

D5.1

Barriers and Emerging Pathways to Scaling Co-production: A perspective from the Fairville Labs

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Work Package

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Authors

Alessio KOLIOULIS

Barbara LIPIETZ

with the support of:

Manon BLEUZEN

Dominique NALPAS

Chloé VERLINDEN

Revisors

Agnès DEBOULET

Julie PLOUHINEC

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Work Package 5 (WP5), titled "Scaling co-production practices in, to and beyond the city," is led by University College London (UCL) and co-led by ICLEI EU. It engages a consortium of Fairville partners, including EGEB, CNRS, AMU and APPUII, alongside all the project's Fairville Labs. This work package seeks to critically examine and enhance the application of co-production within Fairville Labs, identifying opportunities to scale such practices. It further aims to extend reflections beyond the labs to engage with broader urban contexts.

The premise of this WP is that collaborative practices in urban action and research are developing at local level and in transnational networks, reflecting changes in the relationships between state and non-state actors. These alliances and co-production practices with grassroots organisations are, in many contexts, tools of urban democratisation and more equitable public policies. However, too often, they tend to remain pilots, or are curtailed to the neighbourhood scale. WP5's objective is to explore and enable pathways through which isolated and/or exceptional co-production initiatives with grassroots organisations, aimed at improving living conditions in cities, can be recognised, consolidated/supported or even, in some cases, can become routine practices of urban democratic governance and planning.

This ambition builds on a plural understanding of scaling, explicit in Work Package 5's title - *Scaling in, with and beyond the city* - which sees scaling as a process that can occur horizontally (in the city, across neighbourhoods), vertically (to the city, from grassroots organisations to local governments) and/or trans-locally (beyond the city, across European cities and beyond). Pathways to scaling coproduction for the equitable and democratic city are therefore likely to be varied, encompassing strategies for consolidation, network-building, scaling up/institutionalisation and more.

Building on the findings and methodologies developed in other work packages, WP5 seeks to highlight and unpack multiple understandings and approaches to urban coproduction, and explore strategies for their strengthening and/or expansion. The collaborative learning and practices developed at local levels and in transnational networks through other WPs are integral to the success of WP5, as they provide a foundation for scaling efforts. We believe that this approach promotes urban democratisation addressing the challenge posed by the Grant: to understand the impact of inequalities on democracy and to address inequalities by narrowing democratic deficits in cities.

1.2 Deliverable 5.1 – Analysing Barriers and Opportunities to ‘Scaling’ Coproduction Practices

This report, written by Alessio Kolioulis and Barbara Lipietz from UCL, with the support of Manon Bleuzen (intern at UCL), in collaboration with Dominique Nalpas and Chloé Verlinden from EGEB, and with inputs from all labs, represents a first step in the evolving WP5 workplan. The report seeks to do two things:

1. Capture an understanding of the barriers and opportunities associated with scaling co-production practices, *from the perspective of the Fairville Labs*. The report synthesises insights into the scope and impact of co-production within Fairville Labs, as they are currently perceived by the Labs, in the early stage of the Fairville project. Effectively, this report captures the initial “positioning” of coproduction scalability from the perspective of the Labs.
2. Explore emerging pathways for scaling co-production practices, building on the Lab-based diverse understandings of both scaling and the mechanics underpinning co-production's scalability. The report explores these locally, within the diverse urban contexts of WP3, and through a comparative methodology across different cases.

It is important to note the preliminary nature of this report. The perspectives presented here are based on initial reflections from the Fairville Labs and do not necessarily include or embrace the broader coproduction scaling advocacy ambitions of the Fairville project. Additionally, the insights presented here capture reflexions at a given point in time. These are expected to evolve as the Fairville Labs fine-tune their ambitions, and as strategies develop over time in the context of the Fairville programme. The trajectory of reflection on scaling within Fairville will be captured in ongoing work within Task 5.1, focused on analysing barriers and opportunities to scaling within *and* beyond the Labs, a task intended to run until M36. This ongoing reflection will also continue to inform and shape other tasks withing WP5 (see concluding remarks/next steps).

1.3 Key findings of the report

1.3.1 Multi-dimensional Nature of Scaling

The report highlights the need to understand scaling as a multi-dimensional concept. While this idea is already present in the grant agreement, engagement with the Fairville Labs has further strengthened the relevance of such an analytical stance. At least four dimensions of scaling are currently emerging from discussions with the Fairville Labs, encompassing

consolidation, expansion, multiplication, and in the last instance, institutionalisation – which is itself understood in a plural fashion.

1.3.2 Barriers and Opportunities for Scaling

Exploring the barriers and opportunities for scaling is closely connected to understanding the broader context of co-production in the diverse Fairville Labs.

Key findings reveal that:

- **Barriers** to both co-production and scaling are located within the state, within civil society/community groups and at the interfaces between these entities. These barriers can include institutional opposition, lack of resources, fragmented governance structures and other challenges connected to fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders with often competing intent or cultures of organising/engaging.
- **Opportunities** for scaling reflect a diverse range of pathways. These opportunities are connected to various entry points, challenges, and understandings of the tactical rationales for scaling within the Labs and are often located on the flip-side of barriers to coproduction and scaling. Enabling conditions for scaling include enhancing community cohesion and addressing misrecognition amongst others.

1.3.3 Multiple Understandings of Pathways to Scale

Pathways to scale reflect diverse understandings of 'scaling', linked to different strategies at the level of the community, organisation or project. The report summarises four emerging pathways, recognising that others are likely to emerge, both from within the Labs and as work in WP5 unfolds.

- **Scale through consolidation** - deepening project impact, consolidating partnerships and extending the timescale of projects and activities.
- **Scale through growth, expansion or replication** - expanding projects both contextually and geographically.
- **Scale through network building** - mobilising to create horizontal networks or coproduction alliances across different sectors or regions.
- **Scale through 'upscaling'** - ensuring coproduction is embedded into the fabric of governance and becomes a routine part of urban policies.

Importantly, scaling pathways require tailoring to the specific circumstances and challenges faced by the labs involved, even if some cross-cutting strategies can be identified.

2. Methods

This report builds upon a selection of data-gathering methods, involving review of material produced by the Labs (up to June 2024), discussions at the Open Citizens Meetings in Brussels (November 2023), semi-structured interviews with each of the Labs (conducted over April & May 2024), and ongoing feedback processes in diverse Fairville programme-organised settings (e.g. Mutual Learning seminars and programme meetings). The report further builds on and complements work done in Work Package 2 on the notion of coproduction, providing a Labs perspective. It proposes an emerging comparative analysis aimed at identifying and understanding the various barriers and enablers of scaling coproduction, as perceived by the diverse Fairville Labs.

2.1 Data Collection Methods

- Initial discussions took place during the Open Citizens Meetings in Brussels (November 2023), where Fairville labs discussed barriers to co-production and explored the meaning of scaling in their diverse contexts, in a dedicated workshop. These discussions set the groundwork for understanding the various contexts and challenges faced by the labs.
- This was followed by a review of the Lab's organizational plans and other documentation produced by the Labs through the Fairville programme. This review provided background and contextual information on the labs' activities and objectives, helping to refine our interview questions and foci areas.

2.2 Semi-structured interviews

- In-depth interviews were conducted with key stakeholders across the nine Fairville Labs. Each Lab proposed 1-3 Lab members for interviewing. These were individuals with experience in co-production and a close engagement with the lab activities, as well as an understanding of urban inequalities and their impact on democracy and participation. A total of 21 individuals were interviewed, providing a broad spectrum of insights. A summary of interviews is provided in Appendix 1 – Interview Summaries. Manon Bleuzen provided support in the transcription of the interviews.
- Interview questions focused on the most challenging barriers encountered in co-production initiatives aimed at reducing inequalities and enhancing participation; the nature and impact of these barriers; strategies employed to overcome them; and perspectives on scaling co-production within interviewee's contexts. Additionally, we explored the broader challenges and opportunities related to scaling co-production practices.
- Interview responses were further contextualized by gathering information about the informants' wider roles and experiences related to inequalities, democracy, and participation.

2.3 Comparative and Analytical Approach

- Interviews were transcribed and summarized, with notes cross-referenced to ensure accuracy and depth of understanding, asking people interviewed to review the notes and to highlight key points of discussion.
- We then deployed a comparative analysis to examine the diversity of experiences across the labs, identifying common themes and distinct challenges.
- The interviews were conducted in coordination with Task 1.3 for WP1, which focuses on mapping the impact of inequalities on political participation and democratic quality (Maresa Berliri conducted the interview sections for T1.3). This approach created synergies between data-gathering processes across Work Packages, allowing for a more integrated analysis.

2.4 Working definition of co-production and scaling

Co-production

The report builds upon and engages with the working definition of co-production developed in the academically developed glossary (D2.1) in Work Package 2 (see deliverable 2.2 by A. Deboulet and G. Faldi), which seems to be widely accepted in the Fairville programme. Succinctly summarised below, it posits two main interpretations of the term co-production, building on academic literature relevant to the Fairville Labs' contexts.

- **Institutional coproduction:** a more classic definition of co-production linked to forms of collaborative engagements between civil society and state institutions ("state" in the broad sense of public authorities).
- And **community-driven coproduction:** a definition of co-production as a form of community mobilisation around alternative urban strategies, policies and projects through engagements with community facilitators, NGOs, and universities.

The present report builds upon this expansive definition, engaging with the Labs' own appropriations of the term.

Scaling

In our initial exploration of scaling, we worked with the idea of scaling as a heterogeneous process, acknowledging that it can manifest in several dimensions: horizontally across neighbourhoods within the city, vertically from grassroots organizations to local governments, and trans-locally, extending our reach beyond the city to encompass interactions across European cities and beyond (see Grant Agreement and separate working paper for practice-based and theoretical framing).

While Task 5.1 is dedicated to developing and expanding a definition of scaling for the Fairville programme, the focus of this report lies in gathering and synthesizing the varied interpretations provided by the different labs. This preliminary collation aims to lay the groundwork for a more comprehensive understanding moving forward.

The notion of pathways to scaling introduces the idea that scaling can proceed from diverse entry points, depending on context. Vertical and horizontal scaling are two pathways, related to initial understandings of scaling, but other pathways exist based on unique contexts, which are touched upon in the report, and will be further explored through WP5 activities.

3. ‘Scaling’ coproduction: A perspective from the Fairville Labs

Our research reveals that 'scaling' co-production practices is understood in various ways across the Fairville Labs. This diversity relates to the diverse contexts of the Labs, the diverse understandings they have of their coproduction objectives and the rationale for scaling, as well as their diverse appreciation of the barriers and opportunities for both coproduction and scaling. This diversity, in turn, requires a plural understanding - and exploration - of pathways to scale, building on contextual readings of opportunity structures for scaling.

3.1 Multiple Understandings of ‘Scaling’

A first key finding from this research, arguably, is that an expanded understanding of 'scaling' is emerging within the programme. Initially, the Grant Agreement highlighted a plural understanding of scaling, connected to the notion of moving beyond pilots. This understanding included:

- **Horizontal Scaling** - expanding within the city, across neighbourhoods or to wider civil society organisations.
- **Vertical Scaling** - extending from grassroots organisations to local governments.
- **Trans-local Scaling** -reaching beyond the city, across European cities.

This conceptualisation views scaling as a process that can transform contingent exceptions into regular practices of equitable and democratic city-making.

In conversation with Fairville colleagues, this plural approach to scaling appears appropriate, albeit in need of opening up to additional and/or refined understandings of scaling that are relevant to the diverse realities and ambitions of the FV Labs. These include (with some degree of overlap):

- **Consolidating** – a process which can take multiple forms
 - **consolidating learnings;**
 - **consolidating** projects to increase impact;
 - **consolidating partnerships;**
- **Expanding** pilots by increasing the number of people or associations or partners involved in an initiative or process;
- **Building on initial pilots** to develop new initiatives based on or inspired by the initial pilot project. Here some Labs focus on the autonomy of new initiatives;
- **Institutionalisation** – a process which can take several meanings

- creating institutions and policy instruments able to generalise what has been tested
- ensuring co-production practices tested in pilots 'stick' and become part of routinised public strategies

As we elaborate later, these expanded understandings of scaling highlight the necessity for a nuanced approach to scaling strategies and scaling pathways that considers temporality, the actors involved, and the Labs' specific contexts and objectives.

3.2 Barriers to Co-production and Scaling

Thinking about scaling – barriers and opportunities for scaling, pathways to scaling – requires a prior assessment of barriers and opportunities to coproduction. Across the Fairville Labs, barriers to co-production - and to scaling – are multiple and operate in different spheres.

Our comparative analysis across the Fairville Labs has highlighted a number of barriers (and opportunities) to co-production – and to scaling – including:

- **Scale:** in West Attica in particular, the extensive geographic scale of the area, and the multilayered nature of issues at stake provide important challenges for coproduction and its scaling.
- **Time:** is another challenge that cuts across Labs. As expressed by the Marseille CVPT Lab, the lengthy duration of many urban projects makes it difficult to maintain community interest. Meanwhile, coproduction processes across diverse actors with different temporal challenges/realities (e.g. political cycles, day-to-day pressures of marginalised inhabitants, academic cycles) tend to disrupt coproduction practices and their consolidation/scaling.

Beyond the above cross-cutting constraints, our comparative analysis suggests that barriers (and opportunities) to co-production – and to scaling - can most usefully be grouped as being located within the state (at various scales), within civil society/community groups, and at the interface between these entities (see Diagramme 1). The below tables summarise key findings emerging in discussions with the Labs. Further details can be found in **Appendix 1 – Interview Summaries**.

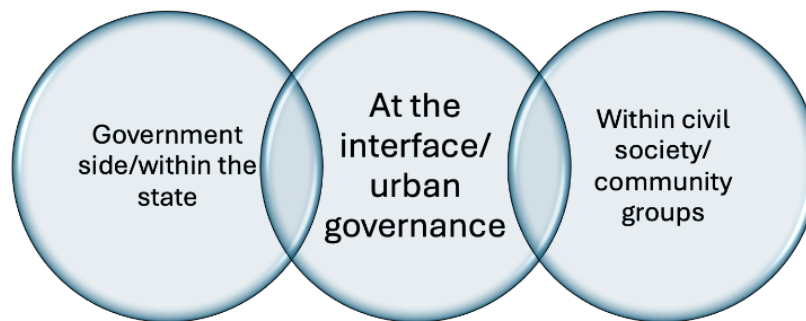


Diagramme 1: Key location of barriers to coproduction and to scale

3.2.1 Barriers within the State

Scaling co-production practices within the varied urban contexts of the Fairville Labs faces significant barriers from the governmental side, or from the State at different scales, including local authorities with varying autonomy according to contexts. These barriers can be broadly classified along the following categories.

<i>Fragmentation</i>	Fragmentation refers to the division of responsibilities within government, which complicates coordination and hampers the initiation, implementation and scaling of co-production initiatives. Examples include: • Brussels: jurisdiction over water management is fragmented among multiple governmental bodies, including the municipality, the region, and various water operators with their own policies and priorities. This, furthermore, is evolving regularly. The resultant dilution of responsibility leads to bureaucratic inertia and a lack of accountability, making it challenging to address systemic issues effectively. • Marseille: competition over turf, rivalries between departments, silos or the compartmentalising of expertise, and poor articulation between district and central municipal scales hamper coproduction and scalability initiatives. • Berlin: urban development responsibilities (including housing) are divided across Senate and District scales of government, which have different ways of working and are not necessarily communicating well between them. • West Attica: waste management is governed by complex/not easily readable governance structures, involving various levels of government and central policies.
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	● Giza: Existing inequalities and the centralised nature of Cairo's political landscape exacerbate the rural-urban divide, posing challenges in scaling effective waste management solutions across similarly affected areas. ● London/UK: Diverse procurement practices across regions complicate scalability, notably differing between Wales and England in terms of support to cooperatives.
<i>Legislative Framework</i>	Outdated or inappropriate legislative frameworks can hinder the adoption of innovative co-production practices. ● Dakar: Colonial-era legislation does not recognize traditional or informal planning approaches, creating a barrier to integrating coproduction approaches into mainstream governance. ● London: the regulatory and legislative environment challenges cooperative models, particularly in care services.
<i>Funding/Resourcing</i>	Funding for coproduction approaches is by and large minimal. ● Berlin: the socio-economic barriers to participation are not recognised, in particular here the very real financial costs of participation in terms of time committed for participation outside of work or caring activities. ● London: limited funding sources means the cooperative sector often has to turn to external funders, with strict donor requirements that often limit flexibility and sustainability of co-production projects. ● Marseille: several (national state) financial resources (although minimal)
<i>Party politics and political culture</i>	● The shifting (party) political landscape introduces uncertainties in policy directions, which affect the consistency and sustainability of co-production efforts. ● Vertical political structures are often resistant to change meaning that attempts to 'do things differently' (e.g. through coproduction practices) can be perceived within political structures as power grabs, competition over turf or threats.

<i>Lack of Transparency</i>	A lack of transparency within government operations impedes trust and collaboration. • West Attica: The withholding of epidemiological study results related to health implications from the landfill is a major barrier. The lack of transparency and accountability is seen across health and environmental fields, and across regional and municipal scales of government. • Dakar: pronounced lack of documentation and visibility of ongoing projects
<i>Corruption/ clientelism</i>	Corruption remains a critical barrier and operates in all Labs, albeit in more or less blatant ways: • Călărași: local political figures, often referred to as 'barons', manipulate democratic systems for personal gain, such through the buying of votes. • West Attica: Systemic issues of corruption and mismanagement of funds intended for environmental recovery/waste management • Marseille: the clientelistic nature of politics both diffuses and hampers coproduction practices and scalability.

3.2.2 Barriers within civil society/ community groups

Scaling co-production practices in the Fairville Labs also faces significant barriers at the level of community structures. These barriers can be broadly classified into the following categories.

<i>Fragmentation, Diversity, and Exclusion</i>	Diversity/fragmentation of communities pose significant challenges for coproduction practices and scaling: • Brussels: the socio-economic diversity (across class, ethnicity, tenancy status, old residents and newcomers, etc.) and the physical layout of areas like Rue Gray present a complex interplay of social, economic, and infrastructural challenges that compound environmental issues like flooding. They present barriers to <i>collective</i> community engagement, with responses tending to be individual.
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	● West Attica: specific groups like Roma communities are marginalised from both state structures and community networks. ● Călărași: historical, cultural, and linguistic divisions within Roma communities are a barrier to collective participation. ● Marseille: the historical fragmentation of communities and the weakening of traditional engagement modes (such as trade unions or work-based identities) make collective mobilisation difficult. Meanwhile, mobilisation along shared cultural or ethnic background, is often frowned upon especially amongst racialised communities, because of societal concerns with ‘communautarism’. ● Berlin: community fragmentation is reflected in varied and at times antagonistic mobilisation tactics. This fragmentation is particularly evident in the Lab’s current phase focused on mobilisation around the production of an alternative (contra oppositional stance to financialisation / commodification). ● Giza: gender norms restrict women's public participation.
<i>Information and Knowledge Gaps</i>	Information and knowledge gaps among community members is another key challenge in coproduction/engagement ● West Attica: residents often lack awareness of ongoing developments and policies, which impedes community mobilisation and informed participation. Similarly, poor access to data on essential health and environmental issues is a barrier to developing advocacy around health and environmental rights. ● This issue is also prevalent in Dakar, Marseille, and other locations, where insufficient knowledge dissemination or fragmentation of information obstructs engagement and participation. ● Brussels: knowledge gaps are often internalised by community groups/residents who consider their tacit knowledge as illegitimate. [this point cuts across all Labs]

<i>Financial Barriers</i>	Financial constraints are a major barrier in community engagement/ coproduction processes and the scalability of community-led initiatives. • Giza: Poverty and lack of resources are a break for community involvement. Communities are more likely to be mobilised around income-generating initiative. • Berlin: participation has a cost. It is difficult for people on low income to participate in coproduction processes.
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3.2.3 Barriers at the interface

Scaling co-production practices in the Fairville Labs is also challenged by barriers at the interface of community and government interactions or what could be termed the governance of coproduction.

<i>Lack of Recognition</i>	A significant barrier is the lack of recognition/misrecognition of communities, and in some instances specific groups, as legitimate city-dwellers and/or legitimate participants of city-making: • Călărași: Despite having legal papers and recognised housing, Roma communities still face significant barriers in accessing democratic spaces and participating effectively in political life. Discrimination against and lack of recognition of Roma communities has a long history. • West Attica: Roma communities are marginalised in part due to the informal nature of their settlements. • Dakar: communities living in self-built settlements are not fully recognised by local authorities. This is evidenced in an absence of government-generated data on such neighbourhoods, which are often invisibilised on city maps and therefore fail to feature on development plans. • Marseille: many councillors fail to recognise community knowledge with regards local affairs and planning; or indeed to recognise that local residents may wish to be involved in their neighbourhood. • Brussels: residents' expertise is broadly unrecognised.
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	London: There is a challenge in quantifying the social value of community-led co-production, which often transcends conventional economic metrics. This makes it difficult to validate the efficacy of co-production in delivering diverse community benefits.
<i>Trust</i>	Trust is a fundamental issue that influences all aspects of co-production and scaling. A lack of trust between communities and governmental bodies (or between government and academia) is a key barrier to co-production, mentioned by all Labs.
<i>Technical Nature of Planning/Language</i>	The technical complexity of urban planning often excludes everyday residents from meaningful participation. This issue is raised in most Fairville Lab contexts. In Brussels, for instance, top-down, highly technical engineering solutions have historically overlooked the inputs of local communities. This 'expert-lay' divide is compounded by the opacity of planning jargon which further distances resident participation in co-production initiatives.
<i>Divergent institutional structures/cultures</i>	Divergent institutional (understood in a broad sense) structures and cultures across state and civil society are a major barrier to co-production. Most Labs highlight the tension between top-down/vertical and bottom-up/horizontal modus operandi of state and civil society organisations. - West Attica: coproduction is challenged by a history of conflicts between activists and local authorities. - Berlin: hierarchical bureaucratic processes pose a barrier to implementing community-centred, participatory urban planning processes, necessitating continuous adaptation within a shifting political landscape. - Brussels: Planning is marked by an absence of coproduction culture and a historical reliance on top-down service provision (note that the state-centric delivery model has been well engrained within communities as well).

	• Marseille: schools systems/set-ups can be similarly top-down and closed to community/parent involvement. • Nb: The broad vertical (state at various scales &/or local authorities) v. horizontal (community) institutional culture divide is particularly evident in contexts where political parties (or individuals within these) with more horizontal political cultures are seeking to shift established ways of doing things (Berlin, Marseille). • London: Effective co-production requires genuine power-sharing, which is often resisted by traditional state entities in charge of community services. • Giza: there is no democratic context
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3.3 Opportunities for Co-production and Scaling

Engagement with Fairville Labs has so far tended to focus on the barriers to coproduction and its scalability, reflecting the challenges facing attempts to ‘do things differently’ across the Labs. When discussions have turned to opportunities for coproduction and for scaling coproduction practices, these have tended to be located on the flip side of coproduction barriers.

To avoid repetition, we highlight here a few salient opportunities, as and when they have been developed by Fairville Labs, adopting a similar focus on state (at different scales, including local authorities), civil society and interface classification. As becomes evident below, this is an area for further engagement with Fairville Labs, as we co-develop tailored scaling pathways within T5.1.

3.3.1 Opportunities within the State

<i>Party politics and political culture</i>	Shifts in political contexts have tended to open up opportunities for coproduction. • Berlin: shifts in the ruling party at both Senate and District scale have enabled possibilities of experimentation with a different political culture more conducive to coproduction; • Marseille: the arrival of a new political coalition has similarly opened up cracks within a long established clientelist system, in particular with the arrival of new councillors with divergent political cultures and/or coming from civil society.
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3.2.2 Opportunities within civil society/ community groups

<i>Combatting Fragmentation, Diversity, and Exclusion</i>	Opportunities for coproduction and scaling have appeared through processes addressing community fragmentation. ● Berlin: The Lab is building on the impressive housing and civil society mobilisation that challenged privatisation of land and promoted alternative land use, emphasising the importance of public control and community involvement in urban development. This initiative federated diverse civil society groups and was able to put significant pressure on government leading to the coproduction pilot of the Rathausblock. ● London: the London Lab similarly builds on more than a decade long mobilisation of cross-London community groups and networks seeking to influence city-wide planning in the city, coordinated by the Just Space (JS) Network. Specifically, it builds on JS' <i>Recovery Plan</i> and some of its proposition for doing planning differently in a post-Covid-19 context. It further builds on existing mobilisation around street markets and existing experimentation around care cooperatives in the North of England. ● Călărași: the Lab builds on local initiatives to cohere communities through cultural projects highlighting local culture, as well as Frontal's experience in documenting injustices and advocating for Roma rights at local and national levels, using data and personal narratives to push for policy changes. ● West Attica: an opportunity to engage with the school community in West Attica is opening up the possibility of of engaging Roma students and, by extension, their families, addressing the significant issue of school dropouts and fostering broader community participation in the broader West Attica Lab activities.
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<i>Addressing Information and Knowledge Gaps</i>	Opportunities for coproduction and its scalability can also be seen in the domain of community knowledge and knowledge coproduction. • Dakar: the Lab has benefited from the know-how of the Shack Dwellers International global network and its expertise in coproducing knowledge and building community-led data gathering systems (e.g. the ‘Know Your City’ initiative). • West Attica: The Lab benefitted from Commonsense’s experience in co-creating knowledge across a variety of stakeholders in the centre of Athens. • Marseille: The CVPT Lab is similarly building on the French experiences of the Ateliers Populaires d’Urbanisme and their knowledge brokerage training on urban issues.
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3.2.3 Opportunities at the interface

Some opportunities for scaling co-production practices in the Fairville Labs have also been discussed, including:

<i>Addressing (mis) Recognition</i>	Several Fairville Labs have highlighted opportunities for addressing (mis)recognition: • Dakar: the development of community-developed data in unmapped ‘informal’ settlements, the active involvement of communities in co-designing and co-financing flood management systems and the development of detailed urban planning documents that take into account the specific characteristics and needs of these areas (land titling, vulnerability to floods, and economic exclusion and inequalities) has literally put entire neighbourhoods (and their inhabitants) on the map. Similarly, the potential for scalability has been opened through successful community-led initiatives that have transformed inhabitants of ‘unplanned’ neighbourhoods as legitimate actors of city-making. • Giza: the geographic location of the “village” (60 000 dwellers) – close to Cairo and near tourist sites - has
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	opened opportunities to coproduce waste management solutions, an otherwise invisibilised issue (and invisibilised communities). ● Marseille: the tragic event of 2018 (collapse of an inner city building and ensuing deaths) has brought media attention to the neglected issue of undignified housing in central areas. This has been an opening for CVPT and other groups to push for a coproduced response through the Charte du Relogement building on local inhabitants's expertise and demands.
<i>Addressing Divergent/antagonistic Institutional Structures/Cultures</i>	Similarly, some Fairville Labs have highlighted opportunities in the interface between government and community organisational structures. ● Berlin/Marseille: Both Labs have benefited from the arrival of new political parties in power with more horizontal political cultures, more open to engaging with citizens. Identifying partners in the state ready to experiment, receptive to "working differently", has been an opportunity that the Labs have seized. ● Brussels: the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform across residents, experts and government officials - "Déliver les fils de l'eau" - has opened up some opportunities for the Brussels Lab, in an otherwise very top-down governance structure.

3.4 Pathways to scale

The diverse understandings of scaling unearthed through our research calls for diverse and contextually specific scaling pathways, where scaling efforts are tailored to the unique objectives and opportunity structures of each Lab. Engagement with the Fairville Labs clearly reinforced the notion that one size does not fit all, even if some scaling pathways may cut across Labs.

That said, our comparative analysis has helped identify at least four main pathways to scale emerging from the Labs (see Diagramme 2). These pathways resonate with the various conceptualisations and objectives linked to 'scaling' and are influenced by contextually shaped entry points. These pathways do not represent an evolutionary or progressive pattern (akin to the Participation Ladder). Instead, they suggest the possibility of a mixed

approach for making coproduction “stick”, with different “entry” and “exit” points akin to the centripetal and centrifugal forces of a wheel in motion.



Diagramme 2: ‘Pathways to scale’ emerging from the Fairville Labs

The scaling pathways identified with the Labs include:

- **Scale through consolidation:** This scaling pathway aims to deepen the impact and extend the reach and timescale of projects and activities. An objective, and a tactic, here relates to consolidating the partnerships that sustain said activities.
- **Scale through growth, expansion, or replication** of projects and activities: This scaling pathway aims to increase the reach and impact of co-production initiatives by expanding them geographically or replicating successful models in new contexts. It focuses on scaling the scope and influence of existing projects to broader areas or different communities.
- **Scale through mobilisation & coalitions:** This scaling pathway emphasises building networks or alliances across different organisations at the neighbourhood, city, regional, national scale and beyond to share knowledge, resources, and practices. By building horizontal and/or ‘peer-to peer’ coalitions, Labs can amplify their impact through collective action and mutual support.
- **Scale through upscaling, including institutionalisation:** This scaling pathway seeks to embed co-production into the fabric of governance and community practices, making it a sustainable and integral part of policy making and community

engagement. It involves the development of partnerships, processes and instruments for smoothing and/or institutionalising co-production practices between local authorities and communities around solutions, services or policies so that they become routine and enduring.

The details of scaling pathways for each Lab are yet to be fully canvassed and spelt out within most of the Fairville Labs. These will be co-developed in the context of evolving Task 5.1, alongside work developed on up-scaling/institutionalisation and network building in Tasks 5.2 and 5.3 respectively, as detailed in the following section.

4. Conclusions and Next Steps

This report brings together insights into the scope, impact and scalability of co-production practices, as they are being perceived by the Labs, in the early stage of the Fairville project (i.e by M17).

Key messages are that all Labs perceive co-production practices and alliances as important tools of urban democratisation and more equitable public policies. However, such attempts to go against the grain, or to ‘do things differently’, face a multitude of challenges that can broadly be synthesised as located within the state (at different scales, including local authorities), within community structures, and in the interface of these entities that are driven by often competing intent and/or divergent cultures of organising/engaging. While commonalities or cross-cutting themes exist across Labs, the unique characteristics of each Lab play a significant role in shaping barriers to coproduction practices and their scalability.

That said, opportunities for scaling coproduction activities do exist and tend to be located on the flip side of localised coproduction challenges, albeit framed by the diverse entry points, maturity, and understandings of the tactical rationales for scaling within the Labs. Just as scaling is a heterogeneous, multi-dimensional concept, scaling pathways are diverse and require tailoring to the specific circumstances and challenges – the varied opportunity structures - faced by the Fairville labs.

Deepening our understanding of, supporting, and implementing tailored scaling pathways and scaling strategies for each Fairville Lab is the stuff of further work within WP5 (see Diagramme 3). This includes activities under Task 5.1, which focuses on exploring barriers and opportunities for scaling co-production. In close engagement with the labs, we will deepen understandings of the opportunity structures for scaling coproduction practices and co-develop and/or support strategies and tactics to overcome challenges and leverage opportunities specific to each lab's context.

Such Lab-centred activities will be supported by two cross-cutting work streams, engaging with the realities of Fairville’s diverse Labs but also expanding beyond the Labs in response to the broader coproduction advocacy objectives of the Fairville programme. The first (developed through T5.2) will explore expanded notions of up-scaling and institutionalisation. It will explore and suggest processes and instruments for embedding co-production into municipal regulatory frameworks.

The second, Task 5.3, will explore communities of practice (or here, “communities of coproduction practice”) to support various coproduction scaling pathways. This involves engaging networks of different kinds to facilitate the exchange of best practices, resources, and strategies related both to coproduction as approach, and to the strategic entry points of the various labs (from housing / regeneration, to environmental protection and risk).

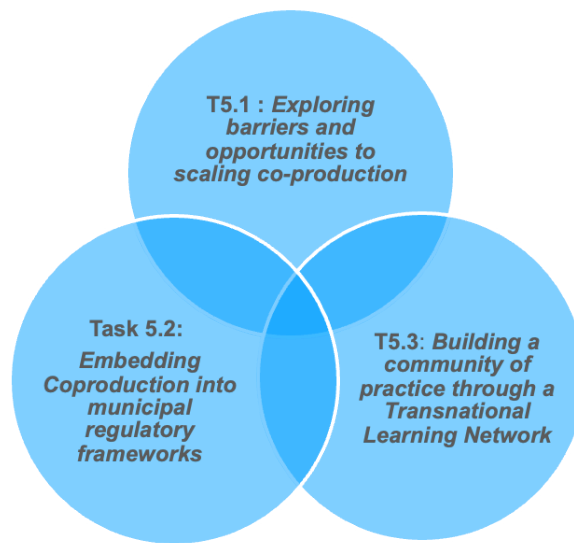


Diagramme 3: WP5 activities from M18

Networking publics identified in preliminary discussions within the Fairville programme include:

- **Peer-to-peer and co-learning networks**, centred largely on community-initiated coproduction processes, recognising that the Fairville programme is itself a networking and peer-to-peer endeavour.
- **City/municipal networks** where coproduction has already been identified as a promising governance mechanism

Networks working at the interface, i.e. co-learning and advocacy platforms that are already engaged in the work of multi-stakeholder (and often multi-scalar) translation and advocacy around coproduction as desirable governance mechanisms for more equitable and democratic cities. Here, we will focus both on actors of intermediation (alliances of community networks and municipal movements in their interface, alongside intermediary actors/networks (e.g. progressive professionals and, importantly for the Fairville programme, academics), as well as spaces of intermediation (e.g. the World Urban Forum, the World Social Summit and (post- SDGs negotiation fora), etc).

The process, and actors of, intermediation will be particular foci of WP5 moving forward.

The objective of this multi-pronged approach is both to support and strengthen the competencies of agents of change within Fairville and to contribute to a growing movement in favour of coproduction at a European scale and beyond.

5. Appendix - Interview summaries

The interview summaries shared below provide a broad overview of diverse co-production initiatives focused on urban and environmental challenges across the very diverse Fairville Labs. Interviews with Fairville Lab members focused on unearthing understandings of coproduction practices, understandings of/drivers for scaling, analyses of saleability potentials, as well as plausible pathways to scale.

The 10 Fairville Lab interview include:

1. Commonsplace - West Attica
2. Etat généraux de l'eau à Bruxelles - Brussels
3. Projektwerkstatt/TU - Berlin
4. Urbanen and the Senegalese Federation of Residents - Dakar
5. North South Consultants Exchange - Giza
6. Just Space - London
7. Equal Care Coop - London
8. City Studio 4-5, AMU/MESOPOLHIS - Marseille
9. Centre Ville Pour Tous (CVPT) - Marseille
10. Frontal association - Călărași

Commonspace - West Attica

- Artemis Koumparelou (Commonspace)

Summary

The efforts of Commonspace in West Attica focus on tackling underrepresented environmental issues through action research and **upscaling strategies**. Central to their approach is the creation of an Atlas, a co-production platform integrating diverse inputs, including community narratives and data, to enhance community engagement for mobilisation and advocacy. Commonspace is actively building networks between communities, using schools as strategic entry points to engage marginalized groups like the Roma community. However, significant challenges persist, such as knowledge gaps among residents, systemic corruption, and mismanagement of funds, all of which exacerbate mistrust towards local authorities. By proposing power mapping to clarify governmental responsibilities and focusing on inclusive community workshops, Commonspace aims to build emerging pathways to scale by expanding community reach and connecting issues across local communities affected by environmental and socio-economic inequalities.

What the organisation/lab is doing and why

- Commonspace is addressing the complex socio-environmental issues in West Attica by initiating dialogues and engaging with local communities and activists.
- Their work started with exploratory research and site visits, followed by open calls to involve diverse participants including researchers, activists, and residents.
- The lab focuses on critical environmental concerns such as the management of the largest landfill in Greece, industrial pollution, and the socio-economic conditions of Roma settlements.
- The decision to work in West Attica was influenced by the area's proximity to Athens and its accumulation of overlapping environmental, social, and economic problems.
- The lab approach includes organising local workshops to understand and address the major issues, particularly the landfill, which has long been a source of environmental degradation and a source of conflict between local residents and municipalities.
- Commonspace is also leveraging existing local environmental networks, such as the Western Front, to build connections and foster community-driven solutions. These efforts are aimed at raising visibility of underreported issues and integrating community voices and experiences.

Quotes

"We decided to work in West Attica because it is an area very close to the metropolitan area that gathers a lot of environmental problems. The social, environmental and economic aspects are overlapping and accumulating."

"In our background, we did not have a very deep connection but we knew that: the biggest landfill of Greece is located here, it is an industrial zone where there are issues of pollution, a lot of Roma settlements are in the area."

"It made sense to open a dialogue to work on these issues by including people."

"We started with meeting the local workshops in 'Phili'. This introductory meeting started the process on the major issue that is landfill there. It is the only landfill in the huge area apart from the urban waste management of Athens. It is a source of severe environmental degradation."

"Activists or local groups claim for different waste management and the closure of this landfill. They are in conflict with the municipality. This is a very long history."

"At first, the people involved and disseminated our initiative were very local people involved in environmental movements. There is an environmental network called the Western Front for instance. People taking part in this come from West Attica and they are very active. This was an important connection with us. The landfill is their main purpose. They want to find solutions and to put pressure for the improvement of this situation."

The barriers the organisation/lab is facing

- Commonsense faces multiple barriers in their efforts to address the environmental and social issues in West Attica.
- One significant barrier is to navigate complex governance structures, involving various levels of government and central policies, which complicates the implementation of sustainable waste management practices.
- Additionally, there is a lack of transparency and accountability, as evidenced by the withholding of epidemiological study results related to health implications from the landfill.
- This hinders the community's ability to access vital information and advocate for their health and environmental rights.
- The geographic spread and the multilayered nature of issues, including recurrent flooding, chemical pollution, and socio-economic inequalities, add layers of complexity to Commonsense's work.

- Internal conflicts between activists and local authorities further complicate efforts, making it challenging to bring stakeholders together to address these issues collectively.
- There is also a significant knowledge gap among residents regarding ongoing developments and policies, which impedes community mobilisation and informed participation.
- Engaging with specific groups, such as the Roma communities, presents additional challenges due to their marginalisation and the informal nature of their settlements.
- Moreover, the systemic issues of corruption and mismanagement of funds intended for environmental recovery projects exacerbate the community's mistrust in local authorities.

Quotes

"For the issue of waste management and the landfill, there are a lot of different governance levels involved. It is also an issue of central policies. It is an issue of the whole region of Attica."

"There is also a level of obscurity, this is part of the issues. For instance, one of the issues is health implications. There are epidemiologic studies initiated but the results have not been published or maybe they are not even finished."

"Those studies were initiated by the region of West Attica and there was another study initiated by the municipality. In this second case, they kept it, they hid it. I mean, people say so. They did not publish it for 5 years. It was then published, somehow after pressure."

"This is complex as: It is a really huge geographic space. There are so many complex issues. There is the environmental issue, not just landfills. Floodings are more recurrent. There are the health issues linked to landfills, incinerators, chemicals, and the informal disposal of waste. There are then the more social economic inequalities that are part of the history of the region and an industrial and then post-industrial."

"In terms of barriers, I would say that the conflicts between particular groups (activists and the local authorities). It is the difficulty of people coming in the same table."

"There is a broad ignorance. It is not that people don't have interest but there is a need for sharing knowledge, sharing information about some development. Residents of the area did not know to a great extent the development."

"How to approach particular population groups like the Roma communities."

"The municipality plays a big role in this because they sign agreements with the Attica region to keep receiving waste from the whole region. They receive compensation for

offsetting projects. This has been going on since the early nineties. People highlight this as an important aspect of the issue and the money for offsetting a project that is not actually implemented."

Current efforts to address these barriers

- To address the multiple barriers identified, Commonsense is undertaking several activities. One of their primary initiatives is building a communication network that includes schools as entry points to reach the Roma community.
- This approach aims to foster inclusion and ensure that marginalised groups are part of the dialogue and co-production processes.
- Another significant effort is the development of a comprehensive platform, or atlas, that maps various types of inequalities and environmental issues.
- This atlas is envisioned as a co-produced resource that includes maps, personal narratives, stories, and a mix of qualitative and quantitative data.
- The goal is to create a tool that can be used for further research, policy suggestions, and raising awareness about the issues in West Attica.
- During initial meetings, Commonsense explains their projects and objectives, recognising the community's will to find solutions and their frustration with the status quo and lack of political will.
- They acknowledge the importance of honest communication and openness to feedback in building trust and effective collaboration.
- They propose power mapping to understand the complex web of responsibilities among different governmental agencies, which could help in addressing specific environmental issues more effectively.
- Connecting with the school community is seen as a strategic move to engage Roma students and, by extension, their families, addressing the significant issue of school dropouts and fostering broader community participation.

Quotes

"We are trying to build a network to somehow build communication. Entering the school community in the area would be also a way to get in touch with the Roma population through Roma students. They are not schools destined only for Roma but there are some schools in the area where 95% of the students are Roma."

"We think of it as a platform where the different types of inequalities and environmental issues are talked about and mapped. We imagine that the platform could include maps but also personal narratives and stories. It will then gather different types of information: qualitative events and quantitative data. The atlas will be a product of co-production."

"In the first meetings, we explain to people what the project is and what we are seeking to do. In this case, people are eager to find solutions. People are coming because they are interested in this particular environmental issue. They have already been disappointed by how things are going with limits and opportunities. Furthermore, there is mistrust with local authorities toward political will. I would say that there is a lack of political will."

"We are trying to build a network to somehow build communication. Entering the school community in the area would be also a way to get in touch with the Roma population through Roma students. They are not schools destined only for Roma but there are some schools in the area where 95% of the students are Roma."

"A method could be about mapping these responsibilities in order to address specific issues (for example around environmental issues). For example doing "power mapping" of these eco-systems. A map will also not make super clear the interlinkages of the different agencies responsible for different roles (assessment vs enforcing vs granting permission vs utilising compensation vs agreement)."

"Our idea is to connect with school community – which could give us access also to Roma communities (note that in this area, big issue of school dropouts)."

How and why the organisation/lab is mobilising (scale aspect)

- Commonsplace's expansion strategy (upscaling) involves engagement with local communities through workshops that allow them to address the specific concerns of different groups within West Attica.
- These workshops serve as entry points to establish trust and dialogue, particularly crucial for reaching those who might otherwise be reluctant to participate.
- By conducting these sessions in locales familiar and accessible to residents, the lab ensures higher attendance and engagement
- At the moment, the emphasis on scaling involves expanding the number of participants and improving both the depth and breadth of engagement.
- This is evidenced by their plans to integrate schools to reach the Roma community, acknowledging the schools as vital community spaces that can facilitate broader involvement.
- The creation of the Atlas is central to Commonsplace's strategy, and it will serve as a platform for co-production that incorporates diverse inputs, including personal narratives and quantitative data.
- This tool is intended to support ongoing dialogue, provide evidence for advocacy, and inform policy at multiple levels.

- The focus on upscaling, in efforts to measure previously unmonitored environmental impacts like smells is a commitment to tackling underrepresented issues and using co-production methods to provide actionable data.

Quotes

"Workshops were also a way for us to really enter the local communities and to approach people that live there and people that are very active in the local sphere and to expand the network in this way."

"Related to scale. Different issues can be gradually addressed in dialogue to one another. Also, people involved in the lab from different areas of West Attica can be brought together."

"We went there and some people that came to the meeting I am pretty sure that would not come if we would have done it somewhere else."

"To build the network, we have some ideas but we have to see how this goes. After summer, we wanted to start sessions with the schools in the area to approach the Roma community. We are trying to build a network to somehow build communication."

"This is a matter of upscaling. I see this as a horizontal kind of scaling of the lab. It is the question of the 'how these processes and the co-production of the Atlas can pass to and can support the next future actions' as an upscaling."

"We also find it important to find ways to manage and to provide information in the atlas that could be used for further research or for further policy suggestions."

"In terms of the smell issue, we talked about ways to measure the smell. That has not been measured or has not been monitored there. This is a matter of upscaling. I see this as a horizontal kind of scaling of the lab."

Etat généraux de l'eau à Bruxelles - Brussels

- Dominique Nalpas (Etat généraux de l'eau à Bruxelles - EGEB)
- Catalina Dobre (Université Libre de Bruxelles - ULB)

Summary

"Etat généraux de l'eau à Bruxelles" addresses urban flooding in socio-economically diverse areas like Rue Gray through participatory approaches. Rejecting top-down engineering solutions, the initiative seeks to empower residents to co-create sustainable water management strategies. Key projects like "interpellation communale" foster direct dialogue between communities and policymakers, while partnerships with academic institutions like ULB enhance the integration of scientific research into practical solutions, aiming to reshape urban water governance and promote resilience.

What the Organisation/Lab is doing and why

- "Etat généraux de l'eau à Bruxelles" emerged from the recognition that water management crises in urban settings, particularly in socio-economically disadvantaged areas like Rue Gray, require innovative and inclusive approaches.
- These areas often face a complex interplay of social, economic, and infrastructural challenges that exacerbate environmental issues like flooding.
- The organisation advocates for a participatory approach, moving away from traditional, top-down engineering solutions that have historically overlooked the needs and inputs of local communities.
- By engaging residents directly in the co-creation of solutions, the initiative seeks to democratise urban planning processes. The efforts are designed to address immediate hydrological challenges and foster a sense of agency among residents, enabling them to influence policies and practices that affect their environment and well-being.

Quotes

"There was a first crisis 20 years ago around the creation of a storm basin created under place Flagey to protect the Rue Gray against the flood... New ways started to appear years ago to engage people in this kind of management by co-creation."

"Today, ULB and other actors joined to co-create a project called Brusseau."

"In the Rue Gray, at the bottom of the valley, it is the same demographic situation with the problem of flood. There is a mixed population: immigrants, new inhabitants, people that have money working in the European Institutions that buy houses in Rue Gray without knowing about the flood."

The barriers the organisation/lab is facing

- The principal barriers facing "Etat généraux de l'eau à Bruxelles" stem from the fragmented institutional landscape of urban water management, which complicates the implementation of coherent and unified solutions.
- The jurisdiction over water management in Brussels is divided among multiple entities, including the municipality, the region, and various water operators, each with their own policies and priorities. Responsibility between institutions, moreover, is evolving rapidly further blurring accountability.
- This dilution of responsibility leads to bureaucratic inertia and a lack of accountability, making it challenging to address systemic issues effectively.
- Additionally, the socio-economic diversity and physical layout of areas like Rue Gray contribute to the difficulty of community mobilization.
- The absence of a culture of co-production (control remains a key control for state and water services) and a historical reliance on top-down service provision (which is largely integrated by community groups) mean that generating collective community engagement requires significant effort and innovative strategies.

Quotes

"Fragmentation and constant evolution of the institutions of water management (municipality, Region, Water Operators)."

"Non-existence of the culture of co-production, tradition of very much top-down provision of services by the federal 'State'."

"The Belgian State is federal. The different regions have a lot of autonomy with their own parliaments and their own tools. For many environmental, economic questions, they have their own responsibility."

"The problem seems to be individual, that is why the people have difficulty to know what happens in all the street and difficulties to gather."

Current efforts to address these barriers

- In response to these challenges, "Etat généraux de l'eau à Bruxelles" has initiated several projects aimed at fostering community engagement and co-production.
- One significant effort is the implementation of the "interpellation communale," a legal tool that allows citizens to present their concerns directly to elected officials.
- This approach has been instrumental in bringing the issues faced by the residents of Rue Gray to the attention of municipal authorities, facilitating a dialogue between the community and policymakers.
- Efforts to tackle these barriers involve detailed diagnostics to understand the multifaceted nature of flooding, which often goes unnoticed as it occurs underground or in private spaces.
- Additionally, collaborations with academic institutions like ULB and projects like Fairville are part of a broader strategy to integrate scientific research and community insights into the development of sustainable urban water management practices.

Quotes

"The inhabitants organized together to write the letter with the help of Déliv' les Fils de l'eau. The letter of the 'interpellation' was signed by over 40 persons including 23 from rue Gray."

"This interpellation took place a few weeks ago in the 'conseil communal'."

"We have had a hydrologist working with us since a long time for Hydria, a regional operator saying that we needed the cooperation between the experts, the inhabitants, and the municipalities to draw the map of the flooding."

How and why the organisation/Lab is mobilising (scale aspect)

- The scaling of "Etat généraux de l'eau à Bruxelles" efforts is critical to addressing the pervasive and complex nature of urban water management challenges. By establishing platforms like "Déliv' les fils de l'eau," the organisation aims to create a coalition of stakeholders, including residents, experts, and government officials, to tackle these issues collaboratively.
- These platforms facilitate the sharing of knowledge and resources, enabling a more coordinated response to crises. Moreover, by advocating for and implementing co-production practices, the organisation seeks to reshape the traditional paradigms of urban governance.
- This approach not only addresses immediate environmental and infrastructural problems but also aims to influence broader policy frameworks, ensuring that resilience and sustainability are embedded in urban development strategies.



Quotes

We created a platform to try to help the people to organize themselves and try to ask good questions (Déliser les fils de l'eau)."

"We need to give precise answers and to be clear on the responsibilities. For that we are connected with hydrological faculty (Vlaams Universiteit Brussel), and architectural faculty with ULB our first partner which take part of the Fairville Lab."



Projektwerkstatt/TU - Berlin

- Enrico Schönberg (Projektwerkstatt)
- Mari Paz Agundez (TU Berlin)

Summary

The Berlin lab engages in a housing project - the “Model project” Rathausblock - that proactively challenges land privatisation and promote public control, emphasizing community involvement. After a successful mobilisation, Rathausblock now faces challenges from Berlin's complex political and bureaucratic landscape, using co-production to push for novel urban development strategies with governmental structures. Acting as a participant observer the Berlin lab accompanies the work of different initiatives such as ZusammenStelle or STERN, whose objective is to bridge community divides and weave relations with government by building more inclusive participatory planning processes and by addressing participation barriers to include marginalised community members. Through ethnographic observation, the Berlin lab aims to understand how just co-productive processes can be developed and what kinds of social spaces they create?

What the organisation/lab is doing and why

- The Berlin Lab builds on an impressive housing and civil society initiative - Stadt von Unten (City from Below), composed of activists and academics - that challenged privatisation of land and promoted alternative land use, emphasising the importance of public control and community involvement in urban development.
- Their successful campaign against privatisation was marked by a clear narrative that mobilised community support around a single issue and led to a significant policy victory.
- With the scaling up process the initiative dissolved, however, several members, such as Enrico Schönberg, remain involved in the Rathausblock.
- The Rathausblock stakeholders are now shifting away from being reactive (anti-privatization) and are trying to be more proactive, aiming to establish a model project that can exemplify effective community-led urban planning at scale (including engaging with social housing and livelihoods/economic development, collective spaces, ecological issues).
- Through an ethnographic approach, the Berlin Lab explores initiatives framed around galvanising public support and stimulating community engagement, moving beyond mere opposition and towards “constructive” urban development, a task which is proving to be challenging. By establishing connections with citizens, municipal and city-level actors, and mapping the area, the lab aims to understand:

- the power dynamics among the multi scalar actors involved in the coproduction process;
- the challenges faced by the local initiatives; and
- whether the spaces produced through the process foster social interaction among the neighbours.

Quotes

"We wanted a model project' 'having a good narrative is a good thing' 'we didn't start with the aim of co-production aim', and we didn't want to be just NIMBY¹"

"History of the privatization process: The campaign against privatization is a single-issue campaign and is different from having a planning process with design."

*"We succeeded [in the anti-privatization campaign] because of having a clear campaign."
"It is easier to go against something than to change and design and make new processes".*

The barriers the organisation/lab is facing

- The lab faces considerable challenges stemming from the complex interplay of political and bureaucratic structures in Berlin (in particular across the Senate and the District, with different responsibilities that relate to the various activities of the Lab).
- The shift in (party) political power at various levels introduces uncertainties in policy direction, complicating collaborative efforts.
- Additionally, the hierarchical bureaucracy poses a barrier to implementing community-centred, participatory urban planning processes, necessitating continuous adaptation to the shifting political landscape.
- The lab is actively working to bridge divides within communities involved in the Rathausblock project and between civil society and the state, which is influenced by the dynamic and often contentious landscape of civil society in Berlin.
- Shifting from oppositional to constructive stance is not easy within community structures. Community mobilisation is hampered by differences in tactics from oppositional to collaborative stance. Mobilisation around a cooperative process, negotiation and dialogue with the state (v. Opposition), and forms of institutionalisation, is harder.
- Some community structures are also not willing to engage with new community actors and diversity.
- Participation is costly and is hampering more inclusivity/new entrants.

¹ Expression for "Not in my backyard".

Quotes

"There is some kind of balance between those two [State] actors. You can't go without the district, but you can't also not go without the Senate."

"One point is that the District and the Senate level are not always fine with each other because they have different kinds of colours of political parties. It is not easy to cooperate with every political party. Some parties have cooperation in their DNA but some don't."

"There is also some planning culture coming from the bureaucracy that is like a filter. It is very hierarchical, very vertical. [...] This is something that needs to be changed in the administration. It is difficult to know how to change it even for them because it is hard to go out of the rules of this bureaucracy even if they would want to. There is some kind of isolation by rules and by the vertical organization. We need people inside the administration that have the motivation to work together with civil society and make other processes."

"Sometimes, there is a clash in the civil society. There is a part of the civil society saying that the reform making is a corrupted process. We need to find a third way, a way to collaborate with the state. To not just be against but to make a clear change. There are changes that need to be done on both sides. [...] Both sides have to go beyond their disagreement".

"Within the left movements, there is always this constant confrontation of are we totally against the state or do we dialogue with the state?"

"Participation is a long-term and intensive process that is hard sometimes".

Current efforts to address these barriers / scaling considerations

- To mitigate these barriers, the lab engages in strategic analysis of political dynamics and institutional landscapes to identify allies and leverage points.
- This involves both understanding the political will of current office holders and cultivating relationships with motivated individuals within the bureaucracy who are essential for building a collaborative environment conducive to co-production.
- This engagement is crucial for advancing housing and other urban development projects within a complex governance framework and shifting political alliances.
- The lab also seeks to navigate internal conflicts within civil society groups by promoting an intermediary approach that seeks to bridge the divide between outright opposition to the state and constructive co-production.

- This strategy is crucial in scaling their initiatives, as it allows for the integration of diverse perspectives within the movement, thereby strengthening their collective power
- Moreover, the lab's mobilisation efforts are focused on addressing systemic barriers to participation through activities such as childcare and translation services, to ensure inclusivity and effective communication.
- The lab aims to produce a more inclusive participation processes thinking about care practices, citizenship status, and language and translations barriers to centre people affected by housing inequalities and other urban processes. However, an important field for consideration relates to the financial resourcing of participation.

Quotes

"We look at what institution is relevant and on which level. We also look at the party in power and if they will be inclined to support us."

"We need people inside the administration that have the motivation to work together with civil society."

"Do you have somebody for childcare? Do you have somebody who can make translations?"

"To facilitate participation, we could do something by getting inspired from models in history like having planning cells with some distribution of resources for the people part of the planning process. Saying for instance 'you are a migrant taking part of this process so you are paid for this.' This could be a participation process that could involve more people countering social and economical barriers."

UrbaSen and the Senegalese Federation of Residents – Dakar

- Papa Ameth Keita (UrbaSen)
- Magatte Diouf (UrbaSen)
- Hawa Diabira (Paris Sorbonne Université et stagiaire UrbaSen)
- Mamadou Fall (Commune de Wakhinane Nimzatt)

Summary

The Dakar Fairville lab tackles the inequalities arising from flood risks and the challenges of democracy through co-production activities in the areas where it operates. Its main objective is to document the work done locally and give communities a central place in the definition of public policies. It aims to ensure their resilience in face of risks and to correct the inequalities of all kinds, to which the most vulnerable are generally subjected.

What the organisation/lab is doing and why

- The Dakar Fairville Lab, led by Urbasen and the Senegalese Federation of Residents, uses a participatory and inclusive urban planning method to incorporate the voices and expertise of local residents, particularly from informal settlements, into the urban planning process.
- By integrating resident knowledge alongside expert data, the Lab aims to democratise urban development and ensure that the city's growth includes solutions beneficial to all, especially the most marginalized communities.
- This initiative addresses the disconnect between major state projects and the lived realities of informal sector residents and workers and their housing, which lack basic amenities and infrastructure.
- This strategy is developed to counter the neglect seen in major state projects that fail to consider the specific needs and dynamics of informal, informal areas predominantly inhabited by informal sector workers.
- Residents are provided with decision-making support tools like mapping and participatory planning methodologies, which facilitate their active involvement in co-designing and co-financing flood management works.

Quotes

"The objective is to propose a participatory and inclusive planning method involving the different actors of the territory in the process of creation and management of the city."

"Major state projects do not take into account territorial realities as well as the organizational dynamics of informal, unplanned and irregularly occupied areas."

"To enable populations to be better involved in the management of public affairs, to give their opinion and to participate in the transformation of the territory, they are offered basic decision-making support tools..."

The barriers the organisation/lab is facing

- The organisation experiences significant systemic and structural barriers.
- A primary challenge is the outdated legislative framework, which fails to accommodate the complexities of contemporary urban context. Colonial-era legislation does not recognise more traditional planning models and informal urban areas, thus excluding them from official maps and development plans.
- Additionally, there is a pronounced lack of documentation and visibility of ongoing projects, which hinders public recognition and support, and recognition from broader stakeholders.
- These challenges are exacerbated by the technical nature of urban planning, which often excludes everyday residents from meaningful participation due to their lack of perceived "specialised knowledge".

Quotes

"Legislation dating back to colonial times that is not adapted to the actual urban context."

"Difficulties in making what we do work at the local level with global development plans. Difficulty integrating information into official maps. The irregular nature of these neighbourhoods means that it does not fit with what is planned by the urban plan."

"The programs do not take these neighbourhoods into account. The land occupation status, which is irregular, poses a problem in terms of overall planning and consideration of our needs."

"There is a certain technicality while the majority of the population are not technicians."

Current Efforts to Address These Barriers

- In response to these barriers, the FV lab is pursuing several strategies aimed at changing planning policies.
- This includes advocacy for legislative/policy changes that reflect current urban needs and dynamics. For example, the Lab advocates for the inclusion of informal settlements in official urban planning through the development of detailed urban planning documents that take into account the specific characteristics and needs of these areas: land titling, vulnerability to floods, and economic exclusion and inequalities.
- Another strategy includes enhancing the visibility and documentation of the Lab's projects to improve project support.
- Moreover, the Lab employs a methodological approach that simplifies technical processes, enabling residents to engage more fully and effectively in planning discussions and decisions. The hope is that local authorities and other stakeholders will also appropriate these methodologies.

Quotes

"We carry out advocacy activities so that these spaces are taken into account in global land use planning policies."

"We hope that if we manage to make the method more accessible by summarising our different stages, we can allow local authorities and other stakeholders to take ownership of it and be able to replicate them."

How and why the organisation/lab is mobilising (scale aspect)

- Fairville Lab mobilises communities by leveraging tools that facilitate local participation and solution creation, aiming to scale these successful models to other municipalities.
- By empowering residents through tools like aerial mapping and participatory planning, the Lab facilitates local solutions to urban challenges and also advocates for these solutions' replication and adaptation across other municipalities, potentially influencing national policies.
- This scaling approach is designed to extend the benefits of participatory planning. The ultimate goal is to foster a sustainable model of urban co-production that can be adapted and implemented across various settings.

- Direct example: The Lab's success in Dakar with aerial mapping and participatory planning has led to requests from other communities to implement similar strategies.

Quotes

"With participatory planning, people can identify the areas we see with mapping and modelling. They offer local solutions that are inexpensive and can work. Other communities have asked that the same be done in other municipalities."

"This allowed us to expand our interventions in other municipalities in the suburbs. Now, we are testing in other regions, outside Dakar."

North South Consultants Exchange – Giza

- Paloma Anger
- Kawkab Tawfik
- Ahmed Zaazaa

Summary

The Giza Lab is addressing inequalities in waste management between urban and rural areas in Mansheyat Dahshur. This area suffers from inadequate infrastructure and minimal state support if not negative, impacting public and community health and environmental quality. The project utilises co-production techniques to integrate local community knowledge and seeks to develop participatory solutions, recognising that sustainable waste management must be adapted to the socio-economic and cultural contexts of the communities. This approach aims to establish a scalable model that can be adapted to similar settings, focusing on empowering local communities and ensuring gender-sensitive engagement strategies.

What the organisation/lab is doing and why

- The Giza Lab's project focuses on addressing significant inequalities in waste management between urban and rural areas, emphasizing the scale of the problem in rural communities in Giza (Mansheyat Dahshur).
- These (very large and dense) areas are characterized by poor infrastructure and limited state intervention; they suffer from a lack of systematic waste disposal, impacting public health and environmental quality, also of children.
- The project aims to engage local communities through co-production methods, incorporating their insights and needs into solutions.
- This approach is driven by the recognition that effective and sustainable waste management must consider the socio-economic and cultural contexts of these communities, leveraging local knowledge and capacities.

Quotes

"We are trying to tackle [the issue] by different angles... focusing on this relation between spatial and environmental aspects."

"We are still in the phase of building more and more networks with the local community and to understand the village."

"There is no kind of system for solid waste there. That is what we are trying to focus on."

The barriers the organisation/lab is facing

- Several cultural, social, and logistical barriers impede the project's progress.
- Gender norms restrict women's public participation, which is crucial since they are primarily responsible for household waste management and are disproportionately affected by inadequate waste services.
- Financial barriers – poverty and lack of resources – also limit the project, as the local community and the state show reluctance to allocate funds to the problem.
- Additionally, existing inequalities and the centralised nature of Cairo's political landscape exacerbate the rural-urban divide, posing challenges in scaling effective waste management solutions across similarly affected areas.

Quotes

"Women are not allowed to gather in public space"

"The budget is a limit; the area is quite poor so the project will need funds."

"The State's engagement will be very limited... They might facilitate the solutions but they don't want to engage funds."

"The economic value of villages due to their touristic position... could be seen as an opportunity for the state to invest in a system of waste management."

Current efforts to address these barriers

- Efforts to mitigate these barriers include adopting gender-sensitive approaches to engage women within culturally acceptable settings and leveraging local NGOs and community organizations already embedded within the social fabric of the village.
- By documenting and learning from existing grassroots waste management initiatives, the project aims to develop a scalable model that respects local contexts and constraints.
- These efforts are particularly focused on creating a participatory framework where both men and women can contribute effectively, though in different capacities and spaces.

Quotes

"We conducted the interviews in the houses of women and it was just me in a very safe and close female environment."

"Connecting and collaborating with these types of NGOs would be very important for us to start learning from them, engaging them in the whole process."

How and why the organisation/lab is mobilising (scale aspect)

- Scaling the project involves extending successful waste management practices from a pilot “village” to other rural areas, emphasising knowledge transfer and adaptation to local conditions. [Note that “village” in this instance is a locality with more than 60 000 inhabitants]
- The focus on villages near Cairo, which have potential economic value due to proximity to tourist sites like the pyramids, suggests that highlighting economic incentives might encourage state and private sector investment.
- However, the challenge remains to balance this top-down economic interest with bottom-up, community-led initiatives that prioritise local needs and empowerment.

Quotes

"The aim is to build a pilot system, a pilot project... We hope to build a system to handle this waste management."

"We are talking about 60 000 inhabitants so it is quite a lot... The scaling up is not to cover these villages as much as to transfer the knowledge, to transfer the experience to the other “villages.”"

Just Space - London

In London, members of the Lab (coordinated by Just Space with support from UCL) have opted to forgo interviews in favour of a reflective discussion on “scalability issues”. This decision followed a series of workshop discussions. The paper was primarily authored by Seema Manchanda (Just Space) and further discussion on scalability is expected across the three branches of the London Lab.

Analysis based on the paper by Seema Manchanda (Just Space) on issues of scalability in co-production

The London Lab is prioritising co-production as a transformative approach to urban development. Co-production in this context goes beyond consultation to form partnerships characterised by equality, reciprocity, and mutual respect for diverse experiences and expertise. The lab emphasises power sharing, transparent evaluation, and ensuring community benefits as core to its methodology.

Co-production is so much more than consultation and engagement. It is a way of working together in partnerships based on key principles of equality, diversity, access, reciprocity, and recognising the importance of experience that participants bring to the table.

What makes for good, authentic co-production:

- *Treating local people/communities as partners, central to any process of change, involved in joint decision-making from the very beginning of a project to its fulfilment.*
- *A commitment to sharing power*
- *Giving practical support, resourcing and up-skilling to enable communities to participate effectively*
- *Employing good communication techniques to encourage those not usually participating.*
- *Capturing the different experiences, knowledge, needs and aspirations and finding common ground, whilst respecting and recording any minority views, all to inform joint decision making.*
- *Transparency when evaluating the engagement, to check for missing or quiet voices, recognising that those previously marginalised and those most affected by a planning project should play a more significant role.*
- *Ensuring that participation results in improved processes and outcomes to the benefit of communities to encourage further involvement.*

Just Space, Community-Led Recovery Plan, 2022, page 16

The barriers the organisation/lab is facing

- Co-production remains outside the mainstream neo-liberal model of urban development, requiring significant lobbying and advocacy to re-align policy perspectives and practices toward this inclusive approach.
- The challenge lies in quantifying the social value of co-production, which often transcends conventional economic metrics, to validate its efficacy in delivering diverse community benefits.
- There is a critical need for expanding the pool of co-production practitioners through targeted training and development, enhancing the scalability and replicability of co-production methodologies.
- Establishing a robust infrastructure that supports scalable co-production processes, techniques, and tools remains a bottleneck, particularly in terms of widespread adoption and implementation across different projects and sectors.
- Effective co-production requires genuine power sharing, which is often resisted by traditional entities in charge of community services. This resistance is a significant barrier to scaling co-production practices.

Quotes

"To shift co-production from the margins to the mainstream requires not just advocacy but a redefinition of success beyond the neoliberal metrics of profit and loss. We're advocating for a model where success is measured by community well-being and empowerment."

"True co-production is about dismantling the hierarchical models of governance and embracing a more democratic, participatory approach. It's challenging because it requires those in power to not only listen but also act on the advice and insights from the communities they serve."

Current efforts to address these barriers to scale and mobilisation

- Developing a glossary and multimedia resources like 'The Markets Video' (produced by the Food Hub of the London lab) to clarify and spread co-production concepts.
- Innovating in social value measurement tools and techniques to provide evidence of the broader benefits of co-production.
- Initiatives like mapping 'Care Commons' (by Equal Care Coop, the Care Hub of the London lab) and local market projects attempt to renegotiate power dynamics and governance structures to better reflect co-production principles.

Equal Care Coop – London

- Emma Back (Equal Care Coop)
- Luke Tanner (Equal Care Coop)
- Adam McNichol (Equal Care Coop)

Summary

Equal Care Coop is facing significant operational and financial challenges such as complex procurement processes, stigma in the care sector and restrictive regulatory environments that hinder scaling efforts. The organisation recognises the need for engaging directly with governmental bodies, using strategic funding opportunities, and fostering stronger community relations as key strategies to overcome these barriers.

Analysis

- Equal Care does co-production through social care services, with a focus on redistributive power rather than technology to address care sector issues.
- It faces a tough regulatory and legislative environment that challenges cooperative models, particularly in care services.

Barriers the organisation/lab is facing

- Diverse procurement practices across regions complicate scalability, notably differing between Wales and England in terms of support to cooperatives.
- The stigma associated with the care sector and a restrictive regulatory climate pose significant operational and scaling barriers to cooperatives like Equal Care Coop.
- Funding sources heavily influence project direction, with strict donor requirements impacting pilot projects and reporting.

Current efforts to address these barriers

- Equal Care Coop has tried to engage with local government authorities like the London Borough of Hackney to navigate and possibly change procurement processes to better accommodate cooperative models, though it has proven difficult and unsuccessful.
- With an eye on expanding their model, Equal Care Coop continues to address participation barriers to reform social care through strategic community engagement, emphasising local autonomy and federation rather than replication.

Quotes

"We are pushing against the grain, not just in terms of technology but in redistributing power within the governance models we operate in."

"The scaling conundrum is ferociously complex, touching on governance, capital, and specific sectoral challenges."

"We're trying to federate, not replicate. Local autonomy at scale is critical given the current climate."

Future directions on scaling

- Equal Care Coop emphasise future directions on local autonomy to adapt the cooperative model to specific community needs.
- It also hopes that with a Labour government there may be more support which in turn it could significantly lift barriers to support cooperative growth in the care sector and therefore the capital needed.

Studio 4-5, AMU/MESOPOLHIS - Marseille

- Claire Bénit-Gbaffou (Aix-Marseille Université)
- Mathilde Jourdam-Boutin (Aix-Marseille Université)

Summary

The AMU/MESOPOLHIS Marseille Studio 4-5 lab is exploring innovative approaches to urban governance through partnerships with local authorities in a mixed-income, socially diverse part of Marseille. The lab is focused on co-producing knowledge to support the actions of councillors and officials interested in experimenting with progressive policies, in dialogue with various publics. The Lab is located in a particular political context: exploring the practices of local officials (councillors and ‘agents’/bureaucrats) within the new /fragile Green-Left coalition in the city, navigating the complexities of working within a system entrenched in vertical power structures and marked by pervasive clientelism.

What the organisation/lab is doing and why

- The Marseille lab partners with local officials to coproduce knowledge aimed at informing public action and education. This approach focuses mostly on dialogue with institutional actors. Knowledge coproduction aims to support policy-making – in the broad sense (where supporting can sometimes entail criticising, albeit in a constructive manner, i.e. imagining alternatives or amendments).
- The partnership involves councillors and officials who are more or less open to knowledge coproduction, in contrast to established top-down urban governance practices and broad scepticism about participatory policymaking.
- The lab is engaged in understanding the practices of local officials within the Green-Left coalition, focusing on progressive policies (i.e. seeking to push the boundaries of participation and distribution), including those that incorporate environmental concerns.
- The lab's scaling strategy involves learning from each pilot and seeking new opportunities for collaboration. This approach allows the lab to adapt and respond to the evolving political and social landscape of Marseille.

Quotes

“Very few councillors engage in participatory policy making – it's mostly superficial. Some engage in practices of consultation, but it does not go much further than that”.

Barriers to activities of the Studio and to (scaling) coproduction more broadly

- Municipal actors engage in very different ways with the Studio, depending on political culture (vision of power, vertical or horizontal), personality, and position of councillors/officials.
- Some see the Studio as a source of knowledge production/an opportunity to free the imagination best kept at arms-length. Accordingly, the Lab is then invited to produce knowledge on sites that are less known by the councillors and not the immediate target of policy making. Others (a minority) are more open to deeper forms of engagement and the opportunity it provides for reflexivity on alternative practice. In these cases, the Lab is invited to study complex sites of public intervention, before, during or after municipal action.
- Time and availability constraints are hampering the more reflexive opportunities opened up by the Studio with councillors open to deeper forms of coproduction. Similarly, the time-scale of political opportunities does not necessarily coincide with that of research and knowledge coproduction.
- A significant challenge lies with a widespread distrust of local knowledge, with both left and right-leaning parties often underestimating the desire and capacity of local residents to contribute meaningfully to knowledge coproduction.
- For many councillors this translates into the notion that power is not for sharing, decisions are to be made by councillors. Opening up discussions leading to such decisions, e.g. through the Studio's activities, can therefore be perceived as a threat. Lack of trust between some local councillors and the Studio is therefore an issue and represents a risk for ongoing Studio activities.
- This insecurity may be compounded by local councillors' own insecurity over capacity to 'do the job', many of which have no experience of government, are from civil society, and have structurally limited power at the district level.
- Overall, coproduction practices – or more broadly, attempts to 'do things differently' in terms of local urban governance - struggle with a vertical power structure resistant to change, accusations of power grabs in the face of participatory governance attempts from within municipal structures, and potential gender biases.
- Attempts to scale innovative pilots tend further to collapse in the face of competition over turf, silos and lack of articulation between district and central municipality councillors.

Quotes

“The current political structure has a very vertical power structure that is resistant to change”

"Political realities and short-term priorities can hinder long-term co-production efforts."

- *"Internal disjuncture, rivalries, silos are internal obstacles for upscaling a policy that was coproduced at the local (district) level with relevant stakeholders". "There is a strong institutional culture of compartmentalising expertise, rivalries between departments, posing a challenge for collaborative efforts."*

"The Studio is seen as both a risk and a benefit by councillors (politically/ but also at times to conduct better policies). The balance between risk and benefit varies depending on the councillor, the topic approached, and the political context – it is highly unstable and therefore constantly renegotiated."

"The Studio has been accused several times (mostly by councillors not working with us) to want to decide on municipal policies".

"Only with a couple of councillors is the discussion sometimes more reflexive [... but] there is an issue of time and availability."

Current efforts to address these barriers

- The lab engages in strategic partnerships, selecting councillors and officials based on their openness to new approaches, receptive to "working differently."
- Similarly, the Lab is able at times to work with projects that have an inbuilt interest in coproduction processes, or even doing things differently – e.g. the greening city schools project (note the latter's difficulties in the face of schools' hermetic culture, especially post recent attacks against teachers in France; and in the face of coordination issues between sectors of government (e.g. education and parks) and scales of government.
- The lab focuses on creating safe spaces for communities of practice to collaborate and supports partners in reflecting on their practices. Focusing on the 'doing' is helpful in building trust between the Studio and councillors/officials. So are moments of 'restitution', which can be similar to spaces of mediation in the context of conflictual relations.

Quotes

"We look for openings in the political landscape where a pilot project might succeed."

"Academics can create safe spaces for communities of practice to grow..." "The Studio is a space focussed on the "doing" and establishing trust through collaboration"

Centre Ville Pour Tous (CVPT) - Marseille

- Alima El Bajnoui (CVPT)
- H  l  ne Froment (CVPT)
- Patrick Lacoste (CVPT)

Summary

Centre Ville Pour Tous (CVPT) engages with APPUI and the CNRS/Paris 8 in a co-production process that aims to develop local housing plans, focusing on mobilizing support for affordable housing. Focusing on the intersection of co-production, technical knowledge and participation, this Marseille lab explores strategies to empower residents to effectively interface with public authorities and influence urban planning processes, particularly in response to crisis events in the city like the 2018 Marseille building collapse, which killed eight people.

What the organisation/lab is doing and why

- CVPT conducts workshops - *atelier populaire d'urbanisme* - to share urban technical knowledge, enabling residents to engage in dialogue with public authorities, and employing diverse “languages” to increase accessibility of technical consultations and broaden community dialogue.
- It also documents the input and experiences of residents affected by the 2018 building collapse to inform a state-adopted charter or *Charte Du Relogement*
- CVPT organises mutual aid support groups around food through building associations, enhancing community cohesion.
- It also engages in research and dialogue to understand the barriers and opportunities in scaling co-production.

Quotes

"Co-production within the association began intensely after the collapse of buildings in 2018, with a focus on making the voice of citizens heard."

"We try to work with people, my neighbours, to facilitate their participation. The vocabulary of urbanism is challenging for many."

"It is not so easy for people to work together with researchers. We organize workshops where the public come with researchers."

"That's why we're using the atelier populaire d'urbanisme (popular urban workshop), small groups of residents, to take time to explain terms and also to gather input. Concerning the tools we're using and the objective: through these public workshops, we aim to transform the way dialogue is created between inhabitants and public authorities, fostering a bottom-up approach for real co-production and challenging the usual top-down methods.

"It's so important to hear the knowledge of the inhabitants; this is a critical question of legitimacy. We need to make the vocabulary more explicit, understandable, and relevant. It's crucial to work on this. People are very efficient when they discuss their own experiences in everyday situations and contexts."

The barriers the organisation/lab is facing

- There are concerns about "communautarisme" that prevent people from coming together based on shared cultural or ethnic backgrounds.
- A key barrier is formed by the complex jargon in urban planning that makes it harder for residents to understand processes that affect them and participate in changing them.
- The lengthy duration of urban projects often hides their immediate benefits, making it difficult to maintain community interest.
- High pressures from urban regeneration projects make direct involvement in urban planning processes very challenging.
- Historically, there have been weak social connections, much like those observed in past organised working-class communities.

Quotes

"Fear of communautarism in France makes it hard to gather around cultural or origin identity, which is then challenging for co-production initiatives."

"The issue of vocabulary is important; for a lot of people, it is difficult to understand certain words in urbanism."

"What is difficult in terms of time is the fact that it is not a short time project so people do not see the results."

Current efforts to address these barriers and how and why the organisation/lab is mobilising (scale aspect)

- CVPT has used high-profile events like the 2018 building collapse to catalyse/mobilise public and media pressure.

- The media focus and public pressure led to the adoption of a charter by the state. This charter was influenced by the community's input, documenting their experiences and demands during the crisis. The involvement of residents and the subsequent state adoption of their proposed changes signify a policy shift towards acknowledging and integrating citizen voices in disaster response and urban planning, but this is not enough.
- The strategy used by the lab to prepare community associations for meaningful consultations is to engage associations and communities of residents in preparatory activities, so that the lab ensures that community members are well-informed, ready to participate effectively, and can articulate their concerns and suggestions during formal consultations. This preparation is critical to equip residents with necessary information and confidence to engage in dialogue with authorities (“in negotiation”)
- CVPT uses documentation and communication to educate and empower local communities about their rights and facilitates dialogue and understanding between residents and public authorities to influence urban planning decisions.

Frontal association - Călărași

- Catalin Berescu
- Alexandra Lulache

Summary

The Calarasi Lab, led by Frontal, aims to enhance democratic participation and recognition of the Roma communities in Călărași. This lab focuses on addressing the chronic issues of segregation, marginalisation, and political manipulation that have historically plagued Roma communities.

What the organisation/lab is doing and why

- Frontal is engaged in confronting the long history of Roma discrimination, rooted also in slavery and Holocaust, and the impacts on their communities that are not fully acknowledged in Călărași.
- Initiatives include providing Roma communities with identity papers and legalising their settlements, aimed at mitigating past and ongoing segregation.
- Efforts are centred around unifying the fragmented Roma communities voice to strengthen their political influence and reduce their vulnerability to local political exploitation.

Quotes

"Calarasi has a complex layer of historical segregation and ongoing exploitation that we aim to dismantle through community-driven initiatives and legal empowerment."

The barriers the organisation/lab is facing

- Local political figures, 'barons', frequently manipulate Roma votes through bribery, undermining democratic processes.
- Historical, cultural, and linguistic divisions within the Roma communities complicate efforts to form a unified group.
- Despite having legal papers and recognised housing, Roma communities still face significant barriers in accessing democratic spaces and participating effectively in political life.
- Moreover, traditional community structures often exclude women from participating fully in co-production and decision-making processes.

Quotes

"Despite progress in legal recognition, Roma communities in Calarasi continue to face systemic exclusion and internal divisions that bloc co-production."

Current efforts to address these barriers

- Educational workshops and forums designed to increase Roma understanding of their rights and the political system
- Frontal is documenting injustices and advocating for Roma rights at local and national levels, using data and personal narratives to push for policy changes.
- There are also efforts to connect different Roma groups within Călărași to foster a sense of larger community and shared goals.
- Specific initiatives are being developed to ensure that women in Roma communities are included in the co-production processes, addressing traditional exclusions via *Courtyard Workshops*/

Quotes

"We are leveraging local networks and educational initiatives to bridge the gaps in understanding and participation among Roma communities, ensuring all voices, including those of women, are heard and valued."

How and why the organisation/lab is mobilising (scale aspect)

- By demonstrating the effectiveness of participatory approaches in one part of Călărași, the lab aims to replicate these in other areas, gradually expanding their reach.
- Frontal seeks to influence broader systemic changes that support Roma integration and recognition.
- Engaging Roma youth through schools to build a foundation of educated, rights-aware individuals who can lead future community initiatives.
- By increasing the number and scope of community dialogues to include more diverse groups and issues, thereby enhancing the depth and breadth of engagement.

Quotes

"Our goal is to scale up our efforts by broadening the scope of our engagement, ensuring that successful interventions in one area can serve as a model for others."