



Piraeus: local experience on NBS-participatory planning through euPOLIS project

Piraeus' collaboration with Puerto Montt (Chile) promotes the exchange of knowledge and mutual learning, as both cities share a common vision and similar challenges, linked to nature, urban development, and citizen wellbeing. Piraeus seeks to create an interactive network for the transfer of knowledge that connects global actors working on Sustainable Urban Development, that aims to assist cities with methodologies, guidelines, and other

Solutions implemented with a profit-making approach and disregarding citizens' needs lack sustainability.

instructions to plan and implement sustainable interventions and Nature-based Solutions (NBS).

LOCAL EXPERIENCE ON NBS & PARTICIPATORY PLANNING THROUGH EUPOLIS PROJECT

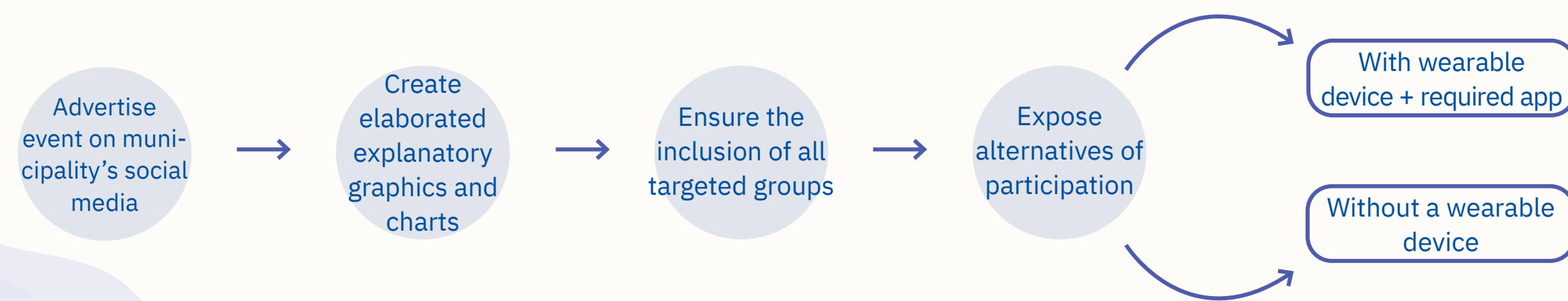
European cities are facing major social challenges that highlight the responsibility of urban areas to support Public Health (PH) and Wellbeing (WB). Mainstream urban planning approaches mostly focus on profit criteria while lacking methods integrating PH, WB, economic development, and social aspects. Local communities' needs tend to be ignored or neglected, therefore cities plan for costly investments that do not respond to actual needs, are rejected by citizens, and do not empower them in their decision-making rights.

The challenge is to successfully integrate different voices and points of views into planning, especially of vulnerable and marginalised groups that tend to be excluded from decision-making forums. Building a bottom-up and inclusive participatory planning process is nevertheless not a straightforward task.

Participatory planning allows to articulate multiple perspectives through different methodologies, by transforming public spaces into living labs promoting the integration of different target groups' inputs, including trainees or researchers, children or adults.

Piraeus is currently introducing a systemic PH-WB-related criteria for project approval into its urban planning system. The euPOLIS project translated this new approach with a series of participatory tools that promote a creative engagement of "next generations" of citizens for the co-design, development, and evaluation of integrated NBS. Social participation should not be limited to the collection of a diversity of opinions, and must open up a dialogue between different groups of stakeholders, leading to decision-making processes that guarantee interventions' integral sustainability.

EUPOLIS PROCESS TO ACTIVATE A CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION



A RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PIRAEUS FOR OTHER CITIES (PREPARATION)

Elaborating a timeline is an essential step to ensure that the different stages of participation follow a logical sequence of actions. The following steps describe the adopted process:



C) IMPLEMENTATION DIMENSIONS



B) PLANNED ACTIVITIES



01 PREPARATION

- Presentation and promotion of project goals on social media to stakeholders' groups

02 IN SITU SURVEYS AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN WORKSHOPS WITH STAKEHOLDER

- Online and in-person survey
- Divulcation and co-design workshops in situ

03 MODELING AND OPTIMIZATION PROCESS WITH STAKEHOLDER

- Online surveys, divulgation and co-design workshops
- Divulcation and co-design workshops in situ
- Elaboration of participatory process guidelines tailored to local needs and context

04 FINAL CONCEPTUAL SOLUTION AND ENGAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS FOR ICT TOOLS

- Exhibition in festivals or community events
- Promotion and divulgation events to present provided equipment/applications and benefits of monitoring health data in daily routine



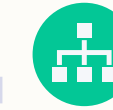
IDENTIFICATION OF DECISION-MAKING POWER

Either concentrated in management teams and informed by public consultations, or delegated to local communities.



DIVERSE SAMPLE OF PARTICIPANTS TRAINED FOR THE INTERVENTION

Either only the municipality's planning team, or also including residents, shop owners and/or other stakeholders.



DELEGATE

Define the extent of the participants' involvement in monitoring and identification of problems, design, evaluation, and implementation of solutions.



ROLE OF 'NBS SPECIALIST/S'

Can change and evolve over time, from facilitator to leader, trainer, expert, facilitator, or not involved in the process.



PARTICIPATORY METHODOLOGIES

Direct interactions and in person involvement of the whole community or of community representatives, and/or targeted groups.



LEVEL OF INFLUENCE

Depends on the intervention's scale: neighbourhood, community, or city level.



REQUIREMENTS OF PARTICIPATION

Define whether participants are involved on a voluntary basis or employed for specific tasks, depending of specific group members.



SCOPE OF THE INTERVENTION

Can be a temporary programme to solve a specific problem, or an integral and permanent programme to continuously improve activities of an organization.

CONCLUSIONS

This work is based on various approaches to participatory processes aimed at co-planning, co-designing and co-monitoring NBS interventions at different scales. Implementing participatory methodologies focused on delivering good results for NBS interventions can be challenging. They should therefore integrate best practices that ensure the inclusion of a large variety of stakeholders and maintain dialogue and communication over time.

YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT HERE!

