



### Reflections after the Transnational Meeting in Gdansk October 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 2019

After the Transnational Meeting in Ghent end of May, followed a long hot summer during which I had the time to reflect on the lessons learned in the first 6 months of the Civic eState project. Several English versions of the legal instruments of other (partner) cities (in the Civic eState project) were uploaded on the Basecamp, e.g. *the Declaration of Urban Civic and Collective Use of Ex Asilo Filangieri*. As a legal professional, I had really been looking forward to receiving these documents. Reading them was inspiring. It gave me a greater understanding of the Good Practice and the way other (partner) cities regulate public-civic collaborations/partnerships.

In August I learned that the Policy Participation Service had found a worthy replacer of Emma as the coordinator of the Civic eState project in Ghent, namely Eleke. I was so happy when I heard this 😊 Eleke started working at the Policy Participation Service begin September. We immediately organized several meetings before the Transnational Meeting in October in Gdansk in order to be well prepared. It was so nice to finally have a project coordinator in place!



Eleke, Nele and me formed the Ghentian delegation at the Transnational Meeting in Gdansk. We flew in a day early, to be able to visit the city. Next to visiting the city of Gdansk, we took time to talk about the Civic eState project, to exchange our views on it and to discuss the possible outcomes the project could have for our city. We were ready for the exchange 😊



## Transfer Diary – Ghent Yoko Gesels #2

The welcome by Magda and the Vice Mayor at the City Hall was warm and sincere. You could feel that the members of the city administration and politicians of Gdansk are supporters of the Civic eState project and that they were appreciative of the fact that such a great delegation of the partner cities was present for the Transnational Meeting in their city. After the welcome, the legal framework for commons in Polish legal order were presented. This presentation gave me the impression that this legal framework could be developed further in order to be more accommodating to public-civic collaborations/partnerships.

Next up, we walked to the social hub at Dolna Brama Street for the inspirational session and workshop led by Peter Wolkowinsky. Peter is a gifted speaker. He did a good job distilling the essence of the inputs of the working groups that were formed during the workshop, namely the importance to **always keep talking to and with each other** 😊



Following, we visited one of the neighborhood houses of the city of Gdansk. We learned a lot about the way they are organized and the value they create in terms of social return. It was clear the people in charge of the management of the neighborhood house are highly motivated. I noted that Magda remarked that one of the difficulties the city of Gdansk encounters

is how to make sure the (management of these) neighborhood houses (is) are non-exclusive.



## Transfer Diary – Ghent Yoko Gesels #2



The second day, we were welcomed at another neighborhood house at Biskupia Street where we received more information about the organization and activities of that specific neighborhood house that aimed to meet the needs of that specific neighborhood. Again, the motivation of the management was striking.



After this followed three thematic sessions on Circular Procurement, Innovation Brokerage and Collaborative Dialogue and Public-Private-Community partnerships. It was a lot of information to process in a limited amount of time. I have some study work ahead of me 😊

And then, the Transnational Meeting was over, too fast... I mean this in a good way 😊 I am already looking forward to the next one in Iasi, not in the least because there we will have a lot of time to work together/interact/exchange with our colleagues from the partner cities.

Thank you to the organizing team of the city of Gdansk: you did a great job!

*Yoko Gesels, City of Ghent – city creative lawyer*