



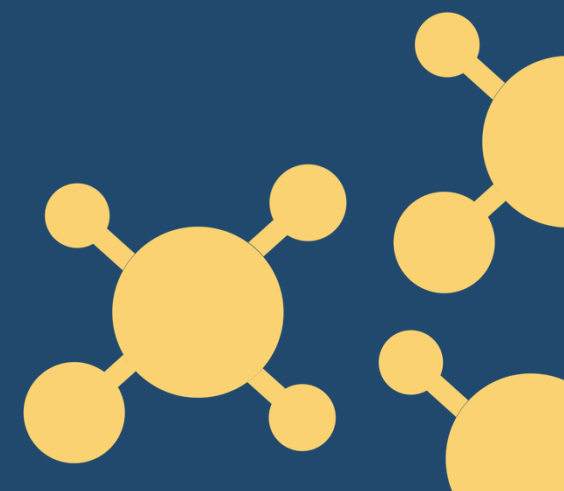
IN-HABIT FINAL EVENT  
Córdoba, 10 and 11 June 2025

*People, Places, Possibilities*  
**The IN-HABIT legacy**

*The Riga Team*



This project has received funding from  
the European Union's Horizon 2020  
research and innovation programme  
under grant agreement No 869227





## IN-HABIT in Riga: Transformation of a neighbourhood market into a multifunctional urban food hub



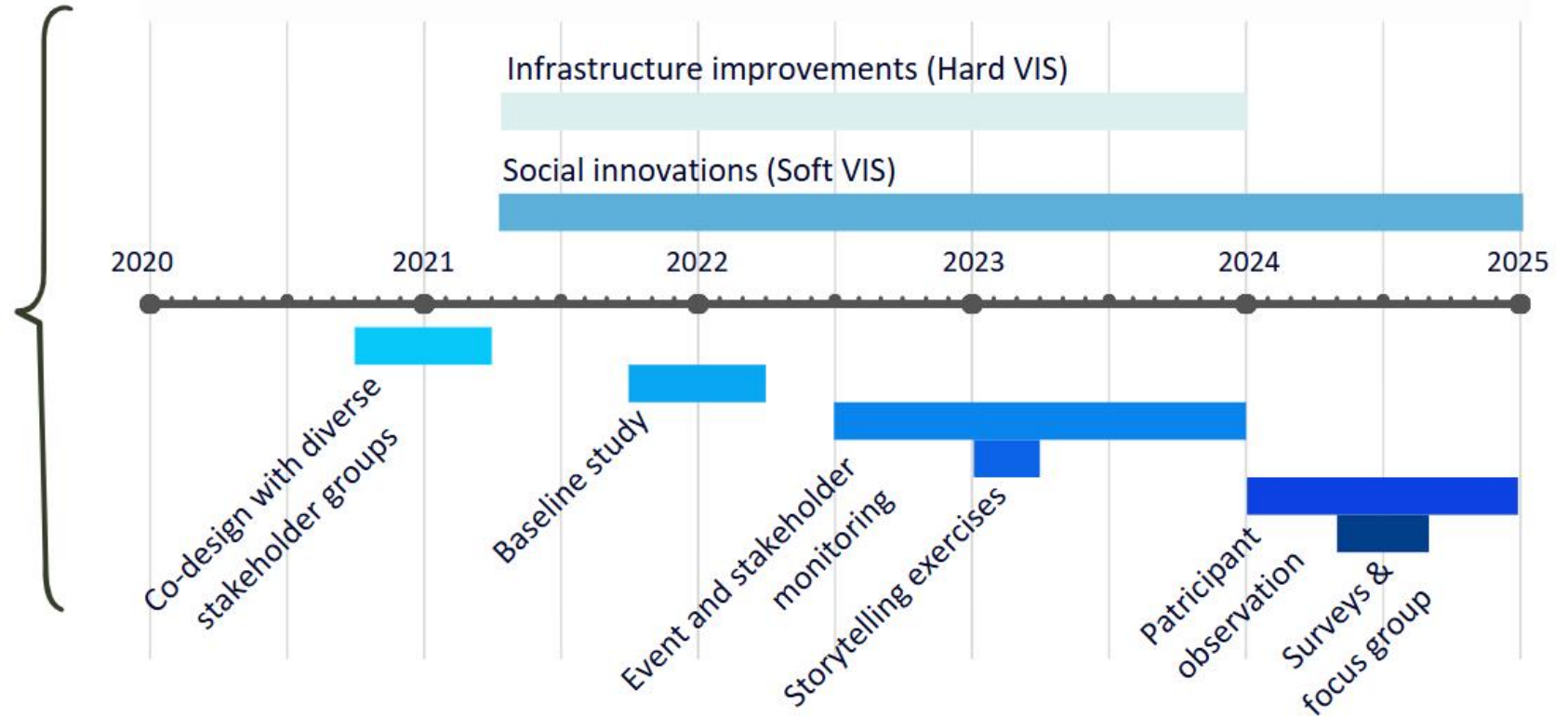
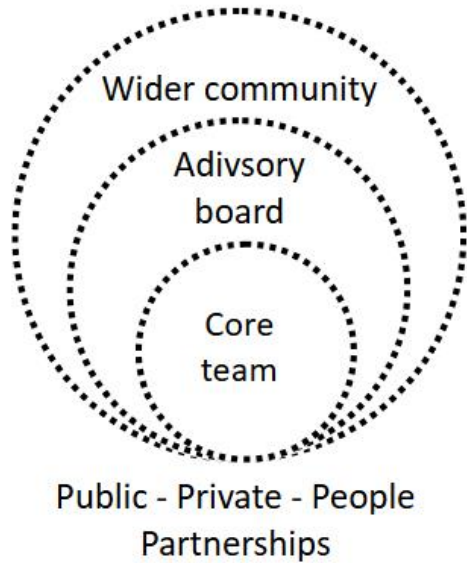
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# Five years of Co-creation in Partnerships





## Multi-functionality

A “multifunctional space” could be identified with two characteristics:

- Allows different functions, different actors and different users during different periods or can accommodate two or more activities at the same time.
- Fulfils the different roles a space might have in line with environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

(Ghafouri, A., & Weber, C. 2020)



Cultural events



Educational events / workshops



Shopping



Dining



Leisure



Socialisation



Green solutions

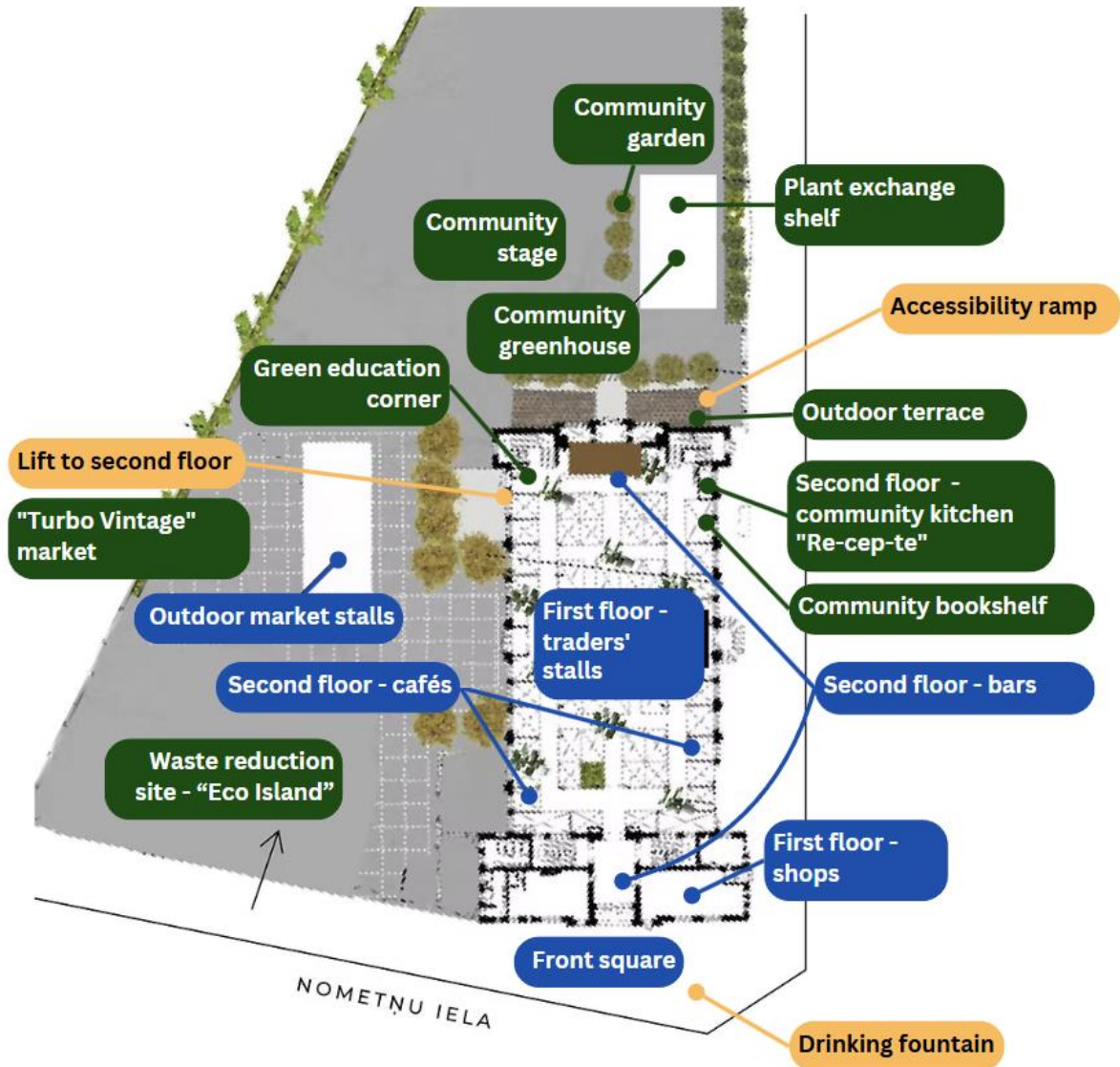
## «Thick place»

Thickness refers to the degree of **intensity** and the non-metaphorical **density and viscosity of relations produced by the encounters and interactions** between bodies in a given place.

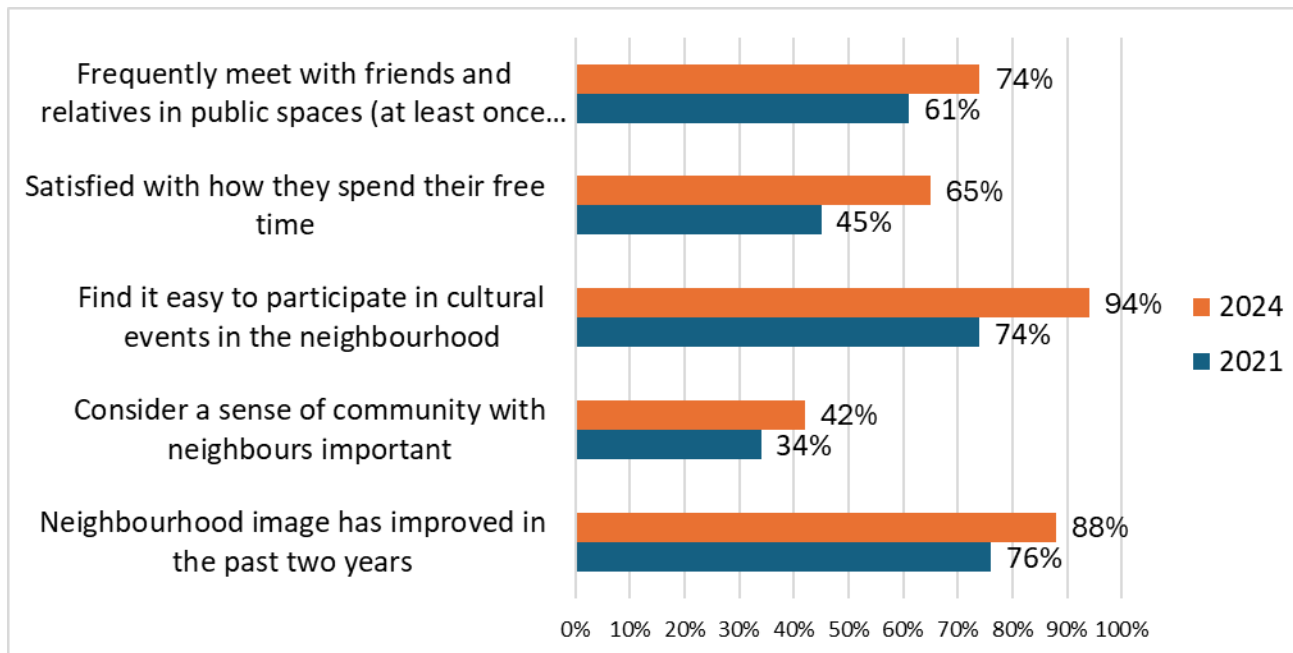
Neither a projection of the individual subject onto space, nor an objective quality of place, **thickness is the result of their encounter**, thus depending as much on the contingency of a ‘taking-place’ as on the socio-historical layers of meanings, memories, experiences and events that are imprinted on bodies and places alike.

(De Backer and Pavoni, 2018)

# Physical Transformation of Space



# Populating the Place: People Coming Together



Total number of events by type (May 2022 – May 2024)

Economic and trade	Social	Cultural	Educational	Environmental
<b>108</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>46</b>

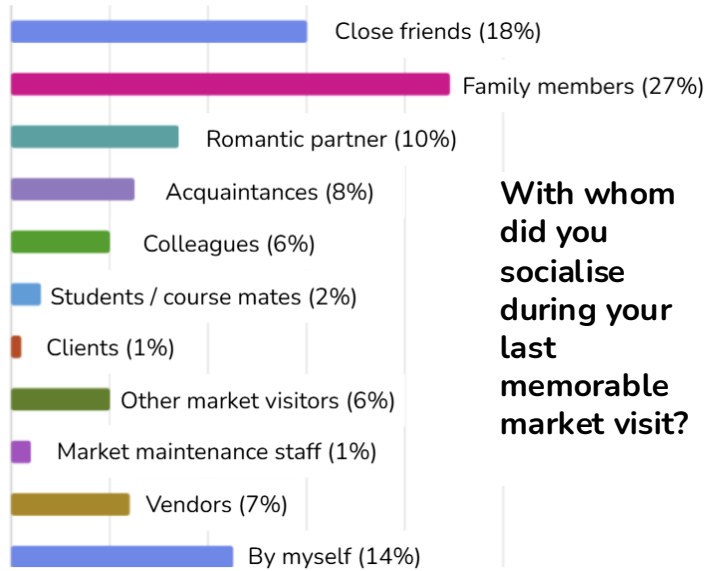
Total visitor count per month (2024)

May	184477	3rd
Jun	179462	4th
<b>July</b>	<b>188107</b>	<b>1st</b>
Aug	186924	2nd
Sept	175577	5th
Oct	163446	6th
Nov	156393	7th
Dec	166090	8th

Average visitor count per day (May – Dec 2024) /%

Mon	3776	9,45%
Tue	5201	13,01%
Wed	5246	13,13%
Thur	5227	13,08%
Fri	6403	16,02%
<b>Sat</b>	<b>7357</b>	<b>18,41%</b>
Sun	6755	16,90%

# Being Together: Presence in Place



## With whom did you socialise during your last memorable market visit?

«My son, friends and I like to celebrate important events in the market. Besides that, I visit the market almost every week to shop. The vendors are part of our family, we know each other, talk, etc.»

*Survey response*

«You could learn a lot about dance in Latvia – take part in a masterclass and get your tired body moving after long days of work!»

*Survey response*

«Two seniors, a young father, and his baby sit at a table on the outdoor terrace. The occasion – a family gathering to celebrate the baby turning six months old.

They have carefully rearranged the space to accommodate everyone's needs, ensuring comfort, easy access to the stroller, baby essentials, and their various purchases.

They take turns going inside and returning with food and drinks from different cafés. The meal gradually comes together as each person contributes something unique.

The group lingers at the market for a long time, enjoying the atmosphere and each other's company in a leisurely manner.»

*Participant observation*

«I visited the Skandinav store with my mum. Later, we both bought ice creams at Molbert's and went upstairs to sit in the soft chairs by the bookcase. I remember there was very good music, and I even added one song to my Spotify.

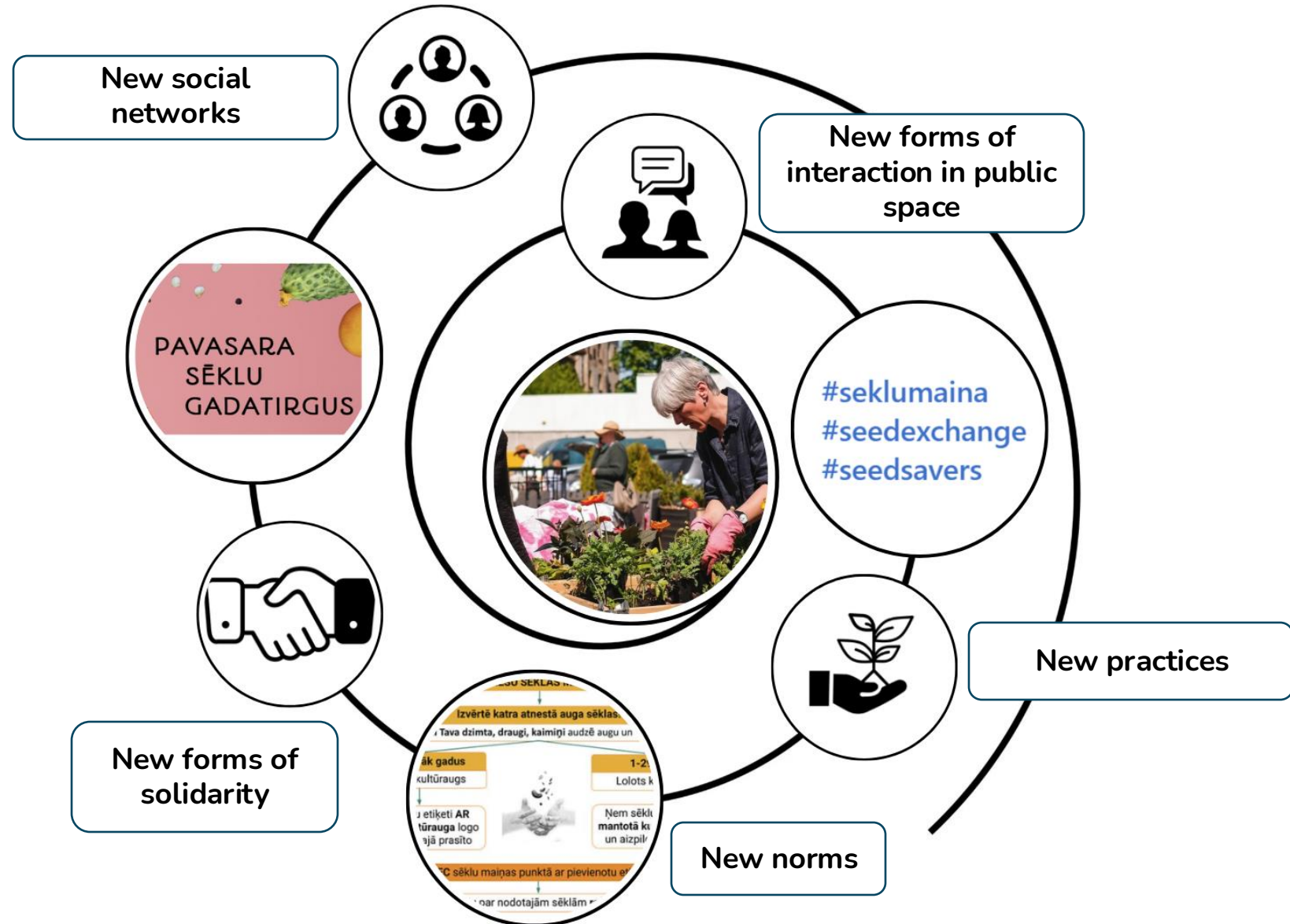
Later, my friend came over and we had dinner together. It was a winter evening and it has stayed with me because the market was so cosy, full of people, with good music and good mood. The kind of evening that warms the heart in cold weather.!»

*Survey response*



«After the plant exchange shelf was installed in the community greenhouse, people in the neighbourhood started bringing houseplants, seedlings and seeds to it. One person brings something, another takes it, what is not good for someone is good for someone else. Never bring anything bad. These people don't even know each other, but there is a kind of excitement of exchange and sharing.»

*Interview*



# Place for Whom? Inclusion and Exclusion



«**Young people and families with children can be seen at the market.** In the old days, there was a different idea and everything was different - now there is life, and it's buzzing until late at night. People come to eat, meet, talk, shop and do all sorts of things!»

*Focus group*

«**It seems to me that various ethnic groups are represented in the market.** They not only participate in activities but also organise them. [...] Whereas in the past people were divided, keeping to their own streets, corners, or communities, **there is now a place where there is a good mix.**»

*Survey response*

«**There are activities for all ages and interests,** so everyone can find their preferred activity and relax.»

*Survey response*



«I think Āgenskalns residents with middle or higher incomes benefit the most from the market.»

*Survey response*

«The festival and holidays bring a massive influx of people. There's a real sense of movement and bustle in the market—a sharp contrast to the day it rained (previous fieldwork outing). **But there still aren't many elderly people. That seems to be a constant.**»

*Participant observation*

«We would be appreciative of **more events tailored specifically for the elderly.**»

*Focus group*



«**There is potential here to reduce social discrimination,** whereas the way I remember the market in my childhood - I would say there wasn't that potential.»

*Focus group*

# Multifunctional Place and Inclusive Health and Well-being Impacts



«Regular events bring people together and **my foreign friends don't feel left out**, as most of the vendors and visitors switch easily to English.»

*Survey response*

«A kind, understanding, and **helpful attitude toward all people.**»

*Survey response*

«The community kitchen is used to hold an **integration event for Ukrainian people**. This setting transforms the kitchen into more than just a functional space — it becomes a **site of cultural exchange, community-building, and collective experience.**»

*Participant observation*

«**A pleasant environment has a ripple effect**; for example, the renovated square, clean pavements in a central location such as this contribute to a positive experience, regardless of whether people visit the market.»

*Survey response*

«The market has become a well-kept environment, with various events taking place, which **increases the overall attractiveness of the neighbourhood.**»

*Survey response*

«Incidents (physical) happen, but as far I've seen, **the market handles them efficiently**. On-site security is important.»

*Survey response*

**Physical environment safety** rated positive by 44%, highly positive by 12%.

52% indicated **they felt safe among people** at the market, 20% highly safe.

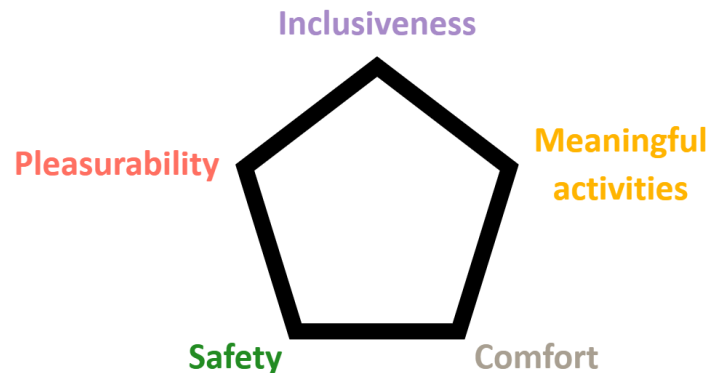
*Survey statistics*

«There are **nice benches** and a **drinking fountain** right in front. We often refill our water bottles there during our hot summer walks.»

*Survey response*

«The market includes **several design features that encourage visitors to linger**: ample seating, gathering spaces, weather protection, and areas where visitors can comfortably pause without feeling pressured to make a purchase.»

*Participant observation*



«Nice place to **meet friends and sit**, lots of good shops to **buy products** not available in regular shops, **cafes** and **cafeterias** close to home.»

*Survey response*

«It boosts well-being: **families with children can relax** and **buy their preferred products** (such as food, fresh produce, or pet supplies), and there are **various activities** on offer – such as watching ice hockey.»

*Survey response*

- ✓ A versatile, multifunctional place for community
- ✓ Creativity, participation, social experience, learning and enjoyment in place shaping
- ✓ Partnerships and the INHUB as persistent drivers

**Thank you!**

