



## Deliverable

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# Deliverable D 4.2 Report on structural continuation in different local contexts

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Abstract	This report shows how the six local authorities, with their different local contexts and visions on participation, shared their experience with policy labs and cooperated with different stakeholders within the municipality to build on that experience and replicate the methodology.

## Version and contributing history

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## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation/Acronym	Meaning
<b>GAM</b>	Grenoble-Alpes métropole
<b>LSRG</b>	Local Stakeholders Reference Group
<b>PL</b>	Policy Lab
<b>SC</b>	Steering Committee
<b>WP</b>	Work Package

# Introduction

The goals of WP4 were to change local integration policies by implementing policy lab recommendations, to increase the participation of migrants by structurally embedding the methodology of the policy labs and to further transnational cooperation.

This report concerns the second goal and shows how the six local authorities, with their different local contexts and visions on participation, shared their experience with policy labs and cooperated with different stakeholders within the municipality to build on that experience and replicate the methodology.

The report will present the six local authorities in terms of their visions about migrant participation and will show which actions the project teams have undertaken to structurally embed the methodology, including interactive workshops and follow-up meetings with the policy lab groups and local stakeholders reference groups.

## Embedding the policy lab methodology in the local context

Citizen participation is an important policy domain in all six local authorities. In Mechelen, for example, ‘Mechelen decides together’ is one of the pillars of the coalition agreement in the period 2019-2024. In Grenoble, the Metropolitan Council of Grenoble-Alpes metropole adopted the Pact of Governance and Metropolitan Citizenship, putting forward five commitments:

- Citizen dialogue is part of deliberative dialogue
- Grenoble Alpes métropole guarantees the involvement of all inhabitants in participatory processes.
- Grenoble Alpes métropole organises feedback on the contributions of citizen participation.
- A variety of complementary participation spaces and approaches are put in place
- Cooperation between the Metropole and local authorities strengthens resources and improves citizen dialogue.

In Fuenlabrada, one of the fundamental axes of the municipal co-governance model is the work with the citizenry and in this role plays a fundamental role in the Fuenlabrada Table for Coexistence (umbrella organisation of more than 35 local NGOs).

All six local authorities acknowledge the fact that, unfortunately, not all citizens have equal access to participatory processes. Migrants are disadvantaged in that respect for a variety of reasons: language is often an obstacle, they often have urgent needs to address (this especially true of refugees), they struggle financially etc. Nevertheless, due to the increasing diversity, including migrants in the policy-making is “no longer an ideal intent but has become a concrete need, so that more effective policies could be planned” (project team in Modena).

Therefore, the six local authorities have been making considerable efforts in order to include more

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migrants in policy-making. In Vienna for instance, a study was conducted by the Vienna Chamber of Labour (published in April 2024), in order to examine how political participation opportunities in Vienna need to be designed so that they reach as many population groups as possible, especially those that currently have little or no participation opportunities. All of the cities took part in EU funded projects related to migrant participation, for example:

- CAMUS (Fuenlabrada, Mechelen): audit of municipal services by the citizens
- EMBRACE (Mechelen): listening sessions and co-creating workshops for citizens to give feedback on the integration policy
- ITACA (Modena): organisation of intercultural assemblies in order to write a Modena Intercultural Chart
- Divercities (Modena): encouraging the participation of people with migratory background through 5 intercultural assemblies
- UNITES (GAM): a participatory panel of refugees
- IncluCities (Livadia): strengthen the representation of the migrants in associations and improve their knowledge and skills to facilitate their access to the local labour market

In order to further their efforts in this respect, the six local administrations also took part in the MUST-a-Lab project. “One manner to include more migrants in policy-making is to use participation formats that systematically involve underrepresented groups in policy-making. Policy labs are such a format that gathers the perspectives of different actors and also includes those who are excluded from formal, legally embedded participation formats.” (project team Vienna)

The project teams in the six cities made considerable efforts to present the policy lab methodology to other departments and to explore, together with them, the possibilities of replicating the methodology in other areas. The difference in sizes and in the organisational structure of the municipalities lead to different approaches. Vienna, for example, collaborated with the newly founded Office for Participation, an information hub within the administration tasked with informing the departments about various participation formats and with supporting the implementation. Fuenlabrada relied extensively on the Youth Council and the Table for Coexistence and Mechelen engaged the municipal advisory boards. In doing this, the project teams stressed the benefits of the policy lab methodology: representativeness of the participants, use of micro-experiments and most importantly, the relevance and effectiveness of the proposed policies. What follows is an overview of the actions taken by the cities:

### FUENLABRADA

- Meeting with the Youth Council of Fuenlabrada to discuss the application of the policy lab methodology within the new meeting forums that they want to launch throughout 2024. During the month of July, the first creative summits are held to discuss leisure, culture and spaces for participation.
- Meeting with the Citizen Participation delegation to assess the possibility of introducing new spaces for participation, debate and meetings in the municipality. As a result of this meeting, the decision has been made to revise the Citizen Participation Regulation of the municipality of Fuenlabrada by applying the policy lab methodology.
- Meeting with the Table for Coexistence to adapt the methodology to some of their initiatives, namely the “You teach me, I’ll teach you” forums. The aim is to apply the Policy Labs



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methodology to bring out those points of interest of the citizen population that can be implemented during a short process of micro-experimentation such as the debate laboratories and that will allow obtaining future recommendations that will mark the lines of work of the Table for Coexistence during 2024.

- A meeting with the coordinators of the “Barrio Fuenlabrada” project in order to discuss a new cycle of policy labs in educational centres on the topic of mental health.
- Creation of the intercultural citizen participation entity MUST-Fuenlab. Its bylaws establish the continuity of the Policy Labs methodology as a way of engaging citizens.
- Start of the Playing project – co-creation of public spaces through co-design and the application of the policy lab approach.
- The municipality organised an interactive training about the PL methodology for elected officials and managers.
- Follow-up meetings: one has taken place and one will take place by the end of 2024. Many of the members of the LSRG are aware of the evolution of the recommendations because they are involved in their implementation.

As a result of these efforts:

- All the departments engaged in participatory processes learned about the PL methodology.
- A new intercultural organisation for citizen participation, MUST-Fuenlab, has been founded.
- The city administration applied the PL methodology to a new area, urban planning, in the context of the Palying project.
- The municipal regulations for citizen participation have been updated – a result from a policy lab process. This update will be finalized in 2025.
- The Youth Forums, organized by the Youth Council, are employing the PL methodology.

### GRENOBLE-ALPES METROPOLE

- The policy lab methodology was presented in a comparative study of two participation projects during Eurocities’ online city dialogue “Inclusion in Cities: Empowering Migrants through Social and Political Engagement”
- A workshop was organised in Grenoble in order to present the PL methodology to a wide audience: local stakeholders, PL participants, policy-makers and regional NGO’s. This was part of a national event around the participation of migrant inhabitants in policy making.
- A meeting was organized with prof. Laurent Labrot (Science Po Grenoble) to discuss the possibilities of implementing the PL methodology to some local challenges that Science Po would organize as practice research experiments in a “Policy Lab” space they are currently working on.
- A meeting was set up with two staff members of the metropole Housing department to discuss how they can be supported in the implementation of the PL methodology in the process looking for solutions to several issues linked to the current housing crisis.
- Interactive workshops: two workshops took place in September (with several departments of the metropole) and one in October (with four cities within the metropole).
- Follow-up meetings: one in February and one in October. Additional meetings were organised for the follow-up of the guide.

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As a result of these efforts:

- All relevant departments, as well as external stakeholders, became acquainted with the PL methodology.
- The Department for Participation is willing to dedicate personnel to provide support for the use of the PL methodology in other areas (social housing, climate transition etc.).

### LIVADIA

- The interactive workshop, "Policy Labs: A Participatory Approach" was conducted at the Department of Social Protection, Education, and Lifelong Learning in the Municipality of Levadia. The workshop brought together managers and employees from various departments, institutions, and programs of the Municipality of Levadia. The main goal of the workshop was to familiarize the participants with the methodology of Policy Labs
- Two (2) follow-up meetings took place, including the Interactive Workshop mentioned above and the 4th LSRG Meeting, which was conducted at the Mayor's Office on April 17, 2024.

As a result of these efforts:

- Most of the municipality departments had the chance to experience the participatory method Policy Labs promoted and the benefits coming from it.
- The Department of Culture has expressed strong interest in this participatory methodology and has already used this method during meetings with associations enabling groups of people to play an active and influential part in decisions.

### MECHELEN

- The project team in Mechelen worked closely with the officer for participation and organised a series of meetings with the working group for participation (total of five meetings in the period January-September 2024). The working group includes all the departments engaged in participatory processes: Urban planning, Transport, Culture, Strategy & Development, Youth, Social cohesion and Communication.
- Meeting with the Strategy Director, the Head of Communication and Marketing and the project assistant for participation. It was decided that the working group for citizen participation would formulate recommendations for the next city council (elections in October 2024)
- The project team participated in the working group of the Youth department, tasked with developing a strategic plan for enhancing the participation of youth.
- The project team took part in the working group (together with the Social cohesion department), tasked with formulating recommendations for the next legislature. Several recommendations deriving from the MUST-a-Lab project were included.
- The project team organised a workshop with municipal advisory boards (seniors, global citizenship and people with disabilities) and ethnic-cultural organisations about the possibility of applying the policy lab methodology to the working of the advisory councils in

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order to make them more inclusive and diverse.

- Meeting with the Strategy Director and General director to discuss the policy lab methodology and its role in the municipality's participation model and to discuss participation policy in general.
- Interactive workshop for project and policy officers of the municipality about the PL methodology.
- Three follow-up meetings were organised with the PL group and the Local Stakeholders Reference group.

As a result of these efforts:

- All relevant city departments learned about the PL methodology.
- Possible new applications of the methodology:
  - WATSUPS – an EU-funded urban planning project. The PL methodology is considered for the topic of 'littering'.
  - For the working of the municipal advisory boards, especially for cross-sectoral topics (e.g. integration, climate transition etc.)
- The municipality has internal Guidelines for participation, developed by the working group for citizen participation.
- The PL methodology and the MUST-a-Lab project are included in the Youth and Children strategy
- The recommendations and the lessons learned from the application of the methodology were included in the recommendations of the city administration to the new elected officials.

### MODENA

- A new project, "Fermata Molza", meant to re-design an urban area has been approved and funded by Fondazione di Modena. The PL methodology will be used in the project. For this project there will be a training about PL for new facilitators for "Fermata Molza".
- The project team (Youth Office) applied for a call to obtain financing for a project meant to use the PL methodology in order to improve the youth aggregation center.
- The project team (Youth office) assigned funds to the project "Modena in Medina". The initiator of the project is a PL participant and the project includes several activities, i.a.: a training course for volunteers who teach Italian to migrants, tandem events with migrants and locals, podcast in 10 episodes about the experience of youngsters with a migrant background in Modena.
- Workshop with AUSL (local health company), to explain the PL methodology and its benefits in terms of result, in view of organizing an event "The health services I would like" next year.
- The project team organised a follow-up meeting with the policy lab group where they informed the participants about the implementation of the recommendations. A meeting of the Local Stakeholders Reference Group also took place in this phase.

As a result of these efforts:

- Most of the municipal departments and the cooperatives working within the social services learned about the PL methodology and its benefits.





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- The PL methodology will be replicated in a new area (urban planning).
- One PL participant became actively engaged in the domain of integration and, thanks to the financing of the municipality, has now a project of his own (“Modena in Medina”).

### VIENNA

- Participation Forum, a biannual event with all Viennese key stakeholders working on the topic of participation. The focus of the forum was the city’s candidature for the Year of the Democracy and how city departments, city-related companies and NGOs could contribute with formats/events on participation and democracy.
- Interactive workshop “Human Rights in Practice in Vienna's Human Rights Districts” organised by the Human Rights Office: the MUST-a-Lab project and the PL methodology were presented to all 15 human rights districts as well as several other districts. All districts were encouraged to implement policy labs that deal with specific local challenges and issues. They were assured of support in the process as well as being provided with the experiences of the Human Rights Office.
- Meeting with the Human Rights Office and the newly founded Office for Participation of the City of Vienna in order to exchange experiences on tested participative formats. The PL method as best practice for local participative projects, with its double diamond model, as well as the results of this process were presented.
- Participation Forum over 60 people and employees from departments, districts and institutions of the city of Vienna. The Office for Participation is currently collecting different participatory methods that are already in use in the City of Vienna and plans to serve as an information hub for future participation projects for all interested and committed stakeholders. The MUST-a-Lab project and the PL method as best practice for local participative projects were introduced.
- The project team shared the experience in the MUST-a-Lab project (participatory methodology, human rights campaign for youth) with the Ombudsoffice for Children and Youths, as part of the process of updating the Vienna Children and Youth Strategy. The updates focus on a charter for digital rights for children and young people.
- 6 Follow-up meetings
- From 2024, Vienna's status as the European Capital of Democracy will provide the framework for a Year of Democracy comprising focus events, initiatives and projects that support democracy. Within this frame, the human rights office will contribute to the following 4 pillars:
  - Further broadening of participation opportunities for Viennese citizens
  - International presentation of pioneering Viennese projects, such as the Policy Lab
  - Innovative event formats
  - International exchange

As a result of these efforts:

- It was decided to include the human rights office in the advisory board of the democracy unit. The activities of the specialist centre are to be reflected upon and new activities stimulated. In particular, future research questions should also be discussed in the advisory board.
- The policy lab methodology has been introduced on city level (at interdepartmental focus groups, forums and expert meetings) and at district level (which includes many civil society

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organisations and NGOs as well as politicians and civil servants).

- The Human Rights Office is willing to share the experiences of the Policy Lab on Education and Participation and to support processes for newly launched policy labs on specific local challenges applied to all the stakeholders mentioned above.
- The Human Rights Office will continue to inform the newly founded Office for Participation on the value of the policy labs methodology.

# Conclusions

The six local authorities engaged in considerable efforts in order to embed the policy lab methodology in the participation model of the city. All cities organised events (e.g. GAM, Mechelen, Livadia), or took part in events (e.g. Vienna, Fuenlabrada, Modena) to present the PL methodology. By stressing the benefits of the methodology and by highlighting the results of the MUST-a-Lab project (i.a. efficient policies, better cooperation among stakeholders), the six project teams managed to generate interest within other municipal departments and beyond. Several cities shared the methodology with organisations outside the municipality (e.g. GAM, Fuenlabrada) and by doing so, paved the way for future local cooperation. Other cities invested more time and energy into internal processes by developing guidelines (Mechelen) and liaising with departments involved with participation (Vienna, Fuenlabrada).

The immediate impact of these efforts is the replication of the methodology in two local contexts (new projects in Modena and Fuenlabrada), but we expect the long-term impact to be even greater and for the six local authorities to engage in many co-designing activities with the migrant population.