



These working materials are part of the toolkit

Climate beyond Classism

transformative educational resources
on classism in the context of the
environmental and climate crisis

Public Luxury instead of the privilege of the rich

Dream journey into a completely different society and
discussion of real examples of socializing public goods

What: Text for the Dream Journey

Date: 04/2026



Co-funded by
the European Union

Dream Journey: Public Luxury

Instructions for participants

Sit or lie down in a comfortable position. If it feels good, close your eyes. If you prefer to keep them open, find a point in the room to rest your gaze on gently.

Take a deep breath in.

And breathe out.

Feel how your body becomes heavier with each breath. Try to notice your heartbeat and listen to it for a moment. Feel where your body touches the floor or the chair. Notice your arms and hands. Relax your neck and shoulders. Relax your legs and feet. Let your face soften and relax as well.

Now focus on your breathing. Breathe slowly and deeply. Inhale, exhale. Feel your chest, ribs and stomach rise and fall. With every breath out, allow your body to let go and relax a little more. Let your thoughts pass by without holding on to them.

Now imagine that you leave this room and go for a walk. As you move through the landscape, some things from your everyday life feel familiar, but you also notice many problems and challenges around you.

While walking through the streets and thinking about the state of the world, you arrive at a place you like. People you care about are there, and the atmosphere is warm and joyful. In the middle of this place stands a large tree reaching high into the sky. You feel drawn to it and begin to climb slowly higher and higher, all the way up into the top of the tree.

When you reach the top, you notice that you are sitting on a magical branch. The branch slowly transforms into a bridge that stretches far above the treetops. Carefully you test the bridge and begin to cross it step by step. After walking for a while, you see the other end of the bridge and realize that you have crossed **20 years into the future**.

You walk through a large gate with a bright, colorful sign that reads: **“Welcome to Public Luxury!”** The letters shine in front of you. Curious, you step through the gate. You want to understand what public luxury means. In the past, luxury often meant exclusive status symbols that only a few people could afford, often at the expense of others.

Right after entering, you meet someone on the street who notices your curious look. You ask them what public luxury means. They explain:

“Public luxury means that everyone has unconditional access to the things that make life possible and beautiful. Not too little, not too much—enough for everyone, ensured by everyone.”

It sounds wonderful, but you are not sure you fully understand yet. You want to learn and experience more.

You continue exploring this new world. After walking a while, you arrive in a settlement or neighborhood. Look around carefully. How do people live here? In tall apartment buildings? In small houses? In shared spaces? What do you notice?

Curious about who lives here, you walk to a front door and knock. An older person opens the door and kindly invites you inside. They show you around the home and the publicly provided housing. What do the rooms look like? What details do you notice?

While drinking a cup of tea together, the person explains how essential goods are shared and organized here: the electricity that heated the water, the water itself, the warmth in the room. You ask many questions. The person seems happy about your interest, but also slightly surprised—after all, these are basic goods that everyone needs, just like the air we breathe.

You thank them and continue your walk.

Outside, you see a form of public transportation arriving and spontaneously hop on. Slightly out of breath, a thought crosses your mind: do you need a ticket? Looking around, you realize that you don't. Public transportation here is free to use.

You sit down and watch the world pass by outside the window. You see buildings that look like schools and places where small children are cared for. You wonder: what do children learn in this world? And what do they no longer need to learn?

You also pass health centers that look quite different from the hospitals you know.

When the stop "Central Market Square" is announced, you get off. You step outside and take a deep breath of fresh air. How does public luxury smell to you?

The public space feels somehow different. You cannot immediately explain why. You sit down on a nearby park bench and observe the people moving around the market square. Notice how people move, how they interact with one another. There seems to be a different quality of togetherness here. How does that make you feel?

It seems like different kinds of lives unfold here compared to the world of wage labor you know. What do people do with their time in public luxury? Do they go to work? What does work look like here? Who does care work? What might be different?

As you walk further into the square, you notice something else: the advertising posters have changed. What kinds of posters do you see now? What is being advertised?

After a while, you realize that you are getting hungry. You are not sure at first where to find food. Then you notice a neighborhood map at the edge of the square showing many places where people can get good meals. Which place do you choose?

After enjoying a good meal, you sit back and relax. Just as you are about to leave, a conflict breaks out nearby. Two people argue about a seat. You expect the situation to escalate—but instead you notice that conflicts are handled differently here. What do people do?

After some time, you begin to feel tired. A sign points you toward a nearby park. When you arrive, you see that it is more than a park. There is also a swimming pool and a library with a cultural center beside it. Because it has become a little chilly outside, you decide to rest in the library.

You climb the stairs and enter a large open foyer. In one corner there are sofas, armchairs, and newspapers. You find a comfortable place and close your eyes for a moment, listening to the quiet conversations and the rustling of pages.

Nearby, a group of young people is listening to a historian during a city tour. You hear the historian say:

“Society used to be very different. It was a constant struggle for survival. Luxury was something only a few people had.”

You hear more fragments of the story describing the world you know—a world that now begins to feel strangely distant.

At this moment, you remember that your seminar will continue soon. In about half an hour. There is no need to rush, but it is time to return.

You leave the library and walk back toward the large gate. Before leaving, you take one last look at the world of public luxury.

Then you slowly walk back to the bridge. When you reach it, take a deep breath and begin to cross it again. Notice how you feel right now. What thoughts are in your mind?

You return to the tree and step off the bridge onto the branch. Carefully you climb down again, still thinking about what you have seen and experienced.

When you reach the ground, lean against the tree for a moment and take a deep breath in and out. Feel the ground beneath you. Notice your body and your breathing. Listen again to your heartbeat.

Slowly return to this room.

When you feel ready, gently open your eyes and remain seated for a moment. Take some time to reflect on your journey into the future.