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Re-Act: Tools for Urban Re-Activation

Urban re-activation is becoming an increasingly relevant and complex topic in Europe, as it brings together a growing community of influential actors who, in recent years, have established a number of successful interventions in the field of re-use and re-appropriation.

During my lecture, I will briefly introduce our research on urban re-activation, following the structure of the book Re-Act. The presentation will be divided in three parts: (1) an overview on the topic of the urban re-activation at European scale, introducing some key points to understand what do we mean with some concepts such as urban re-activation and re-use, public space governance, participation. I will continue this first introduction with some concepts that have emerged from a series of interviews to a selection of different experts involved in these kind of operations: collectives, designers, entrepreneurs, programmers, geographers, lawyers, public administrations and of course, architects, who have already begun to transform their ideas into actions, by introducing new models and innovative ideas. (2) The presentation will continue introducing some keywords, those that in the book Re-Act, we have called “tools for urban re-activation”: time, participation, social innovation, human values, exchanges, etc. (3) I will close my presentation, introducing some case studies realised in different european cities, such as Rotterdam and Amsterdam, Bratislava, Milan and Madrid.