



The start of the formal program at city hall of Gdansk

DIARY GDANSK- Poland, Urbact meeting, October 2-4 2019

From 2-4 October 2019 the partners of the Urbact project on commons all came together in Gdansk, one of the participating cities.

On the first night, we had a welcoming dinner in a lovely restaurant. As this was my first partner meeting, this was a good occasion to get to know all the participants and find out more about the program of this meeting.

On October 3, we started with the interesting program that the city of Gdansk had set up for us. We met at the start of every session at the fountain of Neptune on the central square. This morning we walked to the city hall, where representatives of the city (deputy mayor and council members) welcomed us. It was very reassuring to see the enthusiasm for governing the commons in Gdansk.

In the afternoon, we walked to a project site, where an empty building was being treated as a common, and given to residents of the surrounding neighborhood to exploit. In this inspiring location, we had a lecture about Commons and values by Peter Wolkowinski. Together we reflected of the values we ascribe to commons and our motivation of why our cities are working on governing the commons.



We then continued to visit some other project sites of the Gdansk pilots. See the pictures I have added here. There were neighborhood houses, which aim to create social cohesion in residential areas.

The whole visit was for me a great introduction to the program of the Urbact Project, but it also gave me a better understanding of commons and how to value them. This helps me going forward in writing the framework for commons in Amsterdam.