

# THIRD PLACES IN EUROPE

## A comparative analysis

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**THIRD PLACES IN EUROPE**

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*CARRIED OUT BY POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ-PLS ON BEHALF OF THE AGENCE NATIONALE DE  
LA COHÉSION DES TERRITOIRES (ANCT)*

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# FOREWORD

Third places have been the focus of attention for some years now among experts in the social and solidarity economy in Europe. Their diversity calls for an analysis and comparison of the way in which these spaces of the "third type" are perceived, they are neither the home nor the workplace for their users, in Europe, since if France is a good example, third places are tending to multiply throughout the continent. The difficulty lies in the fact that there is not yet a European term for them. However, these new spaces, most of which are born of bottom-up initiatives, share some fundamental characteristics. Indeed, they are carriers of economic, ecological, digital, energy and food transitions. Citizens form an active community on a defined or virtual territory and are supported or not by the public authorities. These European similarities allow third places to form a network across the continent. The role of the public authorities in supporting and deploying them is therefore of particular importance. All the more so as the European Commission, through its SSE Action Plan , has expressed its willingness to support third places through European funds such as the ERDF or Erasmus + projects.

In solidarity with you,

Denis Stokkink, President of Pour la solidarité

# INTRODUCTION

In 1989, Ray Oldenburg defined third places as spaces that are neither places of rest (the home) nor places of production (the workplace): "*a home away from home*".<sup>1</sup> For the author, "third places" therefore include a multitude of activities: cafés, libraries, etc. These spaces are neutral, based on collective governance and are shaped by the desire to do things together in order to live together better. Moreover, the creation of social links is an intrinsic element of the definition of third places and makes it possible to differentiate them from so-called "non-places" (Marc Augé, 1992)<sup>2</sup> such as train stations and airports, which do not have a community but heterogeneous users. The human and the community thus both form the cornerstone of third places, these places "*more localised and whose space, favouring links and exchanges, has been taken over by individuals*" (Patrick Genoud)<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, the term "actors" rather than users or individuals seems more relevant in that these people form an acting and learning community, they act on a space. Moreover, third places offer the possibility of experimenting and innovating. The dynamics of third places is a theme that has been taken up

by academics who publish numerous field studies, such as Nadine Richez-Battesti<sup>4</sup>, a lecturer at the University of

Aix-Marseille. This trend proves that these spaces have fundamental roles to play in the future face of our territories.

Third places are neutral, open to all, created to meet community needs in a defined territory and where the pooling of knowledge allows the creation of common ground. However, there are many interpretations of this common definition. Indeed, in Europe, we find third places such as coworking spaces, fablabs, university third places or cultural third places. However, these types of third places overlap. In France, while 75% of third places listed are spaces where coworking is practiced, 60% of third places also offer training, 30% digital inclusion and 30% organise cultural activities<sup>5</sup>.

This multiplicity of activities that can be found in third places hides a problem faced by all third places in Europe: the lack of funding. Indeed, some third places have set up strategies to compensate for the lack of public funding, because even if it exists, it is necessary to supplement it with catering activities or solidarity leases. The latter system is often used in cultural third places invested by independent artists who do not necessarily have the means to rent a large studio. The occupants of the third places who have the means therefore pay more rent so that 5 to 10% is paid to these artists or actors in need. Unlocking European funds to finance the emergence of third places is therefore an issue addressed in this dossier.

In most cases, third places produce non-market value in the fields of solidarity, education and innovation. The hybrid nature of their economic model thus requires the mobilisation of public funding. These funds, whether European, national or regional, are often dedicated to the same goals as those pursued by third places, particularly in the fields of ecological, energy, digital, food, work-related or mobility transitions.

The context of the crisis has highlighted the social and economic usefulness of third places, which have proved to be key players in the recovery process and in the creation of solidarity. From the artisanal manufacture of masks to the distribution of food in times of confinement, the third places are

<sup>1</sup> Oldenburg R. (1989). *The Great Good Place*, Paragon House, 384 p

<sup>2</sup> Augé M. (1992). *Non-lieux: introduction à une anthropologie de la surmodernité*, Le Seuil.

<sup>3</sup> Genoud, P., Moeckli, A. (2010). Third places, spaces of emergence and creativity. *Revue économique et sociale*, 6/2010.

<sup>4</sup> Pedersen, N. (2022). *Third places: the factory of societies*, La Tribune Fonda, 254, June 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Prout, Y., Seillier, R. (2021). *Nos territoires en action, dans les tiers-lieux se fabrique notre avenir*, France Tiers-lieux.

have proved to be a paragon of knowledge sharing. Thus, they provide an answer to the crisis of sociability and must be protected.

These "spaces of the third kind" therefore cover many realities and issues, but there are fundamentals common to all third places in Europe that shed light on how they function.



# I. THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THIRD PLACES IN EUROPE

## 1. EMPOWERING CITIZENS AND BUILDING CITIZENSHIP

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*"Third places must also be seen as resource places for "citizenship training". They offer encouraging prospects for increasing citizens' power to act".*<sup>6</sup> Antoine Burret, a French sociologist of third places, develops the concept of "citizen empowerment" inherent in third places. In fact, this term covers citizen initiatives that respond to problems that the public authorities have left aside or that they do not prioritise. Civil society comes together in active communities through the creation of third places. It is a question of citizens expressing themselves on spatial planning and developing their ideas in favour of transitions. Moreover, the networks of third places that are developing in Europe strengthen transnational cohesion and could allow for a redefinition of what it means to be a European citizen. Third places allow the creation of learning communities centred on sharing and exchange. In short, the words of François Taddei have never sounded as much as they do today: *"by doing things together, third places are proving to be privileged areas for lifelong learning because techniques are evolving, knowledge is being passed on and the general interest is meaningful"*<sup>7</sup>.

## 2. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND THIRD PLACES

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Sybillé Mertens, Director of the Centre d'Economie Sociale at the University of Liège, at a conference on third places in Europe organised by POUR LA SOLIDARITE<sup>8</sup> emphasised that it is necessary to find catalysing actors within a third place, such as members of the municipality and facilitators financed by the public authorities. She emphasised that every collective approach needs a base formed by the material support of institutions and coordination tools on a larger scale, for example at European level.

The nature of the links between public authorities and third places is therefore complex and differs from one European country to another, and even within the same country. While some third places are created at the instigation of local authorities, some are formed to make up for the lack of public services or local dynamism. Moreover, the relationship between third places and public authorities can vary: fruitful, conflicting or even non-existent. The analysis of the links between local public authorities and third places is therefore an essential point. Also, third places give rise to a new mode of governance of the territory based on a shared model, which makes this topic all the more essential.

Third places can be used as test spaces for public policies and are therefore a real asset for public action. This new perspective was addressed in a study carried out by the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT) in France: *"Since third places are*

<sup>6</sup> Burret, A. (2021). La politisation des tiers-lieux. *Multitudes*, 83, 208-214.

<sup>7</sup> Fondation travailler Autrement (2018). *Mission coworking, territories, work, digital: working together to live better together*, p. 3-5

<sup>8</sup> Mertens, S. (2022). *Third places for a social and sustainable Europe*, For Solidarity, Brussels, 22/11/2022.

*specialised in adaptive and resilient approaches, why not use their feedback to imagine new forms of public action, at least in the fields of transitions, following modes of intervention that value experimentation, scaling up and targeted investments?*

### 3. SPACES FOR TRANSITIONS

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Third places have an important role in transitions. Indeed, these spaces are opportunities for change and for economic and social evolution. Third places can therefore support ecological, social, digital, cultural and labour transitions. They are often the bearers of several of these transitions, and they shape the future by supporting citizen initiatives. Thus, third places are a lever of the social and solidarity economy.

Furthermore, they participate in the creation of the commons. This concept refers to the existence of non-exclusive, shared rights<sup>10</sup> and rights to the collective use of resources. The creation of the commons by local actors is essential to bring about transitions, and the solutions that third places can provide have the advantage of being directly tested on a territory. These solutions respond to the real needs of the inhabitants and therefore make these innovation spaces indispensable for transitions. They must also be flexible in order to adapt to changing needs.

There are therefore fundamentals of third places in Europe: citizenship, relations with public authorities and the achievement of transitions by activating the resources of a territory. However, the interpretations of these fundamentals may differ or, on the contrary, converge depending on the third places and this is what this study wishes to highlight.

### 4. NETWORKING OF THIRD PLACES

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Their networking is proof that European third places are adopting a common definition. Indeed, several recent projects have worked on common definitions of cultural third places or coworking spaces to enable this networking.

For example, founded in 1983 in Sweden, Trans Europe Halles (TEH)<sup>11</sup> is a network of European cultural third places initiated by citizens or artists. In 2021, there were over 140 cultural structures in 39 different countries<sup>12</sup>. The concept of "third place" does not appear in any of their publications, but it is clear that the places that TEH has networked are related to this concept. Based on a system of international and multidisciplinary artistic exchange, this network participates in the construction of an international and especially European cultural citizen's conscience. Furthermore, the rehabilitation of abandoned buildings is the cornerstone of the TEH project, which allows citizens to take back possession of their territory. This new form of circular economy of concrete is in line with the missions of third places such as the construction of a sustainable community and the ecological transition. In fine, this network aims to help the multiplication of citizen cultural centres in a sustainable way and to improve European cooperation in the field of art.

<sup>9</sup> Pommie, M., Gérard, A., Reboa, G., Charifa, D., Laget, M. (2022), *La puissance publique peut-elle se passer des tiers-lieux, et réciproquement*, ANCT, 16 p.

<sup>10</sup> Schlager, E. and Ostrom, E. (1992) Property Rights Regimes and Natural Resources: A Conceptual Analysis. *Land Economics*.

<sup>11</sup> European network of cultural third places, [Trans Europe Halles \(teh.net\)](https://www.trans-europe-halles.net/)

<sup>12</sup> Trans Europe Halles (2021), *About us*, available online [About us | Trans Europe Halles \(teh.net\)](https://www.trans-europe-halles.net/)



*"Across Europe, we are transforming abandoned buildings into vibrant arts and cultural centres. In doing so, we are transforming our communities, our neighbourhoods, our cities. And to do this, we use the most sophisticated tool in our toolbox: creativity and imagination. We are Trans Europe Halles. (Trans Europe Halles<sup>13</sup>)*

This networking phenomenon makes it possible to define a European third place. Indeed, while TEH brings together cultural third places, the 2018 "CoworkMed" project<sup>14</sup> aimed to bring together coworking spaces in Italy, France, Spain, Croatia and Greece (Mediterranean European countries). The European participants managed to find a common definition of these places and to draw up a non-exhaustive list. In addition, this study showed that third places needed better support from the public authorities and that the performance of third places was proportional to their '*capacity to be embedded in the territory*' (Raphaël Besson, 2018)<sup>15</sup>. Finally, the aim of this European partnership was to find ways of improving European cooperation and public action on third places. Thus, CoworkMed's ambition was to create a planning policy for third places that could influence the European Union's institutions in their way of working and institute a real "culture of third places" in the European space.

#### 4.1. And the European Union?

The theme of third places is increasingly approached by Europe and Erasmus + projects on this subject tend to develop.

The European Commission has expressed its willingness to support local experiments for sustainable food and agriculture, which can take the form of third places. A call for projects will be launched in 2023 on this theme. The implementation of the SSE Action Plan<sup>16</sup> in December 2021 and the Transition Pathway have opened up funding possibilities for local initiatives in favour of transitions. In the end, the Commission underlined its desire to include the citizen in the challenges of tomorrow and the support to local development and bottom-up projects are levers<sup>17</sup> on which the European Union wishes to act. Third places are therefore unavoidable clusters of social and environmental innovation<sup>18</sup> and tend to become testing grounds for European public policies.

In addition, the actors of third places can find European financial means through the Erasmus +, ESF +, ERDF or Horizon Europe programmes. The Places-3T and HOPEinUS projects were set up within the framework of Erasmus + funding. These projects, which aim to educate people about third places and question their future, are supported by the think & do tank FOR SOLIDARITY-PLS.

On the one hand, the Places-3T project highlights physical places of the so-called "third type"<sup>19</sup> through the collaboration of seven different partners from five different countries (Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain). Behind this terminology lies the desire to broaden the notion of third places in order to capture the full diversity of these innovative spaces. Supported by public or private initiatives, they are built on the common values shared by a community and are part of the

<sup>13</sup> TransEuropeHalles (2022) *Home Page*, available online: [Trans Europe Halles \(teh.net\)](https://www.trans-europe-halles.net)

<sup>14</sup> Besson, Raphaël (2018), What European policy for Mediterranean third places? *The Conversation*, available online: [What European policy for Mediterranean third places? \(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/policy-for-mediterranean-third-places)

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>16</sup> [Social Economy Action Plan - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/social-economy-action-plan-employment-social-affairs-inclusion-european-commission)

<sup>17</sup> Klein, P. (2022). Intervention *Les tiers lieux au service d'une Europe sociale et durable*, Pour la solidarité, Brussels, 22/11/2022.

<sup>18</sup> Perard, P. (2015). *Social Innovation Clusters, Analysis and Good Practices in Europe*, Pour La Solidarité, available online:

[Social Innovation Clusters: Analysis and Good Practices in Europe | Pour la Solidarité \(pourlasolidarite.eu\)](https://pourlasolidarite.eu/Social-Innovation-Clusters-Analysis-and-Good-Practices-in-Europe)

<sup>19</sup> Palako, S. (2020). Places-3T: third type spaces for learning, creating and undertaking together. *For Solidarity*, available online: [Places-3T | For Solidarity \(foriasolidarite.eu\)](https://places-3t.forsolidarity.eu)

development and the well-being of the actors who participate in them. Thus, the Place-3T project attempts to capture the diversity of these "spaces of the third kind" by studying their forms, their actors, their sizes, etc.

The interest of this project is to underline the evolution of third places and their future perspectives. Indeed, Places-3T brings together third places that no longer have a single objective but multiple objectives. This tendency of third places to hybridise their activities makes them even more difficult to categorise, but underlines the effervescence of ideas that is developing. The Italian cooperative **Eta Beta, which was** selected for the Places-3T project, is a good example of this multiplicity of activities carried out by third places.

On the other hand, the HOPE in Us <sup>20</sup> project aims to develop a new concept that would allow cultural agents to meet virtually to promote access and develop training tools to help create third places. The partners of the HOPEinUS project are from 3 countries of the European Union: France, Belgium and Spain.

*"Creating a European virtual third place would enable the arts and culture sector to invent new methods of creation/dissemination/mediation and the adult and youth training sector to go beyond the all too often top-down learning logic to invent more interactive teaching formats. (HOPEinUS<sup>21</sup>)*

<sup>20</sup> HOPEinUS (<https://hope-in-us.eu>)

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*

## II. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THIRD PLACES IN EUROPE

### 1. THE SPATIALITY OF THIRD PLACES

Studying the spatiality of third places makes it possible to realise that their creation is subject to territorial inequalities that public authorities are trying to fill in Europe. Indeed, *'the further one moves away from the metropolises [...], the rarer the economically profitable third places, led by private actors, become, the more necessary the commitment of public actors in their favour'* (Lévy-Waitz, 2018)<sup>22</sup>. This dynamic of support from public authorities is all the more important as third places tend to appear in small and medium-sized towns, which are less developed than large ones. For example, in Baden-Württemberg, a developed German region, there are fewer third places than in Normandy, a French region with industrial wasteland (P. Ananian, 2019)<sup>23</sup>. To encourage the emergence of third places in developed regions where they are lacking, public authorities can, for example, set up lease agreements for unused space or allocate financial aid. This will have a positive impact on their own policies for revitalising the territory and activating local resources.

In addition, third places located in urban areas tend to offer a variety of activities and do not focus on a single objective (especially in small and medium-sized cities). Indeed, third places often take place in industrial wastelands on the outskirts of cities. These large spaces exalt many civic ideas and a single urban third place can then, for example, bring together a coworking space, a space dedicated to culture, catering services and environmental protection initiatives. For example, the **Rojc Alliance** in Pula<sup>24</sup>, Croatia, is home to artists, health professionals, catering services, sports associations, etc. Only 53,000 people live in the Croatian city, yet this third place covers more than 16,000 square meters and has become an essential part of the community life of the region.

Moreover, the third places created in rural areas generally have objectives that are more focused on the ecological transition or on filling the gaps in public services, and offer fewer activities. On the other hand, they help to overcome the territorial divide and create social links in remote areas. For example, **Buinho** in Portugal is the first rural *fablab* in the country and focuses on activities of the artistic *fablab* type<sup>25</sup>. The objective of this third place is therefore to revitalise a rural region from an artistic point of view by using the resources already present in the region, such as the historical site of Messina Castle, which **Buinho** considers inspiring for the resident artists.

In addition, developing third places in rural areas is an issue that has been taken up by the public authorities in Wallonia. Indeed, the Walloon Region launched a call for projects<sup>26</sup> this year to enable the creation of rural third places. In the continuity of the region's project in 2018 called "Rural Coworking", Wallonia hopes to encourage the creation of social links in these more remote areas and *"improve the supply of services in rural areas"*<sup>27</sup> (disadvantaged in this respect).

<sup>22</sup> Lévy-Waitz P (2018). *Report of the Coworking mission: Territories, Work, Digital*. Fondation Travailler autrement, Paris.

<sup>23</sup> Gerhardt Krauss and Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay (eds.), (2019). *Third places. Travailler et entreprendre sur les territoires : espaces de coworkings, fablabs, hacklabs...*, Presses universitaires de Rennes and Presses universitaires du Québec, 212 p.

<sup>24</sup> Rojc Alliance, Pula, Croatia ([Rojcnet - \(pula.org\)](http://Rojcnet-pula.org))

<sup>25</sup> Buinho, Messejana, Portugal ([Buinho | Learn | Play | Make](http://Buinho-Learn-Play-Make))

<sup>26</sup> Wallonia Agriculture (2022). *Call for projects: Rural third places*, available online: [Rural third places - Walloon Agriculture Portal \(wallonie.be\)](https://Rural-third-places-Walloon-Agriculture-Portal-wallonie.be).

## 2. PROFESSIONAL" THIRD PLACES

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### 2.1. A RECENT AND SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN WORKING CONDITIONS: THIRD PLACES, A SOLUTION?

In 2017, of the ten countries with the longest commuting times, six are European (England, Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Spain)<sup>28</sup>. These commuting times have a strong impact on working conditions. According to a 2018 study by the Fondation Travailler Autrement<sup>29</sup>, a commute of more than 60 minutes has an impact on the social relations workers form with their peers (20% of people with a commute of more than 60 minutes consider their colleagues to be friends, compared with 42% of workers with a commute of between 40 and 60 minutes). Also, 37% of those with the longest commute time manage to envisage their future in their company, compared to 48% of those with a commute time of less than twenty minutes. Finally, the study shows that 6.4/10 is the well-being score given by workers with more than an hour's commute, compared to a score of almost 7/10 for those with the shortest commute.

Thus, third places can provide concrete solutions for the well-being of workers by reducing commuting times in Europe. Revolutionising working patterns is all the more important since the acceleration of teleworking in the wake of the COVID crisis. Indeed, a 2020 study<sup>30</sup> by Sostero on the subject of travel restrictions and the development of teleworking is clear. The percentage of people working from home has risen from less than 10% in Greece, Italy and Cyprus before the pandemic to an average of 40% in the Mediterranean countries today. Consequently, this trend is creating a new audience for coworking spaces, which governments are trying to develop. For example, in Italy, the development of coworking spaces has been mainly concentrated in the North, the richest geographical area of the country (42%)<sup>31</sup>, which is being countered by the "Southwork"<sup>32</sup> programme, which aims to create a coworking tradition in the South of the country. This initiative makes it easier to create coworking spaces by proposing their installation in public places such as libraries. Consequently, the third places make it possible to reduce the "territorial divide"<sup>33</sup> by offering new professional spaces in the vicinity, new digital tools and thus the attraction of teleworkers. However, these spaces are conditional on the creation of an active community, without which these spaces become "Non-places"<sup>34</sup>.

The so-called "professional" or working world third places in Europe are grouped into 4 categories: coworking spaces, fablabs, university third places and training third places. They bring together a professional public and can be the object of collaboration or association within the same space. They respond to the challenges of teleworking, the reduction of involuntary mobility and promote

<sup>27</sup> Ibid

<sup>28</sup> Statista (2017). *World's longest commutes*, available online: <https://fr.statista.com/infographie/9022/les-plus-long-commutes-work-world/>.

<sup>29</sup> Fondation Travailler Autrement (2018) *Mobility: a key issue*, available online: [etude-pwp-2018.pdf \(fondation-travailler-autrement.org\)](https://www.fondation-travailler-autrement.org/etude-pwp-2018.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> Sostero M., Milasi S., Hurley J., Fernandez-Marcias E., Bisello M., (2020). *Teleworkability and the COVID-19 crisis: a new digital divide?* Seville: European Commission JRC and Eurofound

<sup>31</sup> Akhavan M., Mariotti I., Astolfi L., Canevari A. (2019). Coworking Spaces and New Social Relations: A Focus on the Social Streets in Italy. *Urban Science*, 3, 2: 1-11.

<sup>32</sup> SouthWorkingProgram, *Lavore al sud*, available online: [Southern Working - Working where you want is good for you and the territories \(southworking.org\)](https://southworking.org/)

<sup>33</sup> Filipo, A. (2020). *Coworking spaces and third places: The networks of a new rurality?* *Rural Studies*, 206, 154-174.

<sup>34</sup> Augé M. (1992). *Non-lieux: introduction à une anthropologie de la surmodernité*, Le Seuil.



local economic dynamism. Also, this type of third place allows for professional retraining since it provides access to modern resources that were previously subject to the problem of the territorial divide (digital and economic resources are concentrated in large cities). The originality of coworking spaces and third places in general is their entrepreneurial dimension, since they are no longer associations (like cultural third places) but very often companies that develop these spaces with a view to making a profit. Finally, they are characterised by their openness to a diverse public eager to share a variety of skills.

## 2.2. COWORKING SPACES

*Coworking* spaces in Europe are third places that generally rent work spaces (individual or collective) as well as conference rooms. These rentals allow companies and entrepreneurs to lower their fixed costs and offer a certain flexibility in the organisation of work. The coworking space Area 071<sup>35</sup> in the Netherlands offers a wide range of services that complement the rental of workspaces. Indeed, training courses for new entrepreneurs, an important transnational network, a car loan service included in the rental of spaces (an original service for a coworking space), team building moments, convivial moments and a catering service are proposed by this third place. The number of services available at **Area071** makes it one of the most complete coworking spaces in Europe. The community of users of this third place has named itself the "areanautes". This name creates a feeling of belonging and ownership of the space. The professionals using Area071 are the driving force behind the training courses offered in the third place. They choose the skills and themes to be addressed and transmitted in their image.

Also, coworking spaces have the advantage of bringing together professionals from different fields. For example, the Versilia<sup>36</sup> coworking space in the Tuscany region (smaller in size than **Area071**, 7,000m<sup>2</sup> compared to 600m<sup>2</sup>) allows psychologists to work alongside entrepreneurs. Beyond reinforcing local public services (in this case health), this meeting of different actors allows to feed the creative force of the place. Moreover, **Versilia** is supported by a regional programme in Tuscany which offers access vouchers to certain coworking spaces recognised by the local public authorities (list of "qualified coworking space providers"). These vouchers have been distributed for the last time in 2020 to young entrepreneurs and help to fight against the brain drain towards the big cities of Italy and other European countries. This phenomenon has been a major economic issue in Italy since the 2008 financial crisis. Between 2010 and 2020, the country saw 53% of young university and college graduates leave the country, according to a study by Censis<sup>37</sup>. This issue is all the more worrying for the country as the population is ageing and the number of births per 1,000 people is the lowest in the European Union<sup>38</sup>. Coworking spaces offering a new way of working, more adapted to the challenges of work than traditional companies (well-being, knowledge sharing, mobility, etc.) may become one of the pillars of the economy in certain countries such as Italy.

## 2.3. THE FABLABS

*Fablabs* in Europe allow entrepreneurs to use modern technologies to realise their projects. These places often offer training, for example to learn how to operate a laser, a 3D printer, etc., as well as workshop rooms for the realisation of projects. The advantage for these professionals is a significant reduction in

<sup>35</sup> Area071, Leiderdorp, The Netherlands ([AREA071 - Jouw basis](#))

<sup>36</sup> Versilia, Pietrasanta, Italy ([Home - Cowork Versilia \(cowork-versilia.it\)](#))

<sup>37</sup> Censis (2021). 55th annual report on the social situation in the country, summary available online: [General considerations | CENSIS](#)

<sup>38</sup> *ibid*

production costs, since these third places make it possible to avoid investing in new technologies, which are costly. In this sense, **Center Rog** in Slovenia<sup>39</sup> corresponds to the definition of a *fablab*. Indeed, this third place has new technologies and offers training to make these tools accessible to companies with projects related to sustainable development. This third place, which will open in 2023, bears witness to the desire for growth of third places in Slovenia.

On the other hand, the founders of the **Buinho** rural third place in Portugal<sup>40</sup> believe that *fablabs* also form a resource space, mainly for artists. Indeed, this third place is focused on art, design and the proposal of residency spaces for artists. The architecture of the place stands out from other *fablabs* by its inspiring designs for art creators. Also, the originality of this third place resides in its location in a very rural area, far from the cities. Access to this *fablab* is therefore more difficult than for other *fablabs* in Europe, which generally prefer to set up in areas covered by public transport, on the outskirts or in the city centre.

## 2.4. UNIVERSITY THIRD PLACES

The main objective of university third places is to integrate students into the professional world in a progressive way. It is a collaboration between the academic and professional worlds that develops exchanges and knowledge. For example, the University Foundation Empresa de les Illes Balears (**FUEIB**) in Spain<sup>41</sup> has created a hub for students from the universities of the Balearic Islands which includes a business incubator to encourage student innovation (*start-ups*) and professionalization. Also, training and business tools are offered in this third place so that young entrepreneurs can more quickly acquire the necessary skills for business development. It is also a question of putting into practice the courses given in the universities for more than 50,000 students and of rewarding student initiatives since the **FUEIB** has introduced an innovation prize.

In addition, Area 071<sup>42</sup> is in the Netherlands a place that also allows exchanges between the academic and professional worlds that are necessary for the development of companies. This principle of exchanging skills and learning is one of the operating principles of a third place. Indeed, the Dutch coworking space offers its clients the opportunity to benefit from the help of university students or researchers to carry out their projects at the University of Leiden, Luris and the University of Applied Sciences of Luges.

## 2.5. THIRD-PARTY TRAINING FACILITIES

The majority of third places in the professional world organise training in the use of new technologies, work methodology, etc. Thus, this type of third place seems to merge with the other types listed above. Nevertheless, some third places have specialised in training. For example, the Loovusait<sup>43</sup> site in Estonia offers innovative training in business strategy. Indeed, the creators of the third place have thought of a place far from urban centres where so-called "digital nomads" can develop their creativity. **Loovusait** rents out creative accommodation with the aim of setting up a village of offices in nature, seminar rooms for training and *brainstorming* spaces. The originality of this place lies in the creation of a "natural" spa with relaxation areas (saunas, lake...). **Loovusait's** ambition is to become a place to live and a place to activate creativity, and its rural location allows it to energize the south of Estonia, a sparsely populated and unattractive region.

39 Center Rog, Ljubljana, Slovenia ([RogLab \(center-rog.si\)](http://RogLab.center-rog.si))

40 Buinho, Messina, Portugal ([Buinho | Learn | Play | Make](http://Buinho.Learn.Play.Make))

41 FUEIB, Palma, Spain ([FUEIB](http://FUEIB))

42 Area071, Leiderdorp, The Netherlands ([AREA071—Jouw basis](http://AREA071-Jouw basis))

43 Loovusait, Üibujärve, Estonia ([Loovusait brainstorming studio](http://Loovusait.brainstorming.studio) | [We help to make it happen](http://We help to make it happen))



Finally, third-party training centres can focus on a particular public. Indeed, the founders may feel that opening the third place to a specific public will have a more effect on society than opening it to all. It also allows for more appropriate and effective programmes to be created. For example, Kauzi<sup>44</sup> in Sofia, Bulgaria, has taken the gamble of developing its consultancy activities in the field of entrepreneurship for a young public. This third-party centre works in more than 90 Bulgarian schools and has a partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

### 3. CULTURAL THIRD PLACES

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#### 3.1. LIBRARIES

Ray Oldenburg includes cafés, libraries and socio-cultural centres<sup>45</sup> in the category of "third places" when a community is formed with the intention of acting on this place. Libraries are therefore third places in the first sense of the term as defined in 1989. These spaces turn out to be real spaces of sociability and a very diversified public can meet there around a common interest: the diffusion of knowledge. Booksa<sup>46</sup> in Croatia is a meeting place for reading enthusiasts as the library has created a book club and a literary café. In addition, it hosts the Kulturtreger association, which organises meetings of international authors and aims to be a driving force in developing access to culture. The library also has a publishing department that highlights the work of Croatian poets. Finally, this centre is a place of memory which collects historical documents relating to the independence of Croatia and in particular to the Yugoslav war. Therefore, these third places are important cultural spaces for the citizens.

#### 3.2. THIRD PLACES OF CITIZEN APPROPRIATION OF ART

Cultural third places can be an opportunity for citizens to become actors in their neighbourhood. It is a question of them taking ownership of culture to make it a lever for sociability and create a feeling of belonging to a community. Indeed, these spaces can transmit common values that allow people to live and do things together. **The Ateneu Popular**<sup>47</sup> in Barcelona (Spain) was born from this desire. This citizen circus offers workshops for adults and children and low-cost shows so that the inhabitants of the Nou Barris neighbourhood can regain their right to access culture. Indeed, the venue was created in reaction to the abandonment of this underprivileged neighbourhood by the Barcelona City Council. The circus arts, which are a Catalan tradition, have become the symbol of a social and civic renewal. It is also about reducing social inequalities, which are aggravated by unbalanced access to culture and the construction of cultural capital.

Ultimately, these reappropriations of spaces by citizens serve to assert their right of access to culture. In Austria, WUK<sup>48</sup> was founded in an abandoned technology museum in the early 1970s. A counter-culture movement was born in Vienna around the restoration of this museum and inspired the entire counter-culture in Eastern Europe, which was part of the USSR at the time. The WUK association was thus created in 1981. It promotes the creative independence of citizens, the autonomy of cultural work in the region of Vienna and creative projects for the emancipation of citizens. The project was initiated by citizens in its early days, but was soon supported by the municipal culture officer of the time. Thus, this appropriation of cultural rights by the inhabitants of Vienna is a collaborative movement with the local authorities and a good example of the shared governance to which cultural third places are subject. Furthermore, **WUK** is in the process of

<sup>44</sup>Kauzi, Sofia, Bulgaria ([www.kauzi.or](http://www.kauzi.or))

<sup>45</sup>Oldenburg R. (1989). *The Great Good Place*, Paragon House, 384 p

<sup>46</sup>Booksa, Zagreb, Croatia ([Booksa](http://Booksa))

<sup>47</sup>Ateneu Popular, Barcelona, Spain ([L'Ateneu Popular 9 Barris \(ateneu9b.net\)\)](http://L'Ateneu Popular 9 Barris (ateneu9b.net))))

<sup>48</sup>WUK, Vienna, Austria ([The WUK - Werkstätten- und Kulturhaus](http://The WUK - Werkstätten- und Kulturhaus))

The municipality has generously participated in the refurbishment until 2023, which shows the good relations between the public authorities and the actors of the third places, unlike, for example, **the Ateneu Popular** of Barcelona, which denounces the municipal abandonment of the district.

Furthermore, the funding of these centres of cultural appropriation is problematic for citizens who wish to innovate. Indeed, the cultural third place STPLN <sup>49</sup> in Sweden encounters difficulties in planning long-term artistic projects because the funding offered by the department of culture of the municipality of Malmö (50% of STPLN's income) and Europe is on a yearly basis. Thus, self-financing is one of the ambitions of this third place, just like many others. This financial emancipation would make it easier to develop new projects or to perpetuate the most successful ones.

### 3.3. THE 'ALL-EMBRACING' CULTURAL THIRD PLACES

Cultural third places can promote a way of life or values to shape society. They are at the same time creators of jobs, living spaces and meeting places, supported in particular by the values of multiculturalism. These spaces provide more than access to culture and are intended to be part of the neighbourhood and daily life in every respect.

Fabrika<sup>50</sup> in Tbilisi, Georgia, consists of a hotel, a coworking space, various catering services, artisan workshops and language and art training spaces. This third place could be a neighbourhood because of the diversity of services it offers. There could in fact be a debate on the term "third place" because the **Fabrika** is intended to become like a second home for its users.

The city of Pula's third place is also a real community centre offering a wide range of services. In addition to the creative spaces and access to art that the 111 associations housed in this complex offer, **Rojc Alliance** <sup>51</sup> also promotes access to medical care by granting spaces to health professionals. With more than 1,000 visitors per day, the community centre has become an indispensable part of the life and dynamics of the Pula region. Finally, this space reinforces cooperation and the habit of "doing things together" between associations, citizens and local authorities. Thus, these two spaces transcend the categorisation of third places while making art and its dissemination their primary mission.

## 4. THIRD-PARTY AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PREMISES

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### 4.1. THE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD TRANSITION

Agricultural and food third places have been grouped together under the name of "nourishing third places" in France since a 2020 study carried out by the **FAB'lim** third place<sup>53</sup>. Their objective is to support the agricultural and food transition of citizens by making agriculture responsible and developing short circuits, for example. These commitments by third-party food centres are recent and are part of a broader objective of sustainable development. What is more, this type of third place is beginning to rely on new information and communication technologies (NICT) to develop. Indeed, the issue of the transition to agriculture and food is increasingly important and increasingly viewed from a modern and technological perspective<sup>54</sup>. The third places have these new resources at their disposal and are thus proving to be real levers for the modernisation of agriculture and increasingly viewed from a modern and technological perspective<sup>54</sup>. The third places have these new resources at their disposal and are thus proving to be real levers for the modernisation of agriculture.

49 STPLN, Malmö, Sweden ([STPLN](#))

50 Fabrika, Tbilisi, Georgia ([Urban Hotspot & Multifunctional space in Tbilisi \(fabrikatbilisi.com\)](#))

51 Rojc Alliance, Pula, Croatia ([Rojcnet - \(pula.org\)](#))

52 Chiffolleau Y., Dechancé J., Peres J. et al. (2020). *Nourishing third places, committed to the agroecological and food transition*, available online : [Nurturing third places](#)

53 Fab'Lim, Villeveyrac, France ([FAB'LIM \(fablim.org\)](#))

## 4.2. AGRICULTURAL THIRD PLACES

The agricultural test areas (ETAs) are third places that allow the creation of agricultural knowledge and experiments that would not be possible without the formation of these third places. They aim in particular to compensate for the lack of state subsidies which hampers innovation in agriculture and also allow for the continuous training of farmers and encourage cooperation<sup>55</sup>. The ETAs also secure professional reconversions thanks to support from a network of farmers and create new vocations, thus revitalising the agricultural sector at a time when family successions are less and less common<sup>56</sup>.

In 2016, the Belgian ETA **Graines de paysans**<sup>57</sup> was launched as part of a larger regional project, BoerenBruxselPaysans<sup>58</sup>. The fourteen members of this project aim to promote local production and food. It also aims to raise awareness of sustainable food and ecological production methods. In addition, the ETA in Anderlecht allows new farmers to train, acquire new skills and test their activities. This phenomenon of networking of agricultural third places can also be found in other countries such as France and the RENATA<sup>59</sup> network which brings together more than 63 French and Belgian ETAs. This network bears the values inherent to third places, which are the sharing of knowledge through cooperation, reciprocity and mutualisation. It also responds to contemporary agricultural issues such as the renewal of farming generations and the creation of progressive professional agricultural activities.

**Eta Beta**<sup>60</sup> in Italy has decided to go even further in the definition of ETA. Indeed, beyond being a test space, this agricultural cooperative allows for the social integration of disadvantaged people. This vulnerable group is supported through creative craft activities or back-to-work training. The course takes place in 3 stages which can eventually lead to part-time employment in the cooperative. Beyond the social and solidarity dimension of the third place, the cooperative seeks to raise awareness of sustainable development by offering workshops to schools in the Bologna region. In addition, to achieve its objectives, the cooperative has a close partnership with the mental health department, the pathological drug addiction service of the ASUL of Bologna and the local court. This unique space is part of the European project Places-3T, which could eventually lead to the development of other similar spaces in Europe.

## 4.3. THIRD-PARTY FOOD OUTLETS

Food third places are closely linked to agricultural third places. Indeed, they both have the ambition of local production and of developing short circuits. Moreover, food is a marker of social inequality because it is one of the adjustment variables in the budget of the most precarious households<sup>61</sup>. Also, food affects the very identity of the person<sup>62</sup> as it highlights a culture and a way of life. As a result, third-party food outlets and the transition issues they raise are becoming increasingly important.

<sup>54</sup>Maréchal, G. et al. (2019). *TACTIC study "Transition Alimentaire Citoyenne et Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication"*.

<sup>55</sup>Le Bel, P. M. (2020). Third places to help new farmers get started, *The Conversation*, available online: [Third places to help new farmers get started \(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/third-places-to-help-new-farmers-get-started).

<sup>56</sup>Cavaller, J. (2013). Land in question for agricultural test areas. *Pour*, 220, 227-235.

<sup>57</sup>Graines de Paysans, Belgium ([Graines de Paysans - Espace-test](https://grainesdepaysans.be))

<sup>58</sup>Brussels Regional Project, [boerenbruxselpaysans](https://boerenbruxselpaysans.be)

<sup>59</sup>RENATA agricultural network ([RENATA, the national network of agricultural test areas](https://renata.be))

<sup>60</sup>Eta Beta, Bologna, Italy ([etabeta coop - eta beta](https://etabeta.coop))

<sup>61</sup>Scherer, P. (2022). Third places at the service of new food solidarities. *Cahiers de l'action*, 58, 16-26.

<sup>62</sup>*Ibid*

For example, GreenLab<sup>63</sup> is an Irish third place that works for the food transition. Indeed, a laboratory allows individuals and companies to experiment and find solutions to the problems of food waste, access to water and sustainable food in the city. The creators of this space also seek to make the circular economy more systematic. *Ultimately*, they want to bring about radical changes in our consumption patterns by offering access to NICTs in a *fablab* conducive to research and innovation. Also, the **GreenLab** third place has developed a test agricultural space in Andalusia called **GreenLab Granja**<sup>64</sup>. This 10,000 square meter pilot project is a permaculture space with zero carbon emissions. The GreenFarm is based on four fundamental pillars for the agriculture of the future: soil regeneration, recycling of organic waste, renewable energy and health and well-being.

## 5. INCLUSIVE AND SUPPORTIVE DIGITAL THIRD PLACES

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### 5.1. THE SOCIAL CHALLENGE OF ACCESS TO DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS

The COVID crisis has reshuffled the deck in terms of digital access. Indeed, the inequalities in access to digital resources during the successive confinements have aggravated the digital divide in Europe. In a world where the use of virtual tools has become a common denominator for human activities, the impossibility of using and accessing digital technology is a daily obstacle. Access to social rights is achieved through dematerialised procedures, for example.

Furthermore, the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) drawn up by the European Commission, which enables the digital performance of European countries to be compared, reveals the need to strengthen projects in favour of social and solidarity-based digital technology. Indeed, concerning the "human capital" component, for a maximum score of 100, the average for the European Union was 47<sup>65</sup> in 2021. However, this aspect takes into account training in digital tools, the knowledge and ability of citizens to use these new technologies and professional training in digital technology. Thus, the importance of inclusive and solidarity-based digital workplaces for disadvantaged populations and workers in Europe has increased.

### 5.2. INCLUSIVE DIGITAL THIRD PLACES

Digital third places are spaces dedicated to digital learning. The aim is to make technology accessible to all through courses or workshops. Located in various places such as libraries or cafés, these third places fight against social exclusion.

The Greek project **Tale of X City**<sup>66</sup> aims to create a close and virtual collaboration between citizens and local institutions. Indeed, the design of cultural policies is the result of a dialogue between public authorities and citizens and their needs. The community here is virtual because this third place is online. It allows individuals to speak out more easily and to become actors of public policies in the cultural field. Also, this third place offers trainings and workshops for citizens so that they can become familiar with cultural policies and legitimise their voice.

<sup>63</sup> GreenLab, Ireland ([Green Lab™](#))

<sup>64</sup> GreenFarm, Granja, Spain ([Green Lab | \(greenlabgranja.eu\)](#))

<sup>65</sup> European Commission (2021). *Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) 2021*, available online: [Digital Economy and Society Index \(DESI\) 2021 | Shaping Europe's digital future \(europa.eu\)](#).

<sup>66</sup> Tale of X City, Thessaloniki, Greece ([www.artbox.gr](#))



### 5.3. A EUROPEAN VIRTUAL THIRD PLACE

POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ-PLS and four other European partners from France and Spain aim to establish a virtual third place by 2023. The Erasmus + Hopeinus<sup>67</sup> project has an innovative ambition: to create a European virtual third place that would offer tools to face the current health crisis and tools to face future crises. It is about European and citizen resilience. The target audience of the project includes cultural actors, adult learners and trainers and staff accompanying the public. Furthermore, the consumption of digital programmes has increased with the isolation and digitalisation of life due to the health crisis.

This innovative European third place will take the form of a WebTV and a toolbox that will offer users the opportunity to train, experiment and learn. Indeed, **HOPEinUS** aims to make explicit the artistic skills and creative potential of this learning public. In addition, some of the training provided will be in a "hybrid" format, both in physical and virtual locations. It can therefore be a third place that complements the pre-existing ones that have the same objectives of resilience and development of digital tools. This virtual space also allows a greater number of actors to meet, since it is dematerialised and offers a revisited and innovative definition of the concept of third place by giving it an indefinite dimension, unlike physical third places that are finite in space. Could dematerialised third places be the next step in the digital transition?

## 6. TEMPORARY LAND OCCUPATIONS

**STUNetwork**,<sup>68</sup> is a European network that brings together European temporary occupation initiatives (Lithuania, UK, etc.). This model encourages citizens to undertake social work throughout Europe by giving life to ephemeral third places. These rehabilitations of industrial wastelands meet the three Rs of the circular economy: *re-use, re-design and reduce*. They are also an opportunity to open up new perspectives on what a city is or citizenship in an urban environment. Thus, for **STUNetwork**, there are as many unused urban places as there are relevant citizen projects for transitions.

*"Working together for inclusive, sustainable and resilient cities in Europe"* (STUNetwork<sup>69</sup>)

This network was founded by the Belgian non-profit organization Communa<sup>70</sup>, whose main activity is temporary occupation of the territory, but which is also keen to develop projects to counteract the commodification of urban spaces. Its project to create a European network is therefore based on its own expertise in this field.

The **Free Riga**<sup>71</sup> association has temporarily taken over three buildings covering 16,000m<sup>2</sup> with the support of the Riga City Council and is part of the **STUNetwork** network. These spaces serve to promote Latvian art and culture, to integrate socially and economically disadvantaged groups and to help protect the environment. In fact, the association aims to create new creative neighbourhoods that meet the economic and social needs of the city. Moreover, this objective is shared by other structures in Europe. Indeed, **Meanwhile Space CIC**<sup>72</sup> is a social enterprise whose aim is to offer network, is a pioneer in the field of temporary occupation and has or has had 60 buildings.

67 HOPEinUS, (<https://hope-in-us.eu>)

68 STUNetwork in Europe, available online [STUNetwork \(stuneurope.org\)](https://stuneurope.org)

69 STUNetwork (2020). *Statement*, available online: [STATEMENT - STUNetwork \(stuneurope.org\)](https://stuneurope.org)

70 Communa, Belgium, [Home - Communa ASBL](https://communa.be)

71 FreeRIGA, Riga, Latvia (FreeRIGA, Riga, Latvia ([PASĀKUMI | My Site \(freeriga.lv\)](https://pasakumi.lv)))

72 Meanwhile Space CIC, London, UK ([Meanwhile Space | Affordable Workspace](https://meanwhilespace.co.uk))

These new workspaces meet the growing need of British and international companies for low-cost workspace. Rates for young entrepreneurs are also available, encouraging new business start-ups and youth-led innovation.

In addition, other temporary occupation networks are becoming a permanent part of the urban landscape. Indeed, in Paris, the "**Grands Voisins**" project is continuing, this time in the 12th arrondissement. Supported by the Paris City Council, one hectare and 1000M2 of offices are installed on old rails for a minimum of two years. This second installation follows that of the Saint-Vincent de Paul <sup>hospital</sup><sup>73</sup> in the 14th arrondissement of Paris which ended in 2020 after five years of activity. These two temporary third-party projects hosted the Aurore <sup>association</sup><sup>74</sup>, which aims to accommodate people in precarious situations to promote their social reintegration. In this way, the temporary occupations of the territory make it possible to respond to certain social and solidarity needs in the major metropolises.

## 7. PUBLIC POLICIES FOR THIRD PLACES IN EUROPE

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Public policies supporting third places in Europe are almost non-existent except in France and Belgium (specifically nurturing third places). Support policies for third places in the rest of Europe are concentrated at the regional or municipal level. For example, the region of Tuscany in Italy has distributed vouchers to be spent in regional coworking spaces to young Italian entrepreneurs to slow down the brain drain. Another example is the city of Pula (Croatia) and the Rojc Alliance coworking space, which is financially supported by the city council (low-cost rental of buildings).

It is difficult, if not impossible, to detect public policies in favour of third places at other scales because the concept is not yet widespread in Europe. They are grouped under other terms such as cultural centres, coworking spaces or fablabs.

<sup>73</sup> Hôpital Saint-Vincent de Paul, Paris, France ([Les Grands Voisins - Saint-Vincent-de-Paul](#))  
<sup>74</sup> Aurore Association, [Aurore Association](#)



# CONCLUSION

The term "*third place*" is rarely used by the third places analysed in this report. However, the concept that this word covers has developed well in Europe. Thus, the reality of third places exists without it being recognised and widely used by the founders and actors of these spaces. This lack of a generic term slows down the creation of European third places networks or policies at European level. The widespread use of the concept of "third place" could help to "bring together what is scattered".

Moreover, third-party projects suffer from a lack of financial and material resources, even though they are real economic, social and cultural levers for the territories. Indeed, as the bearers of fair and necessary transitions for our time, they lead citizens to act on their immediate environment and to shape it to meet their own needs. It is therefore in the interest of local authorities to develop funding programmes for third places, in order to co-construct the territory by making citizens responsible. However, this leads to the implementation of a shared and open governance: an innovation in the management of public action. Indeed, this co-participation in local governance perpetuates the projects over time because the relationship between public authorities and the founders of third places is better. This encourages financing and facilitates access to land<sup>75</sup>. It is a question of local authorities assuming their territorial responsibility and responding to their mission to strengthen the resilience of territories and citizens, and this mission has been strengthened since the crisis of covid.

In France, the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT) therefore organises calls for projects, particularly through its "New Places, New Links" programme. Third places are thus called "territorial factories" in that they are "*new places for social links, emancipation and collective initiatives that contribute to the vitality of our territories*"<sup>76</sup>. Regions such as Occitanie, Centre Val-de-Loire, Grand Est, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and Nouvelle-Aquitaine also support the creation of third places throughout their territory. In Belgium, Wallonia recently launched a call for projects for third places, particularly in rural areas, in order to catch up with the country's backwardness<sup>77</sup>. This call for projects is part of Wallonia's Recovery Plan, which proves that third places can be the bearers of the future.

Moreover, third places have a future on the European scene. They respond to European issues that are dear to the EU institutions, such as citizenship, social issues, the economy and culture. The foundations of Europe are supported by these citizens' initiatives and the European Commission has every interest in taking up this subject. The third places can then become testing grounds for European public policies and make them more relevant and flexible because they will be implemented as close as possible to the citizens<sup>78</sup>.

Finally, these new European action plans must take into account the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) through third places. In fact, the purpose of these citizen projects is social through the creation of commons and new local services. Also, their governance is democratic since it is open or carried by the citizens with the territorial public authorities. Third places promote the hybridisation of resources since they provide production (public policies, cultural productions, etc.) or services (workspaces, bringing together public services, etc.) perceived as being of general interest. Finally, they are anchored in a territory with its own problems and require a local understanding by actors who know and use this space.

<sup>75</sup>Proult, Y., Seillier, R. (2021). *Nos territoires en action, dans les tiers-lieux se fabrique notre avenir*, France Tiers-lieux.

<sup>76</sup> ANCT (2022). *L'État s'engage pour les tiers-lieux*, Société Nouvelle, available online: [Fabriques de territoire - Nouveaux lieux Nouveaux liens \(anct.gouv.fr\)](#).

<sup>77</sup> Wallonia Agriculture, *Rural third places*, [Rural third places - \(wallonie.be\)](#)

<sup>78</sup> Besson, Raphaël (2018). What European policy for Mediterranean third places? *The Conversation*, available online: [What European policy for Mediterranean third places? \(theconversation.com\)](#).

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# LIST OF THIRD PLACES STUDIED

Area071, Leiderdorp, The Netherlands ([AREA071 - Jouw basis](#))

Ateneu Popular, Barcelona, Spain ([L'Ateneu Popular 9 Barris \(ateneu9b.net\)](#)) Booksa,

Zagreb, Croatia ([Booksa](#))

Buinho, Messejana, Portugal ([Buinho | Learn | Play | Make](#))

Center Rog, Ljubljana, Slovenia ([RogLab \(center-rog.si\)](#))

Eta Beta, Bologna, Italy ([etabeta coop - eta beta](#))

Fab'Lim, Villeveyrac, France ([FAB'LIM \(fablim.org\)](#))

Fabrika, Tbilisi, Georgia ([Urban Hotspot & Multifunctional space in Tbilisi \(fabrikatbilisi.com\)](#))

FreeRIGA, Riga, Latvia ([PASĀKUMI | My Site \(freeriga.lv\)](#))

FUEIB, Palma, Spain ([FUEIB](#))

Graines de Paysans, Belgium ([Graines de Paysans - Espace-test](#)) GreenLab,

Ireland ([Green Lab™](#))

GreenFarm, Granja, Spain ([Green Lab | \(greenlabgranja.eu\)](#))

Hôpital Saint-Vincent de Paul, Paris, France ([Les Grands Voisins - Saint-Vincent-de-Paul](#))

Kauzi, Sofia, Bulgaria ([www.kauzi.or](#))

Meanwhile Space CIC, London, UK ([Meanwhile Space | Affordable Workspace](#)) Loovusait, Uibujärve, Estonia

([Loovusait Brainstorming Studio | We Help to Make](#))

Rojc Alliance, Pula, Croatia ([Rojcnet - \(pula.org\)](#))

STPLN, Malmö, Sweden ([STPLN](#))

Tale of X City, Thessaloniki, Greece ([www.artbox.gr](#))

Versilia, Pietrasanta, Italy ([Home - Cowork Versilia \(cowork-versilia.it\)](#)) WUK,

Vienna, Austria ([The WUK - Werkstätten- und Kulturhaus](#))

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# FOR SOLIDARITY - PLS

*Founded by Belgian economist Denis Stokkink in 2002, POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ - PLS is an independent European think & do tank committed to a sustainable Europe of solidarity.*

*POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ works to defend and consolidate the European social model, a subtle balance between economic development and social justice. Its multicultural and multidisciplinary team works in the public arena alongside companies, public authorities and civil society organisations with the motto: Understanding in order to Act.*

## ACTIVITIES

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POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ - PLS offers its skills in research, consultancy, coordination of European projects and organisation of events to all socio-economic actors.

### The Laboratory of Ideas and Actions **FOR SOLIDARITY - PLS**

1

**Conducts** high-quality **research and analysis** to raise awareness of societal issues and offer new perspectives for reflection. POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ publications are grouped into three collections: "Cahiers", "Notes d'Analyse" and "Notes d'Analyse",  
The "Studies & Dossiers" can be consulted at [www.pourlasolidarite.eu](http://www.pourlasolidarite.eu) and are also available in paper form.

2

**Advises, trains and accompanies** on European lobbying and funding issues.

3

**Designs and implements transnational projects** in cooperation with all its European partners.

4

**Organises conferences** that bring together leaders, European experts and grassroots actors and provide a friendly forum for debate on the future of a sustainable Europe based on solidarity.



## THEMATICS

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## EUROPEAN OBSERVATORIES

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**POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ - PLS** carries out a thematic European watch and lists multiple documentary resources (official texts, good practices, actors and news) that can be consulted via its four European observatories:

- [www.ess-europe.eu](http://www.ess-europe.eu)
- [www.diversite-europe.eu](http://www.diversite-europe.eu)
- [www.transition-europe.eu](http://www.transition-europe.eu)
- [www.participation-citoyenne.eu](http://www.participation-citoyenne.eu)

# COLLECTIONS FOR SOLIDARITY - PLS

Under the direction of Denis Stokkink

## NEWS BRIEFS - *Insights into current issues*

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- *New pact on migration and asylum*, Remi LETURCQ, April 2021.
- *Le recul du droit à l'avortement en Europe*, Quentin BELLIS, March 2021.
- *European Citizens' Initiative: Participatory Democracy on the Fritz*, Quentin Bellis, November 2020 .

## ANALYSIS NOTES - *Analysis of European socio-economic news*

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- *Introduction to the social economy*, Léa MONZIBILA, December 2022
- *Social and environmental justice on the same track*, Zoé BEDELET, September 2022
- *An autonomy income for young people, a European issue?* Zoé BEDELET, September 2022
- *The conference on the future of Europe, what lessons can be learned?* Rémi LETURCQ, August 2022.
- *Incubators for social and environmental transition: the case of the Maghreb*, Inès BACCAR, April 2022
- *Belgium's nuclear phase-out vis-à-vis Europe*, Frédéric DE NÈVE, September 2021.
- *Safeguarding jobs in Europe in the face of the health crisis*, Quentin Bellis, November 2020.
- *Les territoires zéro chômeur de longue durée : enjeux et perspectives*, Yann PAPE, November 2020.
- *The Tunisian Law on Social and Solidarity Economy*, Théo BURATTI, October 2020.
- *European Disability Strategy post-2020*, Alexis WILLEMOT, October 2020.

## CAHIERS - *European Comparative Research Results*

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- *Towards a circular economy in Europe*. Anna-Lena REBAUD, September 2017.
- *Faced with new forms of employment, what are the responses at European level?* PLS & SMart, n°36, June 2017.
- *Social economy, cultural and creative sector: towards a new form of social entrepreneurship in France*. PLS & SMart, n°35, May 2015.
- *Social economy, cultural and creative sector: towards a new form of social entrepreneurship in Wallonia*. PLS & SMart, n°34, May 2015.

## STUDIES & DOSSIERS - *Analyses and reflections on innovative topics*

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- *SSE & Africa*, April 2023
- *Illectronism in Europe: a digital and social divide*, Léa RENARD, March 2023.
- *Prison: the last resort?* Marie CANIVET, January 2023.
- *Eco-anxiety among young people*, Elisa DAGEVILLE, October 2022.
- *Democracy on the Razor's Edge, Understanding the Future of Europe Conference*, Rémi LETURCQ, March 2022.
- *SSE, rural and urban territories*, June 2021.
- *From frying to pumping*, Mathilde MOSSE and Alexis WILLEMOT, May 2021.
- *The employment of older workers in Europe*, Yann PAPE, February 2021.

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# Social economy

*The social economy, which places people at the centre of the economy and is based on democratic governance, is a promising path to economic development and social and environmental harmony in the territories. It is a path that is likely to face the economic, ecological and social crises that society is currently facing. POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ - PLS, committed to the promotion of social economy enterprises in Europe, is tirelessly pursuing its pioneering work by clearing new paths. It is in this context that PLS has been appointed General Rapporteur of the European Commission's Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES).*

**Collection " Études & Dossiers " directed by Denis Stokkink**