

CHALLENGE 1, 9th September 2019

How can we manage the temporary use of the shipyard areas in transition, engaging different stakeholders and empowering entrepreneurship?

Challenge-owners: A2P2/Technical University of Gdansk & Stocznia Cesarska Development

Former shipyard areas tend to have a lot of historic structures that are difficult and costly to be converted. On the other hand, such spaces can offer attractive space for activities that due to the cost of property constraints cannot easily be placed in other parts of the city e.g. local SMEs, NGOs, operators of the artistic and cultural events.

The challenge will focus on the issue of planning and managing temporary use on the sites, which have previously lost their primary functions but are filled with existing structures, often of historic value. In Gdańsk, these areas mostly comprise of a former harbour or shipyards areas, which were left vacant due to the ongoing modernization of the shipbuilding industries. There is a ‘gap period’ between its former use and the final development of the site, which often provides an opportunity for experiment or the creation of new urban spaces. Such space could be also considered as a potentially untapped urban resource that should be taken advantage of. Experimentation can potentially lead to new opportunities in urban land use and facilitate the transition of the post-industrial areas. The unpredictability of the process, considered as a major risk from a real-estate perspective, can be a factor that is crucial towards regeneration.

Key questions:

- Can temporary use be effectively harnessed to urbanize the underutilized, post-industrial space? Can temporary use be managed or coordinated? Can temporary use be ‘curated’? Who can ‘direct’ such process – community leader, landowner, urbanist, local cultural institutions?
- How to organize a match-making process between landowners, users, and tenants?
- Is there a potential to develop prop-tech (IT) solutions to the curation of temporary urban areas?
- What is the role of the bioremediation in such processes?
- What are the long-term results of the temporary use?

Who is invited to work on this challenge?

landowners of former shipyard areas (companies, city halls, etc.), urbanists, architects, researchers interested in the coherent development of the cities/metropolitan areas, business incubators, supporters of economic development, etc., entrepreneurs, start-ups, representatives of so-called creative industries, cultural institutions, artists