

2025

Alignment

Lab

Studio

Network

OPEN URBANISM

Connecting Bottom-up and Top-down



Open Urbanism
Foundation

How was 2025?

Good. And first, we would like to thank our funders, with whom we share the belief that collaborative research can improve the **real world**.

Where violence coexists with beauty.

2025

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In Impact We Trust



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Our Funders

- European Commission HORIZON Research Programme and DUT (Driving Urban Transition).
- The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) at the Swiss federal government
- The Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) at the Swiss Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications
- Future Urban Society (FUS) with Innosuisse Swiss Confederation's federal agency for promoting science-based innovation for industry and society
- Department of Territory Canton of Geneva
- The Open Business Foundation

What was 2025?

2025 was the first year in which the effectiveness of our triple-axis architecture; Lab/Studio/Network was so evident.

Each axis operates independently, creating a continuous feedback loop.

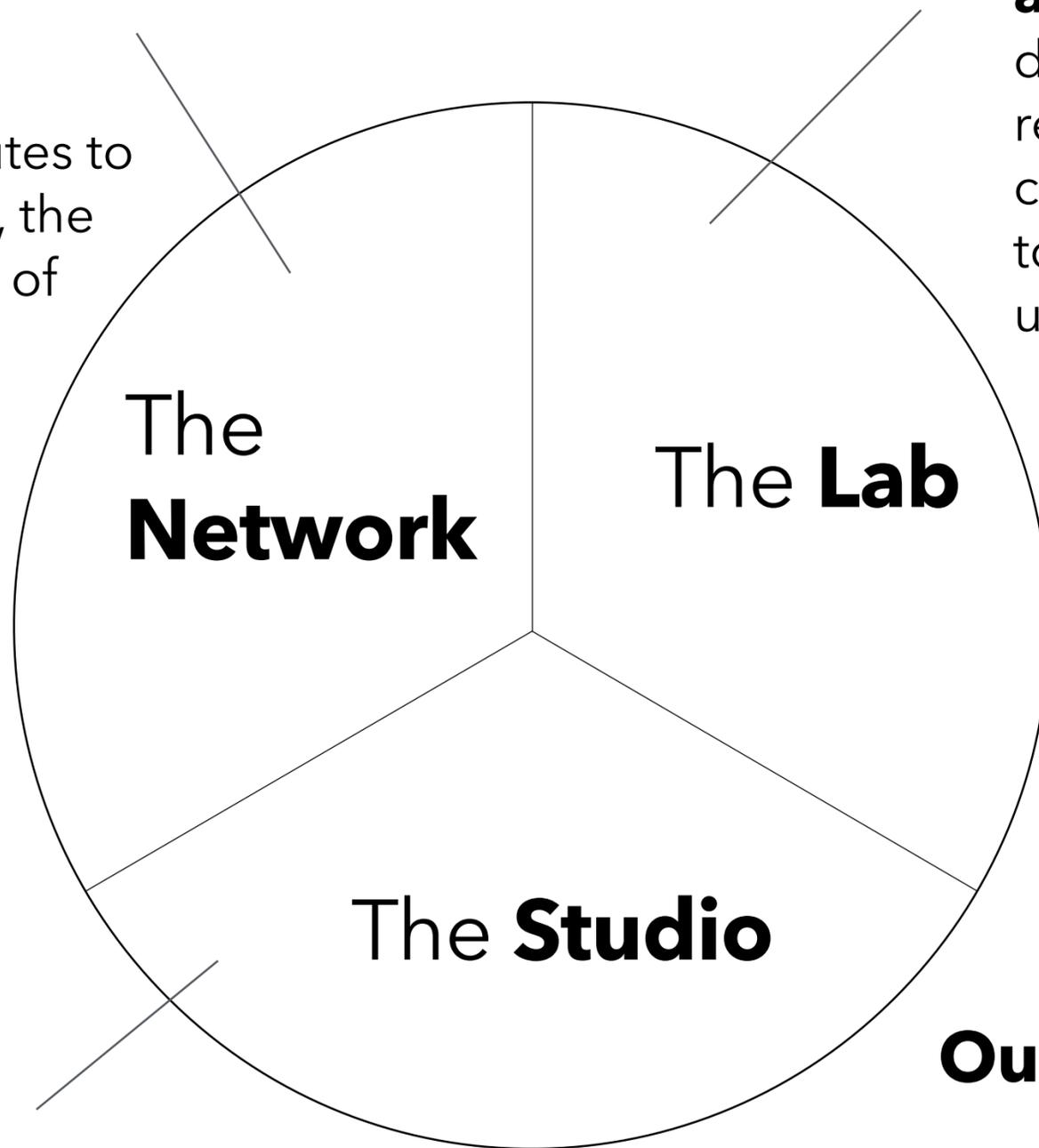
LAB > STUDIO > NETWORK > LAB



Yes It Works

Grows organically:

with people who use the methods and tools available from the Foundation. Contributes to the research projects, the tools and the sharing of case studies.



Forge the concepts and the tools:

develop collaborative research, pilots and digital collective intelligence tools for participatory urbanism.

Implement urban transition:

urban planning, landscape and architectural projects with cities, civil society and stakeholders.

Our Urban Living Lab



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Overview

News from the Lab (2025)

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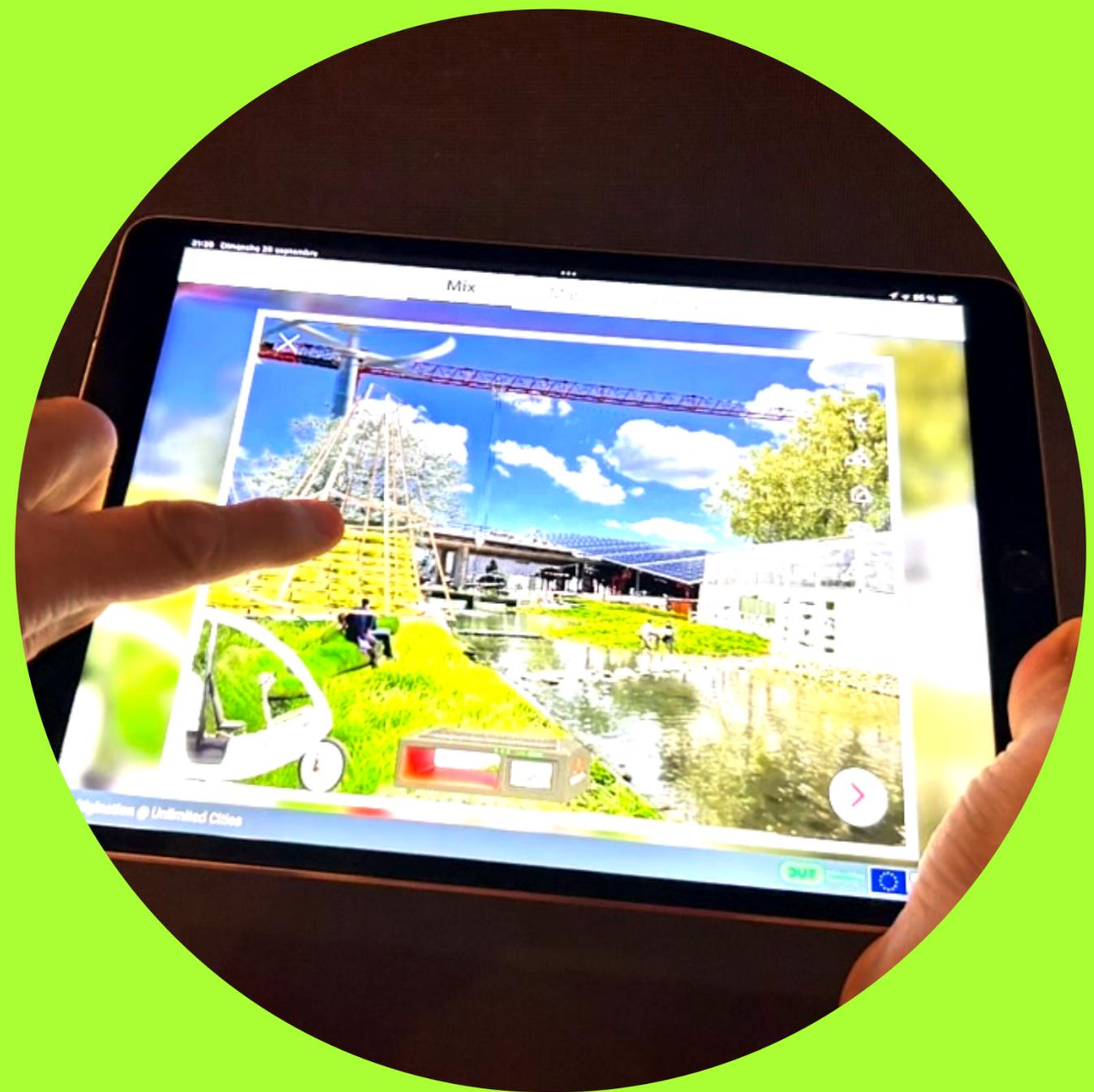
Network

There is significant demand in the research world for pragmatic, easy-to-use methods and tools that integrate civil society into urban transitions. Developing and sharing them is the Foundation's core mission.

Recent milestones:

- Participation in the CITSCI'25 Citizen Science conference in Lausanne
- Our consortium won the European HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-01 call with CORESPACES (2026-2029)
- The Foundation was chosen by its peers to lead the MULTIGINATION research consortium (2024-2026)
- UNLIMITED CITIES: our digital tool now has an administrator interface thanks to Multigation Research with new facilities for launching projects, currently tested in Winterthur and Basaksehir

URBANDASH: this tool will be developed through CORESPACES research research and tested in London, Thessaloniki, Eindhoven, and Tartu



Multigation Research
Winterthur CH Sept 2025

News from the Studio (2025)

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The Parc des Libellules project in Vernier, Switzerland—winner of the 2024 European Participation Award Special Jury Prize—has moved to implementation.

What it proved: Siloed public policies (social cohesion, urban health, climate adaptation, territorial equity) can connect through open urban planning, dramatically increasing their impact.

How it worked: Direct relationships between park users (who co-designed the project) and the city's parks department showed that connecting (not subordinating) bottom-up and top-down approaches creates truly inclusive ecological transitions.

Testimony: Urban Environment Department, City of Vernier:

My team and I had a lot of pleasure collaborating during this planting. It allowed residents, even from the youngest age, to participate in this beautiful project. They will see its evolution in the future, something very satisfying in our profession and I hope for them as well. Looking forward to seeing each other again on future projects.



Parc des Libellules Vernier
Vernier CH March 2025

News from the Network (2025)

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Origin:

The 7 Billion Urbanists (7BU) network predates the Foundation by 5 years. It started simply: people from distant places seeking guidance on using the Unlimited Cities free software.

In return, they shared their projects—from Quito, Taiwan, Laayoune (Morocco), Randers (Denmark), Wuhan—and contributed improvements and ideas.

Today:

The Foundation supports this network to remain agile and decentralized, enabling members—in Asia, for instance—to collaborate directly with their peers on open urbanism projects, without Foundation intermediation.

Sustained relationships over time:

Members create collaboration opportunities on both research and operational topics.



Unlimited Cities Tool
Workshops and projects

Agile

Lab

Studio

Network

Links between the Network and the Research Lab

Members can be invited by their peers at different levels: interviews on ongoing research hypotheses, becoming research cooperation partners, or being invited to participate in research calls and thus join consortia.

Thanks to these cross-collaborations, the network is an ideal channel for disseminating research and facilitating its scalability across different countries, combining a shared culture of open urbanism while integrating local cultures and procedures.

Links between the Network and Studio

Many members work on operational projects. By using and adapting the methods & tools to meet their specific needs, they contribute to their continuous improvement.

By documenting case studies, they help build a culture of open urbanism and create a body of knowledge useful for research.



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Interested in collaborating?

Get in touch to discuss:

Research: Developing collaborative research projects together (e.g., research calls, consortia).

Operational Projects: Deploying open urbanism projects. Our methods and tools are freely available, and we can support you in becoming autonomous.

Network: Join once you have practical experience with the methods and tools we share..

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