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<http://www.renewtown.eu/>

## HOW TO TRANSFORM RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPES IN POST-SOCIALIST CITIES: LESSONS IN 'SUPPORTED VOLUNTARISM' FROM THE RENEWTOWN PROJECT

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### ABSTRACT

*Urban settlements which were planned and established during the socialist period either in their entirety or partially (in form of fast-growing districts) can be found all over Central and Eastern Europe. In most of them the authorities have been fighting numerous economic and social problems, many either caused by, or stemming from, lack of social cohesion. One visible sign of such problems are neglected public spaces, often doomed to be in a poor condition due to lack of co-ordinated action. In this paper we demonstrate the importance of social capital and public administration's courage and creativity for what we call 'supported voluntarism' aimed at positive transformation of public spaces in a post-socialist residential neighbourhood using selected ReNewTown pilot actions (<http://www.renewtown.eu/pilot-actions.html>) as a showcase.*