

Revitalise vacant spaces in the city centre - Pori, Finland 1/4



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The City of Pori aims to revitalize vacant spaces in the city center through this pilot project. Former retail spaces, currently unused, are being transformed into new areas for living and working. These spaces will host a variety of events, which are excellent for bringing people together and encouraging them to become active participants in their city. Co-creating in these spaces will foster a sense of belonging and contribute to an inclusive and vibrant city center .

WHY | Purpose

The main goal of the Liveability pilots in Pori is to bring back life to the city centre and revitalise vacant spaces. The city's attractiveness has gradually diminished and has yet to fully recover since the COVID crisis.

The Pori city centre consists of public and private buildings and spaces that have potential to enhance the city's vibrancy and attractiveness.

The project offers a user-friendly space for citizens to organize their own events in city-owned properties, alleviating concerns about rent and electricity expenses. Organizing long-term events in privately owned properties can be challenging, but having a culture-friendly entrepreneur is crucial for effectively utilizing these business spaces.

HOW | Field of Action

Asema44 – New Roots in an Old Station.

Pori's former bus station, now Asema44, is a cultural hub where collaboration, creativity, green space, and sustainability come together to shape the future of the city through shared development.

1. Pori Old Bus Station

Cre44tive Overnights

- An overnight co-creation format by Asema44 that sparks bold ideas and cross-sector collaboration. In Pori's old bus station, citizens gather to reimagine the space through creative workshops, dialogue, and shared experimentation.

Passengers of Time

- A participatory event at Pori's old bus station, co-organized with engaged actors from the Old Bus Station team. City residents are invited to share memories and stories connected to the site—turning personal histories into a collective archive of place.
- The same exhibition concept will also be presented in collaboration with the regional museum.

WHO | Actors

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • Public administration | • Satakunta Museum |
| • Citizens of Pori | • Porin linjat - public transportation |
| • Private sector: restaurant owner | • University Consortium of Pori |
| | • City of Pori – Technical and Cultural Unit |

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Lessons learned

Cross-sector collaboration opens surprising doors

The Cre44tive Overnights concept facilitated new encounters—such as between the Department of Sports, City of Pori and a fresh workshop ideas. This resulted in lasting collaboration between the arts and Sports Unit.

Low threshold – high impact

The open and approachable space brought together both local residents and newcomers. Even small-scale events and experiments led to significant networking opportunities and deeper social engagement.

Cultural spaces can act as laboratories for urban development

Asema44 has functioned as an incubator, a place where new forms of cultural services have been tested in collaboration with the city, artists, and various local actors.

A green space was sown – now it blooms

Cre44tive Overnights gathered ideas on the future of the space, many rooted in urban greenery and nature connection.

These ideas seeded a new green space, developed with Pori's green bank and a local gardening sponsor.

Now, plants take root, the community cares for them, and sound art grows alongside—music generated from the plants' vital signals.

Pollination has occurred – and new ideas are sprouting.

Potential follow up activities

Asema44 – Growing Momentum

Asema44 has also received support from the Finnish Cultural Foundation, which enables the continuation of events and programming throughout the upcoming year.

Cre44tive Overnights 2.0

Revive the overnight event series to ignite bold cross-sector ideas—connecting art, environment, and urban renewal through spontaneous collaboration.

International Artist Exchange

Host site-specific residencies for artists from other Liveable Cities hubs to deepen translocal dialogue and co-create in the Asema44 context.

Scaling Up Asema44

With access to more space in the old bus station, Asema44 could evolve into a flagship for liveability—uniting cultural, ecological, and social innovation under one roof.

Contact

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"Our goal is to create a more liveable and inhabitable city centre by developing a routine of creativity and encouraging the city residents themselves to produce a liveable city centre" - Petri Haavisto, Change Implementer

1. Pori Old Bus Station – Asema44

Cre44tive Overnights



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