Spatio-temporal conditions in 15-minute cities: Exploring the use case of time offices

presented by **Lukas Heck** (Co-PI), WU Vienna;
Kris Krois (PI), **Teresa Palmieri** (Co-PI), **Nicole Faiella;** unibz
Time Week Bolzano 2026

Research Focus

Funded: 2026-2028 by DUT – HORIZON R&I: 15-Minute City Transition Pathway (15mC TP)

15-minute cities: are characterised by **four key principles:**

- Proximity → *Proximity* is mainly understood in relation to physical distance (time to get from A to B to access all basic essentials)
- Density
- Diversity
- Digitalization

Starting point of **SPATIOTEMPO**:

Not only physical spaces, but also **time itself affects, enables, constrains, and preconfigures contemporary urban life.**

SPATIO TEMPO

SPATIOTEMPO advances **a shift in urban planning by examining how both time and space shape the ways people spend their everyday;**
→ drawing attention to **cities as rhythmic spatio-temporal constructs**

Consortium Structure

Vienna

WU INSTITUTE FOR SPATIAL AND SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATIONS VIENNA

Stefanie Peer (Lead)
Lukas Heck (Co-Lead)
Clara Himmelbauer
Julia Fankhauser
Corinna Dengler

Bolzano

unibz Fakultät für Design und Künste
Facoltà di Design e Arti
Faculty of Design and Art

Kris Krois (PI)
Teresa Palmieri (Co-PI)
Nicole Faiella
Ingrid Kofler
Jacopo Ammendola

Barcelona

upf. Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona

Angelina Kussy (PI)
Lucinda Cash-Gibson
Arnau Quinquillà Capdevila
Joan Benach
Beatriz Rodríguez Labajos

Stadt Wien

Julia Girardi-Hoog
Centre for overarching urban planning, smart city, participation, gender planning

---

Città di Bolzano
Stadt Bozen

Zeiten der Stadt
Tempi della Città

Sylvia Profanter
Noemi Alfi
Sabina Scola
Ufficio Statistica e Tempi della Città

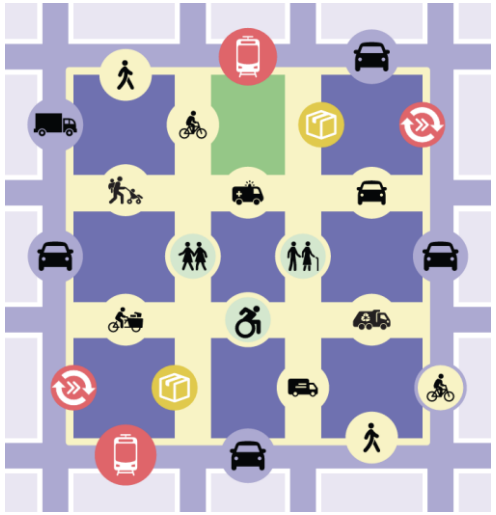
Barcelona

Blai Marti Plademunt
Laura Caralt de Casanova
Direcció de serveis de Feminismes, Transversalitat de gènere i LGTBI

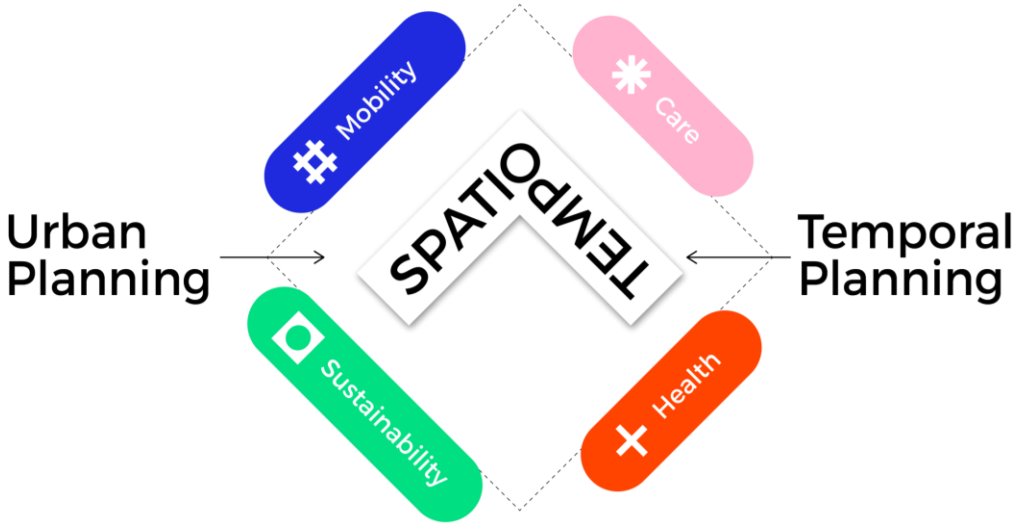
TIME USE INITIATIVE

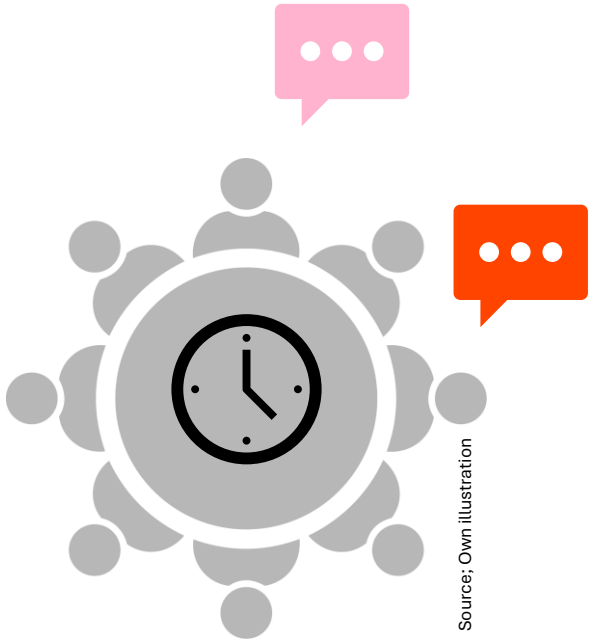
Marta Junqué
Ariadna Güell Sans
Marc Martorell Escofet
NGO for time policies in Spain and Europe

Two main institutions for SPATIOTEMPO



Source: Stadt Wien (2022). Das Supergrätzl . Wiener Straßenräume transformieren, page 6. https://smartcity.wien.gv.at/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/08/Supergraetzl_Infobroschuere-1.pdf





Source; Own illustration

Superblocks
as a *spatial intervention*
towards mobility, sustainability, (sometimes) care and health.

Time Offices
as a *temporal intervention*
towards time harmonisation & synchronisation of the everyday.

Methods

Operationalised via **a mixed set of methods:**



Interviews with time experts and time offices



Time-use surveys linked to **geolocational** data

Co-creation workshops



Strong public engagement and **dissemination** efforts

WP2: State-of-the-art as empirical research

WP3: Future scenarios

WP6: Evaluation

Integrating time offices' expertise in time planning

Local time policies

- **1970s/80s, Italy:** 'women change time' movement call to **intervene in the times of the city** to better align paid with unpaid work and other spheres (e.g., Bonfiglioli 1997; Belloni 1998)
- **local time policies =** policy measures that (re)shape when and for what purposes people have time

Time offices

- characterised as **key actors** of local time policies
- 1990s: **Institutionalisation** of time offices in Italy; later in Germany, France, Spain (Heitkötter 2006; Mückenberger 2011)
- target local time conflicts – e.g. between paid/unpaid work, travel times, opening hours, etc. – toward **time harmonisation**

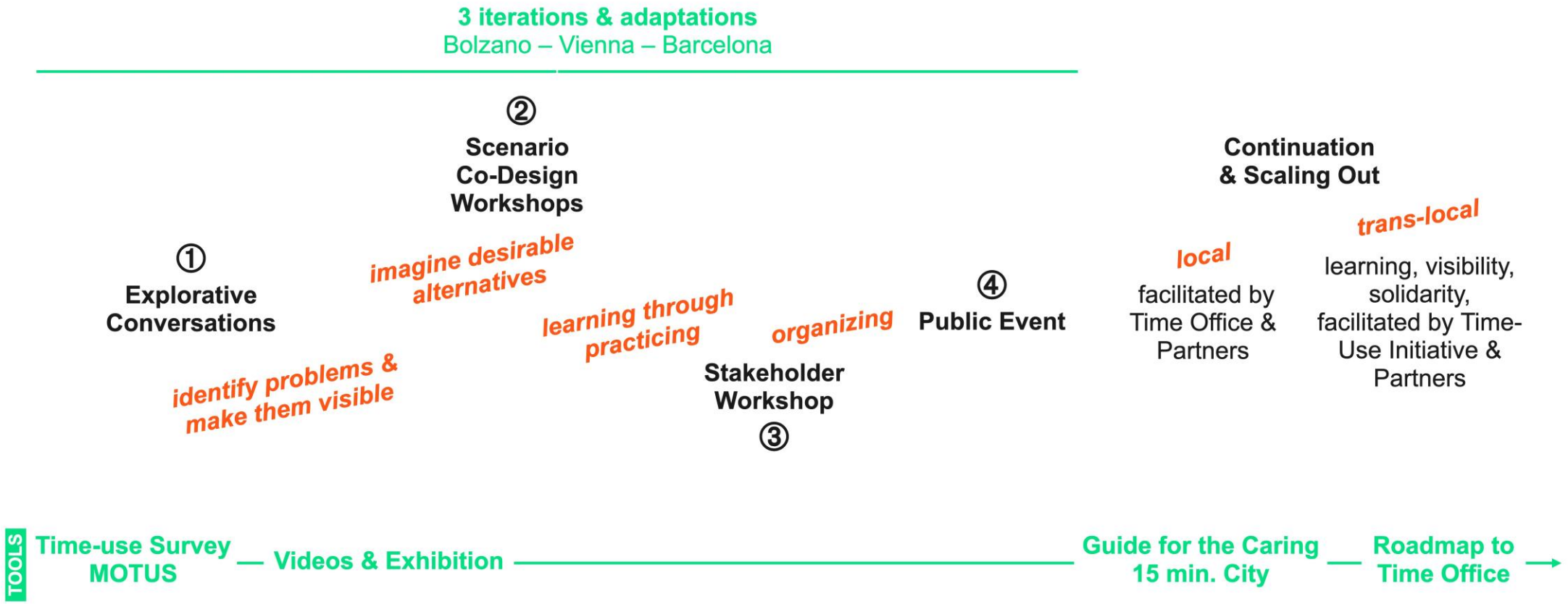
Time planning

"[t]he utterly essential dimension of planning is time. […] Yet time is the one dimension of planning that never gets discussed". (Ewings 1972: 439)

- Nowadays: **emerging research field** „time planning" (e.g., Laurian & Inch 2019; Hutter & Wiechmann 2022)
- Integrate expertise of time offices in the debate

Process & Tools: Iterations, Continuation & Scaling Out

This process will be implemented iteratively in Bozen-Bolzano, Vienna and Barcelona.
The methods can be adapted to different contexts while supporting trans-local learning.



Expected **Outcomes**

Funded: 2026-2028 by DUT – HORIZON R&I, 15-Minute City Transition Pathway (15mC TP)



Empirically

- **Time offices**: We demonstrate time offices' relevance of in emerging discussions on time planning (= "actor-side of time planning")
- **Time use survey**: We produce context-related time use data in three city cases



Scenarios

Co-creation scenarios: We create a **toolbox for spatio-temporal planning**, a set of methods for co-creation scenario-building in cities beyond our research project



Scaling up and Scaling out

- We strengthen the foundations of temporalities in urban planning**,** by producing a **guideline for the caring 15-minute city**
- We create a **roadmap for the implementation of time offices**, supporting adaptation in other cities

References

- Adam B (1998) Timescapes of Modernity: The Environment and Invisible Hazards. Routledge, London New York.
- Adam, B. (2013). Sustainability through a temporal lens: Time, future, process. In: Netzwerk Vorsorgendes Wirtschaften (eds.), Wege Vorsorgendes Wirtschaften. Marburg: Metropolis.
- Belloni, M. C. (1998). Tempi della Città. Italy's urban time plans and policies. Time & Society, 7 (2), 249–263.
- Besedovsky, N., Grafe, H., Hilbrandt, F.-J., Langguth, H. (2019). Time as infrastructure. City, 23(4–5), 580–588.
- Chang, R. A. (2021). How Do Scholars Communicate the'Temporary Turn'in Urban Studies? A Socio-Semiotic Framework. Urban Planning, 6(1), 133-145.
- Chang, R., Wunderlich, F. M., Hutter, G., Wiechmann, T., Schinagl, M., Schroeder, B., Nez Hapi-Dellé Odeleye, Maidment, C. Şefkatli, P., Korniyenko, G. (2025). Making Space for Time: Temporal and Time-Sensitive Perspectives in Planning Theory and Practice, Planning Theory & Practice.
- Dengler, C., Ware, S., Völkle, H. (2024). Time and Space for Social-Ecological Transformation: Care-Full Commoning in and Beyond the Ecofeminist City. Env. Politics.
- Dobson, M., Parker, G. (2024). Slow Planning? Timescapes, Power and Democracy. Bristol: Policy Press.
- Elsner, I., Monstadt, J., R. Raven (2019). Decarbonizing Rotterdam? Energy Transitions and the Alignment of Urban and Infrastructural Temporalities. City, 23(4–5), 646–657.
- Ewing, D. W. (1972). The time dimension. In D. W. Ewing (Ed.), Long range planning for management (3rd ed., 439–450). Harper & Row.
- Hägerstrand, T. (1970). What about people in regional science. Transport Sociology: Social aspects of transport planning, 143–158.
- Heitkötter, M. (2006). Sind Zeitkonflikte des Alltags gestaltbar? Prozesse und Gegenstände lokaler Zeitpolitik am Beispiel des ZeitBüro-Ansatzes. Frankfurt a. M.: Peter Lang.
- Hutter, G., & Wiechmann, T. (2022). Time, temporality, and planning–Comments on the state of art in strategic spatial planning research. Planning Theory & Practice, 23(1), 157–164.
- Laurian, L., & Inch, A. (2019). On time and planning: Opening futures by cultivating a "sense of now". Journal of Planning Literature, 34(3), 267–285.
- Lefebvre, H. (2004). Rhythmanalysis: Space, Time and Everyday Life. London: Continuum.
- Monstadt, J. (2022). Urban and Infrastructural Rhythms and the Politics of Temporal Alignment. Journal of Urban Technology, 29(1), 69–77.
- Mückenberger, U. (2011). Local Time Policies in Europe. Time & Society, 20(2), 241–273.
- Thompson, EP (1967) Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism. P&P 38(1), 56–97.
- Wunderlich, F. M. (2023). Temporal urban design: Temporality, rhythm and place. Taylor & Francis.

Contact Details >>>> DUT page: https://dutpartnership.eu/projects/spatiotempo **/ Website:** www.spatiotempo.eu **/ Email:** info@spatiotempo.eu



DUT Driving Urban Transitions

Co-funded by the European Union

FFG Promoting Innovation.

MUR

MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN Y UNIVERSIDADES

Cofinanciado por la Unión Europea

AGENCIA ESTATAL DE INVESTIGACIÓN

WU VIENNA | INSTITUTE FOR SPATIAL AND SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATIONS

unibz Fakultät für Design und Künste · Facoltà di Design e Arti · Faculty of Design and Art

upf. Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona

Stadt Wien

Città di Bolzano · Stadt Bozen

Ajuntament de Barcelona

TIME USE INITIATIVE

Zeiten der Stadt · Tempi della Città

Feedback

Would you like to share any examples, policies, projects, tools or experiences related to urban time? If so, please add them to this shared board.