



CITIES AS ARENAS OF POLITICAL
INNOVATION IN THE STRENGTHENING OF
DELIBERATIVE AND PARTICIPATORY
DEMOCRACY

MONITORING REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES TIME ZERO EVALUATION

Deliverable 8.3 – Monitoring Report of the Activities | Time Zero Evaluation

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Date: December 31st, 2022



Report information

Title:	Deliverable 8.3 – Monitoring Report of the Activities Time Zero Evaluation
Main Editor:	Luna Kappler, Alessandro Nato, Manfredi Valeriani, Christian Iaione - Luiss
Contributions from:	PVM, CRN, UEF, SWPS, UG, EUTROP, CRE, MIAGDANSK, VORU, E35
Version:	1.0
Date of Publication:	December 31 st , 2022
Dissemination level:	Public

Project information

Project Acronym	EUARENAS
Project Full title:	Cities as Arenas of Political Innovation in the Strengthening of Deliberative and Participatory Democracy
Grant Agreement:	959420
Project Duration:	42 months
Project coordinator:	James Scott - University of Eastern Finland



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1. INTRODUCTION

The deliverable D8.3 comprises an initial framework connected to the impact evaluation of the EUARENAS Project activities, with a focus on: the Pilot cities' experiences to track the progress of citizen-based urban initiatives and how they might help to connect participatory and deliberative forms of democratic government; and an early self-assessment of the Project's previously achieved outcomes.

The report builds on the two deliverables “D8.1 analysis of the status-quo of territories” (D8.1) and “D8.2 EUARENAS INDEX – EUARI” (D8.2) that gave practical guidance for conducting an impact evaluation of deliberative democracy activities. This entailed first identifying and conveying a shared understanding of impact. Impact has been defined as the set of voluntary and involuntary goals and consequences that deliberative democracy initiatives can generate in cities, neighborhoods, and communities in order to establish a consistent framework for an overall evaluation of the EUARENAS project and to allow for comparison of the various cases implemented and monitored within the project. When both physical and social space are examined, the urban effect includes the quality of the urban environment, social quality, and political quality. These three dimensions encompass all of the many variables that can be impacted by an initiative. The social dimension assesses the impact on the person and the society by utilizing single and aggregated indicators to determine which advantages the initiative provided to the individuals to whom it was addressed. The political component encompasses the effects on the political, legal, and governance levels, as well as monitoring the influence on policies, administration, and creative governance. The quality of the urban environment component includes the initiative's physical influence on the urban space. This dimension comprises metrics related to sustainability, energy transition, urban areas and resources, and the social models that will result from their realization. This is done to deepen the interaction between organizational changes caused by the growth of deliberative democracy, city space, politics, management and governance, and society.

With this in mind, D8.3 first details the approach used for obtaining information on the situation at the start of the Project and for assessing adjustments. Second, it depicts the cities' distinctive aims and a strong action of capacity-building around the Theory of Change and EUARENAS approach. Third, it systematizes this information in light of the impact definition, producing an evaluation of the social, political, and urban environmental implications. Finally, it returns an initial descriptive self-assessment linked to larger Work progress such as activities scheduled, outreach, tools used, and researcher-advisor conversation.

2. METHOD | Definition - Theory of Change

The suggested EUARENAS impact assessment is inspired by the Transformative Social Innovation framework and Theory of Change as a blueprint of all the building blocks required to fulfill the longer-term aims of a specific intervention. Other references are the Co-Cities codebook to assess the quality and impact of urban policies for the co-governance of urban commons both at the neighborhood and city-wide level and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as described in D8.2.



Theory of change has been considered a useful tool for creating answers to difficult societal problems. At its most fundamental, it describes how a series of early and intermediate successes lays the foundation for long-term outcomes. With a more detailed look theory of change articulates the assumptions about the process by which change will occur and describes how all of the needed early and intermediate outcomes relevant to attaining the intended long-term change will be brought about and documented as they occur.

Therefore, the decision to use this method was influenced by the necessity to adjust the evaluation to the needs of the pilot cities. The technique specifically addressed two crucial factors: 1. assist cities in defining the requirements and improvements they want to see through the EUARENAS project; 2. tailor the impact assessment as much as feasible, and propose adaptive indicators as a result. Ad hoc measurements must be introduced to understand the specifics of each initiative and their relative impact.

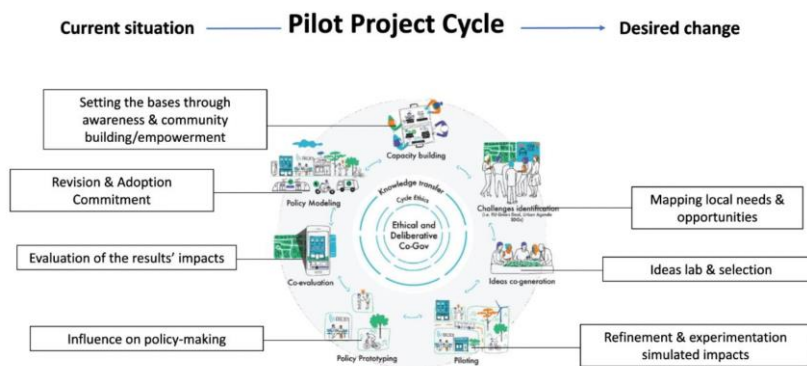


Figure 1 The linkages between EUARMP and the impact assessment

The method provides a paradigm for learning that may be applied both within and outside of programming cycles of the project. The theory of change helps ensure a sound logic for achieving well-identified goals by articulating the causes of a development challenge, making assumptions explicit on how the proposed strategy is expected to yield results, and testing these assumptions against evidence—including what has worked well, or not, in the past. The approach also aids in making course changes if the chosen method fails or if expected hazards manifest. Monitoring and evaluation provide new learning and lessons that assist clarify assumptions and guide judgments about how a strategy should be modified to get the desired results. Changes should also be made in reaction to changing conditions, particularly in response to crises and shocks, and as part of routine monitoring and adjustment patterns. Additionally, the theory of change is increasingly being used to create and manage partnership initiatives. The process of developing it generates diverse perspectives and assumptions among decision-makers, program planners, recipients, donors, researchers, and inhabitants. By integrating stakeholders early in the planning process and demonstrating how their effort adds to long-term effect, it is helping promoting shared information, agreements between the parts, and inspire stakeholders.

As a result, a continuous capacitation pathway in the form of office hours was activated in collaboration with CNR as WP4 leader.

The purpose was to encourage the identification of a chain of inputs, activities, output, outcomes, and results. This included identifying the precise outcomes that may be achieved as a result of the project and in addition to the city's regular activities and strategies. The action was especially important for places like Reggio Emilia and Gdansk, who already had extensive experience with deliberative democracy processes. Indeed, it enabled the

application of new lenses in conjunction with the introduction of new methodologies and instruments in order to change traditional approaches and give deliberative practices a boost.

WP8 activities are contributing to the co-creation of the action plan, which includes the strategy and actions for implementing the Pilot.

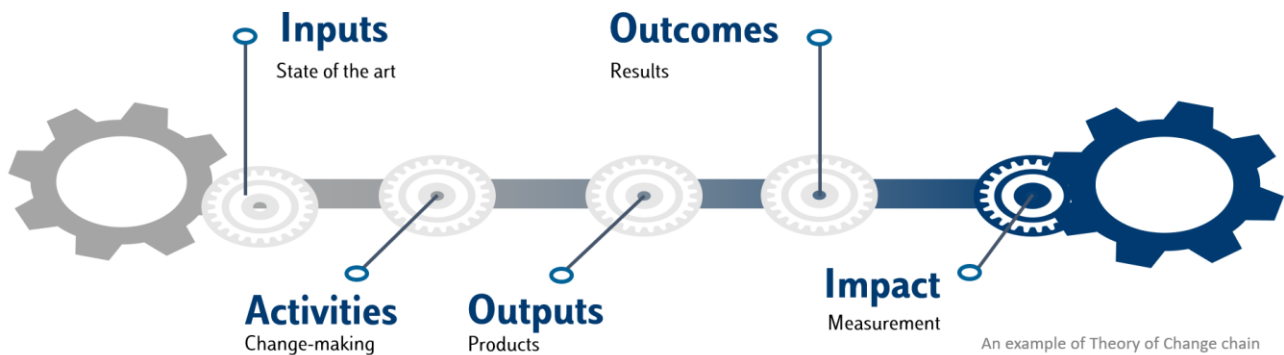


Figure 2 The sample Theory of Change chain proposed to the Pilots

CRN and Luiss shared a lexicon with the cities to minimize interpretive ambiguities that might lead to misconceptions and problems in communication and comparison of various cities' experiences. The glossary has highlighted the following definitions:

Inputs: All types of resources that you need to use for implementing your activities. In this template we suggest you to differentiate the following inputs or resources:

- Financial (especially resources other than EUARENAS)
- Institutional/stakeholders who support you
- Material and technical
- Knowledge and methods
- Tools, especially from the EUARENAS toolbox

Activities: the concrete actions that will be undertaken for achieving the outputs, for instance:

- Organising of a meeting
- Co-creating of a participatory tool
- Interviewing
- Creating a training curriculum

Outputs: Outputs are the concrete results or products of the pilot activities that will lead to the above-mentioned outcomes. They can be of any type, as follows:

- A participative or communal event with a specific goal
- A training - A new rule/regulation recorded
- Interview summaries
- A publication
- A digital tool

Outcomes: Outcomes are the key results of the pilot that contribute to the effect and main societal change caused by the project. These consequences can be of various types, for example:

- New policies or policymaking approach in the municipality
- Effects on target groups (i.e., they are educated or empowered by new skills, knowledge, or information)
- Innovative participatory instruments or procedures are developed
- Decision makers get new experience with particular target groups

Indicators: The achievement of the expected impacts, outputs and outcomes can be assessed by quantitative and qualitative indicators.

Quantitative indicators are the measurable data that prove if the expected impact, outcomes or outputs are achieved. When identifying these indicators, one has to be careful to provide rational, accessible, and realisable data.

Qualitative indicators are useful for providing more nuanced assessment of the impacts, outputs and outcomes. They can also provide information on the quality of the generated change when this change cannot be assessed yet with quantitative performance indicators. Qualitative indicators can be produced with the help of interviews, storytelling methods, photos, videos, reports, etc. When identifying these indicators, one needs to pay attention to avoid biased or superficial questions.

What timeframe to evaluate?

Impact assessment is undertaken before, during, and after the examined initiative since it is directly tied to the theory of change (Brest, 2010; Chen and Chen, 1990; Stein and Valters, 2012; White, 2009)¹. It is possible to map the various phases of the analysis according to the different steps of the cycle, assisting analysts and practitioners in assessing the impact and providing good proof of how the co-cycle and a co-governance process in themselves allow for better impact assessment, thanks to specific peculiarities of the co-cycle process refined through EUARMP Methodological Protocol.

D8.2 identified the following phases:

- 1) *Definition*: objectives, variables and limits are identified and formalized
- 2) *Status quo*: measurement of the variables before the beginning of the initiative (T0)
- 3) *Alternatives*: identification of possible other concurring factors to the outcomes
- 4) *Selection*: (eventual) evaluation of alternatives and subsequent decision
- 5) *Monitoring*: data gathering during the implementation of the initiative (T1)
- 6) *Evaluation*: evaluation of the results at conclusion of the initiative (T2)

¹ Brest, P. (2010). "The Power of Theories of Change." *Stanford Social Innovation Review* 8(2): 47–51.

Chen, H., Chen, H. (1990). *Theory-Driven Evaluations*. Sage.

Stein, D., Craig V. (2012). "Understanding Theory of Change in International Development."

White, H. (2009). "Theory-Based Impact Evaluation: Principles and Practice." *Journal of development effectiveness* 1(3): 271–84

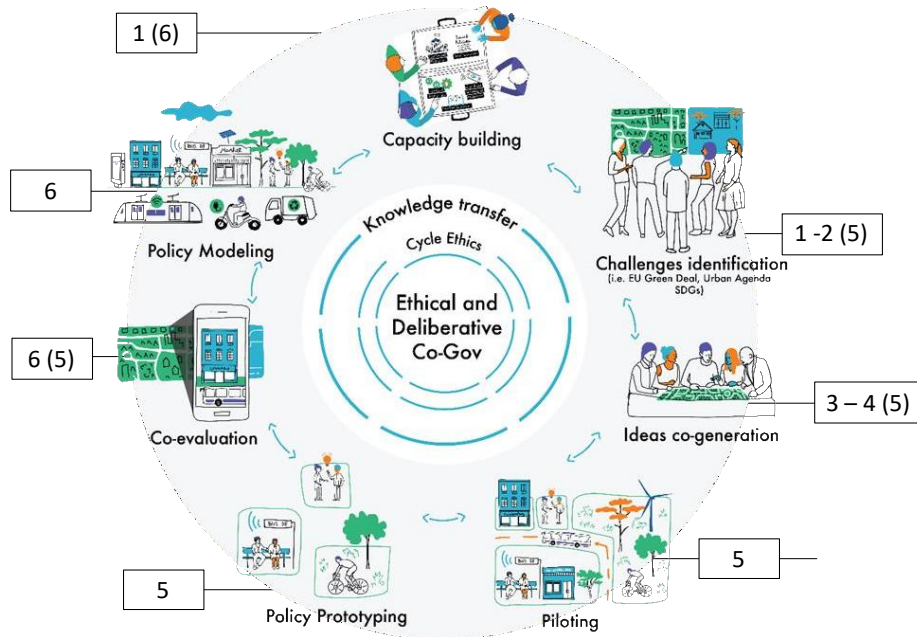


Figure 3 Impact Assessment and the Co-Cycle, phases of assessment

The stages were then connected to the production timetable of WP8 deliverables using the following scheme:

T	/	T ₀	T ₁	T ₂
EUARENAS Month	M-15	M-24	M-33	M-42
Month/Year	From March/2022	December/2022	September/2023	June/2024
Deliverables	No deliverable (capacity building & beginning of data gathering for D.8.3)	D 8.3 Impact Monitoring Report (M-24)	D8.3 Dir/Indi Outcome Report (M-36)	D. 1.4 Final Report

Office hours approach

The Luiss research team, with the support of CRN, introduced a voluntary creative capacity-building pathway for the city in order to transfer the main elements of the EUARENAS Methodological Protocol to the pilot cities for a consistent mapping of needs and identification of challenges to be addressed through the project. WP4 and CoP have formed strong synergies in participating in the recurring office hour and supporting the definition of a common technique.

The objective of the office hour is to activate a continuing accompaniment path based on informal discourse based on Co-Cities' Luiss LabGov experiences and Co4Cities - URBACT's one-on-one and group governance development workshops. Over the course of several days, cities representatives learn and practice the design process by identifying community issues or opportunities and then imagining a functioning prototype to address that challenge or capitalize on that opportunity. The additional step has been to translate the brainstorm into a state of the art analysis that has been called "time zero evaluation" and then draft a theory of change chain.



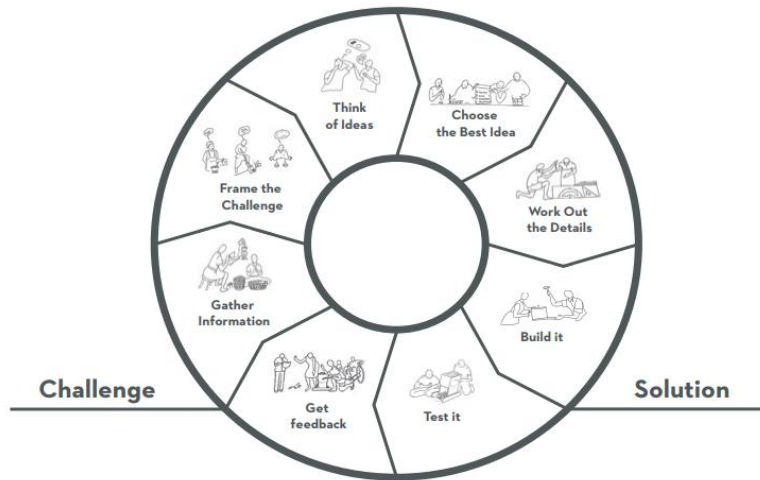


Image: Courtesy of MIT D-Lab

Figure 4 Creative capacity building according to MIT D-Lab

During those dedicated meeting, workshops have been conducted with the use of co-design tools such as Mural and Aha Slides in the form of mind maps to define the multidimensional notion of impact and identify the desired changes. Data gathering has implied confrontation with multiple stakeholders, filling-in and revising time zero evaluation template using broad dimensions of analysis.

Following the steps traced in D8.2, it has been possible to implement the following actions in black, while grey steps will be deepened in the next phases:

Phase of Analysis	Co-Cycle	Tools	Action implemented
Definition – Theory of Change	Capacity Building & Challenges Identification	Interviews, focus groups, ethnographic participation to preliminary meetings and discussions	Workshop with the use of co-design tools such as Mural and Aha Slides in the form of mind maps to define the multidimensional notion of impact and identify the desired change
Status Quo (time zero evaluation – input – state of the art)	Ideas Co-Generation	Data review and analysis. Public database, local archives.	Data gathering, confrontation with the stakeholders Time zero evaluation template
Alternatives	Ideas Co-Generation	Expert Interviews, desk-based research. Local expert engagement (CSOs)	/

Selection	Ideas Co-Generation	Not an analysis phase, but a decisional phase for (usually) policy makers to decide which initiative to implement according to the results of the analysis	/
Monitoring	Piloting & Policy Prototyping	Interviews, questionnaires, focus groups, quantitative data analyses	/
Evaluation	Co-Evaluation & Policy Modeling	Verification of the results with the objectives previously identified analysis and reporting.	/

2.1 From the Time zero evaluation template to the assessment

Luis researchers with the support of CRN developed a uniform schematic template among the cities to collect qualitative-quantitative data and reason about the essential dimensions for the project and deliberative practices in order to enable the pilot cities to gain awareness about their starting situation and focus the objectives of their involvement in EUARENAS.

As a consequence, a Time zero evaluation template is created, which reflects self-assessment at time zero. To acquire the essential information, city representatives had to engage the ecosystem of local practitioners. The activity was also complemented with integrative one-on-one interviews done by Luis researchers to gather additional information and validate previously entered data.

The Time zero evaluation template has been structured as follows:

1-Description of the pilot area and its socio-economic context

- 1.1 Please present the area the pilot is planned, provide a map if possible.
- 1.2 What are the key socio-economic characteristics of the area?
- 1.3 What are the key challenges of the area?

2- Political decision making and administration

- 2.1 Please precise the administrative structure your area is belonging to, and what is the administrative role of your area within it?
- 2.2 Please describe the key political decision-making competences on the level of the area



3-The use of deliberative tools in your city/area

3.1 Please describe the main participatory tools/methods already used by the local government, local policies in your area? In what topics they are used, since when, and are they successful?

3.2 What is the role of deliberation or participation in the decision making in your city/area?

3.3 Please estimate a level of this role between 1 and 10: 1 meaning no role of deliberative democracy at all in your municipality, and 10 where deliberative democracy is regarded as a regularly used approach/tool for decision making. Please explain you score.

4-Local needs

4.1 Please summarize the needs of inhabitants/citizens, based on the Community Reporting stories gathered in WP5 (see your reports for ideas of input) and other surveys or discussions, that your pilot would like to tackle with. If you use any other surveys or discussions, please provide details of them (e.g. when were they from, who was involved in completing them).

4.2 Please summarize the results of the Focus group interviews in the area from the perspective of the needs and motivations of your local stakeholders

The form enables Pilots to create their own projections for the Theory of Change. The activity is being refined and supported through a combined co-design process between WP8 and WP4 as part of the development of Action Plans via Mirò boards:

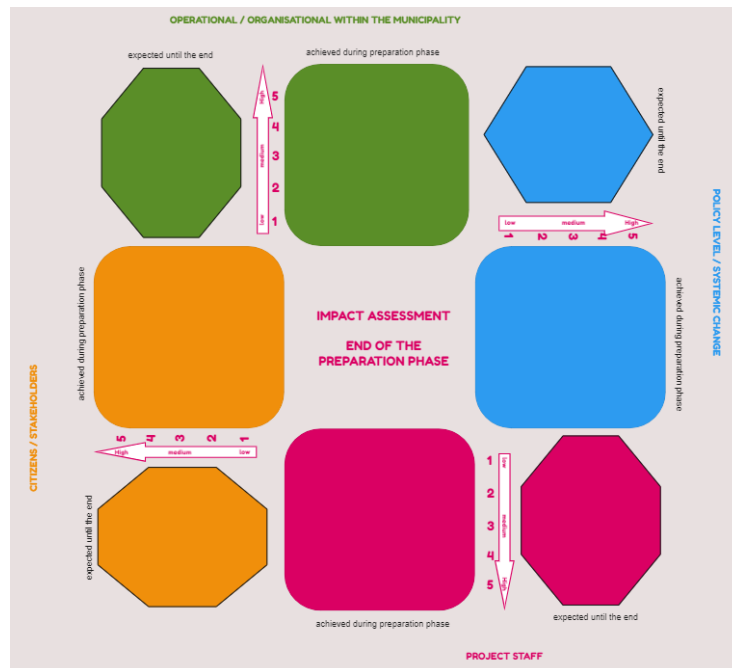


Figure 5 The Mirò board template (CRN & Luiss)

Canva allows cities to answer the following question: What is the main thing or what are the main things that you hope to achieve within the Project?

The solution may be communicated by reasoning through the several layers that are already involved: project staff, policy level/systemic change, operational/organizational within the municipalities, citizens-stakeholders (the quintuple helix actors, other than municipality).

Reflections are then guided by other questions underlying the main one:

1. What is the main change you want to generate? What are the expected short/medium/long term impacts of your pilot?
2. What are the main outcomes that you need to achieve in order to generate the impact?
3. What are the outputs/tangible results or products that will help you to achieve the outcomes?
4. What are the activities needed to be done to create the outputs?
5. What are inputs: the resources that you will need and use?

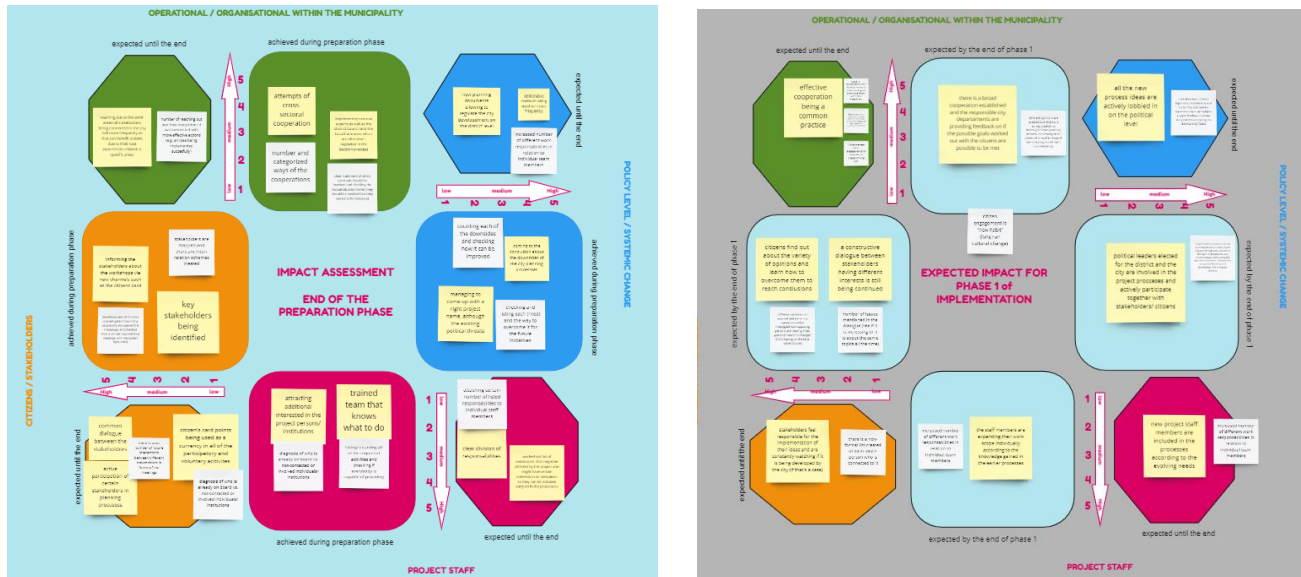


Figure 6 Sample boards filled-in by Gdansk for the end of preparation phase and expectations for the end of the phase 1 of implementation (all the boards are available [here](#))

2.2 How to evaluate

Gathering information regarding experimental potential in the Pilots necessitated the development of an operational strategy to analyze the time zero scenario as a baseline for future assessments. While data collecting was done through direct involvement of municipal leaders and their administrative structures, the assessment phase was done by researchers from the Luiss team who had no direct interaction with the Pilots. This decision

was necessitated by the requirement for a third and impartial interpretative gaze, which is required for the most objective considerations.

The outcome of this work was the predisposition of several evaluation steps aimed at resuming city operational activity linked to the development of a Theory of Change using a qualitative-quantitative impact assessment method.

The Luiss team researchers took note of the status quo, then traced the three dimensions of effect indicated in D8.1 and D8.2 to perform a time zero assessment that serves as the baseline for subsequent evaluations to be undertaken until the Project's conclusion. The connection between time zero data collection and assessment was aided by the identification of guiding questions interpreted by Luiss researchers on the basis of city information.

As a result, the questions are distinguished in the assessment of the social, political, and urban environmental impact and are directly related to the time zero evaluation template.

- **Social impact monitoring**

Evaluative measures:

- What social problem(s) does the initiative seek to address?
- Who does the initiative serve? (i.e., demographical description)
- How many people does the initiative serve?
- What is the socio-economic landscape of the initiative's impacted region/area?
- How does the initiative plan to drive social change? What are the intended outcomes?

Zero Situation Evaluation MAPPING:

- Description of the pilot area and its socio-economic context
- Socio-economic characteristics of the region/area: population composition; economic profile; social and cultural characteristics
- Key social and economic challenges
- Local needs
- Pilot idea and expected impact(s)

- **Political impact monitoring**

Evaluative measures:

- What political problem(s) does the initiative seek to address?
- What is the political landscape of the initiative's impacted region/area?
- Is this initiative embedded into policies and/or require the involvement of local government institutions or officials?
- How does the initiative plan to drive political change? What are the intended outcomes?

Zero Situation Evaluation MAPPING:



- Socio-economic characteristics of the region/area
- Key economic challenges
- Political decision making and administration
- The use of deliberative tools
- Local needs
- Pilot idea and expected impact(s)

- **Urban Environmental impact monitoring**

Evaluative measures:

- What environmental problem(s) does the initiative seek to address?
- What is the environment landscape of the initiative's impacted region/area?
- How does the initiative plan to drive territorial/urban environmental change? What are the intended outcomes?

Zero Situation Evaluation MAPPING:

- Environmental characteristics of the region/area
- Key environmental challenges
- Local needs
- Pilot idea and expected impact(s)

This tool was required to transition from a typical Theory of Change descriptive approach to a scoring system, as explained below.

Scoring methodology

The development of a scoring methodology has followed the “Degree to Which” evaluative approach in which each factor – in this case the Social, Political, Urban Environmental dimension - is assigned an impact score based upon the initiative's alignment to the evaluation criteria. Higher evaluation scores are representative of higher impact. The development of a scoring methodology has followed. For what concerns the time zero situation prior to the beginning of the experimentation this scoring methodology allows to embed hints about the overall feasibility of cities' expectations thank to the enquiry about the alignment between objectives and challenges.



Rating definitions for pre implementation is noted in the following table.

PRE		LEVEL OF IMPACT				
		0	1	2	3	4
FACTORS	SOCIAL	The initiative's objective and action plan do not address the identified challenge / problem area(s)	The initiative's objective and action plan are unlikely to address the identified challenge / problem area(s)	The initiative's objective and action plan is somewhat likely to address the identified challenge / problem area(s)	The initiative's objective and action plan are likely to address the identified challenge / problem area(s)	The initiative's objective and action plan are extremely likely to address the identified challenge / problem area(s)
	POLITICAL					
	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL					

Instead, the table below gives information on the following phases of assessment, which will be the subject of future WP8 deliverables and complete the “Degree to Which” pattern:

POST		LEVEL OF IMPACT				
		0	1	2	3	4
FACTORS	SOCIAL	The initiative has not been implemented and has not achieved any of the objective(s) outlined in the action plan	The initiative has been implemented and has not achieved any of the objective(s) outlined in the action plan	The initiative has been implemented and met some of the objective(s) outlined in the action plan	The initiative has been implemented and has met most of the objective(s) outlined in its action plan	The initiative successfully met all the objectives outlined in the action plan
	POLITICAL					
	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL					

Please, find here an example of the impact score:

		Level of Impact	
		Pre-Implementation	Post-Implementation
FACTORS	Social	3	
	Political	2	
	Urban Environmental	4	
	Impact Score	3*	

*sample calculation: $3 + 2 + 4 = 9$
 $9 / 3 = 3$



3. TIME ZERO SITUATION OF THE PILOT CITIES AND RELATED EVALUATION

3.1 Gdansk

1-Description of the pilot area and its socio-economic context

1.1. The area of the pilot

Size and location of the area	5,043 km ² Gdansk, Piecki-Migowo
Administrative status of the area	City district
The geographical location within the city/region/country (peripheral, core etc)	Zone of transition between the core and peripheries
The main function of the area	Residential
Connectivity and quality of local transport	Local train, tram and bus connections to the core as well as the airport and out-of-the-city area
Others?	

1.2. What are the key socio-economic characteristics of the area?

The composition of the population

Number of inhabitants (2020 or later)	27 616 (Piecki-Migowo)
Tendency of the change of the population	-111
Unemployment rate (%)	2,4%
Ethnic composition (in % of the ethnic groups living in the area)	
Age composition (in % of inhabitants according to the age groups)	20% (0-17) 52% (18-59) 5% (60-64) 23% (64+)
Educational level of the population (% of inhabitants according to their educational level)	27% (higher ed) 40% (secondary ed) 15% (vocational) 11% (elementary) 1% (none) 6% (N/A) (Gdansk 2011)
Other?	/

Economic profile

Value GDP/inhabitant	18794 EUR (Gdansk 2019)
Tendency of economic development (growth or decline?)	Year by year growth



The key economic sectors and specification of the area	Professional, scientific and technical activities (overall services)
Number of local registered enterprises / Are there big enterprises among them	4 536 / Gdansk-North District Court (biggest employer)
Other?	/

Social and cultural characteristics

Dominant type of housing (age of housing, construction type)	Modernist communist buildings from the 70s, modern developments (90s and XXI century)
Dominant type of housing ownership (Municipal/state/private/cooperative)?	Private ownership/ large housing cooperative
Share of social housing	
Main cultural events, institutions	Cinema in a shopping center, local culture center, district library
Availability of educational institutions on different levels (primary school secondary school, university?)	Several elementary schools, one high school, small number of private, small number of post-secondary education facilities
Availability of social and health care institutions	Several private health facilities, one of them providing public health services
Other?	/

Environmental characteristics

The environmental issues of your area	
Emergencies	
Pollution	Decreasing year by year (ARMAG 2020)
Polluting infrastructures	no
Presence of green areas per inhabitants	

1.2. What are the key challenges of the area?

Social problems (unemployment, migration, housing, poverty etc.)

Small amount of social housing, the domination of large developers. There is also a considerable amount of either immigrants or refugees from Ukraine in the area what can pose a new challenge of their full integration to the society and also being able to be financially independent in the long-term perspective.

Economic problems (economic environment, availability of inputs, smartification, etc.)

Creating support center of services in relation to the core, implementation of more diverse functions



Environmental problems (clean air and food, transportations, housing, energy, other CO2 emissions, waste etc.)

The preservation of all larger, compact green areas that surround the Piecki-Migowo district, improving flood safety, adding more retention tanks

Any other specific challenges

Strengthening and extending the service functions in the district, along with improved aesthetics

2- Political decision making and administration

Please precise the administrative structure your area is belonging to, and what is the administrative role of your area within it?

Area is one of the 35 districts of Gdansk (with a small inclusion of neighboring zones that are under its influence) and is the subsidiary of the city being a socio-territorial structure which takes over the public tasks in the area, facilitating communal tasks

Please describe the key political decision-making competences on the level of the area

There is a District Council existing and has certain local decision making competences such as addressing the major problems of the districts, keeping in touch with the inhabitants of the districts, receiving requests and complaints from the inhabitants, working with the city and giving opinions on local policies and subsequently informing the inhabitants about them, organizing and supporting initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the inhabitants, working with the police, the urban department, the fire department to maintain public order, preventing social pathologies in the district.

3-The use of deliberative tools in your city/area

Please describe the main participatory tools/methods already used by the local government, local policies in your area? In what topics they are used, since when, and are they successful?

There is Participatory Budget (PB) existing and is being which is a form of public consultations, that helps to co-decide about a segment of Gdansk city budget. The topics that are connected to this are mostly small-scale local improvements such as building new bike lanes, creating new playgrounds, soccer fields modernizations, street reconstructions etc. It is existing since 2013.

The citizens really value the PB, since they see that there is a large amount of projects that are implemented and also anyone is free to come up with their ideas. It is popular within the city to talk about interesting projects among a group of friends or neighbors.

The PB current popularity can be especially valued since the extreme increase in the awareness that is seen now, comparing to 2013. What is also important is the fact that year after year there are more funds dedicated to PB. For instance it was 12,5 mln PLN in 2017, 14 mln PLN in 2018 and 18 mln PLN in 2019.



The PB is also divided into larger projects for the entire cities and smaller ones for the district. Every voter can choose their favorite in both categories.

A recent example of a successful project implementation that is often mentioned in our interviews with the citizens (in the district that we are analyzing) is redesigned safe path to a local school. There was a big local engagement considering this and almost 3000 people casted their votes in favor of this.

Critics of PB that can be mentioned is the fact that it focuses on the money spending and not on the complex matter of constant finance of certain needed investments or how to deal with spatial or social issues, overall processes on fixing similar issues. There is also a high level of complexity in polish local government law, which on top of that is constantly changing. This makes a lot of processes hard or impossible to understand for a regular citizen.

What is also worth mentioning, the co-creation of the certain social policies also include citizens engagement. The ones that were the most effective ones are:

- model of immigrants integration
- model of equal treatment
- program of cooperation with the NGOs.

What is the role of deliberation or participation in the decision making in your city/area?

Please estimate a level of this role between 1 and 10: 1 meaning no role of deliberative democracy at all in your municipality, and 10 where deliberative democracy is regarded as a regularly used approach/tool for decision making. Please explain you score.

An estimated level of participation in Gdansk can have a score of 5. That is because there are still certain tools that can be mentioned and are connected to deliberative democracy such as Participatory Budget which was explained before but also public discussions whenever a local plan is implemented. What is more, the investors and the city are obliged to organize meetings with the citizens whenever a crucial investment is in the planning phase, so everyone can voice their opinion or ask questions. The recent examples mentioned above can be for instance the new urban complex that is being built in the old shipyard area or the new train line that is being planned and is connecting far away suburban districts to the city center. On the other hand, there is still a lot that can be done. Currently, existing tools could be widely developed and become more accessible for the average citizen. Also, new tools could be introduced and include a larger amount of stakeholders to take part in the decision processes.

New methods connected to deliberative democracy are also mentioned in the new development strategy of Gdansk for the year 2030. They include the greater role of citizens in the planning processes.

4-Local needs

Please summarize the needs of inhabitants/citizens, based on the Community Reporting stories gathered in WP5 (see your reports for ideas of input) and other surveys or discussions, that your pilot would like to tackle with. If



you use any other surveys or discussions, please provide details of them (e.g. when were they from, who was involved in completing them).

There was an overall need for greater participation and involvement in planning matters that could be mentioned. Persons were also mentioning more details issues often connected to the lack of certain services or connections between the areas. What was also possible to be heard was the lack of cooperation between separate institutions leading often to the creation of several groups in opposition to each other. While analyzing the needs of the area we decided to interview selected stakeholders from the area as well as regular citizens that were interested in talking to us. We also created 5 different frames that are Media, Economy, Politics, Society, and Education to connect each person to a different one of them. All of that could help us to focus on the diversity of opinions.

Please summarize the results of the Focus group interviews in the area from the perspective of the needs and motivations of your local stakeholders

Local stakeholders were and still are very engaged in the discussion about the area. They really appreciate the possibility to present their views and are hoping that their opinions and insights would help with the project being successful. There is also a strong need from the District Council for the analysis to be conducted.

Please summarize the key challenges of your area based on the discussions with citizens and stakeholders.

The challenge that can be mentioned is the lack of cooperation between different institutions, both the ones that are a part of local government and for instance the NGOs. Another thing is the fact that the district is not developed as a whole, meaning that there are different investments often being done not taking into account the surroundings or not having services that would be needed by the local community. There is also a strong commercial developer pressure on the area and a high influx of new inhabitants which creates a challenge for old vs newcomers relation.

Are there existing policies, plans, strategic framework in place related to the above identified needs and challenges? If yes, please list them and also mention if you think you will use them in the frame of the EUARENAS pilot.

As of now, it is possible to mention existing Local Plans that regulate certain sub-areas across the Piecki-Migowo district. They vary from each other but in the process of their creation, they had to be presented and discussed among the local population. We could use them to compare the existing legal structure with the reality and the goals that we would like to achieve in the pilot. There is also another strategic framework, but considering the scale of the entire city and could be used in the same way as Local Plans. A Study of Determinants and Trends in Spatial Development provides general guidelines for the progression of districts and detailed directions for desired changes. For, example the location of service centers, transport hubs and connections etc.

5- The pilot idea

What is the main ambition of your pilot? What kind of change do you want to generate in your area?



We would like to focus on creating and making a better participation process. It would involve improved collaboration with the citizens and the city. We would like to take into account the diversity of voices and see the stakeholders discussing with each other and connecting.

What is more, the results of a pilot could help us to create a micro strategy of development and a master plan for the single district of the city. This could be a missing link between the local plans (that consider only smaller parts of the district, connected for instance to a single development idea) and a broad Study of the City Development (that focuses on the entire city of Gdańsk).

What will be the possible focus of your pilot? What will be your more concrete objectives?

Cooperation of different diverse groups is a main point of the pilot. We especially would like to include groups that are often not involved in the processes or their voices are not heard.

Also, the micro strategy would have executive abilities for the stakeholders that include co-creation and co-implementation of the solutions worked out.

What will be the key results and expected outputs?

The results will mainly include a micro strategy and a master plan taking into account stakeholders' interests and opinions. We would also like to focus on the processes that are occurring during the pilot works and possibly improve them over time so that we are able to follow them in the future.

To which SDG is the pilot answering to?

Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and presumably some other ones suggested by the stakeholders

What are the expected impacts of your pilot? Please identify impact on the different levels: the municipality, the different groups of inhabitants, the stakeholders, the urban tissue, the institutional system, the regulatory system, the planning system, etc. You can use the suggested categories or create other ones if needed.

Urban and Environmental impact

The development of the public areas, better connections throughout the district and the outer areas with the focus on sustainable means of transportation. More complex planning so that the overall surrounding of certain investments is also considered. Elimination of spatial barriers, making the area more accessible. Development of green infrastructure especially in the newly developed areas where it is often not present. Increased focus on the aesthetics of the structures, also taking into account the area specifics.

Social and Cultural impact

Increased cooperation between different groups of inhabitants. This would also consider making it easier for people to organize among themselves. More advanced cultural capabilities of the district that would take into account diverse needs of the citizens. Increased amount of local events in the district and their better



acknowledgement. Proper integration between new inhabitants (including the refugees) and the old ones.

Economic impact

Easier regulations for the business owners. Focus on the economic growth that would include the needs of the citizens but at the same time does not compromise the overall environment.

Political and institutional impact

Better access for the citizens to the city institutions. Closer relations of different political/ institutional stakeholders. Inclusive institutions that focus on giving equal rights and enable equal opportunities, voice, and access to all resources and services.

Also, the pilot could be either a confirmation that the process that we are working on is useful in the overall planning activities or the opposite. There is a threat that the methods would be long in implementation or won't attract enough citizens' attention.

Technological and digital impact

Focus on sustainable solutions considering technology in general. Constantly improved digital level of advancement of the institutions, that would allow for even easier citizens involvement. Increased use of digital tools in participatory planning.

Other:....

The decision-makers could make sure that deliberative tools are an effective method of the modern-day planning

6. The organization background of your pilot

What kind of political support your pilot will have? Are there elected officials actively supporting the project? On what level is the project supported?

There is a cross-departmental team created that supports the pilot. It mainly consists of people from the City Architect's Office and the Department of Social Development. Additionally, there are experts involved that help with the matters of providing socio-economic analysis of the area, data collection as well as helping with interviews with stakeholders and workshops.

Describe your organizational capacities to innovate. Are there sufficient organizational capacities and resources available for the implementation of the action plan? (i.e., acceptance and promotion of innovation within the organization; encouragement and equipment for public servants to innovate; support to explore, iterate and test; cultivation of new partnerships and involvement of different voices; diffusion of lessons and practices; etc.)



Our department is a leader in boosting social innovations. It has taken on a new role of being a broker in relation to the citizens and NGOs and the local government. There are also many solutions that we first started to implement and were later on also used across other Polish cities. They include the creation of the Gdansk Innovation Fund, The Innaczej Fund.

Gdansk's department of social innovations also focuses on difficult topics that are often omitted by the other cities and those being the issues of immigration and social equality.

Our city was also a finalist of the European Innovation in Politics Awards in the year 2020, which focused on honoring creative political achievements across the entire Europe. The international jury of 47 countries chose 90 placers. Among them was a project of Gdańsk's Center of Equal Treatment.

Have you already set up a team for the implementation of the pilot? If yes, how many people will be involved, and what will be their roles?

The team mainly responsible for the project implementation consists of 3 people with different roles and competences:

- one with the experience as head of the Department of Social Development and providing essential support in terms of networking and know-how on the inside-the-city process,
- an expert local social activist and sociologist, dealing with the interviews/workshops strategies,
- a project manager who oversees the overall organization of the project and focuses on necessary administrative actions and supports various aspects from the urban planner's point of view

Have the relevant stakeholders to be involved in the action network been identified and mobilised? Who are they and what are their motivations? Have you already carried out a stakeholder analysis (pls see our Miro board)

We already carried out an initial stakeholder analysis and identified the persons or institutions we can reach out to. We will start the entire process by conducting interviews with local elected officials and will see what direction to take next from there (more info on [Mirò](#)).

Do you have a network group around the piloting? If yes, is it built on an existing group or forum involving stakeholders, or is this set up as a new group for the pilot? What are their roles? If you don't have such a group, do you plan to create one?

We have a network of stakeholders that is constantly being developed so that it can reflect diverse aspects of the district environments. On the other hand, there is cooperation between different city institutions that provide data and expert voices.

Do you plan to use additional resources to the pilot beyond the EUARENAS project budget? If yes, have you already activated it?

The Office of the City Architect provides the budget for developing a master plan that is based on the pilot results.



Please describe your main concerns/problems regarding the planning and implementation of the pilot? Please don't hesitate to list as many problems, potential threats as you can identify now.

Due to the fact that the local elections will be held soon, there may be difficulties with individuals trying to politicize certain aspects of the project.

3.1.1 Time zero Evaluation related to Gdansk

In terms of societal implications, the initiative aims at increasing collaboration among various resident groups. This scope is accompanied by the idea of achieving proper integration of new residents including refugees and existing residents. Approximately 23000 residents of Piecki-Migowo district would be directly affected. The Pilot would work on solving the issues related to the dominance of large developers, with a small number of social housing. Societal challenges are also raised from the significant number of Ukrainian immigrants or refugees in the region, which might represent a fresh difficulty in terms of their long-term financial independence and complete integration into society.

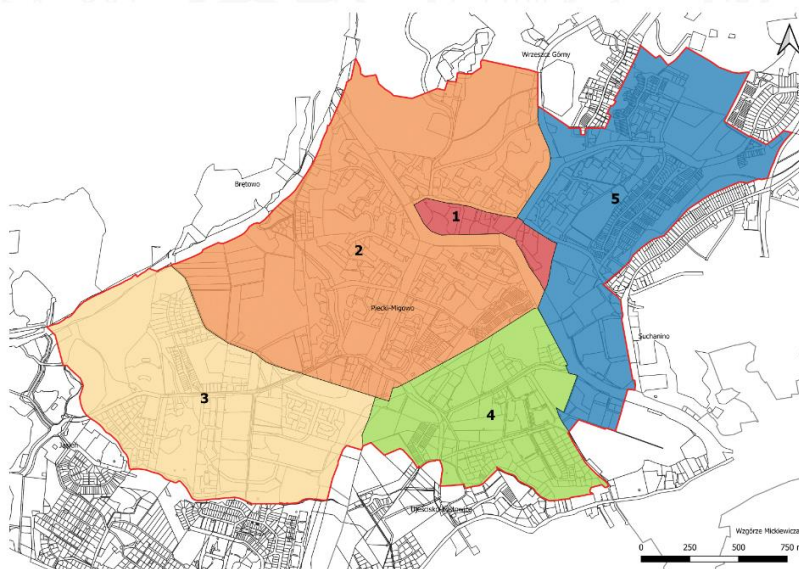


Figure 7 The District sub-areas, courtesy of the City of Gdansk

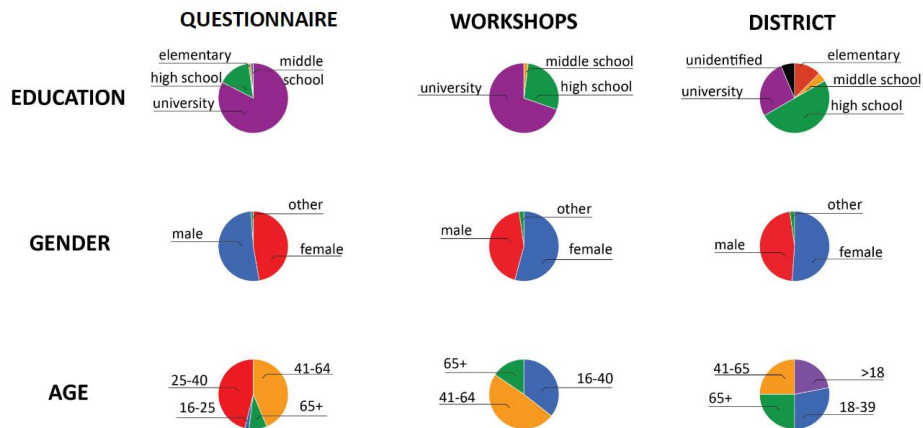


Figure 8 From left to right: People wanting to participate; Workshops participants; District-level statistics, courtesy of the City of Gdansk

The economic situation call for creating a support center of services. As a consequence, creating connections networks throughout the district would boost communities' self-organizing potential.

The political impact may be assessed by examining the sort of change sought by the experiments, which is primarily greater access for residents to city institutions. The concept of co-creation of the masterplan clarifies what tangible output of the new deliberative paradigm that will be introduced. This capability also allows for the creation of a link between policies and urban environmental assets. Therefore, the urban environmental impact is at the core of Gdansk' Pilot. There is an open concept of environmental challenges to be solved: inhabitants will have to express their opinion. At the moment, the sticking point is the preservation of the bigger, compact green spaces that surround the Piecki-Migowo district, as well as the improvement of flood safety and the addition of extra retention tanks. This is accompanied by a desire to reinforce and expand the district's service activities, as well as improve its aesthetics.

The pilot's output is then entirely urban-environmental. It may be possible to have the residents assist the city in developing a micro strategy of development and a master plan for a specific district of the city. This might be a missing connection between local plans (which address just smaller areas of the district, sometimes linked to a particular development proposal) and a comprehensive City Development Study which focuses on the entire city of Gdansk.



Masterplan Piecki-Migowo – why would we need it?

- The strong deliberative aspect of working out the solutions together with the community through the series of workshops
- transparency in communication among the citizens, city officials, clerks, and local stakeholders
- Dialogue in the district– room for negotiation and prioritization of certain aspects



Figure 9 The masterplan as an output within EUARENAS, courtesy of the City of Gdansk

The situation at the time zero of the initiative yields the following pre-implementation evaluation:

(Gdansk) PRE		LEVEL OF IMPACT				
		0	1	2	3	4
FACTORS	SOCIAL			2		
	POLITICAL				3	
	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL					4
	Impact score Pre-Implementation	$(2 + 3 + 4) / 3 = 3$				

3.2 Reggio Emilia

1-Description of the pilot area and its socio-economic context

1.1 Please present the area the pilot is planned, provide a map if possible.

Size and location of the area	230,68 km ²
Administrative status of the area	Municipality
The geographical location within the city/region/country (peripheral, core etc)	Municipality within the Emilia Romagna Region
The main function of the area	Municipal area (all functions: residential, business, services, production, agriculture)
Connectivity and quality of local transport	Municipality well connected to the national and regional rail and motorway network
Others?	

1.2. What are the key socio-economic characteristics of the area?

The composition of the population

Number of inhabitants (2020 or later)	169.029
Tendency of the change of the population	declining population
Unemployment rate (%)	5.3%
Ethnic composition (in % of the ethnic groups living in the area)	16,7 % population with foreign origins Albania 11,2% China 9,9% Romania 9% Morocco 8,8% Ukraine 8,1%
Age composition (in % of inhabitants according to the age groups)	0/10: 8,8% 10/20: 10% 20/40: 23% 40/60: 31,3% 60/80: 19,1% Over 80: 7,9%
Educational level of the population (% of inhabitants according to their educational level)	Degree 15 % Diploma 33 % Secondary school diploma 27 % Primary school-leaving certificate 18 % No title 6 %
Other?	/



Economic profile

Value GDP/inhabitant	33.000€
Tendency of economic development (growth or decline?)	Growing (both PIL and exportation)
The key economic sectors and specification of the area	Tertiary sector, services, mechanical engineering and fashion
Number of local registered enterprises / Are there big enterprises among them	18.365 Yes there are large companies in the manufacturing and mechanical engineering sector
Other?	/

Social and cultural characteristics

Dominant type of housing (age of housing, construction type)	Not available data
Dominant type of housing ownership (Municipal/state/private/cooperative)?	private
Share of social housing	2771 accommodations
Main cultural events, institutions	Various festivals hosted throughout the year (European Photography, events at the Chiostris di San Pietro, etc.) events promoted by cultural associations, cultural institutions, political parties Campovolo Arena (major events) Theatre Foundation Dance Foundation Palazzo Magnani Foundation Peri Music Institute Reggio Children Foundation Istoreco University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
Availability of educational institutions on different levels (primary school secondary school, university?)	All levels of education present (both public and private)
Availability of social and health care institutions	Very high, among the highest nationwide 4 Social poles Public and private hospitals Health homes
Other?	/

Environmental characteristics

The environmental issues of your area	Air pollution, drought, overheating
Emergencies	Pollutant emissions (sources: industrial production, mobility and



	housing)
Pollution	<p>total GHG emissions resulting from the inventory in question (metric tons CO2 equivalent): 1232114.00</p> <p>2000-2007: emissions fell to 1,116,456 tons of CO2 compared to 1,169,561 in 2000 (population in 2000: 146,092; in 2007: 162,290).</p> <p>2007-2014: emissions increased to 1,232,114 tons of CO2 compared to 1,116,456 in 2007 (population in 2007: 162,290; in 2014: 171,000).</p> <p>Growth in emissions due to increase of population and more complete databases for inventory. Per capita emissions decreased from 8.00 tons/inhab. in 2000 to 6.88 in 2007 and 7.18 in 2014.</p> <p>The General Urban Plan, adopted in October 2021, aims at reducing CO2 emissions by 55% by 2030</p>
Polluting infrastructures	Productive infrastructure/road network/high population density areas
Presence of green areas per inhabitants	trees located in publicly owned urban areas (streets, squares, parks) per 100 inhabitants: 46 trees per 100 inhabitants 60 m ² /inhabitant of urban greenery

1.3. What are the key challenges of the area?

Social problems (unemployment, migration, housing, poverty etc.)

Challenges: The transformation of families, the aging of the population, the immigration, and the support of people in situations of fragility require services on the territory that are increasingly targeted and integrated. For the elderly living in nursing homes, the use of information technology is expected to improve the quality of life. In addition, increasing attention is being given to the category of the working poor, those who, despite being employed, receive an income that does not allow them to exceed the poverty risk threshold. The Municipality wants to plan innovative welfare projects involving the use of new technologies and social platforms in certain priority investment areas (the elderly, the working poor, the 11-13 years old, and fragile people).

Economic problems (economic environment, availability of inputs, smartification, etc.)

Challenge: It is necessary to promote policies in support of work and business through tools and initiatives to disseminate technological information, implement infrastructural facilities (logistical, technical and technological) and to activate services to support businesses (workshops, marketing actions, financial products, etc.). Strengthening the distinctive skills of the local economic system can be useful in attracting talent and businesses. It is therefore necessary to invest in young people and the University



Environmental problems (clean air and food, transportations, housing, energy, other CO2 emissions, waste etc.)

The main challenges facing the Municipality of Reggio Emilia in the near future in term of climate are:

- Heat waves in the urban area: strong increase in minimum and maximum temperature in all seasons and especially in summer and in areas with high urbanization and consequent health emergencies.
- Summer droughts and water shortages: reduction of total annual precipitation amounts with probable reduction of groundwater recharge rate and reduction of water availability for agricultural-industrial use.
- Extreme rainfall events and hydrogeological risk - floods and urban flooding: variation of precipitation patterns and rainfall intensity with consequent increase of hydraulic-hydrological risk in high vulnerability areas (in particular flooding due to drainage and water flow difficulties in urban areas and overflow of watercourses or drainage channels network).

The Adaptation Strategy of Reggio Emilia proposes to act on these critical issues by defining objectives and suggesting measures and actions to achieve the territorial model.

The main challenges in terms of environment are related to air pollution, whose main sources are motor traffic, house heating and ammonia generated by livestock farming, while industry it is not one of the main causes.

Challenge: In the years to come, the diffusion of environmental culture will become the pivot for the development of the ecological transition. Fully usable natural and green spaces will have to be implemented. In this context emerges the need to pay greater attention to the qualitative and functional status of public areas (roads, bridges, cycle paths, public buildings), their design, maintenance and management. The main challenges of the city are related to the fight against harmful emissions, for which the city keeps monitored the emissions of PM10 - PM2,5 - NO3, through control units located throughout the territory. In order to improve air quality is expected above all to increase the public green and reduce traffic. In order to reduce the circulation of private vehicles, in addition to implementing public transport, the city has set itself the goal of becoming "the city of 15 minutes": making the main city sites reachable in a quarter of an hour without the use of a car. Another challenge is represented by investments in agriculture. The rural context of agricultural entrepreneurial activity is important and will be increasingly increased.

Any other specific challenges

- Special importance is attributed to the improvement and redevelopment of the Station area and the "ex Reggiane" (North Area), where today are concentrated in an acute and varied form many problems related to urban and social degradation as well as coexistence, generating a context that too often is a source of tension and manifestations of illegality.
- Reggio Emilia intends to enforce the engagement of local actors (schools, enterprises, civil society organizations) in international and European projects and relationships and attract international partnerships, resources and competences to further contribute to innovation and internationalization, aiming to become an innovative and smart city. The challenge is to design, implement initiatives, share joint methodologies (with various stakeholders) to promote innovation and development of the territory and thus improve the quality of life and services.



2- Political decision making and administration

Please precise the administrative structure your area is belonging to, and what is the administrative role of your area within it?

Municipality

Please describe the key political decision-making competences on the level of the area

Full autonomy to the extent permitted by law.

3-The use of deliberative tools in your city/area

Please describe the main participatory tools/methods already used by the local government, local policies in your area? In what topics they are used, since when, and are they successful?

The city's history has always been characterized by a strong participatory spirit, starting in the 1960s. Neighborhood councils were formed before the national debate led to the institutionalization of municipal administrative decentralization in '76. Coming to the early 2000s, the city also sought to introduce the tools of participatory and deliberative democracy. Beginning with Agenda 21 processes, going so far as to experiment with participatory budgeting for a couple of years in some districts. Innovation in the participatory sphere has also developed at the neighborhood level, and exchanges on participatory politics at the international level (OIDP - ALDA) have been fostered.

From 1980 until 2014, the decentralization-participation binomial always had its own political declination and legitimization, then with the abolition of the districts in 2010, a moment of revision of participation policies became necessary. Collaborative projects were experimented in the wake of the new regulations on common goods that began to spread, starting in Bologna, in several cities.

In Reggio Emilia, the project "Qua Quartiere Bene Comune" (A Neighborhood for the Common Good) began in 2015 and has developed to date. The numbers and successful characteristics of the project are well known.

What is the role of deliberation or participation in the decision making in your city/area?

Please estimate a level of this role between 1 and 10: 1 meaning no role of deliberative democracy at all in your municipality, and 10 where deliberative democracy is regarded as a regularly used approach/tool for decision making. Please explain you score.

It is a 4 where 3 is done by our service alone with its activities and 1 is that part of consultation with residual citizens and mainly listening rather than deliberative democracy.

4-Local needs

Please summarize the needs of inhabitants/citizens, based on the Community Reporting stories gathered in WP5 (see your reports for ideas of input) and other surveys or discussions, that your pilot would like to tackle with. If you use any other surveys or discussions, please provide details of them (e.g. when were they from, who was involved in completing them).



The people interviewed have a vision of democracy filtered through their political commitment (in the true sense of the term), which has, at its base, a focus on the territory and civic activism. The motivation behind their commitment is the desire to rediscover a common sense of belonging, finding themselves and animating the places that have always been symbols of political representation; public spaces must once again become places of confrontation, of thoughts that may be contrasting but are equally stimulating and enriching. Focusing on neighborhoods rekindles a common sense of belonging. The many associations in the area have long-standing activities and their experience must be capitalized and recognized.

Although they have energy and a desire to commit themselves, they perceive the crisis, contradictions and inefficiencies that the institutional and participatory system, on a national, but sometimes also local, scale, demonstrates. Stakeholders, who have had a history of political militancy, need the public administration to give a strong signal of a continuous, concrete and capillary commitment to trigger a direct and accessible involvement of all citizens.

The danger that many perceive, even as active participants, is that the paths taken are not very generative. One often hears 'the same people always participate' as if the experiences made do not succeed in including everyone, particularly foreigners and young people. It is essential to keep a close eye on the spreading mistrust often due to the lack of representativeness and authoritative participation of intermediate bodies. To build democracy, it is necessary to invest time, resources and strongly legitimize the proposed processes with dedicated professionalism.

Please summarize the results of the Focus group interviews in the area from the perspective of the needs and motivations of your local stakeholders

One of the most important challenges of the project is the inclusion of new actors, in particular young people (one can vote from the age of 16 and be elected from 18) and people of foreign origins, as if the experiences to date, starting with the constituencies (“*circoscrizioni*”), had never managed to include them. Young people must be recognized, incentivized and rewarded, and foreign associations must be valued.

Another important challenge is addressed to the candidates who decide to devote their time, free of charge, to the community: the representatives of the “area councils” have the task of bringing citizens' requests and wishes back to the public administration, and the commitment made must be absolutely realized because the mistrust in the institutions and the historical period we are going through increases the sense of precariousness, lack of prospects and personal investment over time. The project is challenging and complex, and the administration itself must get involved and innovate services, speed up internal practices, and make public administration employees dialogue proactively with citizens.

Please summarize the key challenges of your area based on the discussions with citizens and stakeholders.

One of the most important challenges of the project is the involvement of new actors, in particular young people (one can vote and be elected in councils from 16) and people of foreign origin. Young people must be recognized, encouraged and involved while foreign associations must be valorized.

Another important challenge is addressed to the candidates who decide to devote their time for free to the community: the representatives of the area councils have the task of reporting and processing the rooms expressed by the territories with deliberative methods, bringing them back to the public administration. This commitment absolutely must be put into practice so as not to increase the mistrust in institutions that the historical period we are going through contributes to increasing the sense of precariousness, lack of prospects and adequate investments for social justice. The project is challenging and complex, and the administration



itself must get involved and innovate in working methods, services, and structuring the currently deficient staff so as to ensure greater dialogue between public administration employees and citizens.

Are there existing policies, plans, strategic framework in place related to the above identified needs and challenges? If yes, please list them and also mention if you think you will use them in the frame of the EUARENAS pilot.

- Regulation on Democracy and Urban and Climate Justice in Reggio Emilia
- Global Goals for Cities Integrated Action Plan, under definition

5- The pilot idea

What is the main ambition of your pilot? What kind of change do you want to generate in your area?

Create a system that strengthens democracy through

- establishing a system of territorial representation (Councils/"*Consulte*")
- Integrating the councils with the collaborative protocol (case study) that has already been under development for 7 years: Neighborhood Common Good
- Amalgamation of all participation regulations in a consolidated text.

The Pilot aims to strengthen the link between the administration and the inhabitants by giving them power of direction over public policy implementation programs.

The Pilot wants to give representation to the territories by encouraging co-programming and co-designing.

What will be the possible focus of your pilot? What will be your more concrete objectives?

- 1- Approve in the Municipal Council the new "Regulation on Democracy and Urban and Climate Justice in Reggio Emilia"
- 2- Carry out the election of the members of the councils (organize the platform for collecting candidacies, establish the election-week)
- 3- Establish the councils
- 4- Assess the impacts of the pilot

What will be the key results and expected outputs?

The key results will be:

- to approve the Consolidated Text of Regulations by September
- have a good level of participation in voting and involvement of inhabitants/candidates in the councils
- the possibility of establishing the councils in all 9 city areas

To which SDG is the pilot answering to? (if you know or you think this is relevant)

/



What are the expected impacts of your pilot? Please identify impact on the different levels: the municipality, the different groups of inhabitants, the stakeholders, the urban tissue, the institutional system, the regulatory system, the planning system, etc. You can use the suggested categories or create other ones if needed.

Urban and Environmental impact

We expect the pilot to create greater awareness of environmental issues so that they become a horizontal and not a sectoral category of work.

We have included the climate contract at different scales (neighborhood, area, city) as one of the instruments for co-planning and co-design. The expected impacts concern the transition to climate neutrality, the modernization of transport and mobility systems, the energy refurbishment of housing stock, and the regeneration of public space.

Territorial and local urban impact will allow an assessment of the urban context in which the intervention is inserted and how it relates to characterizing factors such as surface, environment, regeneration, accessibility, reachability. They can be part of this macro-area, among others:

- I. Indicator of reuse of disused or decayed spaces and structures
- II. Indicator of re-use of existing spaces and structures
- III. Accessibility and use indicator
- IV. Public mobility indicator

Environmental impact: evaluates the relationship between the intervention and prevailing environmental factors, such as soil, energy consumption, use of materials, reclamation. They can be part of this macro-area, among others:

- I. Energy and climate sustainability indicator
- II. Energy efficiency indicator
- III. Energy savings indicator
- IV. Sustainable lighting indicator
- V. Environmental remediation indicator
- VI. Water recirculation indicator

Social and Cultural impact

Raising the cultural level on democracy issues, theories and practices

Socio-economic and cultural impact: relate to social, employment, inclusive and service-related measures. They can be part of this macro-area, among others:

- I. Employment indicator
- II. II. Descriptive indicator of social mixité
- III. Indicator of social promotion and local community development
- IV. Indicator of the quality of the sports and cultural offer
- V. Indicator of innovative management models: adoption of forms of integration between spaces/services through forms of management (e.g. agreements, pacts, collaborations) or partnerships
- VI. Employment indicator: number of new economic activities established with the activities envisaged



by the project/total area of intervention, or number of new jobs created by the activities envisaged by the project/total number of workers employed in the area

VII. Indicator of accessibility for disabled persons and fragile social categories: accessibility interventions of the facility for disabled persons.

VIII. Indicator of the social, economic and cultural impacts of the City Science Office and neighborhood architects

Socio-health impact: assesses the contribution in the management and infrastructure for health and health services. They can be part of this macro-area, among others:

I. Health risk management indicator: strategies plans and programs for the management of health risks

II. Indicator health and social care equipment by type of equipment (e.g. hospitals, outpatient clinics, public care centers)

III. Biophysical indicator of environmentally critical areas: population exposed to environmentally critical areas

IV. Indicator of hospitalization by type of cause: inhabitants hospitalized by type of cause

V. Human behavior indicator

VI. Indicator of mortality by environmental causes: general, by age and sex

VII. Indicator of ad hoc epidemiological surveys conducted in the area

VIII. Indicator of health of minorities and vulnerable groups

Economic impact

In the evaluation and reporting phase, a transparent economic budget should also be drawn up in order to clearly assess the extent and type of income and expenditure resulting from the activities carried out within the civic shop.

Political and institutional impact

1- To succeed in enlarging the number of stakeholders and inhabitants interested and engaged in the co-programming and co-designing of public policies.

2- Initiate and affirm a level of governance on a territorial basis that is better able to represent neighborhood government, to grasp problems at the neighborhood level and to seek solutions in an innovative way

3- Build greater and more widespread political awareness of the city and its transformations

Technological and digital impact

Technological and digital impact: assesses the level of computerization, technological endowment and accessibility to digital services. Among others, this macro-area may include:

I. Connectivity indicator: increase in free public connectivity in the area

II. Innovative tools and methods indicator. For example, the following could be considered: adoption of Building Information Modeling (BIM) programs and applications; adoption of innovative tools for the management and monitoring of activities

III. Indicator of innovative products and solutions. By way of example, the following could be considered: adoption and/or co-design of innovative products and solutions; opportunity to allocate space for the



collaborative development of innovative products and solutions

IV. Technology and digital accessibility indicator. For example, the following could be considered: introduction of public and community Wi-Fi networks; accessibility to technology and digital services

V. Indicator of reversibility of the intervention or technical elements: potential reversibility of the planned works

VI. Technology neutrality indicator: interventions do not impose or introduce discrimination in favor of the use of a particular type of technology.

Other:....

In addition, the impact of the 5 helixes (so called quintuple helix) will be assessed: Civic actor (social innovators and active citizens); Social actor (third sector organizations); Cognitive actor (cultural institutions, schools and universities); Public actor (public institutions); Private actor (responsible companies and industries based on local vocations).

6. The organization background of your pilot

What kind of political support your pilot will have? Are there elected officials actively supporting the project? On what level is the project supported?

The pilot stems from a political commitment of the current Mayor, and is included in his 2019-2024 mandate program. The City Council has already passed a resolution to amend the Statute to accommodate the establishment of the Councils that are the pilot's focal point.

Describe your organizational capacities to innovate. Are there sufficient organizational capacities and resources available for the implementation of the action plan? (i.e., acceptance and promotion of innovation within the organization; encouragement and equipment for public servants to innovate; support to explore, iterate and test; cultivation of new partnerships and involvement of different voices; diffusion of lessons and practices; etc.)

The organizational structure has been understaffed for a long time and also has some structural deficits, but it is hoped that it will also achieve the expected results. The establishment of the City Science Office could help in grounding the project and evaluating its different dimensions by performing a study, research and accompanying task. To date, not all the implications of the pilot have been focused on, much evidence will materialize over time and the organizational commitments needed to cope with it will be measured. The service has the necessary skills to measure up to the challenges of the pilot.

Have you already set up a team for the implementation of the pilot? If yes, how many people will be involved, and what will be their roles?

Yes, the participation policies service has defined a team of people who will follow the pilot project and has involved the entire administrative structure of the municipality in the pilot, because of the implications that the pilot will have on the entire municipal machine.
In addition, the pilot envisages the creation of a City Science Office, which was recently activated and in which several municipal officials and three PhD students at Luiss University are participating. (**)



Have the relevant stakeholders to be involved in the action network been identified and mobilized? Who are they and what are their motivations? Have you already carried out a stakeholder analysis (pls see our Miro board)

Yes, several stakeholders both inside and outside the municipality have already been met and mobilized to explain the characteristics of the pilot, to gather opinions, to identify interest groups and to plan co-involvement actions.

Do you have a network group around the piloting? If yes, is it built on an existing group or forum involving stakeholders, or is this set up as a new group for the pilot? What are their roles? If you don't have such a group, do you plan to create one?

See previous answer (**)

Do you plan to use additional resources to the pilot beyond the EUARENAS project budget? If yes, have you already activated it?

/

Please describe your main concerns/problems regarding the planning and implementation of the pilot? Please don't hesitate to list as many problems, potential threats as you can identify now.

Risks:

- timeframe for the approval of the new regulation determined by the timetable of institutional work which is not always free of pitfalls
- adherence to and understanding of the project: it is necessary to continue offering opportunities for discussion, information and targeted communication to different targets
- ambition of the project and the innovative tools it proposes: these are new tools for local administrations, but they are rapidly becoming established and are helping to build a new frontier of urban law. These legal instruments may be difficult to understand and require translation in order to become established practice over time.

3.2.1 Time zero Evaluation related to Reggio Emilia

Reggio Emilia states three expected critical results mainly related to political and institutional change: approval of the Consolidated Text of Regulations by September; a high level of voter participation and engagement of residents/candidates in councils; and the potential for creating councils in all nine city districts.

The pilot is the result of the current Mayor's political commitment, as affirmed by his mandate program for 2019-2024. Through EUARENAS the City Council has already adopted the first section of the Regulation on Democracy and Urban and Climate Justice in Reggio Emilia, after the decision to change the Statute to allow the formation of the Councils that will serve as the pilot's focal point. The "Consulte" elections were held at the end of November, and this can already be considered as a thrilling result of the EUARENAS Pilot. Elections for members



of the non-elective component, who will join the elected members at the start of the year to form each area's council, are still open until December 31st 2022 (please, find [here](#) the updates and results). Although the experiment has already recorded a substantial number of shares within the public administration and community, there may be some concern about long-term viability due to local elections, which may cause discontinuity.



Figure 10 The "Consulte" areas, courtesy of the City of Reggio Emilia

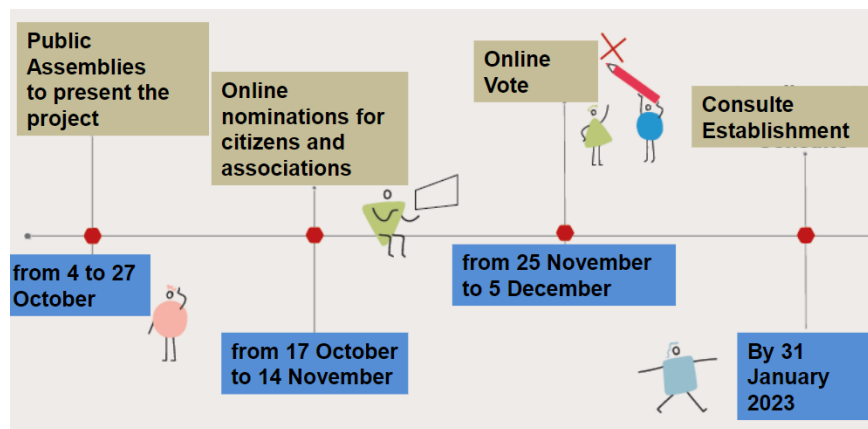


Figure 11 The timeline for "Consulte"

The establishment of the City Science Office might aid in the project's grounding and evaluation of its many components by monitoring and ensuring continuity and updates. To date, not all of the pilot's ramifications have been examined; considerable evidence will emerge over time, and the organizational commitments required to deal with it will be quantified.

The city is addressing urban and environmental obstacles and connecting them to institutional and process

governance objectives in accordance with the framework underpinning the new Regulation. There is already a good identification of the system of qualitative and quantitative indicators to be monitored, thanks to the ongoing support that the EUARENAS research team was able to activate for the city, which is then substantiated by the collaboration between Luiss and the municipality within the CSO.

Reggio Emilia has included the climate contract at different scales (neighborhood, area, city) as one of the instruments for co-planning and co-design. The expected impacts concern the transition to climate neutrality, the modernization of transport and mobility systems, the energy refurbishment of housing stock, and the regeneration of public space. The assessment of territorial and local urban effect will allow an evaluation of the urban context in which the intervention is inserted and how it connects to defining aspects such as surface, environment, regeneration, accessibility, and reachability.

The environmental effect assesses the interaction between the intervention and the surrounding environment, such as soil, energy consumption, material usage, and reclamation. However, it is suggested to provide a better link to the objectives of the regulation and the role of energy in the vision of energy as a common good (e.g., community energy).

The situation at the time zero of the initiative yields the following pre-implementation evaluation:

(Reggio Emilia) PRE		LEVEL OF IMPACT				
		0	1	2	3	4
FACTORS	SOCIAL				3	
	POLITICAL					4
	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL				3	
	Impact score Pre-Implementation	$(3 + 4 + 3) / 3 = 3,33$				

3.3 Voru

1-Description of the pilot area and its socio-economic context

1.1 Please present the area the pilot is planned, provide a map if possible.

Size and location of the area	Area: 2773 km ² Population: 34 898 (1.01.2021) Population density: 12,6 in/km ²
Administrative status of the area	Regional administrative body
The geographical location within the city/region/country (peripheral, core etc)	South-East Estonia Võru County incl 5 municipalities (Võru town, Antsla, Rõuge, Setomaa and Võru municipalities)
The main function of the area	The most important economic branches of Võru county are industry, agriculture and tourism. The main industry is the wood and furniture industry.
Connectivity and quality of local transport	Võru County is an administrative unit in the southeastern part of Estonia. The county borders: Valga County in the west and northwest, Põlva County in the north, Pskov Oblast of Russia in the east, and Latvia in the south. The county has a good road network. The distance from Tallinn (capital of Estonia) is 253 km and from Riga (capital of Latvia) 225 km. A railway passes through the county.
Others?	There are two language areas (dialects) in the county, Võru and Setu.

1.2. What are the key socio-economic characteristics of the area?

The composition of the population

Number of inhabitants (2020 or later)	34 182 (2022); 35 145 (2020)
Tendency of the change of the population	Decrease
Unemployment rate (%)	5,5% (2021) (South-Estonia region)
Ethnic composition (in % of the ethnic groups living in the area)	There are two language areas (dialects) in the county, Võru and Setu.
Age composition (in % of inhabitants according to the age groups)	ANNEX I
Educational level of the population (% of inhabitants according to their educational level)	15+
Other?	/



Economic profile

Value GDP/inhabitant	<p>The main general indicator of the size of the economy is the gross domestic product (GDP), and its value has a strong correlation with most indicators of the level of well-being. The GDP of Võru county was 286 million euros in current prices in 2016, making up 1.4% of the entire economic output of Estonia.</p> <p>GDP per inhabitant in the period 2007-2016 averaged 7,406 euros, thus being approximately half the Estonian average. Therefore, it can be said that the economy of Võru county has a very small share in the country.</p>
Tendency of economic development (growth or decline?)	<p>GDP at current prices, 299,34 million euros Share in the country's GDP, 1,1 %</p> <p>Annual average population 35,232</p> <p>GDP per capita, 8496 euros</p> <p>GDP per capita, 42,1 % of Estonian average (2020)</p>
The key economic sectors and specification of the area	<p>The most important economic branches are wood and metal industry, agriculture and tourism.</p> <p>The main industry is the wood and furniture industry.</p>
Number of local registered enterprises / Are there big enterprises among them	<p>Most (96%) of Võru County are micro-enterprises (less than 10 employees), there are three large enterprises (250 or more employees) in the county.</p> <p>There are approximately 3,100 companies in total.</p>
Other?	/

Social and cultural characteristics

Dominant type of housing (age of housing, construction type)	Single-family houses predominate and apartment buildings in in centers and densely populated areas
Dominant type of housing ownership (Municipal/state/private/cooperative)?	Private
Share of social housing	Small, municipalities have social apartments, but more are needed
Main cultural events, institutions	Võru Kannel (vorukannel.ee) , Vana-Võromaa Museum and Art Gallery
Availability of educational institutions on different levels (primary school secondary school, university?)	<p>Voru County, Estonia –</p> <p>Basic schools – 23 (19 municipality, 2 privates, 2 state – owned schools)</p> <p>No universities</p>



Availability of social and health care institutions	Yes, South-Estonian Hospital, Lõuna- Eesti Erihooldusteenuste Keskus, GPs etc
Other?	/

Environmental characteristics

The environmental issues of your area	Based on interviews conducted during the preparation of the county's climate and energy plan municipalities consider infrastructure and buildings as well as energy and security of supply to be priorities. The reconstruction of streets and roads are important. Increasing the energy efficiency of buildings is the main priority. It is also important to update the street lighting. Sustainability and people's awareness in the field of climate change are very important.
Emergencies	Areas at risk of flooding. Groundwater protection is the main objective.
Pollution	The biggest polluter is agriculture (fertilizers and chemicals).
Polluting infrastructures	There are no large industries in Võru county.
Presence of green areas per inhabitants	In Estonia 51% of the total land is covered by forest. Green networks, parks, green areas are everywhere.

1.4. What are the key challenges of the area ?

Social problems (unemployment, migration, housing, poverty etc.)

<p>Population in Estonia has shrunk by 15% since 1991, the trend will continue. While larger urban areas have grown, more than half of Estonia's counties experienced population decline greater than 25%. Shrinkage results in lower density, which increases per head service and infrastructure provision costs. It also results in housing vacancies and deteriorating built environments, problems that require additional municipal resources to maintain suitable living conditions in the face of declining tax revenues. Another effect is a higher share of the elderly population in all regions of Estonia. These older residents require additional services and care, compared to the average citizen. Voru County population will decrease by 8% 2037 (comparing 2020). Age group 65+ will increase by 7 % in 2037. In 2021 there are 21% of disabled people in county. The very high figure shows that in Voru County we have more people with health issues.</p> <p>Useful references are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The report Shrinking Smartly in Estonia: Preparing Regions for Demographic Change was produced by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), led by Lamia Kamal-
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Chaoui, Director, as part of the Programme of Work of the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC).

2) [Voru-maakonna-sotsiaalteenuste-korralduse-ja-tuleviku-lahendustee-1.pdf \(vorumaa.ee\)](#)

Economic problems (economic environment, availability of inputs, smartification, etc.)

The most important problems of the economic development of Võru County are related to the lack of the necessary workforce.

The business models and technologies of Võru county companies are often outdated and the added value created is low, which does not allow paying competitive wages or offering work that would be attractive and challenging for employees.

Another important problem is related to low investment and risk capacity. Companies do not have enough equity capital to make the necessary investments to increase the efficiency of work processes. At the same time, it is also difficult to involve loan money, because the loan terms require a guarantee of mostly multiple values for the investments made in Võru county. The bank estimates that the euro invested in Võru is significantly less valuable and carries a higher risk than the euro invested in Tallinn, Tartu or Pärnu.

Environmental problems (clean air and food, transportations, housing, energy, other CO2 emissions, waste etc.)

The biggest challenge is adapting to climate change. Ensure to the citizens sustainable and environmentally friendly living environment.

Any other specific challenges

No

2- Political decision making and administration

Please precise the administrative structure your area is belonging to, and what is the administrative role of your area within it?

Estonia is a unitary state with a single-tier municipal administration. Local governments manage local matters freely.

Since the 2017 administrative reform, there have been 79 local governments, comprising 15 towns and 64 rural municipalities. Municipalities have the same legal standing as counties, which are state administrative units. The municipal council is the representative body of local authorities, and it is chosen for a four-year term in general direct elections. Local government is appointed by the council and is led by a mayor. Municipal districts with limited jurisdiction may be developed by local authorities for greater decentralization; they have already been formed in Tallinn and Hiiumaa. In addition to administrative entities, settlement units include villages, minor boroughs, boroughs, and towns. In general, villages have less than 300 people.



Please describe the key political decision-making competences on the level of the area

Estonia is a parliamentary country.
Local municipalities are independent and are guided by the Local Government Organization Act and the Charter of European Local Governments.
At the county level municipalities cooperate to solve regional and county issues.
Local municipalities are autonomous.
For mutual cooperation of municipalities are representative organizations established by them (Development Centre of Võru County).

3-The use of deliberative tools in your city/area

Please describe the main participatory tools/methods already used by the local government, local policies in your area? In what topics they are used, since when, and are they successful?

Forums, engagement events, meetings have been used.
Information channels of municipalities are important for involvement.
An inclusive budget has been used.
Vunki Mano's co-creation hackathons have been successful.

What is the role of deliberation or participation in the decision making in your city/area?

Please estimate a level of this role between 1 and 10: 1 meaning no role of deliberative democracy at all in your municipality, and 10 where deliberative democracy is regarded as a regularly used approach/tool for decision making. Please explain you score.

Engagement is important. Its importance has been highly appreciated.
The level of involvement is estimated to be average, i.e. 5-6.

4-Local needs

Please summarize the needs of inhabitants/citizens, based on the Community Reporting stories gathered in WP5 (see your reports for ideas of input) and other surveys or discussions, that your pilot would like to tackle with. If you use any other surveys or discussions, please provide details of them (e.g. when were they from, who was involved in completing them).

Young people want to take part in community activities.
They are open to innovative ideas and initiatives.
They want their voice to be heard.
That they can act, organize their own events, be active.
That they are supported and understood.
Young people want to shape their own activities example in the field of education etc.



Please summarize the results of the Focus group interviews in the area from the perspective of the needs and motivations of your local stakeholders

Young people are interested to discuss or to give input for example in the field of education.
They can also be more interested to be involved in the preparation of various events. They want to understand more about how local government works. Get involved in community activities.
Be the initiator of innovative ideas.
They do not want to be commented on.

Please summarize the key challenges of your area based on the discussions with citizens and stakeholders.

To reach target groups, listen to youth people's concerns and voice, talk about what young people want to do themselves, how to contribute to community activities, how they understand deliberative democracy.
The challenge is to listen and involve young people, not to make assessments, to allow them to decide and act for themselves, provide input for local government development.

Are there existing policies, plans, strategic framework in place related to the above identified needs and challenges? If yes, please list them and also mention if you think you will use them in the frame of the EUARENAS pilot.

Young people want to participate in youth participation cafés, school youth councils, an opportunity has been created at Võru City Council, where a youth commission has been formed.
Young people could have a greater say in education, entrepreneurship and community activities.

5- The pilot idea

What is the main ambition of your pilot? What kind of change do you want to generate in your area?

We want to involve more different age groups, including young people, in local decision-making, listen to their wishes and expectations of local governments, and be open, deliberative and involved in our activities.

What will be the possible focus of your pilot? What will be your more concrete objectives?

Our focus is two Vunki Mano engagement hackathons.
We want to turn Vunki Mano's hackathon into a policy-making tool that helps local governments design their policies, for example how to better involve the youth target group.

What will be the key results and expected outputs?

Two Vunki Mano hackathons have been conducted.
Local governments have received a new policy-making tool and are applying it to their own policy-making.



To which SDG is the pilot answering to? (if you know or you think this is relevant)

Not relevant.

What are the expected impacts of your pilot? Please identify impact on the different levels: the municipality, the different groups of inhabitants, the stakeholders, the urban tissue, the institutional system, the regulatory system, the planning system, etc. You can use the suggested categories or create other ones if needed.

Urban and Environmental impact

The impact of the pilot is more open and inclusive governance.
Greater involvement of different age groups and target groups in decision-making and organizing local life.
Local governments have become more open and inclusive in their activities. The culture of governance and the culture of policy making have changed and turned more inclusive and deliberative.
The population is more involved and contributes to the issues of local life, satisfaction has increased and citizens' democracy has developed.
Partners - companies are more satisfied with the development of the region and know more about the activities and decisions of local governments.

Social and Cultural impact

Greater involvement of different age groups and target groups in decision-making and organizing local life.

Economic impact

Companies of Võru County are more satisfied with the development of the region and know more about the activities and decisions of local governments.

Political and institutional impact

Local governments have become more open and inclusive in their activities. The culture of governance and the culture of policy making have changed and turned more inclusive and deliberative.

Technological and digital impact

More new innovative solutions and approaches are used.

Other:....

Greater satisfaction with local life and local activities.



6. The organization background of your pilot

What kind of political support your pilot will have? Are there elected officials actively supporting the project? On what level is the project supported?

The partners of the project are all local governments of the county.
A network of development workers has been created who have received training and they are partners to the Võrumaa Development Centre.
There is political support to the project.

Describe your organizational capacities to innovate. Are there sufficient organizational capacities and resources available for the implementation of the action plan? (i.e., acceptance and promotion of innovation within the organization; encouragement and equipment for public servants to innovate; support to explore, iterate and test; cultivation of new partnerships and involvement of different voices; diffusion of lessons and practices; etc.)

Development Centre of Võru County is the project leader and coordinator in the county.
The Development Centre of Võru County has the resources (knowledge and skills, people and experts, technical capacity) for the successful implementation of project activities.
The development center is the implementer and initiator of innovations.
Cooperation is carried out with local governments, partners, companies and institutions.
The goal is the development of co-creation, democracy and better governance at every level.

Have you already set up a team for the implementation of the pilot? If yes, how many people will be involved, and what will be their roles?

Yes, we have set up a team for the implementation of the pilot.
The Project team consists of five people:

- an adviser and project manager
- the chairman of board and project team member
- Vunki Mano coordinator and project team member
- a communication specialist and project team member
- the leader of well-being direction and project team member

Have the relevant stakeholders to be involved in the action network been identified and mobilised? Who are they and what are their motivations? Have you already carried out a stakeholder analysis (pls see our Miro board)

Local governments, youth representatives, interviewees, communication specialists are involved and mobilized.
We have started the analysis of content groups.

Do you have a network group around the piloting? If yes, is it built on an existing group or forum involving stakeholders, or is this set up as a new group for the pilot? What are their roles? If you don't have such a group, do you plan to create one?



We have formed a team to carry out Vunki Mano hackathon. Stakeholders and their information and involvement are intended.

Do you plan to use additional resources to the pilot beyond the EUARENAS project budget? If yes, have you already activated it?

No other resources are intended to be used.

Please describe your main concerns/problems regarding the planning and implementation of the pilot? Please don't hesitate to list as many problems, potential threats as you can identify now.

There are no direct major problems or concerns.

The challenge is generating interest, assembling topics and teams.

This requires cooperation with key persons, partners, local government development and communication staff and target groups.

It may also be a question of how the solutions and financing of the issues will go later.

Are local governments going to use the Vunki Mano hackathon model as a tool in the future?

3.3.1 Time zero Evaluation related to Voru

The Pilot's primary goal is to effect social and political change. The focus is on two Vunki Mano engagement hackathons that might become policy-making tools to assist local governments in designing policies, as well as removing obstacles to access and involvement in democratic discussion for the youth target population.

The link between political and social challenges is clear: the future development of the environment is entirely dependent on the population. A re-education of the community, particularly of the younger generations, in decision-making processes may lead to a reversal of the demographic trend. Since 1991, Estonia's population has fallen by 15%, and this trend is expected to continue. While major cities have risen, more than half of Estonia's counties have had population declines of more than 25%. Shrinkage leads to reduced density, which raises the cost per head. There is also a larger proportion of elderly people in all areas of Estonia. In comparison to the normal citizen, these elderly people demand more services and care. Voru County's population will fall by 8% by 2037. (comparing 2020). In 2037, the 65+ age group will grow by 7%. In 2021, the county's population with disabilities will be 21%. The very high statistic indicates that there are more persons with health problems in Voru County. According to our findings, the Pilot should examine not just the youthful population, but also the elderly and individuals with impairments, who will need to be reached through the engagement pathways.

The pilot's anticipated benefits are mainly focused on political and social transformation toward transparent and inclusive government and less on territorial and environmental challenges. The team engaged in the trials has stated that they expect that following the effort, partners and corporations will be better happy with the region's growth and would know more about the actions and choices of local governments. However, this objective could require a more structure vision in terms of the development of the region which might be closely related to reflections on infrastructures, settlements and environment. Future steps supported by the EUARENAS research team could be favoring these integrations.





Figure 12 Vunki Mano hackathon, courtesy of Voru

The situation at the time zero of the initiative yields the following pre-implementation evaluation:

(Voru) PRE		LEVEL OF IMPACT				
		0	1	2	3	4
FACTORS	SOCIAL				3	
	POLITICAL				3	
	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL			2		
	Impact score Pre-Implementation	$(3 + 3 + 2) / 3 = 2,67$				

4. PRELIMINARY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

The EUARENAS project's results up to December 2022 indicate general consistency with the grant agreement's goals.

The social impact is what characterizes the activities in terms of objectives, empirical research and experimentation and is supported by the method developed between WPs 1-2 and the application of the EUARMP methodological protocol. The experimental activity between WPs 3-4-5 is working on the tools of multi-actor engagement. This focus has resulted in trainings, media discourse analysis, storytelling, workshops and focus groups creating connections between EUARENAS researchers, project staff and communities, Community of Practice, as volunteer advisors.

The project's capacity to have a short-term political and institutional influence was first underestimated. The assistance provided to the city of Reggio Emilia for the implementation of the new Regulation on democracy, urban and climate justice has allowed it to anticipate the Pilot's objectives, which are already yielding considerable results.

For the time being, the urban-environmental impact is an indirect factor. Concrete outcomes primarily address the engagement of urban/territorial environments through EUARENAS-themed activities. So yet, there have been no direct improvements in urban and environmental conditions as a result of the initiative. However, the concept is strongly received in city strategies: As a result of its EUARENAS experimentation, Gdansk considers co-programming and co-design of a master plan; Reggio Emilia has built its new deliberative democracy regulation on the concept of climate and urban justice and has adopted the tool of climate contracts; and Voru intends to implement a region-wide stitching process.

Pre-implementation and post-implementation impacts are assessed considering what has been achieved up to December 2022, compared with what was stated in the grant agreement:

		Level of Impact	
		Pre-Implementation	Post-Implementation 2021-2022
FACTORS	Social	4	4
	Political	3	4



Urban Environmental	3	3
Impact Score	3,33	3,67

Assessments regarding outreach that contribute indirectly to social impacts should be added to this overview. EUARENAS is meeting its objectives and milestones for the project's inaugural phase. As stated after the first reporting period, the initiative has focused most of its initial attention and effort on distribution activities. This has been done in order to ensure policy relevance. Priority has been given to scientific dissemination, contacts with stakeholders, and interactions with decision makers in order to secure future policy effect at the local level. Fostering collaboration with other existing initiatives is part of our thinking about the nature of the effect and its relative significance.

All consortium members have made significant efforts to promote diffusion and collaboration with any relevant initiatives. Close collaboration with other domestically and EU-funded research programs has also maximized effect in the interest of policy considerations. The influence of high-level scientific publications is also expected to contribute to the formation of new scientific collaborations amongst researchers. This is why the project staff aims to strengthen its internal and multidisciplinary connections and with the CoP. A dedicated cross-teams activity will be devoted to the scouting of publications.

The following moments (not yet inclusive of all) have already been held:

Kick-off Workshop	January 2021	Find more here
Project Workshop 2	online, June 2021	Find more here
Project Workshop 3	Helsinki, January 2022	Find more here
Project Conference	Reggio Emilia, May 2022	Find more here
Knowledge-exchange Workshop 1		
Policy Seminar 1	Reggio Emilia, May 2022	Find more here
Future Scenario Workshop	Liverpool, October 2022	Find more here
Project Workshop 4	Gdansk, December 2022	Find more here

This is accompanied by the additional experiments conducted in the Pilot cities and for which updates are available on the Project [website](#) as well as social channels.

5. CONCLUSIONS

WP8 is supporting the understanding of cities' position in terms of discussion and the measurement of the multifaceted influence of experimental projects on the formulation of democratic governance model, which might promote participatory and deliberative democracy, in accordance with the GA objectives. As a result, the team is looking at the impacts of both cities and activities and monitoring the progress of the projects using a customized strategy that meets demand and specificities. In order to analyze the efficacy and influence of the plan on the territory, as well as the success of utilizing a multi-stakeholder approach, the project's impact must be examined by taking into account how the process of involving urban participants in pilot districts was carried out.

D8.3 has operationalized the EUARI index concept to give a time zero evaluation that acts as an introduction tool for further implementation phases within the methodological protocol EUARMP. The strategy is based on the notion that experiments should define a coherent Theory of Change in order to assure feasibility, a personalized approach, and constant monitoring of the initiative's aims and consequences. WP8 will therefore refine the qualitative and quantitative indicators for the new rounds of evaluation (RT 8.4,5,6); monitor the project's activities and results, boosting data collection on internal activities other than Pilots; continue to support Pilot cities; and disseminate methodological and practical results on impact, building synergies with WP6. Key contributions are expected by all consortium members, but particularly by CRN, the WP4 experimentation grounds with numerous rounds of effect evaluation, and UEF for project activities other than Piloting. The next deliverable (D. 8.4) will then focus on the Project's direct and indirect outcomes, completing (with D. 1.4 Final report) the impact assessment as a consequence of multiple rounds of evaluation.



ANNEX I

VÕRU COUNTY, 2022 | Population distribution by age and sex

Sex	Place of residence	Year	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
Males	VÕRU COUNTY	2022	815	837	904	899	873	1097	1257	1060	1024	1171	1225	1299	1243	980	782	494	341	252
Females	VÕRU COUNTY	2022	759	811	836	784	886	919	965	873	850	1041	1254	1334	1299	1189	1082	940	904	903

Source: Statistics Estonia (30.06.2022)

ANNEX II

Please, find [here](#) a short brief that summarizes the main feature of the Regulation on democracy and urban and climate justice in Reggio Emilia

