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

2nd monitoring period

(How) did the strategic commitment enhance since the first period? What happened in order to support the evolvement? Does the initiative have any involvement with local community?

There is an idea for the creation of a laboratory for interdisciplinary projects involving teachers, researchers and students from various departments of the University of Aveiro.

The whole project was supported through involvement with the local community, and it is expected they continue some of the projects on their own.

Main impact

2nd monitoring period

(How) did the impact of the initiative enhance? How does the initiative contribute to the society now? How do you measure the impact on society? Do you use any kind of Social Innovation indicators?

There was a deep impact with everyone involved. Without funding, it was possible to develop 10 projects with the local community and also involve everyone in an annual gathering event.

Beneficiaries and needs covered

2nd monitoring period

Are there new/other key beneficiaries or needs addressed?

From the first period of open call for projects, there were more than 20 projects not selected that will be reavaluated and developed in order to mobilize more knowledge and skills within the community.

Application of tools

2nd monitoring period

How did the initiative enhance the application of tools? On basis of which criteria are the tools chosen? To what extent is technology important for your initiative?

The tools were tested and will be used to implement other initiatives and to consolidate the activities further on.

Technology was important to gather the community outside the neighborhood around the project and events. Communication inside the neighborhood was more analogic and most of the activities didn't make special use of technology.

Financial plan

2nd monitoring period

What is the current funding situation of the initiative? Does the initiative generate income? Have you found new funding strategies? How did you get information about new strategies? Does the initiative rely mainly on Public or private funding?

This project continues with no funding.

The city municipality is launching a participatory city budget and applying to that may generate funding for specific projects.

People involved

2nd monitoring period

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

After the end of the first initiative, the group included, apart from the members already mentioned, several participants from the local community, without connections to city services/municipality. These include various backgrounds, skills, and experiences.

Involvement in networks

2nd monitoring period

In which new networks/collaborations is the initiative involved? How did the initiative build new networks/collaborations? How does the initiative benefit from the networks?

The initiative started an informal collaboration with SIKE project, being two of its members involved, and after the SIKE unit establishment, it is expected to assume a more active role of mentoring and project support.

Partnerships with HEIs

2nd monitoring period

How many HEIs are partners of the initiative? Which support does the initiative receive? How did you connect to new HEIs? What kind of support does it most benefit from?

Only the University of Aveiro, but a more meaningful support is being discussed: the creation of a laboratory for interdisciplinary projects involving teachers, researchers and students from various departments of the University.

Barriers faced

2nd monitoring period

What has changed in the meantime? How did the initiative overcome barriers? Are there new barriers?

Now it is necessary to deal with the expectation to proceed with the project, given the needs presented by the community itself.

Lack of funding continues a barrier, and also assuring maintenance of the articulation with the institutions that now operate in the neighborhood and involvement in their specific projects also.