## Valencia de Alcántara / Team 1

# A NEW LOCAL SYSTEM

Europan 13-14 Inter-Sessions Forum – Workshop

## ARCHITECTURE TO THE RHYTHMS OF CITY AND NATURE

To arouse interactivity at the European level, Europan and the Junta de Extremadura invited the E13 winning teams (winners and runner-up) for 4 days to consider and design scenarios on the E13 session topic –"The Adaptable City"– applied to urban contexts in the Region of Extremadura. Three urban situations were proposed for the Workshop, all three located in 2 nearby towns – Olivenza (with 2 sites) and Valencia de Alcántara.

In a region like Extremadura, with almost 75% villages of less than 2,000 inhabitants, the city-nature relation is everywhere. Nothing can be done without considering the presence of the rural environment, which has generated enough activity for the urban poles to develop. Still, along the years, the influence of the countryside has gradually (if not drastically) vanished, impacting on the urban spaces which therefore were deserted. So how to regenerate the urban structure through the revitalisation of urban fragments? How to consider today the limit between city and countryside? And how to take back the urban space through new rhythms and uses?

**Europan**
**Junta de Extremadura**
**E13 Winning Teams**

## VALENCIA DE ALCÁNTARA // USES & RHYTHMS
## How Can Urban Rhythms Be a Motor for Urban Reappropriation?

“How Can Urban Rhythms Be A Motor For Reappropriation” was the question for Valencia de Alcántara, a rural town of roughly 6,000 inhabitants, 80 km West of Cáceres and North of Badajoz. The spatial opportunities were very clear, as the Junta de Extremadura asked for inspiring concepts for the city as a whole and especially for a number of vacant or largely underused buildings in the centre – a former slaughter house, a cultural centre, a foundation buildings almost in ruins, and the fortress that overlooks the town.

The rhythms were to be found in the imbrications of scales, from the architectural to the urban and regional, against the backdrop of elsewhere also well-known problems, such as a declining economy, the rural exodus, the demographic change and the question of the future of agriculture. The teams tried to engage dynamic interactions between the conceptual approach, the local situation and the different actors & stakeholders, and to transpose them in a storyboard, from macro to micro scale, and vice versa.

# A NEW LOCAL SYSTEM

## Uses & Rhythms – Urban Reappropriation

“The new local system” is an investigation of the current and possible future synergies between several phenomena: the relatively high percentage of unused or only part-time used houses; the considerable number of unemployed construction workers; and the wish of the municipality to improve the image of the town. By the installation of a locally-based interchange system, declined in a program for teaching, for construction and renovation, for participation in the cities promotion or artistic expression, it addresses the question of the organisation of a low- or even no-budget economy in a remote region of an industrialised country and proposes to give the town centre a new dynamic out of its own resources, both material and human.

**Participants**

Camille Le Bivic (FR), Florent Vidaling (FR),
Winner in Goussainville (FR) with “Base vie”

Annelie Seemann (DE), Marc Torras Montfort (ES),
Winner in Gera (DE) with “Colonization of the City Center”

Malin Svensson (SE),
Runner-up in Lund (SE) with “Monster Planning”

**Coach**: Jens Metz (DE)

VALENCIA DE ALCANTARA
The new local system

# NO GROWTH

DOES NOT MEAN
NO DYNAMISM

NO GROWTH
DOES NOT MEAN
NO DYNAMISM

# SKILLS CAPITAL
# SPATIAL POTENTIALS
# POPULATION NEEDS

# HOW CAN A NEW POLICY ABOUT EMPTY HOUSES GENERATE NEW DYNAMICS?

# SOMEWHERE IN MADRID....

## Pedro

Madrid 34 years old

Hi, I am Pedro!
I live with my wife and
my children in Madrid.

Last year I **inherited a dwelling**
in Valencia de Alcantara.

PEDRO's
PROPERTY
VALENCIA DE ALCANTARA

**Pedro (owner)**
Madrid

Hola. I heard of the program you provide. I am curios what are my advantages as a owner?

Really? Please, can you explain more about this?

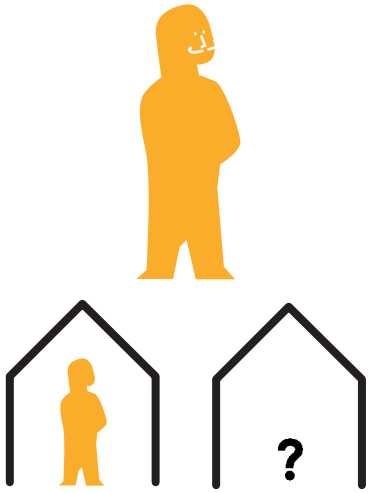
**Town hall (municipality)**
Valencia de Alcántara

Our program is called **New Local System**. Participating on that project means for you to save taxes.

# contribute and save money

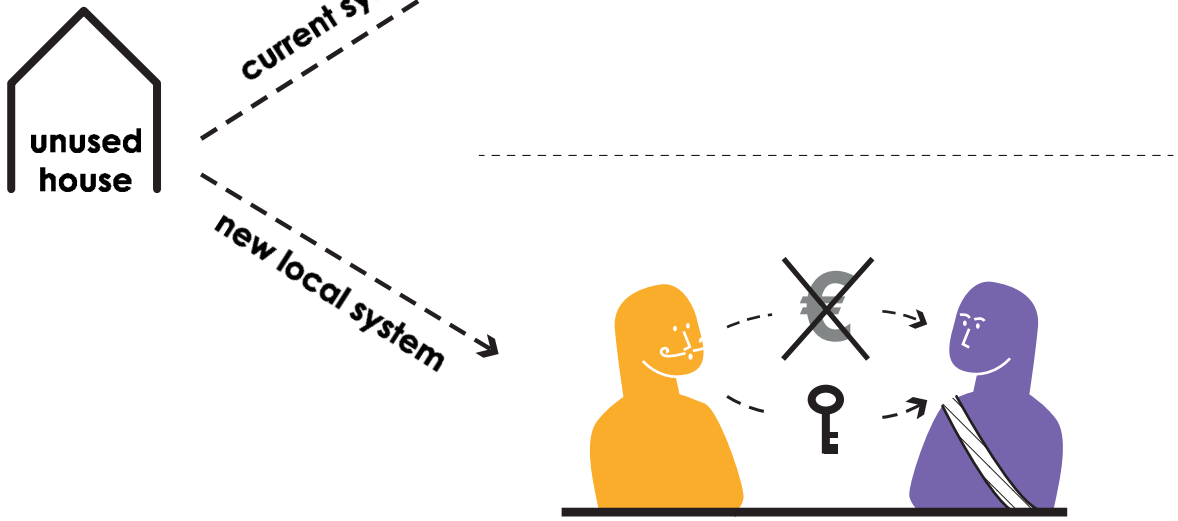
owner

municipality




**used house**
Madrid

**unused house**
Valencia de Alcantara



# MEANWHILE ....

## Fernando + Maria

Badajoz 39 + 36 years old

Buenas,
I am Fernando.
I am a **self-employed carpenter**,
but since the crisis I just get few work requests.

Hola,
my name is Maria.
I used to be teacher,
but I **lost my job**,
since the school decided to merge classes.

**We need a change!**

**Fernando and Maria (participant)**
Badajoz

Hola.
We heard of the program you provide.
**How can we particpate?**

I am a self-employed carpenter and my wife is a teacher.

**Town hall (municipality)**
Valencia de Alcántara

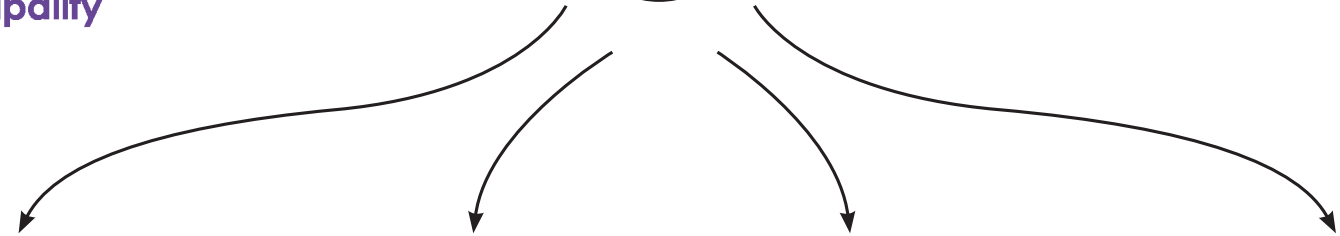
It depends on what kind of **input** or **knowledge** you have.

Let me introduce you to our new **program packages** ....

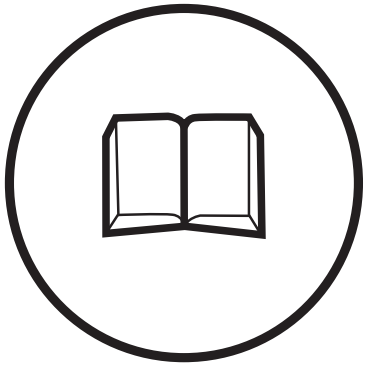
# Program options

participant

municipality

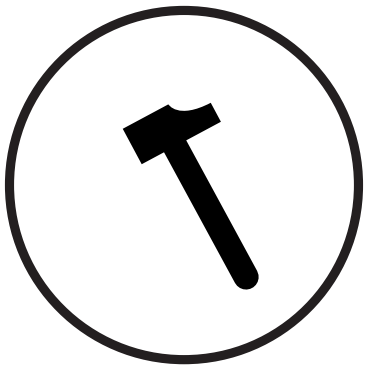


## TEACH



teaching courses
dance courses
music courses

## CONSTRUCT



refurbishment
construction knowledge
maintenance

## PARTICIPATE

care taker
participation on city events
guided tours

## ART

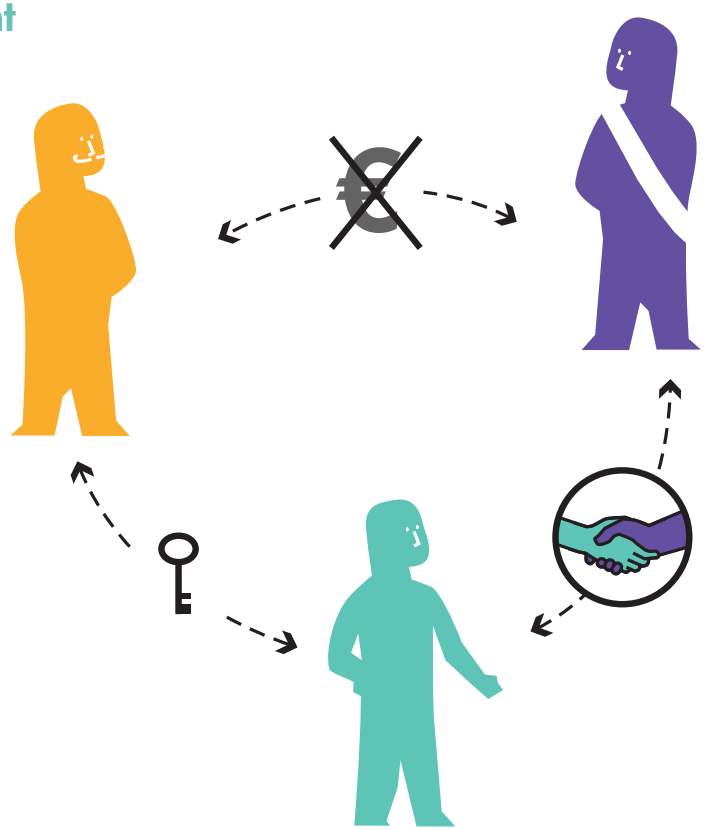
art events/exhibitions
art courses

# WIN-WIN-WIN triangle

owner municipality participant

the owner wins:

- **taxes reduction**
- **bonifications**
- **increasing the market value of the house**

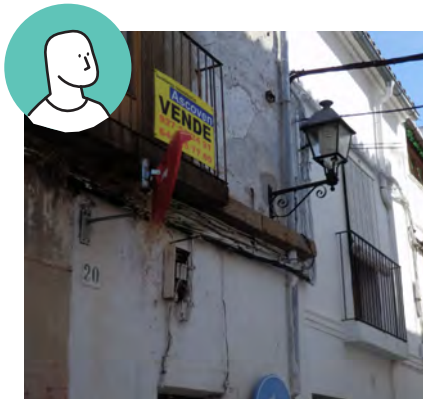


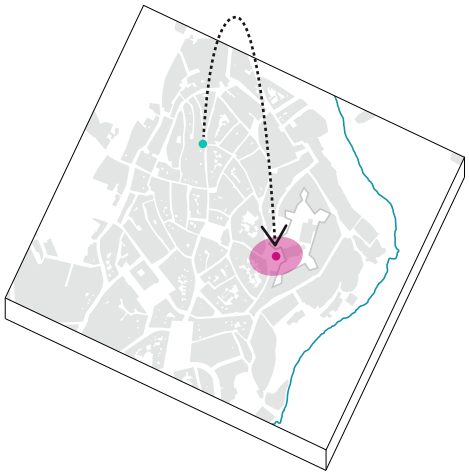
the municipality wins:

- **dynamic town**
- **reinsertion of unemployed people**
- **citizens initiative**

the participant wins:

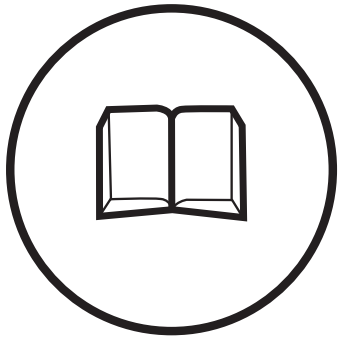
- **no rent**
- **staying professionally activ**
- **transmission of Knowledge**


VENDE



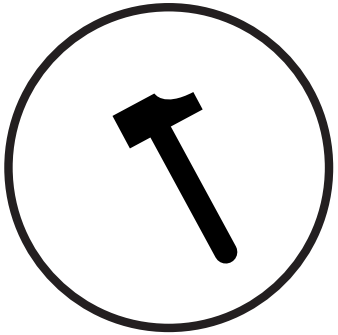
Does anyone know how this place has affected the border between Portugal and Spain?
No, because of a wedding!
Because of a war?

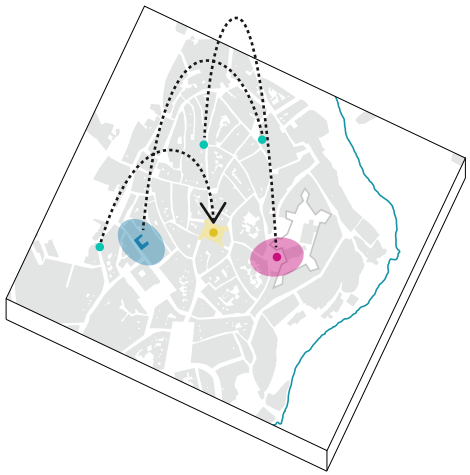
20
SE VENDE
SE VENDE



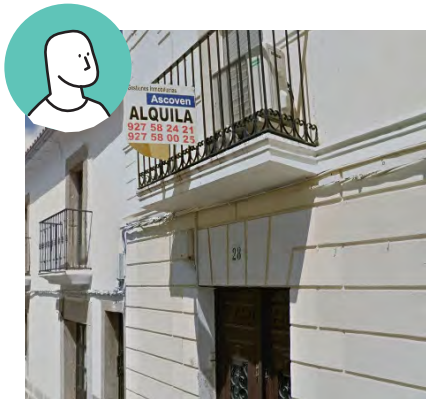
This activties in Casa Hevia show the potenial of this place as a community center.

VENDE
SE VENDE





Looks better !
Maybe I can stay here one year longer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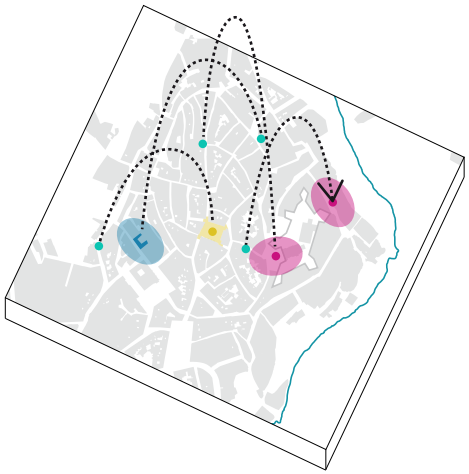
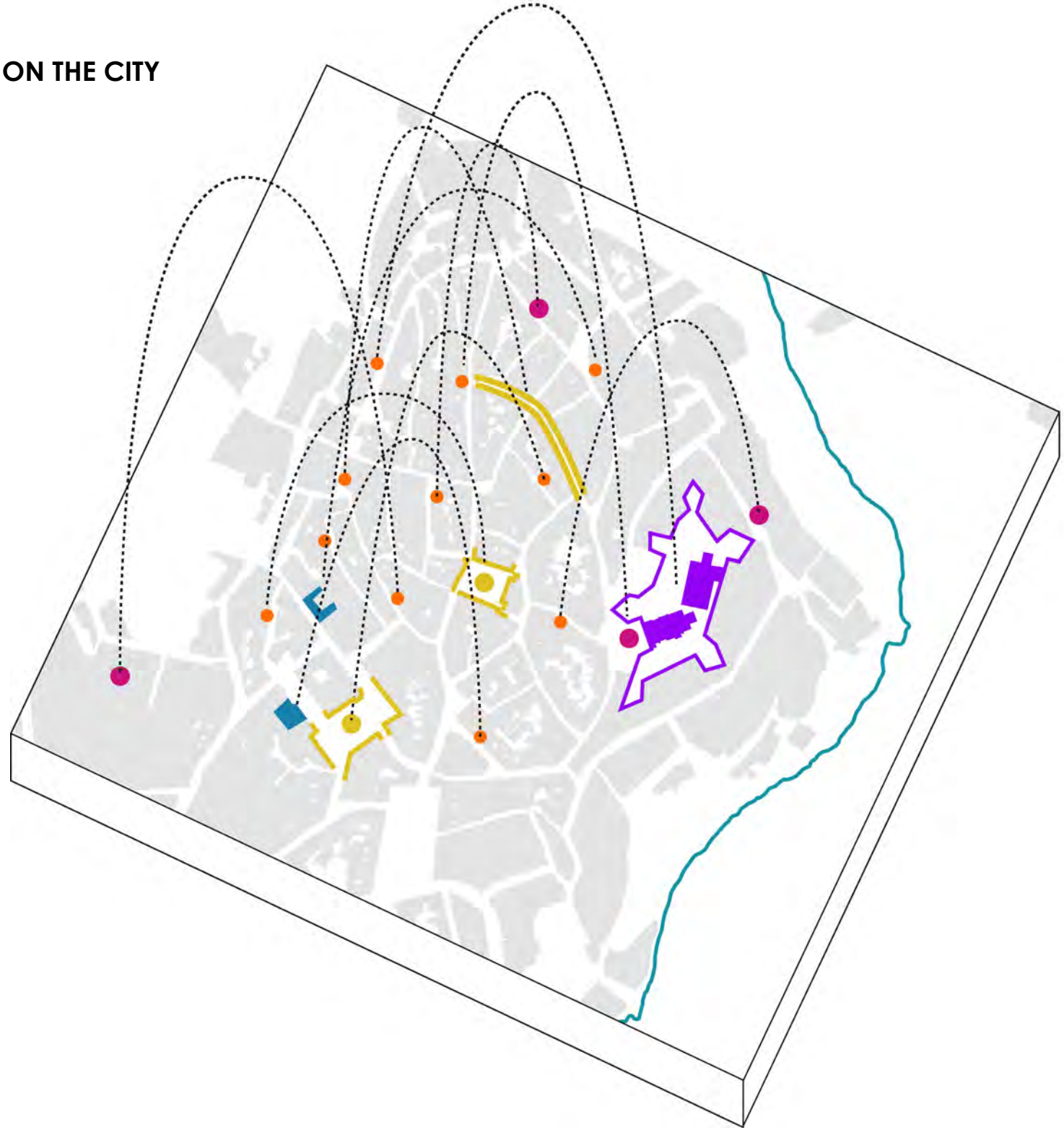
ALQUILA
927 58 24 21
927 58 00 25



We are not just inhabitants
of this city, we can also be
important actors of Valencia de Alcántara!

**SYSTEMS IMPACT ON THE CITY**



# Nowadays

5 years later

10 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY