

## Livable Street

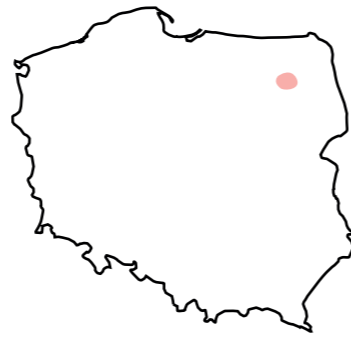
Żywa Ulica

LOCATION

**Biała Piska, Poland**

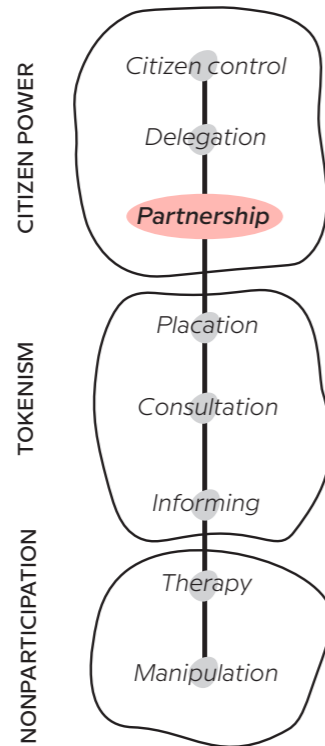
TIME PERIOD

**2019 & 2021**



### THE PROJECT

The Livable Street project took place in a **free parking area** located in the centre of Biała Piska. The aim of the project was to make the residents of the town aware that it is possible to improve the quality of their surroundings. Moreover, it was aimed at **proving that the place could function without cars**. The idea was also to **take culture to the streets** and to conduct a survey to ask the residents about their ideas for interventions in the town and its surroundings.



### DESCRIPTION OF THE SPACE

Biała Piska is a small town located in the eastern part of Poland. Its inhabitants consider their town as a pretty remote place (3/5). This feeling of remoteness is a consequence of two factors: the **poor quality of transportation links** which leads to difficulties in accessing the basic facilities, and the **lack of innovation**, especially in the creative sector. The process of urbanization and development led to partial degradation of the historical structure of the town with **some areas that require revitalization**.

### INITIATION AND ACTORS

The **project was launched with the help of local institutions**. Apart from the support of the officials, we need to point out the role of the library and cultural centre staff as

well as the Social Urbanism Studio team, who helped to prepare the event by sharing their knowledge and experience.

### ROLE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY & METHODS USED

The activities consisted in the **transformation of the parking lot's function. The place turned into a playground with street games, a café, a dance floor, a lounge to read poetry, and a photo booth for taking fun photos**. There was also a **questionnaire in which the residents could express their willingness for interventions in the city**. The changes also reached the surrounding villages with similar activities. The residents were involved at every stage of the Livable Street. A local group was formed, which took part in the workshops with the Social Urbanism Studio team in order to

prepare the activities. They also actively participated in the event itself.

### RESULT

The targeted impacts were achieved in this project. The parking area in the town centre temporarily changed its function and turned out to be a pretty good place for the residents to meet. The organizers also managed to gather a group of active residents who joined the preparation of the event. **The project's outcomes exceeded the expectations because in the following months, similar initiatives took place in neighbouring villages.** The main beneficiaries of the creative works were the local community and the authorities. **The event was a pretext to practice the basics of participation.** The activities were positively assessed by locals according to surveys, which also showed that they wanted more activities like these in the future.



Livable Street event  
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The residents activities  
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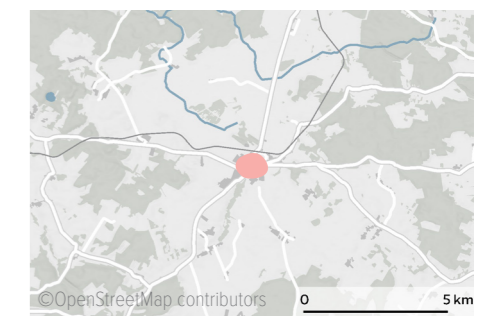
The residents activities  
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Livable Street event  
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more about  
this project

