



Common experiences in Bloemekeswijk's



Our experience visiting different common experiences of Ghent was very rich and useful. It allowed us to compare different points of view about common urban projects and enrich our perspective on our own projects.

It started visiting Beverenplein, a square in the Bloemekeswijk neighbourhood that is currently used as a parking lot, which has been claimed by a group of neighbours for social uses. It was very interesting to speak directly with one of the neighbourhood's representatives, who explained the conflicts and contradictions of its own struggle, and asked us about possible strategies to build a collective project with the neighbourhood.



Then we went to visit **Uco, an old textile factory that now accommodates different initiatives in**

social economy. First of all, we visited the Food Bank, where people without resources can go to get some food. It is very necessary to take into account the social and population needs when we are re-thinking our common heritage and our own resources as a public institution.

Then we visited UCO été – a bar - and UCO den hof - an urban garden-, both managed collectively. The direct testimony of its organizers allowed us to understand how common projects must adapt to different contexts as they change. Once again, we could see how the old city assets can be re-defined and accomplish new social uses, managed by their own neighbours.

Transfer Diary 2.3_ Ghent Meeting Urbact “Civic estate”

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27-May 2019*