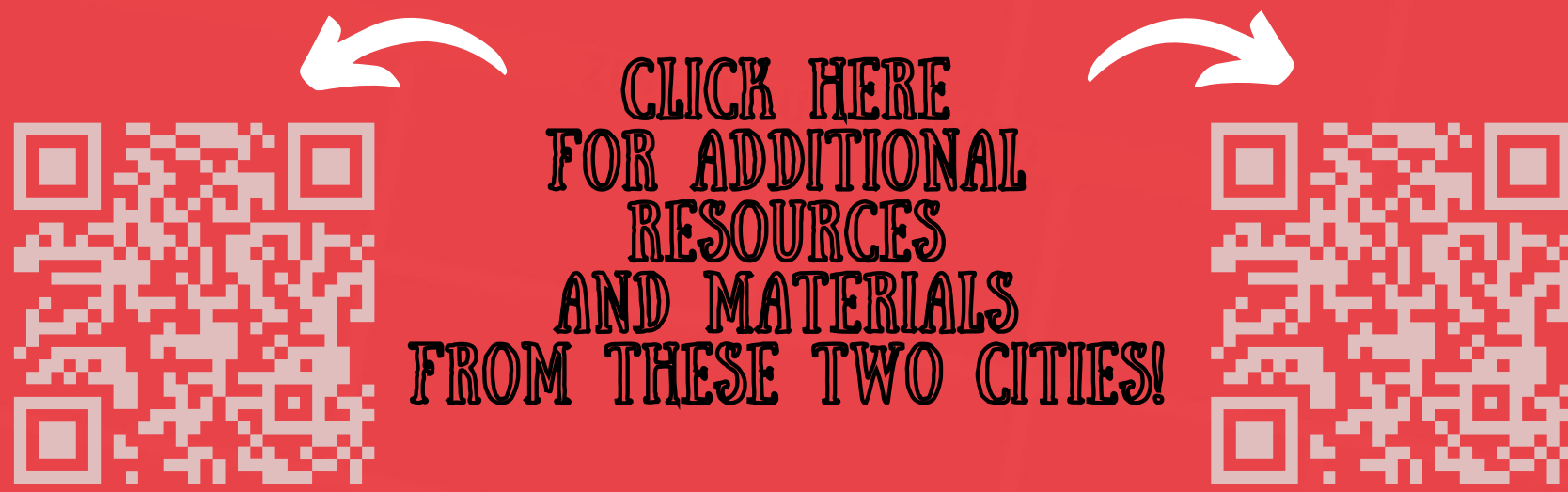


POLAND



OLSZTYN



• EXPLORING NEW ANGLES

Sometimes also unexpected grants could be useful! For their last map they got a large part of funding by applying to the Tourism and Sport Department for **initiatives focused on promoting the figure of Nicolaus Copernicus**. So they featured him in the map discovering a new take for it.

• SUCCESSFUL CROWDFUNDING

For the last edition of their map in 2023 they managed to collect around 60% of their goal via crowdfunding. This allowed them to **cover for extra costs for printing** - as prices went almost 30% higher in the meanwhile!

• THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERING

At the start most of the team was only 18 and yet they managed to gain the trust and respect of the City Hall and build a solid reputation. **Volunteer spirit, confidence and proactiveness sometimes really matter** more than mere experience.



FROM OPEN MIC NIGHTS TO CONFERENCES AND NATIONAL RADIO STATIONS, IGA NEVER MISSES A CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT USE-IT!

USE-IT OLSZTYN SPREADING THE PASSION!

WROCLAW



• KEEP HOLDING ON

More than 5 years passed between their first contact with the USE-IT network and the actual printing. Sometimes processes have a slower pace, however **small steps are still steps!** Endurance is key.

• TEAM MAKES THE DREAM

Strong motivation isn't always enough, though. USE-IT Wroclaw really started to become reality once **support from a team** arrived. Having someone to bounce ideas off with and getting things done was a total game-changer.

• BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY

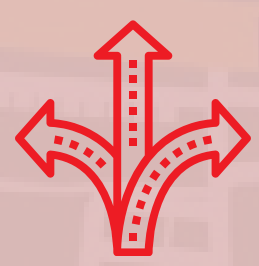
Even without being published yet, Adrian took part in the annual USE-IT gatherings. He read all the resources available and listened to stories from all over the community, getting a lot of **inspiration from the network**.



CHECK OUT OUR VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH ADRIAN FROM USE-IT WROCLAW TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THEIR FUNDING JOURNEY!



I WOULD DO THE SAME...



I WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY...



I LEARNED...

“Get in touch with the people.”

Plan and organize public consultations for citizens to share their favorite spots, stories and let them get familiar with the USE-IT project.

“Be strategic in your map-making.”

Make a Google My Maps, with all the places you'd like to include. This way you can get a better overview of where the places are located and avoid including only places from the same area.

“Seek continuity straight from the beginning.”

Already during the very first talks about money and funding, propose potential “next steps” for your cooperation with the institution/funder in case the project is successful.

“Don't take anyone's word for granted.”

Make sure to write down everything in the contract with your sponsors. Also, ask for more money than you think you need, especially for printing. Prices might go up by the time you'll finally be ready.

“Know your strengths.”

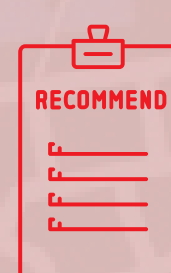
Becoming aware of the unicity of what we can offer (our talents, our energy, our brilliant team and young point of view). These are really things that matter - especially in a small city that struggles with youth outflow.

“Don't rush!”

People come and go. From the beginning of the project, some people left and some new people joined. Remember to be flexible, especially if it's your first map!



I WAS SURPRISED OF...



I WOULD RECOMMEND...

“Make an impression.”

Once you've done one successful project or campaign in a small city, all the important people will remember it for years and it will be easier to talk money and projects even few years later.

“Keep trying!”

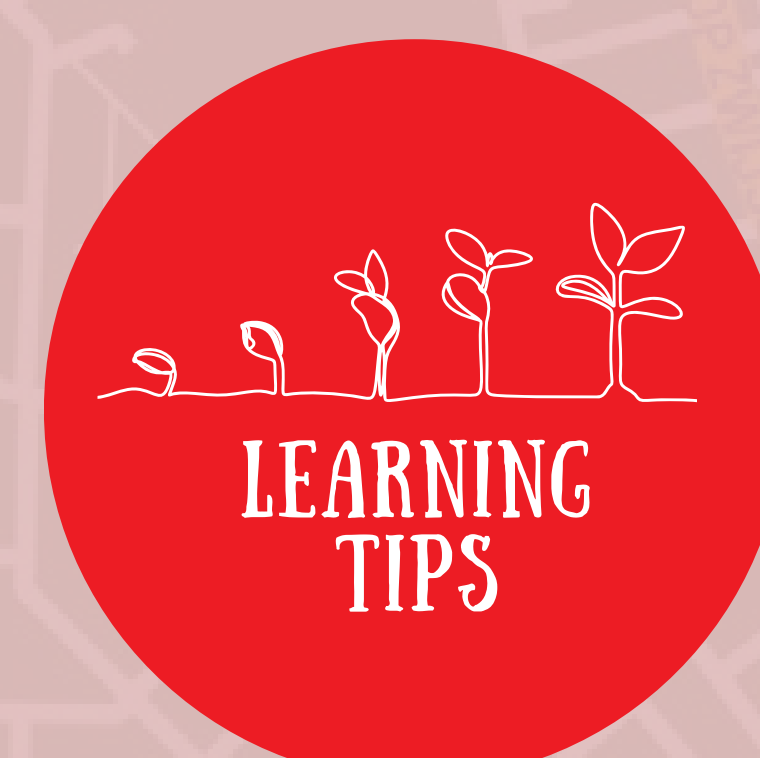
The city hall declined the first time we approached them. However, with the help of the FUND-IT team, they finally accepted to fund us! Make a list of every single sponsor you can think of, even if it sounds unreachable or silly and contact everyone;

“Network, network and network!”

All the time, in every occasion. Take part in the city/NGOs events, get to know people, set up informal coffees with them, celebrate other institutions and NGOs success with them. Become friends with as many cool people as possible.

“Join forces within the USE-IT network.”

If possible, when going to meetings with potential funders, bring someone from another USE-IT city, even better if they are from your same country!



FOR MORE INSIGHTS, TIPS AND STORIES BROWSE THE SECTION DEDICATED TO POLAND ON OUR FUND-IT INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT!

