

Open Call: How do strangers become neighbours?

Deadline October 11th
(23:59 CEST)

Placemaking Europe and Trenčín2026 is inviting practitioners, artists, community organisers, researchers and local initiatives from their international network to share a story about a place where people became neighbours.

As part of Placemaking Days Trenčín and the Public Forum "How Trust Grows", we will explore how individual encounters can develop into repeated relationships, belonging and stronger neighbourhood connections.

We are looking for **3–4 contributors** to share a concrete example from their own practice, city or community. This could be a public space, cultural initiative, temporary intervention or long-term placemaking process that helped people connect and develop a relationship with the place they share.

We are particularly interested in:

- how a place created opportunities for repeated encounters;
- how culture, programming or community activities helped people connect;
- what encouraged people to return and become involved;
- how residents became active participants or stewards of a place;
- what the experience taught you about building neighbourhood relationships.

Format

Selected contributors will give a **5–7 minute presentation** during the session *"It takes a square to learn the name of your neighbour"*, followed by a facilitated exchange with the audience.

We are looking for **grounded stories rather than polished presentations**: what happened, who was involved, what changed, and what others can learn from the experience.

Dates & participation

Contributors are expected to join us in **Trenčín, Slovakia**, from **2–4 November 2026**:

- **2 November** — arrival and informal programme
- **3 November** — Public Forum **"How Trust Grows"**
- **4 November** — shared breakfast and morning programme in Trenčín, followed by departure

Support

Selected contributors will receive a €300 contribution towards participation and travel costs. Accommodation will be covered by the organisers. Further details will be shared with selected contributors.

Interested in sharing your story?

Please fill in [this form](#) by Oct 11 (23:59 CEST) and tell us briefly about the place, initiative or experience you would like to share.

→ Fill this form: <https://forms.gle/tS5DxBkT9TLcgRkz8>

In case of any questions, contact us at team@placemaking-europe.eu