



Go Green Routes Urban Play Report

An Image Based Guide

a
playful/
city



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A hand wearing a bright pink jacket sleeve is gently holding a green oak leaf. The background is a dense, out-of-focus forest of similar green leaves, creating a natural and vibrant setting.

Foreword

A Playful City (APC) is pleased to present this report detailing the phased process, implementation, and outcomes of our GoGreenRoutes Urban Play Events in six cities across Europe. The events celebrated the Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) created as part of the GoGreenRoutes (GGR) project in six partner cities: Burgas, Lahti, Limerick, Tallinn, Umeå, and Versailles.

Over six months, APC organised a series of intergenerational urban play events at each of the NBS sites in the six partner cities across Europe. Designed to promote social inclusion, physical activity, play and community engagement, these events invited people of all ages to explore and enjoy newly developed NBS sites in each city.

Each event featured culturally relevant games, performances, and activities tailored to the local context, creating meaningful connections between participants and their surroundings. Each of these events were delivered in close collaboration, and with the support of the representatives in each municipality.

Key project objectives included:

- 1 Creating inclusive and accessible play spaces in urban environments.
- 2 Facilitating intergenerational interactions and relationships.
- 3 Promoting physical activity and well-being.
- 4 Strengthening community bonds and fostering a sense of belonging.

To enhance visibility and engagement, thoughtfully designed bespoke triangle installations were designed and built to impactfully act as event decor while also sharing information about GGR, the NBS and the Urban Play Event. Sustainability and portability were central to their design, ensuring easy setup and transport.

Event promotion was developed in collaboration with local stakeholders, resulting in tailored outreach campaigns that encourage community participation.



This report outlines the journey from event concept to implementation, offering insights into the creative process, event highlights, and lessons learned.

Through play and shared experiences, the GGR Urban Play events brought communities together and celebrated the potential of nature-based solutions to create healthier, more inclusive urban environments.



‘Cross-Pollination’



Celebration and Promotion

Highlight and celebrate the achievements of each city's nature-based solution



Playful Cross-Pollination

Encourage citizens and cities to learn from each other to inspire and sustain future nature-based solutions



Sustainable Continuation

Inspire ongoing learning and future nature-based solutions in each of the six cities

Context

psithurism /sith-yuh-riz-uhm/ n.

English - the sound of the wind in the trees
Irish - fuaim na gaoithe sna crainn
French - le bruit du vent dans les arbres
Estonian - tuule sahin lehtedes
Russian - Ветер колышет листья
Bulgarian - Звукът на вятъра в листовете
Finnish - tuulen suhina lehdissä
Swedish - ljudet av vinden i träden



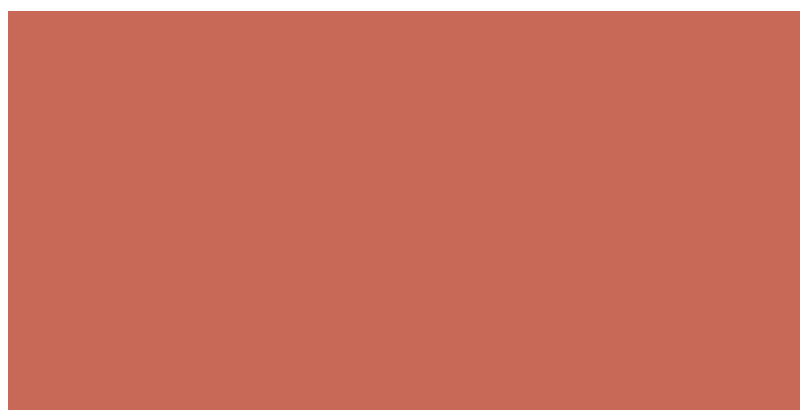
About APC

A Playful City is a not-for-profit that works with communities to create more playful, healthy and inclusive public places by providing end-to-end consultation, placemaking and design services.



The three pillars of A Playful City's work are Play, Inclusivity, Health.

A Playful City



About GGR

GoGreenRoutes (GGR) is an EU-funded project sowing the seeds for increased nature-connectedness across Europe, Latin America and China.

Since 2020, six pioneering cities - Burgas (Bulgaria), Lahti (Finland), Limerick (Ireland), Tallinn (Estonia), Umeå (Sweden) and Versailles (France) - have implemented “nature-based solutions” in their urban landscape. These include green corridors, linear parks, pocket parks and shared walkways to help enhance the physical and mental health of their urban residents.

The aim of GGR is to enhance, identify and monitor positive effects of green spaces on reduced stress levels, mental

resilience and social behaviour while using digital innovation to investigate how green corridors impact physical activity.

GGR's unique approach shifts the traditional focus of nature-based solutions towards its co-benefits for biological, psychological, social and environmental health (360-Health).

What are Nature Based Solutions?

Nature Based Solutions can be defined as actions to protect or restore natural ecosystems that address societal and economic challenges at the same time.

They bring more diverse, natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions.



The Process

PROMOTION

Get the word out there!
Link in with local collaborators

PLAY

Activate the NBS in each city as an
intergenerational play space

RECORD

Document and pull together
the activities as well as the feedback
from the cities

The foundations were set for our city collaboration through the work of Work Package 3 of the overall Go Green Routes Project. Previous consultation work, research and relationship building had been carried out by Julia Gackle and Shreya Utkarsh.

This has been documented and updates are available [here](#).

The Event Preparation



The Games & Event Elements

Triangle Installations
Nature walk
Active games
Old street games from each of the GGR European countries
Colour Nature Scavenger Hunt
Capture a Face in Nature
Lounge area
Wishing tree
Nature Observation Area



The Games

It was important for APC that street games from across Europe would be represented at each of the events. In this way children and adults could not only play games they knew but also discover new street games.

APC consulted the city representatives on the types of games commonly played in their area, or what they played as children and in doing so created a list of games that could be played and shared at each event.

- Hurling/Camogie
- Boules/petang
- Kubb
- Mulke

UNIVERSAL GAMES

- Skipping
- Footballs
- Chess
- Chalk
- Bowling
- Hoolahooping
- Cornhole

Each of the Urban Play events were unique as you will see in the following chapters... Keep an eye out for how each one differs!



The Triangles

The A Playful City team created a brief for collaborator and architect, Julie Molloy to design bespoke installations for the GGR Urban Play events.

The final brief sought an installation that would be;

Bright, colourful, eye-catching/act as event decor

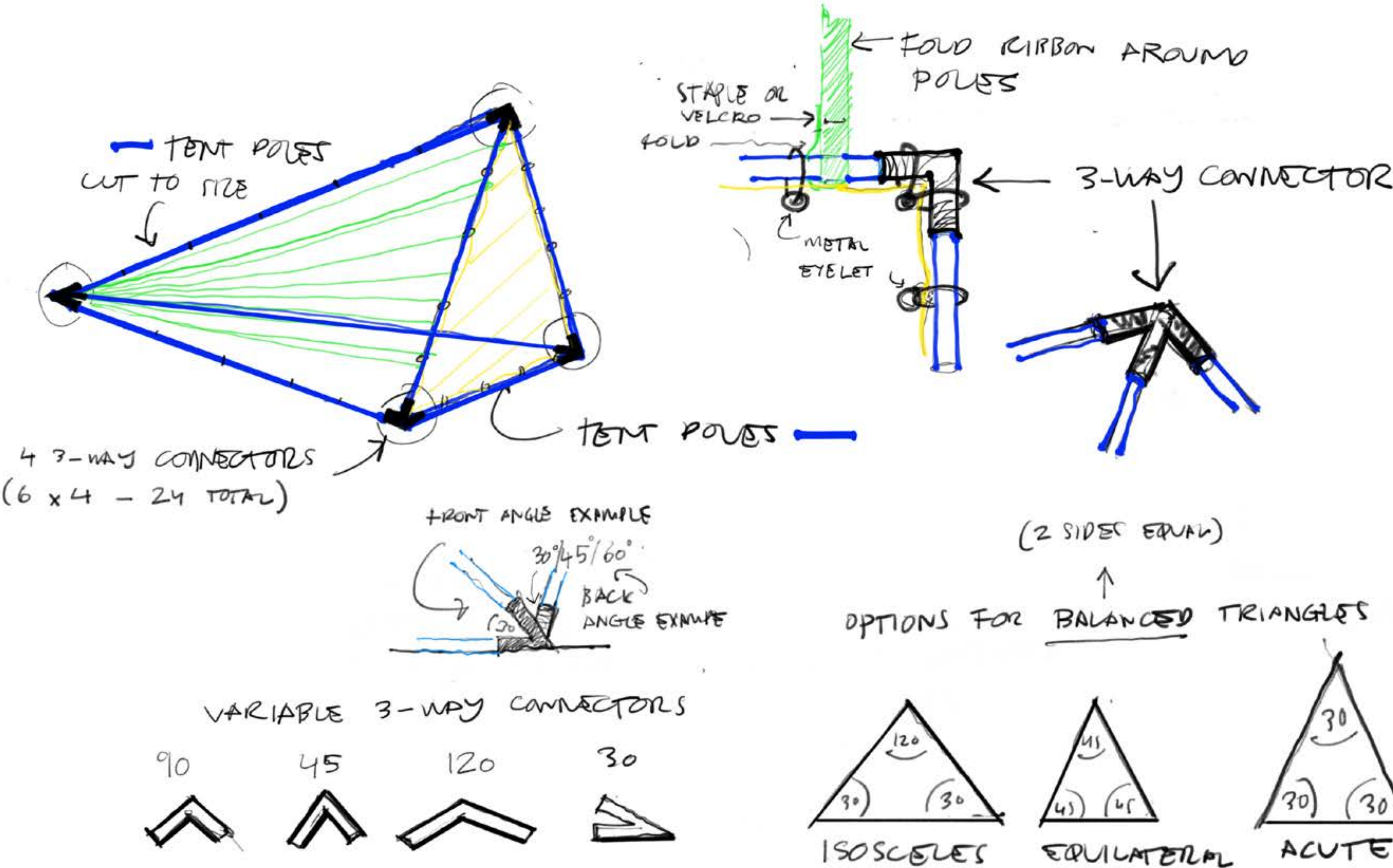
Large enough in scale to make an impact in the space

Compact, lightweight and easy to travel with

Easy to set up and take down

Able to act as an informational display for information about GGR, NBS and the GGR Urban Play event itself.

TENT POLES ALTERNATE OPTION - LIGHT WEIGHT







Once the triangle designs were finalised, APC collaborator and director of Ozback, Diarmuid O Briain together with his team built and powder coated the triangles, each of which helpfully fitted into sports equipment bags on wheels.

The text for the displays was broken up into 3 categories for each of the 3 triangles:

About GGR

The cities journey to develop the NBS sites

About the Urban Play Event

The text for the city journeys came largely from a step by step guide set out in the Work Package 3 Report for the GGR project. For more information, access supporting materials [here](#).

What is happening today?

The GGR event is hosted by A Playful City, a not-for-profit based in Dublin, Ireland. A Playful City works with communities to create more inclusive, playful and healthy public spaces. The purpose of this event is to encourage people of all ages and abilities to connect with the natural world, to connect with each other – and most importantly – to have fun!

What to look out for?

- 1. Stronger local business
- 2. Nature walk
- 3. Old street games from each of the GGR European countries
- 4. Active games
- 5. Colour Rescue Scavenger Hunt
- 6. Capture a Video in Nature
- 7. Lounge time
- 8. Working time
- 9. Nature Observation Area

Mitä tänään tapahtuu?

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Что происходит сегодня?

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Какво се случва днес?

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Mis täna toimub?

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Vad händer idag?

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The Promotion

A communications plan was created with each city that was tailored to suit the outreach methods at each of the six locations. Promotional text was drafted by APC and approved before translations were checked over.

Branding and graphics were also created for the events that echoed the use of triangle shaped displays in natural spaces - with plenty of colour!

All ages are welcome!

Come and Play

13th Nov 2024
12:00 – 14:00

Taking place in the new park and playground space behind **Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh, Castletroy Greenway, Limerick**



in the City!

Limerick City & County Council and A Playful City are hosting a morning of fun and play on the Castletroy Greenway. Join us in lots of activities, including traditional games from countries across Europe and a nature scavenger hunt. You will also have the opportunity to learn more about the GoGreenRoutes project that has funded the redevelopment of this new space. There will be hot drinks and treats provided!

LIMERICK **GO GREEN ROUTES** **a playful city**

Alla är välkomna, ung som gammal!

Kom och spela

8 oktober 2024
12:30 – 15:00

Teg, 904 36 Umeå, Sverige



i staden!

Umeå kommun och En lekfull stad står värdar för en eftermiddag med nöje och lek i Bolevägens nyaste fickpark. Följ med oss på massor av aktiviteter, inklusive traditionella spel från länder över hela Europa och en rensningsjakt i naturen. Du kommer också att få möjlighet att lära dig mer om GoGreenRoutes-projektet som har finansierat ombyggnaden av detta nya utrymme.

GO GREEN ROUTES **UMEÅ KOMMUN** **a playful city**

Всички са добре дошли, малки и големи!

Елате и играйте

29.10.2024
10:00 – 12:00

Healing Island Бургас



в града!

Община Бургас и A Playful City организират следобед за забавление и игра на Healing Island. Присъединете се към нас в много дейности, включително традиционни игри от страни в цяла Европа и лов на чистачки в природата. Освен това ще имате възможност да научите повече за проекта GoGreenRoutes, който финансира преустройството на това пространство.

GO GREEN ROUTES **HEALING ISLAND** **a playful city**

Mieli metsässä!

Lähde tutkimusretkelle

Lähde luontoon tutkimusretkelle, ikään kuin menisit retkelle johonkin sinulle vieraaseen paikkaan. Ihmettele kasveja, puita ja polkuja kuin olisit turistina uudessa maassa. Avaa aistisi luonnon kokemiselle ja anna kehosi ja mielesi virkistyä.

Tapahtuman toimintapisteet Likolammen lenkillä



- 1 **INFO**
Lahden kaupunki & Päijät-Hämeen hyvinvointialue
- 2 **Polejä & rento metsälounge**
Playful City
- 3 **Metsäaistipolku**
Valo-Valmennusyhdistys, nuorisopalvelut
- 4 **Voimaa luonnosta**
FinFami ry, ympäristökasvatus, osallisuus
- 5 **Luovuueta luonnonmateriaaleilla**
Mente
- 6 **Liikettä luonnossa**
Miete ry, liikuntaneuvonta
- 7 **Eräitaitopiste**
Tiirismaan Latu, Partio, Outward Bound

Lahti **Päijät-Hämeen hyvinvointialue** **GO GREEN ROUTES** **EUROPEAN UNION**

This project has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101019767. The views expressed in this material are only those of the project and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union.

Oodatud on igas vanuses osalejad! Ждем участников всех возрастов!

Tule rohealale mängima! Приходи играть в парк!

12 Oktoober 2024
13:00 – 15:00
Vormsi roheala, Vormsi 5, Tallinn

12 октябрь 2024
13:00 – 15:00
парк Вормси (Vormsi 5) Таллинн



Tule veeda lõbus ja mänguline pärastlõuna Vormsi parais! Avastame erinevaid mängu teistest Euroopa linnadest ning kaasame kõiki mängima. Mängulist pärastlõunat korraldavad Tallinna linn ja MTÜ A Playful City.

Приходи и проводи веселый и познавательный день в парке Вормси! Познакомимся и сыграем вместе в игры разных европейских стран. Игровой день организуют город Таллинн и некоммерческая организация 'A Playful City'.

Skänni seda QR-koodi, vaata infot <https://fb.me/448Op42Td> või tule lihtsalt kohale!

Отсканируй этот QR-код, ознакомься с информацией на <https://fb.me/448Op42Td> или просто приходи на место!

Tallinn **GO GREEN ROUTES** **a playful city**

Tout le monde est le bienvenu, petits et grands!

Venez Jouer

25 Septembre 2024
15:00 – 17:30

Square Blaise Pascal, 72 Bd de la République, 78000 Versailles



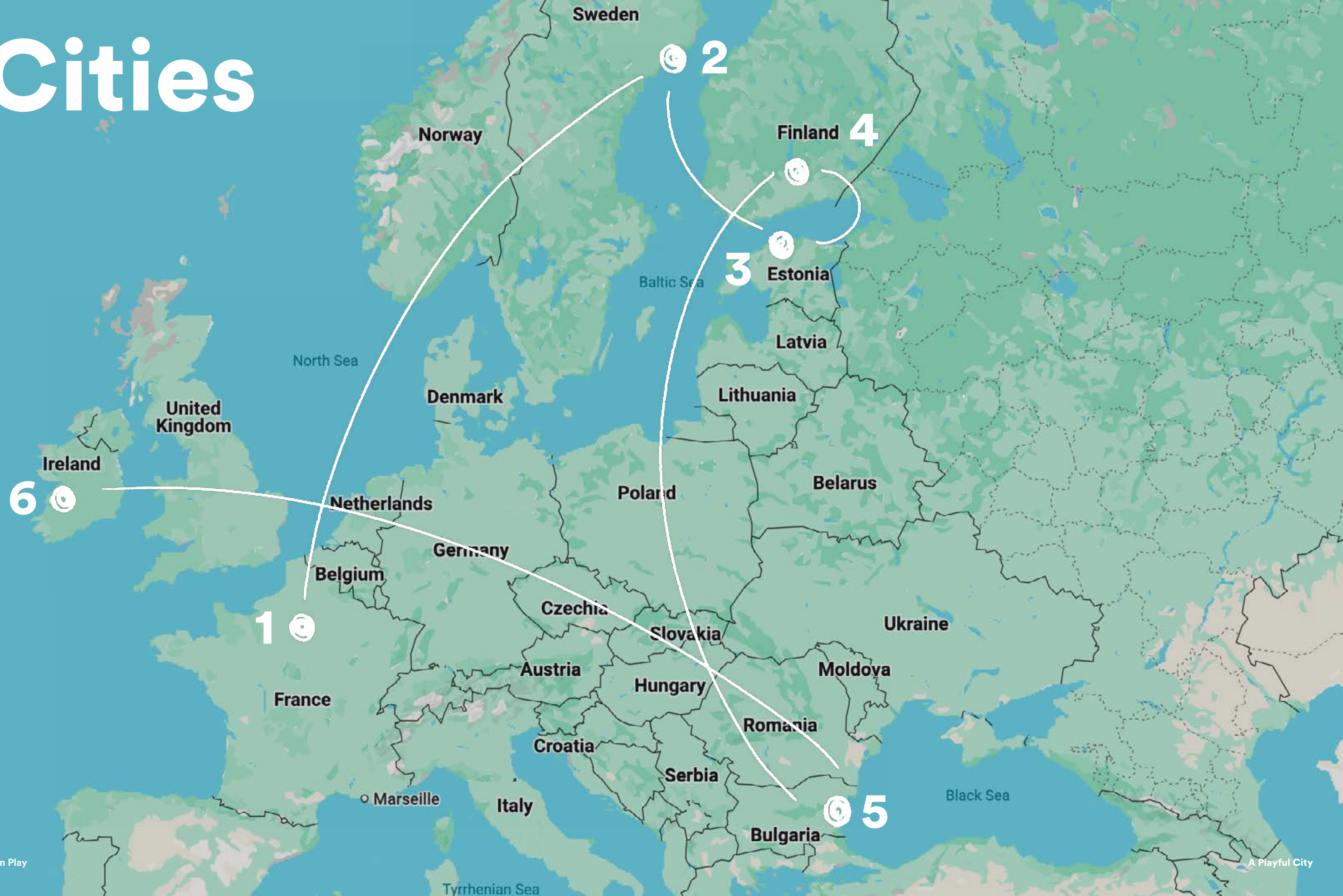
en ville!

La Ville de Versailles et A Playful City organisent un après-midi de jeux et d'amusement au Square Blaise Pascal. Rejoignez-nous pour de nombreuses activités, notamment des jeux traditionnels de pays de toute l'Europe et une chasse au trésor dans la nature. Vous aurez également l'occasion d'en savoir plus sur le projet GoGreenRoutes qui a financé le réaménagement de ce nouvel espace.

Scannez le code QR ou visitez <https://bit.ly/venezjouerenville> pour en savoir plus. Ou venez simplement le jour même.

VERSAILLES **GO GREEN ROUTES** **a playful city**

The Cities



- 1 Versailles
- 2 Umea
- 3 Tallinn
- 4 Lahti
- 5 Burgas
- 6 Limerick



The Events

Each event was unique in its location, layout, weather on the day, and local culture.

The following section displays the variety and types of attendees that were present at each event, along with the games that were preferred in each city.

Versailles

“

It has been a great event today bringing nature to an urban landscape and activating the new green space (NBS) even more

and listening again to the local people on what they wish for the use of the space

Julia Gäckle, Research Associate | Landscape Architecture
M.Sc. Institut und Lehrstuhl für Landschaftsarchitektur, RWTH Aachen University

Que se
passe-t-il
aujourd'hui?

Veillez explorer
le parc et découvrir les activités ludiques qui vous
connecteront à la nature.
À surveiller :

- Promenade nature
- Jeux de rue anciens de chacun des 6 pays européens
- Zone de course
- Chasse au trésor nature
- Espace lounge
- Arbre à souhaits
- Espace de spectacle
- Le sérieux du jeu
- Le but de cet événement est d'encourager les personnes de tous âges et de toutes capacités à se connecter à leur espace naturel local, à se connecter les unes aux autres et, surtout, à s'amuser !
- Nous croyons en l'importance de passer du temps



Le sérieux du jeu

Le but de cet événement est d'encourager les personnes de tous âges et de toutes capacités à se connecter à leur espace naturel local, à se connecter les unes aux autres et, surtout, à s'amuser !

Nous croyons en l'importance de passer du temps avec soi-même, ses voisins, ses proches, à se connecter à son espace naturel local, à se connecter les unes aux autres et, surtout, à s'amuser !





Colour Scavenger Hunt!

Tóralocht chlabadair
Chasse au trésor
Aardejaht
охота за сокровищами
Лов на съкровища
Aarteenetsintä
Skattjakt

Colour Scavenger Hunt!

Irish: Tóralocht chlabadair
French: Chasse au trésor
Estonian: Aardejaht
Russian: охота за сокровищами
Bulgarian: Лов на съкровища
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Umea

“

We have learnt the importance of how we invite citizens to our events. Working with the English School worked really well. It was interesting to see how the children used the space.

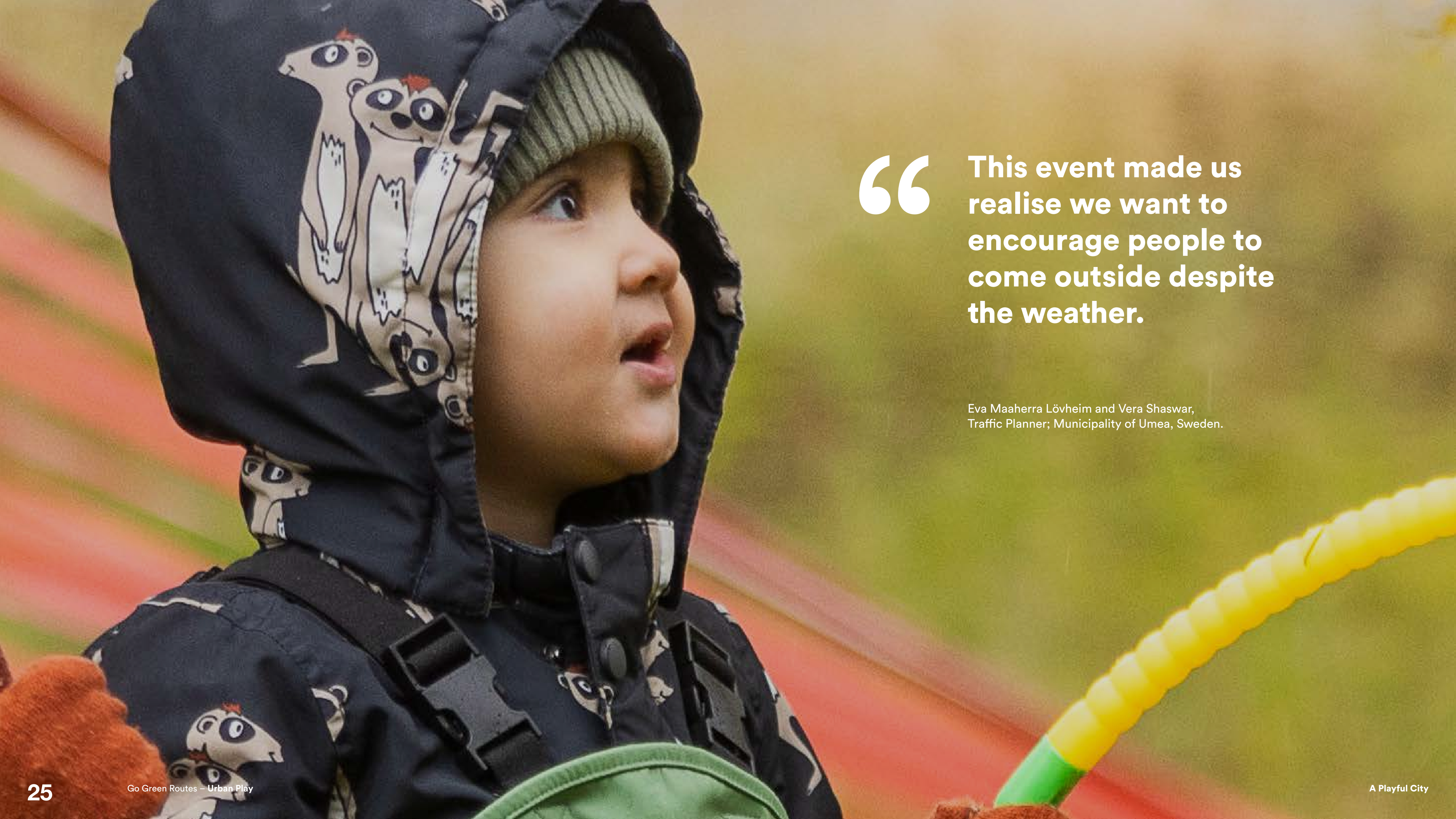
It was an inspiration for other events, the music was great and the children loved the games.



The school involved on the day was; **Internationella engelska skolan (IES, International English School).**

In total we had over 60 students and adults present at the event.

We also had local musicians **Magda Andersson** and **Evelina Rolon** playing throughout the event.



“

This event made us realise we want to encourage people to come outside despite the weather.

Eva Maaherra Lövheim and Vera Shaswar,
Traffic Planner; Municipality of Umea, Sweden.

Tallinn

“

Our event was a good example of the 8-80 concept/universal design, and allowing children to play creatively.

We left the street games with the local children and they came back to play them in the park the following week.

Irma Remma, Stella Shaumyan, Karin Luhaäär, Maria Derlõš; Municipality of Tallinn, Estonia.





**“ To organise a perfect event,
you have to go to the people.**

Let the kids explore and think
outside of the box to come up
with their own rules.

It's important to have a good
playlist!





The youth clubs involved in supporting the event were **IZUM Youth Club** and **Rohelinn**.

In total we had over 100 children and their grandparents or parents present at the event.

Lahti

“

The event has got really positive feedback overall from the participants and also from other organisers. I think that the cooperation between **Playful City, City of Lahti, Well-being services county & local associations and schools** was a key for a successful event. By joining forces we created a big event which was also noticed in local media. Many young people asked if this kind of event will be organized in the future.

Taru Suutari, Project Manager; Municipality of Lahti, Finland







The schools involved on the day were;
**Lahti Academy of Liberal and Fine Arts,
Lahti Upper Secondary School Gaudia,
Salpaus Further Education.**

In total we had over 100 students present
at the event, and over 30 adults.

The other organisers in the event and the
names of their activity points:

**INFO (City of Lahti, Päijät-Häme Well-
being Services County, Salpausselkä
Geopark)**

**Games & Relaxed Forest Lounge
(A Playful City)**

**Strength from Nature (FinFami ry, City
of Lahti: environmental education,
participation)**

**Forest Sensory Trail (Valo-Valmennusyh-
distys, City of Lahti: youth services)**

**Creativity with Natural Materials (Mente
Päijät-Häme Social Psychiatric Founda-
tion)**

**Movement in Nature (Miete ry Support
for Mental Health Work in Päijät-Häme,
City of Lahti: exercise counseling)**

**Wilderness Skills Station (Tiirismaa Trail
Association, Scouts, Outward Bound)**





Burgas

“

The best thing was that we involved kindergartens nearby, so many kids came. We learned that they visit the park almost every day.

The games were great and kids loved them. It would be great to find more forgotten Bulgarian games, and have more events in different locations in the city.

Ivaylo Trendafilov, Chief expert - Strategic Development Directorate; Municipality of Burgas, Bulgaria.





The kindergartens involved on the day was; **Kindergarten Zvezditsa** - that was the only kindergarten involved; they brought kids from different age groups/ classes.

In total we had over 80 children present at the event, and over 20 adults.

Limerick

“

Fantastic event, great to see so many children engaged with both the structured and natural play elements, enjoying everything the space has to offer.

Highlighting the benefits of allowing for green spaces in built up areas where children of all ages can play freely in nature, using their imaginations and being creative. Allowing for opportunities to get feedback from younger users on how the space can be further enhanced, to tell us what's missing.

Sharon Lynch and Carmel Lynch; Limerick City and County Council, Ireland





The school involved on the day was;
Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh.

In total we had over 100 students present
at the event, and over 30 adults.





Conclusion

The GGR Urban Play initiative successfully transformed urban spaces into lively, inclusive hubs where people of all ages could connect through play, creativity, and cultural exchange.

Through thoughtful planning, community engagement, and strong partnerships with municipalities and local organisations, each event showcased how each of the Nature-Based Solutions could be activated to benefit both local people and the environment.

This project highlighted the power of intergenerational play to promote well-being and connection to nature, strengthen community bonds, and inspire future possibilities for greener urban living. As reflected in the diverse experiences shared throughout this report, the collaboration between A Playful City, Go-GreenRoutes, and participating cities created lasting memories and valuable insights into the potential of nature-driven urban development.

The journey of the GGR Urban Play Events underscored how playful, accessible, and nature-focused public spaces are essential for vibrant, healthy communities—today and for generations to come.



Thank You

A Playful City would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the GoGreenRoutes project team and partners, municipal representatives, local organisations, schools, and community members who helped bring the GGR Urban Play events to life. Your collaboration, creativity, and commitment made this initiative a meaningful and memorable success.

Thank you for supporting playful, inclusive, and nature-driven public spaces across Europe.