Best Practices

Third Place (Citizen House)

Led by local networks of volunteers eager to propose and share all kinds of activities, third places bring together people of all origins and cultures, outside a structured associative framework.

Generally speaking, third places are open to all, enabling residents to get together, exchange ideas and get active. In particular, it offers single and vulnerable people (seniors citizens, single parents, foreigners who don't speak the local language, etc.) a welcoming and entertaining environment, without structure or organizational constraints. The resources are multiple and specific to each community, since they are provided by the residents themselves, through their voluntary commitment. Every inhabitant, every person with or without a commitment to an association or organization, has talents, skills or desires to share.

Objectives

- To strengthen social cohesion and intercultural and intergenerational exchanges.
- To combat isolation.
- Empower and actively involve residents.
- To encourage voluntary work and civic participation.
- Encouraging and supporting residents to offer all kinds of voluntary activities.
- Facilitating meetings and exchanges between old and new residents of the community, between Luxembourgers and foreigners, and between young and old.

Methods

Provide premises, an operating budget and, if necessary, a receptionist.

Budget

The costs depend on:

- The size of the initiative
- The running costs of the space,
- The cost of events organized in the third-party venues,
- Staff costs.

Materials

Provision of premises.

Periodicity

This is an ongoing initiative with a certain number of events and activities organized (one-off or periodic).

Evaluation indicators

The number of events,

the number of citizens visiting the space,

the number of initiatives organized by the citizens themselves, the number of associations using the space.

Practical advice - DO's

- Hire a receptionist to ensure that the premises are accessible, to welcome visitors and to manage the occupancy schedule.
- Recruit as best you can from among the long-term jobseekers registered with ADEM and living in your local area.
- Bear in mind that the community itself is responsible for running and managing the workplace, with or without the support of a receptionist.
- Define the rules to be respected to guarantee respectful and peaceful living together in a charter.
- Provide a variety of activities (leisure, debates, ecological, educational, language practice, mental health, etc.).

Practical advice - DONT's

- Don’t offer a place that is solely dedicated to well-established associations/clubs that are well known in your municipality.

Contact person/Possible partners

local artists, entrepreneurs, associations.

For further information, please contact ASTI: agence.interculturelle@asti.lu

Additional information

Some examples of existing third places:

- Konschthaus op der Gare (Clervaux): https://konschthausopdergare.lu/
- Bâtiment 4 (Esch-sur-Alzette): https://batiment-4.lu/
- ÔPEN (Junglinster) : https://www.openlenster.lu/