



The URBACT e-University held in September and October of 2020 was the first large scale fully digital learning event designed for the local stakeholders involved in Action Planning Networks, it consisted of 8 workshops, enabling the participants to acquire skills, techniques and tactics to start working with the local groups and build local urban Integrated Action Plans. The ULG members from Riga Kristīne Šulžanoka reveals her impressions about the learning event:

Within past month I was honoured to have a unique opportunity to partake in a wonderful online event called URBACT eUniversity. What started as a helpful assistance request to substitute my boss a time or two to keep her in the loop on interesting subjects that were presented, ended into most anticipated Tuesdays and Thursdays of 2020!

I'm sure, if you are reading this you have attended countless, rather mundane Zoom meetings since March, some were worth your time, and let's be very honest, some – not so much. When I found out that I will have that “thrill” to fill in for yet another series Zoom meetings, to say the least, I wasn't thrilled, but I did sign in, I listened and during session 1 had very strong feelings about it – love it, it's brilliant! The first plenary session, right after Grand Opening of eUniversity, led by Mary was almost intoxicating... after months upon months of mundane meetings, you somewhat become programmed to be skeptical and be, prepared for the worst, but, I must say, URBACT team are professionals indeed. You can tell they came prepared and with a mission to conquer – to get you sucked-in this whole process and make you want to keep coming back for more. Not going to lie, by the end of week 1, not even knowing whether I will be able to join in for future sessions, I just kept on asking to share plenary links, if there are new ones, just because I wanted to come back for more. Workshops, that followed plenary sessions were something else. Yes, there were slight hiccups at the very beginning, but I wouldn't rush into judging phase, as manning Zoom conference with about 500 participants can hardly be an easy task and more so – waiting rooms were moderated by interesting people with great sense of humor, so even if you were stuck in a waiting room to join your workshop, you were still guaranteed excellent company! Within a session or two, all troubles were solved, and we could proceed to workshops – which happened on Miro boards, which was news for me. Must admit, that in the beginning I found it rather confusing, but the second you figured it out, it became very handy tool for Brainstorming session with your group.

Each and every one of plenary session lecturers had their own insight on the issue, however I rather enjoyed that, while having their own agenda to speak about, everyone kept building on or go back and have a referral to previous speakers. It

shows both integrity and organic synergy within the lecturers and beautifully tied the whole eUniversity together.

The best part of eUniversity is that even now that it's over, all the materials, including video is freely available online to go back and relive it whenever you need a tool mentioned in the sessions or just are in a need of inspiration to proceed with the ULG meetings, Roadmap and Integrated Action plans.