

WP2 – Āgenskalns food hub in Riga

<p>WP Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote inclusive healthy lifestyles and wellbeing among local inhabitants of Āgenskalns neighbourhood by creating a multifunctional food hub. • To increase healthy food consumptions and habits among local people, considering their protected characteristics, by reducing sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy diets. • To improve accessibility and encourage sustainable mobility from and to Āgenskalns market • To use food as a means to improve intercultural and intergenerational social relations, sense of belonging and ownership of the place • To shorten food supply chains and decrease food waste in the market
<p>Problems addressed</p>	<p>Poor neighbourhood reputation and limited opportunities for socialisation and interaction among different social groups.</p>
<p>Main innovations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive and multifunctional market in Āgenskalns. • Culture of collaborative governance and guided co-creation to enhance IHW. • Financially sustainable social purpose initiative.
<p>Why it matters?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lasting cultural and social legacy based on a new understanding of what neighbourhood markets can offer to IHW. • Demonstrable impact on people’s everyday well-being. • A strong foundation for trust among stakeholders and sustainable development.
<p>Who benefited?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of Āgenskalns and Riga. • Local entrepreneurs and NGOs. • Educators and children. • Socially marginalised groups.
<p>Key VIS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-creation kitchen. • Transformation of outdoor market (community garden, community stage and accessibility solutions). • Eco-island for waste management. • Repertoire of events.
<p>What changed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market pavilion and outdoor area made more accessible • 200 m2 of new accessible green space created • +350 events organised at the market • 70 cultural initiatives integrating different social groups • 60 food education initiatives • 25 festivals and fairs
<p>How we measured impact?</p>	<p>Mixed-methods approach to capture foreseen and emergent impacts: surveys, interviews, storytelling exercises, focus group discussions, structured observations, event monitoring, media analysis</p>
<p>Governance & sustainability</p>	<p>IN-HUB PPPP model and user advisory board Organic and continuous involvement of people and community to foster shared ownership Collaboration with public sector, businesses, NGOs and local residents to shape future of market Diversified revenue streams that are in line with social goals of market.</p>

Main lessons learnt

1. Social capital is crucial for successful collaboration, iterative development and upscaling of IHW interventions.
2. By delivering a blend of IHW activities, the market exemplifies how VIS can generate synergistic benefits that exceed the sum of their parts.
3. Unintended exclusionary effects on target groups must be acknowledged and mitigated by other activities to ensure that all groups benefit.
4. There is a need to continuously adapt methodologies to explore different forms of impact with relevant stakeholders.

Replication & legacy

Three replication events

First national market conference in November 2025

Creation of market association to promote and support multifunctional markets in Latvia

Upscaling and replication guide for a multi-functional market model

Resources

- D2.2 Innovative PPPs and financial mechanisms for IHW in Riga
- D2.4 Monitoring and evaluation of VIS for IHW in Riga. Final report
- D2.5 Upscaling Plan of the Āgenskalns food hub
- Publications
 - Braslins, M., & Tisenkopfs, T. (2026). Quality Assessment of Privately Managed Public Space: Āgenskalns Market Exploratory Case Study. *Urban Science*, 10(1), 33. <https://doi.org/10.3390/urbansci10010033>
 - Kilis, E., Mileiko, I., Braslins, M., Tisenkopfs, T., Meiberger, U., Trizna, D., & Cimdins, R. (2025). Tracing and Tracking the Impact of a Contemporary Marketplace: The Case of Āgenskalns Market. *Cuadernos De Vivienda Y Urbanismo*, 18. <https://doi.org/10.11144/Javeriana.cvu18.ttic>