



## CONQUERING THE HIGHWAY

*What if weeds were our best friends?*

Here we are at Stanica, the railway station abandoned for years, where trains stop again and travellers pass through an independent cultural centre. Tucked away underneath a major motorway junction, the station is one of the many third places that teem along the endless concrete infrastructure.

It is down here that, artists, castaways and so-called weeds live side by side. Called invasive are actually pioneering plants that, like our friends at Stanica, make previously inhospitable places habitable.

It is here that we will return in the spring to understand, together with the local community, how water stolen from the bridges could help pioneering plants to transform deserted spaces into places open to coexistence of living beings.

Here, where after the Fall of Berlin Wall, local authorities privatised squares to build huge shopping malls. Here, where today the city municipality is asking us to help build the new regeneration plan for the city, starting with the third spaces.



## PROTOTYPING THE FUTURE



Over the years, Stanica station has been surrounded a busy highway infrastructure from its very beginning, slowly transforming its neglected spaces into new places of connectivity and meaning.



Imagining an "invisible garden"

If nature could be given opportunity to spread and fill in all the creaks, opening opportunity for new coexistence to appear.

## UNRECOGNISED PIONEERS



Weeds have been black mouthed for centuries, seen by many as a serious hitch. But what if we looked beyond their modest demeanour and valued them for their unmatched hunger for life and ability to survive where others fail. This unique super power is something we will try to capture and use to cultivate a "public" garden where all living beings could thrive.

## WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

We started by understanding and mapping the site: what is there that is overlooked but has enormous hidden potential.



And we also did the inventory of materials, in our case of the plants that already grow in the area under the highway.





## NEXT STEPS

Join us for the spring workshop, during which we intend to see how we could use the stolen water from the bridges to help pioneering plants to conquer the Highway and transform its deserted spaces into places open to a new coexistence.

