

The background is a vibrant yellow with large, white, organic, and geometric shapes that resemble stylized human figures or abstract patterns. These shapes are scattered across the page, creating a dynamic and modern aesthetic.

LEARNING FROM CONTEXT

BUILDING SOCIAL COMPETENCE
FOR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

This is one in a series of 6 brochures about the project Euler. Euler took place from 2015 to 2017 in Antwerp, Barcelona, Berlin and London.

Euler aims to contribute to the development of cities by harnessing the skills, competences and capacities of local people. Through peer-to-peer, cooperative and solidarity actions citizens learn but also teach each other skills that will be crucial in the future of work. Euler looks at the different ways in which this sharing and exchange takes place, and tries to derive methods that will allow others to also benefit from these empowering and emancipating practices.

Euler is a project from Transit Projectes, ndvr and Tesserae and is coordinated by City Mine(d).

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LEARNING FROM CONTEXT

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FOR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

LEARNING FROM CONTEXT BUILDING
SOCIAL COMPETENCE FROM LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE **BERLIN** AQUARIUM
22-23 SEPTEMBER 2017



EULER is a training programme that concentrates on the skills gap in deprived urban neighbourhoods. Rather than aiming at re-training people, EULER builds upon the skills and capacity already present, and harnesses these through community action.

The EULER project is named after Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler. The father of topology, he studied the way space retains certain properties under deformation, and gave us the skill to map spaces in an understandable way. We saw this as a good metaphor for a consortium that shared a spatial approach and mapping as a recurring instrument.

The conference *Learning from Context* was designed as a closing event of the EULER Erasmus Plus project coordinating training programs at the micro urban scale, namely in selected socio-economically distressed urban areas or housing complexes in the cities of Antwerp, Barcelona, London and Berlin. The decentralised approach, in which each of the four partners focused mainly on the local context, opened the opportunity to invite other similar initiatives to compare and contrast lessons learned. In addition to a keynote which contextualised the work in its urban, community and academic context, the conference's sessions allowed the partners to receive feedback on the work done locally. Furthermore, the sessions also allowed for a deep dive into four of the most burning themes revealed during the life time of the project. Overall, space was given to more than twenty speakers from throughout Europe who in different ways deal with learning in informal settings and involved almost hundred participants in discussions and workshops.

The conference called for contributions about practices in the fields of urban education and capacity building at neighbourhood level instigating a learning process outside formal processes of education. The traditional mainstream approach to employment often refers to education as conforming to market demands through specialisation. In contrast, extant social innovation literature ((Mulgan, Tucker, Ali, & Sanders 2007; Franz, Hochgerner & Howaldt 2012; Moulaert 2013; Durkin, 2016) considers the potential of voluntary, self-organised, citizen-based initiatives in different areas, for instance in public services and provision of social welfare (Oosterlynck, Kazepov, Novy, Cools, Barberis, Wukovitsch, & Leubolt, 2013). Here, the attainment of skills and competences is often based on paradigms of sharing knowledge, learning by doing, solidarity and commons. It is not unlikely, that the contexts in which such approaches flourish happens at the micro level within local communities and neighbourhoods and this is why EULER focussed on the local scale.

Yet, this ensembles of micro collective practices entail also an inner uncertainty: it is unclear whether these practices fit under the same conceptual roof of social innovation, what they tackle, which (and whether) alternative propose, if they are effective locally and beyond a specific context. Moreover, although they are often evaluated in terms of their economic value, many innovative practices are not necessarily financially-driven, but are rather expressed as democratic and emancipatory actions. On the flipside, others are focused solely on marketing their micro experimentations in new social economies – often underestimating their impact on macro economic trends. One of the key challenges in assembling bottom-up practices – and thus in many cases the main weakness of such initiatives – lies in the unclarity of addressing the relations between social change, social transformation, and social innovation, as well as what is exactly meant by each term (Jessop & Hulgård, 2013).

Failing to identify a coherent political position furthermore adds to the lack of a long-term impact of a local project. Here, initiatives are often successful in the short run in responding to a specific issue in a given context, but then struggle to find continuity, self-sustainability, and an ability to affect change on different scales.

Next to the concrete outcomes of the training projects, the EULER local initiatives also shone a light on a number of critical and unsolved questions arising from the experiences in different cities. The main of these issues are listed below:

- Who are the initiators of socially innovative practices, what is the trigger, and who benefits? Collective practices at a local scale may provide a sense of security and reward for those directly involved because the results are easily visible. However, the evaluation of the impact for inhabitants is rarely assessed and measured.
- To what extent can local micro-practices be considered efficient if they do not radically engage at different political, territorial and institutional scales?
- Under which circumstances is the “co-creation, commoning and co-sharing” approach appropriate? Many urban areas are bombarded with “projects” and citizen-led or administration-led initiatives. Local actors, including the inhabitants (excluding the most trained activists), are often in a position of being tired and disenchanted. Local actors may be tired of being asked to “participate”. In many cases, different priorities in daily life, interests, cultural divides, and an overload of offers to engage in initiatives are detrimental.
- The creation of “social innovation projects” almost creates an economy on its own with its own project-driven labour. As a result, a market which is nourished by knowledge sharing and the practice of conducting meetings about future meetings is not necessarily tackling deep seated issues.

These points have been addressed during the workshops, exchanges and debates at the *Learning from Context* conference.

The conference presented over twenty contributions selected from ten countries which have been grouped according to four main threads.

In the first panel, *Learning Cities: empowering through knowledge exchange*, the focus was specifically put on the learning process. It introduced a number of initiatives promoting learning and competence building in the local context and their relation with traditional education institutions.

The second panel, *Mapping neighbourhoods, challenging spatial disadvantage*, focused on the spatial dimension, and specifically on the neighbourhood scale, questioning how locally produced knowledge is an essential factor affecting both how a community understands and represents itself and how it is recognized within wider frameworks. This session gathered cases of deprived neighbourhoods in four metropolitan cities.

Panel three, *Activating communities: creative strategies for fragile territories*, was dedicated to art and culture as a means to mobilize local communities, confront discrimination, and foster inclusion or regenerate urban spaces. It included a variety of participatory initiatives based on artistic approaches including festivals, architectural design or storytelling processes.

The fourth panel, *Co-creating the city: participative tools and approaches*, was dedicated to methodologies aimed at fostering social innovation and empowering networks and local initiatives. It presented diverse platforms aimed at supporting new organizational models, capturing innovative data sets or representing complex taxonomies of formal and informal practices.

Whilst the presentations of day one only allowed for short Q&A sessions for simple clarifications, the second day of the conference was dedicated to the collective discussion of general themes. We identified four key issues transversally crossing the presented experiences. The first table was dedicated to urban education to discuss how to mobilize, valorize and spread the knowledge and capacities generated in informal, bottom up, spontaneous initiatives. The second session was dedicated to the production and management of common resources and the emerging commons-based economic models. The third tackled the increasingly ubiquitous concept of platform, either understood as infrastructural technology allowing interoperability of languages, formats and standards or as political configurations organizing different agencies on common interests and struggles.

The last one discussed the emerging economic/technological paradigms and their effects in terms of work and employment, i.e. gig economy, cooperative platforms, care and commons based economies. The themes were introduced as broad questions in the opening session and presented to the participants as the guiding questions of the conference. The four workshops each had two moderators in charge to introduce the issue as well as report on the suggestions discussed during the presentations introducing the cases.

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* This booklet records and reflects on the presentations and workshops at the conference and the key note speech, whilst also giving an insight into the conversations between the participants. The four neighbourhood applications of the EULER project are documented in as many booklets in this publication series.



DEFENDING AND NURTURING THE HIDDEN ECONOMIES OF A CITY: LINKING MICRO-INITIATIVES AND SYSTEMIC STRUGGLES

MICHAEL EDWARDS

UCL Bartlett School – Just Space London

The following text is a slightly edited transcription of the keynote talk. It summarises initiatives about the economy which have been taken by activist groups in London.

The activist tradition in London – as in many cities— is a long series of essentially **local** struggles about housing, land speculation, environment and transport. Since London regained a metropolitan scale government (GLA) in 2000, activist groups have increasingly cooperated with each other to evaluate, critique and challenge the city-wide policies of the successive Mayors. This cooperation led to the formation of the **JustSpace** network.

About 5 years ago we realised that we needed to extend our analysis and organising —previously limited to housing, ‘regeneration’ and transport issues— to confront the prevailing orthodoxy about the **economy** of London since the triumphalist neo-liberal story of the economy was the strong driving force behind the city’s plans.

Just Space thus set up a sub-group, the Just Space Economy and Planning group (JSEP). The catalyst for this was the action-research PhD proposal of Myfanwy Taylor (now, since this week, Dr Myfanwy Taylor) who convened, supported and inspired the group for its first 3 or 4 years before withdrawing to write up her thesis. It has turned out to be strong enough to flourish without her, as we had all hoped. She brought to the group a perspective influenced by J K Gibson-Graham which stresses the performative power of the way citizens think and talk about the economy, challenging the orthodox focus on formal employment in commodified sectors, the emphasis on big corporate business and conventional measures of value and productivity.



Image redrawn from a J K Gibson-Graham original

A key feature of the approach which JSEP has been developing is to zoom between scales. In the background is the long and global scale of the British economy becoming strong through plunder, slavery and the deindustrialisation of subject peoples and territories across the world. The wealth extracted through that long colonial and imperial history is partly embodied in the physical city —the docklands, the palaces, the garden squares of elite housing— and in the credit and insurance industries which managed the value flows of imperialism and still do so today for global capital. One aspect of this heritage, of course, is London's continuing dependence on draining the workers born, raised and educated in the rest of the world to staff its public and private services and to generate the dynamic and ignored hidden economies of a multi-cultural society.

At a European scale, the UK has played a leading role in spreading neo-liberalism through western and, more recently, central and eastern Europe, using labour surpluses from the formerly-socialist countries to sustain its own brand of low-pay austerity. The self-harm of Britain's unique pre-Keynesian economics has ranked us alongside Greece in the decline of real earnings since the crisis of 2007 (OECD).

There has been some growth of measured output over the past 4 decades but that growth is not evenly enjoyed by everyone. A growing share has ended up as profits of enterprises, as interest payments and as rents. The wages share has fallen, especially during the 1980s.

In London the part of the social product which ends up as wages and salaries includes some very high salaries- that's why AVERAGE earnings are high in London. But there are plenty of low incomes too. Thus the median earnings and real household incomes are much less impressive. And, taking account of housing costs which in London have risen very fast, median household incomes are actually low by national standards and have scarcely recovered since 2007 (Resolution Foundation).

Meanwhile the unqualified members of the city's population (of many ethnic groups including poor whites) remain largely overlooked within the urban economy. Those who are employed are squeezed between low wages and high and escalating living costs; many retired people and the substantial surplus population, effectively discarded or abandoned by the economy, depend on inadequate state benefits if they are lucky or live in penury if they are disqualified – for example by being asylum-seekers or illegal residents who are not permitted to work or draw benefits.

The city is a poverty machine as well as a wealth machine. London's massive inequalities of income (and also of wealth) are reflected in —and reinforced by— huge variations in market rents and prices for housing. These variations work to displace low and middle income people from expensive to cheaper parts of the city, and beyond the boundary. The profits to be made by developers in switching land from low-income housing to higher-income housing are massive and have been channeled partly into wholesale demolition of social housing estates where the ownerships are consolidated. There are also large profits to be made from switching land and buildings from industrial and commercial use to speculative housing. These switches have been supported, or at least condoned, by national and city governments and are now a major threat to manufacturing, to small and medium enterprises in most sectors and to non-profit and public services. This includes some very damaging effects on ethnic economic clusters.

Supporting local communities of residents and enterprises has thus been a primary activity of Just Space Economy and Planning. The support takes the form, mainly, of linking local campaigns to others fighting similar battles so that they can learn from each other and build solidarity. Ten of these campaigns formed the core subject matter of a manual prepared to support the campaigns (**London for All!**). Another strand of the support is to harness the expertise found in each locality to help others, and to marry that with the expertise contributed by students and staff of universities who have chosen this commitment and orientation for their research. A by-product of this collaboration has been the **Protocol on university/community cooperation**.

Not all the work has been at this local and micro- level, however. JSEP has campaigned throughout to influence the thinking of the GLA through appearances at public hearings on successive plans and through critiques of the official "evidence base" prepared by the economists of the GLA to underpin the plans for London.

These studies have been very conventional and 'macro' in orientation, assembling official statistics in a very un-critical way, focusing especially on sectors with high output per head (mainly financial and professional services, pharmaceuticals and some cultural services) and largely disregarding public service and local retailing —let alone the informal economy, street markets, domestic labour and other unpaid work (the body of the Gibson-Graham iceberg). As a consequence the enormous problem of in-work poverty and benefit-dependence was ignored. We had some modest impact on the resulting "evidence base" but there is far to go, still. Corporate, financial and real estate interests remain dominant in London planning. But they are no longer unchallenged.

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<https://ucljustspace.wordpress.com/> a simple page linking UCL students and staff to work with/for community groups:

- Individual extra-curricular tasks throughout the academic year
- A Master's optional module URBNG007 (jointly taught Planning-Geography) Citizen Participation in Metropolitan Planning (Michael Edwards, Jenny Robinson). See examples of recent projects on <https://ucljustspace.wordpress.com/>
- A Master's module BENVGPLD From Strategic Visions to Urban Plans (Elena Besussi). See <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/planning/programmes/postgraduate/postgraduate-modules/index/edit/benv-gpld>

Centre Cívic Casa del Reiotge
Sala Pepita Casanellas

SOM LA MARINA?

octubre - novembre - desembre de 2016







SESSION 1

EULER NEIGHBOURHOOD APPLICATIONS

ELEPHANT PATH, LONDON

JIM SEGERS

City Mine(d)

A prominent feature of major global cities is the close proximity of areas of great wealth to areas of intense deprivation.

Saskia Sassen, *The Global City*, 2001

Over the past decade, the above quote by sociologist Saskia Sassen has become ever more prominent in the London Borough of Camden. The place-making development of Kings Cross managed to attract the headquarters of multinational companies like Google, Santander, the Guardian and Eurostar. At the same time, Somers Town, the residential area encapsulated by this development, remains untouched by the influx of global capital. With an economic inactivity rate of 41%, twice the UK average, it is among the most deprived wards in the country. In this case economic inactivity comes with reduced autonomy and dependence on a shrinking welfare state.

Skills gaps - difference between skills companies require and those possessed - and welfare traps - loss of benefits from entering into low-paid work making people worse off - are oft-quoted reasons for people staying inactive. Other reasons such as fear of committing to permanent employment or lack of confidence or self-esteem also play an important part.

Elephant Path looks at the current shift towards independent workers who take short-term engagements, also known as the gig economy. It investigates how this new form of working can allow those currently outside work to explore what they are good at, and what they like to do. In addition, *Elephant Path* explores legal and financial alternatives to the dominant corporate model in the gig economy. The company is assessed on its social impact before its profit margin; and workers rather than shareholders will own the company.

SOM LA MARINA, BARCELONA JUAN PEDREGOSA, SARA CAEIRO

Trànsit Projectes

Culture is the intangible capital necessary to contribute to promoting equality, social improvement and a critical and constructive environment.

SOM LA MARINA (meaning “WE ARE LA MARINA”) is the local application developed under the EULER frame by Trànsit Projectes between May 2016 and April 2017. On a general level, the project aims to identify and unlock skills used on a community scale, develop new skills based on a combination of creativity (co-design, co-creativity) and technical skills (script, pre-production, production, post-production and presentation of videos), as well as promote adapted ways of conducting cultural participative and democratic processes. At a local level, SOM LA MARINA aims to reinforce the sense of community and social cohesion between citizens, start processes of change using cultural strategies, whilst also experimenting with new ways to network and work together.

Overall, the cultural participatory process implemented in the LA MARINA neighborhood in Barcelona has allowed the inhabitants of an area labelled as deprived to reflect on their own identity using different tools. In turn, the process has provoked a deeper reflection about their own needs. This has consequently led to a new vision on how to construct their own personal and common identities - thus fostering less complacent and more critical attitudes.

OPEN PROMOTER PLATFORM, ANTWERP TIM DEVOS, MAARTEN DESMET, ISABELLA KRAMMER NDVR

A critical assessment of real estate developments in the urban context reveals the domination of profit-driven decision-making which neglects social and economic sustainability. Experience shows that cultural, economic and social openness in city-making, underpinned by transparent and democratic mechanisms, bears positive effects for socio-economic wellbeing on the individual and broader societal level. In this regard, we assume that an open source approach, along with participatory projects involving citizens, represents a means to capitalize on local expertise. Accordingly, in the course of the cooperative research project EULER - launched in four European cities – the pilot project in Antwerp explores how local skills may be integrated and applied in open platform-based initiatives.

In the experimental attempt to buy Antwerp's iconic Oudaan building, we discovered the demand of such a platform to facilitate cooperation between local citizens - with their know-how and passion - and owners, investors and organisations, which share the need for space and the endeavour to co-program their future environment. We made use of a diverse set of tools, including workshops, interviews and digital information platforms, in order to uncover local needs, opportunities and limitations to be considered in the building's program and management. Although the tower was sold to the highest bidder, we managed to have our voice heard and draw attention to more dynamic and entrepreneurial approaches in urban development and emerging advantages for stake- and shareholders. We (re-)opened the debate on progressive transitions in real estate and urban planning, and followed with new proposals such as Brussels' World Trade Center and Antwerp's Stuyvenbergh neighbourhood, piloted by the newly acquired concept of OPP (open promoter platform).

SWITCH ON MEHRINGPLATZ, BERLIN LORENZO TRIPODI, DANIELE TOGNOZZI

Tesseract Urban Social Research

Mehringplatz and the surroundings of the Südliche Friedrichstadt have been selected for the EULER application as an emblematic spot of today's Berlin, an area affected by strong transformative tensions, urban regeneration programs, new economic trends, immigration flows and gentrification. The neighbourhood is subject to an important recentralization process. It has been targeted by the national Soziale Stadt program, successively declared Sanierungsgebiet (Regeneration Area) and finally recently recognized as Milieuschutzgebiet - an area designated to be protected from gentrification and preserved in its original character and social mix. Such a set of policies charged the neighbourhood with attention and tensions and set in motion a conspicuous speculative and documental production about its evolving identity. *Mehringplatz Anknipfen* (Switch On Mehringplatz but also "Let's frame Mehringplatz") aims at understanding and fostering the neighbourhood as a common ground where social initiative and entrepreneurship can spread. The programme has focused on participative techniques for spatial analysis like urban reconnaissance, collaborative mapping and digital storytelling to capture local characteristics and contradictions.

The three training modules have been employed to test an experimental format named "Solidarity Curriculum", a neighbourhood atlas devoted to map local resources, memories and current transformations, with the ultimate purpose to sustain social capital and solidarity networks. The laboratories have been integrated through a set of public conversations focusing on key themes marking the debate on urban development and innovative economic and employment models, like the commons, platform-coops, informal learning and creative strategies. The training activities have been explicitly directed to support professional figures like facilitators, social entrepreneurs and civil servants working within local communities and initiatives.

SESSION 2A

LEARNING CITIES: EMPOWERING THROUGH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

MODERATED BY **ELIZABETH CALDERÓN LÜNING**

This panel examines diverse initiatives promoting learning and competence building in the local context and their relation with traditional education institutions.

THE METROZONES SCHOOLBOOK KATHRIN WILDNER, ANNE HUFFSCHMID

metroZones

The *Schoolbook* is the result of an experiment by *metroZones*, located in Berlin, in collaboration with *dock Europe*, situated in Hamburg. For two years activists, artists and other urban dwellers met at the “metroZones school for urban acting” to discuss concepts and tools to explore urban conditions.

How can we use connectivity against the smart city hype? What is political about algorithms? How urban is multilingualism? Who is translating whom and why? How does discourse influence interventions? By encouraging participants to measure space, to draw sound or to make images with and without cameras, the school became a space for collective reflection on urban practices and learning.

#URBAN ACTING #RESEARCH METHODOLOGY #KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION
#DOCUMENTATION

TURNING SCHOOL INTO A SPACE OF COMMUNITY ZUZANA TABAČKOVÁ

SPOLKA

The paper draws on our first-hand experience as architects, urban researchers and community-makers to suggest that, in contexts characterised by limited social and material resources for public engagement and relatively weak cultures of participation, primary schools have a unique and hitherto under-utilised potential to become spaces for co-producing the city. The paper is composed of three parts. The first part uses evidence from three projects that we conducted in Kosice - Slovakia - to highlight four key potentials of primary schools, namely their unparalleled spatial assets within the neighbourhood; their underused material resources; their inherent “meeting point” function; and their symbolic and practical role as spaces of experimentation for youths and adults alike. The second part describes our attempt to harness these potentials through a methodology based on place-making, collective action and openness - placing particular emphasis on the interaction between our expertise as planners and designers and the knowledge, skills and desires of the local community. The third part discusses the achievements of this approach, and suggests ways in which these could be amplified by attracting new forms of public and private investment capable of generating novel forms of local economy for the benefit of both the school and its surrounding neighbourhood.

#PRIMARY SCHOOL #PARTICIPATION #PLACE-MAKING #LOCAL RESOURCES
#EXPERIMENTATION

ATLAS OF INVISIBLE SPACES: MAPPING THE INTERFACE BETWEEN SCHOOL AND CITY

ANTJE LEHN

Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Institute for Art and Architecture

Today, city space is understood as a construction in process, continually redefined by its users, rather than a static structure. Even though contemporary city-planning sometimes includes participatory processes, many groups are still excluded. This raises the issue of whether and how all members of a diverse society can be empowered to independently address matters concerning urban quality and the atmospheric values of the city. According to sociologist Martina Löw, as space and the consciousness of place are constituted through acts in space, the number of interactions within spaces in the public realm increases in adolescence. In this period, young citizens start to act in urban environments but also spend many hours a day at school. To explore this interrelation further, the project “Atlas of Invisible Spaces” develops map-based methods of architectural communication for an educational setting. In a case study set in a school in a Viennese working class district, artistic mappings are tested to visualize adolescent city-images. The goal is to develop mapping strategies, which allow to collect and transfer urban knowledge and to raise awareness for urban qualities among heterogeneous groups. A combination of mind-maps, artistic representations and narratives try to make everyday spatial knowledge visible and valuable, whilst also challenging the relation of student, school and city. The resulting images are superimposed in a collective “Atlas” which becomes a communicative tool for urban perception and identity.

#CITY PLANNING #NEW CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY #URBAN STUDIES #EDUCATION
#ARTISTIC MAPPINGS

TO WORK MEANS TO BELONG JONAS DE MAEYER HEIM

Growing Islamophobia and populism in Europe has been dehumanizing refugees and isolating them from society. While their biographies and the driving forces to migrate are so diverse, we tempt to homogenize all these individuals into one anonymous mass. In Belgium, as in many European countries, refugees passing the asylum procedure are housed in large collective centres isolated from the urban environment which makes access to language courses, jobs, sports or cultural activities very difficult. With very limited resources and obstacles to finding employment, asylum seekers are financially depending on the centre. In large industrial kitchens, prepared food is provided and activities are organized to fight boredom. In this heterotopian setting, families are dismantled to function in a conventional way and individuals are discouraged to use or develop skills.

The isolation and negative perception of these centres obstructs the creation of social or professional networks in real society. *HEIM* wants to show the value of newcomers through the multiplicity of voluntary, self-organized, citizen-based initiatives. By providing (co-)housing in urban environments near these initiatives, both the newcomers and initiatives can benefit.

**#INCLUSION #NEWCOMERS #SKILLS TRAINING #DEVELOPING NETWORKS
#CITIZEN-BASED INITIATIVES**

WE ARE HERE NOW - A PEDAGOGY OF URBANITY

JENS BRANDT
UEL - Urban Education Live project, Technical University of Tampere, Finland

Present day civic society has in many parts of the world lost most of the capacity to self-organise or use the possibilities of change that living together can offer. With the fragmentation of our urban environments and the growing urban inequality this capacity is needed more than ever. This paper is an exploration of new formats, practices and infrastructures that can both build up local capacity to strengthen civic life and enhance the education of students in a variety of fields that relate to the urban and its spatial, economic, anthropologic, and political facets. I will try to argue that a “super site specific” approach to education can bring about new types of collaborations and exchange of knowledge that both local communities and universities will benefit from. A new EU-funded project that is about to begin - UEL or Urban Education Live - will form a central part of this argument. With partners in Finland, Slovenia, Romania and the UK, UEL aims at developing new models for a collaboration between universities and urban communities. The paper begins by contextualising the UEL project by looking at a number of initiatives such as the Pratt Center in NYC that have been forerunners for the UEL. The paper uses the authors’ own practices - especially in the suburbs of Copenhagen - to explore the theoretical and practical roots of the UEL project.

The paper uses this contextualisation to introduce the four elements of the UEL project: The more engaged role of the university; the concept of a place based and trans-educational approach; social mapping as a way of engaging and involving local communities; and local hubs as a physical presence where the collaboration and exchange of knowledge can happen. The paper concludes by discussing the concept of urbanity as a situated and collective process of change or the creative possibilities of civic life. I will use that to argue for a “pedagogy of urbanity”: a learning process where change leads to new insights that can be used for further processes of change.

**#PEDAGOGY OF URBANITY #LOCAL HUBS #ENGAGED UNIVERSITY #SOCIAL MAPPING
#SOCIAL AND SITUATED CHANGE**

SESSION 2B

MAPPING NEIGHBOURHOODS, CHALLENGING SPATIAL DISADVANTAGE

MODERATED BY **LAURA COLINI**

This panel presents cases from deprived neighbourhoods in four metropolitan cities and discusses the use of mapping, artistic strategies and participative strategies for social inclusion.

LEARNING FROM SAN SIRO: CO-PRODUCING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE IN A MILANESE PUBLIC HOUSING NEIGHBORHOOD

FRANCESCA COGNETTI,
ELENA MARANGHI, GABRIELE SOLAZZI

Politecnico di Milano, IT

Mapping San Siro is an ongoing action-teaching-research activity, taking place in San Siro, one of the largest public housing neighborhoods in Milan. Composed of about 6,000 housing units and with a population of about 10,000 inhabitants, San Siro is characterized by the presence of fragile populations and by strong socio-spatial inequalities and inter-cultural/inter-generational conflicts (around 50% of the population are immigrants, with about 85 nationalities represented). Despite also being characterized by the presence of diverse and strongly committed local actors (associations, cooperatives, groups of inhabitants), San Siro has always been heavily stigmatized in public discourses which exacerbates its exclusion from urban dynamics. Active since 2013, *Mapping San Siro* was initiated with the aim of working within and together with the neighborhood, in order to produce an experience based on knowledge sharing between academia and civil society - with a view to encourage more articulated representations of the neighborhood. Since May 2014, the group has been granted a space, a former shop, in the neighborhood to develop its activities including a multiple-source observatory, enhancing processes of on-field co-research, participatory planning and networking between different local actors. Developing a hybrid and constantly evolving methodology, *Mapping San Siro* is strengthening an approach and set of tools that aim at experimenting new ways of knowledge co-production, developing more accessible and usable knowledge. Questioning, reinforcing and expanding the public commitment of the university within marginal contexts, this process aims at: (1) letting underrepresented voices emerge; (2) giving value to local production of knowledge; (3) enhancing processes of skill/competence transfers, empowering local actors and communities to engage actively with urban transformation; (4) stimulating institutional actors to produce more responsive and adequate policies.

**#ACTION-RESEARCH #PARTICIPATORY MAPPING #ACCESSIBLE KNOWLEDGE
#CO-PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE #PUBLIC HOUSING**

LEARNING FROM, WITH AND FOR ANCHIETA'S COMMUNITY: BUILDING PERIPHERIES' CITIZENS' INCLUSION FROM LOCAL DIALECTICS. SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL CAROLINE CUSTINE, ALICE LARSIMONT, LUCAS LERCHS KULeuven / MAHS-MAUSP, BE

Like many metropolis in the Global South, Sao Paulo's exponential demographic growth has coincided with a rising number of precarious neighborhoods in the periphery. Inhabitants of such communities suffer from ever-increasing marginalization which keeps them physically and socially distant from the "formal" city centre and its society. The economic gap between the rich and poor is constantly increasing which leaves a majority of the population isolated. These invisible barriers prevent peripheries' inhabitants from accessing urban services, education and job opportunities which, in turn, fuels crime in the area. The Anchieta's community was born 4 years ago through the occupation of private land on an environmental protected area. The owner of the land, a social institute that fights for the improvement of education for youths in the community, with a large team of architects and technicians, is developing an upgrading project to improve daily conditions of the community and to create long-term neighborhoods that would welcome people in need. It aims to reinforce the community and improve its socio-economic conditions while offering more opportunities for the inhabitants to gain skills through knowledge exchanges. Based on a "learning from context" analytic research, the project's intentions tackle the issues the community is facing, in environmental, built and social terms, in order to decrease the socio-spatial exclusion and stigmatization its residents are victim of. The project claims to be a "pilot" initiative from the people and for the people in the goal to respond as much as possible to the local population's necessities and enable an adaptation for other communities in a similar situation.

#INCLUSION #EDUCATION #PRODUCTIVITY #IMPROVEMENT #COLLECTIVITY

KOTTIKRATIE: KOTTBUSSE TOR AS A CONTEMPORARY AGORA FELIX HARTENSTEIN

Technische Universität Berlin, DE Zentralinstitut El Gouna, Department of Urban Development, EG

The area around Kottbusser Tor had a rough time recently. During the ongoing debate about refugees, Kotti has become a focal point of nation-wide media coverage. Critical reports spoke of a new dimension of crime and a sprawling drug scene, which were mainly attributed to “North African gangs”. The area was labelled “too crass for Kreuzberg” and a “no-go area”. Kotti was also repeatedly linked to the events during the 2015/16 New Year’s celebrations at Cologne’s main station: “Cologne happens here daily”.

Yet, it is right here at Kotti that urban life vibrates in all its colorful diversity. The people in the neighborhood appreciate each other, are committed to the mutual cause of common welfare, and are socially active. Many residents have become self-employed, run restaurants and shops and contribute to the popular ambience of the area. Because of the high density of local challenges, they are continuously discussing and negotiating all the issues that are currently affecting the public debate in Germany: social inequality, rent increases and gentrification, immigration and the future of our cities.

Kottbusser Tor can be described as a modern agora - an urban space in which the interests of our society are brought forward and solutions are developed, where unusual approaches are tested and urbanity is shaped in all its manifold contradictions. The self-organized, autonomous and neighborhood-based engagement – the *Kottikratie* – is unique in its resilience and creativity and offers quite a different view on the area that is so often associated with negative headlines.

**#INEQUALITY #REFUGEES #GENTRIFICATION #SELF ORGANISATION
#NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED ENGAGEMENT**

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY ACTION-RESEARCH IN A MARGINALISED NEIGHBOURHOOD OF BOLOGNA LORENZO BETTI, MARTINA RICCIO

Centro di Salute Internazionale e Interculturale (CSI), APS, IT

The Pescara neighbourhood of Bologna hosts a predominantly low-income population, with a high prevalence of social housing. The native population is mainly represented by ageing inhabitants, while in recent years the percentage of newly settled migrants has significantly increased (reaching 1/3 of social housing residents). For different reasons, these groups suffer from conditions of marginalisation and vulnerability, that impact on health and access to services. In 2015, an action-research started involving a public health university centre, the department of sociology, an association for social intervention, two community based organisations of Pescara (local residents committee, volunteers committee) and the health and social services of the area. The aim of the action-research is to increase social inclusion in Pescara through improved access to health and social services for the most excluded population groups (elderly citizens; migrants) and a better use of existing local resources (e.g. volunteers). Community participation lies at the heart of the action-research, both as a tool for generating knowledge that is relevant for the people involved, and as an end in itself to promote empowerment and reduce service dependency.

This approach is embedded in three key strategies:

- context analysis based on quantitative (integrating socio-economic and health-related indicators) and qualitative data (individual/group interviews; participatory workshops on the history of Pescara and on the perceived health needs)
- participatory social mapping of the health determinants in Pescara, and of the formal and informal resources available to meet the needs of the population (health and social services, volunteer-based/self-organised activities, social networks, etc.)
- health and social service orientation for the Pescara residents, aimed at:
 - a) detecting unmet and unrecognised needs; b) increasing access to services; c) rethinking service provision towards greater responsiveness and inclusiveness.

**#INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS #AGEING POPULATION #HEALTH #ACTION-RESEARCH
#PARTICIPATORY MAPPING**

SESSION 3A

ACTIVATING COMMUNITIES: CREATIVE STRATEGIES FOR FRAGILE TERRITORIES

MODERATED BY **VICKY KIEFER**

This session is dedicated to art and culture as a means to mobilize local communities, confront discrimination and foster inclusion or regenerate urban spaces.

KNOWLEDGE AS ENERGY: THE ROLE OF KOMUNITAS IN BANDUNG, INDONESIA

LENNY MARTINI

Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany, Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT), Institute of Sociology, University of Bremen, School of Business and Management, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia

Bandung, Indonesia has the advantages of having 70% of its dwellers below 40 years old. These young people have become the main driving force of development in the city as they have initiated more than a hundred Komunitas (knowledge communities) as a grass root movement to solve urban development challenges in Bandung. These Komunitas voluntarily organize periodic knowledge sharing events in the form of seminars, workshops, city tours, performances, movie screenings, and dialogues which are open to the public. The events deal with various topics related to the common interest, such as culture, literacy, history, information and technology. They are also engaged in activities which aim to provide solutions to common urban problems such as waste management, land-use issues, education, inclusivity and food security. The research finds that the Komunitas consistently carry out their activities despite a lack of funding and other resources because they see knowledge as energy. The findings also show that Komunitas hold at least five important roles in Bandung. They function as a second home for the urban youth; as alternative knowledge sources outside formal education institutions; as the reviver of public places; as the connector among diverse city dwellers; and as stimulants to build tolerance, empathy, and empowerment in the city. This presentation briefly describes the origin, characteristics, and activities of the Komunitas in Bandung. The session will also discuss the metaphor of 'knowledge as energy' and how the bottom-up initiatives of Komunitas shape the knowledge construction and create the vibrant state of Bandung.

**#KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY #BOTTOM-UP INITIATIVES #URBAN DEVELOPMENT
#KNOWLEDGE SHARING #ENERGY**

IN THE PUDDLE. GUILMIARTPROJECT GENERATING REACTIONS, SHAKING IMMOBILISM, DENOUNCING COLLUSIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED ART PROJECTS LUCIA GIARDINO

Florence University of the Arts, IT

Guilmi is a small village on the hills above the Sinello valley in Abruzzo, Italy, of circa 350 inhabitants - mainly elderly people - which as a consequence of industrialization in the automobile field of the maritime regions nearby, has undergone a massive depopulation since the 1970s. The Fiat-Chrysler agreement of October 2016 is currently precipitating this phenomenon. GuilmiArtProject (GAP) is a non-profit context-specific artist in residence project, which also includes experiential learning activities, such as Gap-labs, trainings in contemporary art languages and issues in public squares (Nuova Didattica Popolare). Throughout its activities, GAP generates social awareness, reflections on the regional environmental and anthropological reality, and fertile comparison to wider international contexts.

My intervention is meant to illustrate the modalities through which these activities have planted seeds that are slowly bearing fruits. In particular the 2014 project by Mexican artist Juan Pablo Macias, and the educational formula of the Nuova Didattica Popolare ongoing since 2013 have shown themselves to be extremely successful in creating awareness of the resources and the use of the territory and its energies. Those projects have nonetheless negatively impacted the local administrators, who are showing resistance to a supposed cultural invasion from non-locals which, in turn, has exacerbated collusive behaviour in decision-making processes. Through such modalities that characterize GuilmiArtProject's practices, I will involve the public of the conference in order to propose ideas to shorten the GAP between high ideals and low realities.

**#INFORMAL EDUCATION #SOCIAL REGENERATION #NEED OF CULTURE
#RECONFIGURATION OF LOCAL ECONOMIES #COMMUNITY ACTIVISM**

BUDAPEST100: HOW CAN OPEN HOUSES CREATE OPEN COMMUNITIES? RITA SZERENCSE

Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Center, Budapest, HU

The presentation aims to introduce the *Budapest100* open-houses festival, which is a 7-year-old program for celebrating Budapest's buildings through the collaboration of volunteers, locals and residents. The weekend of open houses concerns the historical, as well as current Budapest, initiates common discussions on revival, underlines the values of the built environment, takes actions against social isolation and inspires the establishment and strengthening of residential communities. The presentation deals with the methodology of this bottom-up urban festival, which focuses on motivating the current inhabitants to think about the options of making their own neighbourhoods a better place through the tool of built environment, historical, interpersonal, emotional engagement and profession-based information transfer. The core point of the festival is to encourage citizens to open their buildings' doors to visitors, to team-up with neighbours and share their stories and values, as well as to start dialogues on the possibilities of a clean, cleverly organized, friendly city willing to form its future consciously together involving the residents.

The principle of the presentation is to share alternative experience-based know-how to combat isolation and a lack of urban and civic responsibility.

**#RESILIENT URBAN COMMUNITIES #BUILT ENVIRONMENT #ENGAGEMENT #SIMPLICITY
#OPEN DOORS / REDUCED ISOLATION**

NARRATING PLACES IN NEU- HOHENSCHÖNHAUSEN (BERLIN) AND DARMSTADT JOLANDA TODT

Weißensee Kunsthochschule Berlin, DE

What makes a space a place? How do you talk about places? What do specific places tell me? Those questions make me wonder how I could explore the personal beneath the surface. Who will I meet behind the grey facades of a "Plattenbau" (prefabricated high-rise) neighborhood, built in the late 1980s in East-Berlin? And what will I find in a pink social-housing block in Darmstadt (West-Germany), built in the early nineties? The places are exchangeable: The pink social-housing block could just as well be located in Miami. And the same "Plattenbauten" could be standing anywhere in the former Soviet Union. And yet, every flat, every room – and much more every inhabitant – represents a very individual microcosm on its own.

I will present two self-published books of mine in which I was exploring a way of telling urban places by collecting stories and arranging them into text-collages, followed by photographs. For a specific amount of time, I became an explorer and rang the bells of strangers, talked to unknown people in the street and met new people through word of mouth. I recorded their stories, re-framed them into predefined structures and merged them into a webbing of stories. The collages create an imaginary, kaleidoscopic idea of space through exploring dreams, memories, experiences, views and ideas of inhabitants to instantaneous images of places.

#URBAN PLACES #SOCIAL HOUSING #PLATTENBAUTEN #STORYTELLING
#SOCIAL IMAGINARY

THE VALUE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF ARCHITECTURE TO COHESION AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: THE EXAMPLE OF IMRE MAKOVECZ'S WORK WITHIN THE FALUHÁZAK PROJECT DURING THE 1970S AND 1980S MARTINA GIUSTRA

Marcell Breuer Doctoral School, University of Pécs, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology

Over the past 10 years, I've been in contact with Imre Makovecz's architecture, both practicing at firms connected to his studio Makona kft and carrying out research activities on his thought and oeuvre as an architect and public personality.

Furthermore, it was through direct observation and direct contact with local communities living in villages where, during the last forty years, architectures designed by Imre Makovecz were established, that I could experience and verify the centrality of these buildings in community life. Such experiences and further considerations pushed me to continue the research on a more multi-disciplinary level to investigate, evaluate and represent - through the use of the SROI methodology - the social, cultural and economic impact generated by the work of Imre Makovecz and his collaborators. Here, particular regard is given to the *faluházak* project, carried out during the 1970s and 1980s for local communities living in small villages disseminated all around Hungary.

In particular, the research work focuses on the Cultural Houses and Village Centres built in the Hungarian villages of Sárospatak (1972-1976), Bak (1985) and Kakasd (1986).

Starting from the buildings of the cultural centres, studying and creating the appropriate social, architectural and environmental conditions, a process of awakening and of great modernity was born and continues today.

The result of this research work may show us the effects and tangible evidence of certain good practices and multidisciplinary approaches in architecture for the community.

#ARCHITECTURE #COMMUNITY #SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT #MAKOVECZ #SROI

SESSION 3B

CO-CREATING THE CITY: PARTICIPATIVE TOOLS AND APPROACHES

MODERATED BY **LORENZO TRIPODI**

This panel is dedicated to methodologies and experiments enabling innovation, dissemination and networking on practices of co-creation.

FUNDING THE COOPERATIVE CITY: FROM KNOWLEDGE NETWORK TO LOCAL ACTION DANIELA PATTI & LEVENTE POLYAK

Eutopian Research & Action, Budapest, Wien, Rome

In the past decade, successive economic and political crises, austerity measures, privatisation and financialisation have prompted community groups and citizen initiatives to organise their own services and spaces. These initiatives often take place in formerly vacant buildings, underused areas and neglected neighbourhoods.

The self-organisation of new spaces of work, culture and social welfare was made possible by various socio-economic circumstances including unemployment, solidarity networks, changing real estate prices and ownership patterns which created opportunities for stepping out of the regular dynamics of real estate development. Consolidating their presence in the regenerated spaces, these initiatives are increasingly looking into the power of the local community, the dispersed crowd and new financial actors to invest in their activities. In some cases, cooperative ownership structures exclude the possibility of real estate speculation, in others, new welfare services are integrated in local economic tissues, relying on unused resources and capacities. The new cooperative development processes also witnessed the emergence of new types of investors, operating along principles of ethics or sustainability, or working on moving properties off the market.

The research and networking project “Funding the Cooperative City” aimed at exploring this emerging landscape of collaborative economy initiatives, bringing together its protagonists in situations of knowledge exchange and promoting their models and achievements towards city municipalities, government offices, EU institutions and financial organisations. The presentation will describe the process of knowledge exchange and the possibilities of transfer and adoption, together with some of the community-led urban development projects whose protagonists participated at the programme.

**#COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY #SHARED OWNERSHIP #LOCAL EMPLOYMENT
#KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER #MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION**

CIUTATBETA A SOCIAL INNOVATION POLICY LAB ÒSCAR MARTÍNEZ CIURÓ

Trànsit Projectes/ ITD Barcelona ES

CiutatBeta is a platform for research and prototyping of innovative tools and citizen processes for interventions in public spaces. The platform offers a place to explore the DNA of the city in which we live in and, through an interdisciplinary approach, designs and tests prototypes and creative solutions tailored to the needs of specific neighborhoods and/or new social problems. *CiutatBeta* is a different and innovative training area, where people from neighborhoods and different professions work together to build prototypes to run them and put them to the test in the field.

URBAN PLATFORM #PROTOTYPING #PUBLIC SPACE #NEIGHBOURHOODS #TRAINING

3 TRANSFORMATIVE SCAPES IN FLORENCE ANNA LISA PECORIELLO

University of Florence, IT

3scapes is a research project on three fields of observations (“scapes”) that characterize changes happening in the city of Florence in recent years concerning food, sharing practices and self-organization. These three scapes, arbitrarily chosen among many innovation phenomena that characterize the so-called post-metropolis, have been explored by two means: a map, built in collaboration with the *Forum Civism Beni Comuni* concerning changes happening in public space use, and a graph that organizes concepts and practices in an interpretative frame. The three scapes are intertwined and many innovative social practices in these fields have common characteristics. Some of the innovation phenomena observed are locatable on a map as fixed points, others are networks, areas or moving objects, or else immaterial phenomena.

#FOOD #SHARING #SELF-ORGANIZATION #MAPPING #SOCIAL INNOVATION

(RE)SEARCHING FOR QUIETNESS IN THE REUTERKIEZ ANTONELLA RADICCHI

Marie Curie TU Berlin, DE

Today, cities have become increasingly noisy. In Europe, over 125 million people are affected by noise pollution from traffic every year, and apparently, quietness is becoming a luxury available only for the *elites*. There is a growing interest in protecting and planning quiet areas, which has been recognized as a valid tool to reduce noise pollution. However, developing a common methodology to define and plan quiet areas in cities is still challenging.

The “*Beyond the Noise: Open Source Soundscapes*” project aims to fill this gap of knowledge by applying the soundscape approach, the citizen science paradigm and open source technology, with the ultimate goal of making quietness a commons. Accordingly, a new mixed methodology to analyse and plan small, quiet areas on the local scale has been tested through the development of a pilot study in the Reuterkiez, a Berlin neighborhood affected by environmental injustice and noise pollution. In this pilot study, a number of citizens have been involved in crowdsourcing data related to “everyday quiet areas” by using different strategies. This contribution illustrates this pilot study, presents the methods applied and discusses its findings.

**#QUIET AREAS #ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE #SOUNDSCAPE #CITIZEN SCIENCE
#MOBILE APP**



WORKSHOPS



* level ≠ forms of knowledge exchange

* Usefulness / utilitarianism?

* role: for whom?

* I and/or we?

(effects)

Academe
+

Activism

+ stakeholder

* aims (\$\$)?

* consequences for the future

* language cool & clever

* knowledge as resource extracted
reinvested?

* place-based vs project-based
funding

SITUATED LEARNING: HOW DO WE CONSOLIDATE KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCES PRODUCED IN GRASSROOTS INITIATIVES?

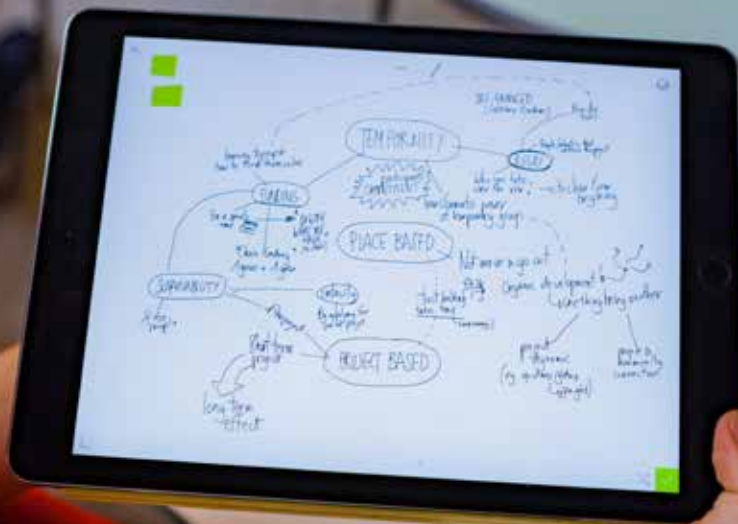
FACILITATED BY **ELIZABETH CALDERÓN LÜNING, LAURA COLINI**

This workshop engaged in questioning “how to consolidate knowledge and competences produced in grassroots initiatives” in a two-parts exercise: a plenary brainstorming with the selection of relevant outcomes, and successive working groups further deepening the prioritised outcomes.

The brainstorming in the plenary session with circa 20 participants pinned down some incomplete reflections on the meaning of knowledge, the role of the activators of such knowledge, approaches and temporality.

1. The initial assumption is that knowledge produced in grassroots initiatives is valuable, but may be bound to diverse cultural frames, languages and understandings. Therefore, there is a need to unpack the meaning of “knowledge” in relation with specific contexts, questioning who produced what, for which purpose, for whom. Is there a demand for this knowledge and who wants to learn what? What is the time frame for knowledge transfer to happen? How transitory or short rather than long term processes affect their outcomes?
2. The role of “activators” in grassroots initiatives has to be contextualised and related to a specific struggle. Often academic research and political engagement coexist, but the purpose for engaging in local initiatives might be different. As such, it is not self evident to understand the boundaries between personal interest and collective engagement, between usefulness vs utilitarianism. Activators, coming from academic research, or any other project which are funding-driven rather than struggle driven, may be means to an end. Is there a risk to turn knowledge into a resource to be extracted and reinvested? How to make sure that research is used to support civil engagement and actions?

3. The production and consolidation of knowledge may be struggle/place-based as for instance in a citizens initiative against the construction of an unwanted incinerator, or project-based as for instance an initiative launched because public or private funding has been made available. Knowledge resulting from those different instances and perspectives may be radically different. The first one responds to specific societal demands and accompanies and supports citizens initiatives; the second one might not necessarily do so. Which kind of compromises should be taken? Which are the limits and how to measure them over time?



RULING
COMMONS WHILE
EVICTING
SELF-MANAGED GROUPS

WHAT KIND
OF ECONOMY FOR
THE COMMONS

EXISTING
POTENTIAL TO
COMPETE IN THE
CURRENT ECONOMIC
SYSTEM

BLURRED
TERM ALLOWING
PUBLIC
WITHDRAWAL

SCHOOL
AS A COMMONS?

COMMONS
AS A TOOL FOR
REDISTRIBUTION

SHARED
RESOURCES

HOW TO
KEEP THE COMMONS
CREATED VALUE IN
THE COMMUNITY

COMMONS
MEANS ?
REGULATION

HOW COMMONS
(Can) IMPACT HIGHER
POLICY LEVELS?

NOT ONLY GOOD
POLICY BUT ALSO,
COMMUNITY
CONTROL

URBAN COMMONS: CONCRETE ALTERNATIVE OF TRENDY BUZZWORD?

FACILITATED BY **SOPHIE BLOEMEN, LORENZO TRIPODI**

The commons are relational social frameworks that have existed since the dawn of human civilization. In current times of economic, systemic, and political crisis and amid the implementation of policies of privatization and austerity, the discourse of the commons is re-emerging. The provocative question: “concrete alternative or trendy buzzword” was adopted to launch a discussion on the practical use of the concept in a moment in which its ubiquitous use simultaneously poses the risk of it becoming an empty shell – primed for use for propagandistic purposes. The commons movement started its revival in the last years from a multitude of bottom up initiatives reclaiming and managing fringe spaces and common resources. Its rise was accelerated by the advancement of information communication technologies exploring open source, communitarian and libertarian visions of a networked society. The acknowledgment of the innovative potential of commons based governance is now gaining public recognition, starting from the city level, where progressive municipalities are increasingly adopting policies directed at recognizing and regulating commons, like in the case of Barcelona, Bologna and Napoli. Last year, the European Commons Assembly reunited activist commoners with different backgrounds to discuss a common platform. The process started with a meeting in Brussels with European MPs in November 2016.

The workshop session was introduced by Sophie Bloemen of Commons Network, an organization campaigning for the support of the commons in European policy among the promoters of the European Commons Assembly. The round of presentations by the participants showed a great variety of approaches and understanding of the term. First, it was pointed out that the concept of urban commons is misleading since many resources do not have an inherently urban dimension in the current condition of planetary urbanization. Instead “commoning” should rather be understood as a universal process. The conspicuous presence of people from former socialist countries shone a light on the ambiguous reception of the term in contexts where communism has a strong negative connotation. From another perspective, the commons discourse was criticized as an opportunity for the public to withdraw from its managing functions in public space.

A critique was made pointing out that the public recognition and regulation of commons can be a way to normalize and ultimately displace the spontaneous appropriation processes initiated by bottom up initiatives. A key aspect in the workshop concerned the economy of the commons. Here, the potential of the commons to compete in the current economic system was discussed and compared with the approach of the commons providing the basis for alternative models. This line of discussion led to participants enquiring about the value generated by commoning practices, and how one can keep that value in the communities that created it. Commons have been defined as tools for redistribution. Thus the commoning process requires the identification of a community which is sharing resources and to set rules for their administration. In this sense, the commons constitute an essential example of the situated learning process that the conference was about. Local knowledge can be understood as an essential tool for commoning, and a commons in itself. The production, reproduction and preservation of such a knowledge-commons is an essential task for building better communities in the future.

platforms <=> operating systems

platforms are political
platform economy

A set of rules that
you agree upon once you
enter the room

These things can be
put on the table and
be shared

explanation & comment
on the platform (the user)

platforms created by
us, our data
Cells are more than just
Big platforms are hiding
information, giving us bits
and pieces

TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURES OR POLITICAL MODELS?

What is:
- Integrating
- many using same
- data

comfort and
ease of demand
platforms

What is
the mission?
"Capitalism"

Diversity & Plurality
instead the new
legitimacy

political demands to
change financial sector

learning
Sharing amongst us

moving capital
into
infrastructure

Open Source
does from the
front

Deeds has
time to actually
have new things

sustainability

- ecological - economic
- social

debt building
as
platforms

community development/
local building
with community

control & decision
processing is according
to your own principles

control/decision
processing is according
to your own principles

Gendering/
Tendering/
Sensitizing

Socialist/
Post modernism/
Digital Models

platforms with a logic
for communication

THINKING PLATFORMS: TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OR POLITICAL MODEL?

FACILITATED BY **LORENZO TRIPODI, ANDREAS UNTEIDIG**

There is a specter haunting contemporary global society and it is named platform. Platforms are radically impacting technological, political and economic modes of organization. Social media platforms are redefining the way information and knowledge is created, legitimized, distributed and given value. In terms of economic innovation, platform capitalism represents the disruptive model that has strengthened the position of the new dominant corporate power. Regarding employment and labor, the gig economy associated with global digital platforms such as Uber, Foodora & Deliveroo is producing dramatic transformations in wages, rights and welfare. Contemporary urban development is affected by the influence of corporate platforms like AirBnB on prices and rent, while Amazon and other online commerce platforms are transforming the role of retail in cities in determining economic geographies as well as rescaling transport and logistics.

Conversely, in the field of transformative politics, transnational and grassroots movements conceive themselves as platforms that offer an alternative to traditional party-led governance and nation-state geopolitics. Cooperative economies are revived by platform-coop formations, whilst block-chain technologies are disclosing a whole universe of possibilities for rethinking horizontal, distributed, and peer-to-peer models of organization. Digital platforms support the search for alternative non/post capitalist models, fair production processes and distribution channels, the management of commons, and finally the development of alternative media.

Platforms have in fact been an essential element of most case studies and practices discussed during Learning from Context. These are determined by unprecedented technological capacities and at the same time respond to unavoidable socio-political demands. The rhetorical formulation “technical infrastructures or political models?” employed to launch the workshop is evidently a chicken-egg question. Interestingly enough, introducing themselves during the initial round, those participating in the discussion could be split up along a dichotomy between those involved in social practice and those in design and technological development.

Their converging interest in platforms derives from opposite entry points. In this regard, whilst the latter approached platforms so to say from the back-end, the first approached them from the front-end. Nevertheless, the workshop discussions enlightened a community of participants bound together by a shared interest in platforms which produced overlapping and slightly confounding discourses throughout the event.

Overall, developers, designers and hackers understand platforms as an environment which is open to be colonised and shaped to experiment innovative social and economical relations. For those working in the social field as activists, practitioners or researchers, digital platforms represent powerful tools to mobilize knowledge and skills in communities and projects, whilst also presenting the risk of losing scope, as well as being co-opted and diverted. Their management absorbs time and resources, often turning the tool from a means to an end to an end in itself. Issues of transparency, democracy, commodification, ownership of data and infrastructure have been the common denominator of the discussions. In a nutshell, the essential question that animated the discussion centred on the question of how to make sure that, in the long-term, platforms are used to support a political project and stay under the control of those communities employing them, rather than becoming means of extraction of value from corporate powers and surveillance agencies.

APEX
ARTS

Voting on
projects that
people feel
TOGETHER

Vague
work
conditions/
"flexible
schedule"

LIVING
WAGE

NEW
PATTERNS
COLLECTIVE
DECISION-
MAKING

SELF-
CARE

ACTIVIST
BURNOUT

HOW MUCH
DO I REALLY
NEED?

SUFFICIENCY

RECOGNITION
ACCESSIBILITY
LANGUAGE

PUBLIC
SPACE

SAFEGUARDING
FREE SPACES
ment -

Measuring
work value
personal
fulfillment?

PATREON

FUNDING
PLATFORM

COMPETITION
VS.
COLLABORATION

NEUE
AUFTRAG-
GEBER

LACK
FUNDING

BEING PART
OF
THE MARGINAL
ECONOMY

TOOLS/
ETHICS
OF
COLLABORATION

OFFER
CULTURE
leads to
PRICE
JUMPING

PASSING
SHARING
KNOWLEDGE

Decentralized
Models
smart
contracts

Gemeinwohl-
ökonomie
Economy
of the
Common
good

Demokratie
in
Bewegung

ART OF
HOSTING

Facilitator
of
group
process

Availability
private/
professional
life

It's hard
to
participate
when your
basic needs
are not
fulfilled

Zeit-
genossenschaft/
TIME
BANKS

SOLIDARITY

Redistribute
workloads

POST-GROWTH
ECONOMY

THE FUTURE OF WORK IN THE COLLABORATIVE CITY: HOW FAR DO NOVEL NETWORKING CAPACITIES OPEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAIRER ECONOMIC MODELS?

FACILITATED BY **ELA KAGEL, JIM SEGERS**

In 1923 the Green Bay Packers, an American National Football League team, were on the verge of bankruptcy. Rather than close their doors, they decided to sell shares to the community, a small working class town where most people worked in the meat packing industry. At \$5 a share, they managed to raise the necessary \$5,000 from the community to carry on. The company was to be not-for-profit, and a limit was put on the number of shares a single person could hold. Almost a century on, the team still abides by those same rules, and is still going strong. In 2010 it even won the Super Bowl, by Americans modestly referred to as the World Championship. This despite NFL regulations being changed in 1960 prohibiting non-profit making teams and teams with more than 30 shareholders from taking part. There are now about 360,000 shareholders, from the wider Midwest, but largely from the 100,000-inhabitant town of Green Bay, making it the only small town team in the NFL. The shareholders elect a board of directors, but a General Manager makes football decisions. "Without an impatient, jittery billionaire breathing down his neck, the GM has the space to see his moves succeed or fail on their own accord," the New Yorker reported in 2010. Fielding an unproven talent instead of a legendary quarterback in 2008 proved controversial at the time, but 2 years on the younger talent was named Most Valuable Player of the competition.

In the 21st century we have a plethora of words describing the political economy of a phenomenon like the Green Bay Packers. What was just a good idea between the Wars, went out of vogue in the 1960s to the point of being outlawed, and is gaining currency now as crowdsourcing, network economy, platform cooperativism or sharing economy. It inspires taxi drivers in Bologna, childcare collectives in New York and mobile phone providers in London.

Historically, these were predominantly collective efforts to provide a service the market failed to offer. The community saved the Green Bay Packers when investors looked the other way. Another case in point is the provision of utilities. Though 90% of urban homes had electricity in the 1930s, in rural areas only 10% of homes were supplied, because companies worried that the investment of connecting them would never pay itself back. So rural communities set up their own utility firms, owned by consumers. Though small in terms of the number of citizens they reach, in 2006 these coops still provided power to 75% of the US geography.

Now, we increasingly come across more critical and demanding actions in the field of collective ownership. In September 2016, at the time when social networking service Twitter was put up for sale, media studies professor Nathan Schneider wrote an opinion piece in *The Guardian* entitled “Here is my plan to save Twitter: let’s buy it.” In it, he referred to the Green Bay Packers, and proposed a similar structure for Twitter, but it would be a buy-out rather than a public offering. The article sparked a popular movement, a hash tag #WeAreTwitter, and resulted in a letter written to the board of Twitter. The greatest merit of the movement, however, was to launch a debate about the democratic ownership of social media and public services for communication. The campaign made it to Twitter’s shareholder meeting, but after that focussed more on influencing the shareholders rather than becoming them. Initiatives like this are not limited to new technologies and social media. In Antwerp, the collective “Let’s buy Oudaan”, supported by architects practice NDVR, attempted a collective purchase of an iconic high rise office block. This also achieved to generate a debate about its value as a collective good rather than merely seeing the sale as an act to shift ownership (see also brochure Open Promotor Platform in this series).

American philosopher John Dewey wrote in the 1940s: “all those who are affected by social institutions must have a share in producing them and managing them.” He explained that because you become what you are by the institutions under which you live, in a democracy you should have a say in shaping them. It is this type of thinking that now inspires economic practices that put community and user benefit before profit. It criticises what is referred to as the sharing economy, practices like Uber and AirBnB, because these use the peer-to-peer ethos but still from a profit and return-on-investment perspective.

Platform cooperativism, network economy and other collective efforts cannot hide the fact that in policy terms the pursuit of economic well-being is still a synonym for increasing productivity. It is argued in the first brochure of this series (Economy and Skills) that the limits to growth confront us with a stark choice: do more with less, or make do with less; accelerate technological advancement so that we can produce the necessary goods with the available limited resources, or change our lifestyles and adapt consumption patterns to a level that would be sustainable for a global population. Denying the populations of former developing countries the lifestyles we have would be unacceptable; hence those from earlier industrialised countries will have to adjust their consumption patterns.

Increasing productivity, as was promised in the past (see also brochure Elephant Path in this series), would mean we that we would have to work less to earn our living. In 2017, people work longer for less money. The reason is that the benefits of increased productivity are not harvested by those who work, but rather by those who invest in and own the companies. In other words, the fault is in the ownership of the institutions that employ workers.

LEARNING FROM CONTEXT PARTICIPANTS' BIOGRAPHIES

Lorenzo Betti studied Political Science (BA) and Education Studies (MA) at Bologna University where he carried out an ethnography on Bologna's squatting movement. Since 2011, he has been working as an educator on different projects for the Bologna social services. Furthermore, he is a collaborator for the Italian political magazine "Gli Asini" where he writes about housing issues. As an ethnographer, urban researcher and community organizer, he has worked for the Centre for International Health (CSI-APS) since 2016 where he contributes to (participatory) action-research projects that aim to promote health within vulnerable and marginalized communities in the periphery of Bologna.
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Sophie Bloemen has degrees in Philosophy, Political Economy and International Relations from the University of Amsterdam and the London School of Economics. She is based in Berlin and writes, speaks, and organizes events on the sharing of knowledge, the commons and new narratives for Europe. She has worked as an advocate and public interest consultant for various NGOs on health, trade & innovation, as well as on cross-border cultural dialogue for Europe. She is engaged in a number of projects and political processes that explore and discuss new, creative institutions and collaborative models, particularly on health R&D, internet infrastructure and urban commons. She has worked with EU institutions, national policy makers and multilateral institutions in Geneva. She started her career at the European Commission in Brussels whilst her work has also taken her to Latin America as part of a civil society coalition on health and trade issues.
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Jens Brandt researches at the School of Architecture, Tampere, Finland and works with European partners on the *UEL project - Urban Education Live: collaboration between universities and communities*. His field of work connects the built environment and public sphere. Here, as a planner, facilitator, designer, artist and activist, he moves between the large scale (e.g. the Oresund region) and the very local scale. An example for this is his involvement in projects that facilitate processes that strengthen weak communities, for instance by promoting social housing in the suburbs of Copenhagen.

Sara Caeiro has a background in Social and Political Sciences, Cultural Management and Critical Theory of Art. She has lived in Barcelona for 10 years where she collaborates regularly with *Trànsit Projectes*. Here, she is involved in the coordination and implementation of projects in different cultural centres which promote the associative, community and artistic aspects of the city. She currently coordinates an audiovisual community project in the district of La Marina - Zona Franca which supports the *Boombeta Art and Community Project* in Graner (movement creation centre). In addition, she also works as a Cultural Management teacher and a director's assistant in a dance-theatre company.

Òscar Martínez Ciuró holds degrees in Cultural Management, Multimedia Creation and Historical Culture and Communication. He works at *Trànsit Projectes* in Barcelona as a consultant and cultural manager whilst also developing and advising on projects in Spain, the European Union and Latin America. His areas of expertise include cultural, social and educational action that are oriented towards local development. For instance, he is involved in projects related to digital manufacturing and education, the cultural and educational impact of new technologies, as well as how social networks can be used for local development.
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Laura Colini is an architect with a Ph.D. in Urban, Regional and Environmental Design and a Marie Curie post-doctoral fellowship. Her research covers urban regeneration and governance, financialisation, housing, urban inequalities and inclusion, public participation and participatory media. She has worked as an academic researcher at several universities in Italy, Germany, France, the UK and USA. Since 2004, she has worked as an expert for the EU URBACT programme and as an independent researcher for the EU COM DG regio. Besides that, she is active with different NGOs, foundations, artist collectives and non-profit organisations and networks. She has been a member of INURA since 2004.
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Teodora Constantinescu is an architect and urban designer with a Master's degree from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. She has been a member of the Architect's and Urbanist's Chamber of Romania since 2012. As of 2014, she is a researcher within the Spatial Capacity Building research group at Hasselt University, Belgium. She explores themes such as spatial capacity building, spaces of urban migration, digital social innovation, urban games and spaces of multicultural micro economies. Her research focuses on the role that games play in re-valuing spaces for work.
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Jonas De Maeyer is an architect and urbanist. Recently he started working at *Endeavour* in Antwerp, Belgium. In 2016 he started *HEIM* together with architect Kimoura Hauquier. *HEIM* is a design- and research platform that focusses on the spatial inclusion of newcomers in our society. The platform was granted a *bouwmeesterlabel* in 2017. The label certifies that the receiver supports innovative and relevant ideas.

Michael Edwards studied Economics and then Planning in his native England in the 1960s. He later worked on the economic inputs to the Plan for Milton Keynes, learning the joys and hazards of working in a multi-disciplinary team. He became a lecturer in the Bartlett School at UCL in 1969, where he has enjoyed working ever since. Since the creation of the Greater London Authority in 2000 he has been involved in all the hearings on successive London Plans, working with the network of community groups JustSpace.org.uk. This is gradually becoming a strong focus of local and city-wide action against neo-liberal city policies. His paper on housing and land over the next 45 years, commissioned by the government Foresight project on the future of UK cities, appeared in 2015. He was one of the founders of the international network **INURA.org** which has inspired him for 25 years. He blogs at michaelledwards.org.uk (where his publications can also be downloaded) and is active on Twitter as @michaellondonsf.

Lucia Giardino has taught Art History and Contemporary Art disciplines in academic institutions in Florence since 1998. She is presently a full-time professor at Florence University of the Arts, where from 2011 to 2013 she managed and coordinated the Fine Art department. Giardino was awarded the Harlem Studio Fellowship (Montrasioarte, NYC) in 2010 and has curated many exhibitions and art residencies including the exhibitions of FUA-supported international residence program *F_AIR*. She is co-founder, with Federico Bacci, of the residence program *GuilmiArtProject* (Abruzzo, Italy). Giardino believes that critical thinking and artistic practices are tools to decode the panorama of today's world.

Martina Giustra is an architect and since 2007 has carried out research on the thought and oeuvre of the Master Imre Makovecz and Hungarian organic architecture. After some experiences abroad and brief collaborations with the University of Catania, she settled in Budapest, where she attended the Vándoriskola (2011-2014). She has been engaged in research activities at the Department of Residential Design at the Faculty of Architecture of BME University and at the Balassi Institute in Budapest (2012-2014 and 2016-2017). She is currently working as an architect whilst pursuing a Ph.D. at Marcell Breuer Doctoral School – PTE University of Pécs, where she focuses on the relationship between democracy and architecture and the value of the contribution of architecture to cohesion and social engagement. She also writes for different specialized journals.

Felix Hartenstein completed his Master's degree in International Economics in Maastricht (Netherlands) and Santiago (Chile). Since then, he has worked as a consultant for the *German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)* in the field of local economic development and SME promotion in Namibia. He joined TU Berlin Campus El Gouna in 2012 as a lecturer and research assistant at the Department of Urban Development. The focus of his research and teaching centres on issues of urban economics, sustainable urbanism and the impact of modern technology on cities. His Ph.D. dissertation assesses the impact of corporate responsibility on urban development.

Ela Kagel is a digital strategist and specialises in the intersection of art, culture and technology. Since the mid-1990s, she has produced and designed media art exhibitions, networked performances, mobile and location-based applications, as well as temporary spaces for cultural exchange. She has been a long-time collaborator and researcher at the *Public Art Lab* in Berlin and, from 2009 to 2011, was a program curator for the *Transmediale Festival for Art and Digital Culture*. While at *Transmediale*, Ela developed the *Free Culture Incubator*, a series of workshops and events based on free and open culture. Central to Ela's practice is supporting bottom-up initiatives deeply rooted in particular communities of practice. From this perspective she also established and curated *Upgrade! Berlin* in 2006 and founded *SUPERMARKT* in 2012, a creative resource center in Berlin. Ela is a co-author of a research study on the potentiality of the Sharing & Collaborative Economy in Berlin and co-initiator of the *#Platformcoop* Berlin meetups. Since 2016, she is a founding member of *CZY WRK*, a digital freelancer cooperative in Germany.

Vicky Kiefer is a cultural researcher with degrees in Linguistics, Gender Studies, Aesthetics and Art Technology in Marburg, Zaragoza and Berlin respectively. Her final project in art sociology focused on the role of cultural production in post-socialist Germany. In addition, she has experience in the fields of art education, public relations and cultural management in non-commercial art spaces such as *HALLE 14*, *GfZK* Leipzig and the *ADKV* network. She worked as a research assistant at the Berlin University of the Arts, Gender & Diversity until August 2017 and since September has taken up a role as a research assistant at the Chair for Modern and Contemporary Art at the University of Zürich.

Alice Larsimont is an architect and graduated from the Faculty of Architecture of La Cambre-Horta in Brussels. She also holds an Advanced Master in Human Settlements from the Engineering Faculty of KULeuven in Belgium. During her first master's – where she spent a year at the Art School of Porto – she developed a fieldwork project exploring the conditions of precarious worker settlements and living conditions in the city. Her second thesis was based on a fieldwork where she explored efforts to promote urban inclusion in peripheral Sao Paulo.

The research analyses the efforts' intentions to trigger socio-spatial inclusion for the inhabitants of precarious areas on the outskirts of the largest city on Brazil. An avid traveler, Alice aims to deepen her understanding on contemporary cities' struggles and architecture in a broader context. Here, she intends to question urban dwellers' conditions of today and tomorrow.

Antje Lehn teaches in the Departments of Architecture (IKA) and Art Education (IKL) at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. She studied Architecture at the University of Stuttgart and the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. She has worked as an architect in Vienna, London, Munich and Milan. Besides exploring urban culture in exhibitions and other formats, her research interests focus on mapping and architecture education. She is currently co-curating the exhibition: "Unschärfen und weiße Flecken. Kartografische Annäherung an urbane Räume" at Kunsthaus Muerz in Austria.

Elizabeth Calderon Lüning holds a degree in Political Science and is co-founder and CEO of Common Grounds and co-founder of the *Nachbarschaftsakademie* (Neighborhood Academy). Her focus lies on sustainability, socio-ecological urban development and citizen participation. With many years of experience in non-governmental organizations, including in Latin America and Germany, her core work is to mediate between different actors and their interests from civil society, administration and research. Within the framework of the *Neighborhood Academy*, she has coordinated and produced events, workshops and cultural performances on the topics of the right to the city and socio-ecological city production from below. In her responsibilities within the *CAPs Project*, *MAZI*, she has led community outreach and collaboration efforts to develop local DIY technologies for the *Nachbarschaftsakademie* and other local initiatives. As a process facilitator and mediator, she also assesses several other international organizations in their vision and strategic planning.

Lenny Martini is a junior researcher at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn, Germany. She is also affiliated with the working group of Development and Knowledge Sociology of ZMT, the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and a Masters in Management Science from Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia. Before joining ZEF, she worked as a lecturer at the School of Business and Management, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia. Her research interest are on topics of knowledge, urban development, business and organization and feminism.

Mapping San Siro is currently composed of around 10 researchers with different backgrounds and competences at Politecnico di Milano. Mapping San Siro was initiated in 2013 by Francesca Cognetti and Beatrice De Carli (Politecnico di Milano). In 2014, the group was granted a space in San Siro by ALER, the Regional Housing Agency - which owns and manages the neighborhood. The Lab opens twice a week and hosts several initiatives involving the neighborhood and the city. Mapping San Siro is currently promoted by the DASTU Department within the Polisocial Program (program of social responsibility of the university). The project won several teaching prizes and is currently involved in two European projects (Erasmus+ "Des-inc - designing inclusion" and Era-net Cofund Smart Urban Futures - "SoHoLab - the regeneration of large-scale social housing estates through Livinglabs"). Francesca Cognetti is the scientific coordinator of the project and works as an Associate Professor of Territorial and Urban Analysis at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies.

metroZones, the Center for Urban Affairs e.V., was founded in 2007. Its mandate is to bring together urban research, knowledge production, cultural practice and political intervention at the interface of art, academia and politics – and to provide a forum for their public discussions. In this, metroZones relies on international, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaborations. In 2015 and 2016, metroZones organized the “metroZones-School for Urban Acting”.
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Daniela Patti is an Italian and British architect and planner. She has studied in Rome, London, Porto and Vienna and worked as a researcher at the Central European Institute of Technology between 2010 and 2014. From 2014 to 2015, she worked for the Municipality of Rome, coordinating the URBACT pilot project *Temporary Use as a Tool for Urban Regeneration*. Since 2015 she is a founding member of *Eutropian Research&Action*. She specializes in projects on urban regeneration and environmental planning with a particular focus on metropolitan governance and collaborative planning. Her recent research and projects focus on the governance of peri-urban landscape, the revitalisation of local food markets and new economic models for urban development.
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Anna Lisa Pecoriello is an architect with a Ph.D. in Urban, Territorial and Environmental Planning from the University of Florence. Her main research fields are Participatory Planning, Social Innovations and Self-organization. She is currently coordinating the *Forum Civism Beni Comuni*, a network of citizens in Florence. She is also a member of the spin-off of the University of Florence MHC Progetto territorio (community mapping and planning). Since 2001, she has been collaborating with the Education Council of the Municipality of Florence on participatory projects related to educational experiences in schools in different neighbourhoods of the city.

Juan Pedregosa is a Philologist with a post-graduate degree in Editing and Training Management and is also accredited as a social educator. He combines his interest in culture (including education, heritage, humanities and digital humanities, interculturality and innovation) with attempts to enhance inclusion (informal and non formal training, education, participation, youth as well as sharing economy). Inside this dialogue of cultural and social matters, he specializes in the conceptualization, implementation, and monitoring of projects at the local, national and international level. This includes teaching at the university and training disadvantaged people in local contexts, leading consultancy work for local authorities and promoting dialogue between different stakeholders. He is furthermore involved in EU projects where he focuses on matching communication plans with different juridical, administrative and organizational contexts.

Levente Polyák is an urban planner, researcher and policy adviser. He studied Architecture, Urbanism, Sociology and Art Theory in Budapest and Paris, and worked on urban regeneration projects in New York, Paris, Rome, Vienna, Budapest and Pécs municipalities. He is a founding member of the *Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre* and *Eutropian Research&Action*. He specializes in urban regeneration, cultural development, community participation, local economic development and social innovation. In the past years, he has been researching new organizational and economic models of community-led urban development projects, including the temporary use of vacant properties and community-run social services.

Antonella Radicchi is an architect, holds a Ph.D. in Urban Design and is a soundscape researcher. She is currently an IPODI-Marie Curie fellow at the Technical University of Berlin. She has received numerous awards for her research – most notably the *IPODI-Marie Curie Fellowship* for post-doc research at TU Berlin, the Rotary International *Ambassadorial Scholarship* for doctoral research at MIT and the 2010 *National Institute of Urbanism Award* for the best Italian dissertation in Urbanism. Since 2009, she has been the curator of the *Firenze Sound Map* included in the Open Data System of the Municipality of Florence. While combining her professional and research activities, Antonella has lectured at university level for ten years and participated in numerous international conferences and symposiums. www.opensourcesoundscapes.org
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Martina Riccio is a founding member of the Centre for International Health (CSI-APS) in Bologna, where she develops and coordinates (participatory) action-research projects for promoting health within vulnerable and marginalized communities. She is furthermore involved in the training of social and health workers on the Social Determinants of Health perspective and Health Promotion approach through active-learning and participatory methods. She studied Cultural Anthropology (BA and MA) and has a Ph.D. in Science, Cognition and Technology from the University of Bologna. Her Ph.D. ethnographic research focuses on the (un-)making of childhood disability through everyday practices of health and social workers, and the role of research.
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Jim Segers is a co-founder of *City Mine(d)* in Brussels in 1997 and in London in 2003. With it he realised over 100 prototypes in 15 European cities - of which *Limite* and *Micronomics* both won international critical acclaim and awards. He has furthermore contributed to academic and wide-audience publications about bottom-up urban development, micro-initiatives and radical prototyping; and organised debates and conferences in Brussels, London, Barcelona and Milan. His current interest lies with the role of personal competences in local development [in the project *Elephant Path* in London's Somers Town area]; with the triple challenge facing the electricity sector of fairer pricing, rethinking ageing infrastructure and reducing climate impact [*#ElectricityMined*]; and with the opportunities for citizens in big data and smart cities – in the project *Pacco-Test*. He holds a BA Hons in Politics, a BSc Hons in Econometrics and is trained as a theatre director.
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SPOLKA is a collective of architects, artists and sociologists based in Bratislava, Prague and Berlin. Their aim is to cultivate the public realm through educational activities, artistic and architectural interventions, and institutional and public dialogue. SPOLKA concentrates on concrete issues related to the city, public spaces, participation, inequality, and communication.
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Rita Szerencsés is a Ph.D. student at Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design Budapest (MOME). She studied Design Management at MOME, Hungarian Literature and Theatrical Studies at the Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Humanities (ELTE), Sociology at Széchenyi István College for Advanced Studies and Media Theory and Art Research at Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung Karlsruhe, Germany. She is in charge of international affairs at the *Budapest100 Festival* for the Contemporary Architecture Centre (KÉK) in Budapest. In addition, she is a project manager at the Institute of Architecture at MOME. Her Ph.D. research concerns the impact measurement of art-based social interventions, although she is also interested in urban community building, especially in the aspect of impact.
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Jolanda Todt is an artist, art teacher and graphic designer living and working in Berlin. She studied Graphic Design in Mainz (BA) and Spatial Strategies at the Berlin Weissensee School of Art (MA). She has lived, worked and studied in Reykjavík, New York and Umea. In her artistic practice, she explores subjectivities in relation to an assumed objectivity, researching how places merge with stories, and how narratives are constructed in a variety of ways including oral history, archival documents and photography. She works with a range of media - not only books, but also film, performance, photographs and installations. Furthermore, her work is often participatory. In 2015, she initiated the *Bermudagarten* - a communal garden project on a wasteland situated in between an interim home for refugees, an art school, offices and a residential neighborhood. She explores cultural education together with various partners in Berlin, including the ZKU, Urban Dialogues, Schlesische 27 and the Kulturagentenprogramm. In 2017, she completed a diploma in Artpaed in cooperation with the Alice-Salomon-University to expand her knowledge in art education and participatory work. Additionally, she has a certificate as a Storytelling Salonnière from Rohnstock Biografien.
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Lorenzo Tripodi is an architect and holds a Ph.D. in Urban, Regional and Environmental Design, complemented by a steady practice of urban divagations as an activist and artist within the *Ogino:knauss* collective. His principal research interests are in regeneration and conflicts of public space, integrated sustainable urban development, urban peripheries and modernist heritage, image production processes in the urban economy, as well as collaborative mapping and participative planning.
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Andreas Unteidig is a research associate and lecturer at the *Design Research Lab* at the Berlin University of the Arts, where he explores the relationship of design, technology and the political. Prior to that, he studied at KISD in Cologne and Parsons in NYC and worked as a graphic, interaction and service designer. He has been teaching design methods and theory in Berlin, Cologne, Dessau and Jerusalem. His work has been published and exhibited throughout Europe, the USA, Israel and China. He is co-editor of "Design as Research: Positions, Arguments, Perspectives", published by Birkhäuser in 2016. Andreas co-founded the transdisciplinary research group *Civic Infrastructures*, and is currently leading the Berlin efforts contributing to the EU research project *MAZI (CAPS/H2020)*.
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