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Versioning and contribution history

Version	Date	Comment	Authors
v.01	30.07.2020	First version of the report's structure and content	UB
v.02	15.08.2020	Second version including the qualitative analysis of communitarian initiatives	UB
v.03	30.08.2019	Third version including the qualitative analysis of urban policies	UB
v.04	15.09.2020	Legal analysis incorporated	UNITO and UB
v.05	17.09.2020	Online meeting with consortium members to assess and check the third version of the report	UB, PDIMONTE, SI, UNITO, CLTB, OLA, UNEW
v.06	30.09.2020	Last version of the full report	UB and UNITO

gE.CO Survey

Final Report

1. Introduction

The gE.CO Living Lab aims at creating a platform for bringing together and supporting formal groups or informal communities of citizens who manage fab-lab, hubs, incubators, co-creation spaces, social centres created in regenerated urban voids. These innovative practices are considered ‘generative commons’ because they are based on sharing and collaboration between citizens and establish a new partnership between Public Institutions and local communities, setting forth new models of governance at urban dimension based on solidarity, inclusion, participation, and economic and environmental sustainability.

One of the essential tools to address ‘generative commons’ is by setting up a general database collecting some cases across all Europe to get a general picture of the phenomenon. In order to understand their underlying dynamics and their main shared features, some cases are identified and selected. Finally, a survey was designed and conducted with these key cases to get the most important quantitative and qualitative information necessary to complete the following phases of the gE.CO Living Lab project.

This report aims to explain the process and the methodology used to assess these three phases of the project. Section 2 explains how and when the general database was built (section 2.1), which were the main criteria to select some key cases (section 2.2.), and how was the design of the survey (section 2.3). Section 3 is the qualitative and the quantitative analysis of the findings in which the main contents of each section are highlighted both for communities of citizen’s initiatives (section 3.1) and for urban policies related to generative commons (section 3.2). Section 4 offers an in-deep legal analysis of the surveys’ content since the effect of legal framework is a key aspect to properly assess generative commons. Section 5 (appendix) concludes by adding the surveys templates.

2. Methodology and process

2.1. gE.CO General Database

Generative commons are quite heterogeneous experiences covering various thematic areas, forms of organization and governance and modes of relationships both with public authorities and with regular citizens or neighbourhoods' inhabitants. They include self-organized communities of citizens who collectively manage certain resources and assets, but also certain urban policies designed by public authorities aiming to promote new ways of civic engagement and new patterns of collaboration with local communities. As a result, new models of governance of urban spaces are emerging based on participation, inclusion, collaboration, and economic and environmental sustainability (see a further explanation [here](#)).

The template tool

With the aim of first properly understanding these phenomena, gE.CO Living Lab started by setting up a General Database containing most of these experiences across Europe. The aim was to have a tool capable of offering us and also local communities of a useful and quite comprehensive list of some of the most illustrative generative commons experiences.

In order to do so, a first version of the gE.CO General Database was drafted in February 2019 in Turin where its first contents and structure were proposed and discussed. After a collective brain-storming, the gE.CO consortium decided to design a Template model through which systematically grasp the most relevant cases' information, to classify them and, after all, to decide which cases should be included into the General Database.

The Template design took into account two different versions, one for common initiatives managed by local communities (including both formally and informally constituted; and based in open spaces and in buildings), the other for public institutions driving urban policies or initiatives related to generative commons. Both versions aim to standardize the minimum-technical information of all of these case studies in order to, firstly, organize them (by thematic area, location, legal status, number of people involved, etc.) and, secondly, to select the most representative ones of each country, thematic area and legal nature.

With this purpose, it should capture information about the location, thematic area, number of people involved, their legal status, mode of internal organization, funding sources, or economic sustainability model among other information. Template's criteria should be consistent enough to populate the General database and then to populate as well the online map.

General database

In line with this debate and thanks to this Template, a first list of cases compound by each consortium partner's proposals was presented and discussed in Barcelona in June 2019. That first list of case studies was revised and checked out, by including some new cases and excluding few others. Initially, just a narrow definition of generative commons (strictly related to communitarian management cases) was taken into account, though it rapidly became much more inclusive (e.g. 'communitarian practices' turned into 'institutionalized initiatives' or even into 'public policies', etc.).

Hence, associations supported by public authorities or cooperatives, for instance, cannot be excluded solely due to their legal status, and therefore they must be also included into the General database.

The debate within the gE.CO consortium therefore clarified the limits of the expression “generative commons” especially when considering profit groups, NGO or cooperatives, and also when considering these experiences in different countries with different conceptual, legal and political background. After all, generative commons across Europe are quite diverse and heterogeneous and hence it should be their own definition.

Period	Task development
February 2019	Partners share the organization of the list and its main categories. Template first version
March - June 2019	Second version (redefinition of criterion to be listed), 26 June Cases are debated in Barcelona
June 2019	Third version including the 50 first cases
July 2019	30 new cases were included
Sept. – Oct. 2019	100 more cases were included
Nov. – Dec. 2019	New criteria were included ('year' and 'active' or 'not active') and 41 new cases were added

Between the first brain-storming proposal and until December 2019 (see table below), up to about 221 new cases were incorporated in successive revisions according to the Template pre-established criteria. Three of the most important criteria for partners to propose their cases to be included into the General database were the following ones:

- 1) geographical widespread (among all European countries and within all of them);
- 2) representing a thematic diversity (culture and arts, politics, ecology, employment and entrepreneurship, education, etc.), and
- 3) covering diverse types of experiences and various legal-status (whether they were urban policies driven by public authorities, communities of citizens managing their own projects, or communitarian projects turned out into institutional initiatives, etc.).

In following the Template's information, and these three minimum criteria, the General database was finally fairly representative and heterogeneous.

The database was finally composed by using the internal experience and expertise of the consortium's partners and their knowledge in the fields such as urban planning and regeneration, civic participation, urban policies, and political governance methodologies and theory. This expertise did also allow consortium to reach other European countries' cases where no members are found (like Germany or France) which did also permit gE.CO project to expand its network.

As shown in the next table, the final version of the General Database finally included 221 cases of study, far beyond the first 180 cases formerly planned. In particular, it holds cases from 16 different countries and widespread across 100 different cities. We collected cases covering 12 different thematic areas, though in reality they were always mixed (e.g. an urban policy implementing an education program may be also included within the category of a youth policy).

Regarding the kind of experiences and their legal status, General database finally contents five types of case: 35 of them were urban policies (that is, a social policy implemented at urban level by the public authority). 110 were communities of citizens (that is, informal groups of people autonomously managing their own project or initiative). 36 cases belonged to communities of citizens which became institutionalized initiatives (that is, an informal group whose initiative acquired a “formal” character in being recognized or validated by public administration).

Other 3 cases belonged to the same previous category but they turned out into an urban policy (that is, an informal group whose initiative or project has acquire a “formal” character recognized or validated by public administration becoming, or being part of, an urban policy). Finally, 27 cases were full institutionalized initiatives (referring to an initiative or project recognized or validated by public institutions which is managed both by communities or by a communitarian-public partnership).

Synthesis		N°	Definition / Observations
Total cases		221	It finally includes 204 because 15 of them are not active anymore
Countries		16	
Cities		100	
Thematic Area	Culture & Arts		We can add as many categories as we want, adding the "+" symbol between. For instance: "Technology + Social centre + Welfare..."
	Politics		
	Ecology		
	Sport & Leisure		
	Technology		
	Social centre		
	Welfare		
	Tourism		
	Employment & Enterprise		
	Housing		
	Education		
	Production		
Type (legal status)	Urban policy	35	Policy at urban level driven by the public Administration
	Community of citizens	109	An informal group managing any kind of initiative/project
	Community of citizens + Institutionalized initiative	36	An informal group whose initiative/project has acquire a "formal" character recognized/validated/assumed by public administration.
	Community of citizens + Institutionalized initiative + Urban Policy	3	An informal group whose initiative/project has acquire a "formal" character recognized or validated by public administration becoming (or being part of) an urban policy.
	Institutionalized initiative	27	An initiative/project recognized/validated by public institution managed both by communities or by a partnership (private + public actor).

Interactive web presentation of the gE.CO General database and gE.CO Map

gE.CO General database offers a general overview of generative commons phenomenon across Europe and that is the reason way gE.CO project, as formerly established, decided to make it full public by uploading it into our webpage (available at: <https://generative-commons.eu/database/>).

In order to facilitate its understanding for general public, for non-researchers or non-specialist, we decided to merge the former 5 types of cases into only two ('urban policies' and 'communities of citizens', which simplifies the great variety of legal status and of the kinds of experiences we are assessing), and to show just their most important technical information, such as: their name, the country and city, their thematic area, the year of foundation of the initiatives or of the implementation of the policy, a short description of the main activity they perform, and their website to make them reachable by the public. In addition, and as explained in the above tale, 221 cases were slightly reduced to 204 since few of them were not active anymore ones we composed the Database.

As long as gE.CO Living Lab is an exchange platform for formal or informal groups of citizens who manage various kinds of generative commons, all cases introduced into the gE.CO General Database were also uploaded to our gE.CO Map (online available at: <https://geco.firstlife.org/wall?entityName=&entityType=&categoriesId=&tagName=&drawing=false&entityOwner=&fromApp=>).

2.2. gE.CO list of survey respondents

The gE.CO General Database gave us a general picture of European generative commons experiences across various countries, covering different thematic areas and referring to various kinds of initiatives – ranging from pure urban policies managed by political institutions up to more or less informal groups and communities of citizens conducting their own projects and initiatives. Once the General database was completed, the second objective was to identify those main factors facilitating the sustainability of these communitarian experiences on the one hand, and those reinforcing citizens' participation and civic engagement with urban policies, on the other hand.

Simultaneously, by identifying these positive factors fostering generative commons in general, we do also have to be able to identify those factors that negatively affect these experiences, e.g. which kind of economic or organizative barriers or obstacles are facing these communitarian organizations? To which extent current legal frameworks or political governance systems restrict urban policies related with commons? Positive and negative factors should be identified therefore if the goal was to assess how this communitarian and public initiatives are designed, implemented and sustained.

The following step to understand the bulk of these factors affecting generative commons was to assess some of the most illustrative cases already included in our General database. To do so, it was initially planned that at least a 1/4 of the General database' cases should be selected, that is, around 50 of them. In doing so, we could collect enough information from enough countries to identify such main positive and negative factors affecting generative commons.

It must be noted, however, that these cases-study cannot be considered as ‘representatives’ of the urban commons as a whole, nor of all cases included into our General database. As explained above, urban common are quite complex and heterogeneous phenomena. As a consequence, a methodological strategy trying to find out the ‘most representative’ cases unifying very different countries with different legal, economic and political contexts, do not seem adequate as an empirical and analytical approach. Rather, the idea was to identify some key cases that, due to their particularities and characteristics, may help us to properly understand the urban commons phenomenon and also help communities and policy-makers to reflect on their own projects and policies. The methodological way to do so was by conducting an in-deep structured survey, which design and content is described in the following section (2.3. gE.CO survey).

Which cases were had to be selected, how to identify them and through which method? Some of the first key cases (to be subsequently interviewed) were already proposed in June 2019 during the meeting in Barcelona following the main criteria to select cases for the General database that were also established then. It was afterward, in December 2019, that by using the main criteria and standards established by the gE.CO Template, the consortium partners started the process of selection of the survey respondents. The following table shows when these tasks were developed, by which partners, and which countries’ cases where subsequently incorporated into the list.

Date	Comment
Dec. 2, 2019	Organizing selection of respondents
Dec. 3, 2019	Consortium Coordination
Dec. 4, 2019	Respondents in Portugal, UK, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Netherlands, Slovakia, Malta, Germany were selected
Dec. 18, 2019	Respondents in Italy and France have been selected
Dec. 19, 2019	Respondents in Belgium have been selected
Dec. 24, 2019	Respondents in Spain have been selected
Dec. 27, 2019	Final organization and setting up the final list version

The methodological strategy to select all of these cases was firstly based on consortium partners’ proposals by following the debate and held in Barcelona. Generative commons phenomenon, was established there, includes something more than just strictly communitarian initiatives and therefore other kind of experiences should be included and hence interviewed, such as cooperatives, formal cultural associations or NGOs, or even some kind of urban policies based on citizens’ participation and civic engagement. According to the partners’ proposals and their national expertise, therefore, the consortium started the selection of the survey respondents by organizing meetings and debates with various experts, checking the literature and reviewing other related research projects.

As seen in the General database, legal status of generative commons is quite heterogeneous and then that is why initially a myriad of status were considered (urban policy; urban policy + institutionalized initiative; community of citizens; community of citizens + institutionalized initiative; community of citizens + institutionalized initiative + urban policy; and institutionalized initiative). However, in order to synthetize such a diversity, we re-combined the cases along three analytical categories:

- a) “urban policies” designed and conducted mostly by municipalities (with or without citizens or other institutions collaboration) aiming to support or reinforce communitarian and citizens engagement in generative urban commons.
- b) “community of citizens” for initiatives designed and conducted by citizens themselves either organized in a formal or in an informal way.
- c) “community of citizens” that have turned out into “institutional initiative”, for initiatives or projects formerly managed by a community of citizens but recognized or validated by public institutions authorities and then managed by a public-communitarian partnership.

Once this heterogeneity was re-conceptualized in order to be operative in analytical terms, we also established some additional criteria to facilitate partners to propose their case-studies. Hence, the main criteria to select the respondent cases were established as follows:

- a) To select as much countries as possible (to be geographically representative).
- b) To select cases from different cities within the same country (to do not saturate the sample).
- c) To select cases belonging to different thematic areas (to be thematically representative).
- d) To select at least one case belonging to Public Administration management (urban policy).
- e) To select at least one case belonging to a Citizens management (communitarian project).
- f) To select at least one case belonging to mixed management (public-communitarian partnership).

The final list of 55 cases included both formal and informal communities of citizens carrying our project in buildings and in open spaces alike, as well as public policies either managing urban spaces or carrying out projects or services.

On the one hand and as explained above, among “formal communities”, experiences such as cooperatives, foundations or NGO were taken into account, while among “informal communities” experiences of illegal occupation or just *de facto* groups were also included.

On the other hand, and with regards to urban policies, the list finally included local project funded by European programmes as well as local or self-funded municipal policies, and even a combination of both types.

Finally, and as already explained, some communitarian experiences turned out into institutionalized initiatives or public polities were also considered when assessing some particular countries. In sum, by following the main criteria firstly established in Barcelona and those successively established by the consortium and here explained, a final list of 55 cases was set up, as the following synthesis is showing below:

Synthesis	Nº	Main criteria to select cases
Total cases	55	
Countries	15	Belgium (4); France (6); Germany (6); Greece (5); Hungary (1); Italy (11); Lithuania (1); Malta (1); Netherlands (3); Poland (1); Portugal (2); Romania (1); Slovakia (1); Spain (10); UK (3).
Cities	43	
Legal status		Urban policy (13); Community of citizens (28); Community of citizens + Institutionalized Initiative (14).
Period covered	41	1977 – 2018

Thematic areas	12	12 interrelated and mixed Thematic areas: culture and arts; politics; ecology; sport and leisure; technology; social centre; welfare; tourism; employment and enterprise; housing; education; and production.
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2.3. gE.CO survey

As explained into the legal analysis section of this report, the survey “intends to collect and investigate the rise of urban commons as carriers of collaborative processes of urban regeneration”. Despite the heterogeneity regarding the legal status and the juridical nature of the urban commons cases identified into our General Database, the design of the gE.CO Survey should synthetize and harmonize all of them. Thus, in order to formally collect and categorize all the cases to conduct the surveys, they were grouped along two main groups:

- 1) Communities of citizens, including:
 - formally or informally constituted; and
 - based on urban spaces, or carrying out projects or services
- 2) Urban policies (including institutionalized initiatives)

The design of both models of surveys started in March 2019, though the first draft was presented in Barcelona (June 2019), where it was successfully improved. Over about 9 months, surveys were successively improved and re-checked by all consortium’ partners and external advisers alike. Following all of their comments and suggestions, and after exhaustive revisions, a second draft was presented in Athens (February 2020). As shown below, by February 2020, the last version was approved and conducted with some external collaborators who tested both survey templates.

Period	Task development
March 25, 28, 2019	Upload a survey model 1
May 2, 2019	Upload a survey model 2 and 3
May 6, 2019	Integration of the 3 previous models
May 10, 2019	Modification upon the integrated version
May 22, 25, 27, 2019	Modification
May 30, 2019	New questions about ICT uses added
June 17. 20, 2019	Modifications
Sep. 4, 2019	New questions about commons/public policies
Sep. 15, 2019	New legal questions added
Nov. 8, 2019	Integration of SI's and UNITO's new questions
Dec. 19 - Jan. 2020	Preparation of the new versions for the Athens meeting and preparation of the general explanation
February 2020	ICT section modified according to the Athens meeting. Questions connected with the WMGC added. Final revision

Different criteria were met in the design of the survey. It should be wider enough to include all cases’ responses into a general framework, but simultaneously, they should be specific enough to get the most important particularities of each case. In addition, they could not be extremely long (1-hour max.) and be understandable in 15 different countries.

Initially, surveys followed a structure based on a quite technical model focussed on the socio-demographic and socio-economic data with plenty of multi-choice and closed questions. After several improvements, however, they were redesigned in order to become more responsive for interviewed people and then giving them a room with more open questions.

Survey for Communities of citizens has 81 questions along the following sections:

- A) Demographics: questions on the composition of the community (Questions 1 to 12).
- B) Thematic area: what are the specific activities that the community engages with (Questions 13-23).
- C) Funding: how the organization finances itself and its activities (Questions 24-26).
- D) Locality: Two general questions both for buildings and for open public spaces types (Questions 27-29).
 - D.1) Legal status and the terms of space usage, how the buildings were appropriated (Questions 30-41).
 - D.2) Legal status and the terms of space usage, how the public open areas were appropriated (Questions 42-47).
- E) Internal organization for Formal Entities: legal status of the community, how decisions are made, organizational and underrepresentation problems (Questions 48-60).
- F) Internal organization for Informal Communities: legal status of the community, how decisions are made, organizational and underrepresentation problems (Questions 61-77).
- G) Political relations and General Issues: relationship with the political power and how can gE.CO be useful to the community (Questions 78-81).

Survey for Urban policies has 38 questions divided along the following sections:

- A) Description: institutional level, thematic area, demographics (Questions 1-9).
- B) Locality: how does the policy connect with space, legal-wise & in terms of use (Questions 10-16).
- C) Citizen participation: citizens' involvement and representation in the design and implementation of the policy. (Questions 17-24).
- D) Funding: concerning funding sources and methods (Question 25-26).
- E) Legal issues: in what concerns the legal framework, citizens' participation, relationships with private and public stakeholders. (Questions 27-31).
- F) Political/factual issues: political and factual issues faced by the administration in the implementation of the policy. (32-34).
- G) Technology: whether digital tools are integrated within the policy and how. (Questions 35-38).

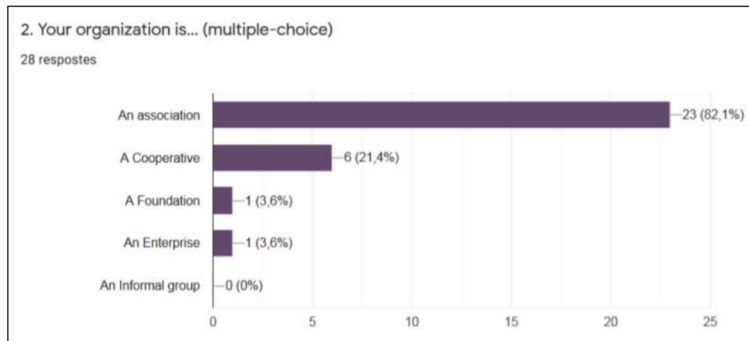
3. Quantitative & Qualitative Exploitation

Technical & Methodological information:

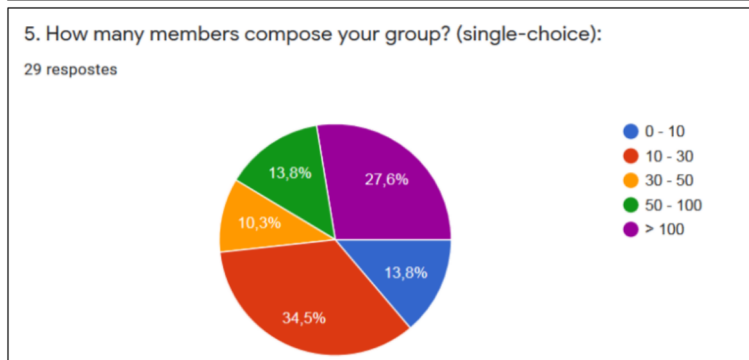
- Surveys conducted between: February – May 2020
- N° of interviews: 45 cases (30 Common initiatives + 15 Urban policies). 55 surveys were initially planned but 7 were missed (unreachable, declined, etc.). Moreover, 4 Urban policies from Italy were analysed together to identify the main aspects of the same regulation adopted.
- Field team: UB (coordinator), UNITO, OLA, Spazi Indecisi, Eutropan, CLTB, Patrizia Di Monte.
- Survey technique: CAWI (Computer Aided Web Interviewing). Survey conducted by phone (skype or alike), registered and transcript on a Google Form questionnaire.

3.1. Survey for Communities of Citizens' Initiatives

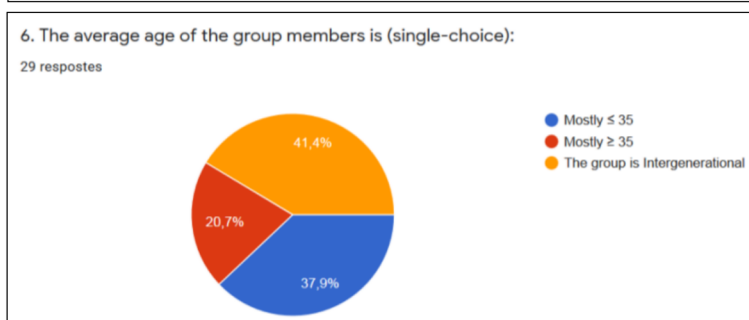
A) Sociodemographic (Questions 1 to 12). This section analyses data referring to the main sociodemographic information of each group, such as their legal status, how many members do they have, their age or the gender composition, or the digital tools used by these groups and their members among others.



2 & 3. Regarding legal status, the majority of cases are cultural associations followed by cooperatives. This is mostly functional to provide them with a legal coverage (e.g. to allow them to claim public grants) or because national legislations forced them to 'legalize' themselves to be able to interact with public institutions (see Section 4 for a further legal analysis).



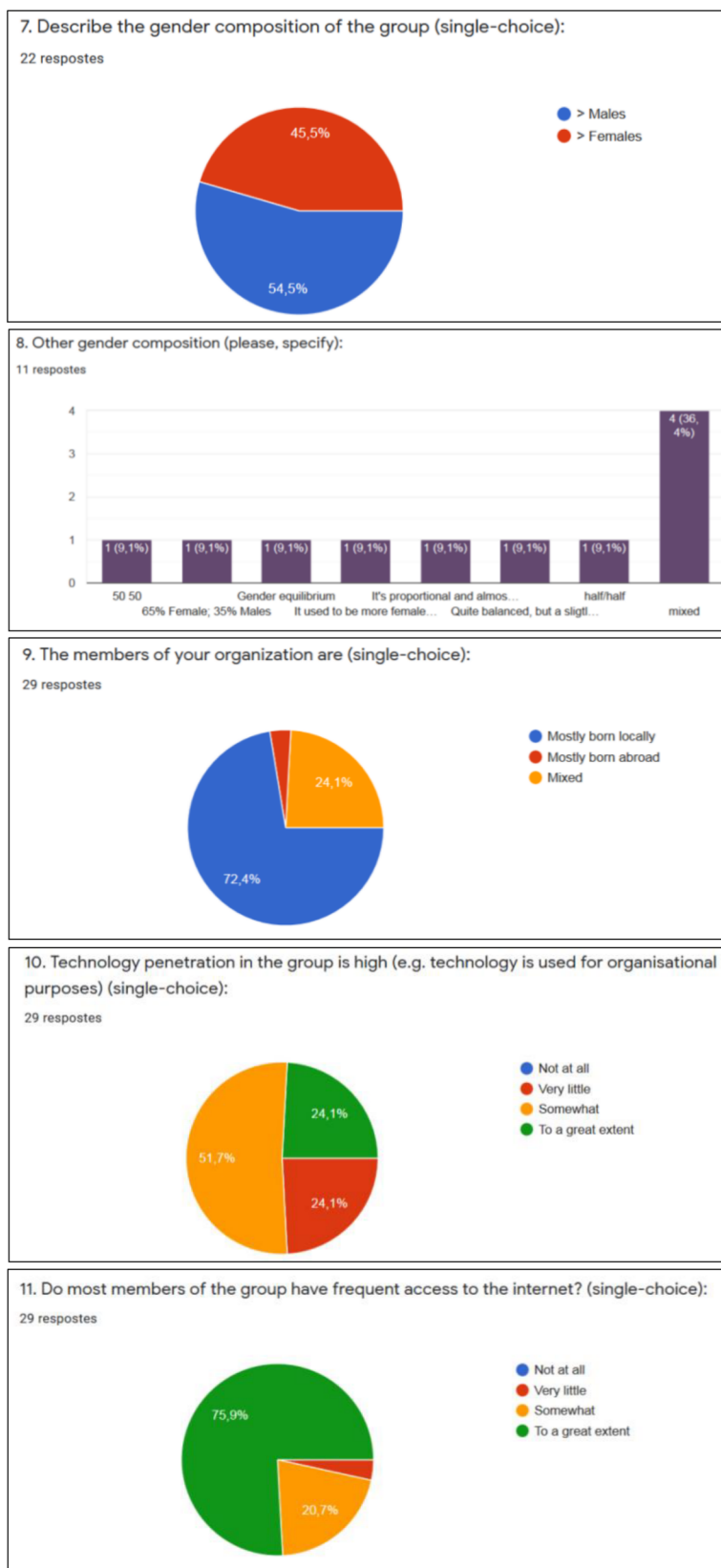
4. In relation with their history and initial purpose, most cases were initiated by young people in 2000 demanding for social or cultural spaces in their cities. Most cases claimed for old-emblematic buildings or unused infrastructures, some achieved through an agreement with public authorities, and others through an illegal occupation which, in few cases, turned into an official public-communitarian partnership (see questions 33-46 for further details).



5. 60% of groups are small (up to 50 members) while the remaining 40% are bigger (between 50 and more than 100). This however may refer to 'legal members' since 'real ones' (users, collaborators or non-formal members in general) tend to be much more.

6. Regarding the age, 40% of cases are

quite intergenerational, though there is a predominance (37.9%) of young (below 35 years) that almost double the groups compound by older people (above 35 years old).



7 & 8. Gender composition is pretty balanced and differences are only found when a group is an association of women (e.g. a feminist group). This does not deny that other gender-related issues might arise when observing who is leading the main representation tasks (likely men) or when observing who is performing 'care' tasks (likely women).

9. In contrast, the place of birth seems to be important issue. 3/4 of cases are managed by people born locally and just 1/4 are "mixed". Do migrants or newcomers are underrepresented in these projects? Do they differentiate themselves in this regard in comparison with traditional political parties or social movements? The hypothesis is that, insofar these cases tend to be strongly locally-rooted, newcomers may tend to be not included. That may be the reason way some cases report they miss people born abroad or complain these people are not quite engaged with the projects.

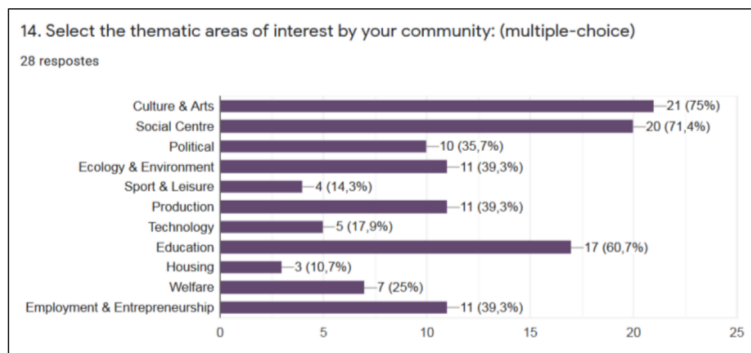
10 & 11. Regarding internet and ICT solutions, almost 50% of cases reflect a high degree of technology uses, while the remaining half show lower degrees. This trend is reinforced when asking by individual use, where more than 3/4 answer a high degree of internet use. As expected, there is a higher individual use of internet and ICT solutions than when it regards the organization or collective uses.

12. This is also reinforced when asked which social media are collectively used the most and which purpose for. Facebook and Instagram are the most intensively used to disseminate events and agenda. However, lower uses of these platforms might reflect that face-to-face remains as a major mechanism to distribute information since these are locally-rooted projects and have face-to-face contact with high degree of neighbours' personal and permanent engagement.

Summary of sociodemographic

- Cultural association is the most frequent legal form followed by cooperatives. This model is probably chosen for instrumental purposes such as to get funds or to be able to interact with public authorities.
- 60% are compound by less than 50 members, and the 40% left have between 50 and 100 or more members. This, however mostly means “legal members” and not users or regular visitors. In fact, most of projects are participated by larger numbers of people.
- Age and gender amongst members are quite balanced, though this does not necessarily imply a ‘real balance’. Gender issues, for instance, do likely arise when cases are observed in detail to assess whether there are tasks usually performed by men or women, or are gender-associated.
- The place of birth is an issue, since 3/4 of cases are driven by people born locally. This would mean ‘generative commons’ are exclusionary, but as much as other kind of locally-rooted groups where social engagement (and historical and familiar ties) is an asset (or a barrier, when lacking).
- Technology and internet penetration are quite high, though it is always higher when considering individual members’ uses than the organization’s as a whole.
- They use social platforms (mostly Facebook and Instagram) to promote their events, though they do not do so intensively. This might reflect that face-to-face information remains as their main mechanism to distribute information or, that they really lack these technological tools although they may need them.

B) Thematic area (Questions 13-23). This section analyses data referring to which thematic area these groups involved in, the type of activities they are carrying out, and the nature and main features of such activities (participants, price, organization, etc.).

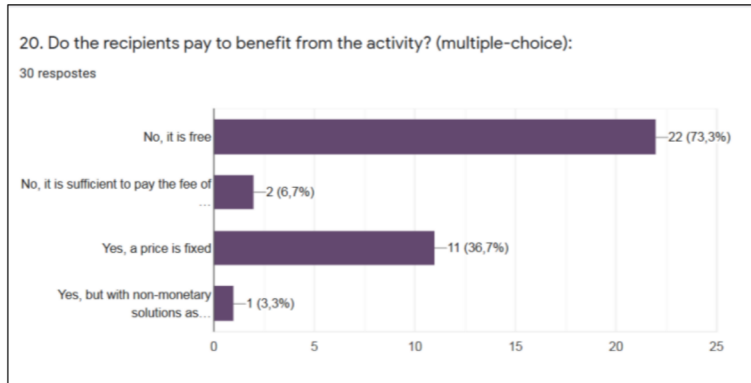
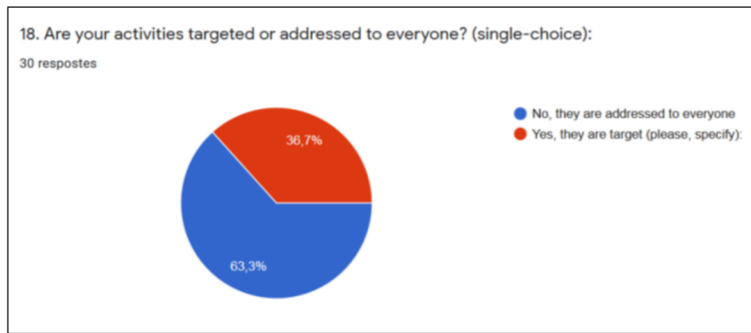


13. Activities are mostly on areas like social economy, culture and arts, video-forum, incubator and social-hub, children education, and urban renovation. In general, most cases are engaged with communitarian life, social movements or socio-political dynamics. Just a few of them perform some sort of productive (food, commodities, etc.) or commercial activities (selling some products, etc.).

14. Most of activity is related with culture and arts (which includes a large variety of activities). Buildings, on the other hand, are mostly used as social centres and to perform educative and training activities. Economic activities related with employment, housing or production are less frequent though also present in some cases.

15. Other thematic areas these groups usually perform cover: urban design and architecture; teaching & education; family & collective consuming; gender, feminist or LGBTBI+ grassroots activism; music production; or food preparation and distribution.

16 & 17. Almost all activities are performed in person and not remotely, although the Covid-19 crisis has spurred the use of various online solutions. Physical contact remains a core element. Most activities are technologically supported (e.g. power points presentations, Google docs for reading groups, etc.), although these activities are not fully technologically mediated yet.



18 & 19. Most activities (63.3%) are full opened. When targeted or restricted to certain publics (36.7%) it is because they are especially designed for them (e.g. for women, elderly, artist) and not because they are 'private' – meaning exclusive for, or restricted to, the group's members. 'Full public/open' remains as the core-rationale behind most of these cases.

20. Given the above, it was expected that majority of activities (73.3%) are performed for free, which is consistent with the 'fully opened' rationale already mentioned. Those activities with 'fixed prices' mostly refer to workshops, seminars or other training activities with an associated cost –and not because the association is funding through these activities' fees (see questions 24, 25 and 26 for further details) as a primary funding source.

21. They reach people along two methods: 1) social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and webpages) and 2) traditional word-of-mouth communication. The former is playing a major role since their centrality and use is growing, though the later remains fundamental for locally-rooted initiatives with a strong social and communitarian engagement like the analysed ones.

22. A lot of cases report they miss some specific groups participating more frequently, for instance, women, people with disabilities, those born abroad, migrant people or newcomers, or younger people (around 20 years old). Most complains refer to a lack of internal engagement and daily participation beyond the sporadic use or visit to the space. Nevertheless, these analyses is hardly to be extended to all cases, since each of them is experiencing these issues differently.

23. Most of shared difficulties in carrying out activities are related to: 1) overlapping other related projects' activities and a lack of coordination with them; 2) lack of efficiency and efficacy related traditionally associated to voluntary work; 3) budgetary restrictions, legal obstacles, or asymmetries between the (few) people organizing activities and the (large) number of activities they want to perform.

Summary of thematic areas

- Main thematic areas are related to culture and arts, education and social-hubs, and social/political grass-roots movements, while production, employment, and commercial and economic activity is less frequent.
- Although they are not the majority, projects related with food production and consumption and sustainability may be found in projects like Bees Coop (in Brussels, Belgium).
- Although Covid has spur up online solutions to conduct some activities, face-to-face method remains as a core feature of most cases' activity. Indeed, a lot of activities are not fully technological mediated.
- Most activities are fully opened and just few are targeted. This does not imply a 'restrictive' or 'exclusive' character, but that these activities are designed for specific groups (e.g. women or elderly).
- Consistent with this 'public character', most activities are for free, which appears to be a shared feature.

- Although spreading news/events is made through social media (FB, Instagram and alike), word-of-mouth remains as a primer mechanism to disseminate information for local projects engaged with their local context, and their social and communitarian networks.
- Most cases complain about the lack of implication and engagement of some particular groups with daily life and in organizing activities (women, migrant o newcomers, young and disabled people, etc.). This phenomenon is quite frequent in other social organizations, although each case must be assessed in particular to find out the causes of such a phenomenon.
- When conducting activities, some problems arise regarding overlapping (and lacking of coordinating) agendas with other projects in the same area, or others associated with voluntary work, and lack of participation when organizing and conducting activities. These problems are quite common in other social organizations though.

C) Funding (Questions 24-26). This section analyses data referring to the main funding sources of these groups and how do they manage themselves to be economically feasible.



24. Almost half of cases have some employees though they are always less than non-wage members. Salaried members do usually perform administrative, bureaucratic or technical tasks, while non-wage ones perform more 'content-value' responsibilities.

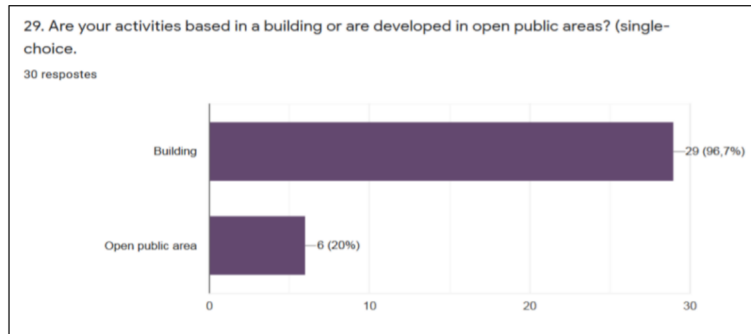
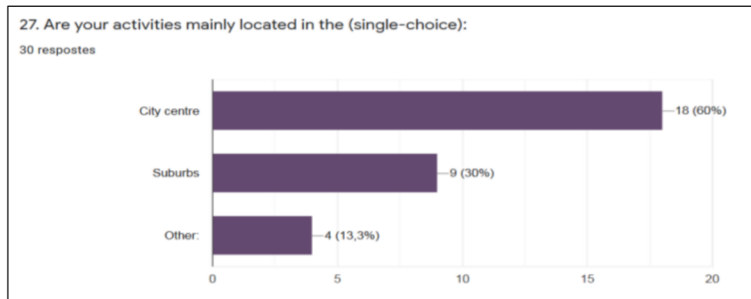
25 & 26. Public grants (local, regional or national) along with regular public contributions are the major funding source (92%) followed by commercial

activity (e.g. bar), or leasing out spaces and members' contributions. Despite some financial autonomy through sponsorships, commercial activities, entrance fees, donations, etc., dependency on public contributions (regular or punctual) remains as a common trend in most cases (see questions 20 and 23 for further details). This trend may be reinforced by the fact that there is a quasi-absence of technology-mediated crowdfunding campaigns. Almost none of cases have used digital tools to get funds. Although few of them have organized some funding campaign, most of them have been conducted face-to-face without systematic-technological uses nor web platforms tools. The opened question is thus whether there is any connection between the absence of crowdfunding campaigns and the enduring public contribution systems.

Summary on funding

- Although some cases have some employees, they are usually just a few and do usually perform technical tasks. Meanwhile, non-wage members are always the majority and do usually in charge of planning and governing the projects or are of more content-value responsibilities.
- Public contributions (European, regional or local, and regular or punctual) remain as a major funding source, which affects economic stability and causes several internal tensions (e.g. difficulties in facing bureaucratic and administrative barriers to get funds and justify costs, time and work consuming, etc.).
- Although important and necessary, self-financial sources such as sponsorships, member' contributions, commercial activities, leasing out spaces, entrances and donations are secondary funding sources.
- In line with the above, technological mediated crowdfunding campaigns do not seem quite frequent. Despite few cases conducted some funding campaigns they have been based on the traditional face-to-face method without using technological or web tools.

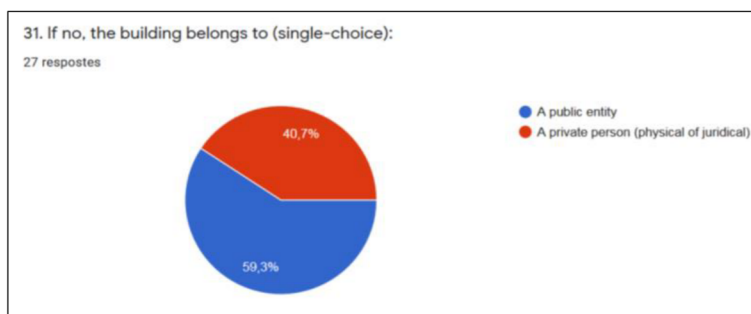
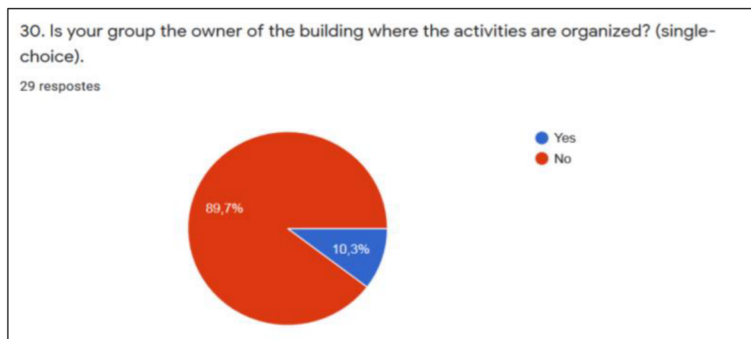
D) Locality (Questions 27-29). This section analyses data about the locality where these groups are performing their activities both for activities carried out in building and for those in public open areas.



27 & 28. 18 cases are located in the city centre, while just 9 are in the suburbs or outskirts. The question is then if urban or crowded areas do promote the emergence of generative commons initiatives or if these experiences are more likely to appear in these kinds of contexts. Even though, this question might have an exogenous response since most of experiences now located in the city centre used to be located in the outskirts in the past but recent urban expansion has reached or enclosed them.

29. Most of interviewed cases (29 - 96.7%) are based in buildings, while just 6 perform their activities in open public areas –there are 4 cases using both type of spaces simultaneously.

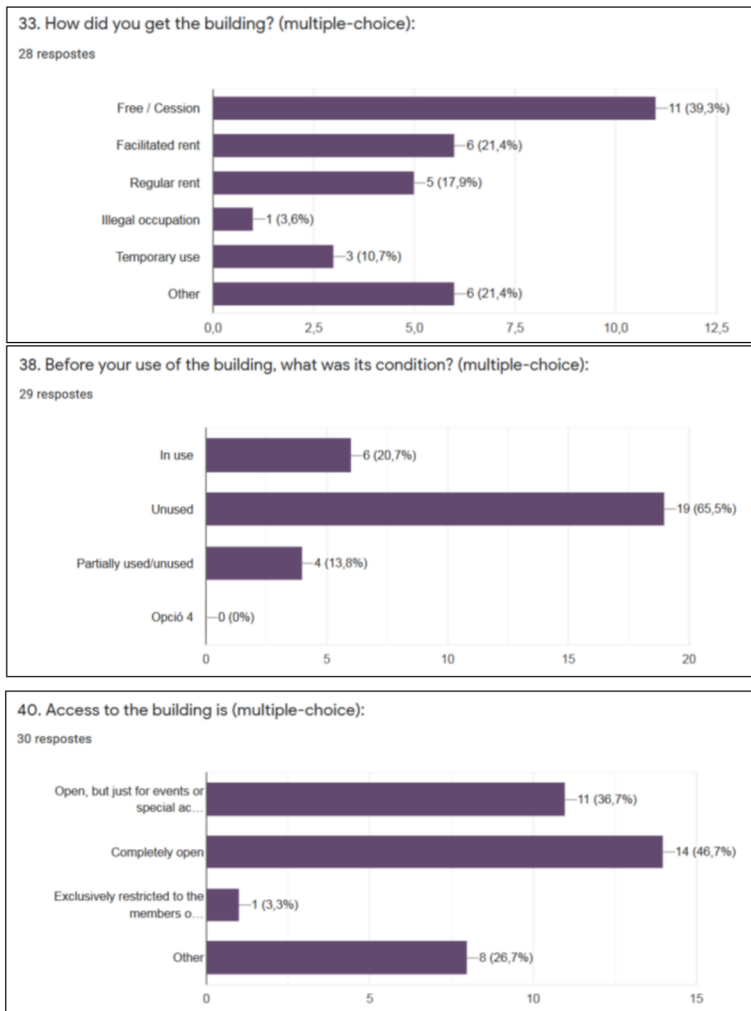
D.1) Activities based in a building (Questions 30-41). This section only analyses those activities performed in buildings and their characteristics, their legal ownership status, or their placement among others.



30, 31 & 32. 90% of the interviewed groups do not own the buildings they are using, while just 10% do own them. For the formers, the buildings do usually belong to the public authority (59.3%) which tend to be the municipality, while the remaining (40.7%) belong to private person either physical or juridical.

33 & 34. Municipal ownership is also reflected in the way these groups got the buildings, which in most cases was through a free cession or facilitated rent mediated by city councils (which in turn implies somehow social conflicts between political authorities and certain social groups). Regular rents or temporary uses are just a few cases in comparison. Formerly illegal occupation is not so frequent but this

mechanism should be included within the 'other' category meaning a variety of public-private-communitarian agreements permitting using both public and private owning buildings under different clauses and idiosyncratic rules.



35, 36 & 37. Most building are really big and have several floors, terraces, backyards, etc., and hence they are not yet fully used in most cases. All of them have their own Wi-Fi network, desktops and laptops usually for internal members' usage.

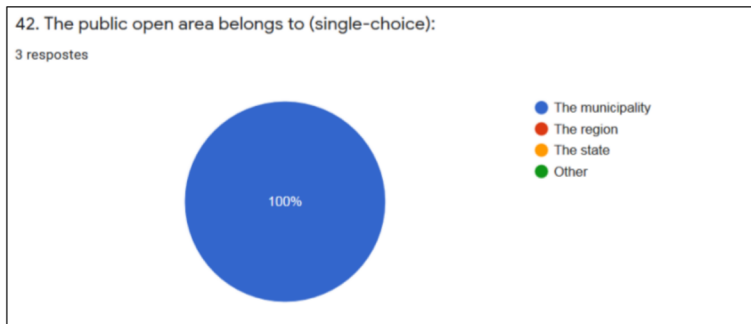
38 & 39. Before these groups get into the buildings, they were mostly unused (19) or partially used (4), and only 6 were still used. This links with the way these groups got the buildings (question 33) particularly when it was through a municipal cession or a sort of public-communitarian agreement. It can be also explained due to the fact that most buildings used to be old industrial factories, ministerial offices or alike, old schools or colleges that current municipalities have no the capacity to manage by itself. Thus, public ownership and building dimensions may explain why free cession and this type of agreements are so frequent.

40 & 41. The majority (14) remain open to everyone, while some (11) are so just for events –not permanently. Even though 'public-service rationale' mentioned before remains as a core element for all interviewed cases.

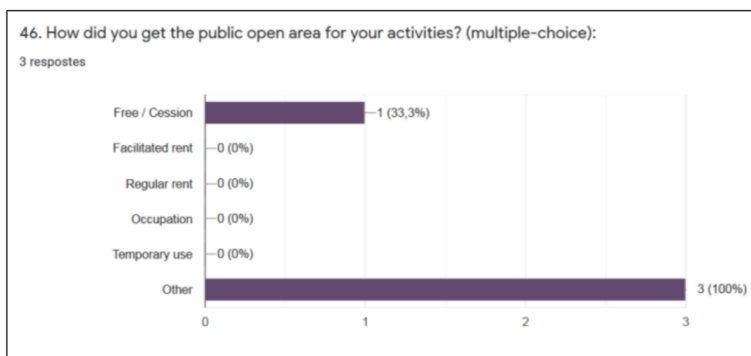
Summary of activities based in buildings

- In most cases (90%), the group does not own the building they use. Those not belonging to them belong to public authority (60%, mostly municipalities) and the remaining (40%) to private persons.
- Reflecting this majority of public ownership, most buildings were got through a free cession, a facilitated rent or similar agreements, though some of them were got after an illegal occupation turned into a legal agreement –mostly mediated by the municipalities.
- Most of buildings used to be big or old industries, workshops, schools, colleges or public hospitals, mostly being unused or partially used when the groups or associations got into.
- Buildings' public ownership, their dimensions and the incapacity of municipality to take care of them by itself may explain why free cession and public-communitarian sessions are so common.
- Although some of them are only opened during while activities are performed, in general, full and permanently open to everyone stands as a common rationale for almost all cases.
- Although a lot of buildings are not permanently opened and they are just so for certain events, this is mostly due to the nature of these events (for particular or targeted public, e.g. women, elderly, etc.). Indeed, most of these cases shared this 'full public/opened rationale'.
- Examples of re-used abandoned buildings for art and cultural purposed may be found in Rennes, France (with the Hotel Pasteur).

D.2) Activities based in Public Open Areas (Questions 42-47). This section only analyses those activities performed in public open areas, how they belong to or which are their main characteristics, among others.



42 & 43. All public open areas belong to municipalities. These spaces do not usually belong to upper political authorities because they are understood as the very 'municipal public space'.



44 & 45. There is internet in all cases, sometimes provided by the municipality or the group supporting the project. Although they use social platforms (Facebook, Instagram, etc.), people engage with them or participate in their activities in person and get information when visiting the space.

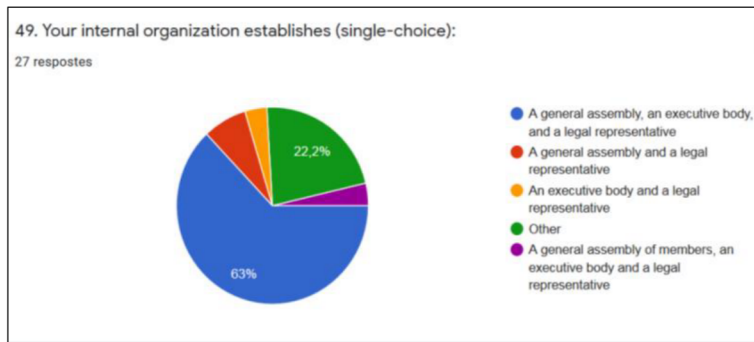
46 & 47. Regarding the way they got the space, only one case got it through a facilitated rent with the city council. The other three occupied the space or got it through a non-formal way by *de facto* using it. This may reflect that access to open spaces is 'less formal' than when considering buildings.

Summary of activities based in public open areas

- All open areas belong to the municipalities since this is the traditional-considered 'public-urban spaces'.
- This ownership regime may facilitate that the way associations or groups get the space is mostly through informal procedures (e.g by *de facto* occupying or using the space).
- The municipal ownership may be the reason why these groups get these areas through to 'less formal' procedures than when considering the cases of buildings.
- These public open areas are gardens, squares, voids, and backyards that citizens already and commonly using in various informal ways. So, *de facto* appropriation by part of particulars or groups of people seems to be easier than when considering buildings.

E) Internal organization for Formal (Questions 48-60) and **F) Informal Entities** (Questions 61-77). This section analyses data regarding to how formal and informal groups alike are internally organized and how do they govern themselves, which are their main organs of organization, and how do they take decisions.

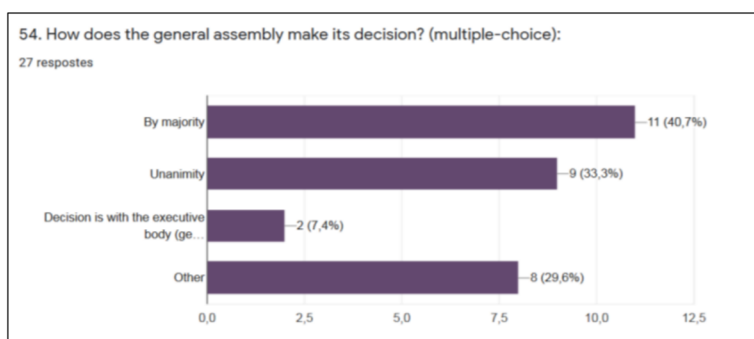
48. There are several manners by which a person can become a member: an interview or just attending activities. Criteria are so heterogeneous ranging from living in the area to meeting some 'formal' requirements. There are various degrees of individual involvement: 'formal members' (paying membership fees; appearing into the legal statutes; etc.) do participate along with 'collaborators' whose engagement is usually more irregular and sporadic. 'Formal' or *de jure* membership seems not to be so important in most cases whereas the fundamental thing is *de facto* participation. That is the reason why it may be so difficult to exactly quantify the number of members per case (how to determine who is in; who is out?), and that may be the cause of some problems associated to internal dynamics and modes of organization, such as the above-mentioned lack of engagement or commitment, the lack of enough people to conduct events, etc.



informal ones) stands as a core element of all cases' internal structure. In small associations, it may adopt an executive character meeting quite often, while in larger groups, it usually takes a more formal character deciding about long-term decisions and giving room for working thematic groups operate as they please.

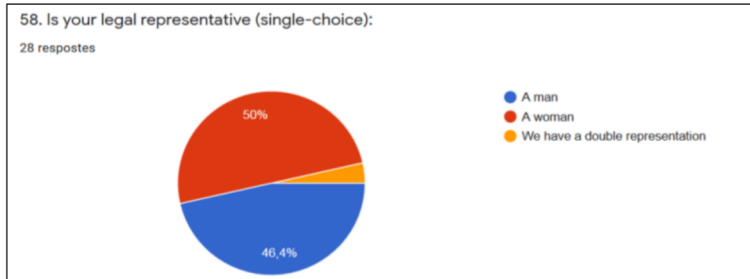
51. Technology play an important a role in facilitating internal governance. Some cases just use WhatsApp groups to call for general assembly or important meetings. Most of 'working groups' (see question 49 and 50) have their own WhatsApp group and then 'federate' themselves into the General assembly' one. Others have specific mailing lists (both for working groups, for the general assembly, etc.). Just in few cases Google Docs, Dropbox or alike are used to share and work on documentation, calls, minutes, etc. There is only one case using its own online software *ad hoc* designed to internally organize the agenda, the decision making, to upload meetings' decisions, to debate in parallel to 'regular bodies', etc.

52 & 53. In most cases, and although its "formal" character, General Assembly (GA) is the most important organ taking the most relevant and long-term decisions (budget, strategic decisions, statutory and legal issues, etc.). Its agenda is mostly set up through the Executive body's or working groups' suggestions. As seen in question 49 and 50, larger groups' General assembly tend to be more 'formal', being in charge of the most important and long-term decisions and meeting just a few times a year. On the contrary, General assembly of smaller groups is more important and strategic in daily-decisions and then adopting a more executive character. In much cases, General assembly can be followed online (Skype, video-calls, etc.) though digital-active participation is much more complex. Just in few cases, members can remotely actively participate (debating, voting, etc.). Covid-19 outbreak has forced a lot of cases to implement these kinds of online-participation technologies, though it seems there is much left to be done yet.



made, members are usually informed through regular emails (decisions, minutes and next calls, etc.). Decisions may be also uploaded at Google Docs, Dropbox accounts or similar. Just in few cases, important decisions are uploaded at the associations' web pages to let the public to be aware of their decisions.

57. Public stakeholder or partners are hardly to be found. The only cases where they are present is when a group is in charge of managing a public-owned building. In these cases, statues of session may establish an *ad hoc* body (joining association's members and public officers) following up or supervising the achievement and the observance of the session' rules and norms.



58. Gender equilibrium in Legal representatives is balanced and they do usually have a simple 'formal' character forced by statutes. In most cases, Legal representative tend to be the former, the founder or the most 'iconic' member. However, Legal representation seems to create no particular conflicts when performing

this position or office, precisely because he or she does not enjoy any real power or prerogative.

59. As in question 52, meeting frequency of General assembly and Executive body depends on multiple factors: group size, its more or less formal character, thematic area, the existence (if any) of other decision-making procedures and organs, etc. and hence, no regularity or trend can be found among all cases.

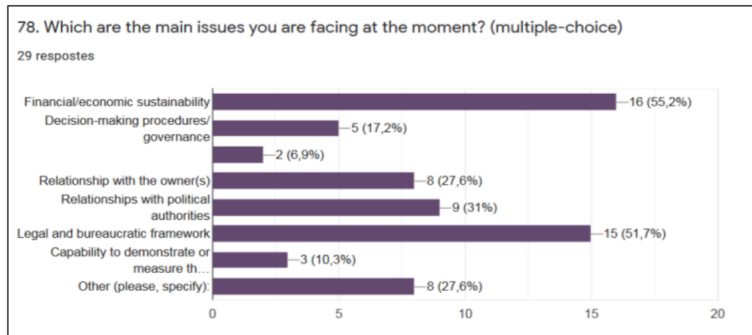
60. Problems regarding internal organization and governance are various and heterogeneous. Among others issues, it worth to mention the following ones: working groups or commissions can experience some isolation and a lack of coordination when operating by themselves; individual members assuming too much responsibilities and not coordinating themselves with the whole group; difficulties in getting new members involved into the group's organization dynamics; a lack of efficiency and efficacy associated to voluntary kind of work and a lack of attendances and commitment of some members; asymmetries when assigned tasks to salaried members and to volunteers; difficulties when trying to reach consensus instead of voting by majority.

Summary of internal organization (for formal and informal communities)

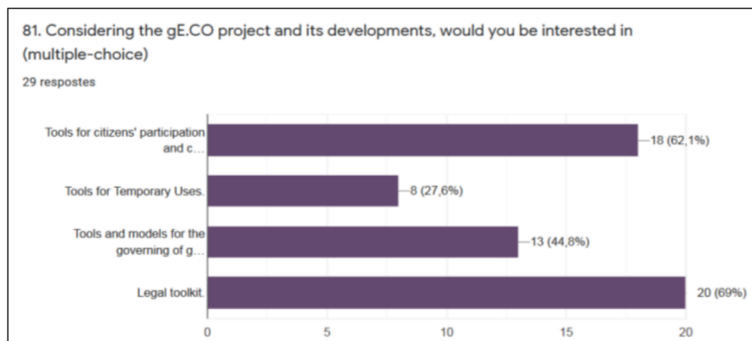
- People become member through various mechanisms: after a formal interview, or simply by attending activities. Membership process depends on the nature, structure and features of the group. Moreover, formal members, collaborators, volunteers and salaried-members may be found together.
- Governance structure does usually comprise a General Assembly, an Executive body and a Legal representative, but this is mostly formal to meet legal requirements. In fact, the real way to organize is through smaller working groups or commissions. Other groups, although being a single 'legal entity', are in fact formed by various smaller organizations and this make internal organization even more complex. This kind of structure (an association compound by various associations, and based on working groups or commissions) may generate some problems, such as a lack of efficiency, difficulties in distributing information and in the decision-making procedures, asymmetries in members' engagement and commitment and when distributing tasks and responsibilities among them. This is what can be observed in the cultural and artistic center, Angelo Mai, in Rome, Italy.
- Even though General assembly stands as a core element of governance, working groups or commissions assume most of organization tasks. The former's size, importance and meeting frequency usually depend on the group's size and complexity as well as the daily activity of working groups or commissions.
- Although majority system is quite frequent, all cases try to use a consensual decision-making although it is much more time and effort-consuming.
- Technology play a role in the internal organization and in informing about the decisions. However, digital tools used are quite traditional (mostly email list, and WhatsApp groups).
- Public institutions or stakeholders are rarely represented within groups' internal structure. Representation of public offices are only found when *ad hoc* body of supervisions is explicitly established by a public-communitarian partnership (mostly in cases were communities are in charge of a public building). This is what it can be observed in Can Batlló Barcelona, for instance.
- Almost all cases report some difficulties on their internal organization resulting from a lack of active participation or commitment of some members which is linked to the participation's costs and benefits.

* Though two surveys template were planned for Formal (sec. E - questions 48-60) and Informal associations (sec. F - questions 61-77) there are no substantive differences in their responses and thus they are analyzed altogether.

G) Political relations and General Issues (Questions 78-81). This section analyses data regarding how political relations affect these groups, which are the main issues they face and how do they try to solve them.



care of a building is quite expensive (refurbishment, energy installations, maintenance, personnel, etc.) while, on the other, most of these spaces have been achieved through complex legal arrangements (free sessions, agreement on temporary use and partial possession, public-communitarian partnership, etc.) quite demanding in legal terms. Then, the physical nature of resources they manage (buildings or alike) and their legal status (not full ownership nor rents, but hybrid formulas), make economic and legal aspects two of the major issues for communitarian-managed generative commons. Important differences regarding the national context may then be easily found. For instance, the Italian commons' legislation is much more developed than most of Eastern countries', while availability of private funding in UK is higher than in the South. The two latter issues (relationship with the owners of the spaces and with public authorities) are closely linked with the previous ones. The complexity of the legal contracts, agreements and partnerships allowing these groups possessing and using these resources is always complex and is lead them to confront to private agents' and public authorities' political and economic interests. Other issues associated to their internal governance and organization do also arise as in other type of groups or organizations (see questions 48-60 for further details).



78, 79 & 80. The main issues have to do with financial and economic feasibility, and legal and bureaucratic framework. The two following ones are conflicts with the spaces' owners and public authorities. Regarding the two formers, most of groups are managing urban spaces (mostly buildings but also open areas) which are highly demanding in economic and legal terms. On the one hand, to conduct activities in and take

81. It is not surprising that most cases are firstly interested in the 'legal toolkit' gE.CO Living Lab offers. This reflects to what extent the various aspects of legal frameworks affect these groups (types of ownership regimes, legal statutes, constitution of cultural associations, etc.). They are secondly interested in learning about new ways of citizens' participation and in new ideas to governing themselves.

Summary of political relations and general issues

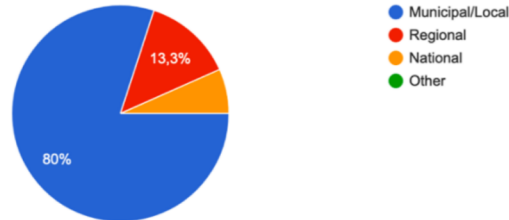
- The most frequent issues have to do with economic sustainability and legal and bureaucratic obstacles. These groups are usually managing expensive resources (buildings) through complex legal status (partial or limited rights of use or possession instead of clear full ownership or rent).
- It is not surprising therefore that the relation with the owners of these spaces (in most cases, the same municipality) and with public authorities stands as the second most frequent type of problems.
- Internal governance and organization model remain do also arise as important issues. This is not new –all types of organizations do face these same collective action' problems– but they may be qualitatively different since these groups are managing 'public assets' in a way that traditional organizations did not.
- The above may explain why most of cases are primarily interested in the 'legal toolkit' gE.CO project offers them –as a way to reinforce or to help their legal structure which affect their daily activity.

3.2. Survey for Urban policies

A) Description (Questions 1-9). This section analyses data regarding the main characteristics of these policies.

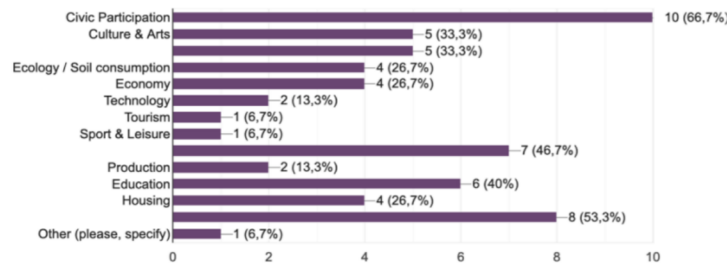
1. Public Administration and Institutional level (multiple-choice):

15 responses



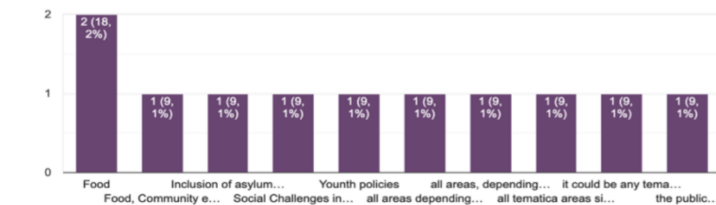
5. Select the thematic area(s) invested by the policy/initiative (multiple-choice):

15 responses



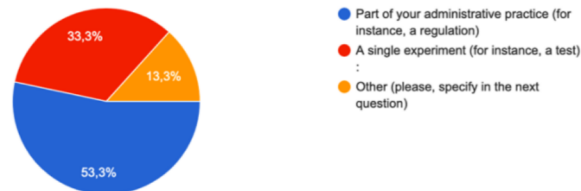
6. Other thematic area (please, specify):

11 responses



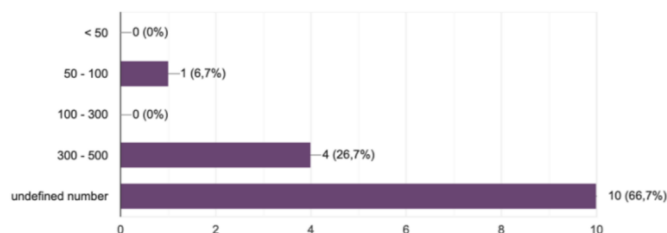
7. Is this policy/initiative (single-choice):

15 responses



9. How many citizens are benefiting from the policy/initiative? (single-choice):

15 responses



1, 2 & 3. 80% of urban policies are implemented by municipalities, 13.3% are regional and less than 7% are implemented at national level. Although these policies are mostly implemented at local level, some might be part of a national-level framework. Departments or offices in charge are usually those dealing with cultural and urban policies, citizens and civic participation, public heritage, housing and urban planning.

4, 5 & 6. Policies therefore have much to do with areas such as culture, participation, heritage and housing, and urban planning, followed by others related areas like food production, social inclusion or asylum, and youth policies. However, as observed, civic participation is the most frequent type of policy, followed by those related with housing and sports and leisure, and education. This trend might likely reflect the fact that civic participation is an area that public authorities has never took seriously and that thus, citizens felt excluded or not so much engaged with.

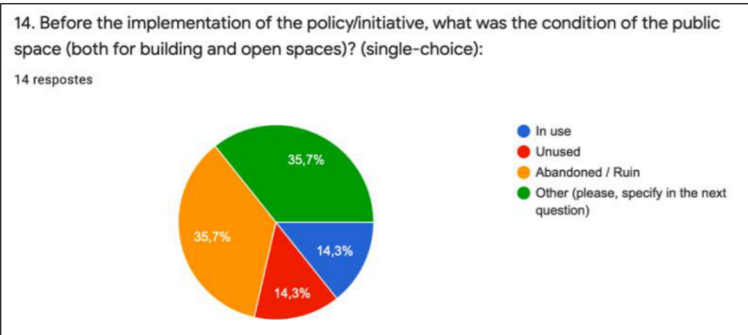
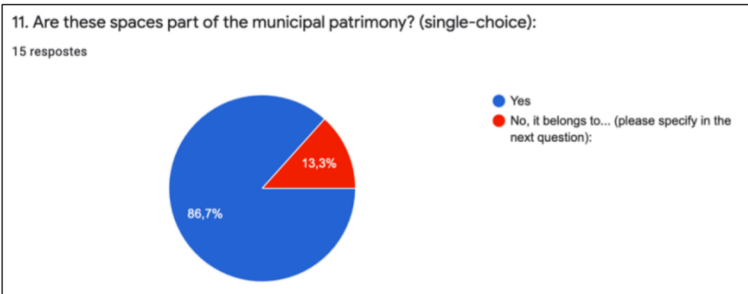
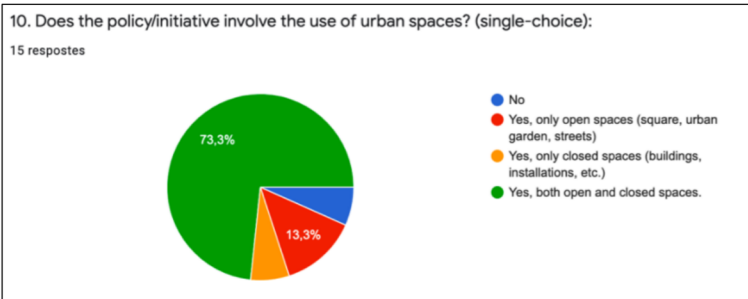
7 & 8. 53.3% of policies are part of a broader initiative or regulation already implemented in the city (e.g. part of a program for elderly or youth people). However, 1/3 policies are single or unique initiatives, meaning that a lot of municipalities are in favour of testing innovative or *ad hoc* policies. Four policies are part of national programs or have scaled themselves to a broader projects, probably once they proven successfully.

9. Contrary to traditional social policies, number of beneficiaries is hard to seize in these cases, since these policies or initiatives are not usually targeted to a particular social group of beneficiaries, but are opened for everyone.

Summary on descriptive

- Municipal authorities are usually the ones in charge of urban policies regarding ‘generative commons’, and they are usually designed and implemented by the Departments or Offices of culture and education, urban planning, citizen and civic participation, housing or public heritage.
- Other thematic policies are also related with food, inclusion, or activities for youth, but the most frequent are those of civic participation, housing, and sports and leisure. This may reflect a social claim for giving people a wider room in participating, deciding, debating, etc., about all kind of public concerns.
- About half of policies are part of broader policy framework, and a third are a single or a singular project or initiative. Just few of them were singular projects which were integrated into largest projects both at local and at regional level once they proved successful.

B) Locality (Questions 10-16). This section analyses data regarding the places these urban policies are implemented and their characteristics.



10, 11 & 12. Most of these policies (73.3%) are implemented in buildings and in open areas alike. 13% are only in open areas and less than 7% are only implemented in buildings –meaning that those projects performed in building are mostly conducted by communities of citizens rather than by city councils. Then, most of spaces (86.7%) used by these policies belong to the municipality. The reminder 13% belongs to private owners who have reached some agreement with public authorities to facilitate the use of their properties.

13. Urban spaces are benefiting from these policies in a twofold sense: 1) by getting physically improved (new public installations, housing and urban renewals, urbanization, new uses for urban voids, new green areas, etc.), and consequently, 2) by getting improved social cohesion and wellbeing (by attracting newcomers, reducing insecurity and crime, increasing participation and social cohesion, etc.) Do these generative commons policies should prioritize investing in people or in the area? Social wellbeing and urban improvement are the main goal of

much of these policies, but this goal may lead to generate some ‘negative externalities’. First, by investing on neighbourhoods, richer population might feel attracted by these improved areas and so reinforce gentrification. Second, by investing over people, these policies may improve certain groups’ wellbeing and opportunities which may lead these people to decide to move to richer areas of the city. This paradox should be taken into account, since both scenarios cause and reproduce social and economic polarization dynamics.

14 & 15. About half of building or open spaces were abandoned or ruined, or at least unused, before these generative commons related urban policies were implemented. Only 14.3% were used or partially used before policies were carried out for the first time. The remaining 35% of policies were conducted in spaces partially ruined or abandoned. These spaces (mostly public open spaces like voids, squares or squares) tend to be informally used mostly privately by citizens themselves.

16. In most cases, although the policy is to be carried out in public spaces (building and open areas) they might be implemented in private ones too, by using private properties such as old buildings, abandoned parks or former industrial installations that in most cases are abandoned or have been unused for a long time. Although most policies started being implemented in public spaces, some expanded themselves into private ones, through some sort of private-public agreement or contract.

Summary on locality

- The vast majority of urban policies related with generative commons are using both buildings and open areas. Just few of them (7%) do only use buildings, meaning that buildings management as generative commons are usually assumed by communities of citizens rather than by public authorities.
- Almost 90% of both kind of spaces belong to municipalities, and those belonging to particular owners are used by these policies through different sorts of public-private partnerships, contracts or agreements.
- Urban spaces are benefiting from these policies by improving both the physical spaces and the inhabitants' wellbeing and social cohesion. However, these may also to a negative externality: investing in the area increases prices, fosters gentrification, and may expel former low-income neighbors. Meanwhile, investing in people improves their situation and hence they may move themselves to better-off areas. Thus, both strategies (investing in territory and in people) might reinforce social, economic and residential polarization dynamics within the cities.
- A lot of municipal programs operating in public open areas do combine urban regeneration and social inclusion practices under an innovative framework. Although some of them may be self-funded (like Stalled Spaces in Glasgow, UK), the EU program UIA is particularly addressing some of these innovative formulas (like Tast'n Five in Lille, France).

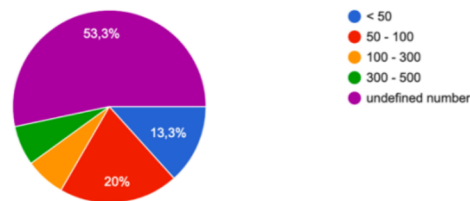
C) Citizens participation (Questions 17-24). This section analyses how and to which extent citizens are involved within the design and the implementation phases of these urban policies.

17. Most policies have created some sorts of citizens' participation procedures (by enacting new municipal laws or by designing new channels to spur participation) to use in their design phase. Others just enforced former regulations or practices not previously implemented. Although urban policies' design phase seems to be quite participative, in most cases participation is held by experts (like scholars, professionals, etc.) already organized in universities, research groups, professional associations, etc., and not by regular citizens. So, citizens' participation when designing policies tend to be mediated by mid-term institutions used as 'advisers' or 'consultants'. This phenomenon may reflect the fact that design phase is usually quite complex and that direct citizens' participation is neither popular nor easy even at local level. However, in some countries and cities like Barcelona or Amsterdam, public authorities are not so reluctant and have implemented some citizens' participation mechanisms and procedures to be implemented in the design phase of some policies.

18. Implementation phase, on the contrary, seems to be more participated by regular citizens. In most cases, regular users, beneficiaries, targeted population or citizenry in general, seem to have a stronger 'voice' in determining which activities are going to be carried out, when, in which manner, etc. Civic participation is a more widespread practice when implementing than when designing urban policies related to generative commons. Public authorities seem to be more familiar with, and more pro-active, allowing or fostering peoples' involvement in implementation rather than in the design phases of urban policies. In general, however, it seems that civic participation along all phases (design and implementation) is becoming more important.

19. How many citizens are participating in the implementation of the policy/initiative? (single-choice):

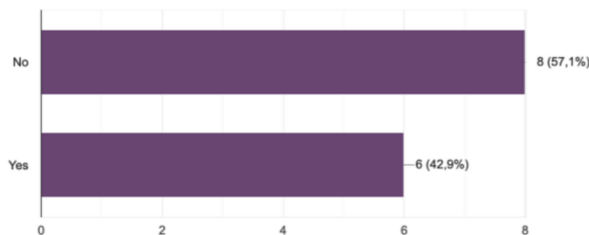
15 responses



19. That may be the reason why the number of citizens involved in the implementation phase of urban policies is usually quite hard to quantify. Participation tends to be quite irregular, and sporadic. Supposedly users or involved participants may be just beneficiaries or feel themselves as such and hence tend to do not involve themselves so much regularly. This may explain why in about 54% of assessed urban policies the number of participants involved in their implementation phase is undefined. Small numbers of participants (13.3% with less than 50 participants, or 20 between 50 and 100) seems to be quite consistent with the locally-rooted and small character of much of these urban policies.

20. Have you created any particular legal structure to involve citizens in the implementation of the policy/initiative? (single-choice):

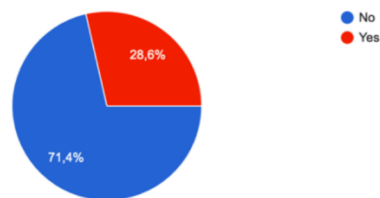
14 responses



20 & 21. Participation in the implementation phases does not necessarily require new legal structures nor administrative procedures. Only 6 cases required these legal innovations, while the remainder 8 did not. New legal tools are mostly related to: 1) legal procedures to legalize temporary or partial uses, the session of possessions rights and duties, and the accountability and control of the public-communitarian partnerships, and 2) regulations for using spaces, public insurances and financial rights and duties.

22. Have you used or developed any digital technologies (e.g. smartphone apps, web platforms, websites) to involve citizens in the implementation of the policy/initiative? (single-choice):

14 responses



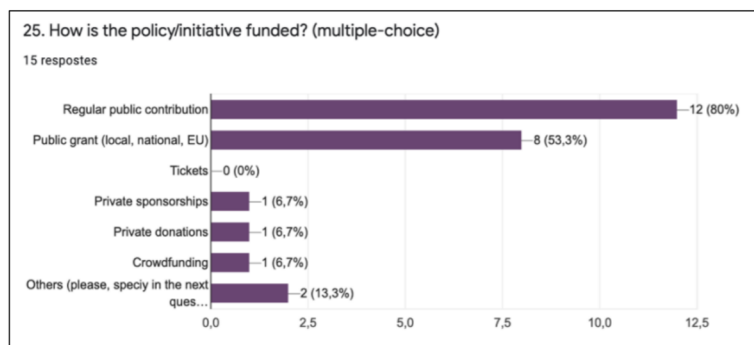
22 & 23. The use of new digital tools like smartphones apps to foster citizens' participation when implementing urban policies is not so frequent and it is only observed in less than a third of cases. Once again, direct and face-to-face involvement may be the most frequent manner to participate. Among those using new digital tools, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are the most frequent platforms used to inform participants about how the to participate and about future events. Just in two cases, *ad hoc* digital tools (online software platforms) were designed and developed to allow new manners to participate. It may indicate, therefore, a twofold hypothesis: 1) most urban policies' regular size and complexity do not require to develop *ad hoc* digital tools, or 2) they really lack some digital tools and this may impede potential or new participants' involvement.

24. A third of policies are not particularly addressed to underrepresented or marginalized groups (such as women, migrant people, people with disabilities, young, etc.). The remainder two thirds are much more focussed or designed to assist these particular groups, mostly migrants, Roma and young people. Although this depends on the national, regional and local context, much of assessed cases (even among the former group) are conducting at least some activities for underrepresented social groups.

Summary on citizens' participation

- In most cases, participation when designing urban policies is not held directly by regular citizens, but by experts and their organizations. Civic participation is mostly mediated by these mid-term institutions used as 'advisers' or 'consultants'. On the contrary, direct participation seems more frequent and intense during the implementation phase. In any case, civic participation seems higher on average when compared with more traditional policies.
- These may affect the number of people involved and the way they are quantified. To which extent simple beneficiaries or sporadic users do count as participants? Due to their small size and their local character, a third of policies are participated by less than 100 people, while it is hardly to quantify in 53% of cases.
- New legal tools were developed to facilitate peoples' participation when implementing half of policies and are mostly related with how to regulate the buildings' sessions to communities, how to follow up the public-private-communitarian partnerships, and how to regulate the uses of these properties.
- The use of new digital tools is not so frequent in most of cases. This may reflect that the small-size of these policies make it unnecessary, or that even though they really lack these technological solutions.
- Although most of policies are not particularly targeted to a specific group, most of them take into account the underrepresented groups (mostly migrants, Roma and young people) when are designed and implemented. However, this is only explicit when assessing each case' national, regional and local context.
- Particular cases of citizens' involvement in the designing phase of most policies may be found in Loos-en-Gohell (France), in Lisbon (Portugal) or Ghent (Belgium).

D) Funding (Question 25-26). This section analyses how these policies are funded.

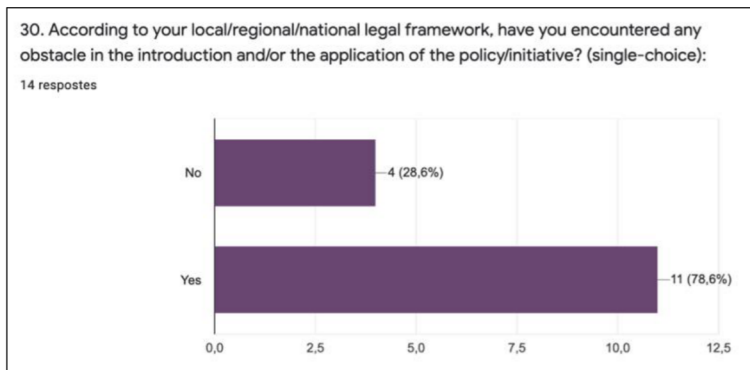


25 & 26. Most of urban policies are funded through their own regular municipal budget, though some are also granted by other public authorities. Six are partially or almost fully funded by European grants, mostly the Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) or URBACT programmes. Few are additionally self-funded through entrance fees, commercial activities or by reallocating from other municipal budgetary items.

E) Legal issues (Questions 27-31). This section analyses how legal and bureaucratic framework may affect the design and the implementation of these urban policies.

27 & 28. Most of these urban policies have a permanent character, though some of them are just temporary implemented. Those designed to be implemented on short temporary basis (from few months until a couple of years) are usually related to uses of public squares or gardens for cultural and artistic purposes and tend to be small projects or policies. On the contrary, although also temporary, policies related with the use or management of municipal buildings, for example, are usually implemented during longer periods of time (for about 25 or until 75 years in some cases). In any case, the duration of policies or projects is deeply affected by the different national-law frameworks and the nature of the project or policy in itself. In most cases, however, the duration of the project, which in turn may affect the conditions of participation, is an object of dispute between public authorities and the communities or groups of citizens aiming to participate.

29. In one manner or another, legal framework does always affect these urban policies (see the next legal analysis section for further details). Sometimes, the lack of a robust or proper legal regulation covering generative commons has made these urban policies to become more innovative (e.g. by using related or additional regulations). Other policies have had to create their own *ad hoc* regulation in order to be legally feasible. In most cases, however, when the policy is somehow about citizens' management of public assets (mostly public buildings or installations), existing legal frameworks need to be altered, and/or new rules and legal protocols are required to be implemented. Generative commons, either promoted by public authorities or by citizens' communities, do always push for new legal instruments and for further legal developments. Their need for innovative legal solutions is based on practical uses and factual requirements of these experiences, responding to the need of protecting or recognizing new models of public properties uses, new forms of legal associations, new channels to interact with the public authorities, etc.



30 & 31. The above is shown when asking whether these policies have encountered any (national, regional or local) legal obstacle when implementing the policy. Almost 80% of them are facing or have faced different legal obstacles. Legal difficulties emerge, for instance, in relation with ownership regimes (when citizens are expected to assume the legal use/possession of a space), the under recognized legal character

of communitarian associations (when citizens do not ensemble themselves in a traditional cultural association or NGOs), when overlapping with free-competition market regulations (in case the municipality wants to assign or to distribute public resources without external or competitive tendering), or in relation with the lack of a binding force of conventions or contracts and problems related with the allocation of responsibilities for damages.

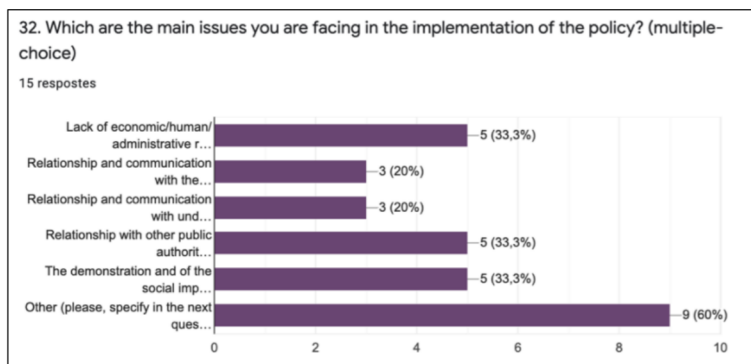
Summary on funding and legal issues

- The majority of urban policies are funded through their regular municipal budgets, although some of them are additionally funded through self-financial activities (entrance fees, commercial activities, or reallocating other items of municipal budget). Importance is giving to external public funds provided by the UIA or URBACT EU programmes which support a lot of generative commons-related policies.

- The duration of policies varies according to: 1) the nature of the policy (size, type of spaces used, people involved and number of recipients, etc.), and 2) the national, regional and local legal framework. By absence or excess, legal framework always affects policies related to generative commons.
- Legal obstacles are always an important issue when implementing urban policies, since they are dealing with new forms of ownership regimes, legal protocols and procedures assessing new regimes of possession and use of public resources, and non-traditional legal associations. In most cases, these kinds of urban policies are simultaneously dealing with private and civil law frameworks and then have to accommodate themselves between them finding out innovative legal solutions to their practical problems.
- Urban commons are becoming part of public authorities' initiatives in the field of urban regeneration in cities like Barcelona (with the "patrimony ciutadà" regulation) and Naples in Italy (under the law of "usi civici"), while Grenoble, France, is studying the possibility to passing acts allowing citizens to tacking care of urban commons. On the contrary, legal framework negatively affecting the emergence and consolidation of projects based in regeneration of urban commons is find in Malta where no ownership taxes exist.

F) Political/factual issues (Questions 32-34). This section analyses data regarding how political relations affect these policies, which are the main issues they face and how do they try to solve them.

32, 33 & 34. The main issues these policies do face are those related with 1) the lack of administrative personnel and enough budgetary capacity, 2) their relationship with other (upper) public authorities and the legal obstacles, and 3) the ability to demonstrate their social impact. The first is not solely associated with generative commons urban policies but it is also found in other social policies. The second is better understood in relation with the above-mentioned legal obstacles imposed by national legal frameworks and upper political institutions. Due to that, a lot of municipalities find themselves legally constricted by regulations and legal frameworks incapable of fitting some innovative political and social practices and their



correlated urban policies. The third (the ability to demonstrate social impact) it is mostly found in these policies since one of their core feature is to create some 'social impact'. The 'evaluation of social impact' along with 'evidence-based policies' have become a major political issue over the last years and municipalities are now required to demonstrate and quantify their urban policies' results on outcomes such as increasing social cohesion or wellbeing, meliorating participation of some social minorities, or improving some economic, cultural or social indicators, among others. 'Social impact' has become a new measure to evaluate the successfulness of social policies and is a major indicator in order to get funds from international and European institutions. The "other" category includes various issues associated with the lack of coordination with other urban and national policies, or the lack of connection with and participation of regular citizens and neighbours, among others. Urban policies regarding generative commons therefore do suffer from problems of 'traditional' policies such as the lack of participation of underrepresented social groups, the difficulties of civic participation and neighbours' engagement, the lack of economic resources, the legal obstacles caused by actual regulations and problems associated with ideological and party tensions within city councils and the multi-level governance systems.

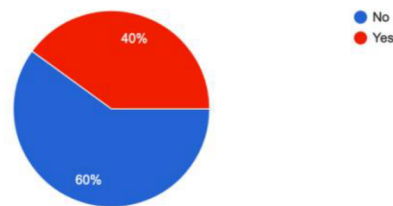
Summary on political / factual issues

- Beyond the legal issues, urban policies regarding generative commons do face various issues which may be similar to others' 'traditional' policies such as the lack of administrative personnel and budgetary capacity, their relationship with other (upper) public authorities and legal obstacles, and problems associated with political tensions affecting the functioning of city councils and multi-level political governance.
- Others problems are more idiosyncratic of this kind of policies such as the ability to demonstrate their 'social impact', and to reinforce civic engagement and participation mostly of underrepresented groups. Social impact has become an important measure through which to determinate whether a policy has succeeded or not. Generative commons-related policies are supposedly addressing some social needs or claims (like the availability of self-managed public resources, for instance), and then it is understandable the importance of demonstrating social impact and achieving higher degrees of social participation and commitment. Although both requirements may be quite desirable on ethical or normative grounds, they are simultaneously adding some pressure to the design and the implementation of these kind of urban policies which, at the same time, are facing the same problems 'traditional policies' already suffered.

G) Technology (Questions 35-38). This section analyses whether, if any, digital tools are integrated within the policy, to what extent and in which manner.

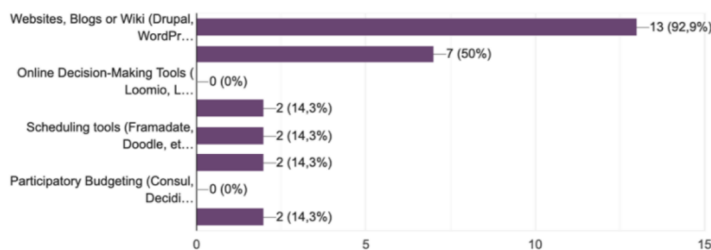
35. Does digital technology play a role in the introduction, implementation or dissemination of the policy/initiative? (single-choice):

15 responses



37. What kind of digital tools do you use? (see this list for examples) (multiple-choice):

14 responses



35 & 36. In 60% of cases digital tools are not essential to urban policies related to generative commons. This may be understood in the line of previous questions (see questions 22 and 23 for further details), where the use of digital technologies is not so intensive either. Possible explanations may include, on the one hand, the fact that most of these policies are quite local, of a small scale, and mostly face-to-face based, or on the other hand, that they do not entail so much beneficiaries or participants and then the use of massive technologies is not really required. Both elements would make technology unnecessary. 40% are using some digital tools, such as Facebook, Instagram or Twitter as well as their own web pages, to publish information about activities. However, they do so mostly on unidirectional basis and not so much to interact with potential participants or beneficiaries.

37. Webpages or blogs are by far the most used technology or digital tools followed by documents sharing platforms (such as Dropbox, Google Drive or alike), mapping (like Open Street Map or Google maps), and scheduling apps (like Doodle). Participatory budget platforms are only used in two single cases. Contrary to what might be expected, technology do not play a major role in designing and implementing urban policies related with generative commons. However, and as the survey on the communities of citizens initiatives also reflects (see questions 10 and 11 in section 3.1 for further details), digital or technological uses are not so intensive there either, and so it cannot be expected either in the case of urban policies designed and implemented by public authorities.

Summary on technology uses

- The use of digital tools or technology by part of urban policies related with generative commons is quite low. 60% of cases are not using any specific technology solution, while just 40% do use some digital tools.
- Technology is mostly used through webpages or web platforms such as Facebook, Instagram or Twitter mostly to unidirectional communicate these policies' activities and planned events and not so much as a manner to engage participants, to reinforce bidirectional interaction nor to foster civic participation.
- There might be plenty of reasons to explain this phenomenon, but two plausible hypotheses arise. First, most of these policies are quite local and face-to-face based and so they do not really require an intensive use of digital tools. Second, they do not entail so much beneficiaries nor participants which then may be reached personally –without digital tools. A third possible hypothesis is that most of urban policies are really lacking of digital and technological resources and that then they should develop further tools in this regard if they really want to reach more participants, to achieve a greater social impact and, in sum, to be more successful as urban policies.
- Some important digital solutions *ad hoc* designed to support municipal policies to promote civic engagement and participation can be found in Barcelona, Spain, with its “Decidim” and “Balanc comunitari” online software.

4. Legal analysis

1. Introduction

In the last ten years, the concept of the commons became popular in social studies and political activism and in some countries domestic lawyers have shared the interest for this notion. Even if an (existing or proposed) statutory definition of the commons is still very rare, lawyers get familiar with the concept of the commons through the filter of property law, where it has been quite discredited. In fact, approaching property law, many students of different legal traditions learn the origins of property rights revolving on the “tragedy of the commons”, the “parable” made famous by Garrett Hardin in the late nineteen-sixties. According to this widespread narrative, the impossibility to avoid the over-exploitation of those resources managed through an open-access regime determines the necessity of allocating private property rights. In this classic argument, the commons appear in a negative light: they represent the impossibility for a community to manage shared resources without concentrating all the decision-making powers in the hand of a single owner or of a central government. Moreover, they represent the wasteful inefficiency of the Feudal World.

This vision has dominated social and economic studies until 1998, when Elinor Ostrom published her famous book *Governing the commons*, offering the results of her research on resources managed by communities in different parts of the world. Ostrom, awarded with the Nobel Prize in 2009, demonstrated that the commons are not necessarily a tragedy and a place of no-law. In fact, local communities generally define principles for their government and sharing in a resilient way avoiding the tragedy to occur. Moreover, Ostrom defined a set of principles for checking if the commons are managed efficiently and can compete with both private and public arrangements of resource management.

Later on, under an institutional perspective, the commons became the tool of contestation of political and economic mainstream dogmas, including the unquestionable efficiency of both the market and private property in the allocation of resources. The research of new tools for managing resources has been carried out in several experimentations that generally occurs at the local and urban level: scholars and practitioners define these experiences as ‘urban commons’.

This term refers to a series of experiences in which groups of active citizens organize themselves from the bottom-up to take direct care of urban immovable goods, often urban voids or abandoned spaces, with the aim of managing and administering them through open and participatory governance mechanisms. In these experiences, the so-called commoning phase takes on fundamental importance. This is the phase in which a group of people demands the care, direct and participatory management of a given asset, emphasizing its importance for the satisfaction of the rights of the community or for its social cohesion. In this sense, they are ‘generative’, since they contribute to improving the quality of life and the community’s welfare.

The main characteristics of these experiences can be summarized as follows:

- a) the presence of a good in need of care and regeneration because it is in a state of abandonment or to which, for other reasons, access by the community is denied (the asset is often in public ownership but this is not always the case);
- b) the presence of a community of citizens who decides to take care of it, adopting democratic and participatory procedures;
- c) the management of the good in order to offer services of a collective nature, directly related to the social cohesion of a given community or to the satisfaction of fundamental rights.

Although these occurrences, especially in their early stages, are largely based on informal dynamics, law is central to them. It is clear, in fact, that the self-organization of a community with regards to the use and management of an asset is, in the first place, an institutional matter.

In fact, since the assets mostly belong to public institutions, and especially to municipalities, communities are often engaged in collaborative processes with local administrations which are mainly based on a path of participatory co-planning on the shared use and management of the estate. Nevertheless, conflicts are possible to the point of communities taking the form of illegal occupations: in this case, paths of transformation from illegality to legality can be observed. For this reason, urban commons are becoming an essential component of urban regeneration local policies. Moreover, the features as described above can be observed even in those countries where the expression urban commons is unknown. Thus, the attempt of creating fruitful collaboration between public institutions and communities for saving abandoned buildings or open areas seems to be a constant trend in urban regeneration.

2. The questionnaire

In the light of these premises and according to the main objectives of the gE.CO project, the questionnaire intends to collect and investigate the rise of urban commons as carriers of collaborative processes of urban regeneration. This aim has been achieved by interviewing both sides of these relationships, that are public administrations and communities of citizens. According to the studies developed in this field, urban commons are able to challenge both of them, in different ways: the legal questions in the survey aim at capturing these issues. With regards to the questions composing the legal section of the survey for public institutions, we have composed them to:

- 1) understand if and how urban commons are changing local policies of urban regeneration, producing an original legal framework and original procedures;
- 2) check if urban commons clash with public administrations' traditional models and paradigms, and in particular the impact of the idea of collaboration;
- 3) understand if and in which cases the collaboration between public institutions and communities is legally formalized and how;
- 4) investigate the ability of public administrations to monitor the impact of urban commons on the life of communities and neighbourhoods;
- 5) collect the main problems and difficulties that public administrations are facing in their everyday management of urban commons.

With regards to the questions composing the legal section of the survey for communities, we have composed them to:

- 1) study their legal structure, by taking into consideration both their formal structure (bylaws, articles of association and internal regulations) and their everyday internal organization;
- 2) investigate the solutions adopted for creating the community, not only at the beginning of their engagement, but also during the management of urban commons, included the acceptance of new members;
- 3) understand the relationship that communities managing urban commons have with the neighbourhood' inhabitants, and their ability of creating original structures for achieving a better inclusion;
- 4) collect the main problems and difficulties that communities are facing in managing urban commons.

3. Analysis of the results

3.1 Public institutions / urban policies survey

3.1.1 Urban commons and urban regeneration

The legal section of the survey aims at understanding how urban commons are changing local policies of urban regeneration, producing an original legal framework and original procedures. In general, the analysis shows that urban commons are becoming part of local initiatives in the field of urban regeneration. In particular, we can observe that, in Italy, the concept is very well known and established: among the Italian cities included in the interview phase, 4 of them have adopted a specific regulation where 'urban commons' appear in the title of the act, while the city of Naples is very aware of the contents and the implications of the category that uses in the application of its local policy based on "usi civici".

This is true also with reference to Spain, especially with respect to its biggest cities and Barcelona in particular. In Barcelona, the category is very much used in the political discourse, while local policies apply the notion of "patrimoni ciutadà" with the same meaning and scope, that are the direct involvement of communities of citizens in the management of public spaces and buildings. In France, the municipality of Grenoble is managing a project devoted to the implementation of local acts for taking care and managing urban commons.

It is noteworthy that, beside those cases, even in those municipalities where the concept of urban commons is not applied, we can observe local policies that facilitate the participation of citizens in the management of public goods, by implementing processes of cooperation between the municipality and formal or informal groups of citizens.

Cooperatives and collaborative processes are based on two different types of initiatives; on the one side, the process can be activated by the municipality which identifies those goods that can be managed by the formal or informal groups of citizens; on the other side, citizens can autonomously present a proposal to the public administration and launch the collaborative process.

In the first hypothesis, public administrations seem to be particularly interested in combining processes of urban regeneration with social programs and activities; in many cases, the spaces identified are in the suburbs of the cities, and in neighbourhoods which needs original processes of empowerment of communities, and creation of original forms of work. For this reason, the public initiative promoted by public administrations requires a proposal including the presentation of the activities rather than a plan of refurbishment that in many cases is directly implemented by the municipalities. This operation is generally permitted by European Union funding, thanks to programs which are trying to promote this combined approach between urban regeneration and social inclusion. A very good example of this is the project TAST'N Fives (France): the program funded by the EU program UIA permitted the municipality of Lille to regenerate a former industrial plot, which was completely abandoned. At the moment, the building hosts different activities and among them, a shared kitchen managed by private entities such as associations and cooperatives, which are using food as a mean to integrate migrants and include under-represented groups in the life of the community.

When citizens are free to present a proposal, they can identify both the space or the building to be regenerated and the project. A very good example of this is the Fifty-fifty program managed by the French municipality of Loos-en-Gohelle. This solution appears in the Italian regulation on the commons as well, even if, in this latter case, the process is more often launched by the municipality rather than by citizens. However, another model for a more bottom up starting of the project is represented by a generic collection of small initiatives that do not need a significant economic effort for regenerating and make urban spaces safe, as occurs in the case of the BIP/ZIP program in Lisbon. In general, these processes are launched with open calls that generally end with a selection. Only in the Italian Regulations there is the attempt of conciliating different proposals concerning the regeneration of the same asset, in order to enhance collaboration between communities. The final decision is taken by the public administration; in this scenario, the most original procedure is adopted by the municipality of Ghent, which establishes the participation of a Jury of citizens that contribute to the final decision.

In general, we should notice that municipalities are testing special procedures for the commons, even if only in Italy, Spain and France have (or are working on having) their formal description in local regulations. There are cases in which the creation of a collaborative process is tested in single experiments, in order to check the opportunity of introducing an original legal framework, as in the experience of the project Stalled Spaces in Glasgow.

3.1.2 urban commons and traditional models

In light of the results of section 3.1.1, we should notice that the most original challenge that urban commons pose to the public administration procedure is represented by the centrality of trust and cooperation. The introduction of collaborative processes for defining the best strategy of urban regeneration establishes an intense contact between communities (or, better to say, their representatives) and the public servants who are appointed of following the procedure.

Trust and cooperation challenge the competitive model and, in particular, the need of selecting the best offer in economic terms. As stressed by the municipality of Ghent, an original public procurement for the commons could be very useful, as well as a more coherent framework that define an innovative and complex arrangement for these practices.

We should notice that the majority of the experiences investigated are municipalities; only two projects have been organized at a regional ground; only in a single case – the Stalled Space project – the experience started as a national initiative, but the lack of funding transformed it in a local test. The regional examples – namely, the Bollenti Spiriti (Italy) program and Anaptyxiaki Karditsas (Greece) are cases in which the Region tries to promote local initiative by providing funds or skills. In general, the public estate used in the urban regeneration programs belongs to municipalities.

This concentration of the initiatives at the municipal ground confirms the principles of subsidiarity and proximity governing urban commons; moreover, in many cases, public administrations are especially focused on neighbourhood projects, which means a stricter field of work. Thus, we are speaking about the ground of local governments that are closer to citizens and their needs.

However, the lack of a broader perspective affects the composition of the legal framework, since there is no a national or regional source of law considering the special issues introduced by urban commons. Thus, the collaborative model mainly based on the creation of public-civic partnership does not find a uniform regulation on the national ground. This lack is one of the most widespread problem around European municipalities, as we will see in section 3.1.5.

Trust, cooperation, and collaboration are also challenging the deep mentality of public administrations, since an administrative process with these characteristics need a certain flexibility. Around Europe, public servants are the main actors of this transformation, and in many cases their role is pivotal for finalizing the project.

3.1.3 The formal vest for collaboration

At the end of the processes for achieving a collaborative model of regeneration, we can find different types of legal regimes. In those Italian cities where the Regulation has been adopted, at the end of the collaborative procedures for defining the program of regeneration, the community of citizens and the municipality sign a pact of collaboration. This pact has a legal value and is binding for both the parties, establishing their rights and duties. The municipality of Loos-en-Gohelle adopts a very similar solution, since communities and municipality sign a convention. However, this convention is intended only as a political document: the municipality is dealing with legal difficulties in attributing a binding effect. However, the agreement does not transfer the ownership of the asset, but allows communities to use it for a certain period of time. In both the Stalled Space and Refill programs, the public administration establishes a temporary use of the space.

In general, we can notice that the creation of the partnership needs an agreement between the parties, to show the common intention of regenerating the public asset. A top-down model, exclusively based on a legal act of public administration is generally abandoned where the public-civic partnership should be established.

An original act and procedure are represented by solution applied by the municipality of Naples for giving a legal arrange to experience of urban commons originally organized as illegal occupations and able to produce a significant impact on the neighbourhood or to provide citizens with essential services. With a general act, the municipality defined 7 different occupied spaces as “usi civici”, and adopt their Charter that regulate their internal organization and use of the space.

3.1.4 Impact of the project

With regards to the implementation of the projects of urban regeneration, we can notice a general difficulty in monitoring the effects and the impact of the neighbourhood. The most interesting experiences are represented by those initiatives that have introduced specific local body for monitoring the project, involving the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, as in the case of BIP/ZIP program. In the small Loos-en-Gohelle, the impact of the local projects is checked by organizing collective debates.

In general, public administrations are in contact with the community managing the public space or building during the implementation of the project, while checking the impression of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood seems to be a complex issue for at least three reasons. First, many municipalities show a lack of resources affecting public administrations; second, especially in deprived neighbourhood, there is a general lack of engagement. Third, public administrations do not have methodologies and tools for monitoring the impact of projects in qualitative terms. Beyond these issues, we should notice that municipalities select with great attention and through collaborative processes the public areas to be regenerated; in many cases, this happens in an informal way, since open calls and procedures are not devoted to specific neighbourhoods, but refer to the entire urban territory. To the contrary, the specific needs to be fulfilled throughout urban regeneration are not specifically mapped before the starting of the collaboration, so that municipalities leave communities interested in regenerating urban commons free to propose their own project. On the one side, this way of working is quite positive, but on the other side it risks that some project is implemented without taking into consideration the needs of a particular neighbourhood. Of course, the lack of a procedure for monitoring the impact contributes to this kind of problem. Moreover, as stressed by the municipality of Lille, when urban commons host commercial activities managed by for profit entities, contradictions can rise, since private advantages derive from public and common resources. Thus, a mechanism for sharing this profit can be useful.

3.1.5 Problems and difficulties

With regards to the main problems and difficulties faced by public administration in the implementation of urban commons, safety of the spaces and responsibility are the topics that generally worry public administrations.

In particular, public spaces are generally unused and abandoned, thus they require to be refurbished and maintained. Thus, if the buildings or the area are not completely safe, their allocation to communities can be risky and public administrations could be held liable for any eventual damage. Public servants are especially exposed to these risks, thus in many situations they are very prudent and sometimes this can stop the process of regeneration.

This topic is very recurrent in the majority of the cases explored.

4. Communities survey

4.1 Legal structure

As shown in the quantitative analysis of the results, communities managing urban commons adopt mostly the legal form of the association. Despite their bylaws and articles of association usually to establishes a very traditional organization based on a legal representative, an executive board, and a general assembly, the great part of the respondents to the survey describe a more articulated internal organization.

Under this perspective, our survey shows how the internal organization of urban commons is often very sophisticated, setting forth mechanisms of governance able to mirror the complexity of the different interests and activities carried out by the community.

An example of this trend can be found in the French initiative “Hotel Pasteur”. The Hotel Pasteur is an historical university building located in the centre of the city of Rennes. The building was the headquarter of the faculty of science and, then, of the school of dental medicine. When both faculties moved to the new University campus, the building remained abandoned. The building was thus occupied by a group of artists and people engaged in the cultural sector, which established a cultural centre and a sort of “popular university of art and culture”. The occupation revitalized the building, which has been re-opened and became a centre for cultural and educational activities. The community which had occupied the building started a long path of participatory projecting of the future destination of the building, where also institutional actors (such as the city of Rennes) took part. Hotel Pasteur is now a best practice of urban regeneration and culture in Europe and it is managed through a very sophisticated participatory mechanism of governance, which sees together the community and institutional actors in the decision-making process on the use and stewardship of the good.

The organizational model of the association is composed by different groups, or organs, named “Colleges”, each one having a different role. The first College is the one of the “users” (*Utilisateurs*), grouping all the people who participate to the project.

The second College is the one of “*Veilleurs*” (Guardians): this college has the role to supervise the activity of the association and ensure its consistency with the goals and values of the project.

The institutions with whom the association establishes a formal relationship of partnerships are represented too in its governance. They are indeed part of the “College of Partners”. Also the employees of the association have their own college: the College *Les Permanentes*. Finally, those who, at any title, carry out one or more activities at the Hotel form the *College du lieu*.

All the Colleges have different competencies and coordinate their work through formal and informal procedures. They concur in the appointment of the “*Conseil collegiale*” (board of directors) and carry out an important role in forming the agenda of the general assembly, to which all the members of the different colleges concur.

Similarly to what happens in Hotel Pasteur, the internal organization of many communities often provides for thematic workgroups or round tables; these informal small bodies run managing functions that are more distributed rather than the statutory model. In fact, according to the classical associative paradigm, the implementation of the social objectives defined by the assembly is the main function of the executive board.

We have also observed that in many cases the assembly is convened more often than as established in the bylaws (once per year) and represents the place for defining the objectives of the association, but also for having a collective discussion about political issues and the management of the project. These results show a distance between the law in the book and the law in action, since communities adapt the legal model of the association to their own needs, by adding new bodies or changing the functions of the ones provided for by the articles of association. However, unlike in Hotel Pasteur, in many cases these modifications are often not formalized in the articles of association even if private autonomy would allow so. Thus, it seems that the legal model of association is applied without any sort of modifications in order to respond to the legal requirements of many calls for funding, that are generally essential for the communities' sustainability. The result is that the association is an empty shell that is not able to contain the life of the community.

This is very clear in many organizations, where the association is mostly used for mere bureaucratic purposes (such as taking part to public grants, signing contracts with employees etc.) while it does not at all overlap with the actual “community of reference” of the experience at stake.

This is very clear, for instance, in the Italian “Angelo Mai” experience. Angelo Mai is a cultural centre established in Rome. Here, the members of the association are basically some of the founders of the project and many “external supporters”, namely people who sympathize with the activities carried out by Angelo Mai but who do not take active and constant part to its community. To the contrary, most of the artists, workers and people who collaborate for various reason to the project are not part of the association. We are thus facing a situation in which the community of reference and the association do not overlap: not all the community is part of the association and the members of the association are not forcedly part of the community. It is thus not surprising that, in Angelo Mai, the key political decisions as well as the core choices regarding the cultural program of the hub are taken through informal procedures, and not by the formal procedures provided for by the bylaws of the association. To the contrary, the association is mostly used as an empty shell to take part to public tenders and to enter into contracts, where needed.

What witnessed with Angelo Mai mirrors the reality of many of the experiences under survey.

The organization of thematic workgroups and roundtables (whether formally or informally provided) allow the members of the association to share internal responsibilities; nevertheless, at the same time this model can be more demanding in terms of participation and in fact, many associations complain the lack of individual engagement.

The results of the survey show that cooperatives are an emerging model in the field of urban commons. In particular, they seem to be an interesting solution for creating new jobs or for managing different services and projects. Under this perspective, it is interesting to note how the legal structure of the cooperative is often used as an alternative to the market in order to provide, from the bottom-up, services to the cooperants, in a context in which the market would not be able to satisfy the demand (e.g. in case where the implementation of the service through traditional market-based mechanism would be uneconomic). An example of this can be seen in the experience carried out in the small Italian village of Succiso.

The little suburb of Succiso is a small village located in the Italian central Appennino. Succiso, at the beginning of the 90s, was hit by a tough depopulation process. In fact, from the original 2000 people population, only 51 inhabitants are today in the village. For this reason, a group of citizens decided to found a cooperative to revitalize the village, beginning with re-opening the food shop and the cafeteria. Indeed, because of the depopulation process, all the services in the village suddenly shut down. The cooperative thus rented the old school from the city hall, which was abandoned and ruined, and opened again the cafeteria and the food shop. Now, the cooperative became an example of best practice and it made Succiso an important center for sustainable tourism. Today, the coop carries out many different activities: educational projects for kids in partnership with the local mountain national park, restaurant, bar, the shop, transportation of students living in the village to the schools which are in the bigger cities around, production of clean solar energy etc.

At the European scale, our survey shows the emergence of a model of “neighbourhood cooperatives”, namely coop that are mainly focused on the production of goods and services for a particular urban area and community. This is the case, for instance, of Largo Residencia, a cooperative funded in the city of Lisbon with the purpose to revitalize a (once very poor) district of the city, providing several activities for the youth of the neighbourhood (mainly focused on art) as well as by renovating an old building turning it into an art and community center as well as a hostel for artists.

These cooperatives are non-profit entities; nevertheless (as the existence of a hostel in Largo Residencias partially shows) this profile does not prevent them to be compliant with some standards and rules that are normally set for for-profit entities. In certain cases, to the contrary, the achievement of “another way to do business” emerges as the main characteristic of the cooperative. This is, for instance, the case of Bees Coop, a cooperative based in Brussels which has implemented an alternative supermarket based on a sustainable and environmentally friendly business model.

Communities organized in cooperatives generally adopt an informal structure together with the one described in the articles of association; thus, also in this case, workgroups are organized to run the different activities. This is the case, for example, of Plateau Urbain, a French cooperative working in the field of temporary uses, which formally bears a very traditional structure while, on its everyday activities, counts on different informal working groups and teams.

It is noteworthy that some communities adopt a complex system of organization which includes an association together with a cooperative, and an association together with a company. These models seem to facilitate the management of commercial activities, especially when the latter risk to prevail on the social objectives.

The Italian experience of Mare Culturale Urbano is an example of this cross-fertilization between different legal structures. Mare Culturale Urbano is a cultural hub based in an old farm in the outskirts of Milan. The economic model of the experience relies on putting side by side cultural activities (mostly accessible to all, for free) and commercial activities (such as the selling of drinks and food during public events). Commercial activities are mostly carried out to allow the open access of cultural activities and to pay the costs of the organization (e.g. employees, taxes etc). The first set of activities are carried out through an association, while commercial activities through a limited corporation.

The main reason to split the organization into two different entities relies on law compliance (especially with respect of the law regarding non-profit organizations, which requires commercial activities not to prevail over the social ones). This need is quite widespread around Europe: our survey shows how structures similar to the one implemented by Mare Culturale Urbano are quite common in most jurisdictions for very similar reasons. For instance, in Germany, the community hub Peissntzhaus (in the city of Halle) relies on a legal structure very similar to the one of Mare Culturale Urbano (although, instead of a limited corporation, Peissntzhaus carries out its commercial activities through a cooperative).

4.2 Composition of the community

The analysis of the legal structure together with an assessment of the communities' practices allow to understand if communities are inclusive and able to attract new members. In fact, we should notice that this ability is very important in the management of urban commons, in order to avoid the creation of closed communities that replicate mechanisms of exclusion.

First, the investigation shows that communities prefer not to adopt a very formal procedure to include new members. In fact, for some communities it is sufficient to take part to the collective life and manage tasks for achieving the social objectives. Other communities require an application, and others demand a certain degree of participation to the associations' activities for becoming formal members. We should notice that this type of procedure is particularly interesting, since it allows to the new member to familiarize with the community and its activities before taking full part to it.

This is the case, for example, of the already mentioned experience of Largo Residencias, where new members are accepted on the basis of concrete acts of care in the management of the projects. In all these dynamics, many communities have described a general difficulty in managing internal participation when volunteers and workers coexist in the same group. However, the attempt to keep the group very close is demonstrated by the fact that many communities take their decisions by unanimity and consensus.

Even if from a formal point of view, all the respondents described an open community that responds to the main legal characteristic of the association (that is to be based on a 'open contract' since new members can always be welcomed), many groups indicated their general difficulty in attracting new members, in creating engagement and participation. Moreover, the qualitative analysis of the results shows that communities are quite homogeneous in terms of the age of participants, so that they seem often static and unable to attract new members. The original group of founders continues to have a pivotal role in the management of the association, and the generational flux seems to be difficult.

Furthermore, the composition of the association can be observed considering the position of those who are not part of the community, but benefit from the activities and the services provided by it. The analysis shows that in many cases they are simple users, and that is quite difficult to involve them in the association.

This issue clearly emerges in those organizations which activity does not relies on the management of a specific place but, rather, on the implementation of different projects. This is the case, for example, of the Belgian association Communa, which fosters the establishment of different projects of temporary uses. Each project bears its own public of users, which is not represented in the association.

Among the respondents, a brilliant case of integration in the community is represented by the URL-P project, where young migrants transformed themselves from students of the local language into teachers for a new generation of pupils.

4.3 communities and non-members

This last field of investigation is very connected with the last points mentioned in par. 4.2, but also with the analysis developed on the side of urban policies in par. 3.1.4. With regards to the relationship between the communities and the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, we should notice that many associations would like to test and develop tools for monitoring their qualitative impact. This analysis can improve their social action and at the same time be helpful in the relationship with public administrations, especially in those cases in which a facilitated rent or the use for free should be deemed. However, no standardized tools are generally available and some associations are trying to develop them, as for instance Plateau Urbain.

Despite this necessity, we should notice that a great number of respondents does not adopt special organization tools for including non-members or for collecting their opinions about the management of the project. Similarly, communities do not usually to share their internal decisions or the minutes of their meetings, contributing to communicate an image of closed community.

5. Appendix (survey templates)

SURVEY FOR COMMUNITIES OF CITIZENS

A) DEMOGRAPHICS

1. Name of the organization and website reference (*opened*):

2. Your organization is... (*multiple-choice*)

- ☐ An association
- ☐ A Cooperative
- ☐ A Foundation
- ☐ An Enterprise
- ☐ An Informal group
- ☐ 3. Other (*please, specify*):

4. Describe how your organization has been established (year of foundation; original idea; areas of activity) (*opened*):

5. How many members compose your group? (*single-choice*):

- ☐ 0 - 10
- ☐ 10 - 30
- ☐ 30 - 50
- ☐ 50 - 100
- ☐ > 100

6. The average age of the group members is (*single-choice*):

- ☐ Mostly ≤ 35
- ☐ Mostly ≥ 35
- ☐ The group is Intergenerational

7. Describe the gender composition of the group (*single-choice*):

- ☐ > Males
- ☐ > Females
- ☐ 8. Other (*please, specify*):

9. The members of your organization are (*single-choice*):

- ☐ Mostly born locally
- ☐ Mostly born abroad
- ☐ Mixed

10. Technology penetration in the group is high (e.g. technology is used for organisational purposes) (*single-choice*):

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ To a great extent

11. Do most members of the group have frequent access to the internet? (*single-choice*):

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ To a great extent

12 Does your organization use any social media? If so, which ones and for what purpose (dissemination of info., organising events, publishing media) **if not why?** (*open*):

B) THEMATIC AREA

13. Describe the activities that your organization carries out (*opened*):

14. Select the thematic areas of interest by your community: (*multiple-choice*)

- ☐ Culture & Arts
- ☐ Social Centre
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Ecology & Environment
- ☐ Sport & Leisure
- ☐ Production
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Welfare
- ☐ Employment & Entrepreneurship
- ☐ 15. Other (*please, specify*):

16. Are any of these activities carried out online / remotely (e.g. remote discussions/meetings in forums or through Skype, online lectures, etc.) (*opened*):

17. Are any of these activities technologically supported or mediated (e.g. audio-visual systems for presentations and talks, Google docs for presentations and/or collaborative editing, WhatsApp groups for communication, etc.)? (*opened*):

18. Are your activities targeted or addressed to everyone? (*single-choice*):

- ☐ No, they are addressed to everyone
- ☐ 19. Yes, they are target (*please, specify*):

20. Do the recipients pay to benefit from the activity? (multiple-choice):

- ☐ No, it is free
- ☐ No, it is sufficient to pay the fee of membership
- ☐ Yes, a price is fixed
- ☐ Yes, but with non-monetary solutions as barter

21. How do you reach out to people that these activities are addressed to? Does technology play a role in reaching out to them? (opened):

22. Would you wish for more groups to participate in your community? Which ones and how (e.g. technology, more space, legal tools)? (opened)

23. Please describe the main difficulties in carrying out your activities (opened):

C) FUNDING

24. Is your organization's activity based only on the members' voluntary contributions or are there any employees? (opened):

25. Which is the major funding source of your organization and your activities? (multiple-choice)

- ☐ Regular public contribution
- ☐ Public grant (*local, regional, national, EU*)
- ☐ Sponsorships
- ☐ Self-funded (members contribution)
- ☐ Commercial activities
- ☐ Leasing out spaces
- ☐ Entrance Fees
- ☐ Donations
- ☐ Others

26. Have you used any technological tools to fund your activities? (e.g. crowdfunding campaigns, calls for donations on social media or mailing lists, tools to support the organisation of crowdfunding events, etc.) (opened):

D) LOCALITY

27. Are your activities mainly located in the (single-choice):

- ☐ City centre
- ☐ Suburbs
- ☐ 28. Other (*please, specify*):

29. Are your activities based in a building or are developed in open public areas?

(single-choice. Please, if you choose "Building" follow the section D.1. If you choose "Open Public Areas", go to section D.2):

- ☐ Building
- ☐ Open public areas

D.1) ACTIVITIES BASED IN A BUILDING

30. Is your group the owner of the building where the activities are organized? (single-choice).

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

31. If no, the building belongs to (single-choice):

- ☐ A public entity
- ☐ A private person (physical or juridical)

32. If you choose 'public entity', specify who is the owner (opened):

33. How did you get the building? (multiple-choice):

- ☐ Free / Cession
- ☐ Facilitated rent
- ☐ Regular rent
- ☐ Illegal occupation
- ☐ Temporary use
- ☐ 34. Other (*please, specify*):

35. Give a short description of the building (extension, organization of the space, etc., how many rooms, etc.) (opened):

36. Does the building have internet connectivity? (opened):

37. Do you have any desktop or laptop computers in the space, and if yes, what is their main purpose? (opened):

38. Before your use of the building, what was its condition? (multiple-choice):

- ☐ In use
- ☐ Unused
- ☐ Partially used/unused
- ☐ Abandoned / Ruined

39. Do you know its original function?

(agricultural, commercial educational, cultural, industrial, infrastructure, military, political, religious, residential, sanitary, sport...) (*opened*):

40. Access to the building is (multiple-choice):

- ☐ Open, but just for events or special activities
- ☐ Completely open
- ☐ Exclusively restricted to the members of the group
- ☐ 41. Other (*please, specify*):

D.2) ACTIVITIES BASED IN PUBLIC OPEN AREAS:

42. The public open area belongs to (single-choice):

- ☐ The municipality
- ☐ The region
- ☐ The state
- ☐ 43. Other (*please, specify*):

44. Does the public open space have public internet connectivity / WiFi? (*opened*):

45. Do you use any interactive (digital or non-digital) ways of engaging passers-by in your activities (e.g. Facebook events/posts, Twitter hashtags, playful activities, stencil art, etc.)? (*opened*):

46. How did you get the public open area for your activities? (multiple-choice):

- ☐ Free / Cession
- ☐ Facilitated rent
- ☐ Regular rent
- ☐ Occupation
- ☐ Temporary use
- ☐ 47. Other (*please, specify*):

E) FORMAL ENTITY - INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

48. How can a person become a member of your organization? Is this possible by getting in touch remotely (e.g. phone call, email, SMS, etc.)? (*opened*)

49. Your internal organization establishes (single-choice):

- ☐ A general assembly, an executive body and a legal representative
- ☐ A general assembly and a legal representative
- ☐ An executive body and a legal representative
- ☐ 50. Other (*please, specify*):

51. Does technology play a role in facilitating your internal organisation? (e.g. mailing lists for different bodies/assemblies, decision-making systems, electing representatives through tech, etc.) (*opened*):

52. If your organization has a general assembly, what types of decisions does it take? How is the agenda for the assemblies formed? (*opened*):

53. Can someone participate remotely (e.g. through Skype, phone call) and in which stages of the decision-making process (e.g. setting the agenda, deliberating, voting, vetoing, etc.)? (*opened*):

54. How does the general assembly make its decision? (multiple-choice):

- ☐ By majority
- ☐ Unanimity
- ☐ Decision is with the executive body (general assembly has an advisory role)
- ☐ 55. Other (*please, specify*):

56. How are these decisions published / made available for all members and/or public? What technological tools are used to disseminate these decisions (e.g. website, mailing lists, pdf documents, Google docs, MS office, etc.) (*opened*):

57. Is any public institution or public stakeholder represented in your organization? If so, please explain their role and their representation in the bodies of the organization (*opened*):

58. Is your legal representative (single-choice):

- ☐ A man
- ☐ A woman
- ☐ We have a double representation

59. How many times and when does the general assembly and the executive body (if any) meet up? (*opened*):

60. Describe the main organizational problem of your group (*opened*):

F) INFORMAL COMMUNITY - INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

61. Explain the reasons why your group is not organized as a formal entity (as an association) (opened):

62. How can a person join your group? Is this possible by getting in touch remotely (e.g. phone call, email, SMS, etc.)? (opened):

63. Your internal organization establishes (multiple-choice):

- ☐ A general assembly of members, an executive body and a coordinator
- ☐ A general assembly and a coordinator
- ☐ Thematic forum and a coordinator
- ☐ 64. Other (please, specify):

65. Does technology play a role in facilitating your internal organisation? (e.g. mailing lists for different bodies/assemblies, decision-making systems, electing representatives through tech, etc.) (opened):

66. If your organization has general assembly, what types of decisions does it take? How is the agenda for the assemblies formed? (opened):

67. Can someone participate remotely (e.g. through Skype, phone call) and in which stages of the decision-making process (e.g. setting the agenda, deliberating, voting, vetoing, etc.)? If not, why is face-to-face communication so important? (opened):

68. How does the general assembly make its decision? (multiple-choice):

- ☐ By majority
- ☐ Unanimity
- ☐ Decisions are within thematic forums and the general assembly has an advisory role
- ☐ 69. Other (please, specify):

70. How are these decisions published / made available for all members and/or public? What technological tools are used to disseminate these decisions (e.g. website, mailing lists, pdf documents, Google docs, MS office, etc.) (opened):

71. How does your organization appoint its coordinator? (multiple-choice):

- ☐ By election
- ☐ By other means

72. Is your coordinator (single-choice):

- ☐ A man
- ☐ A woman
- ☐ We have a double representation

73. How many times and when does the general assembly and/or the executive body (if any) meet up? (opened):

74. How are general assembly meetings organised? Who participates in deciding the when and where? (opened):

75. Does technology play a role in organising these meetings (by finding a place to meet, by finding a common date, by making the event available to the public/members)? (opened):

76. Describe the main organizational problem of your group (opened):

77. What is the most mundane, tiring task that needs to be done recurrently in your community? Who does that? (opened):

G. FORMAL AND INFORMAL COMMUNITIES - POLITICAL RELATIONS AND GENERAL ISSUES

78. Which are the main issues you are facing at the moment? (multiple-choice)

- ☐ Financial/economic sustainability
- ☐ Decision-making procedures/governance
- ☐ Relationship with the community (e.g. inhabitants, other activists in the city...)
- ☐ Relationship with the owner(s)
- ☐ Relationships with political authorities
- ☐ Legal and bureaucratic framework
- ☐ Capability to demonstrate or measure the social impact of the project
- ☐ 79. Other (please, specify):

80. Briefly describe the issue and how you are facing it (opened):

81. Considering the gE.CO project and its developments, would you be interested in (multiple-choice)

- ☐ Tools for citizens' participation and community building.
- ☐ Tools for Temporary Uses.
- ☐ Tools and models for the governing of generative commons.
- ☐ Legal toolkit

SURVEY FOR URBAN POLICY

A) DESCRIPTION

1. Public Administration and Institutional level (multiple-choice):

- ☐ Municipal/Local
- ☐ Regional
- ☐ National
- ☐ UE
- ☐ 2. Other (please, specify):

3. Indicate the department or office appointed of the policy/initiative development (opened):

4. Provide a description of the policy or initiative (name; date; objective) (opened):

5. Select the thematic area(s) invested by the policy/initiative (multiple-choice):

- ☐ Civic Participation
- ☐ Culture & Arts
- ☐ Public heritage / Urban renewal
- ☐ Ecology / Soil consumption
- ☐ Economy
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Sport & Leisure
- ☐ Employment & Entrepreneurship
- ☐ Production
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ 6. Other (please, specify):

7. Is this policy/initiative (single-choice):

- ☐ Part of your administrative practice (for instance, a regulation)
- ☐ A single experiment (for instance, a test):
- ☐ 8. Other (please, specify):

9. How many citizens are benefiting from the policy/initiative? (single-choice):

- ☐ < 50
- ☐ 50 – 100
- ☐ 100 – 300
- ☐ 300 – 500
- ☐ undefined number

B) LOCALITY

10. Does the policy/initiative involve the use of urban spaces? (single-choice):

- ☐ No.

- ☐ Yes, only open spaces (square, urban garden, streets)
- ☐ Yes, only closed spaces (buildings, installations, etc.)
- ☐ Yes, both open and closed spaces.

11. Are these spaces part of the municipal patrimony? (single-choice):

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ 12. No, it belongs to... (please specify):

13. Describe how (if any) urban spaces benefit from the implementation of the policy (opened):

14. Before the implementation of the policy what was the condition of the public space (for building and open spaces)? (single-choice):

- ☐ In use
- ☐ Unused
- ☐ Partially used/unused
- ☐ Abandoned / Ruin
- ☐ 15. Other (please, specify):

16. If the policy/initiative concerns only the use of public spaces, do you think that it could be extended to private spaces? (yes, no, and because) (Opened):

C) CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

17. Did citizens have a role in the definition of the policy/initiative? Which groups participated in its production? (in terms of gender, age, class, etc.) (opened):

18. What is the role of the citizens in the implementation of the policy? Have citizens responded the way you expected/wished for this policy? (opened):

19. How many citizens are participating in the implementation of the policy/initiative? (single-choice):

- ☐ < 50
- ☐ 50 – 100
- ☐ 100 – 300
- ☐ 300 – 500
- ☐ undefined number

20. Have you created any particular legal structure to involve citizens in the implementation of the policy? (single-choice):

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

21. If so, please describe the legal structure and how it works (*opened*):

22. Have you used or developed any digital technologies (smartphone apps, platforms, web) to involve citizens in the implementation of the policy or initiative? (*single-choice*):

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

23. If so, please describe the technology and how it works (*opened*):

24. Is this policy specifically addressed to 'underrepresented' groups or/and women? Do underrepresented groups and/or women benefit from the policy? (*opened*):

D) FUNDING

25. How is the policy/initiative funded? (*multiple-choice*)

- ☐ Regular public contribution
- ☐ Public grant (*local, national, EU*)
- ☐ Tickets
- ☐ Private sponsorships
- ☐ Private donations
- ☐ Crowdfunding
- ☐ 26. Other (*please, specify*):

E) LEGAL ISSUES

27. Are temporary uses of unused areas possible? (*opened*):

28. If so, explain how your municipality can implement them (*opened*):

29. How can new legal frameworks or technological solutions help the utilization of such unused spaces? (*opened*):

30. According to your local, regional, national legal framework, have you encountered any obstacle in the introduction and/or the application of the policy/initiative? (*single-choice*):

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

31. If so, explain what kind of difficulties have you faced and how have you overcome them? (*opened*):

F) POLITICAL/FACTUAL ISSUES

32. Which are the main issues you are facing in the implementation of the policy? (*multiple-choice*)

- ☐ Lack of economic/human/administrative resources
- ☐ Relationship and communication with the target of the policy or the beneficiaries
- ☐ Relationship and communication with underrepresented communities, minorities
- ☐ Relationship with other public authorities (neighbourhood, council, region, state, etc.)
- ☐ The demonstration and of the social impact of the project
- ☐ 33. Other (*please, specify*):

34. Briefly describe the issue and how you are facing it (*opened*):

G) TECHNOLOGY

35. Does digital technology play a role in the introduction, implementation or dissemination of the policy? (*single-choice*):

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

36. If so, explain the role of technology for this policy/initiative; and if not, briefly explain the difficulties of introducing technology in such policy/initiative (*opened*):

37. What kind of digital tools do you use? (see this list for examples) (*multiple-choice*):

- ☐ Websites, Blogs or Wiki (Drupal, WordPress, Square Space, etc.)
- ☐ Document Sharing (Own Cloud, Next Cloud, Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.)
- ☐ Online Decision-Making Tools (Loomio, Liquid Feedback, etc.)
- ☐ Mapping Tools (Open Street Map, Google Maps, etc.)
- ☐ Scheduling tools (Framadate, Doodle...)
- ☐ E-Commerce, Crowdfunding or Payments (GoFundMe, Indiegogo...)
- ☐ Participatory Budgeting (Consul, Decidim...)
- ☐ Crypto-currencies or tokens
- ☐ 38. Other (*please, specify*):