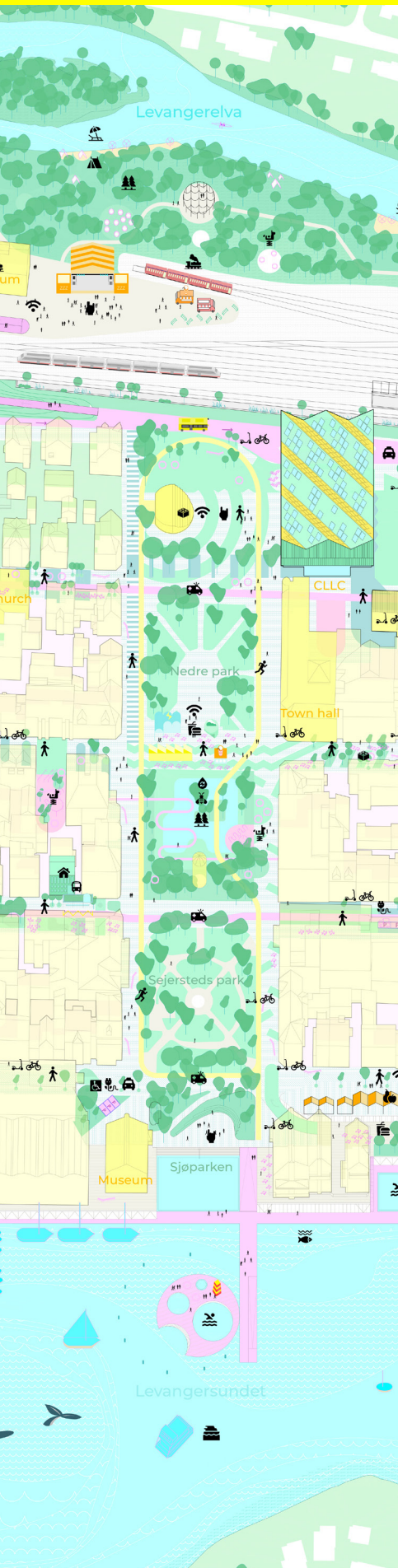


HELLO, WOODS!



Hello, Woods! welcomes a new era for Levanger. The future of the city is circular, accessible and sustainable. A time in which cars are replaced by trees; roads and parking lots by commercial and cultural public spaces; smoke and pollution by fresh air; and you can listen to birdsongs and the river flow instead of the noise of a busy city.

Environment and energy are the centerpiece of the proposal, going over the opposition between city and nature. **Hello, Woods!** enhances every natural ecosystem and cycle in Levanger: the river Levangerelva, Levangersundet or the woods, as well as the parks inside and around the city. In addition, energy consumption and environmental footprint will be reduced by means of solar, wind and geothermal renewable and clean power.

The cultural heritage of the wooden town of Levanger and its building tradition will be respected and taken care of at all times. **Hello, Woods!** new buildings are inspired by the current ones in both aspects of construction materials and shape, but using the newest 4.0 construction methods in terms of prefabrication, circular economy and sustainability. With the above, the idea is to increase population density within the town centre, implementing house developments while not losing the particular and historical identity of the city.

In this entire plan, the new Library and Cultural Centre of Levanger (LCCL) and the Park Axis will play a major role. They are the starting points of the whole project, showing how they can create synergies among the environmental, social, economic and political dimensions.

The LCCL will become the major cultural and social spot in the city with co-workings, offices, volunteer centers, study rooms, a blackbox + cinema + theater, etc. Moreover, thanks to its excellent position, the LCCL will connect the park axis with the train station, working as a transportation hub for buses, taxis and bikes.

The Park Axis will be renovated, adding more natural areas, squares for cultural events, sport courts and commercial spots. The creation of quality spaces plus the disappearance of cars in the area will boost the activity in Levanger main and centered park area, attracting all kinds of people in and out of the city. Existing businesses across the Park will be favored by the new situation and many new ones will be open. During special festivities the Park Axis will contain the main activities, becoming the heart of the city.

Finally, the cultural scene is intended to be supplemented by a program of activities during the year which will take place mostly in the Park Axis but also in the courtyards of Levanger historical buildings, as well as in specific locations like in the new museum and exhibition centres across the train lines.

Hello, Woods! needs from each and every citizen, association or business in Levanger who wants to take part in the process, intending to make a difference for the city and becoming a real agent of change! The implementation process is open, and we count on your participation and ideas to give the final shape to this project.

If you know you can help, **SIGN UP!**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

How is the project connected to the Living Cities and Intensifying Districts topics?

Hello, Woods! offers a friendly and positive solution for the environment and the life conditions of Levanger inhabitants in the broadest sense of the word: human, animals and plants.

The project recovers and develops the existing natural environments in Levangersundet and Levangerelva by adding specific elements that revitalize it.

The strait shore will be improved by adding a light wooden promenade and green areas with natural pools, fishing areas, playgrounds and water purifying systems to fully connect Levanger with the sea again.

On the other side of the old town, a new pedestrian and bike-friendly bridge over the railway track will make accessible the area next to the river. This little ecosystem will be cleaned from unused and polluting elements and reforested. River beaches, places to camp, kayak rental, walks in nature, a train museum and an area for concerts will be some of the reasons people will go there.

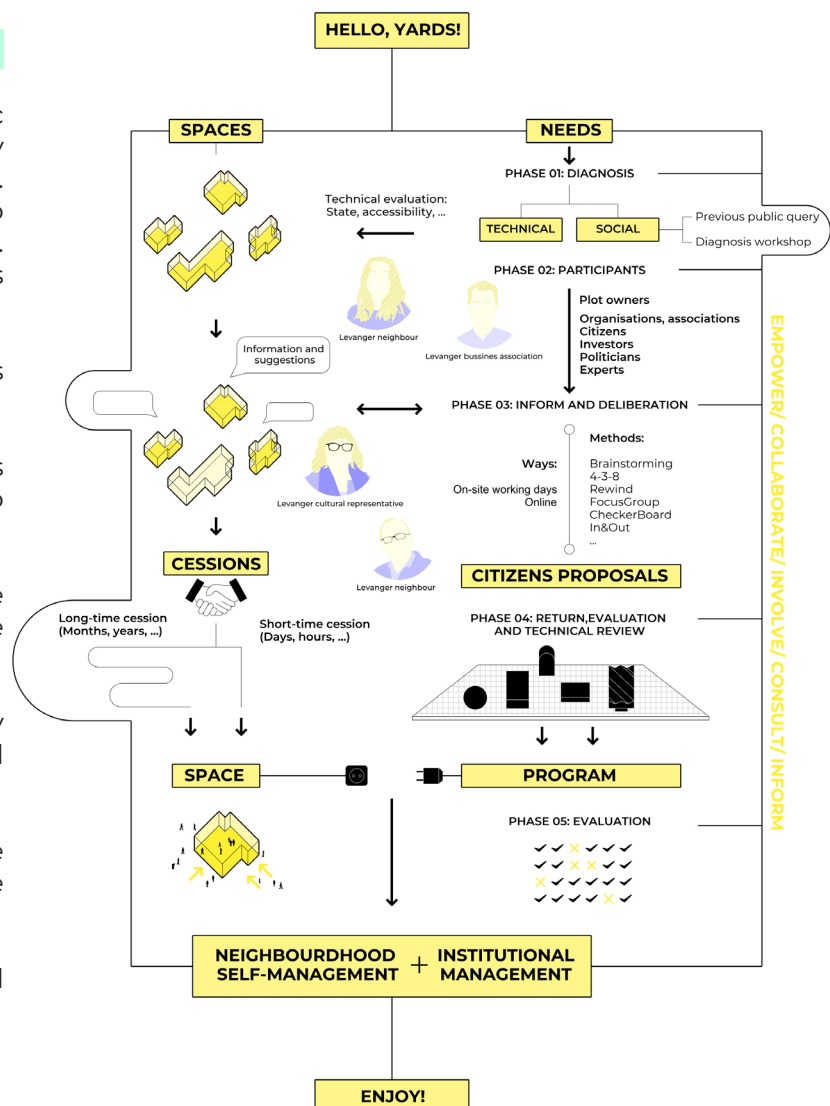
Both environments will be connected with the new biosystems in the park axis and the streets of the old town, creating an interconnected global ecosystem increasing biodiversity and wellbeing.

The high reduction of traffic will also contribute to change into a cleaner and more sustainable city. Related to this, asphalt will be substituted for zero emissions and recycling materials, pots with micro-forests or accessible urban furniture. All these elements will be selected within the standards of the circular economy and following the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the rest of the proposal.

How will the participatory process be?

The final set up of the urban, landscape and public buildings will be decided during a participatory process in which every neighbor will be heard. **Hello, Woods!** wants to transform Levanger into a city in which every citizen feels like hers or his. For this purpose, the participatory process is divided in the following stages:

1. Online and on-site project exhibition in boards and conferences.
2. Online and on-site collection of suggestions and opinions about the project, things to add, to change or to improve.
3. On-site working days with citizens in the different areas of Levanger with models of the project, games and discovery activities.
4. Meetings with collectives and city representatives to study citizen proposals and availability to include them in the project.
5. Listing of achievable proposals and online voting to decide the final interventions to be done.
6. Development and exhibition of the final project.

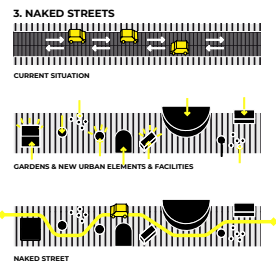
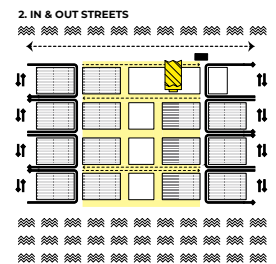
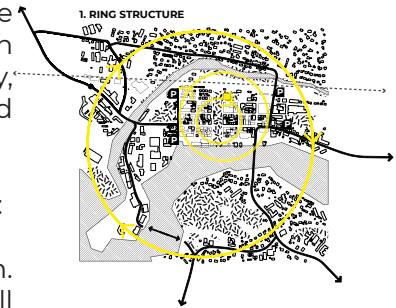


How does Hello, Woods! deal with Levanger traffic and mobility problems?

Hello, Woods! will put an end to cars within the city center, opting for the improvement of public and bike transportation. It intends to create a city in which you can reach, in less than 15 min by foot or bike, any place of the old town. Surely, Levanger will become more sustainable, clean and welcoming for people and animals, boosting business and the vitality of the whole city.

A progressive limitation of cars will be implemented following a ring-like strategy:

1. The ring around the park axis will be completely closed to private car circulation. Only buses, emergency vehicles, loading and unloading commercial vehicles will be allowed in this area.
2. The second ring will be used only by residents of the city centre, with speed reduction elements such as urban furniture, trees, gardens, resting areas and winding paths (naked streets).
3. Public transportation will be improved, with more buses, bikes and other personal mobility vehicles available for rent. Every naked street will be designed to be used by all these mentioned types of mobility methods.
4. To allow people to come and visit the old town by car, a few park-and-ride buildings will be placed at the edge of the third ring, in strategic empty places. These parking solution buildings will be places where it will be possible to get a bike right after leaving the car or waiting for the next bus. In addition, they will be designed to also become energy generators with solar, wind and geothermal energy installations.
5. In a broader view, the construction of a new bridge over Levangersundet will be studied to improve the connectivity of Levanger. This element will create the last and ultimate ring, avoiding the need of 12.000 vehicles passing through Kirkegata every day.



How will the new constructions fit in Levanger Old Town? Will they be sustainable and respectful with its heritage and environment?

Avoiding past mistakes, **Hello, Woods!**'s new buildings will be inspired by the design lines of the protected constructions. The main material used in the new buildings will be wood, in shape of cross laminated timber (CLT) for the structure or planks of the façades. Every new building must be positive in terms of energy and nature development. It will include in their construction renewable energy generators and bio habitats that greet other animals to colonize the city.

Thus, the new library, housing blocks, dormitories or office buildings will not only be good to maintain and improve the heritage of Levanger but also to create an urban setup much more sustainable, cleaner and welcoming for all kind of lives.

There are some historical buildings and spaces like the courtyards that are not used and need to be refurbished. What do you propose for them?

The old buildings and courtyards will be refurbished in respectful and sustainable ways. **Hello, Woods!** will transform them into a cultural network that provides knowledge and enlightening activity to the city. The buildings will be transformed into museums containing expositions about the history and culture of Levanger and all Norway.) Examples of the aforementioned would be the old train depot and the building next to the library. In the courtyards many cultural activities are aimed to happen, from music or art festivals to small open air theaters shows or talks for people of all ages.

Library and Cultural Centre of Levanger (LCCL)

The LCCL is called to be the cultural and activity node of Levanger. It will be the starting point of the project, containing the concepts of sustainability, respect and circularity that lie in every inch of Hello, Woods!

The exterior shape and aspect follows the gable roofs of the historical buildings in the Park Axis and the rest of the city. The highest point of the roof is equal to the height of the city hall building next door. Thus, even being an important new landmark for the wooden town, the building's appearance results familiar to the traditional constructions and heritage of the city. It becomes an example of how new constructions can keep the identity of Levanger.

The bottom level acts as an extension of the park axis and Jernbaneparken, connecting them both physically and visually. The glass permeable façade with multiple entrances allows the user to not feel like entering a building, but just continue walking through the park or square instead.

The LCCL activates the exterior spaces with new uses such as a cafe, an information point, a public transportation, a vending area and an outdoor exhibition place that serves as an expansion of the discovery and conservation centre in the refurbished Rolfsjordgården.

The sports equipment borrowing centre and the youth club are placed in the Park Axis, in front of the LCCL, under a big stand from where to enjoy open air events like concerts or exhibitions of any kind. The protected trees and green areas will be conserved and enlarged as in the rest of the town.

Already inside of the building the spaces are fluid, with the main stands that take visitors to the first level. In this story they can find coworking and office areas, a music school, a volunteer centre, and several spaces for city associations. Moreover there is a properly big multipurpose room placed in a centered position, with flexible equipment and a double height that allows it to adopt different configurations. As a result, it will be working as a theater, a concert hall, a blackbox, a dancing scenario or a cinema.

The second and last floor is dedicated to the library, with study rooms, bookshelves with places to read, and a kid area. The whole space is illuminated by the skylights in the roof and mixed with gardens among chairs, tables and other furniture, bringing nature also to the interior of the LCCL, creating a very oneiric and relaxing place.

Finally, there is a basement floor that contains the installations and a book depot.

From an energetic point of view the building is self-sufficient. It generates electricity thanks to the solar power plant installed on its rooftop, which explains why the gables are oriented to the south -45° degrees from the façade. The roof also allows air flow control by opening and closing its skylights, reducing the energetic demand during the year. In addition, hot water and air conditioning are supplied by the clean geothermal station in the basement.

The LCCL will use prefabricated systems to save construction time and reduce the CO2 footprint. Prefabrication makes possible easy maintenance and the recycling or upgrading of the building after its life cycle ends. Every element and material will be local, reducing transportation costs and emissions, with possibilities to recycle it afterwards. Following this construction methodology the Library and Cultural Centre of Levanger will be completely circular and positive.

