



An itinerant
book

Connections.

Collaborative imaginaries of
territories in change across Europe

INTRODUCTION

by Melissa Moralli

Hillside and mountain villages, green fields and endless plains with scattered settlements and post-industrial medium-sized towns constitute Europe as much as the big cities we all know. These places have long been considered peripheral to the large urban centres and have often been associated with a certain passivity, stagnation and resistance to change. Yet a closer look at their interstices, inlets and plains reveals that they also move, live and transform. And they are also continuously enriched with new voices and new stories.

This exhibition starts with these stories and goes on to lay bare the everyday life of Europe's shrinking areas, where the narratives of old and new inhabitants and returnees come together. In this way, the stories of those who leave, those who arrive and those who return intertwine in a new rhythm of life that over time transforms and is transformed by the spaces in which these new communities settle. Following the traces of these changes outside the spaces of urbanity, itinerant research composed of travelling photography workshops was carried out in Italy, Germany, Spain, Poland and the Netherlands in the spring and summer of 2022. During the workshops, we listened to the voices of those who live on the so-called peripheries of Europe, starting from a simple question:
what makes the place where you live welcoming and how would you capture this in an image?

The exhibition shows the stories, the photographs and emotional maps created directly by those who live everyday lives in these communities. The result is the co-construction of a different, new imaginary, one that is anchored in the time and space of a different Europe. The images that follow are full of hopes for the future, desire for change, complex encounters and collective utopias. We invite you to immerse yourself in this itinerant exploration, to get to know through their eyes life in a lesser-known but fascinating Europe-the Europe of connections.



A map of Europe with five locations marked by red dots and labeled in white text boxes. The locations are: Talayuela (in Spain), Bedum (in the British Isles), Altenburg (in Central Europe), Łomża (in Eastern Europe), and Camini (in Southern Europe, near Italy). The map shows the outlines of major landmasses and surrounding water bodies.

● Talayuela

● Bedum

● Altenburg

● Łomża

● Camini

INSTRUCTIONS TO READ THE MAPS

Place where you live



Places that you like most



Places where you feel good



Places where you usually go



Places that you do not like

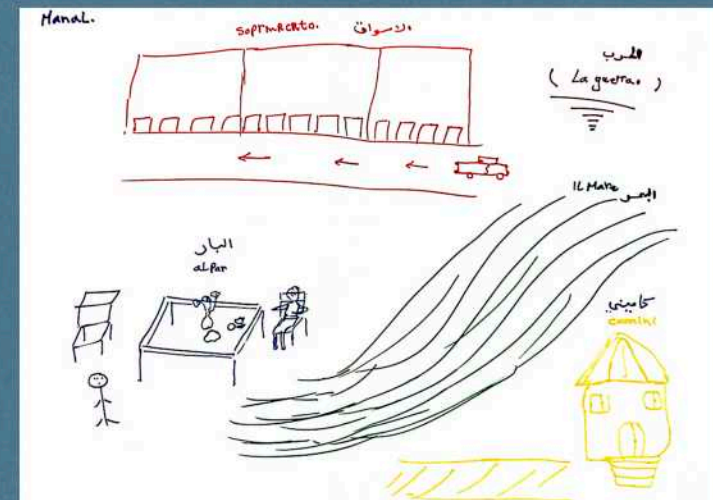
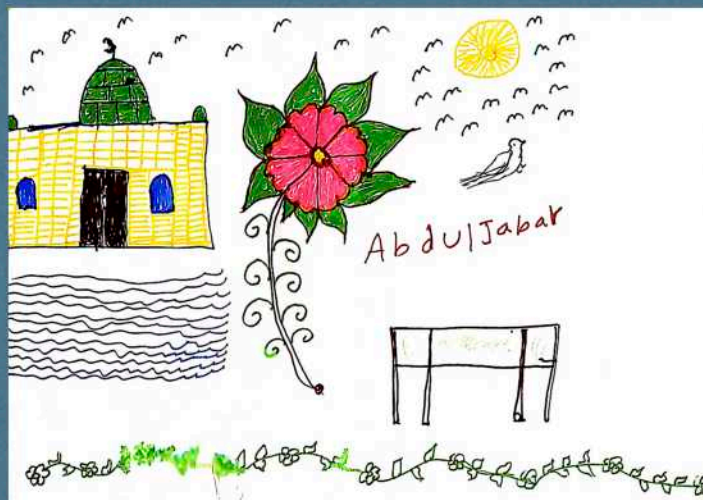
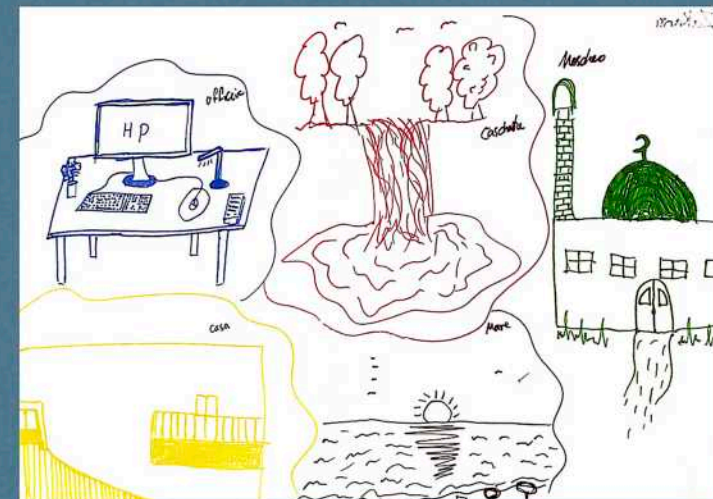
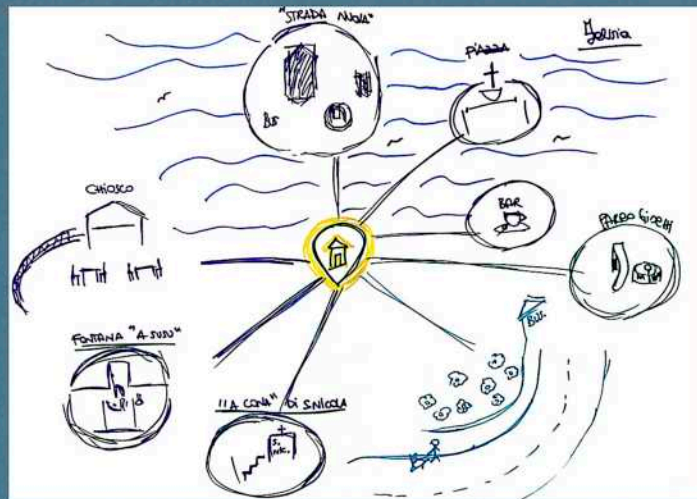
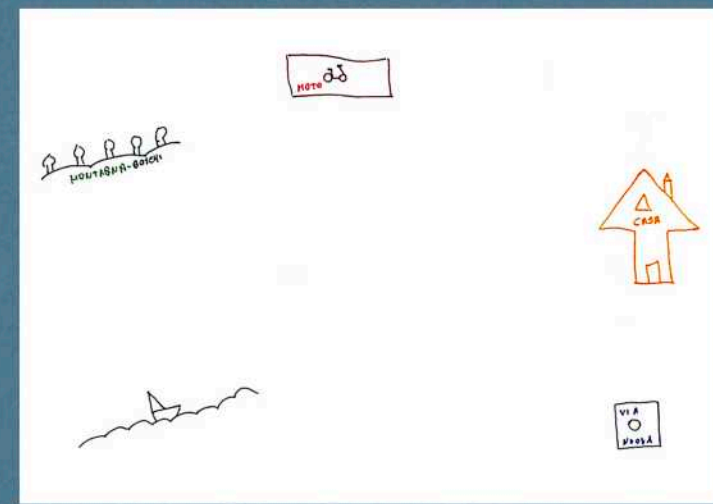
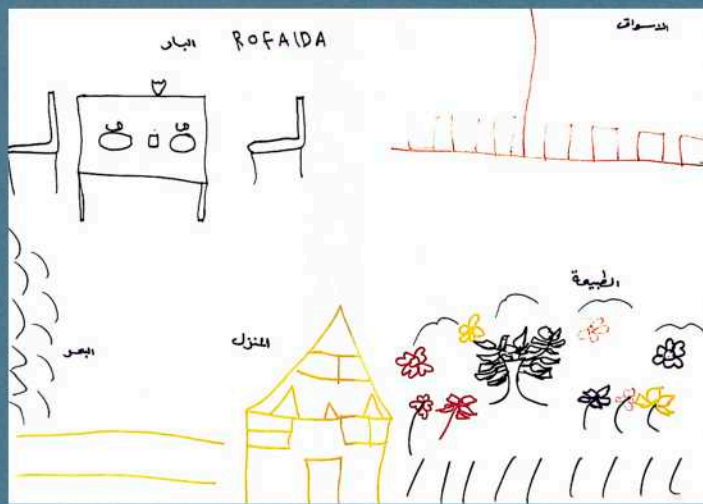




Camini, Italia

Camini is a small hillside village in the province of Reggio Calabria, in the southern part of Italy. The main road up to Camini meanders through ancient olive groves and abandoned fields, some adorned with the ruins of houses that once belonged to someone. On the other side of the road, which gradually climbs towards the hills, are the beautiful, wild beaches of Locride, touched by the Ionian Sea. The municipality of Camini has for years been affected by a process of depopulation and abandonment. This trend was partially reversed thanks to the initiatives of Eurocoop Camini-Jungi Mundu ('Unite the world' in the local dialect). What characterises this social cooperative reception project is the proliferation of activities created to support the schooling and vocational training of the whole community, including labs and workshops in cooking, art, ceramics, baking and tailoring that enhance and revive local traditions, making them key elements of a community economy oriented towards a future of inclusion and sharing. This process of rebirth has attracted many new residents, both returnees and newcomers, from different parts of Italy and the rest of the world, who are an active feature of the lively social, cultural and economic fabric of the place.





Rofaida Ayub, Syria

Title: **Mountains**

There are two things in this photo, with two different colours. The mountains that make me feel good are green. Blue is also a colour that I like a lot. The sea is blue, but I do not like it.





Chiara Mosciatti, Italy

Title: **Self-portrait in March**

Stairs are very much part of my imagination. I love jumping stairs and going uphill. The stairs are a bit of a thermometer of my health because the more I can climb the stairs, the better I am. I like the stairs because they are just a bit like the archer, they are swings on the perspective. And then the stairs here often follow the natural slope of the rock of the village.

I took this photo because there are two movements: that of the stairs that goes up, and that of white colours that goes down. And for me, this is a moment in which my need for white is very strong, intended both as empty space and as light.

Chiara Mosciatti, Italy

Title: **Watchful**

I like chicken very much. There is white still returning and it is an animal that I respect. It digs, digs to eat, and feeds on the earth and what is deep underground. And this is also something that represents me a lot. If I am in a place, I identify with that place, so I can't separate myself from the landscape, and at this moment, I feel like I am part of Camini. This photo also represents Camini to the extent that it also shows the closeness of people to animals, it is a luxury that we do not realize nowadays. Now, we are separated from many forms of life, even from the same human beings. Here, life circulates above, below, in-between. And this thing makes me feel good.



Fabio Passarelli, Italy

Title: **My grandfather's garden**

I like this picture because of the mountains. This was my grandfather's garden. And there are the mountains, there are these cliffs, how do you call them?...“I calanchi”. This is a place that makes me feel good, I often go there. Unfortunately, now it is uncultivated...



Mohamed Okla Alokla, Syria

Title: **Odai's mom**

I like this picture because it is very expressive. I wanted to represent a moment of daily life in Camini through a complex image that is both vertical and horizontal. The verticality is given by Manal's gaze while the horizontality by the ascending of the stairs.





Felisia Passarelli, Italy

Title: ' **A chiazza (the square)**

This is the square of my childhood because we often went to play there. It also represents a bit of change because when I was little it wasn't like that. There was a stage above and it was completely closed. If I am not mistaken, where the statue is now there was only a simple gate. When we were children, they always scolded us because we climbed that gate or went down these stairs with bicycles. And in front of the church, there was a small fountain where we played with the water balloons in the summer. And it was thirst-quenching because it was the only source of water available around. This place reminds me so much of my grandparents, the summer spent here with other children, the tourists...my life as a child in the village.



Felisia Passarelli, Italy

Title: **'A casiceda mia (my home)**

This is simply the door of my house, this is where I spent my childhood and adolescence. It reminds me of my family. And then there are also many memories in this small alley where a friend of mine used to come to visit her grandparents. Every Sunday she used to ring my doorbell and we used to stand in front of the door, and chat, and play...and it reminds me so much of the relief to go home because I had to make a huge climb. This is my home, the place of my heart.

Abdul Jabar Wahiai, Afghanistan

Title: **Bar**

This is a photo that gives me peace of mind, because when I go to the bar I see a lot of people and I see that they are all fine. When I see that people are happy, I feel fine too.



Tony Clwusu, Ghana

Title: **Peace and love (Il Calvario)**

I like this “church” of Camini because I feel good when I go there. I can be alone and think. It’s a place that makes me feel good, there are not noises but only silence with all the flowers, trees and animals around. It’s a good environment and then you can see everywhere of Camini from here. And I like that too.
I would call it “peace and love” because there is not love without peace.



Manal Mohamed Moftah, Libya

Title: **The colour “green”**

I love this photo because you can see the countryside, the nature, even the flock. I often go there on Saturdays or Sundays with my family, first walking along the main road and then reaching the countryside small roads.



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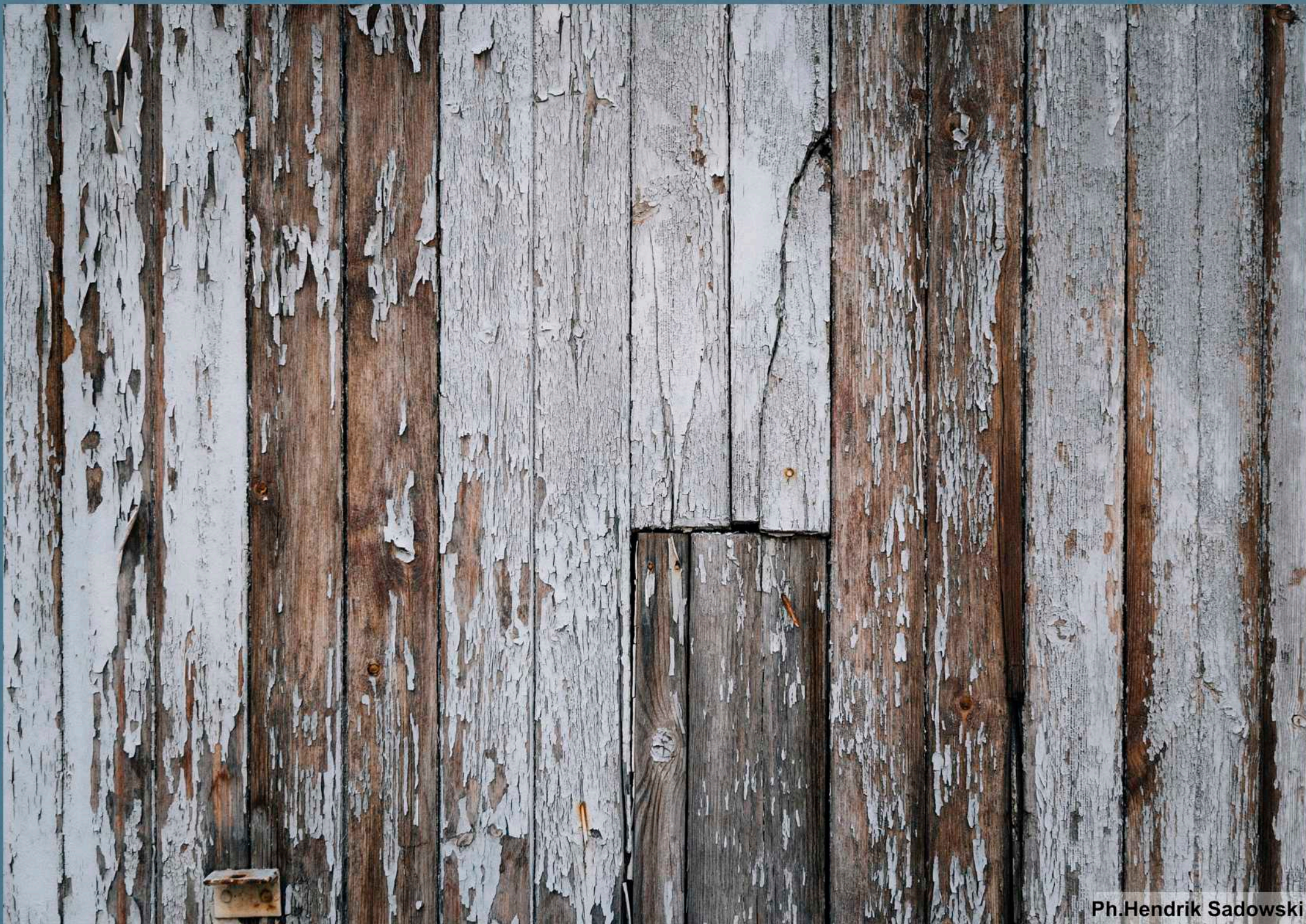
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Ph.Manal Mohamed Moftah

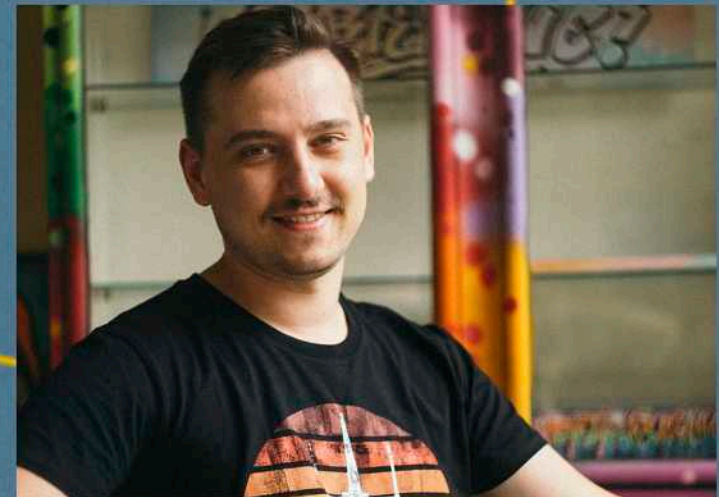
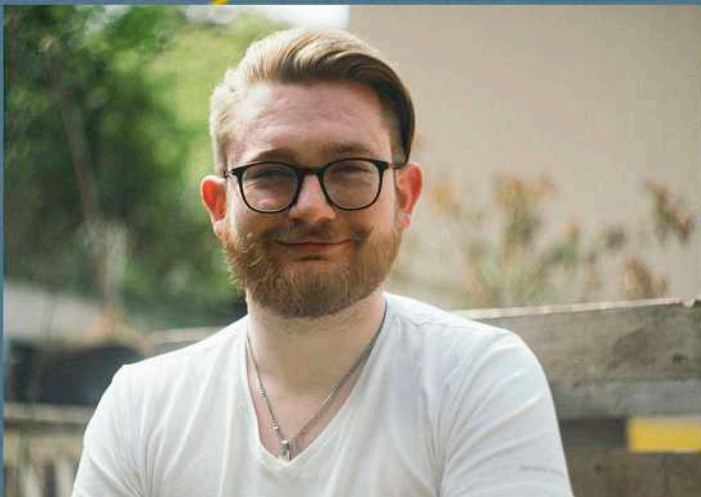


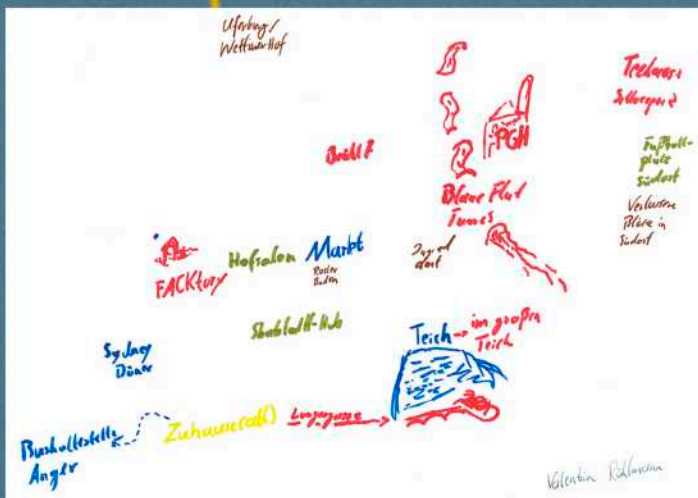
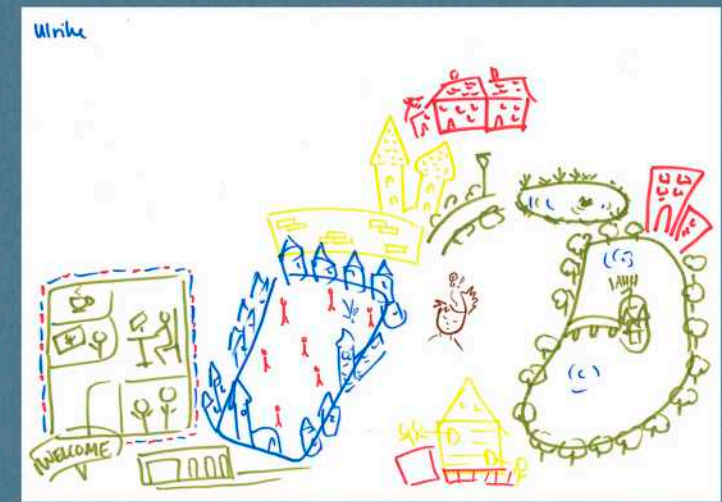
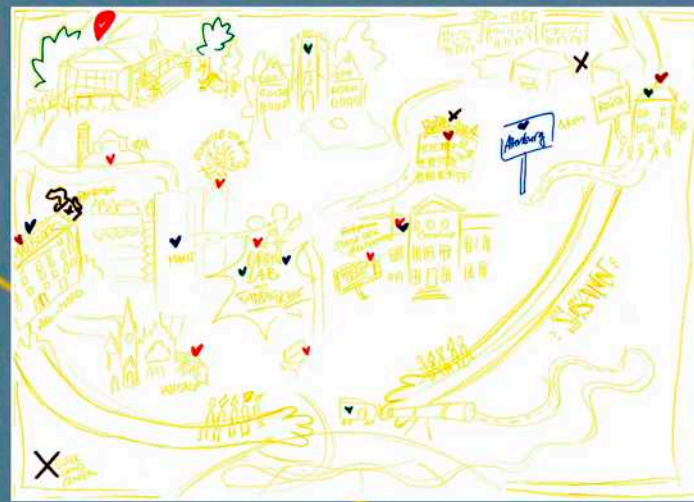
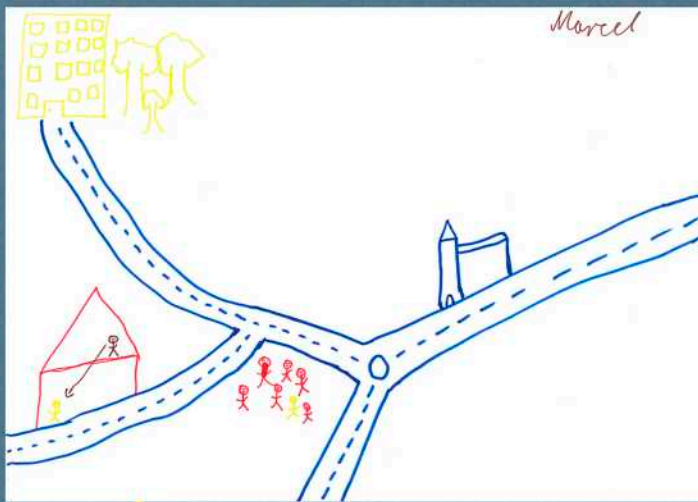
Altenburg, Deutschland

Altenburg is the district town of the easternmost district of Thuringia, Altenburger Land ('State'). After the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, the population of the district shrank by about a third.

This is also noticeable in Altenburg itself: it had over 55,000 inhabitants in its heyday, while now it has only about 31,000. Accordingly, there are many empty buildings in the town, each telling its own story.

History pulsates in Altenburg. The town is full of historical sites, such as the Brüderkirche (Church of the Brethren), the Landestheater (State Theatre), the impressive Altenburg Castle with the neighbouring Castle Church on the edge of the characterful old town, while one of its claims to fame is that the famous card game 'Skat' was invented there. What makes Altenburg most special, however, is that the town provides many new possibilities. In this contested space there are social start-ups, welcoming initiatives, projects, volunteers and a new generation of Altenburgers who are shaping and changing Altenburg according to their ideas. Some examples are the Skat Hub, where people are provided with jobs and equipment, the Open Lab, where creative projects are planned and implemented in all possible forms and shapes, and the Stadt Mensch project, where young urbanites support cultural and artistic projects in the old casino. Youth initiatives like FACK actively contribute to a new cityscape, just as welcoming initiatives like Futura have made an immense contribution in welcoming refugees.





Marcel Brock, Germany

Title: **Church of the Brethren, a meeting place**

This is the Church of the Brethren, which can be seen as a meeting place. It offers something for different groups of people, whether big or small. The family centre is located there, as well as a small world shop and the Hofsalong, with many social events. This is a place where you can go if you want to relax, and switch off, because there are also events such as the Feierabend, organised once a month on Thursdays. There is a barbecue, you can meet other people, talk and chat.





Marcel Brock, Germany

Title: **Shipyard in Altenburg**

I chose this picture because it is also a positive image for Altenburg. It is the Marry Jane of the Ruhr. It is part of an international socio-cultural project and was restored and designed in Altenburg over 6 weeks by international craftsmen and artists. The ship is now also on the way, I do not know if it is on the sea yet, but it is definitely in the way. A puppet play was also written during the project and it will be performed where the ship is anchored. The project aimed to make the ship seaworthy again. In the picture, you can see the temporary shipyard on the red Zora where the ship was restored.

Susann Seifert, Germany

Title: **(stop) Waiting for the world to change**

This project started with the question: Who owns the city and who decides what it looks like? And so we painted this with 170 children and I simply put this stop sign on it, because I was immediately ordered to remove the graffiti, which I couldn't understand. Because, as you can see here, the building had not been renovated at all, the windows had been smashed, there was illegal graffiti on it and we simply made it a bit more fancy. Many kids took part and left traces and that created identification - and the graffiti is still there.



Susann Seifert, Germany

Title: **Home is a feeling, not a place**

I worked in the public order office for many years and I was increasingly confronted with people who had converted public spaces into living rooms or skate parks, or who had simply put up a couch. So I dealt with the question, who owns the city now? Who decides how it looks like? Why cannot you just put a couch where you like it? Just the way they did it! This is in Poschitz Park. That is the most beautiful place!



Sema Gajieva, Azerbaijan

Title: **Feeling**

This picture shows the castle. It is a very quiet place, we often go here together and take a walk. It is an old building and it is like a museum. This looks like the old buildings from my home country, it always makes me feel good. I took the picture late, in the evening. There are not many people around at that time, there is hardly anything going on. The city is empty but still very lively.





Urlike Wolf, Germany

Title: **Leaving traces**

It is an old empty building but in every window, there are painted things. We once had a project with my school class where we went into the building and all the children from my class painted these windows from the inside with motifs from the Altenburg Skat game or other card games like Black Peter. And every time I see this building I think that I painted this king and my best friend painted the frog back then. It was ten or fifteen years ago, and yet it is still there even if it is a bit faded. It is nice to know that some people know this story and other people wonder why there are these pictures in this abandoned house.



Urlike Wolf, Germany

Title: **Backyard view**

This is the picture I see from my flat. I live in the city centre in a very old, but beautifully renovated house, right under the roof. You have to imagine, my building is really beautiful, old and colourful and next to it you have this ruined landscape. Almost all the buildings you see in the picture are empty and partly crumbling into each other. When I moved into the flat, in winter, there were no green trees, so I only saw the ruins. But then I thought the view was somehow so beautiful. But even back then I heard people who had seen it say, "You've got the best view, it's really bad!", and I could never understand that. I would rather look at something like that than at a white house façade. It is a beauty that is depicted, even if at first glance they are only ruins.

Valentin Rühlmann, Germany

Title: **Echo**

This is Altenburg Nord and, for me, this picture and the whole neighbourhood are symbolic of a life story or a life plan. When these neighbourhoods were built in the 60s, 70s and 80s, they were the place where people wanted to live. Everyone who got one bragged about it. They were new buildings, right? So it was a status symbol to live there. Now you see the gray and that only one flat is occupied at each entrance and on each floor and the rest is dilapidated and collapsed. And that is for me a bit of the symbolic power of a way of life that was from another time or another world, but which no longer works. You can see that this building complex, way of life, and area have no future. It is in the process of dying out until at some point it will be completely empty and demolished like other buildings.



Wajd Alkhateb, Syria

Title: **Art**

The theatre is very old and we did some research and found out that many famous actors and many artists have performed and danced there. It is a beloved place, not only in Altenburg or for Altenburgers but also for outsiders. It has made Altenburg known to people from outside.





Wajd Alkhateb, Syria

Title: **Key**

We took the photo because we saw a lot of people. The centre is always busy. We wanted to show that there are not only buildings but also people. When you come to Altenburg, you always visit the centre first. When I was in Schmölln, I only wanted to see the centre of Altenburg. There are many shops there... the most important places in the centre.



Local research team:
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Local partner:
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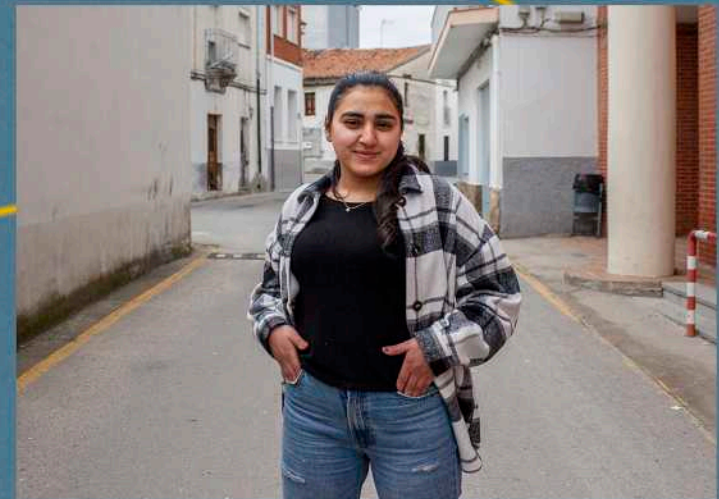




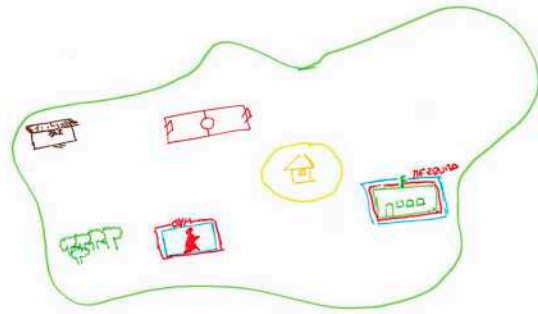
Talayuela, España

Talayuela is a semi-rural inland town in the province of Cáceres, which is located in the Autonomous Community of Extremadura and is close to Portugal but not quite at the border. Until the late 20th century, Talayuela was practically uninhabited, emerging under the promotion of colonisation settlements from national newcomers. In the 1990s, new inhabitants first from Portugal and Poland, and later from the other side of the straits of Gibraltar, from Senegal and especially Morocco, began to arrive and settle, coexisting in parallel, in peace but in silence. These populations live distant lives, failing to encounter each other due to a latent disengagement and the absence of shared spaces.

Where to embrace the differences in the human condition and learn from them? For decades, the fertile land allowed the development of an economy based on the cultivation of tobacco, lately a sector in decline that has been slowly replaced by peppers, paprika, asparagus, tomatoes and corn, together with a solar energy project. People welcome people-a sibling, a friend, a co-worker, and the scarce third sector adds its bit to the mix. International newcomers keep arriving, young adult seek opportunities elsewhere, and the land keeps feeding its guests regardless of their nationalities.



YOUSSEF



TaLaUELA

Asmā'ū
Al-Mustafa

Hanan



la
Pria

Dehesa

Dentista

Casa de
mi amigo
Salma

Agencia

Casa
de la
Cultura
con Aziz

Casa
de
mi tío

la
Pria

Escuela de
Adultos

Reunión de los
jóvenes en el
garaje de
Aziz.

Porque con
mis amigos

Casa de
mis amigos
Fatma

Parque

Hanan

Dentista

Banco

Casa de Aziz

Agencia

Agencia

de prensa

de

Fatma Benatkhel

Salma

el
seas

la casa
mi amigo

Reunión de los
jóvenes

la parcela de
autismo

la feria

el parque

Youssef Meziane Yaala, Morocco

Title: **Pastureland**

I was struck by the place. The place and the center of the photo, “la antena”. There are paths here, long paths that cross the national road and go to the meadow that belongs to the village. People come to walk here. I like the image itself, but I don’t know if it is representative of the village. The village is representative of diversity. I have a picture in mind, but I don’t know when to take it. It’s a picture of the mosque, of people walking and entering the mosque. I would love to catch this moment that I have in my mind.





Asmáa al-Mustafa, Morocco

Title: **Information hub**

The picture represents social life in Morocco. Older people tend to meet in the street, chat, saying “what’s up?”.


They talk about the weather, business, and even who marries whom. In Morocco, for example, this is called “the police”: people who know everything about everyone. In this picture, I see two things. The first is the respect and the continuation of life in Morocco. But at the same time the doubt about whether it is right to follow it here. Because it is not popular here for people to meet in the street to talk, it is not common here...

Asmáa al-Mustafa, Morocco

Title: **Moroccan scenery**

I would say it is like a transfer from Africa to Europe. This poster is all over Morocco. It shows that here, in Talayuela, immigrants live, other nationalities live. This sign has been there since 2000. It says “public telephone and video”, but the shop is no longer open. This can be found on any street corner in Morocco. The shop also means something to me that you miss, the feeling of a distance.



The background is a solid teal color. Faint, repeating text patterns are visible across the entire surface, including the words "Hanan", "Morocco", "Youth", and "The photo".

Hanan Khalloufi, Morocco

Title: **Youth**

The photo is taken on the move, it is in the outskirts of the village. I like the clear sky. In the picture, there are my friends, but it's like they are leaving. It also represents the youth leaving the village.



Fatna Berrakhli, Morocco

Title: **Reality**

I am attracted by colours. The colours of the clothes make sense in real life. The most important thing in the picture is the house. The clothes are hung outside because the house has no balcony and lacks several things. And the house needs to be rebuilt. I feel like if I touch this house with my fingers, it will fall down. This is reality.



Fatna Berrakhli, Morocco

Title: **Mystery**

I see this picture as a desert, and in the middle, there are parts that are white. It gives me a feeling of hope because, in the desert, you do not know where you are going to go. You do not know what is around you because it is all desert, but these white parts give a sense of hope. I would call it mystery because you do not know what is going to happen.





Salma Afkir, Morocco

Title: **Art**

I simply like the painting, the colours and this phrase: No to gender violence. This sentence makes sense. This is not a centre against gender violence, it is the swimming pool, but the mural is dedicated to women.

Salma Afkir, Morocco

Title: **Life**

This is where the elders meet. I do not know what activities they do inside. We are young and none of our relatives go there. Only a year ago we went here with a teacher to the cafeteria to learn Spanish. She wanted to help us. She came from Navalmoral (another nearby town). She took us to the café, we sat at a table and took Spanish lessons there.



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Photographer:

Alvaro Minguito

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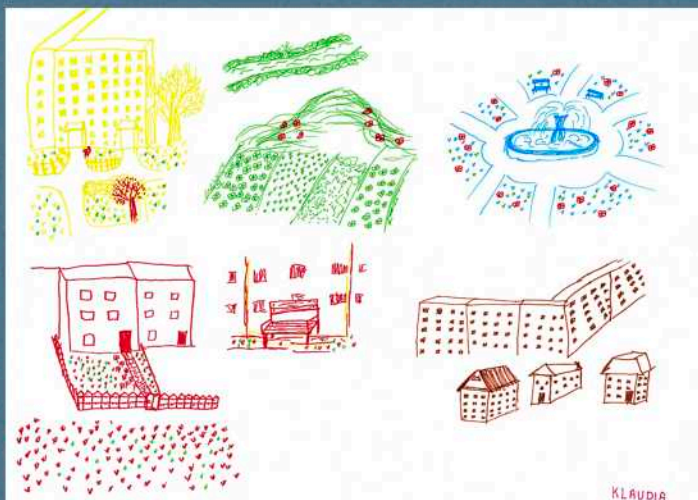
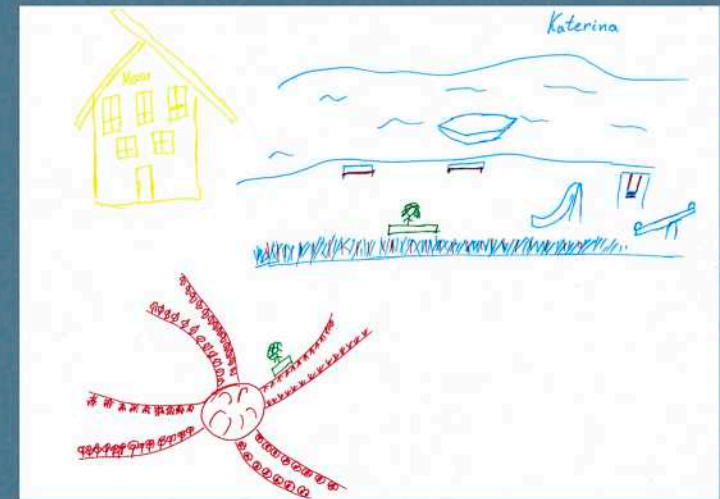
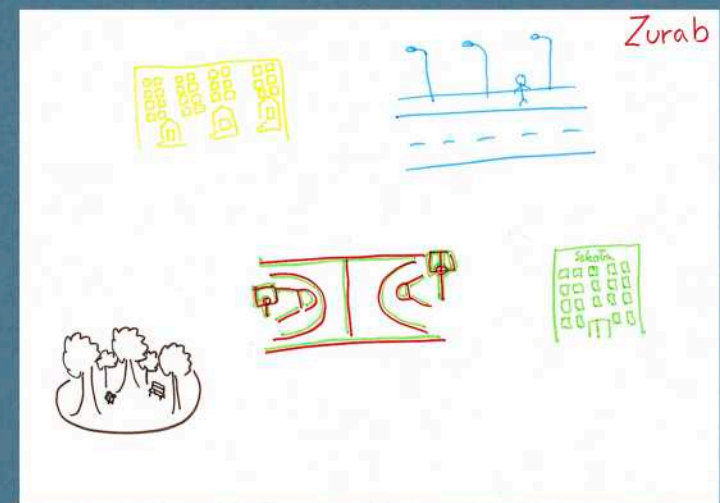
Łomża, Polska

Łomża is a medium-sized city located in the Podlaskie voivodeship (province), in northeast Poland.

Until 1999, it was the capital of the region but it lost its administrative status following an administrative reform. This was the beginning of the economic and social decline of the city: since then, it has been depopulating and the community is ageing. Young people are leaving Łomża, looking for better education and job opportunities elsewhere. Łomża hosted a reception centre for asylum seekers until 2010, and today around 60 Chechen families live there. Moreover, since 2014 a number of Ukrainians—mostly men without their families—have lived and worked in the city. But the situation changed dramatically on 24 February 2022: when the war in Ukraine started, many Ukrainian women and their children moved to Łomża.

What is unique about Łomża is the presence of a local NGO that encourages intercultural dialogue and hospitality, ranging from education to housing, and from job opportunities to other forms of active support for diverse communities and groups.





Damir Sultanov, Chechenya

Title: **Zasmuta (sadness)**

I just do not like to see this hospital. It is the architecture of the USSR, this building, these conifer trees. Everyone has some problems, diseases, it is very sad for me. I do not like this place. This architecture of the USSR is simply everywhere, if I did not know it was Łomża, I could say it was Moscow.





Magdalena Puławska, Poland

Title: **Be safe and be happy**

I really like water, a lake or every kind of water where it is nice to spend time. There is a colour combination: red with orange. I just liked it. We sat on a bench and this place attracted my attention.



Magdalena Puławska, Poland

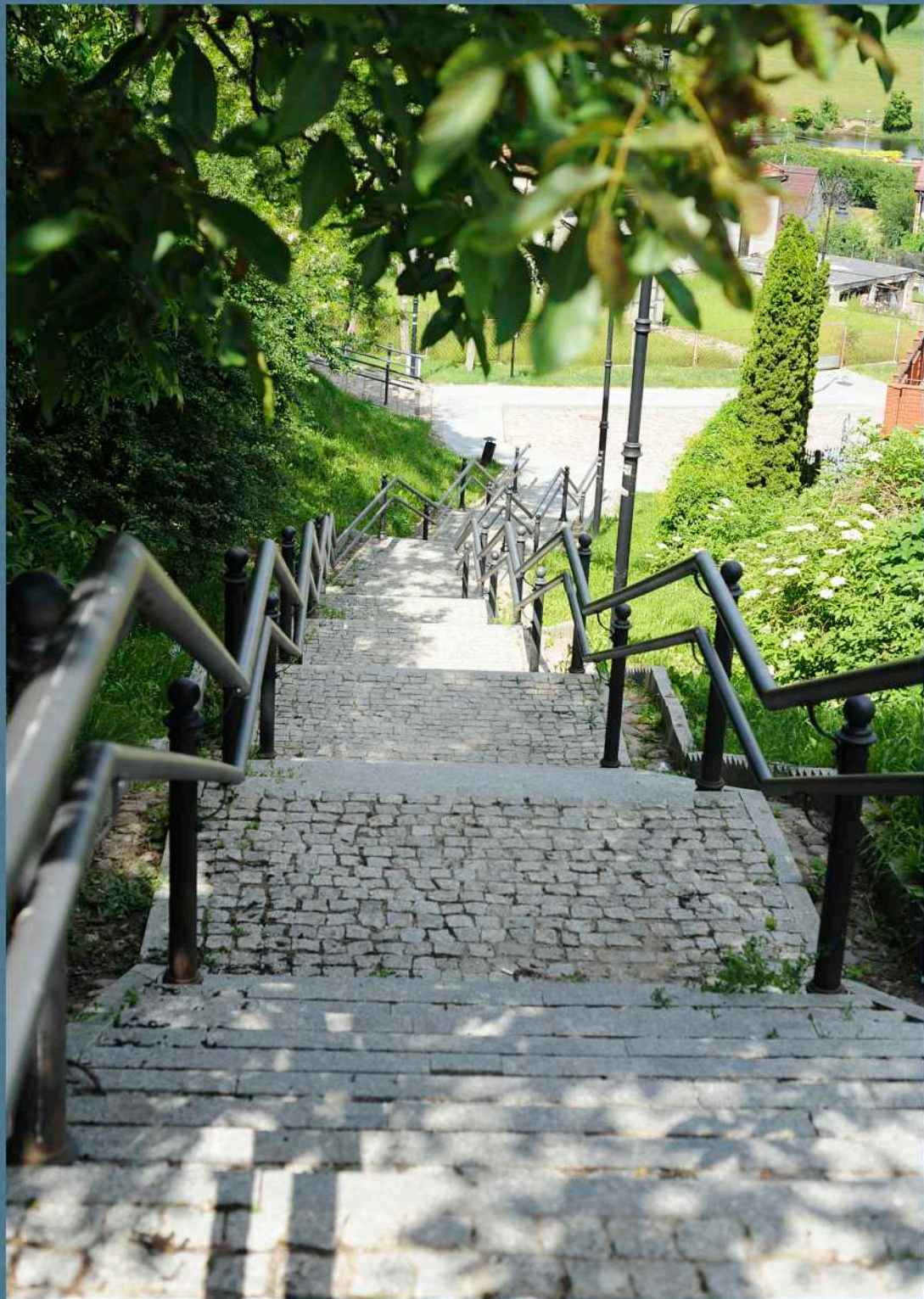
Title: **Chinese market**

Here I wanted to show two worlds. This global world that began to flood us completely, and reached every place, even such a small town like Łomża. This photo is twofold for me. On the one hand, this is a plus that we all already have access to certain things, that we can have everything. On the other hand, these nice red booths do not fit this place. I do not like it...consumerism. We focus on having as much as possible and this causes us to make unconsidered purchases, to buy a lot, and then everything lands in the garbage, and this is bad for our nature.

Zurab Dorsigov, Chechenya

Title: **Stairs**

Here it is a nice place and a nice view. That is why I took this picture. I like to walk, I am not here often but sometimes I come. I think it is nice. Those are the stairs to the river.





Joanna Chojnowska, Poland

Title: **Sąsiedzi (Neighbors)**

This is a photo from the so-called new Jewish cemetery. Perhaps even people living in Łomża do not know that there is such a cemetery. It was established in 1882 and until World War II it was the burial place for Jews who lived in Łomża, who made up a very large group of residents. You may not see at a first glance, but on the left side, you can see two towers of the Catholic Church. The city was largely inhabited by the Jewish community, Łomża is close to the town of Jedwabne, but these relations have deteriorated, which is actually a dark spot in our history...quite controversial emotions may be associated with it. Here it is shown that our worlds were connected, we used to live close to each other, and here this closeness is visible physically, as a symbol.

Joanna Chojnowska, Poland

Title: **No entry**

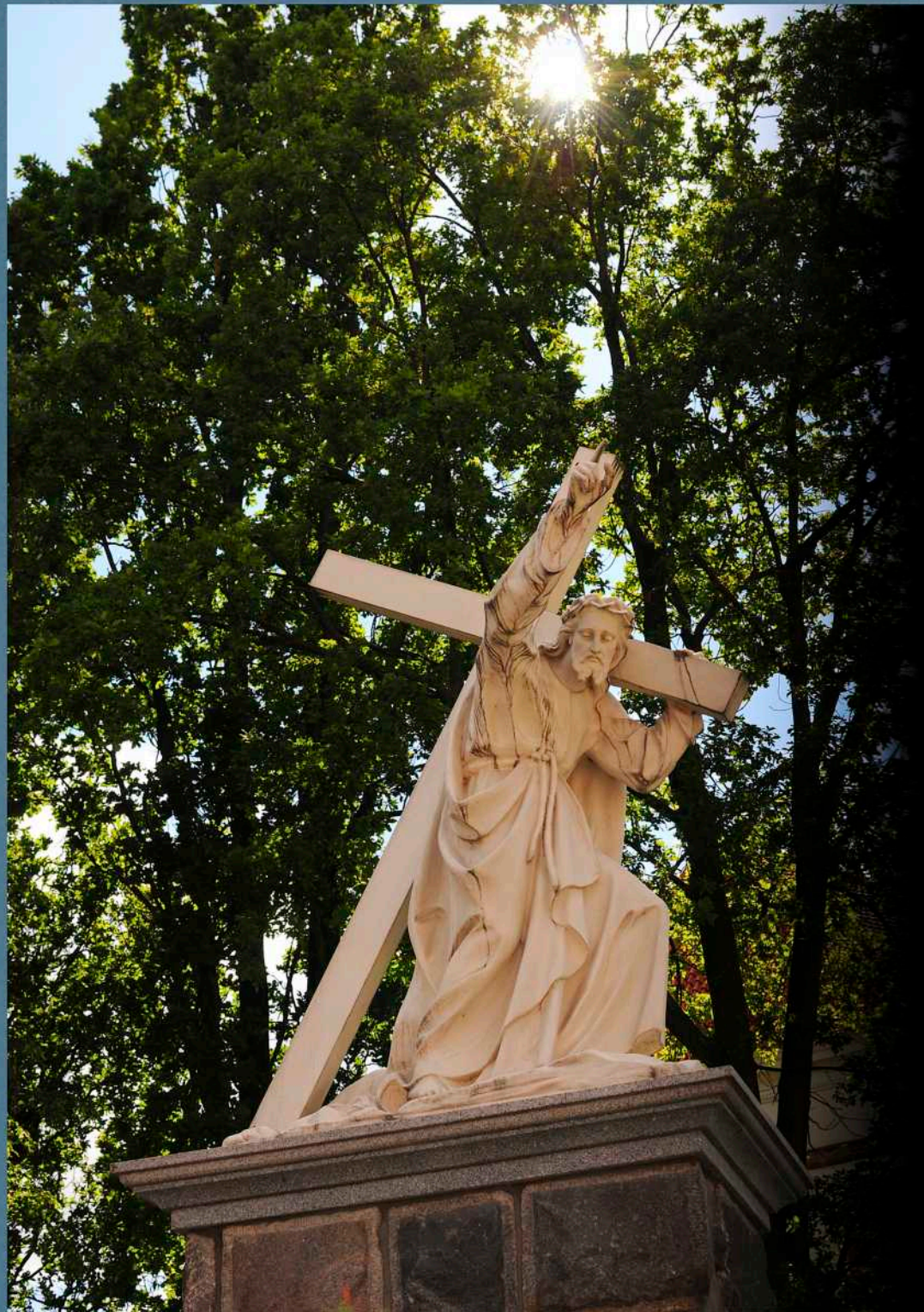
This is a famous building, a water tower. The tower is from 1952 and was in use until 1992. I chose this photo because the area where the tower is located is fenced and there is a no-entry sign. To take this photo, I had to lie down. I have an emotional attitude to this place because when it was impossible to get there legally, I used to go there with my boyfriend, we went inside, and there is a beautiful view of Łomża. I really regret that this is a closed, unused area. I once had a dream that I would buy this tower and make a nice cafe there. I also hope that someone will make my dream come true. But so far - no entry.



Kateryna Liber, Ukraine

Title: **Nadzieja (Hope)**

Every day I go there, I look at this monument, and I have two different feelings. One is that everyone has a life and must bear this cross. And this is not a pleasant feeling. But when I see the sun, I hope everything will be fine.



Klaudia Grabowska, Poland

Title: **Most, miejsce spotkań (Bridge, the meeting place)**

This is a bridge, a meeting place. I used to go here with my parents when I was little, there is also a beach here. Now I come here with my friends, it is a place frequented by people of all ages. People come here for walks, sit and swim. Others fish here. There is nature, but there are also graffiti which add charm, but also destroy this place a bit.





Klaudia Grabowska, Poland

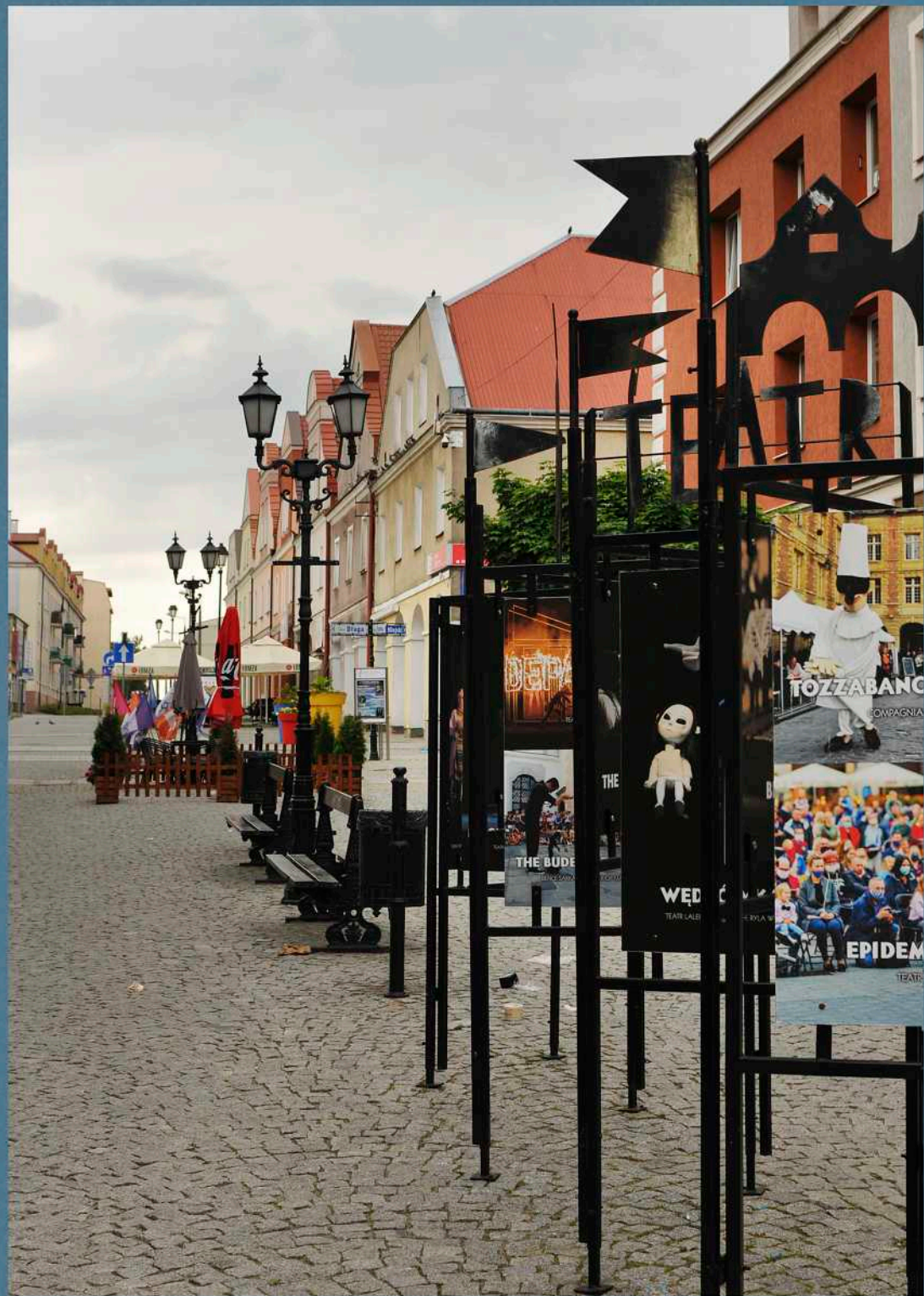
Title: **Future**

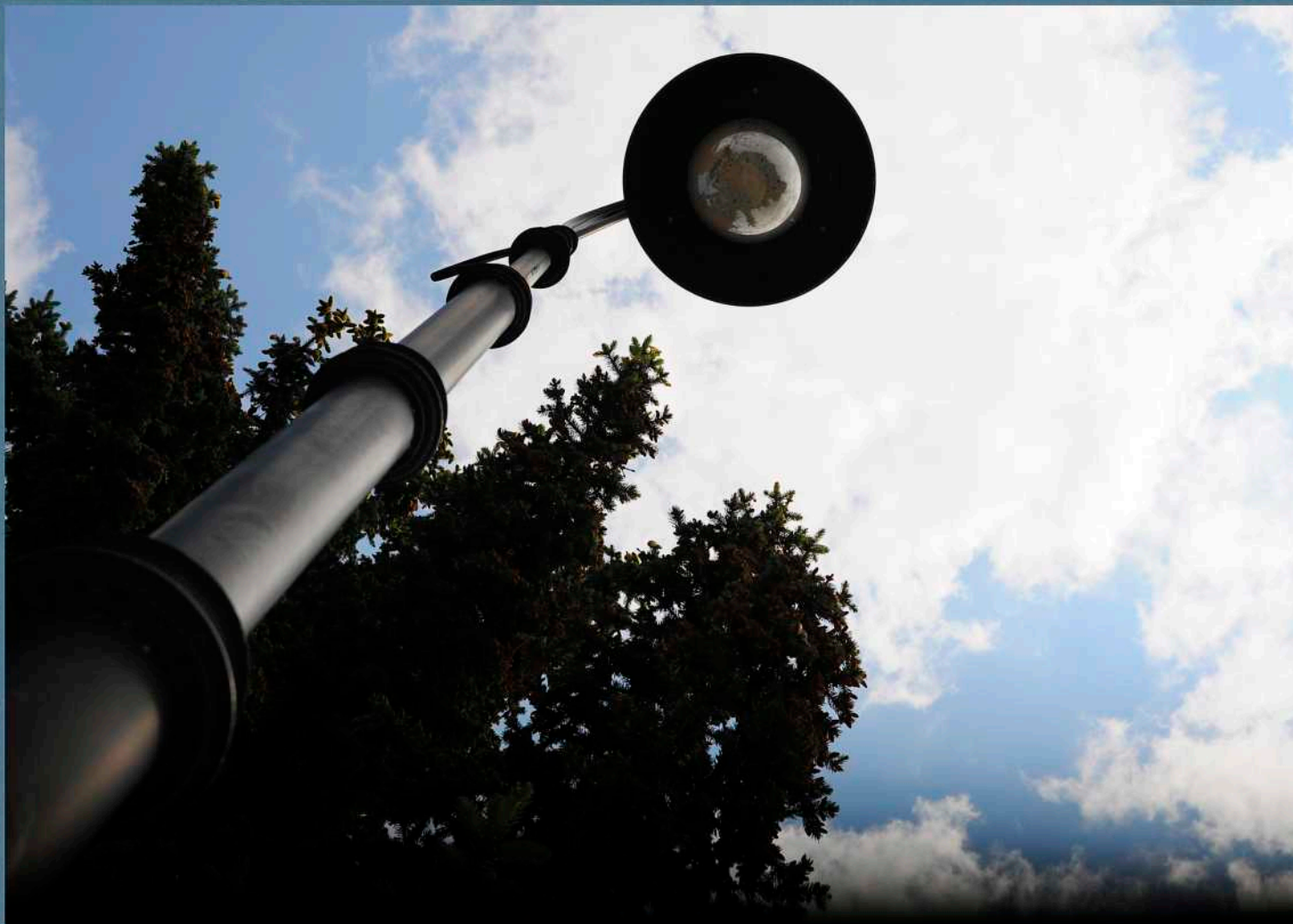
The picture shows the fields, the fields behind the church, there were a lot of meadows here, now basically all of them have been bought. And more and more houses are being built, most of them look alike. And it is green on the one hand and conflagration on the other.

Sebastian Zoń, Poland

Title: **Long history**

The photo shows an advertisement of a festival that has been going on in our city for 35th years. It is an international festival that gives us the opportunity to see art and culture from other countries. In such a small city, if this festival did not exist, we would not have such an opportunity. When I was little, I went to these performances, now I can go there with my daughter.





Liudmyla Bilonozhko, Ukraine

Title: **Lantern**

This lantern is for me a symbol of the helping hands that Łomża and Poland showed to me. In this foreign country, I saw light and place. Looking at this picture, I know that when the night begins, there will be someone who will turn on the light. Łomża is this light for me. Maybe someone only sees the lantern, but I see the whole story.

Liudmyla Bilonozhko, Ukraine

Title: **Morning in Łomża**

Morning. A favorite time for every mom, when you have the opportunity to be away from home worries. When you can spend time in the cold streets, you look around, and everyone takes care of their own things, just like this old man does. Today I saw Łomża with new eyes. Loving eyes. I fall in love with every house, café, avenue and park. Everything is filled with peace and that is what inspires me.





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Bedum, Nederland

Bedum is a village in the municipality of Het Hogeland, in the north-east of the Netherlands. Bedum was itself a municipality until 2019, when it was merged with others to form the municipality of Het Hogeland ('The Highland').

In terms of surface area, the municipality is the second largest in the country and includes over 40 villages.

It stretches from the Wadden Sea wetlands and the industrial Eemshaven port to open grasslands with winding dikes and Romanesque churches in the south. The dark and red bricks of many local buildings are testimony to the region's once-flourishing brick industry and its fertile sea-clay soil.

In recent years, tourists have discovered some of its villages. At the same time, there are growing concerns about a series of earthquakes that hit the region as a result of the extraction from the Groningen gas field that has been going on for decades. This Groningen gas controversy regularly features in national political debates and media and has become a symbol of peripherality. In comparison to its neighbouring villages,

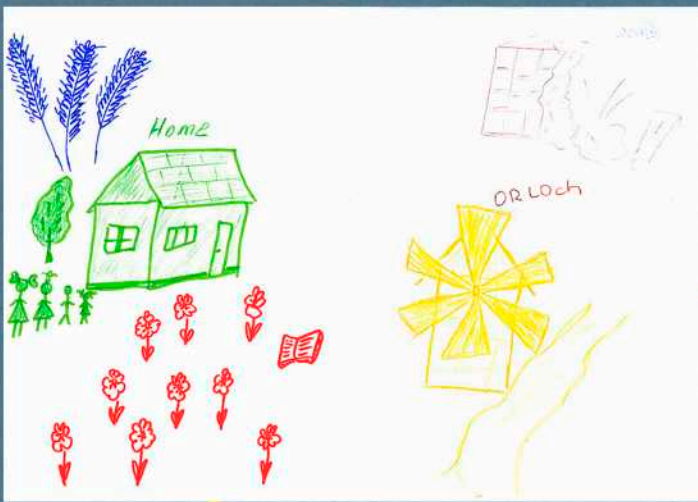
Bedum has maintained basic services and it is well-connected to public transport networks.

Community organisations like Colourful Het Hogeland therefore often organise activities in Bedum.

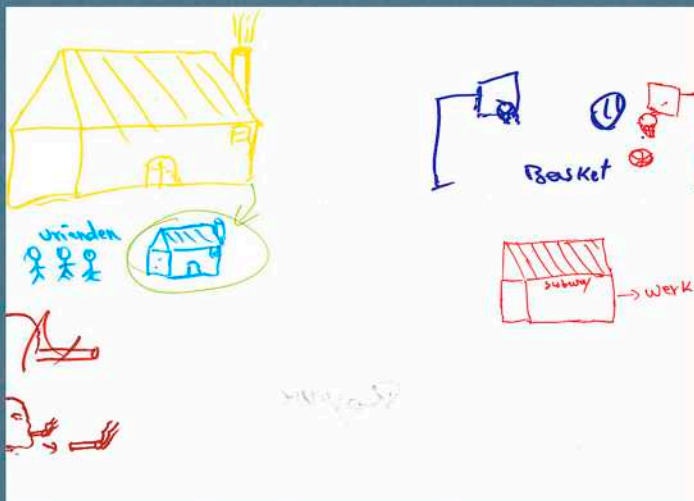
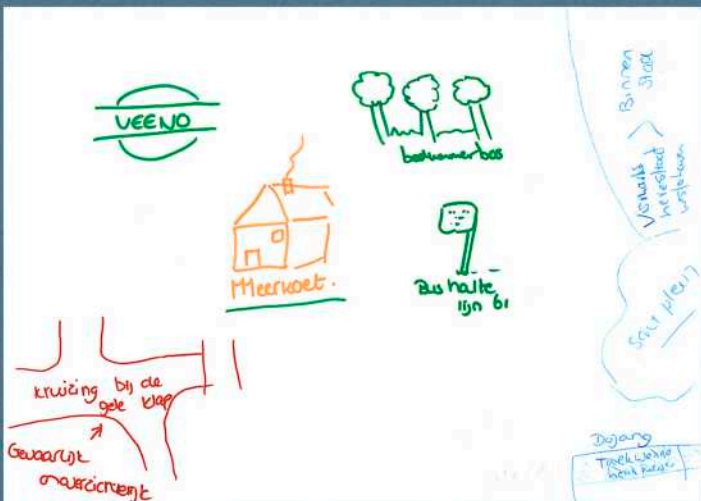
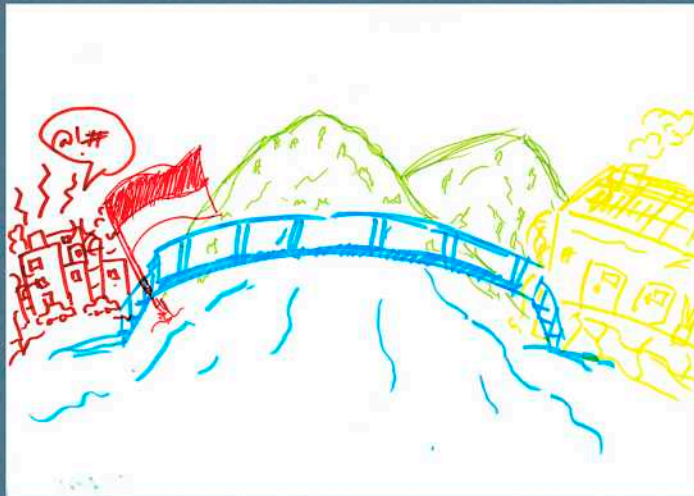
Such grassroots initiatives to build welcoming spaces with residents and not simply for old residents and newcomers in the region are what make Bedum and Het Hogeland special.

Colourful Het Hogeland breaks down barriers between groups that are usually separated. Its events have been an important platform for encounters across differences and for migrant communities to self-organise.









Alona Holovata, Ukraine

Title: **A whitewashed house with hollyhocks**

The houses and the hollyhocks which are blooming near the house - words from a Ukrainian song. A whitewashed house, the hollyhocks...everything makes it seem Ukrainian. This is our history, it takes my thoughts back to the past. My soul feels warm and good. Now with these difficult times in my home country and being in a foreign country, seeing the same picture gives me warmth. I feel at home.





Lana, Ukraine

Title: **Poppies at the waterside**

I really had to bend down to take this picture. The poppies in front - our country's symbol - and the water (of the canal) in the background. It is as if I am watching a painting. I put my whole soul into making such a small picture. You can really feel that you are there at the waterside.

Lana, Ukraine

Title: **Everything comes together**

This is my favourite picture. It reflects my whole soul. The beauty of nature, the beautiful clouds, the towers of the church, a river and flowers. You can see the tower is tilted. The photo is very unusual, it has everything.




Vitalina Syzintseva, Ukraine

Title: **Balance**

I took this picture because I like nature and in this picture, the contrast and combination of the green and pink colours with the water are so peaceful. I took it standing on the bridge in Bedum. In Ukraine, we do not have this flower so this is something new and beautiful, something different from what we have in Ukraine.





Yemane and Mezgebo, Eritrea

Title: **School**

I chose this picture because one of my favourite places is our children's school.



Hanna Gebre, Eritrea

Title: **A home is no home without love**

Even if you have left your country, no matter the reason, you can feel at home elsewhere through love. If you receive enough love, you'll feel safe. I chose this picture because of the trees and the church to show that people can feel at home in many places.





Hanna Gebre, Eritrea

Title: **Life**

Life is short
Time runs fast
Not again
No rewinding
So enjoy life as it comes

Svetlana Loza, Ukraine

Title: **The poppy and the lotus**

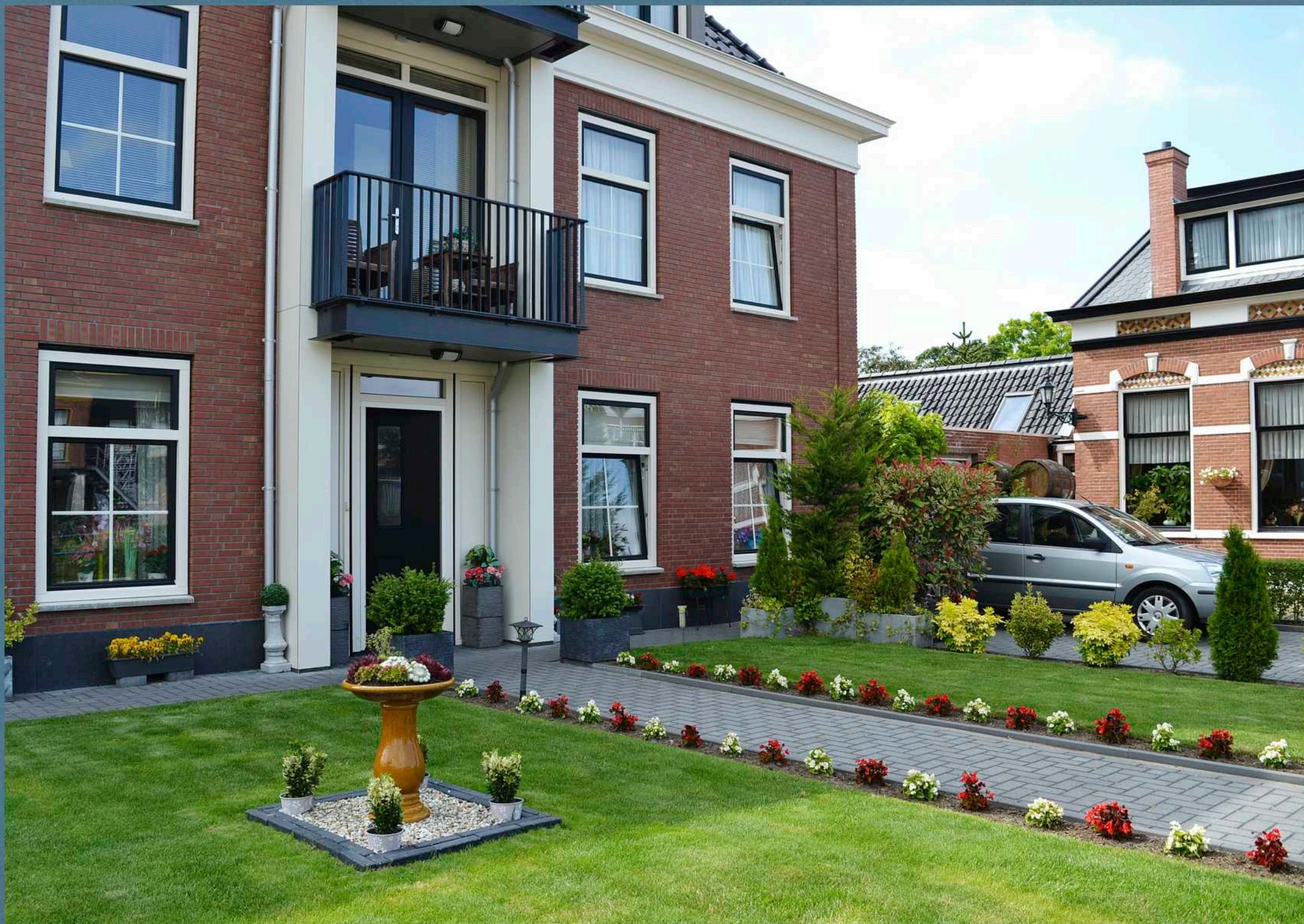
I chose this picture because the poppy flower is a symbol of Ukraine, where it is called Mak. The poppy is our symbol, and the lotus for us is something new, symbolic of the Netherlands with all the water. So in this picture, which was taken by my daughter Vitalina, you can see these two worlds coming together through the flowers, the poppies in the front and the lotus on the water in the back.



Marcela, Slovakia

Title: **Peace in the soul**

I chose this picture because when looking at it, I feel at peace. The green colour of the grass, the many colours of the flowers...they catch my eye. I also love the house. For me, this is a beautiful place.





Polina Loza, Ukraine

Title: **Syringa**

I like the colours and the shape of this flower. This flowery plant is new to me, but I associate it with a flower in Ukraine. This flower reminded me of the flowers of the Sering plant (Syringa) which has a nice scent.

Polina Loza, Ukraine

Title: **Home**

This picture was taken by my younger sister Mira. I chose it because I feel sad when I think of my home in Ukraine. I miss it. This picture was taken on the bridge over the canal in the village here.

Svetlana's (mother) reflections: I feel so good when I see the Ukrainian flag. It is a little part of home here. I am happy the people in the Netherlands support and invite us, it is really important.



Al Fath, Indonesia

Title: **Reach**



Noëlle, The Netherlands

Title: **Captured by nature**

I am very proud of this picture with the bees. You can nicely see the bee on top of the flower.
I took the picture with the white wall on the background, so it looks as if it is a painting.



Rayane Alidou, Benin

Title: **Paris in Bedum**

I like the houses behind the trees and the river as well. In the lower part of the picture, everything is green, while the sky is so blue. The roofs of the houses also have a slight blue colour, so I think this is a nice combination in this picture. I call this street the Paris of Bedum. Paris, because the houses are so beautiful and clean there. There are all these beautiful houses there, I like everything about this street.



Valerie, Ukraine

Title: **Beauty is in the details - Contrasts**

Beauty is in the details,
Keep a balance,
Look around,
Look inside yourself.
After all, eternity freezes in moments.





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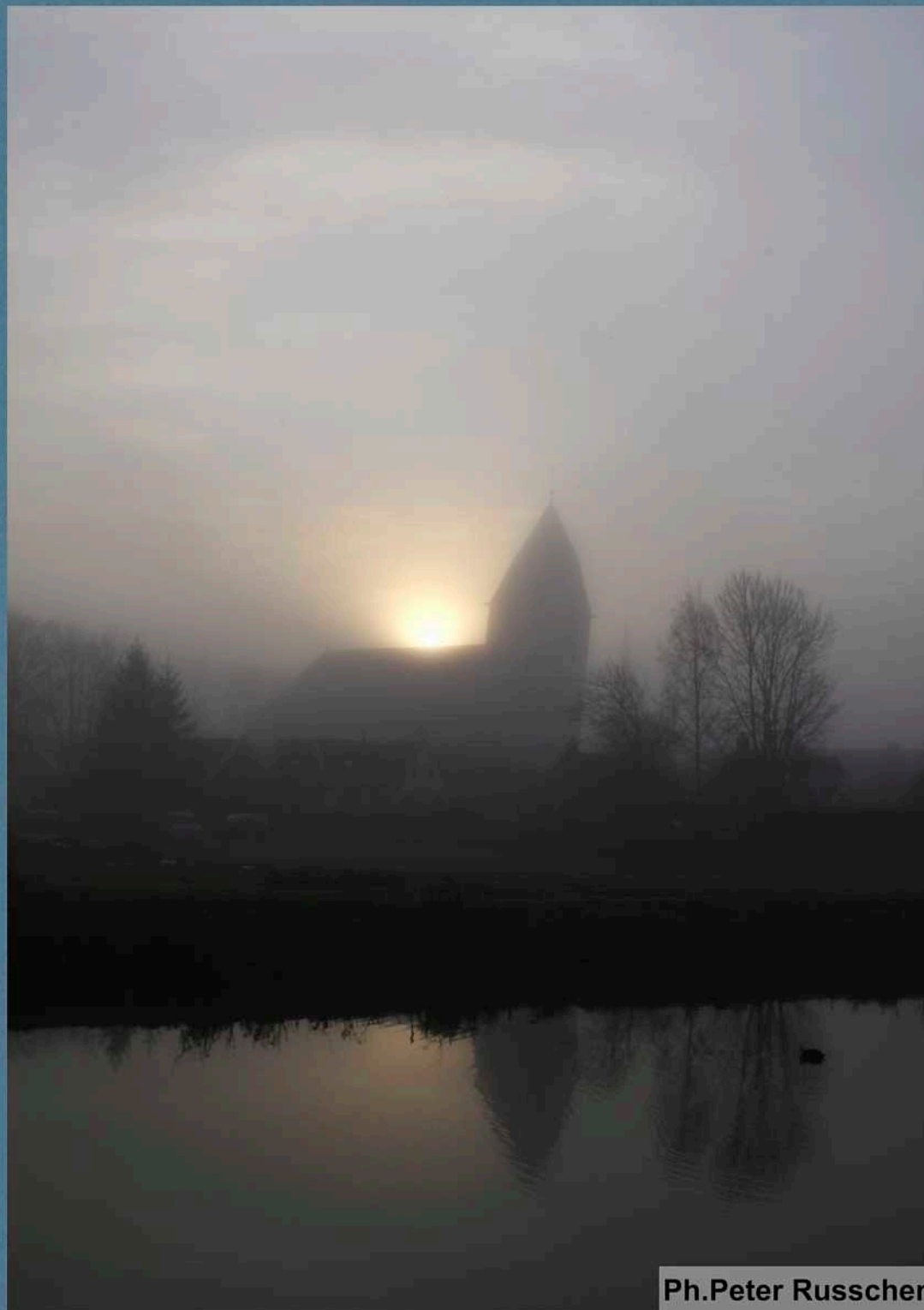
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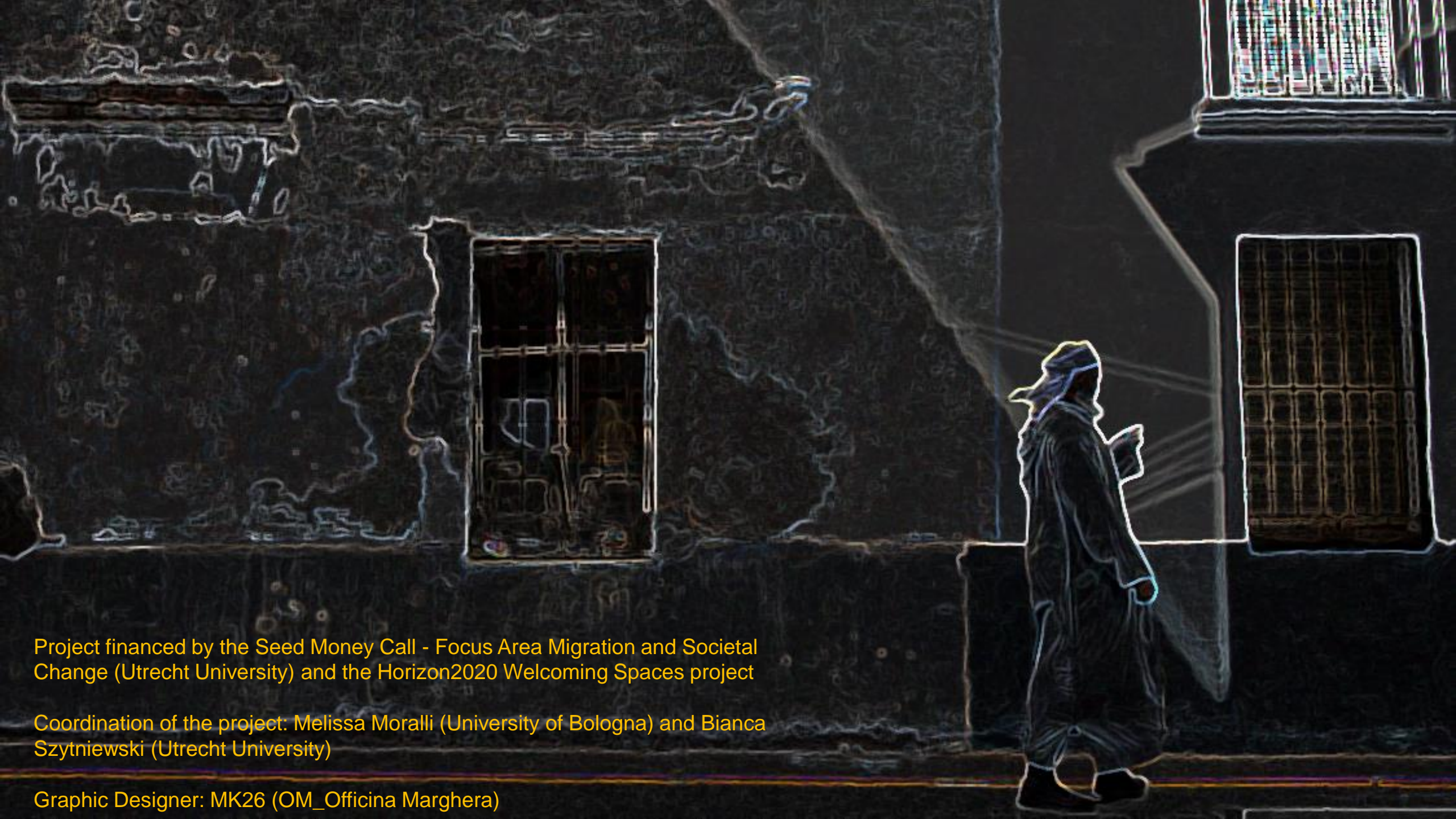
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