WP 2.4 Monitoring reports

Case: LAB Cívico SANTIAGO (Civic laboratory of Santiago)

Briefly explain what is the Case about (max. 6 lines):

This civic Lab started within a group of people, including urban planners, architects and designers, trying to replicate an initiative in Madrid (MediaLAB Prado), in their hometown of Aveiro.

They selected the Santiago neighbourhood in the city centre for the experiment and organized an open call for intervention projects, aiming to get people from the neighborhood together to solve their problems in collective ways, through mentoring, fostering collaborative ways of training and solving collective problems in communities, in a climate of permanent learning.

With the help from many volunteers, they ended up with 10 different projects, from one involving environmental awareness from kindergarten students to another with culinary exchanges or photography challenges and also intergenerational projects, such as teaching new technologies to elderly people.

Commitment to social innovation

1st monitoring period

Does the initiative have an institutional strategic policy commitment to social innovation?

There is no institutional background. It is an independent initiative from a group of citizens.

Main impact

1st monitoring period

What is the main impact of the initiative? How does the initiative contribute to the society?

Main impact is within a community living in a social neighborhood in Aveiro. The community itself was invited to participate in the solving of problems identified by them.

Beneficiaries and needs covered

1st monitoring period

Who are the key beneficiaries (age, sex, disability, employment status, other)? What need is addressed?

People living in the neighborhood of Santiago, in the city of Aveiro. Age, sex, disabilities, employment status are very variable as there are many families living in this community. For example, a kindergarten in the community was also involved.

Application of tools

1st monitoring period

Which methodologies and tools are applied?

The majority of tools applied were inspired by an example from Spain promoted by Experimenta Distrito de Madrid: MediaLAb Prado.

Financial plan

1st monitoring period

What is the current funding situation of the initiative? Do you use national / European funding? Do you have new funding strategies for the future? Does the initiative generate income?

This project started with no funding.

Funding strategies for the future may rely on the social institutions involved, since it's not expected to generate any income.

People involved

1st monitoring period

How many people participate in the initiative? What is their position (Staff, HEIs (Students, Teachers, and Researcher), Community, Government)? Which background, skills, and experiences do the participants have?

The initiative started with 7 persons (from areas such as urbanism, architecture, design, technology, teaching and investigation)

Some of them are investigators at the University of Aveiro working topics such as people empowerment.

After the initiative started, they got the support from a social institution from Aveiro, Florinhas do Vouga, that works directly with the community to be involved.

Involvement in networks

1st monitoring period

In which networks/collaborations is the initiative involved?

N/A

Partnerships with HEIs

1st monitoring period

Only the University of Aveiro that supported through the investigators involved

Barriers faced

1st monitoring period

Which are the main barriers of the initiative? (E.g. Legal, institutional, financial, infrastructure, human resources, local context, other)

Financially it started from zero, also with no institutional support from the municipality until the end of the project, to promote one of the projects outside of the neighborhood, in a prime area of the city.

In addition, this lack of funding makes it difficult to predict the future of the project.