



Deliverable

Deliverable D 4.3 Report on pathways towards continuations of transnational cooperation

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Abstract	In this report we will summarize the efforts made by consortium partners to forge and strengthen relationships with municipalities, academic institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations with the aim of working together on topics of citizen participation and integration by using the policy lab methodology.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation/Acronym	Meaning
GAM	Grenoble-Alpes métropole
ISRG	International Stakeholders Reference Group
KdG	Karel de Grote College of Applied Sciences and Arts
LSRG	Local Stakeholders Reference Group
PL	Policy Lab
SC	Steering Committee
UNIMORE	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
WP	Work Package

Introduction

The goals of WP4 were to change local integration policies by implementing policy lab recommendations (D4.1), to increase the participation of migrants by structurally embedding the methodology of the policy labs (D4.2) and to further transnational cooperation (D4.3).

In this report we will summarize the efforts made by consortium partners to forge and strengthen relationships with municipalities, academic institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations with the aim of working together on topics of citizen participation and integration by using the policy lab methodology.

The first part of this report is a summary of the transnational workshop (activity 4.2) held in Grenoble in June 2024 during the partner meeting of the consortium. The second part is a summary of other network meetings organized and attended by the consortium partners.

Transnational workshop

The transnational workshop took place during the partner meeting in Grenoble, on June 5th (see also D1.7). The goal of this workshop was to present the preliminary research results of the project to a larger audience (policy-makers and managers of partner cities, international NGO's, members of ISRG, participants of other EU-funded projects) and to discuss with them questions relevant to WP4: the implementation of the policy recommendations, co-design as form of citizen participation in local governance and the possibilities of extending the MUST-a-Lab partnership.

Prior to the workshop the consortium performed a mapping of networks representatives for cooperation and dissemination initiatives (see Annex I). The mapped organisations were invited to the transnational workshop in Grenoble as well as to the final conference in Brussels.

Below we offer a summary of the discussions of the transnational workshop:

Implementing Policy Recommendations: difficulties and achievements, participatory monitoring

The participants were invited to discuss the following question: how do we include the voice of migrants in the policy-making process in a systematic manner?

The conclusions of the discussion:

- Cities need to create spaces where people feel trust to express their needs and concern and inform migrants and the general public about those spaces. Those spaces don't need to be new; cities can rely on already existing locations and events.
- The implementation stage is extremely important: the cities need to secure the means for implementation (e.g. Fuenlabrada – umbrella organisation Table of Coexistence).
- It is impossible to talk about participation in policy-making without discussing political rights (e.g. voting). Migrants need to have perspective not to lose confidence in their welcoming countries.



- Best practice example from Athens : Council of Integration with representants from different communities. They promote their ideas to the Municipal Council and receive feedback and follow-up and responses from the Municipal Council. This process is mediated by the vice-mayor.
- The agenda for participation needs to be based on the needs of migrants (bottom-up).
- There needs to be the possibility to bring issues up to the national level.
- The concept of 'citizenship' needs to be discussed. 'Citizenship' and 'migrant' are legal terms that have legal and social consequences.
- Migrant associations need to be empowered: capacity-building is necessary so they acquire the competences and know-how that are necessary to successfully apply for grants and subsidies.

Citizens participation in local governance: how can we make co-design successful?

Using the method of the [Forum Theatre](#) the participants discussed the dynamics at play in the process of institutionalisation of the recommendations.

The factors that have an **enhancing** impact on the process are:

- Securing enough 'allies' within the local authority, both on the political level and on the level of administration.
- Accepting that bureaucracy is an inevitability and learning to navigate it.
- Learning in which ways the decision-making processes within the municipalities can be challenged.
- Allocating staff to participation and implementation of recommendations.
- Securing commitment to co-design before the starting with the activities.
- Clarifying the level of participation: how much space is there for input?
- Organising capacity-building for all stakeholders.
- Clarifying and explaining the decision-making process to the participants before co-design starts.

The factors that **inhibit** the process are:

- Lack of a 'can-do' attitude.
- No direct link with migrant communities.
- Condescending or patronizing attitude.
- Budget inflexibility.

Discussion and summary:

- Trust is a key factor to make co-design but it is challenging to generate and maintain over time.
- It's important to provide feedback: if people do know if they are listened to, people will lose interest.
- Individuals who are engaged as experts need to be on an equal footing with the other participants.
- Policy-labs: a long-term structural platform to engage with partners in co-design for local integration.
- Democratic innovation cannot be achieved alone ☐ further projects are needed.



MUST-a-Lab networking: how to extend the partnership and peer-learn at local, national and EU level

Local level

- Synergy with other departments within the municipalities.
- The network created in MUST-a-Lab needs to be expanded with other organisation from the civil and private sector.
- There needs to be a common action plan.
- Cities can make use of other existing networks.
- The methodology can then be share with the network, as well as a training about interculturality.
- Public calls can be made about MUST-a-Lab initiatives and the cities can also build further on existing micro-experiments.
- Ideally, the goals of the municipality and their networks will be aligned with higher administrative levels (regional, national).

National level

- Networking on the national level can include:
 - Political parties
 - Policy level hubs on national level
 - Student organisations
 - National organisations, e.g. national office of Amnesty international, Network of inclusive cities (ES), human rights cities (AT), Social and Economic Council (FR), Cities Network for Integration (GR), ANVITA (FR), Cities for Dialogue (IT), Forum Réfugié (FR)
 - City to city mentorship
 - Academic level: European training centre for human rights
- Setting up digital libraries for Policy Labs
- 1 yearly workshop with all the cities on different topics (political/technical level)

EU level

- On this level connections could be made with many international organisations: UNCR, IOM, UNICEF, COE, UCLG, FRA, European Network of Migrant Women, EU Child Guarantee, LICEAL, Eurocities
- EU institutions in Brussels: JRC, PL Hub, UK Government

Networking meetings

The partner cities engaged in network meeting with other municipalities and organisations on a local, regional, national and international level, in the period December 2023 – November 2024.

Local and regional level

The six municipalities engaged in network meetings with other local authorities:

- Meeting between the city of Besancon and GAM project team: A meeting was organized to disseminate the policy lab methodology to the city of Besancon in France. Following the first online meeting, a delegation of 8 civil servants (and a city elected representative) came to be trained on the facilitation tools and learn more about the approaches of the PLs.
- Inter-territorial network for citizen participation: GAM project team gave a presentation of the project will to the staff in charge of participation in the 49 cities of the metropole.
- Meeting between the GAM project team and the cities of Clermond-Ferrand and Lyon metropole: the goal was to explore the idea to create a regional task force on PL and integration, with the collaboration of PLACE Network, through the creation of a workgroup of the respective CTAs (contract for integration with the State).
- Meeting between the Livadia project team and the Council for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees (S.E.M.P.) of the Municipality of Athens. During the Meeting, the "MUST-a-Lab" Project Team from the Municipality of Livadia made a detailed presentation of the Programme focusing on the objective and innovative methodology of the Policy Labs.
- Meeting between the Mechelen project team and the Student Guidance Centre of the municipality of Vilvoorde. The goal was to discuss the application of the policy lab methodology in the work of the Student Center.
- Meeting between the Mechelen project team and the Participation office of the city of Gent in order to exchange experiences about participatory democracies.

Networking meetings were also organised with academic institutions and non-profit organisations:

- The municipality of Fuenlabrada organised a training session on participation methodologies in community spaces at the Universidad de la Salle, to the group of social work students within the subject of community social work.
- GAM organized a conference ("Des territoires accueillants par et pour les habitant.e.s migrant.e.s") on the topic of integration policies for local administration and the NGO sector. Other partners were present (municipality of Mechelen, International Institute for Humanitarian law).
- GAM presented the project and the PL methodology at the working group of ARNU (team on the participation of allophone inhabitants in urban planning).
- The project team of Livadia met with the President of the Art and Action Network, which empowers refugee children via educational and artistic activities, to discuss network planning and policy recommendations.

National level

The city partners engaged in series of networking meeting on a national level:

- The project team of Fuenlabrada took part in the meeting of youth councils of Spain to explain the participatory methodology of MUST-a-Lab.

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- The municipality of Mechelen took part in “LEVL UP 2024” – a conference about the political participation of migrants, organized for local authorities and non-profit organisations in Flanders. The MUST-a-Lab project and the PL methodology were presented.
- The Mechelen presented the methodology of the project during a webinar organized by the Flemish Association of Cities and Municipalities.
- The Modena project team engaged in a network meeting “Città del Dialogo”, where they exchanged experiences with other local authorities.
- The project team of Vienna met with the Innovation Office of the City of Linz. Possible links between the MUST-a-Lab project and the hub for innovation projects in the Upper Austrian capital were discussed.
- A joint meeting with the human rights cities (or cities becoming human rights cities) Salzburg, Graz, Klagenfurt and Weiz was attended by the city of Vienna. The main topic discussed was the implementation of the human rights-based approach on a city level with the four pillars of "participation and inclusion", "non-discrimination and equality", "rule of law (accountability)" and "transparency" and exchange on participative projects and formats.
- 14 Teachers in training from Germany visited the Human Rights City Vienna as part of the course "Civic Education". The Vienna project team gave a presentation on its local participative projects as well as MUST-a-Lab.

International level

A significant number of networking meetings took part on an international level:

- A delegation of the city of Oulu visited Fuenlabrada. During the visit the Oulu delegation learned about the city's participation policies and a session was held to disseminate the policy labs methodology and the results of the project.
- The project team of Fuenlabrada presented the MUST-a-Lab project and the methodology during the meeting of the Network of Intercultural Cities. Municipalities from i.a. Italy and Portugal were present.
- GAM exchanged experiences with other municipalities and organisations during the Launching Event of [Nets4Dem](#).
- Eurocities Social Affairs forum (Vantaa) – GAM related their experience with the policy labs.
- The project teams of Mechelen, Modena and GAM talked about their experience with policy labs during a meeting with Europe for Youth. Policy lab facilitators from Eastern Europe were present.
- GAM reported about their experience with the policy labs during a meeting with the representatives of the Mayor's Mechanism.
- GAM reported about their experience with the policy labs during Eurocities' meeting of the working group for migration.
- The project team of Livadia talked about the impact that the PL methodology can have on integration policies during the networking event of the award European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity 2024.
- The city of Vienna participated in the European City Network Webinars organised by the European Capital of Democracy on the topic of “Cities Teach: Democratic, Social & Digital Inclusion”. In one of the break-out sessions, The Human Rights Office introduced the MUST-a-Lab project and highlighted the Policy Lab method for implementing participative projects on a local level.
- The cities of Vienna and Mechelen took part in the “Fundamental Rights Forum of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU” and gave a master class on youth participation,



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inclusion and the promotion of democracy through education.

- During the Human Rights-Human Rights Conference in Vienna, the MUST-a-Lab Project, the Vienna Policy Lab on Education and Participation as well as the policy lab method for implementing participative projects on a local Level were presented.

Scientific conferences

The research team also engaged in networking activities:

- One researcher from KdG went to the X-Conference on Childhood Studies in Helsinki from 15 to 17/05/2024. I did a presentation on 'Child and youth participation in Multistakeholder Policy Lab exchanges: two case-studies'.

We had interesting reactions but not clear results on collaborations.



Annex I Networks and representatives for cooperation and dissemination initiatives

Organisation	Contact person	Kind of institution	Country	E-mail	Reference partner	Link to website or relevant material
Camplus (project cordinated by City of Rotterdam		EU project			FREREF	https://global.cityoflearning.eu/fr/activities/15034
Cities Network for Integration		Network of cities	Greece	info@cnigreece.gr	Municipality of Livadia	https://www.cnigreece.gr/en/municipalities/
Athens Coordination Center for Migrant & Refugee Issues		Regional Authority	Greece	contact@accmr.gr	Municipality of Livadia	https://www.accmr.gr/en/members/dimos-athinaion/
Greek Council for Refugees		Other	Greece	gcr1@gcr.gr	Municipality of Livadia	https://gcr.gr/en/
GO TALK		EU project	Belgium-Italy		KDG	https://eiplab.eu/gotalk-kick-off-meeting-in-antwerp
Rete italiana Città del Dialogo (Italian Cities of Dialogue Network)		Network of cities	Italy	retecittadeldialogo@icei.it	Municipality of Modena	https://www.retecittadeldialogo.it/

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Modena Città Interculturale (Modena Intercultural City)		EU local administration	Italy	cittainterculturali@comune.modena.it	Municipality of Modena	https://www.comune.modena.it/argomenti/immigrazione/modena-citta-interculturale
Divercities		EU project	Italy	info@icei.it	Municipality of Modena	https://www.comune.modena.it/europa-e-relazioni-internazionali/progetti/fondi-a-gestione-diretta-e-di-cooperazione-territoriale-europea/divercities-european-cities-for-diversity-and-participation https://icei.it/progetti/divercities/
UNITES		EU project	EU	rossella.nicoletti@eurocities.eu	Mechelen	
MILE		EU project	EU	vcotterell@unitee.eu	Mechelen	
ANCI Emilia-Romagna	Giacomo Prati, Program Manager	Regional Authority	Italy	giacomo.prati@anci.emilia-romagna.it	IIHL	https://sociale.regione.emilia-romagna.it/immigrati-e-stranieri/temi/richiedenti-e-titolari-protezione-internazionale/azione-di-sistema-201cemilia-romagna-terra-d2019asilo201d
Regione Emilia-Romagna	Andrea Facchini, Head of the Immigration Office	Regional Authority	Italy	andrea.facchini@regione.emilia-romagna.it	IIHL	
DARE Network	Nils Zimmermann, Elisa Rapetti	Other	EU	nils.zimmermann@dare-network.eu rapetti.elisa@gmail.com	IIHL	https://dare-network.eu/
PLACE Network	Shawgi Ahmed, Director + Ismail Alkhateeb, Officer	Other	Belgium + other countries	shawgi@place-network.org ismail@place-network.org	IIHL	https://place-network.org/emerging-leaders/
United Cities	Prachi	Network of	Spain +	p.metawala@uclg.org	IIHL	https://uclg.org/



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and Local Governments	Metawala, Fátima Fernández	cities	global	f.fernandez@uclg.org		
ANVITA	Lea Enon-Baron	Network of cities	France	lea.enon-baron@anvita.fr	GAM	ANVITA - Association Nationale des Villes et Territoires Accueillants
New Women Connectors	Razan Ismail	Other	EU	razan@newwomenconnectors.com	GAM	https://www.newwomenconnectors.com/
DIAIR (Délégation interministérielle à l'accueil et l'intégration des réfugiés)	Julia-Marie PENNER	National authority	France	julia-marie.penner@interieur.gouv.fr	GAM	https://accueil-integration-refugies.fr/
UNHCR in France	Nour AL SHEIKH HASSAN	Other	France	alsheikh@unhcr.org	GAM	https://www.unhcr.org/fr-fr/en-bref/le-hcr-en-france/accueil
Eurocities	Katharina Bamberg, Head of Migration	Network of cities	EU	katharina.bamberg@eurocities.eu	GAM	https://eurocities.eu/
EU Belong	?	EU project	EU	?	Mechelen	https://eu-belong.aer.eu/get-familiar/
LEVL	Amina Kasmi	Other	Belgium	amina.kasmi@levl.be	Mechelen	https://levl.be/ons-verhaal/team-en-raad-van-bestuur/
PITCH	?	EU project	EU	?	Mechelen	https://pitch-eu.eu/
Project EUREKA		EU project	France	q.mamdouh@gmail.com +33768160576	IIHL	https://ai4good.org/eureka/
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SINGA France	Bonney	Other	France	bonneybliss@gmail.com	FREREF	



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	Magambo					
UNICEF Austria		Other	Austria	service@unicef.at	Vienna	https://www.unhcr.org/dach/at/ueber-uns/unhcr_oesterreich
Fundamental Rights Agency		EU authority	Austria	information@fra.europa.eu	Vienna	https://fra.europa.eu/en
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION SERVICE (UNIS)		Other	Austria	unis.vienna@un.org	Vienna	https://unis.unvienna.org/unis/index.html
European Centre for participatory Democracy		EU authority			IIHL	
G1000						
CONSOLIDATE project						
LifeLong Learning Platform		Other	Belgium		FREREF	
Municipality of Villeurbanne		EU local administration	France		FREREF	
Municipality of Vénissieux		EU local administration	France		FREREF	
PLS Pour la Solidarité		Other	France		FREREF	
Catalonia (EDUC, SOC)	Susana Diaz	EU local administration	Spain		FREREF	

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Délégation europ. Métropole Lyon	Mme Amélie Smethurst	EU local administration	France		FREREF	
Délégation europ. Métropole Lille	DE JAEGER	EU local administration	France		FREREF	
Métropole Lyon - Solidarité	Sandrine Runnel	EU local administration	France		FREREF	
Municipality of Parma	Daria Jacopozi	EU local administration	Italy	jacopozi@comune.parma.it	FREREF	https://www.facebook.com/DariaJacopozi.consiglieracomunale/?locale=it_IT

