from the observations in small groups

11:00-11:45: Developing action proposals, which can be realized together with all the participants

11:45-12:00 coffee break

12:00 - 12:30 where anything can happen - exercise to realize one from the concrete proposals together

12:30 - 13:00: Feedback and collecting ideas for the continuation

Types of activities proposed: action research, workshop, discussion, intervention

We developed our own methods considering the aims and time limits of the meeting.

Among others the activities based on a card game, action research, cadavre exquis, mental mapping and storytelling.

Tools (technological or not): Block-Block-Block card, coloured papers, post it papers, flipchart, clips, rope, pens, poster paper, smartphone for voice recording

Outputs: 3 ideas for small actions related to the street, new contacts and relationships, one realized action, foundation of the Népszínházvíziós network, creation of an email group.

2 July 2024 - Népszínházvíziós találkozó #2 (People's Theatre Visionary meeting #2)

Where: it took place Lehetőségek tere (The Space of Opportunity),

With whom: was involved local municipality, civil organisations, cultural and creative actors, socio-cultural institutions, changemakers, cultural places of the neighbourhood. New members were added as well.

Main goals To explore the challenges of the network members and where they can find common ground and help each other. This was a bit more of a "getting to know you" session, as there is so much they haven't managed to learn about each other, to form an organisational community, from which more can grow.

Activities:

Agenda of the workshop (timing and activities)

9:30-10:00 arrival

10:00-10:30: guided tour in the spaces of the host organization

10:30-12:30: Plenary discussion, introduction of the members, highlighting the main actual challenges

12:30 - 13:00: Feedback

Types of activities proposed - discussion, guided tour

Methods adopted - roundtable discussion.

Tools (technological or not): flipchart, pens, paper

Outputs: more knowledge of each other

16 October 2024 - Népszínházvíziós találkozó #3 (People's Theatre Visionary meeting #3)

Where: it took place Auróra Community House

With whom: local municipality, civil organisations, cultural and creative actors, socio-cultural institutions, changemakers, cultural places of the neighbourhood. New members were added as well.

Main goals: To work out concrete plans for cooperations between the members of the network.

Activities:

Agenda of the workshop (timing and activities):

9:30-10:00 arrival 10:00-10:15: Short intro of the legal framework of a potential

Public Education Round Table which could be initiated by the network and so it could become a formal policy-making advisory partner of the local municipality.

10:15-11:00: Identification of the main topics which are common challenges/interests of the network members (individual+plenary work)

11:00-11:15: Coffee break

11:15-12:15: Formation of small workgroups according to the commonly identified topics, developing strategies and action proposals to deal with them

12:15-12:45: Sharing the results with the other groups

12:45 - 13:00: Feedback and collecting ideas for the continuation

Types of activities proposed- workshop, plenary discussion, group discussion
Methods adopted - individual work, small group work, plenary presentation and discussion.

Tools (technological or not): post it papers, flipchart, pens, A4 paper

Outputs: 4 topics for common strategies (volunteer coordination, working on a liveable city, organizational development, engaging local residents) and interventions, 3 ideas to implement, new contacts and relationships

Co-creation

30 July - 2 August 2024 - Internép Name Giving

Where: it took place Internép, Népszínház street

With whom: Pneuma Szöv. artists and KÖME members

Main goals: Planning the artistic contributions of the Living Lab, experimenting with practices Activities:

Agenda of the workshop (timing and activities)

Tuesday 10-14.00 Népszínház: Planning + Preparation of the week

16.00 - 19.00 Népszínház: artistic workshop

Wednesday 14.00 - 17.00 Népszínház: artistic workshop

Thursday 11:00-14.00 Népszínház/Duna: planning session: intro into Recharge, improve budget policy

16.00 - 19.00: artistic workshop

Friday, Népszínház; based on Tuesday decision either early evening-late afternoon:

18.00-20.00 little celebration

21.00-22.00 cleaning up

Types of activities proposed: artistic workshop, artistic action research, planning discussion, celebration

Methods adopted- Pneuma artistic methods, moderated half structured discussion

Tools (technological or not): flipchart, artistic tools, shop windows

Outputs: shop window exhibition, new name for the place, final plan for the Living Lab, artists involved in the process, new activity ideas

16 October 2024 - Fonalfanc Curtain Knitting

Where: it took place Internép, Népszínház street

With whom: The members of Fonalfanc Knitting Circle

Main goals: According to the agreement between the leader of the knitting circle and us, they can use our space to organize workshops for free and they contribute to our street celebration with handcrafts. We use their materials to compile a theatre curtain which will appear on different points of the street during the feast. The aim of this workshop was to produce the handcrafts.

Agenda of the workshop (timing and activities): 16.00-20.00: knitting

Types of activities proposed- handcraft workshop

Tools (technological or not): knitting tools

15 October 2024 - Kis Varsó memorial

Where: it took place Internép, Népszínház street

With whom: The leader of the Reader's Circle and KÖME

Main goals: According to the agreement between the leader of the reader's circle and us, they can use our space to organize the circle for free and they contribute to our street celebration with ideas, inspiration and active participation. One of their ideas was to commemorate a special antifascist event which happened in the street on 15-18 October 1944. This countrywide unique resistance action was almost forgotten. The aim of this workshop was to co-create a small intervention to raise the attention of the people on the street.

Activities:

Agenda of the workshop (timing and activities)

17.00-20.00: planning and action

Types of activities proposed- reading out an article of a historian on the memory of the event, co-creating the concept of the intervention, intervention

Methods adopted- common reading, brainstorming, action

Tools (technological or not): paper, pen, ladder, cutter, adhesive tape, chalk

Outputs: renamed Nepszinhaz street, memorial,

30 August 2024 - Cooperation workshop with TransHerit project

Where: it took place Internép, Népszínház street

With whom: The member of TransHerit project from Vienna and KÖME

Main goals: TransHerit and Internép are going to collaborate in the Népszínház street next year. The main goal of the workshop was to introduce our approach and creative principles to the project members to be able to plan together activities to help the TransHerit research with our contribution later.

Activities:

Agenda of the workshop (timing and activities)

13.00-17.00: planning and action

Types of activities proposed -choosing a topic of action together, action research on the street, defining the subject, speed planning of the intervention, action.

Methods adopted- Internép own creative action method

Tools (technological or not): paper, pen, ladder, cutter, adhesive tape, chalk, poem

Outputs: a site specific poem game in the street which connects 3 different buildings.

22 August 2024, 19 September 2024- Internép Café 'Vendég Látás' (2 occasions)

Where: it took place Internép, Micropark (parklet in front of Internép)

With whom- involved artists, musicians from the neighborhood, hosted by the concept owner Gábor Rejtő

Main goals: The aim of this regular performative event is to find possible collaborators, members of our Internép concept. Everyone can come and play music, sing, read out poems or do anything interesting just for fun. Gábor Rejtő starts the event with some own songs each time. The long term goal is to establish a unique event which can regularly contribute to the financial sustainability of the place

Activities:

Agenda of the workshop (timing and activities):

19.00-22.00: introduction and actual line-up

Types of activities proposed- performances, light painting, decoration

Tools (technological or not): mixer, speaker, microphone, instruments, lights, projectors

Internép Café every month Megmozdulás a Népszínházban (Movement in Népszínház street, 6 occasions) (12., 19., 26. September, 2., 9., 16., 23. October)

Where: it took place Internép, Népszínház street

With whom: Beatrix Simkó contemporary dancer and choreographer, everybody who comes

Main goals: The aim of this movement workshop series is to collect inspirations and develop performative interventions in the street, focusing on free dance, framed by the relationship between the city and movement. Through movement, we explore the urban environment, our situatedness - the dynamics of the individual and the community, the relationship between inside and outside. We scan the past of the neighbourhood and make it our own. Through improvisation exercises we respond to what we experience. We move from individual observations to collective compositions as we transform everyday moments into dance. The results will be built in the annual street celebration.

Activities:

Agenda of the workshop (timing and activities)

18.00-18.30: introduction, warm up and preparation movements inside

18.30-19.00: movement outside 19.00-19.30: reflection movements and feedback round inside

Types of activities proposed- movement, narrative feedback

Tools (technological or not): speaker, dance floor

Outputs: compositions, performances

21-25 October - People's Theatre Season Opening

Where: Internép and Népszínház street

With whom:

artists, musicians from the neighborhood, members of the previous events of Internép (e.g. Fonalfanc (Knitting workshop) members, TransHerit project members, Megmozdulás a Népszínházban (Movement in Népszínház street) workshop participants)

Main goals:

- To celebrate the Népszínház (People's Theatre) in the street
- To start an annual tradition
- to integrate every participant of the past events actively in one festivity
- to work artistically on the strengthening of the cohesion between the people in the neighbourhood
- giving the opportunity to everybody to experience the liberating power of art
- to let people contribute to the festivity with anything they can

Activities:

21st of October: Bird Watching - Pneuma TV Party / Madár les - TV Party a Pneuma Szöv.-vel: watching videos of the past actions of Pneuma Szöv. in the district, discussion with the artists, party

22nd of October: Olvasókör (Reader's Circle)

23rd of October:

- 'Fess konténert akarunk!': painting of the containers of the micro park together with children and adults
- Megmozdulás a Népszínházban (Movement in Népszínház street): rehearsal for the Season Opening

24th of October: Joint costume and scenery design, preparation for the 'Season Opening'

25th of October: 'Season Opening' (incl. Strange bird parade, Movement in Népszínház street showing, 'Ki Mit Tudna? / Who would know what?' talent show

Tools (including digital): workshop, party, performance, public art, action

Outputs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rvlsn1RGQg0&t=3s>

15 January 2025 - Népszínházvíziós találkozó #4 (People's Theatre Visionary meeting #4)

Where: STEREO Workshop, 1083 Budapest Illés utca 36.

With whom: local municipality, civil organisations, cultural and creative actors, socio-cultural institutions, changemakers, cultural places of the neighbourhood

Main goals: To work out the first version of the 'library of things' and to brainstorm on the legal establishment of the 'public cultural roundtable' of the district, which would give the possibility to the network to formally influence the local policymaking.

Activities:

9:30-10:00 arrival

10:00-10:15: Intro

10:15-11:00: What will be the focus of each actor in the next month (discussion round)

11:00-12:00: the 'public cultural roundtable' (discussion)

12:00-13:00: Working out the 'library of things' (flipchart paper, small groups)

Tools (including digital): workshop, discussion, pen and paper

Outputs: the library of things first version:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FxjMXvLNcZEdOYdHY03puHWgkCwv5WJRP4sYUA015jE/edit?usp=sharing>

- How did you identify your stakeholders? Do you think the living Lab methodology assisted you in developing meaningful relationships with stakeholders? Describe how you maintain these relationships.

The Living Lab methodology helped us more in the development of the People's Theatre Visionary meetings. As we have had the 4th such workshop we could go much further on the cooperation of the members. We could already develop a common tool to share things among us. This tool will be maintained together under the moderation of Internép in the future.

- Describe any unforeseen challenges that have occurred in your living Lab activities. How did you solve these?

The biggest challenge was foreseeable and we could only partly solve it this year. The full participatory process needed a lot of capacity which the founding team had only to a limited extent. We tried to give a lot of space to people to do things together. And we tried to insist on curatorial concepts as little as possible. Hopefully it will be better next year.

5. Output(s) and impact

- Describe your Living Labs' output(s) here. E.g. Services, products, visitor experiences, exhibitions etc. Please upload photographs and videos [here](#) naming them like this: "HUNT_Cocreation_17.06.23"

- Library of things:

A developing database has been built up in the coordination of Internép for the use of the Népszínházvíziós network. It contains different type of resources which can

be shared among the members of the network, to increase capacities and avoid financial exchanges, spendings.

- Népszínház season opening feast:

A regular, annual event (series) has been launched by Internép. Its main goal is to channel in every initiatives, connections, resources and results around Internép at one moment of the year, and to catalyze new cooperations among the members of the neighbourhood. It functions as the summary of the previous year and as the founder of the next one.

- People's Theatre Visionary network:

The Internép team established an informal growing network of the local actors with two-monthly physical meetings (mostly workshop formats) and other communication channels. The main goal is to practice solidarity and cooperation.

- Please write a brief description of the value that your Living Lab created for your organisation and community.

The most important value of the project is the first stage of the local network including the mapping of sharable resources, practices of common act.

- Living Lab self-assessment and level of satisfaction on its achievements.

Objectives	Result description	Achievement level (scale of 1-5)	Sustainability level (1-5)	Internal Impact level (organization) (1-5)	External Impact level (community) (1-5)
Participatory mapping of the resources in the neighbourhood	the establishment of the People's Theatre Visionary network, the development of the 'library of things', the development of an internal database of contacts, and offered things of individuals	4	3	4	3
Developing the basis of Internép	14 new core team members, many new contacts and followers, 285 followers on the FB	5	5	5	5

	<p>page https://www.facebook.com/internepcafe 206 member in the FB group https://www.facebook.com/groups/307762865224413, 87 members of the Internép email group, 35 members of the People's Theatre Visionary group</p>				
To connect people with very different backgrounds	<p>18 programmes/initiatives of non-core members 35 members of the People's Theatre Visionary group cooperating 19 applicants for the talent show performance, 14 new core team members 78 new personal local contacts 12 new organisational partners</p>	4	5	5	4
Presentation of the sustainable values of the micro park	<p>68 registered users in the insta photo diary (much more in reality) 12 new event in the micropark, 8 types of usage at the events + everyday usage (e.g. meetings, eating, workshops, chill, see instagram) ongoing mist gate in the hot part of the Summer</p>	4	4	4	5
To catalyze the exchange of different resources	<p>32 registered services and goods 32 entries in the 'library of things'</p>	4	5	5	4

Achievement Level: Where 1 is Poor: The objective was not met. The outcomes fell significantly short of expectations, with minimal or no progress made.

And 5 is Excellent: The objective was fully met or exceeded. All expected outcomes were achieved with high quality and effectiveness.

Sustainability: where 1 is Low: The result has minimal potential to continue. It is unlikely to be sustained or evolved beyond the first iteration without substantial changes or support.

And 5 is Very High: The result has very high potential to continue. It is likely to be sustained and adapted for future iterations with little to no additional support required.

Internal Impact : where 1 is Low: The result had minimal or no impact. It did not significantly affect the system of the organization, its procedures, activities and approaches.

And 5 is Very High: The result had a transformative impact on the organization. It profoundly affected the system of the organization, its procedures, activities and approaches.

External Impact : where 1 is Low: The result had minimal or no impact. It did not significantly affect the intended community..

And 5 is Very High: The result had a transformative impact. It profoundly affected the intended community, creating significant positive change.

6. Reflection and conclusions

Please describe the added value of participatory practices according to your Living Lab experience

Participatory practices served as the basis of the development of the new space we just launched. They contributed to the capacity building of the team, to the social integration of the space and our work and to the mapping of the needs, norms, behaviours, approaches and in general the parallelly existing cultures of the neighbourhood.

Please summarise your Key Findings

Some of the key findings on the mapping: people behave more directly on the street, they react more easily to happenings, they can connect more but in very different ways and signs. Greening and the alternative use of public space / street is a conflicting cause.

Some of the key findings on the capacity building: we could engage many people on different levels, even on the highest level (ownership). The core team of the space is much bigger now.

The social integration of the space: the perception of the space is more diverse now after the living lab process. The exact role, operation and function of Intenép is still a bit mysterious and confusing for people, but the acceptance of what we do and how we approach the neighbourhood is more positive.

Inputs for future directions and new cycles (what will you do differently? What was the main lesson learned that you will not do again!?)

We need to do more deep and divers mapping of the street in cooperation with other interested entities (e.g. who are the users of the street?, how many of them live here? How and for what do they use the street? etc.)

We must communicate more about our visions and activities.

The children's summer camp is a big question. We are not sure if we would do it again, however there are people in the team who are very motivated.

We need to focus on the activation of some of the members of the Népszínházvisionary network to keep the compilation of the group as diverse as possible.

Describe how you see the Long-term sustainability of your project and possibilities for scaling Up

As for the sustainability of the living lab intentions we need more time to think about and develop the financial sustainability. Part of it is to establish non-financial means and to keep the financial traffic as low as possible (e.g. to limit the crowdfunding to certain events or actions).

What recommendations would you give another similar organisation for potential replication of the Living Lab methodology?

The KPIs are very important to figure out for two reasons: 1. To fix and record your own expectations from a timewise framed process of your operation. 2. To be able to evaluate your achievements after a certain period to develop further.

7. Appendices

- Please upload the signed Informed Consent Forms [here](#), labeling them as follow: "HUNT_ICF_Cocreation_17.06.23"
- Please upload the Participant Lists [here](#), labeling them as follow: "HUNT_PL_Cocreation_17.06.23"
- Supplementary data sources

Name of the document	Content	Link

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- [Supplementary Materials](#)