GET PROTOCOL OF ACTION

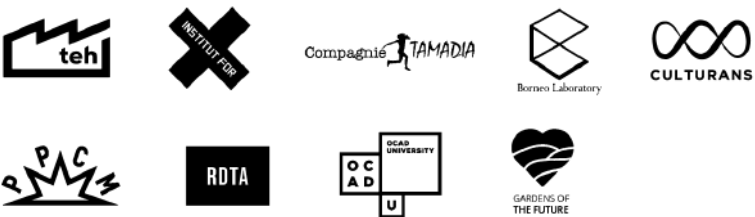## THE GOOD ENOUGH TRANSFORMATION

WHO MADE THIS GUIDE

The GET Protocol of Action is the outcome of a collaborative and imaginative journey, shaped by the collective wisdom of nine organizations across four continents. Rooted in real-life experiences and enriched through testbeds in Cyprus, Burkina Faso, Malaysia, and Mexico.

Developed through the Good Enough Transformation (GET) Project, the Protocol draws inspiration from the principles of French architect *Patrick Bouchain*— particularly his 10 rules for High Human Quality Architecture. It brings together tools, insights, and practices from the cultural sector to support communities in taking bold, creative steps toward a just and sustainable Green Transition.

More than a guide, the Protocol is an invitation: to see cities differently, to act without waiting for perfection, and to embrace culture, creativity, and collaboration as catalysts for transformation. Let it ignite a spark of action within you.

Developed by:

Funded by:

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Chapter 1
Revisit the landscapes of abandoned / neglected areas

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In the middle of the severe climate, environmental, social and economic crisis that we're facing, the abandoned and neglected areas are giving more information about where collective resilience can start bringing positive changes.

Main Objectives

- Initiate new cooperations between bottom-up initiatives (architects, citizens, artists, urban designers and planners) and top-down stake-holders (public and private policy-makers).

- Determine a programming process open to citizens, in conjunction with local partners.

- Imagine and document participants' proposals on how a city can be transformed into a new collaborative and creative space.

Inspirations

This Protocol of action was a starting point for the test beds of The Good Enough Transformation Project that was enriched by the actions that took place during the project in Mexico and Burkina Faso.

The Protocol of Action is based on the work of *Patrick Bouchain*, French architect, National Prize of Urban Planning 2019, especially the 10 rules of High human quality architecture:

HIGH HUMAN QUALITY ARCHITECTURE

1 Stop the clean slate! What exists has value, makes heritage;

2 Place the debate at the heart of the project: the discussion leads to grasp the "unthought";

3 Favor unthinkable places: industrial wastelands or neglected territories;

4 Create a united society, with concern for the more vulnerable;

5 Defend ephemeral and reversible architectural and urban actions;

6 Show optimism and stubbornness to go towards action in real conditions;

7 Respond to a given situation by doing the least possible to give as much as possible; claim less of form and aesthetics for more meaning and beauty;

8 Assume project responsibilities personally and take advantage of collective thinking to achieve this;

9 Attach yourself to the little one to understand and act on all;

10 and... have fun!

PROTOCOL OF ACTION

A citizens' based political and poetic (creative) approach

EXPLORE:

- Hidden paths, courtyards, where there are no paths, climb certain places if necessary.

- High points, viewpoints.

- Understand the city through walking.

- The peripheries, the outskirts, the margins of the city, supposedly less interesting places, industrial districts, abandoned railway lines, roads, airports.

- The borders of the city, where the city stops, where it meets nature.

- Transforming the city's narrative by walking.

- Giving speech and voice to animate and inanimate beings.

- Trying to get rid of the dominant narrative.

- Inspire yourself and others. Be inspired by others.

- Walk on the edges, walk through unknown paths, climb over the city, show that everyone has the right to explore another city.

- Find the subject and the project on the road.

- Explore the ordinary, experience through walking.

- Collect information, things that you're finding, litter...

- Ask yourself: what stories does the land tell? what does the land want?

- Explore ancient myths, urban legends and everyday stories told by everyday people.

- Get your hands dirty. Explore with all your body and your senses.

- Walk new paths. Taste new flavors. Speak new words. Hear new sounds. Touch new textures.

- Listen to the wisdom of the elders.

- Explore the undeniable connection between ecosystems, people, and cities.

- Witness how even the smallest creature in a pond plays a significant role in the balance of everything.

- Explore with young eyes. Include / get near to young voices and visions. Refresh the vision of the city through their perspective.

- Explore traditions and how the city changes through them. Witness how communities transform their spaces to celebrate or honour traditions.

GIVE YOURSELF THE CONSTRAINT OF...

- Do not make a value judgment about what is beautiful and what is ugly.

- Refer to French philosopher Henri Bergson's sentence : "Don't consider beauty as the representation of a beautiful thing, but the beautiful representation of a thing".

- Value as common heritage both remarkable places and landscapes and abandoned, disused places and landscapes.

- Consider negative commons and polluted places as remarkable heritage and worthy of being visited. Going there, visiting them, analyzing them constitutes the first necessary step to understand them, make the subject visible, and build alliances to initiate change.

- Allow the subject and the object to appear at the intersection of possibilities, opportunities and constraints.

- Look for a small subject capable of revealing the big one like a primer, a prototype.

- Always go as far as possible. Question and request places where access is prohibited.

- Campaign for the right of passage in any place (Scandinavian "The Right of Public Access", or 'Allemansrätten'.)

- Any place in a city is much more interesting than we think of it.

- Connecting places that seem to have no apparent connection (example: the archaeological site of Elefsinian Mysteries with the heavy industries landscape of Elefsina's coast.)

-Make micrographs, under a microscope, of a street, or a neighborhood.

- Do not marry with an idea of what things should be in the future.

- Restore knowledge.

- Allow yourself to slow down.

- Cultivate the art of being able to see for the first time what we see every day.

- Not seeing waste. Ask yourself: How can I reuse available resources? (example: the chinampa beds in Xochimilco are made of layers of recycled organic matter that would often be considered waste. Instead, they become a super nutritious soil to grow food.)

- Do not block opinions and views different from your own. Remember that conflict is a central part of nature.

PUT POLITICS IN THE CENTRE OF THE ACTION

- Give heritage value to ruins and waste.

- Onboard elected officials and residents, experts and non-experts.

- Make accessible what was tacitly or implicitly forbidden (example: the opening of the endamaged synagogue for 20 minutes in Timisoara, the walks around the industrial zone of Eleusis).

- Co-organize walks with the residents (example: the walks with 4 women of Timisoara, the surveys with the residents in Eleusis).

- This is what gives a city its meaning, the small, accidental, insignificant nothings.

- Co-organize meetings / workshops with different voices from different sectors. Promote dialogue. Promote listening. Promote ideas. Promote creation.

- Achieve an "impossible" transformation in a short time. Show how the impossible can become possible.

- Seek the intersection point of the issues of several actors and stakeholders.

- Always carry out political action in parallel, seek alliances.

- Focus as much as possible on places, neighborhoods, buildings self-built or self-developed by residents (example: Pontiaka houses, transformation of refugee houses in Eleusis, car parks in Tartu).

- Observe and analyze the remarkable uses and appropriations of public spaces: (example: Personal furniture or plants in the streets of Eleusis).

- Enhance these spaces through simple interventions through performing or visual arts / and cultural traditions (example: Day of the Dead floting altars in the Chinampas, Xochimilco, Mexico City).

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Chapter 2
Cyprus Testbed

Gardens of the Future (Cyprus)

GARDENS OF
THE FUTURE

In the middle of the severe energy crisis that we're facing, the abandoned and neglected urban spaces, commonly referred to as negative commons are giving more information about where collective resilience can enhance transformative sustainable change in cities.

Phase 1: INITIATE
Engage a Collective Purpose to explore together:
Unite diverse stakeholders around a tangible goal.

Phase 2: TRANSFORM
Use the physical collective spaces as a dynamic learning environment, enabling participants to engage with real- world challenges and solutions in sustainability and culture

Phase 3: FACILITATE
Peer-to-Peer Learning:
Promote collaboration among participants of varying expertise levels, encouraging knowledge sharing and tranfer and teamwork that transcends age, gender, and cultural boundaries.

Phase 4: DELIVER
Inclusive, Trandsisciplinary Learning and Knowledge tranfer:
Develop open-source educational resources, including toolkits and digital sources, ensuring that all communities of practise—regardless of financial means or technical background—can benefit. Offer direct access to tools, materials, and technologies such, enabling future generations to access, to experiment and apply concepts practically tacit knowledge.

Phase 5: BUILD
Communities of Practice:
Leverage transnational partnerships to connect grassroots initiatives, fostering a network of sustainable hubs united by shared methodologies and goals.

This methodology and protocol of action showcases how combining practical, hands-on learning with community-driven approaches can scale to other hubs worldwide, driving local action for global change. *Our efforts have been recognized as a case study in prominent policy platforms, within the European Union,such as the one of Urban Innovation Initiative Capacity Building Project Showcase and the United Nations with the World Urban Forum 2024, marking a significant milestone in its project impact after completion.*

Target Group	Stakeholders	Benefits for GET PROJECT	What's in it for the Stakeholder Audience Target Group Reasons of involvement
Academia and research	Local Universities Regional universities Colleges Research centres	Solutions Expertise	Use gardens as case study for research A place to experiment ideas
Industry	1. Factories Corporates SMEs 2. Innovation centres NGO e.g. Energy Agency 3. The Media	1. Resources Sponsorship Finances 2. Resources Sponsorship Knowledge Expertise Access to technology 3. Promotion	1. Reputation Organisation's image Public Relations A reliable partner to reach CSR goals 2. A reliable partner for collaboration to make an impact, for reaching your organisation's KPIs 3. Material for the news, a successful local Cypriot initiative, an active community making a positive impact
Community	Volunteers Visitors Local residents General public	Human resource Doers, Implementers, Expertise	Impact Value Opportunity to make a positive impact in local community Meet other like-minded people Help a good cause / learn about garden modules and implementation
Government / Authorities	Municipalities Commissioners Ministries Embassies	Reputation Resources Ethical support Land ownership	Reliable partner to create sustainable cities, grow green spaces, and contribute to green transition
International Organizations	EU World bank UN	Visibility	Sustainable development goals (SDGs). Use as best practice example

Chapter 3
On Reciprocity: Towards Collaborative and Regenerative Cultural Engagement

Borneo Laboratory (Malaysia)

Borneo Laboratory

In a time of escalating climate, social, and cultural imbalance, the concept of reciprocity—particularly in the context of the Asia-Pacific—offers an antidote to extractive models of development. This protocol draws from the lived processes and reflections of the On Reciprocity programmes *in Borneo and beyond, proposing a set of values and steps for initiating respectful, place-based, multispecies and community-informed engagement.*

Core Objectives

- To enable reciprocal cultural and knowledge exchanges between global and local practitioners.

- To ground collaborations in ancestral wisdoms, non-extractive models, and long-term relationships.

- To activate communities as co-authors in regenerative cultural and environmental practices.

- To build prototypes for non-institutional infrastructures and distributed authorship through ongoing dialogue, publication, and exhibition.

PRINCIPLES OF ACTION

1. Begin with Listening and Walking

- Embark on situated listening walks to encounter places and people on their own terms.

- Engage with landscapes as sentient archives—observe both what is present and what has been silenced.

2. Identify Local Modes of Reciprocity

- Observe and honour local cultural mechanisms like *gotong royong* as practices of resilience and mutual care.

- Learn from traditional knowledge holders through multi-sensory methods: dream stories, food rituals, craft practices, and seasonal cycles.

3. Work With, Not On, Communities

- Ensure community members are collaborators from the beginning.

- Practice co-design and co-authorship; allow projects to be shaped by local timings, needs, and aspirations.

4. Reveal Extractive Histories and Enable Healing

- Map and visit landscapes impacted by colonial or economic extraction.

- Frame these visits as learning journeys, helping to develop empathy and long- term accountability.

5. Design for the Commons

- Use public forums, walking seminars, and informal gatherings to distribute knowledge and feedback loops.

- Prototype small-scale interventions that can evolve over time rather than large-scale permanent structures.

6. Acknowledge the Temporal and Spiritual Dimensions

- Embed the concept of deep time in engagement practices, recognising the ancient spiritual significance of land, water, and non-human kin.

- Include ritual, silence, and storytelling as valid modes of inquiry and knowledge-sharing.

7. Foster Translocal Solidarity

- Cultivate South-South connections to learn from shared struggles and creative resistances.

- Mobilise resources to support residencies, mobile exhibitions, and book journeys across regions.

8. Feedback is a Form of Reciprocity

- Build in structured yet creative ways for all participants to reflect, write, draw, or voice their responses—individually and collectively.

- Make feedback cyclical, not just post-event; turn insights into revised action and shared learning.

STEPS TO ACTIVATE THIS PROTOCOL

1. Site Invitation:

Identify a region or host community through mutual interest and readiness.

2. Mapping Priorities:

Co-map ecological, cultural, and spiritual significance of the area with community members.

3. Reciprocal Exchange:

Design a workshop, residency, or walk-based learning exchange rooted in lived, shared experiences.

4. Story Gathering:

Collect narratives, sensory impressions, case studies, and images as part of a "living glossary."

5. Activation:

Host exhibitions, food rituals, and public conversations to open the work to the wider community.

6. Reflection + Distribution:

Return the knowledge— through publications, zines, community feedback sessions, and travelling libraries.

7. Regenerative Loop:

Return or stay engaged through new collaborative efforts, mentorship, or resource-sharing.

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Photo credits

Order based on appearance in the GET PoA:

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THE GOOD ENOUGH
TRANSFORMATION

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