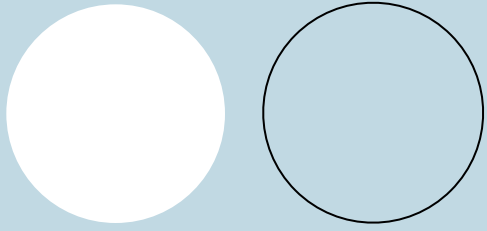
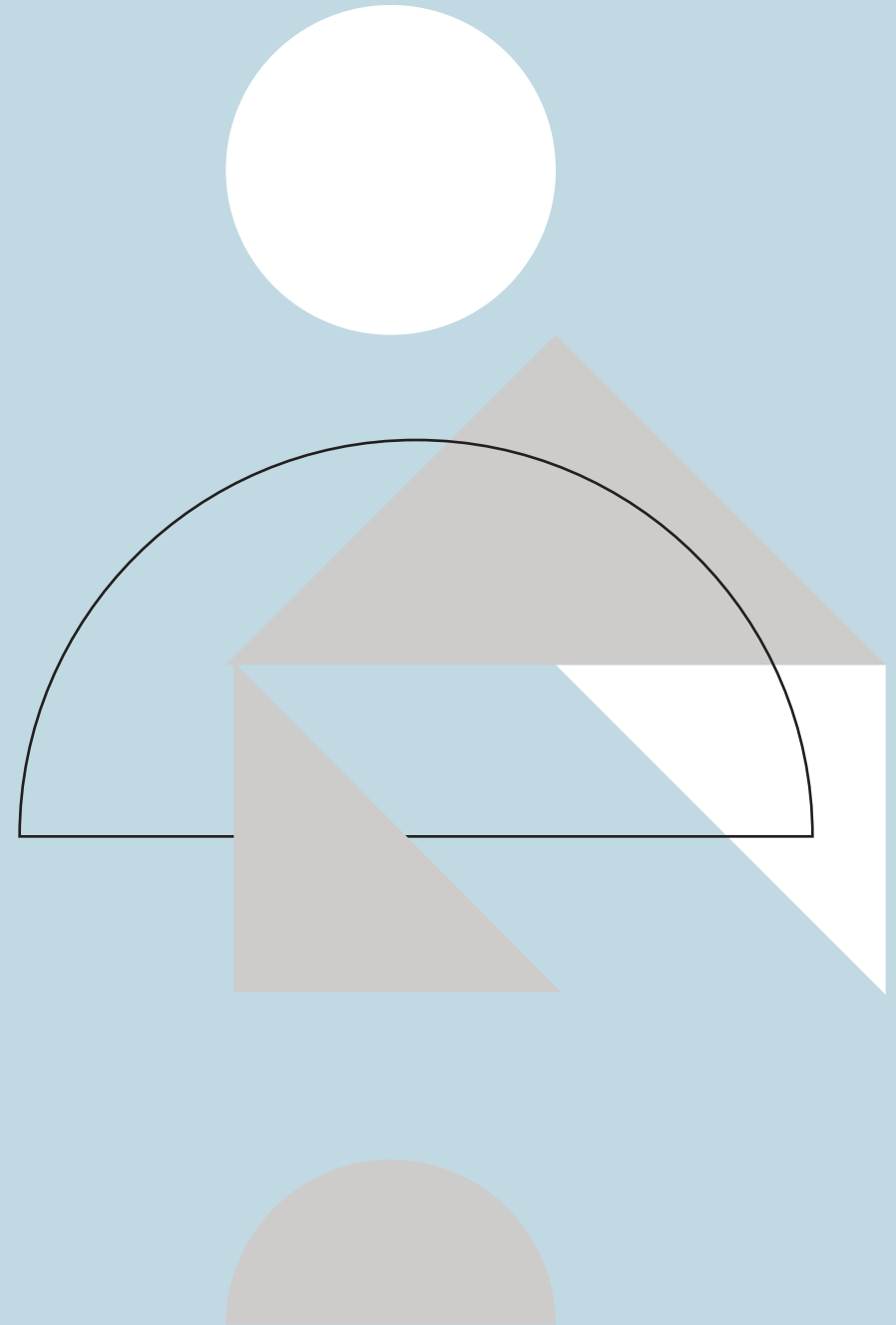


# “BSR Cultural Pearls”

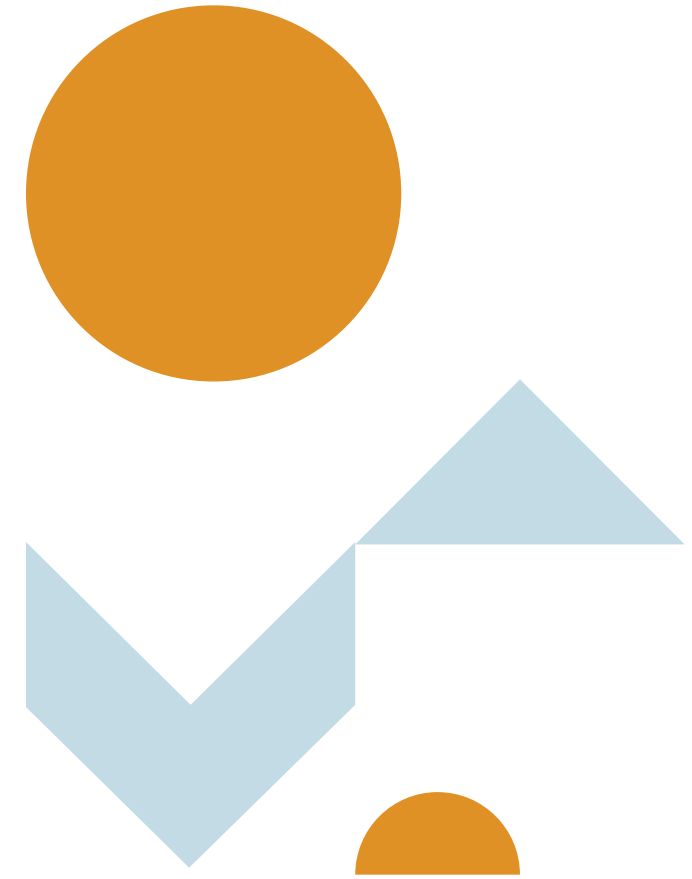
CULTURE AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN  
GUIDEBOOK:  
LIST OF GOOD PRACTICE CASES - EXTENDED

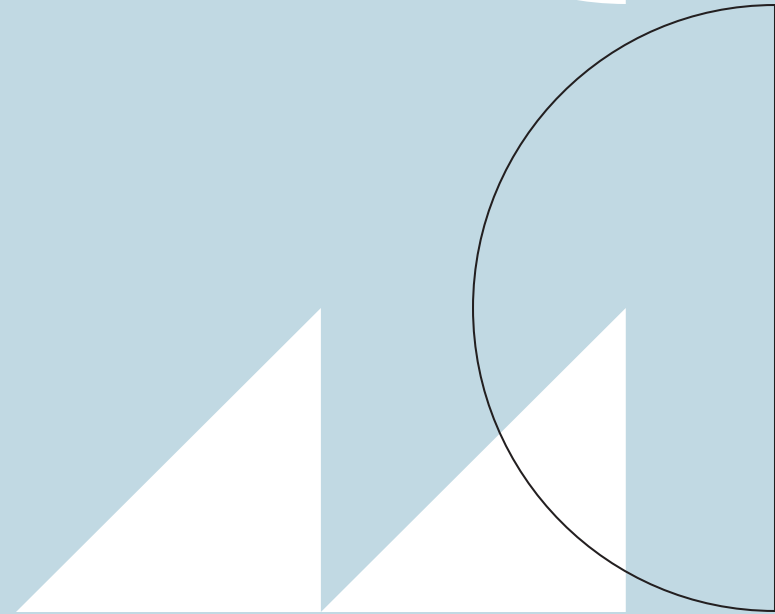
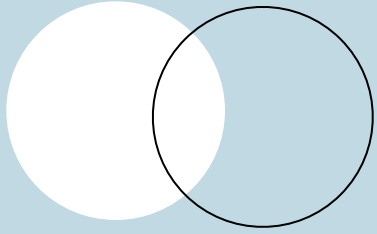


# Table of contents



Everyone’s Backyard - PL	5
Fun palaces - UK and beyond	7
Green Dinner in Alytus - LT	9
KreisKultur [Circle Culture] - DE	11
Leisure Day for Newly Arrived - FI	13
On the Neighbour’s Couch -DE	15
The Opinion Festival - EE	17
Participatory Budgeting	19
UrbCulturalPlanning - tools, methods & case studies of Cultural Planning - BSR	22
Vidzeme Culture Program - LV	24





## Everyone’s Backyard - PL

#revitalization #neighbourhood #art #youth #community

Where: Przedmieście Oławskie neighbourhood/Wrocław

Issue/Challenge: lack of social cohesion, neglected neighbourhood

The project was implemented in Przedmieście Oławskie neighbourhood in the city of Wrocław/Poland (the area nicknamed “Bermuda Triangle” for its social and physical issues). Iza Rutkowska, an artist/designer, was commissioned by the City to help renovate a dilapidated backyard. She used participatory artistic actions to involve local residents into joint actions for the sake of the area and the local community. First, with the help of a giant hedgehog „toy“ she gathered kids for joint plays and actions in their neighbourhood, then through fundraising they went to spend time together in Hedgehog Rehabilitation Centre which gave them feeling of agency and resulted in the residents’ trust. The follow up was a joint social event for Christmas and finally, by broad consultancy process and winning in the city Participatory Budget the local residents submitted a project for sports and recreation site in the backyard. The project brought residents together, built trust among them and towards authorities, built stronger neighbourhood bonds and belief in the sense of joint actions and compromise for common good.

### Cultural Tools

- Cultural Intervention
- Youth involvement
- Designing the backyard
- Social event
- Participation (citizens’s survey and voting)

### Social Resilience aspects

- Building social networks and relations in the neighbourhood
- Building mutual trust
- Fostering a sense of community and ownership
- Empowerment
- Youth involvement
- Particlpatation
- Creating the feeling of agency

### Main take-aways

- You need to build trust among citizens to bring people together and achieve success
- You need to be persistent in what you do
- Culture can bring people togethe;
- Not so obvious tools/interventions (like a huge hedghog) can bring great results if properly used

### Links

<http://izarutkowska.com/en/everyones-backyard/>

## Fun palaces – UK and beyond

#community #culture #skillsharing

„Fun Palaces“ project supports local people to co-create their own cultural and community events, across the UK and worldwide, sharing and celebrating the genius in everyone. It is an ongoing campaign for community at the heart of culture and culture at the heart of every community. The campaign is led by and for that community, and an annual Weekend of Celebration – arts, science, craft, tech, digital, heritage and sports events and activities. A Fun Palace is organized by local people for local people – e.g. a group of neighbours, a residents’ association or friends getting together. ‚Local‘ might also mean the stuff or the space in case of a venue, building or organisation. Palaces are about getting and acting together from whatever field of ‘culture’. Even though the weekend event is the highlight, the real Fun Palace is what the community does to make it happen. It’s the thinking and the linking during the planning that count. The event is meant for all ages.

On the first weekend of October every year, Fun Palaces supports the Weekend of Celebration. The weekend puts people's skills and competences in the foreground. Though, similar events can happen throughout the year.

Workshops and the Ambassadors Programme offered by Fun Palaces support communities to create by and for themselves; developing local networks, linking individuals and organisations, encouraging venues to co-create with local people, and helping small groups to shout about their value as grassroots community activists.

### Cultural Tools

- Cultural activities of all kinds organized by residents
- Cultural exchange
- Culture of sharing skills

### Social Resilience aspects

- Meetup for residents
- activation of community
- empowerment of residents
- community building

### Main take-aways

- Sharing skills empowers both the sharer and the learner
- Access and inclusion is improved through sharing of skills and culture
- Organizing a fun palace can strengthen the ownership and identification of a place

### Links

<https://funpalaces.co.uk>



## Green Dinner in Alytus - LT

#community #citydistrict #greeningthecity #publicspace

Issue/Challenge: deforestation

“Green dinner” is a public event on Žalioji Street in Alytus which brings together the city community and guests at common tables. This celebration is not only visually aesthetic and culturally valuable due to the invited performers, but it also unites the community and invites sustainability, solidarity and green goals.

The funds collected during the green dinner are allocated to the green initiative "Let's return the pines to Alytus", by buying and planting pine trees in selected areas of Alytus, giving priority to the territories of communities providing social services.

The event was created in collaboration with Alytus City Theatre, which not only declares but also implements sustainability and social justice initiatives - from scenography to the environment to making performances accessible to the disabled.

"Green dinner" not only has an impact on the environment and the landscape, but also strengthens the culture of donation and community gathering in the city. Besides, the dinner also contributes to the preservation of the natural-historical heritage (Alytus was a former resort town with an impressive pine forest that was destroyed after the loss of Lithuania's independence). Planting a pine forest is also an act of citizenship.

The "Green Dinner" initiative expanded the range of environmental-and-cultural events in Alytus. The active participation of the community showed their sense of citizenship and their willingness to participate in meaningful changes so that the work that results from the focus can grow into a living, green forest.

### Cultural Tools

- scenography
- performances and theatre
- cooperation with the Alytus City Theatre
- food

### Social Resilience aspects

- meeting space for residents
- activation of community
- strengthened solidarity with the environment
- greening public space
- strengthening local identity and feeling of belonging/being rooted

### Main take-aways

- Citizen involvement in reforestation gives them the feeling of agency, increases involvement
- The combination of sustainability topics and culture can strengthen the community but also the environment of a place
- Events that are fun strengthen social cohesion

### Links

<https://zaliavakariene.lt>

## KreisKultur [Circle Culture] - DE

#method #villages #municipalities #funds #communities

Villages, towns, districts or communities are invited to develop their own cultural program. The development happens in a co-creative workshop. Together with the residents, the aim of this workshop is to find out which topics are of concern to the community. Based on this, the cultural format is developed in cooperation with employees of the cultural institutions. The results are presented to the community.

KreisKultur strengthens dialogue and understanding through the development of a joint cultural project. New impulses and activities revitalize the village community. Cohesion and togetherness are strengthened. At the end of the common path there will be a unique event in the community. In addition, cooperation between the locations, communities or districts and the institutions should be maintained throughout the funding phase in order to enable a lively cultural exchange between institutions and the citizens.

The funding takes place in cooperation with the state of Schleswig-Holstein and the district of Rendsburg-Eckernförde. The aim of the funding is to change cultural institutions in such a way that they focus more on rural areas and thus contribute to strengthening their infrastructure.

### Cultural Tools

- Development of a cultural program
- Co-creative work of citizens and cultural institutions
- Involvement of artists

### Social Resilience aspects

- Revitalization of village communities
- Community building
- Strengthened cooperation between citizens, cultural institutions and administrations

### Main take-aways

- Culture has the power to bring people together to solve problems
- Cooperation and trust is strengthened through joined projects

### Links

<https://www.kreiskultur.org/kreiskultur/das-projekt>

## Leisure Day for Newly Arrived - FI

#method #rural #communities #social diversity

Issue/Challenge: employment (lack of availability of jobs for more highly educated people), young people (staying/ returning), immigration and integration (how to coordinate)

In the western Finnish city Närpes, Swedish is the majority language (77.5%) while 5.3% speak Finnish and 17.2% of the population has a mother tongue other than Finnish or Swedish. The city has a rich leisure life offer for its 9573 inhabitants.

The Leisure Day for Newly Arrived was arranged to present what leisure opportunities there are in Närpes while the associations had the opportunity to attract new members. More than 20 associations representing cultural, sports and youth activities participated in the event. The city also presented its own offer of leisure activities.

About 300 people attended the event. Visitors got to try out different hobbies or otherwise learn more about leisure opportunities in Närpes. Among the visitors were mainly new residents and families with children, but also other younger and older Närpes' residents.

The leisure day is organised by the Recreation Department and the city's integration staff. The event proved to be appreciated by both associations and visitors.

### Cultural Tools

- presentation of cultural activities, such as
  - art clubs
  - photo clubs
  - music classes
  - theatre
  - youth associations
  - local folklore
  - museum
- presentation of sports activities

### Social Resilience aspects

- building strong social networks and relationships, esp. for vulnerable and marginalized groups (here: e.g. immigrants)
- meeting space for residents from different backgrounds
- activation of community

### Main take-aways

- Leisure activities bring together people from diverse backgrounds which contributes to social cohesion
- Leisure activities contribute to attractive and inclusive developments, for and with the people
- Leisure activities help to maintain and improve social well-being

### Links

Contact persons:  
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Integration coordinator Jennifer Ståhlgård +358 407678921

## On the Neighbour’s Couch - DE

#art #neighbourhood

Issue/Challenge: disadvantaged neighbourhoods, strengthening and networking neighbourhoods

As part of the interdepartmental strategy "Socially Integrative City - Strengthening Neighbourhoods, Living Together in the Neighbourhood", the model programme "UTOPOLIS - Socioculture in Neighbourhoods" was developed to support art and cultural projects in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

In the micro-project "On the Neighbour’s Couch", residents of the neighbourhood open up their living rooms to the neighbours. Their own four walls become a meeting place between people and a venue for concerts, readings, plays or other spectacles. The hosts determine the format and the coordination takes care of the suitable artists. In return, the hosts invite their neighbours and friends, and support can be provided in the form of personalised flyers. The hosts can be given a small budget to provide the guests with culinary delights. This lightens the mood and above all ensures that time is spent together after the event to get to know each other better and to network.

### Cultural Tools

- trying out new creative participation formats
- concerts
- readings
- plays
- or other spectacles
- cultural programme is informal and close

### Social Resilience aspects

- meeting space for residents of a neighbourhood
- activation of community
- positive link with the district and the neighbours, identity building

### Main take-aways

- The visions and wishes of the residents of their neighbourhood are identified and transformed into cultural activities, thus making the diverse life in the neighbourhood visible and tangible
- Small-scale cultural events can help building the feeling of identity among residents and improve social well-being
- The project promotes artists from the (disadvantaged) neighbourhood and helps them to become known

### Links

<https://utopolis.online/tool/auf-nachbars-sofa>

<https://www.miteinander-im-quartier.de/ideenpool/projekt.html>

Contact persons for “On the Neighbour’s Couch”:  
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## The Opinion Festival – EE

#tool #community #civic education #debate

Issue/Challenge: democracy deficiency, insufficient civic education, lack of involvement,  
weak community

"The Opinion Festival" is a meeting place for all layers of society, giving a platform for different worldviews. Its mission is to improve debate culture and civic education. The culture- and creative sector topics are part of the agenda to raise awareness and create discussion around the CCS development.

The Opinion Festival is free of charge and open to everyone in Estonia and beyond who would like to discuss and tackle issues that matter to all of us. It's a 2-day open-air event in Paide, a small city in the middle of Estonia facing rural area challenges such as losing habitats, low tourism, no innovative job places, etc. The festival has also a culture program to attract participants and offer enjoyable summer days in Paide after the official event part.

### Cultural Tools

- Cultural and CCS topics among the debates' topics
- Social event
- Participation
- Cultural programme to encourage participation and increase programme attractiveness

### Social Resilience aspects

- Building democratic culture
- Building social links – involvement of all layers of society;
- Raising civic education level
- Community building
- Empowerment and Agency
- Participation
- Inclusion

### Main take-aways

- Providing a platform for discussion helps build democracy and social involvement
- Culture and CCSs can serve as a tool for civic education, increasing interest in your neighbourhood and citizen involvement
- By launching an interesting event that matters you can increase attractiveness of less fortunate localities

### Links

<https://arvamusfestival.ee/en>

## Participatory Budgeting

#method #funding #participation #transparency

Issue/Challenge: lack of transparency, lack of participation, lack of trust in authorities

"Participatory budgeting is a type of citizen sourcing in which ordinary people decide how to allocate part of a municipal or public budget through a process of democratic deliberation and decision-making. Participatory budgeting allows citizens or residents of a locality to identify, discuss, and prioritize public spending projects, and gives them the power to make real decisions about how money is spent. Participatory budgeting processes are typically designed to involve also those left out of traditional methods of public engagement, such as low-income residents, non-citizens, and youth.

**These are some key variables regarding Participatory Budgeting:**

### 1. Decisive or advisory

This is all about the outcome. If the results of the participatory budget are carried out by predefined rules, we speak about a participatory budget with decisive character. If the results are only one of many factors when allocating or drafting a budget, then we speak about a participatory budget with advisory character.

## **2. Themes or ideas**

What is the participatory budget about? In some cases, a participatory budget is held at the level of themes or policy domains. In other cases, the focus is on concrete ideas or projects. And in still other cases you get a hybrid process of the two aforementioned ends of the spectrum.

## **3. In group or individually**

How can citizens participate? Often we see in offline projects that ideas or themes get discussed in (small) groups before voting unanimously or by majority takes place. Online trajectories have a rather individual participation by online voting.

## **4. Local or regional**

This factor concerns the designated area of the participatory budget. Does the project have an impact on the entire territory of the municipality/city/region? Or does it focus more on one particular neighbourhood/? In practice, this choice also has its consequences on who is invited for the process

### Cultural Tools

- No direct cultural tools, but for participatory purposes and funding cultural measures

### Social Resilience aspects

- Funding cultural measures/getting CCS involved
- Participation
- Investing in education and training

### Main take-aways

- You need to carefully define the process goals
- You need to implement what is promised for people to feel trust and agency
- You need to be transparent

### Links

Guideline to participatory budgeting:

<https://www.citizenlab.co/blog/civic-engagement/guide-to-participatory-budgeting/#3>

Example from Canada:

<https://vancouver.ca/your-government/participatory-budgeting.aspx>

## UrbCulturalPlanning - tools, methods & case studies of Cultural Planning - BSR

#method #tools #cultural planning #culture #community/neighbourhood #social innovation

Issue/Challenge: insufficient cooperation between citizens, authorities, NGOs, etc. , lack of mutual trust, role of culture and CCS in building community, identity and feeling of agency; improving the quality of neighbourhoods.

Cultural Planning is a tool for social innovation. The aim is to use culture and creativity to make living better in the neighbourhoods in cities or in rural areas. The main objective of the Urban Cultural Planning project (2019-2022) was to advance the capacity of public authorities in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and local NGOs and associations to collaborate on citizen driven cultural planning. The project was a cross border partnership of 14 Project Partners and 36 Associated Organizations in 9 countries. In this project a collection of tools and methods was gathered in the Urban Toolkit and Case Studies were documented and are provided under Urbdocs.

### Cultural Tools

- Cultural activities and CCS as tools to get to know neighbourhood better and introduce expected changes
- Cultural activities used to build local identity
- Social events
- Participation

### Social Resilience aspects

- Bringing together authorities, citizens and other stakeholders to jointly solve problems
- Building mutual trust and understanding
- Building local identity and community
- Empowerment and Agency
- Participation
- Inclusion

### Main take-aways

- By using broadly understood cultural tools you can transform your neighbourhood
- Cultural tools can bring together various stakeholders to work for common good
- Cultural tools help create common ground and use compromise

### Links

<https://urbcultural.eu>

<https://urbantoolkit.eu>

[https://urbcultural.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ucp\\_ROADMAP.pdf](https://urbcultural.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ucp_ROADMAP.pdf)

<https://urbantoolkit.eu/tools-and-methods>

## Vidzeme Culture Program - LV

#art #funding #community #rural

Issue/Challenge: Citizen empowerment, creative engagement in local problems

The Vidzeme Culture Program is an essential financial instrument that promotes and ensures the cultural activities in Vidzeme region (Latvia). The funding of the Vidzeme Culture Program is a part of “Culture Programs in the Regions” (since 2023).

The Vidzeme Culture Program provides an opportunity for the local residents of the region to implement their creative cultural ideas, strengthening the local community and cultural values of the Vidzeme region. The program is very popular among the local residents which is confirmed by a significant number of project applications each year.

From 2008 to 2022, a total of 636 cultural projects of various scale were implemented in Vidzeme region offering a wide range of cultural events and activities - workshops, lectures, seminars, discussions, concerts, exhibitions, festivals, open air events, hikes, excursions, educational stands, excursion routes, creation of books, sheet music collections, dance books, song collections, animated films, performances,, music compositions, video digitization and many more.

The Vidzeme Planning Region considers the citizen engagement in the decision making process as crucial. The communities' members are involved by the priorities of the Vidzeme Culture Program and consultations with the residents are carried out during the project evaluation process (according to the participatory budgeting method). Many local citizens are involved in the project implementation process (visitors, artists, coordinators, etc.) each year ~ 40 000 persons.

Worth emphasizing is the strong cooperation between regional authority and residents in the implementation process.



### Cultural Tools

- No direct cultural tools, but funds can be used for participatory purposes and for funding various cultural measures
- Culture/Cultural programme is used as a tool to encourage citizens to identify and implement their cultural and creative ideas
- Cultural Programme as a tool to build/strengthen local identity and stronger community

### Social Resilience aspects

- Funding cultural measures/getting CCS involved
- Participation
- Building feeling of agency
- Strengthening/building local identity
- Community building

### Main take-aways

- Establishing participatory cultural fund helps build local/regional identity and stronger community/neighbourhood
- Involving citizens in participatory cultural fund you help create social links and bring citizens and authorities closer together
- While strengthening the local/regional cultural sector and tradition you can create the feeling of agency among citizens

### Links

<https://balso.vidzeme.lv/noteikumi>



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**CULTURE AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN GUIDEBOOK**

