

Newsletter

surf society and
urban form
research
lab

JUNE 2026



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

1ST Cyprus Transport Hackathon.

Hack the way we move!



The **1st Cyprus Transport Hackathon** was successfully held on 17 January 2026 at the Strovolos Municipal Hall, bringing together **22 teams** and **65 participants** from diverse backgrounds, including students, researchers and professionals.

Throughout the day, participants, supported by mentors, collaborated in interdisciplinary teams to design and prototype innovative solutions addressing key challenges in public transport, road safety, multimodal mobility and inclusive mobility.

All teams were evaluated by a multidisciplinary jury, based on criteria such as innovation, feasibility, impact and clarity of presentation, highlighting the high quality and diversity of the proposed solutions.

Jury Awards:

- 🥇 Team GTFS Guru: “AI Real Time Bus Positions”
- 🥈 Team Way Guard: “Wrong-Way Driving Detection System”
- 🥉 Team EftychiouSolutions (UrbanFlow AI): “TrustBus CY”



Special Mentions:

Special mentions were awarded to Team Motion Notion for “*HorioHop – Inclusive Mobility*”, Team HackNova for “*HackNova API*”, and Team Laou Laou for “*Micromobility Loop Bus – Milo Bus*”, in recognition of the strong potential, originality and impact of their proposals.

The event was co-organised by the [Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works](#), the [Municipality of Strovolos](#), the [University of Cyprus](#) ([SURF Lab](#) & [KIOS CoE](#)), the [Youth Board of Cyprus \(ONEK\)](#), [Hack{Cyprus}](#), and [Google Developers Group \(GDG\) Cyprus](#), highlighting the importance of cross-sector collaboration in shaping the future of mobility.

More information: www.gov.cy/mtcw





aRTes Biannual Newsletters – May 2026 Edition

The latest edition of the aRTes Biannual Newsletter brings together key updates from across the consortium, highlighting ongoing research, pilot rooftop activities, and city-scale green roof initiatives.

From innovative rooftop solutions to cross-sector partnerships, the newsletter reflects the project's progress in promoting nature-based solutions, urban resilience, and climate-responsive design. It offers valuable insights for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers interested in the future of urban environments.

Read the full newsletter: <https://t.ly/1A9UE>
Subscribe: [aRTes-Biannual-Newsletter](#)

Active Rooftops South Europe



aRTes Mid-Project Meeting in Madrid, Spain

The aRTes Mid-Project Meeting, held in Madrid, Spain from 12–15 May 2026, brought together consortium partners to reflect on project progress, strengthen collaboration, and define the next implementation steps across work packages and pilot cities. Hosted by [Universidad Politécnica de Madrid \(UPM\)](#), the meeting provided an opportunity for partners to be engaged in collaborative workshops, strategic discussions, stakeholder-oriented sessions, and pilot-related activities focused on active rooftops and sustainable urban transformation.

The meeting represented an important milestone for the project, strengthening cooperation among partners while reinforcing its shared vision for creating more sustainable, resilient, and livable urban environments across Europe.

Read the aRTicle: <https://t.ly/TKReu>
Follow aRTes on social media: [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Website](#)

Active Rooftops South Europe

aRTes: [Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



aRTes at International Events & Conferences

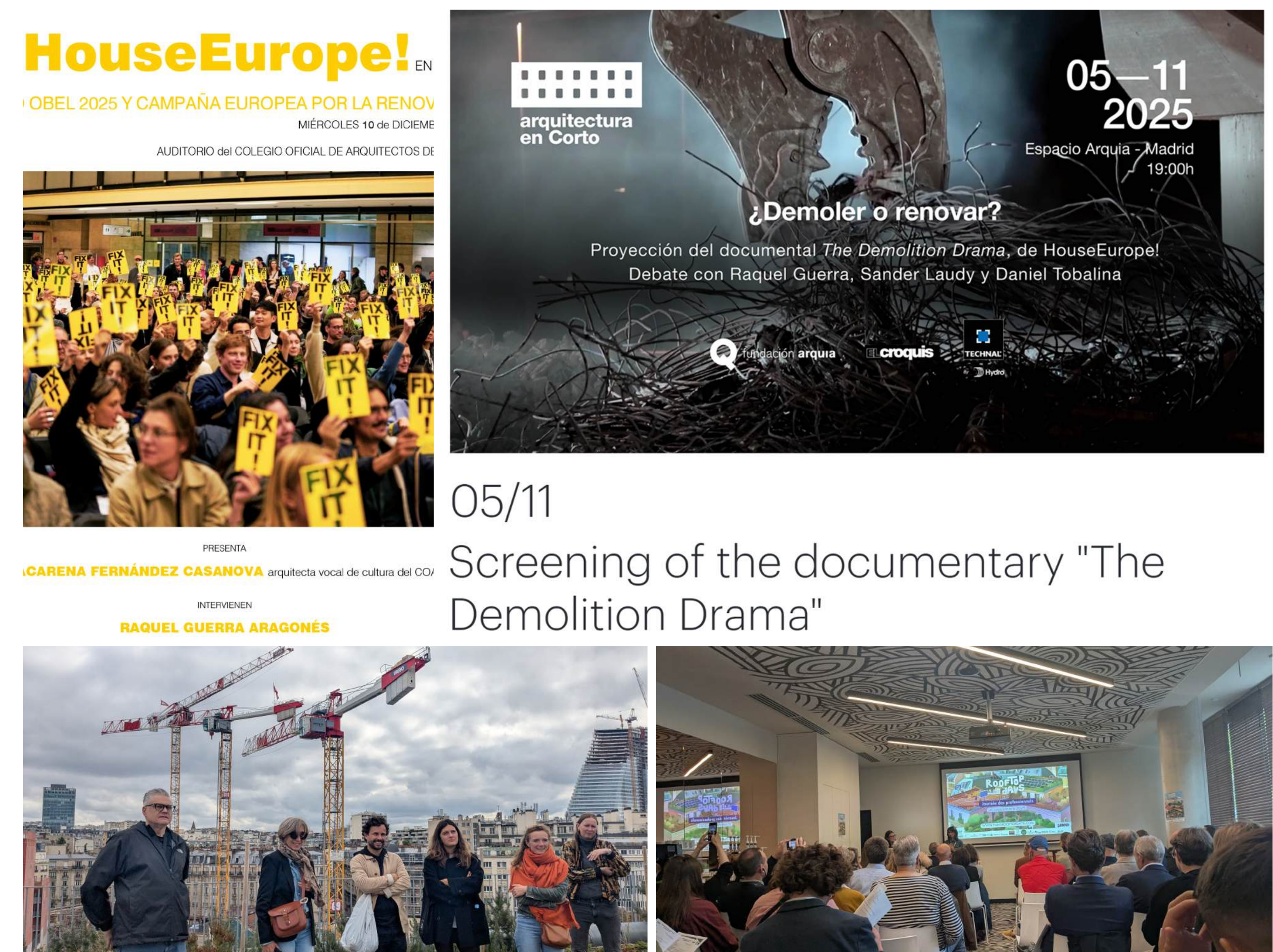
Throughout 2025 and early 2026, the aRTes project actively participated in a series of international events, conferences, and workshops across Europe, strengthening its presence within the urban planning and architecture community.

Our researchers engaged with diverse audiences, from practitioners to policy stakeholders, contributing to discussions on innovative rooftop solutions, urban regeneration, and sustainable city development. Notable participations included events such as:

- [Paris Rooftop Days](#) – Paris, France | 26-28 September 2025
- [NEB South+ Community Meeting](#) – Seville, Spain | 8 October 2025
- [6th Week of Architecture](#) – Santander, Spain | 11 October 2025
- [“Otros Habitares – Other Ways of Dwelling”](#) – Bilbao, Spain | 29 October 2025
- [Screening & discussion “The Demolition Drama”](#) – Madrid, Spain | 5 November 2025
- [Institute of Architecture of Euskadi](#) – San Sebastián, Spain | 4 December 2025
- [College of Architects of Granada](#) – Granada, Spain | 10 December 2025

Across these engagements, the aRTes project actively contributed to ongoing discussions on urban sustainability, rooftop innovation, and regenerative urban design. At the same time, they offered valuable opportunities not only to exchange knowledge with international experts, but also to present the project's objectives and emerging insights.

In parallel, they enabled meaningful engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders, including practitioners, policymakers, and local communities, thereby strengthening dialogue and fostering potential collaborations.



05/11

Screening of the documentary "The Demolition Drama"

Transnational Network of Integrated Planning Labs

InPlaLabs: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [X](#)

HOSTED BY THE INPLALABS RESEARCH PROJECT
WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF:

EVIE ANAYIOTOU
SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

KONSTANTINA KARAKOSTA
PRESIDENT & FOUNDER, ENA EMEIS NGO

ALKIS DIKAIOS
PRESIDENT, CYPRUS ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION

LORA NICOLAOU
PROFESSOR, FREDERICK UNIVERSITY

ANNA CARAMONDANI
DIRECTOR, ALA PLANNING

04

**THE FUTURE OF INTEGRATED
PLANNING IN CYPRUS**

HOW CAN INTEGRATED PLANNING ADDRESS
CLIMATE RESILIENCE, MOBILITY, AND INCLUSIVITY IN CYPRUS?
HOW CAN COLLABORATION ACROSS ACADEMIA, GOVERNMENT,
PRACTITIONERS, NGOS, AND COMMUNITIES BE STRENGTHENED?

MON 17.11
19:00-20:30 [EET]
A009, KALLIPOLEOS 75, 1678, LEFKOSIA



zoom meeting link:
<https://tinyurl.com/mvmj5mff>



University of Cyprus
Department of Architecture



@archucy
#sucy #archucy #seminarseries



Roundtable Discussion – The Future of Integrated Planning in Cyprus

In the framework of the InPlaLabs research project, the SURF Lab organised a roundtable discussion on “*The Future of Integrated Planning in Cyprus*” at the University of Cyprus.

The discussion focused on how integrated planning approaches can respond to pressing challenges such as climate resilience, sustainable mobility, and social inclusivity, while also strengthening collaboration between institutions, professionals, and local communities. The event brought together a diverse panel of experts from the [Public Works Department](#), [Ena Emeis NGO](#), [Cyprus Architects Association](#), [Frederick University](#), and [ALA Planning](#), sharing insights from their respective fields, highlighting both the opportunities and barriers in implementing more coordinated planning practices in Cyprus.

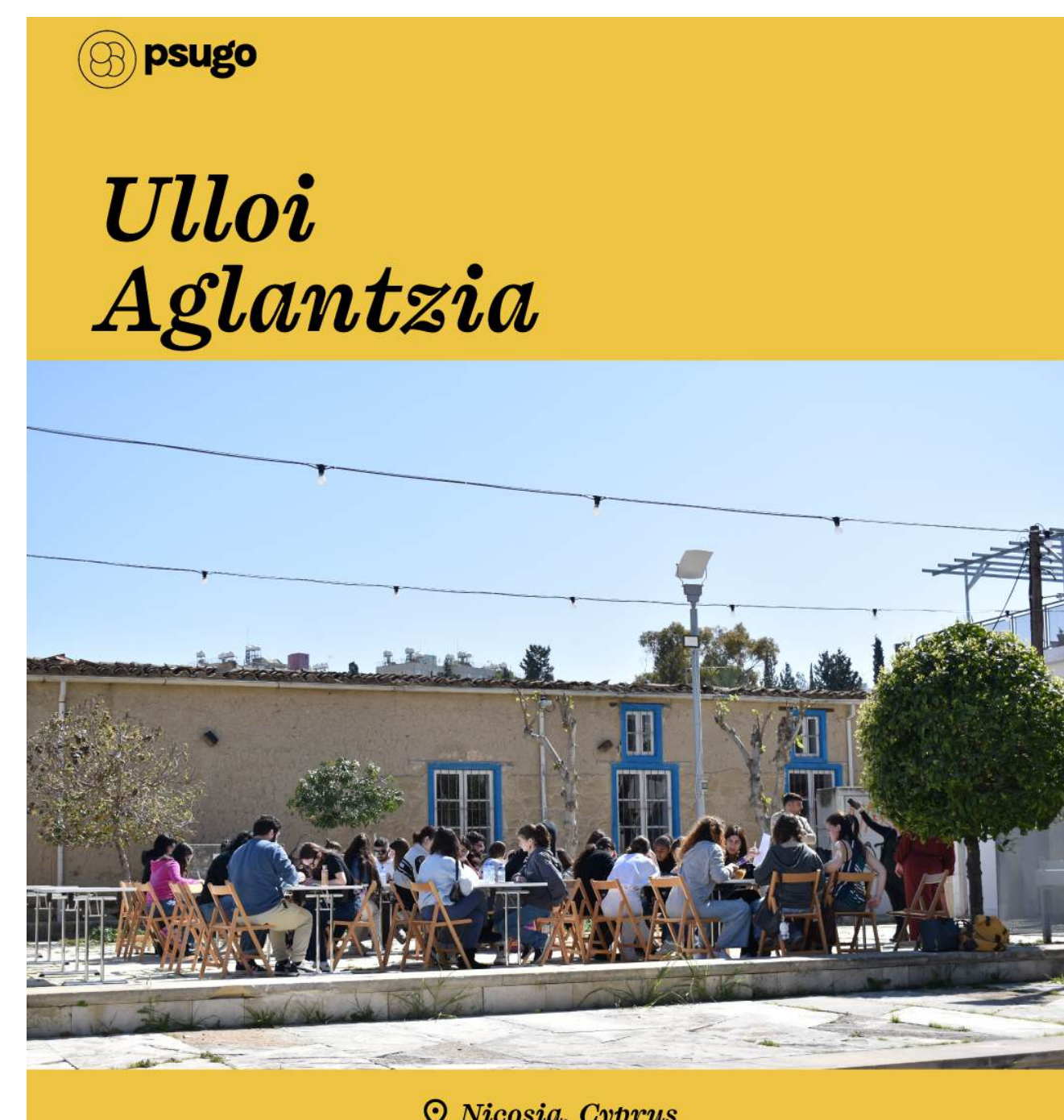
The event, part of the **SUCY lecture series**, of the UCY’s Department of Architecture of the Faculty of Engineering, encouraged an open exchange of ideas and contributed to ongoing efforts to advance integrated planning practices in the Cypriot context.

More information: <https://shorturl.at/KNqgQL>



Education in Living Labs: Participatory Skills for Sustainable Urban Governance

PS-U-GO: [Website](#) | [Instagram](#)



Nicosia, Cyprus



Ulloi Aglantzia – Co-creating public space

In Aglantzia, public space is gradually turning into a space for coming together, sharing ideas, and testing new ways of thinking about the city. Through a series of workshops and participatory activities, students, residents, and local actors have the chance to reflect on their neighbourhood and imagine how it could evolve.

The process goes beyond simple participation. People are actively involved in shaping ideas and small interventions, based on their everyday experiences. Over time, this has helped build a stronger sense of trust, confidence, and shared ownership of public space. Part of the PS-U-GO project, the initiative shows how working closely with communities can lead to more grounded and meaningful urban change.

[Ulloi Aglantzia](#) | [Co-Creation Studio UCY](#)



Defining our mission, goals and values.

In Aglantzia, public space has become a place to meet, learn, and imagine new urban futures together. A small neighborhood, a big laboratory for collective change.

psugo

Here, communities are not just consulted, they lead. Students, youth, and residents join local institutions to shape their surroundings through dialogue and hands-on experimentation.

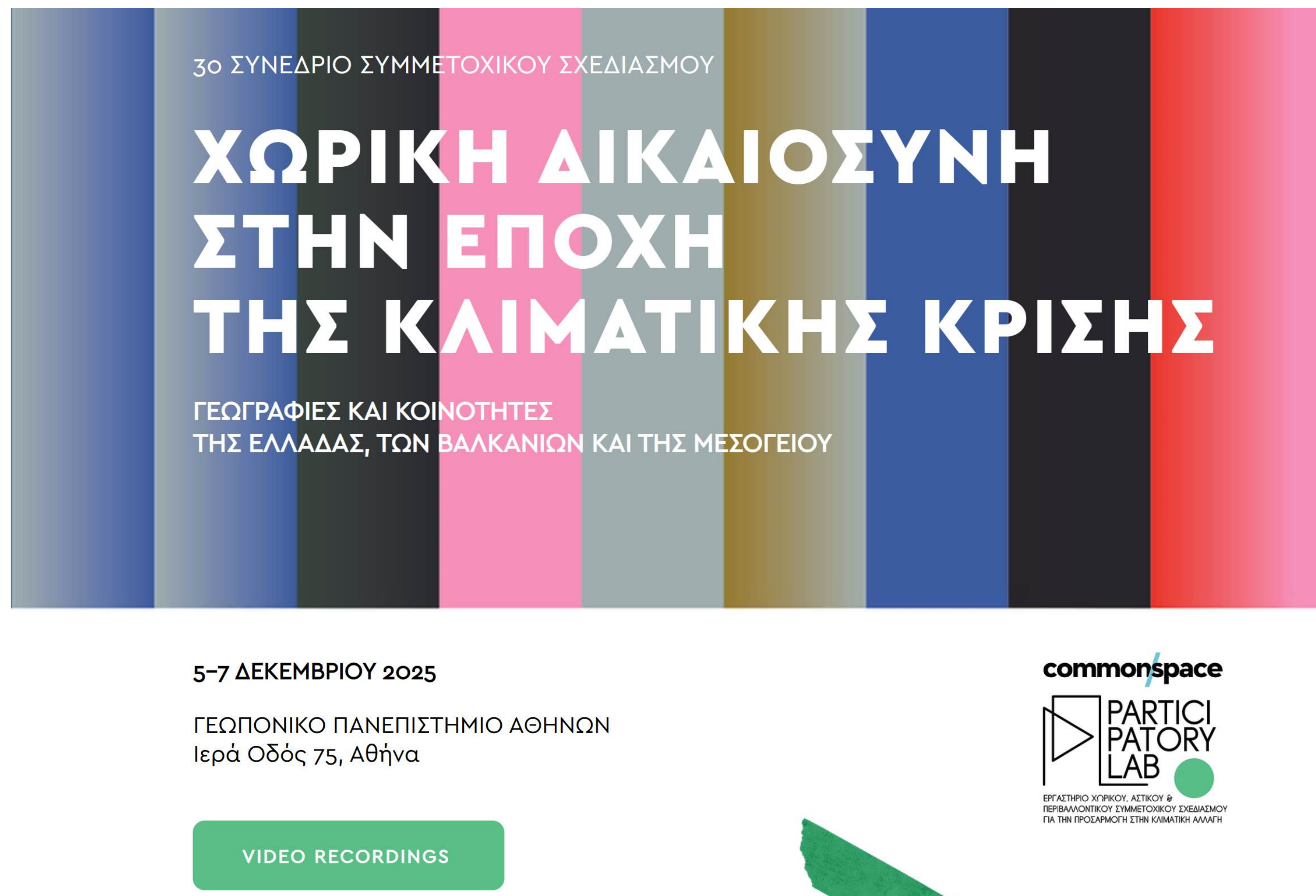


psugo



Workshops, mapping, neighborhood walks, and public actions transform ideas into tiny but meaningful interventions, building trust, confidence, and a sense of shared ownership.

Twinning Towards Research Excellence in Evidence-Based Planning and Urban Design



TWIN2EXPAND at the 3rd Conference on Participatory Design – Athens

From 5–7 December 2025, the TWIN2EXPAND team participated in the [3rd Conference on Participatory Design](#), hosted by [Participatory Lab](#) at the Agricultural University of Athens. The conference theme—“Spatial Justice in the Era of Climate Crisis: Geographies & Communities of Greece, the Balkans and the Mediterranean”—created a timely space for researchers, practitioners, and community actors to think together about how environmental pressures and socio-spatial inequalities are shaping everyday urban life across the region.

TWIN2EXPAND contributed to these discussions through our work on urban green spaces, accessibility, and inequality, with a focus on the Cypriot context.

Read the full article: <https://t.ly/qRiEd>



Strengthening Collaboration for Strategic Planning in Cyprus

A constructive meeting brought together researchers from the SURF Lab at the University of Cyprus with key public authorities, including the [Ministry of Interior](#), the [Department of Lands and Surveys](#), the [Department of Town Planning and Housing](#), and the [Cyprus Land Development Corporation](#).

The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on current housing challenges in Cyprus and the strategic allocation of public land, with focus on how spatial analysis, evidence-based planning approaches, and data-driven tools can support more informed decision-making in housing provision and land-use planning.

Read more: <https://t.ly/ZGY5M>

TACTICAL URBANISM – new innovative solutions for sustainable mobility in the cities to mitigate negative environmental impacts in urban life and make cities more liveable places

Streets for Citizens: [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



SURF Lab at the Streets for Citizens Final Conference | Ptuj, Slovenia

On 19–20 May 2026, the [Society and Urban Form \(SURF\) Research Lab](#) of the [University of Cyprus](#) participated in the Final Conference of [Streets for Citizens Project](#), an Interreg Euro-MED project focusing on tactical urbanism, sustainable mobility and more liveable cities.

As the academic knowledge provider for [Nicosia Development Agency – ANEL](#), the Cyprus project partner, SURF Lab supported the design and implementation of the pilot action in the [Latsia Geri Municipality](#), contributing to citizen participation processes and the co-creation of people-centred urban interventions.

The Cyprus pilot focused on improving the pedestrian network near the Health Centre of Latsia-Yeri, promoting walkability, accessibility and sustainable urban mobility.

Our researcher, [Marina Pasiq](#), participated in the conference, where partners exchanged knowledge, presented pilot experiences and discussed innovative approaches for creating more inclusive and accessible public spaces.

Event Agenda

8.30 - 9.00	Arrival & Registration of Guests
9.00 - 9.30	Welcome & Opening Remarks Boštjan Šeruga , vice-mayor City Municipality Ptuj Alen Hodnik , director Javne službe Ptuj Daniilo Čeh , director SRC Bistra Ptuj Horst Schindler , Interreg Danube Daniilo Čeh , Green Living Area Mission Interreg Euro-Med
9.30 - 10.10	Keynote Speaker Beatrice Barone , Urban Design & Public Space Specialist at Area Sviluppo Territorio (Agenzia Mobilità Ambiente Territorio)
10.15 - 10.55	Keynote Speaker Andreas Friedwagner , CEO Verracon GmbH, Sustainable Mobility Expert
11.00 - 11.15	Hosting Projects CityWalk 2.0 , Rok Vrban, SRC Bistra Ptuj Streets for Citizens , Peter Meglič, Javne službe Ptuj
11.15 - 12.10	Interactive Coffee Break community engagement board game projects demonstration actions fair
12.15 - 13.40	Interactive Workshop Solutions & Key Learnings Street Redesign & Tactical Urbanism Placemaking & Community Engagement Travel Behavioural Change
13.40 - 14.00	Closing Remarks
14.00 - 15.00	Networking Lunch
15.00 - 16.00	Study Visit Streets for Citizens demonstration action in Ptuj CityWalk 2.0 demonstration action in Ptuj

PTUJ

19th of May

2026

DOMINICAN MONASTERY, MUZEJSKI TRG 1



The background is a solid blue color with three thick, wavy purple lines. One line starts at the top right, curves down and left, then continues horizontally. Another line starts at the bottom left, curves up and right, then continues horizontally. A third line starts at the bottom right, curves up and left, then continues horizontally.

RESEARCH

Transnational Network of Integrated Planning Labs

InPlaLabs: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [X](#)



PS-U-GO booklet is here



A journey through PS-U-GO Urban Living Labs.
psugo.eu/booklet



PS-U-GO Booklet – A journey through Urban Living Labs

What happens when public space becomes a place for experimentation, dialogue, and co-creation? The PS-U-GO booklet offers a glimpse into this process, bringing together insights and experiences from a series of Urban Living Labs across European cities.

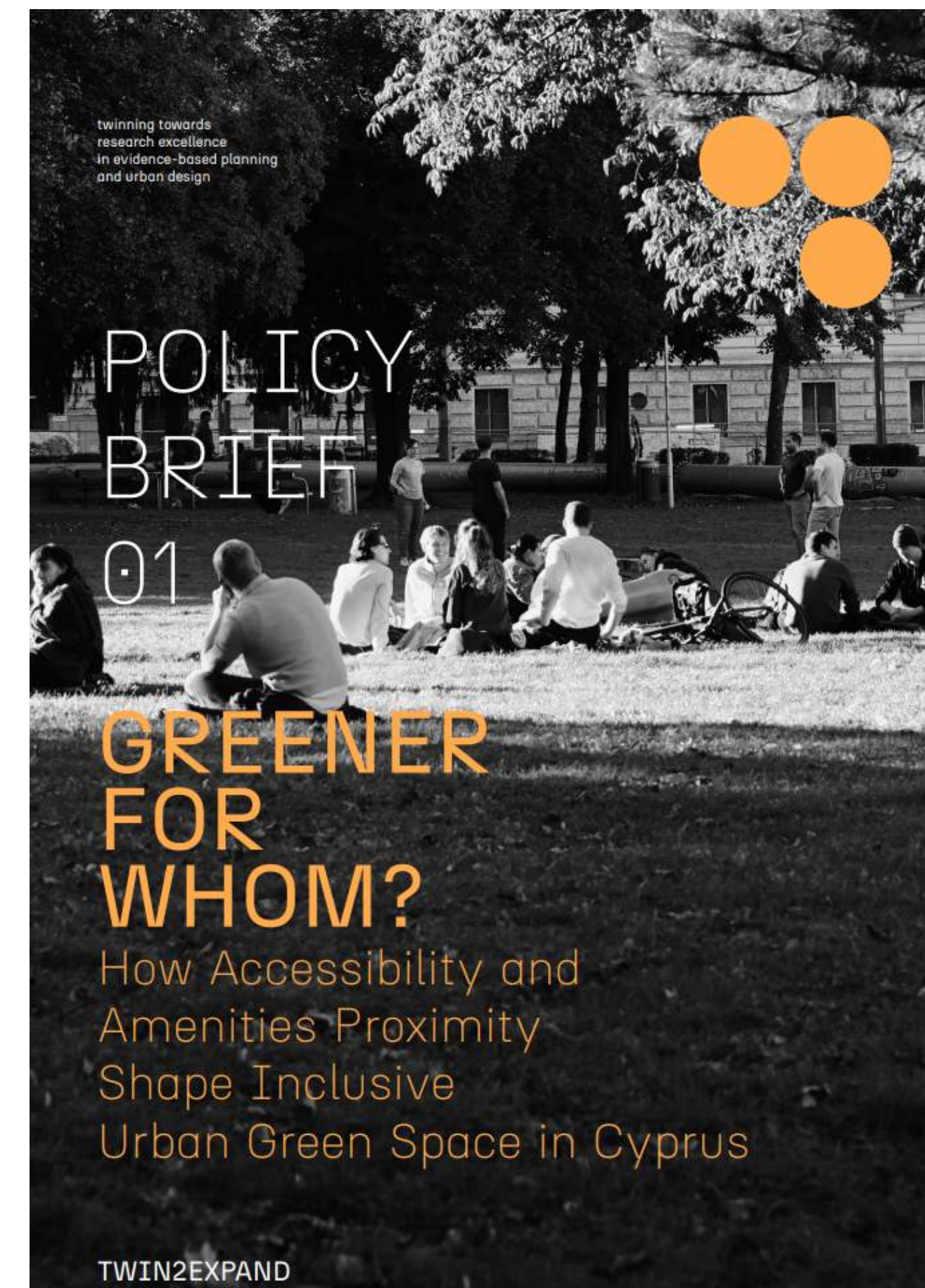
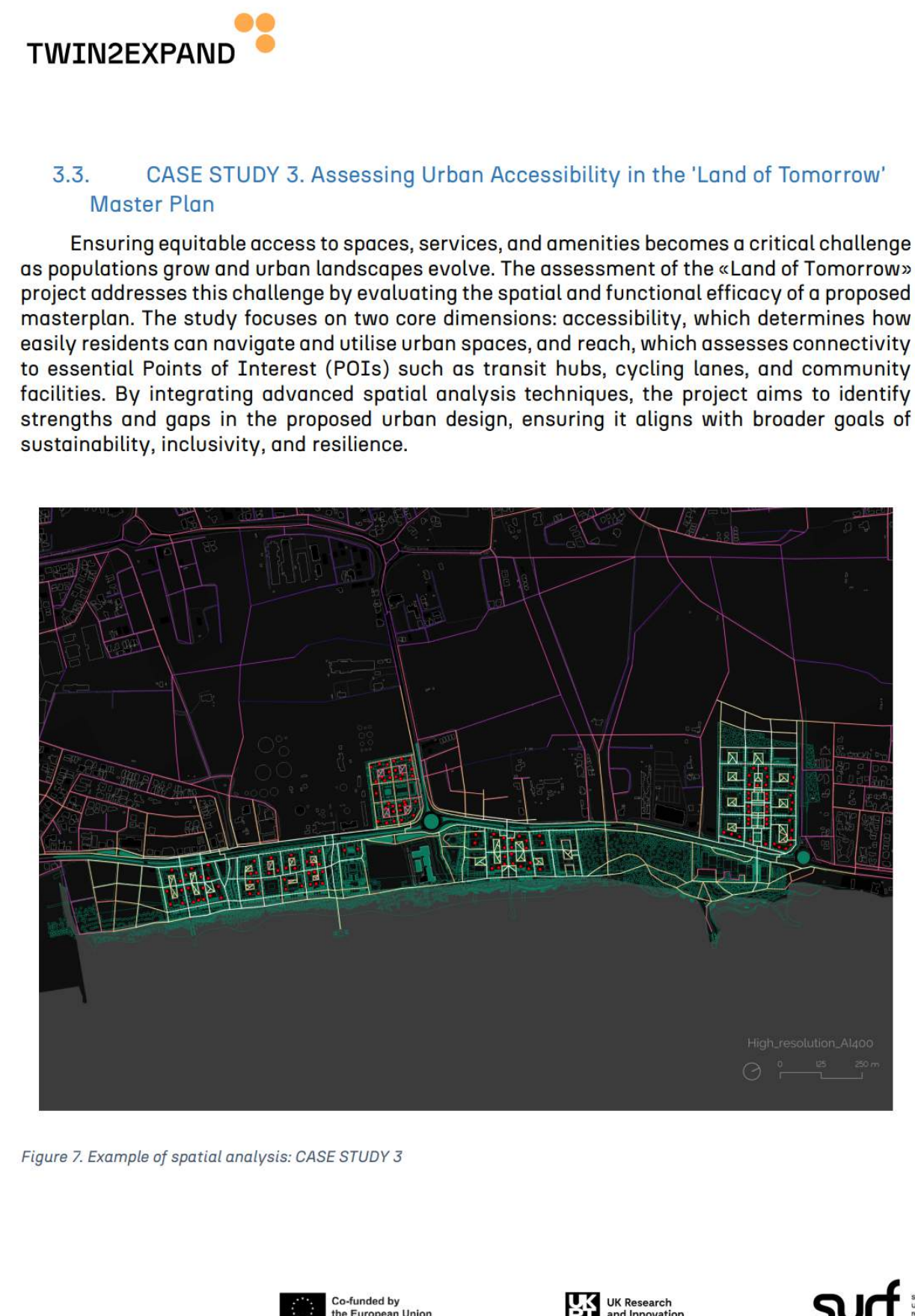
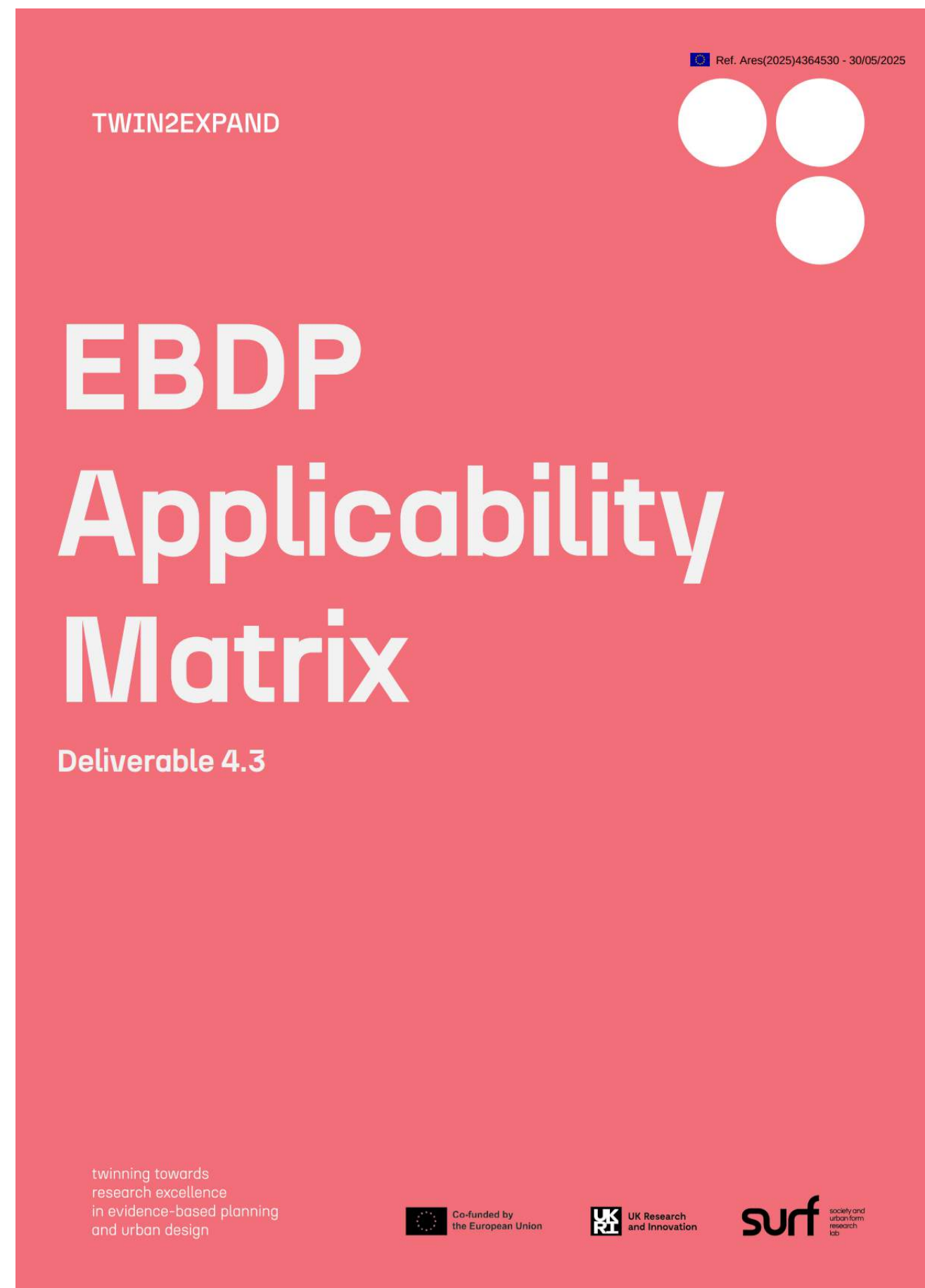
At the heart of the work is a simple idea: that better urban futures can emerge when people are actively involved in shaping them. Through workshops, collaborative activities, and hands-on exploration, students, researchers, and local communities came together to rethink how public spaces are used, experienced, and designed.

The booklet captures this journey as it unfolded, highlighting not only the outcomes, but also the process of working together, testing ideas, and learning along the way. It reflects an approach to urban development that is open, participatory, and grounded in real-life contexts, where small actions can lead to meaningful change.

Explore the full version: <https://t.ly/k1rFk>

<i>Open MaLL</i> <i>Petralia Sottana</i>	 Petralia Sottana, Palermo, Italy
<i>Mare libero</i> <i>Naples</i>	 Lido Pola, Naples, Italy
<i>ULLoi</i> <i>Aglantzia</i>	 Aglantzia, Nicosia, Cyprus
<i>COCO</i> <i>Commoning Cottbus</i>	 Cottbus, Brandenburg, Germany

Twinning Towards Research Excellence in Evidence-Based Planning and Urban Design



Applicability Matrix for Evidence-Based Design and Planning

A new tool titled the “EBDP Applicability Matrix” has been developed to support the integration of evidence-based approaches in urban design and planning. The matrix aims to assess the feasibility of applying the Evidence-Based Design and Planning (EBDP) approach by considering key factors such as data availability and quality, technical tools, required competences, and institutional or policy support.

Designed for use both prior to and during project implementation, the tool enables municipalities, practitioners, and project teams to evaluate proposals, compare planning scenarios, and identify potential challenges early on.

Read the full report: <https://t.ly/zUmSd>

From Evidence to Impact: Advancing Inclusive Urban Green Planning

Our Lab contributed to the [Green Urbanism \(GU\) Conference](#) through a keynote presentation exploring how integrated planning can support more equitable, climate-resilient, and inclusive urban green spaces.

Drawing on the case of the Pedieos Linear Park in Nicosia, the presentation highlighted how spatial analysis and stakeholder engagement can help identify gaps, guide investments, and maximise public value.

The insights are further reflected in the project’s Policy Briefs, offering practical guidance for planners and decision-makers:

[Greener For Whom?](#) | [Sustainable Location Strategies for Citizens' Services](#)

Twinning Towards Research Excellence in Evidence-Based Planning and Urban Design

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TWIN2EXPAND 7th Blog – Learning from Social-Ecological Urbanism

The 7th blog of the TWIN2EXPAND project, authored by [Frixos Petrou](#), our PhD Candidate and Researcher, reflects on a research placement at Chalmers University of Technology and explores the concept of social-ecological urbanism.

The blog examines how urban systems can be understood as interconnected ecological and social networks, and through this perspective, it emphasises the role of interdisciplinary methods, spatial analysis, and evidence-based approaches in addressing complex urban challenges.

The insights contribute to advancing more adaptive, resilient, and context-sensitive planning practices, particularly relevant for European and Mediterranean cities.

Read more: <https://t.ly/EUSn0>

#GOAL– Governmental Land Development Suitability Assessment

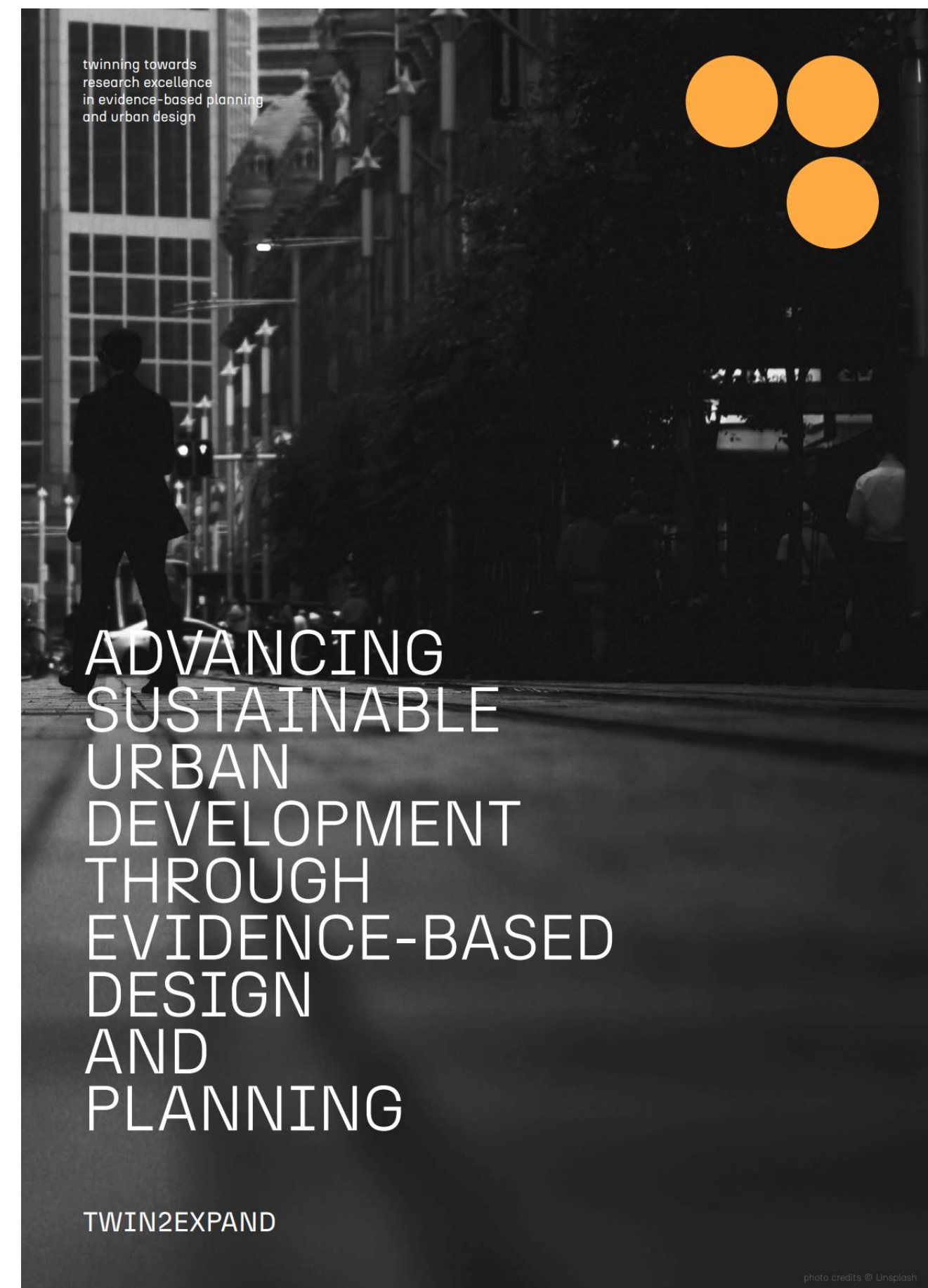
The GOAL – Governmental Land Development Suitability Assessment project supports strategic decision-making for public land development in Cyprus through a structured, evidence-based methodology. Working through a multicriteria and evidence-based approach, it evaluates land parcels not just in terms of location, but also accessibility, connectivity, and their potential to serve communities.

This approach reflects TWIN2EXPAND's broader ambition to promote evidence-based design and planning (EBDP) by integrating data, analytical tools, and decision-support frameworks into urban planning processes. A key outcome of GOAL is the development of an interactive WebGIS platform, that allows stakeholders to explore different planning scenarios and priorities.

Read more: <https://t.ly/jzYCg>

Twinning Towards Research Excellence in Evidence-Based Planning and Urban Design

TWIN2EXPAND: [Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [X](#)

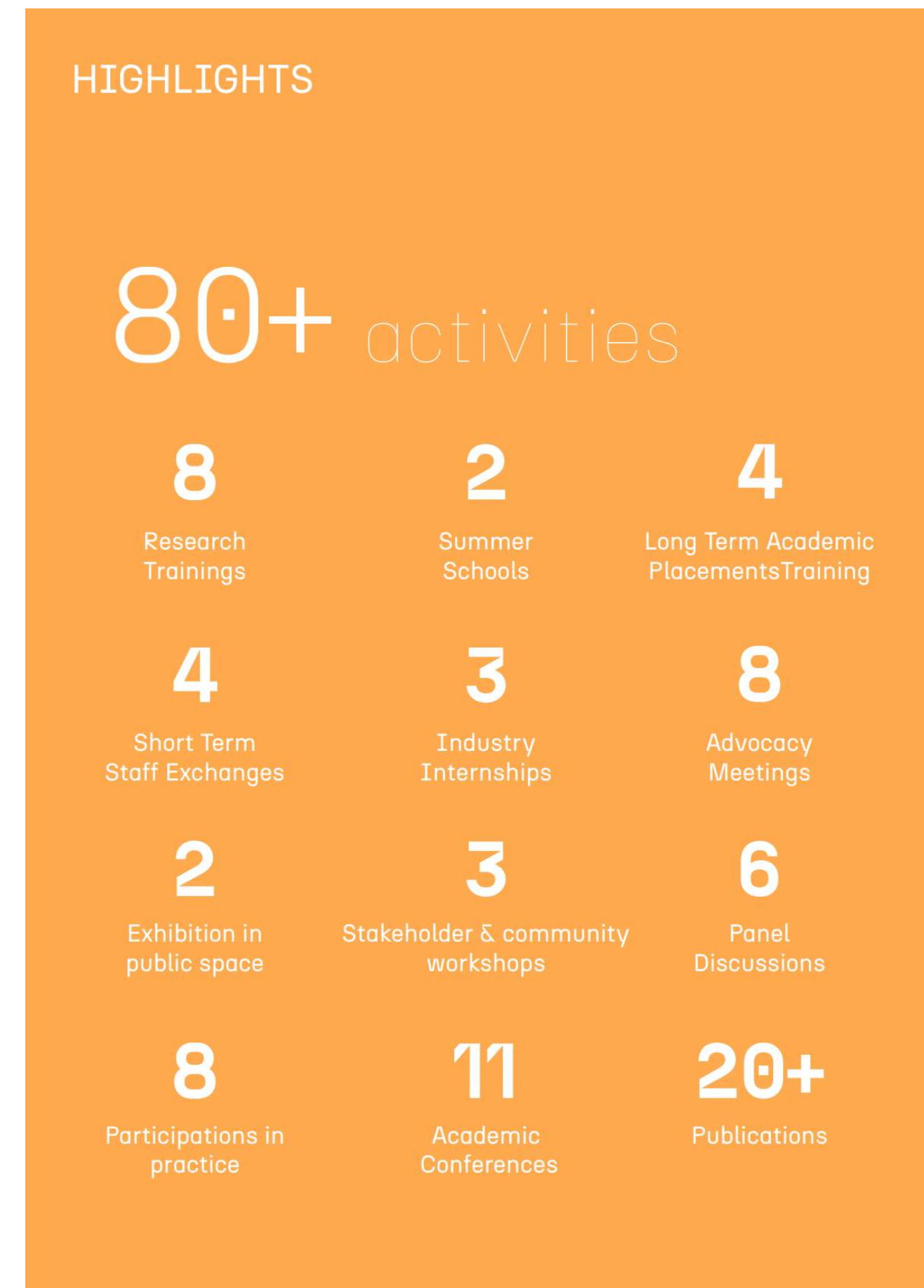


TWIN2EXPAND Project Brochure

The recently released project brochure presents a comprehensive overview of the project's achievements over its duration, summarising key activities, research outputs, training initiatives, and stakeholder engagement efforts.

It offers a concise overview of the work carried out on advancing evidence-based urban design and planning, and also reflects on the project's impact across different contexts, providing a clear narrative of its outcomes and future relevance for research, policy, and practice.

Read more: <https://t.ly/aDz55>

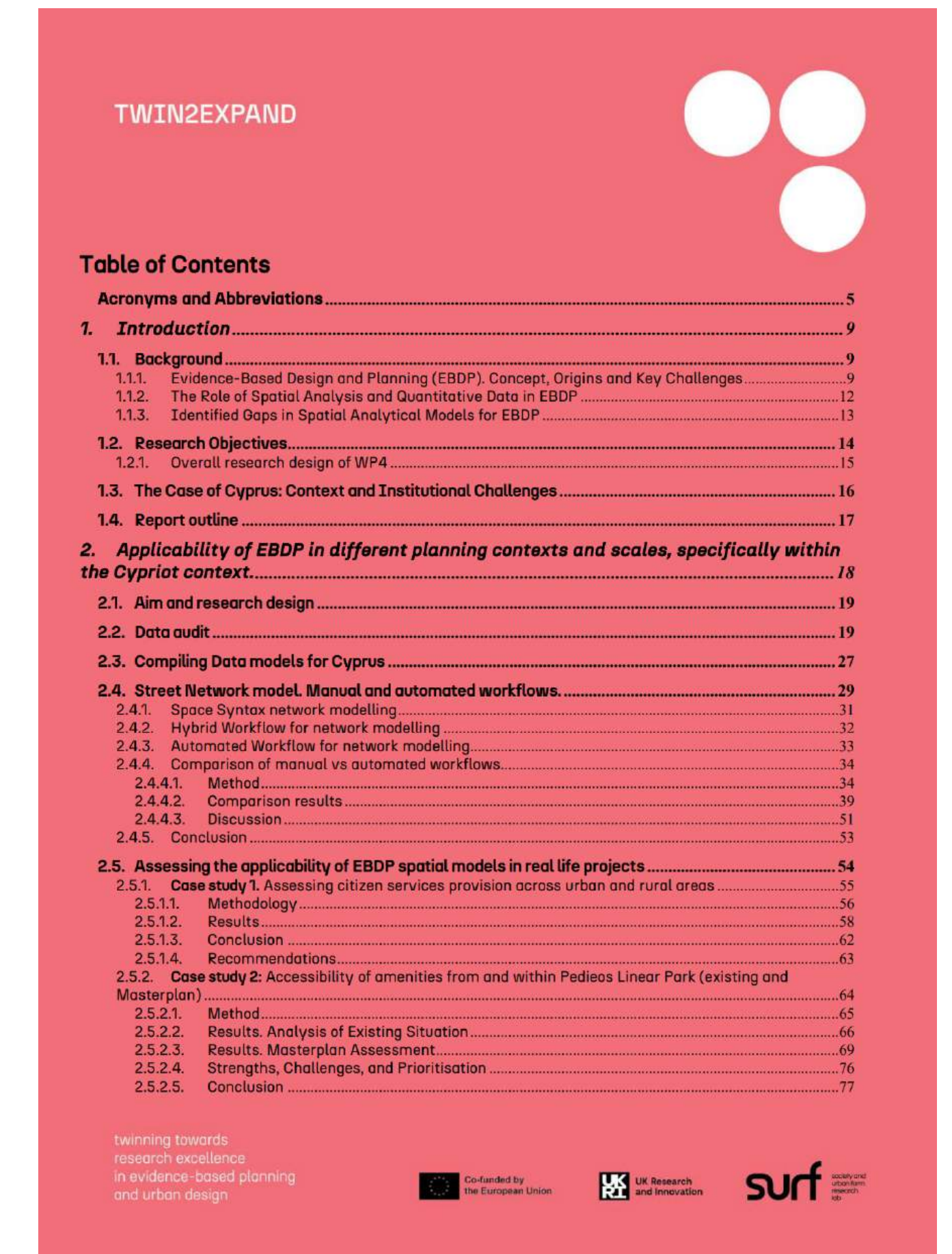


TWIN2EXPAND Research Report

The final TWIN2EXPAND research report (Deliverable 4.5) compiles the project's findings into a detailed and comprehensive publication, documenting the methodologies, analytical frameworks, and case study results developed throughout the project, with a strong focus on spatial analysis, evidence-based design, and urban analytics.

Providing in-depth insights into how data-driven approaches can support more strategic, transparent, and sustainable planning decisions, it addresses challenges related to data availability, tools, and stakeholder engagement.

Read more: <https://t.ly/ZKAnE>





Stay in touch!



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[surf-research-lab](https://www.linkedin.com/company/surf-research-lab)