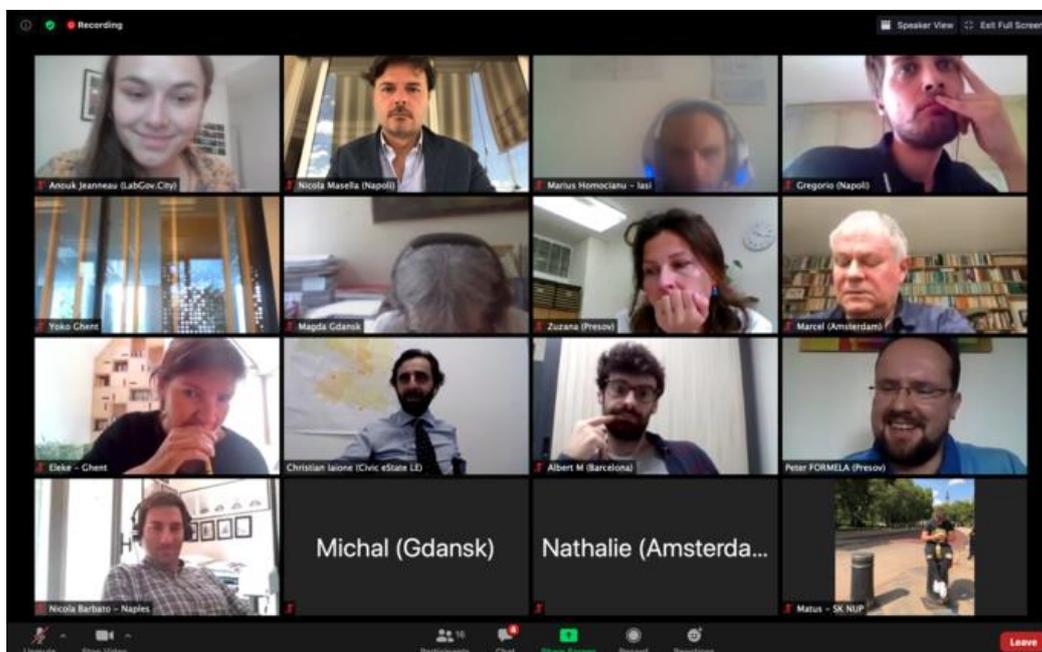




URBACT in the context of Pandemic

Three years ago Barcelona City started to regularize, fortify and recognise interactions between the public municipal institution and community citizen initiatives. The transfer of public assets' use and management to non-profit collectives has been a common practice, although without a clear and coordinated commitment between different areas and districts of the municipal administration. At the beginning appeared the need to coordinate with other cities to learn and collaborate with the aim of expand this kind of public-common collaboration. In this context the URBACT Civic eState becamen a big oportunity for these objectives.

I have incorporated in the Citizen Assets Program just before the explosion of COVID-19, January 2020. Nevertheless, as a social organization member, I know the challenges that pandemia generate in the civic projects. Especially the ones that are related with a phissically space. URBACT relations also have changed.



This pandemic situation impacted also in the URBACT meetings. Especially in the way and intensity of how we exchange experiences. Before March 2020 the phissically proximity had help in the ideas transmission.



After this time the online meetings became a cold way to share information. Sometimes, if you can not see and touch projects is kind of hard to understand the aim of some activities and the goal of some speakers.

Even so, the effort that URBACT coordinators have made help the collaborate cities follow in the project. The exchange of ideas has carried out during the last monts. And seems that in some times with more intensity that before COVID context.

Additionally, we are arriving at the end of the project. A moment to think what we did in the last years, which health has the project and what we can do in the future to improve it. Maybe in this case the context make easier to do this. A time to be calm and think about future. And some of the last activities that we have devolped in the URBACT frame have repercussions in the objectives of the Barcelona Citizen Assets Program. For example, thank to one of the last online meetings-work spaces, at mid july, we realized that participatory spaces and in general the public-social collaboration there has not totally developed in the project.

Transfer Diary 4_URBACT in the context of Pandemic

*Joan Sales Favà, Barcelona ULG member
12-October 2020*