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## SITE VISIT REPORT: N-POWER - TEMSE PARK, eupen

26 of April from 14:00 to 17:00 at

ONLINE (Zoom)

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Present: Stephanie Van Doosselaere (ULiège), Ineke Ketelaar (Zuyd Hogeschool), Alain Brockx, Julien Galland, Alex Hilgers (Eupen), Dolores Langer, Nils Tenkleve (Stadt Aachen), Louisa Kara (Verviers), Elsa Gallez (ULiège), Cyrielle Böttcher (Seraing)

### Introduction by Stephanie

Temsepark was involved in SUN-project (predecessor of N-Power) → still vibrant today

Example of how a project like this can change the administration and its surroundings

Citizens group → now non-profit organization

### Presentation by Ralph Rozein – city administration of Eupen

Temsepark → part of SUN project

Targeting the citizens: municipality had no experience with that → city administration following this up itself or by external company? Decided to give this to external company

Administration followed this project from the background

Citizens did not know this kind of technique either

Start of the project by event, articles in the press, visiting of the neighborhood, information market

Visit of the neighborhood: every three months

#### First evaluation

At the start of the project: the point of view from the municipality was kind of sceptic, just like for the citizens (no one really believed in it)

Based on the first results, the wish of the citizens to regenerate the Temsepark came up

A slogan was created: something new is growing here

→ Workshops with citizens

School project: with pupils, walk with children around the neighborhood, they want a new playing area in the parc



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With the help of  
rearrangement was developed

a landscape architect a plan for the

We wanted to engage people at the grassroots level and keep them informed → important to have articles in the press, but also the information markets and other initiatives, in order to give them the feeling that they are informed

Also, information in vitrines in the parc

After the planning: start of implementation (public tender) municipality workers were involved together with the company that won the tender

The parc became much more inviting

They also implemented communal plantation: preparation by company and municipality workers, but planting itself was done by citizens and inhabitants of the quarter → very nice atmosphere (also little breaks with coffee and cake)

The more the project went ahead, the less there was skepticism → nice atmosphere in the end: everyone worked together, hand in hand

Also, the question: what to do with the kiosk? → set-up of a non-profit organization

Not sufficient financial means → looking for additional budget

Cooperation with local business

In May 2012 → official opening: event organized together with the city

Initially: kiosk was managed by people in job integration program

Conclusions of SUN-project

- Cooperation with the external company, the citizens and city administration
- Involvement of citizens from the beginning on
- The attention for the measures: light festival and rearrangement of the park
- Excellent communication and cooperation with citizens
- Since SUN: a lot more engagement from citizens in projects

Difficulties: difficult for working together with energy and economic department

VIP-project: Viertel Initiative Program

2500 euro available for a project + logistic support

Community gardens in public parcs: shared garden



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## Presentation of Benjamin – N-Power: virtual site visit with photos

N-power: follow-up of SUN-project

Geographical location: in the lower city of Eupen

Photos of the elements in the parc and the events

Eg. white table

Festival of light (was very popular as closing of the SUN-project), they repeated it afterwards

## Die unterstadt – Ein starkes Viertel (a strong neighbourhood)

*Presentation by Susanne – lives in the lower city herself*

Geographically a little bit lower than the rest of the city

They define themselves as coming from that part of the city and as a strong city

They enjoy respect now for doing great work in the lower city

Great acceptance from young and old people → very little vandalism

Kiosk as important place: they offer drinks and ice cream there, first aid

No interior room in there: during winter months, they had to find a job for the person in the kiosk

Extending the pavilion: question of finance? Budget of 30 000 needed → they could raise it in 3 weeks: some small donations, some bigger ones

## Question round

Whether or not to drink alcohol?

- Not the task to educate people
- There are children present, not appropriate to give alcohol there, also because of religious reasons

Barbecue spots will be set up, on the other side of the street: how to handle → closed or not?

For fire protection reasons: not publicly accessible



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Question from

Stephanie to Ralph: how did the SUN-

project internally effect the working of the administration? Were some roles implemented in the city administration? Do you see that N-Power profits from the installed roles?

Answer: Work in progress, constant evolution, but everything inspired by the experience from the SUN-project

Many projects just handled like a day-to-day project, they come on top of your daily activities

Very important for the citizen initiatives to have a contact person at the municipality

Projects often send back and forth between the different departments in the city administration