

# Good practices in HEPA

## NAME OF THE ACTIVITY

Make Space for Girls

## LEADING ORGANISATION

Make Space for Girls

## COUNTRY

 United Kingdom

## HEPA-RELATED TOPIC

Socially disadvantaged groups' access to HEPA, physical activity among children and youth

## TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Campaign and education

## TARGET GROUP

Town planners, commissioners and developers of public spaces

## OBJECTIVES

The aim of the initiative is to make parks and similar public spaces as welcoming to girls and young women as they are to boys and young men. One of the aims of Make Space for Girls is to disseminate the research and information that is already exists about teenagers and public space. There are already plenty of detailed examinations of the ways that girls are crowded out of parks and equipment, and how their needs are mostly ignored, yet these haven't received the attention they should.

## ACTIVITIES

What would parks and public spaces designed for girls look like? A small number of schemes have been designed in Europe, which have come to a remarkably similar set of conclusions and proved that it is possible to make a park much more appealing to girls without incurring vast cost. The interventions include better lighting, wider entrances to play areas, smaller, subdivided sports areas, or adding a second more open court, seating areas which are arranged in groups rather than lines, circular paths around the perimeter of the park, more swings and good quality toilets.

Make Space for Girls presents three European case studies of parks and public spaces designed with girls in mind. In addition, it has published a downloadable document which outlines the ways

in which girls do and don't use public spaces, and what might be done about it.

## RESULTS / EVALUATION

The target for the first year of the initiative was to get its ideas across to the general public and key decision-makers and stakeholders. Within six months it had gained national press coverage, including features in the Times Educational Supplement, newspapers and on Bloomberg and Channel 5 News, and local radio interviews. Articles also appeared in specialist journals such as Landscape, the Architects' Journal, and The Clerk magazine. Social media presence on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram has promoted the campaign and allowed interested parties to get in touch.

## TIPS & TRICKS

The key recommendation is always that these schemes presented in the project should be taken as inspiration rather than a template, because the most important step of all is to ask the girls what they want from the places in which they live.



## WEBSITE

[www.makespaceforgirls.co.uk](http://www.makespaceforgirls.co.uk)

## CONTACT

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