



USINARTE

the art of recycling with light ↙

MY UMBRELLA IS NOT DEAD

Rewiring the Waste Paradigm

REVISED EVENT PROGRAMME

27 June 2026 · Mercado Municipal de Braga, Portugal · 10:00 – 18:00

Partner Event — EU Green Week 2026

About the Workshop

What is our relationship to the objects we discard? This full-day citizen workshop transforms broken umbrellas into the Canopeia — a collective artwork and shared urban legacy. Hosted at the Mercado Municipal de Braga in partnership with the Municipality of Braga, each participant arrives with one object: their broken umbrella. Through guided deconstruction, material discovery, and collective fabrication, they co-build the Canopeia — a living structure born from what we once called waste. The workshop introduces the concept of phantom waste: the hidden material value embedded in objects once they lose their original function. The umbrella — composite, uncounted, unrecycled — becomes the proof of concept. And the citizen becomes the agent of change.

Programme

TIME	PHASE	DESCRIPTION
10:00–10:30	Welcome & Framing	What is our relationship to the objects we discard? This opening phase invites participants to reflect on their own gestures as citizens — the moment we decide something is finished, worthless, disposable. We challenge that moment. These are our broken umbrellas — and today, collectively, we decide what they become. The Canopeia is introduced.
10:30–12:30	Phase 1 Deconstruction	Manual dismantling of the umbrella. Material identification by touch, weight and resistance — carbon fibre, technical textile, metal, polymer. Understanding why each material was chosen by its manufacturer, and what remains when the object no longer functions. Discovering what possibilities live inside what we thought was dead. <i>Note: dismantling a standard umbrella takes approximately 15 minutes.</i>
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	—
13:30–14:30	Phase 2 Recombination	Guided ideation: what collective structure can these materials build together? Each participant maps their materials against the emerging Canopeia design. Group discussion on circular logic, construction decisions, and collective authorship.
14:30–16:30	Phase 3 Fabrication	Hands-on co-construction of the Canopeia from combined waste streams. Each participant contributes a tangible element. The collective artwork takes shape — built from our umbrellas, by our hands, for our city.
16:30–17:30	Reflection & Closing	The Canopeia is here. From our broken umbrellas — discarded, forgotten, invisible — a shared object now exists. This closing moment marks a shift: what arrived as my waste leaves as our resource. The citizen changes rank — from passive consumer to co-author. From disposal to creation.
17:30–18:00	Canopeia Unveiling	Public presentation of the Canopeia. The collective artwork is revealed as a permanent urban legacy — a symbol of the transition from waste to shared resource, from individual gesture to collective responsibility.

Target Audience

Open to all — no prior experience required.

- General public & families
- Students (design, engineering, management)
- Makers & FabLab community
- Educators & social workers
- Entrepreneurs & circular economy practitioners

Key Objectives

- Shift perception: our waste as our resource

- Reveal the material value hidden in composite objects
- Build collective authorship as a civic act
- Mark the semantic transition from disposal to creation
- Deliver the Canopeia as permanent urban legacy

"The European Green Deal can only succeed if it is anchored locally. [...] Local and regional authorities are responsible for implementing 70% of EU legislation, 90% of climate change adaptation, and 100% of waste management."

— Vasco Alves Cordeiro | Member, European Committee of the Regions | Chair, COTER | Deputy, Legislative Assembly, Autonomous Region of the Azores

AKBAZ Association · Project by Andreia Da Costa
andreiadcosta@gmail.com · +351 932 241 497
myumbrellaisnotdead.netlify.app · EU Green Week 2026 Partner Event

"From nothing, you can create everything."