

CRETHINK - Co-creative RETHINKing for sustainable cities

IO2: Toolbox on democratic co-creation methods for sustainable development

BEST PRACTICES TEMPLATE

Definition of good/best practice

A good/best practice is defined as an initiative (e.g. technique, method, process etc.) which has already proved effective in delivering a given result with the potential to be transferred to different contexts and geographic areas. Proved effective is where the best practice has successfully established methods to engage all stakeholders throughout the course of the development process.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Title of the practice	Partnerskabet, URBAN PLANEN
Name of the institution/organisation responsible for the implementation / hosting of the initiative using co-creation methods	Partnerskabet (Partnership) – social housing organisation, Copenhagen, Amager
Country / Region / Municipality involved	Copenhagen
Geographical coverage	Amager, Copenhagen
Timescale: when did it take place and for how long	Several different initiatives developed during the period 2015-20 all aiming at the same goals and applying similar methods. Examples: I Tråd med Verden – (recycling of textiles) and affaldsguider (unemployed inhabitants working with waste management)

2. DESCRIPTION (no more than 1000 - 3000 characters)

Sustainable thematic area	Creating synergy between social and environmental sustainability in a 'vulnerable' social housing area – by offering unemployed residents a role of i.e. 'recyclers' or 'waste guides' for the area.
Objectives	Urban Plan is a social housing area with a relatively large population base of approx. 6,000 residents. It is characterized by a wide range of challenges of both social and environmental character. The objectives of these initiatives have been twofold:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving unemployed inhabitants an opportunity to define by themselves what kind of employment they find meaningful and to apply their skills in a meaningful way (empowerment, social sustainability) - Applying the skills and competences of the inhabitants in green sustainable initiatives such as waste management, recycling and the exchange economy (environmental sustainability)
Actions carried out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future workshops with the different groups of 'vulnerable' unemployed residents, giving the participants a chance to define the challenges they face, the dreams they have and point to possible solutions - Establishing collaboration between the social housing organisation, the residents, and a wide range of partners (different sectors of the municipality, social economic businesses etc.) on developing initiatives that create synergy between the social and environmental goals.
Methodologies used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letting the perspective, experience and wishes of the inhabitants be the starting point for the initiative letting the inhabitants set the direction. - Using future workshops for giving the inhabitants an opportunity to analyze and reflect on their situation and needs - Building a trusting and collaborative relation with external partners, particularly in the municipality through years of collaboration - Applying relational skills in collaboration, i.e. the competence to build trust and to 'step into the shoes of the other', recognizing what creates value for them - Framing initiatives as 'experiments' and 'labs', ensuring a measure of freedom from demands for quick outputs
Tools used or created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future workshops - Network building: Long-term partnership and relationship building strategy

3. IMPACT (no more than 1000 - 3000 characters)

Number of participants / co-creators and their background (e.g. professional, cultural, gender)	<p>15-20 'vulnerable', long-term unemployed inhabitants from Urban Planen, typically of non-Danish ethnicity, both men and women</p> <p>Employees from the social housing organization</p> <p>Managers and professionals from the municipality of Copenhagen, primarily within the sector of waste and the sector of unemployment</p> <p>Private sector actors: The social economic enterprise, I Tråd med Verden</p>
Difficulties founded	<p>Difficulties met in this project have primarily been in terms of overcoming a traditional mindset and a risk averse culture characterizing public sector employees.</p>

<p>Success factors</p>	<p>The Partnership works from a resource-oriented approach - and has succeeded in resolving some of the hard knots that both affect residents' quality of life and put gray hair in the heads of municipal professionals within the field of unemployment by linking social and environmental sustainability. This applies, for example, to the employment of long-term unemployed residents.</p> <p>An example is a collaboration with the social economic enterprise , 'In Line with the World (I Tråd med Verden, www.itmv.dk), where women from the Urban Plan, who have been involuntarily unemployed for long periods, work with upcycling discarded textiles for bags. In the longer term, this social-economic enterprise, which transforms surplus textiles from, for example, Berendtsen and Kansas into salable products, should employ women on regular pay - an element that is also important in the employment strategy of Copenhagen Municipality.</p> <p>Over the last ten years the employees of Partnerskabet, Urban Planen, have built a relatively strong credibility and strong relationships between the residents, the municipality, local players and the housing association. This has resulted in a relational infrastructure characterized by a high level of trust and that the barriers to collaboration, experimentation and making mistakes are low.</p>
<p>Weak elements</p>	<p>This way of working does not correspond well with a more linear, instrumental project thinking often applied by public organisations and funding partners. The impact and achievements tend to be un-tangible, long term and 'soft' – in terms of empowerment, enhanced life quality etc.</p>
<p>Transferability</p>	<p>The approach and method may be transferred to other areas – and should be adapted and developed to fit the specific context and actors.</p>
<p>Achievements/Tangible outputs (please include a link, if any)</p>	<p>Outcomes: Social/for the residents: Improved quality of life, stronger community and first steps towards meaningful employment Environmental/for society: Better handling of waste, recycling of textiles General description of results (in Danish): https://www.urbanplanen.com/resultater</p>

4. INNOVATION & OUTCOMES (no more than 1000 - 3000 characters)

Degree of Innovation
(governance, recruitment
process, fundraising, financing
instruments, marketing,
processes, service, etc.)

This project may be considered particularly innovative in terms of the governance approach (network governance) and in terms of its questioning traditional approaches and mindsets within the field of both unemployment and waste and environmental management.

<p>What are the innovative points of the methodological approach used?</p>	<p>Innovative points: Aiming at solving complex problems (longterm unemployment, integration of ethnic minorities) through a bottom-up approach aiming at empowerment and giving a decisive voice to the 'vulnerable' actors.</p>
<p>Evidence on the impact and outcomes achieved</p>	<p>General description of results: https://www.urbanplanen.com/resultater</p>

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

<p>Website</p>	<p>Partnerskabet, Urbanplanen: www.urbanplanen.com/om-partnerskabet I Tråd med Verden: www.itmv.dk</p>
<p>Social media</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/Urbanplanen/</p>
<p>Dissemination actions</p>	<p>Facebook, webpage, local media</p>
<p>Network (if any were set up)</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Contact information of best practice: Name & Email address</p>	<p>Søren Løkke, coordinator, Partnerskabet, Urbanplanen solo@kab-bolig.dk</p>