



URBiNAT

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Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making under the Aarhus Convention  
Tenth meeting

## URBiNAT: co-creation and co-governance approaches for inclusive, nature-based solutions

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## Community of Partners



Coordinator



Front Runner



Local Partner



Follower



Observers



Horizontal Partner



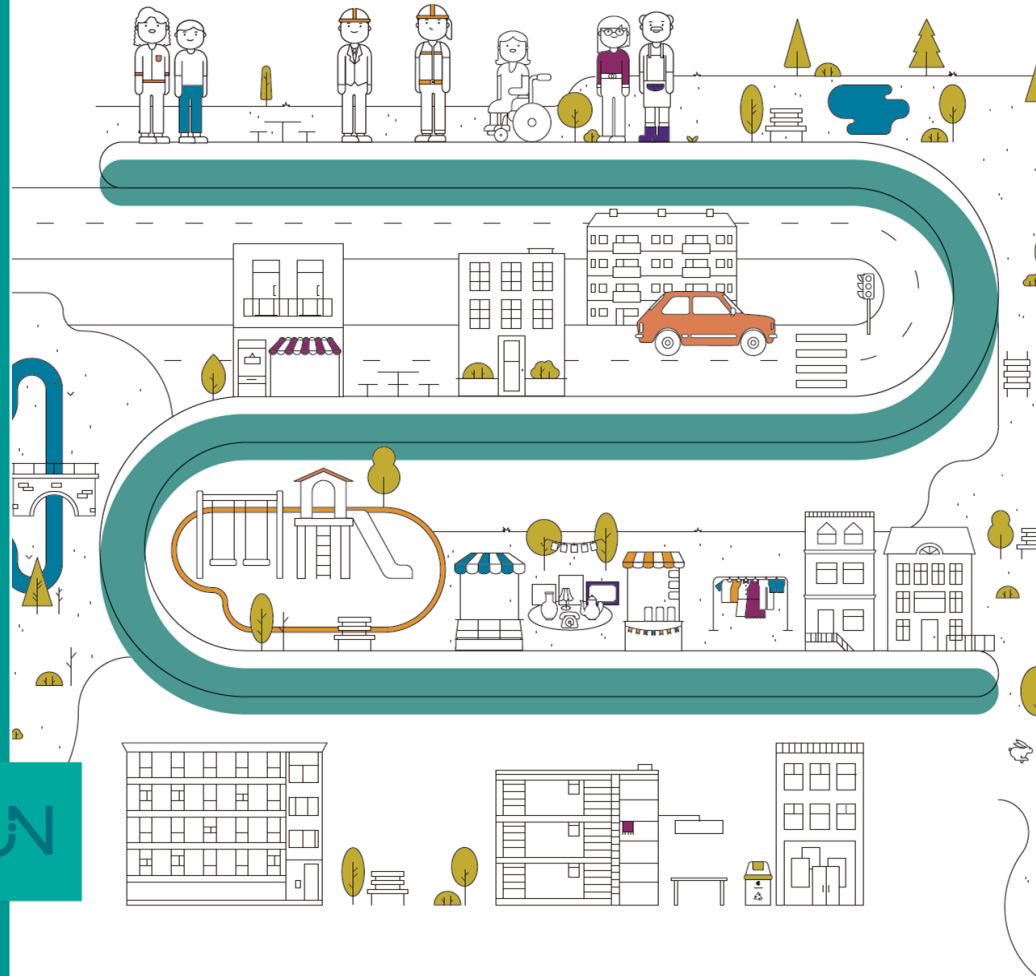
Company



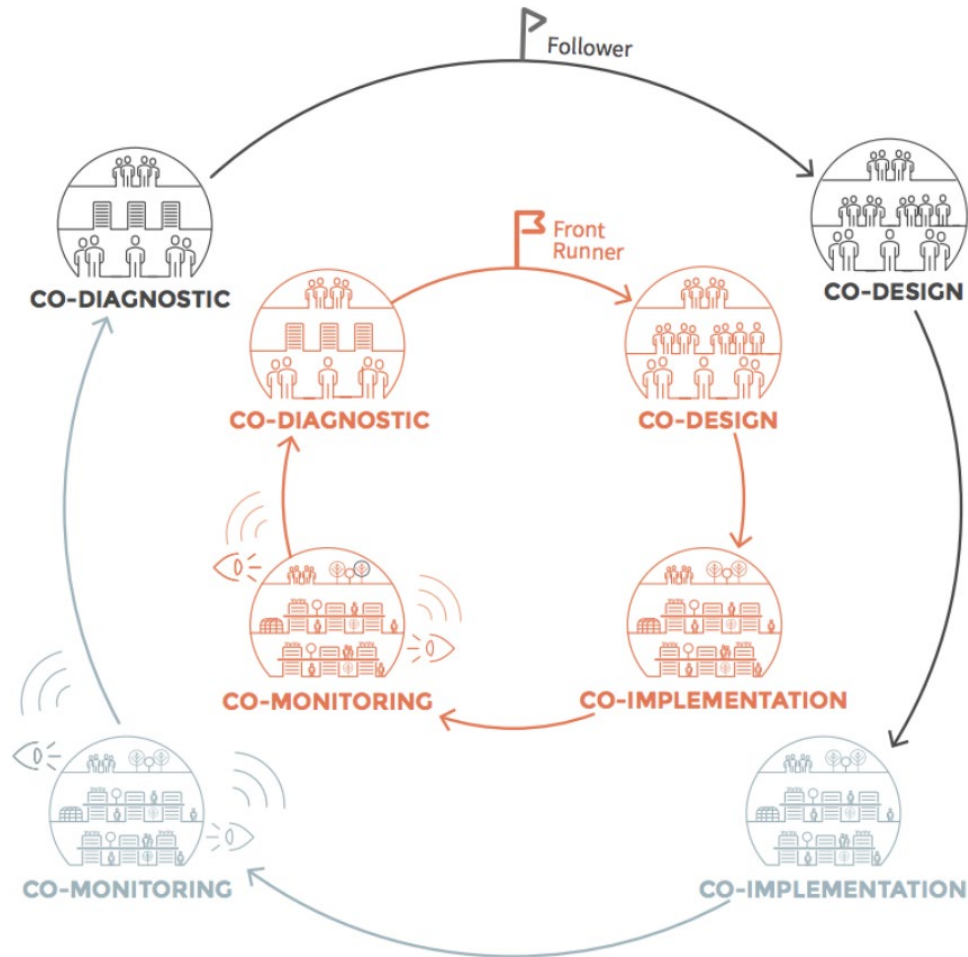
Connections

for the co-creation of social,  
environmental and marketable  
NBS

- Co-creation of nature-based solutions
- Development of healthy corridors
- Areas of urban regeneration
- 7 European cities



## Co-creation process



## Participation as an innovation strategy in governance:

### Criteria for innovation in participation

Elstub & Escobar, 2019

directly engage citizens

institutionalized forms  
of participation at  
strategic levels

welcome resistance and  
provoke empowerment

more influence for  
citizens in the decision-  
making process

### Criteria for innovation in governance

Smith, 2009

Cooperation and co-  
production between  
citizens, public authorities  
and stakeholders

Diversity of participants

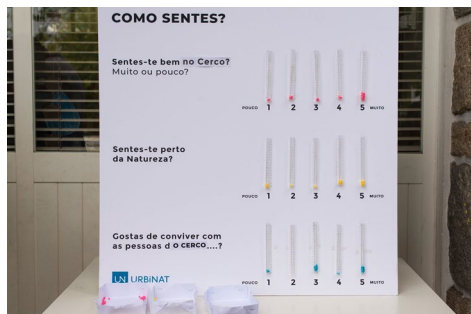
Opportunity for discursive  
interaction

Consensus building based  
on opportunities to  
influence, negotiate and  
deliberate

## Mapping



## Feeling



## Dreaming



Pictures: Barradas

## Focus group in situ (walkthrough)



## Photovoice



**ENGAGEMENT**

*Participatory activities*

**CO-DIAGNOSTIC**

**CO-DESIGN**

**co-selection**



# CO-GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

## Analysis of co-creation processes reveal

- existence of disciplinary barriers among different actors;
- prioritization of technical projects over the needs of the participatory process;
- bureaucratic and technical discourses associated with the vertical hierarchy of governance;
- distrust in relation to the completion of the project, based on previous experiences

→ **The level of citizens' influence in municipal decision-making is still not stabilized, in particular regarding negotiation, consensus building and deliberation**



**SPACE OF PARTICIPATION:**

- ❑ intersection between technical decision makers, politicians and citizens
- ❑ opportunities for practices (learning-by-doing, speaking, leading, negotiating)
- ❑ shorter distance between democratic dynamics of participation and representation
  - ❑ informal intermediation

**FORMAT & COMPOSITION:**

- ❑ experimental
- ❑ online & face-to-face meetings
  - ❑ open sessions
- ❑ social participatory nbs
  - ❑ equity measures

**INDEPENDENTLY OF FORMAT**

- ❑ quality of democracy they instill;
- ❑ potential to introduce innovation in local governance and participatory culture

**From a participation project-oriented towards a public policy for participation?**

**From participation in decision-making to co-governance?**




## Co-governance structure

Follow-up and decision making

## Co-creation structure

Ideas development, testing,  
implementation and monitoring

**Working Commission for the Healthy  
Corridor (COT.CS)**

 - Every 3 months

**Working Groups (GT)**

 - 1 or 2 times per month

GT 1 -  
Education  
and  
Environment

GT 2 -  
Social  
Economy  
and  
Solidarity  
Practices

GT 3 -  
Culture  
and  
Sports



# Working group sessions

**14 Working  
Group sessions**

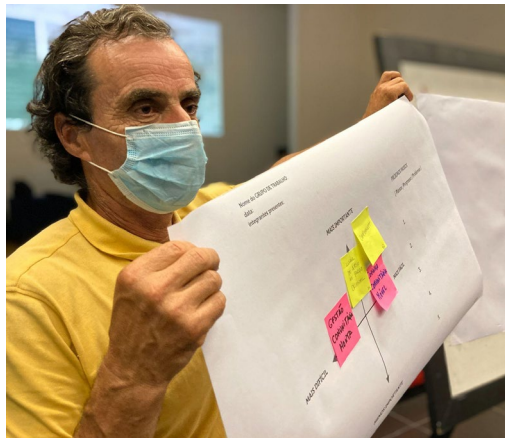
**≈35 participants**

**6 schools**

**10 associations**

**2 municipal  
companies**

**5 municipal organic  
units**

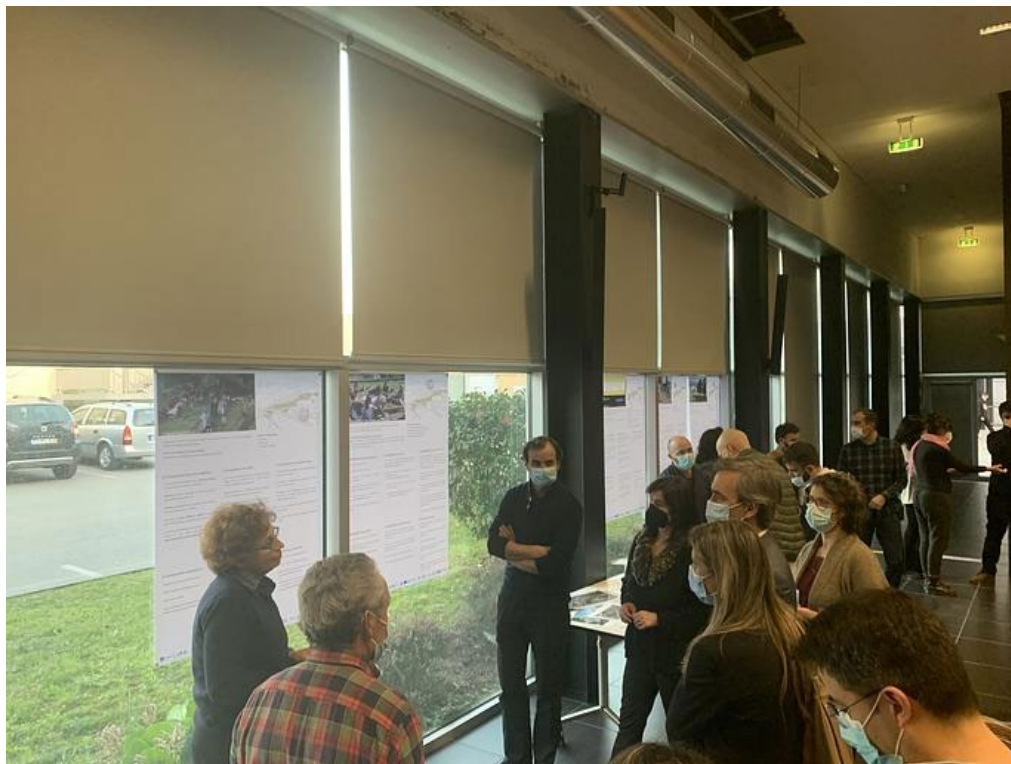


**2 Experiment  
events**

**~100  
participants**



## 1 launching session of the Working Commission for the Healthy Corridor





## Lessons learned

High engagement of citizens

Low culture for dialogue, discussion, negotiation

It is much more challenging for municipal actors to dialogue

But also strong commitment from municipal actors to proceed and improve

# Public participation in decision-making

## “(i) Meaningful and early public participation”

- Mapping of local participatory culture
- Co-diagnostic
- Kick-off event

## “(ii) The availability of all relevant documents to the public”

- available during the sessions
- participants asked for the observers’ reports which were then shared some
- preliminary proposal for urban plan is available at [youtube/website URBiNAT](#)

## “(iii) Effective notification and time frames for public participation”

- Participation planning presented and discussed every +- 6 months
- One email one week before of the meeting
- One document with proposals to be funded/might be funded/won't be funded

## “(vi) Ensuring that account is taken of comments (...) ensuring the appropriate provision of feedback on how the public’s comments have been taken into account in the decisions.”

- Feedback from citizens incorporated in the urban plan
- 3 ongoing projects: Campanhã'Up, Campmarket, germinal garden



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CENTRO 2020



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