

A PARTICIPATORY EXPLORATION OF THE POTENTIAL OF URBAN WAITING SPACES TO INCREASE URBAN RESILIENCE

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This paper discusses research produced in the framework of the 'SWOT-Mobile' project, an ongoing Living Lab aiming at developing and testing a model for the co-creation of solidary living in mobile homes on Waiting Spaces in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR). We specifically focus on the aspect of temporary use of Waiting Spaces within this project. Using our preliminary findings, we reflect on the potential of such un(der)used spaces awaiting redevelopment to increase urban resilience. The paper starts with a background section, exploring of the phenomenon of temporary use (TU). In this sections, we situate TU in a historical perspective and distinguish between the different reasons for TU. Next, in the methodology section, we elaborate on the Living Lab and action research methods used in the 'SWOT-Mobile' project. In the results and discussion section we

present the SWOT-Mobile project, as case of 'TU as (action) research', fitting in the current stage of the development of spatial planners and designers' interest in the temporary use of Waiting Spaces, in which Waiting Spaces are becoming become platforms for engagement and are taking up a transformative/transitional role in the making of the city. Furthermore we are discussing the approaches and results of the action research cycles realised during the first of three years of development of the project. Finally analysing the preliminary findings of the SWOT-Mobile project, we conclude that Waiting Spaces are indeed becoming become platforms for engagement and that they can take up a transformative/transitional role in the making of the city. But, the contribution of the SWOT-Mobile project is still very much under development. It remains to be seen if the encountered constraints will

be overcome and if the model, being developed, will indeed provide an innovative answer to the lacking social housing provision in the BCR and the reduction of the abundant amount of un(der)used spaces in the long run.

