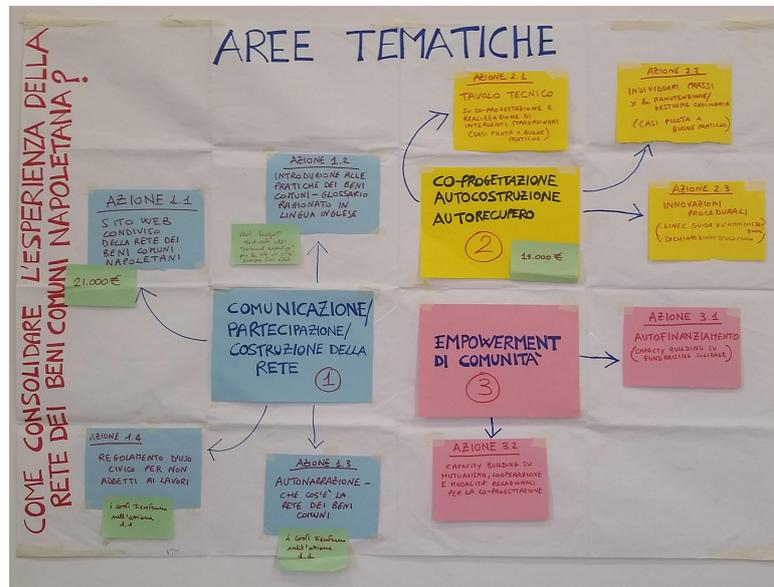


Transfer Diary

Naples' URBACT Local Group plenary meeting on the Zoom platform, 21 April 2020

Roberta Nicchia, URBACT Local Group Coordinator, City of Naples



The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are now visible also in Naples and the related containment measures are being respected with a great sense of collective responsibility. Therefore, meeting physically, as we have done until now, is not possible anymore. For this last step of the co-design process, also the Naples' URBACT Local Group experimented a "virtual meeting" for the first time. *L'Asilo*, one of the urban commons belonging to the ULG that already hosted some "physical" meetings of the group, offers now a "virtual room" on the *Zoom Platform*, that they had already activated in the past. Thanks to their expertise in this field, the "ice-breaking" for all of us was not so hard!

Luckily, this meeting was the end of the ULG's co-design phase. If I think on how important it was during the whole participatory process to meet physically and to discuss, argue, get excited from an idea..... I really think that it would have been really complicated to do all this on a virtual platform.

After a draft version had been circulating among the participants to the ULG in the previous two weeks, today is the time for sharing the final version of the Local Action Plan. The draft has been discussed, integrated and modified according to the different comments received.

This has been a very reach and challenging co-design process. The URBACT Local Group has been crossed by 73 participants, belonging to different Urban Commons of the city (*l'Asilo*, *Giardino Liberato di Materdei*, *Scugnizzo Liberato*, *ex Lido Pola*, *Santa Fede Liberata*, *Villa Medusa*, *ex Convitto delle Monachelle*, *Villa De Luca*), to political departments of the Municipality of Naples (Urban Planning and Urban Commons Department), to technical services of the Municipality of Naples (Urban Planning and Urban Commons Service, Enhancement of the Historical City Service), to the Permanent Observatory on the Urban Commons of the City of Naples.

The output of this intense, collaborative elaboration process is a Local Action Plan, whose aim is to consolidate the experience of the urban commons' network in Naples. Three specific objectives were identified, as well as the relative actions that should be implemented within May 2021 in order to strengthen the urban commons' network.

The first identified objective is "Communication / Participation / Construction of the network". First of all, the aim is to improve the communication means of the network, as for example with the realization of a shared website of the Urban Commons network of Naples and through the development of shared contents to present the different commons as a unique network, both at local level and abroad. Furthermore, up to now, many legal and administrative documents have been produced, but a storytelling is actually missing of what the urban commons are, how the self-management system works and how anyone can become part of it. Therefore, the idea is to produce a set of documents easy to understand also for the general - local and international - non-expert public: "an introduction to the urban commons' practices" and also a video self-narrative of what the urban commons network is and how the "civic uses management" works.

The second objective is "Co-design / self-construction / self-recovery". Many urban commons are historical, listed buildings that belong to the built heritage of the city and most of them are in a very bad conservation state. The aim here is to strengthen the local capacity (both administrative and of the local communities) in finding solutions to the physical deterioration of the urban commons. These solutions should be compatible with the collective management and civic uses. The idea is to create a "Permanent roundtable on co-design and implementation of extraordinary interventions on the urban commons" and to identify procedures for maintenance and ordinary management of the urban commons. The aim is to formally involve the local communities of inhabitants into the process of ordinary and extraordinary maintenance of the building complexes. Finally, another challenge is to allow the possibility of self-construction/self-recovery interventions by the "community of inhabitants" themselves. This possibility at the moment does not exist according to the local regulations. Therefore, the aim is to introduce in local regulations "Procedural innovations and guidelines relating self-recovery and self-construction interventions for the urban commons".

Objective three is "Community empowerment". Here the objective is to improve the capacity and competences of the community of inhabitants in managing the urban commons. Self-assessment exercises highlighted the need for capacity building on basically two main topics: self-financing and grassroots fundraising; mutualism, cooperation and relational approaches for the co-design.

At the end of the meeting, everybody can feel a certain satisfaction for the results of the work done so far. Starting from now, the Local Action Plan will be implemented and the actions should be realized within May 2021. We end the meeting looking forward to see the results of this very intense co-design process in the next months, for which the active collaboration of all of us will still be required.