



Urban Regeneration Mix

TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK MEETING

10-12 December 2019

Bologna

WEAVING A COLLABORATIVE CITY



Transnational Network Meeting " Culture as a perspective of regeneration "



The Meeting and its Logic

5th Transnational Network Meeting was dedicated to the issue of how to involve the inhabitants, the local community in the life of the nearest area, the neighbourhood through the broadly understood culture and all kinds of cultural events.

Key dimensions of the cultural approach to regeneration:

- ❁ audience development as civic engagement
- ❁ cultural citizenship: development of cultural capabilities
- ❁ horizontal partnership, based on sharing spaces, networking, teaching practices and research combine together

Introduction

The first day of the 5TNM began with a welcome speech from Mr. Giuseppe De Biasi, Head of Cabinet of the Metropolitan City of Bologna who stressed the importance of multi-level governance, participatory decision making as well as culture and cultural heritage potential in urban regeneration.

Mr. Marino Cavallo, Head of Research, Innovation and European Project Service, added that culture driven urban regeneration and inclusive measures aimed at safeguarding the socio-economic diversity of the renovated neighbourhoods. Again underlying culture as the pillar and a driver of development of the Emilia Romagna region, he explained the idea of orange economy being a combination of cultural and creative industries (CCI). For the success of this policy approach a new (more open, participatory) local governance is important.



Mr. Simone D'Antonio (from National Point URBACT Italy, Anci) was talking about Bologna as one of the most interesting examples of regeneration. It started a network of cities collaborating with residences and stakeholders. In Bologna there are national, social and private foundations who collaborate with local authorities in the regeneration process.

After the welcome speeches there was also time for a very interesting integration exercise, which was about being split into pairs and having to communicate with each other without using specific words, but instead only gestures, facial expressions and one chosen sound such as la-la-la or mi-mi-mi. This exercise was a very good introduction to the whole day, with a lot of laughter and good energy, and it also showed us how important communication is.



DAMSLab – out of the box cultural approach: the challenge “Porto Culture as a pathway towards

Prof. Roberta Paltrinieri and a researcher Giulia Allegrini presented the DAMSLab (Centre of Arts, Music and Theatre), regenerated place hosting our meeting which used to be a slaughterhouse and now as an urban regeneration project might capitalize as a practice space from the URM network. DAMSLab is a laboratory aimed at promoting culture at an urban level which is opening to the local community. Designed and managed by the University of Bologna,

DAMSlab's goal is to enhance projects and foster synergies that find in cultural and artistic production and participation the key factor for territorial growth.



Presentation of the Bologna cultural area: two main challenges :
1. Co-construction and collaboration between cultural institutions
2. Opening up to inhabitants through co-construction)

In the early afternoon members of the Bologna ULG representing numerous institutions, associations, organizations working together in the DAMSlab gave us an overview of activities they undertake in the Bologna cultural area, eg.:

- ❖ ArchInProcess exhibition inspired by the history of the place, where the DAMLab operates nowadays, run by students of Arts Department, University of Bologna,
- ❖ Farmer's Market in front of a Cinema (Mercato Ritrovato) lead by an Association of local farmers where culture and food intersect (every Saturday morning about 50 producers offer their products, „fruits of their work” - selection by Slow Food guidelines)
- ❖ „Museomix in Italy” an annual 3day event organized by local community museum passionates promoting professional exchange for local museums,

cultural institutions, creative professionals, civic associations, IT companies who meet museum staff for „a creative makeathon“

- ❖ „Cosisara“ - 18-month project for young citizens aged 11-25 involved in a performative project and creative processes with the aim of founding a new „ideal city“, „the city we want“
- ❖ Both initiatives started and coordinated by BAM! A local Organization run by a team of designers specializing in cultural marketing,
- ❖ Gender Bender an international festival on the new imagery related to gender identities, sexual orientations and bodies representations in contemporary arts and cultures held by Il Cassero LGBTI Centre, promoting social solidarity and offering social and educational services and running various information campaigns,
- ❖ DAS (Experimental Arts Device) an NGO of art passionate, professionals and freelancers running numerous projects and initiatives with local community esp. young people with the use of experimental art.



Short visit of the DAMSLab area

Having a background knowledge about DAMSLab, the place of the meeting, organizations and associations working there and their projects and initiatives, participants of the 5TNM had a walking tour around the whole area during which they were shown some of the NGOs premises. The presentations and a study tour were followed by a discussion around a couple of challenges identified in the area by the Bologna team:

- ❖ co-construction and collaboration between cultural institutions
- ❖ Opening up to inhabitants through co-construction



Co-construction workshop on the Bologna Challenges with the partner cities and the members of the Bologna ULG

Open discussion was followed by a workshop. Having been divided into groups we tried to suggest solutions to challenges identified. There is the so called 3rd mission of the University of Bologna whose aim is to enter the dialogue with the community (now still very formal) in a sense social responsibility of the university.

- ❖ **How can we make this approach more solid?**
- ❖ **What is the vision of DAMSlab in 5 years time?**
- ❖ **How to engage inhabitants (challenge)?:**
 - Creating a physical open space giving people a sense of freedom.
 - an open space is a good starting point to engage inhabitants through co-construction of their place,
 - first identify people you want to reach.

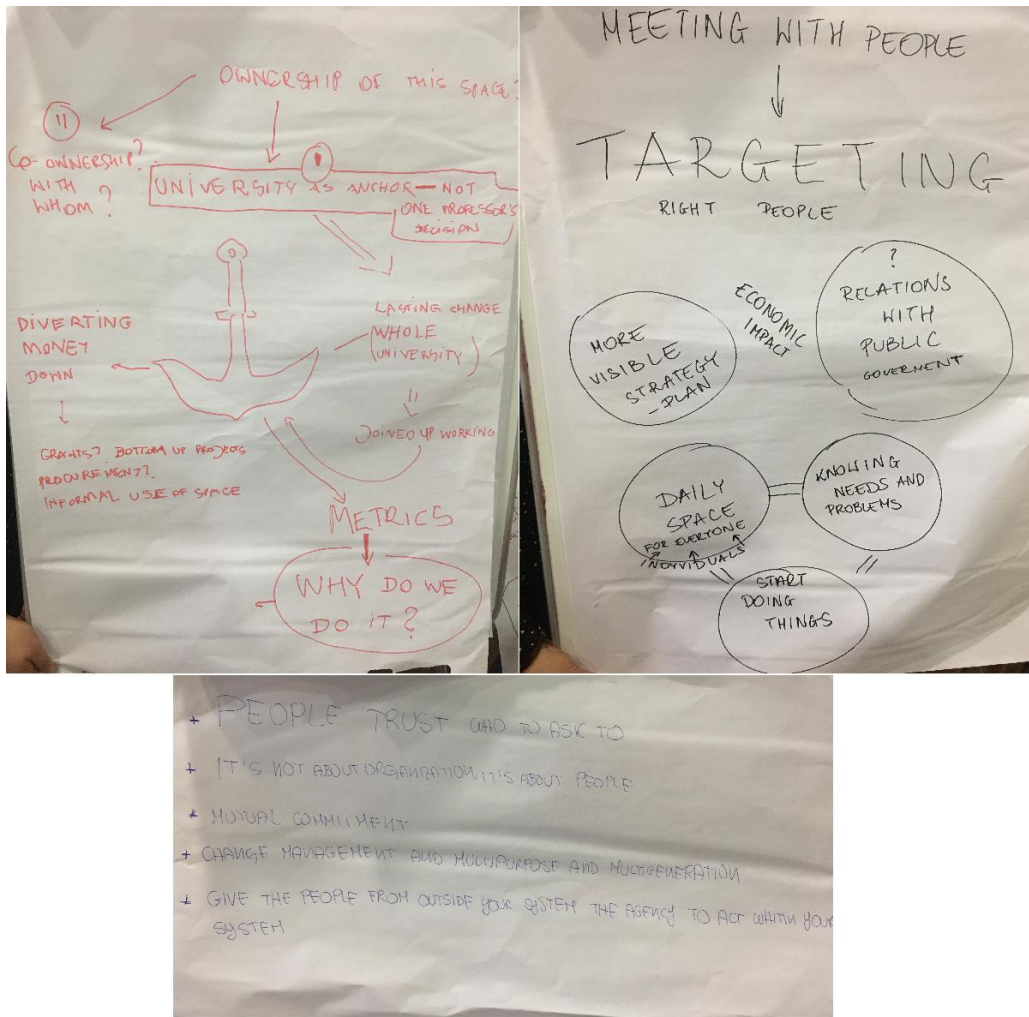


Discussion voices:

- ❖ Braga reaction: impressed by the LGBTI initiative, as a catalyst of dialogue nowadays in the public sphere, important for social inclusion.
- ❖ Birmingham Sam: capitalizing on the cultural capital Bologna has. Who is being connected outside the community? If you are a resident from the area, family (not a student) do you know about the area?
- ❖ Bologna: They do know but there is a strong debate, sometimes it is hard to combine two visions of the city. Richness of Bologna is 80 thousand students in the city. Continuity of local power.
- ❖ Toulouse: 100 thousand students but no similar participation culture observed there. Where does it come from? Who creates participation: students or the city?
- ❖ Bologna: both, Bologna known for cultural openness, civic engagement in general (national stereotype).
- ❖ Birmingham Karolina: Who is culture for? How can we open culture to people who are not naturally prone to culture, who wouldn't go to a gallery or theatre? If we use culture as a tool for regeneration who do we target and how do we apply it? When diverse societies (many ethnic and racial groups, richer and poorer) it's difficult - white culture. How to obtain social mix?
- ❖ Bologna: culture is more than typical, traditional examples, people create culture also alternative eg. music. You don't tell people what to do with culture but allow them to grow autonomously. Food, ethnic food and socializing around it is also an example of culture.
- ❖ „Let's do something together! Let's eat”



Participation as being together not involving in decision making. Bottom up clustering



1st day summig up

The 2nd day of TNM in Bologna began with a group reflection on workshops and presentations from the day before.

Headlines from Day 1:

„Civic engagement“ „social responsibility of culture“ „grandfathering culture responsibility“

- ❖ Toulouse: civic autonomy, less centralised
- ❖ Birmingham: key role university

- ❖ **Zagreb:** culture policy here vs central policy
- ❖ **Bologna:** city authority has key role in culture - beyond funding
- ❖ **Braga:** seems to be a high level of experimentation
- ❖ **Lodz:** good connection with residents, see value of cultural organisations doing this, interesting issue re competition – ability to bring people around table for the first time.



Mid-term reflexion

Eddy Adams, representative of the URBACT Secretariat: *Your network is different, because Lodz have to give as much to the partner cities, as much as they have to give to Lodz. So it's an experiment. URBACT wants to know what happened and why it happened in that way. Why do you transfer that and that and what helped you to make your transfer.*

We started the meeting with a general look at our network, in which he saw the originality of it, which is that Łódź has to give as much to its partner cities as they have to give to Łódź. We talked about how the transfer of good practice looks like, how it evolves in other network cities, the risks and priorities. We talked about how the transfer of good practice looks like, how it evolves in other network cities, risks and priorities. In the next section, we moved to the discussion on more technical issues such as the tools we use and their evaluation from the perspective of the members of our network and their ULG. The meeting

ended with a brainstorming session on our ideas on how the sharing period should look like, especially the events organized by NUP's.

Where are we in the transfer on a scale of 1 to 10?:

- ❁ Toulouse – 3 – problem of policy of local authorities; URBACT creates Bridges in Toulouse departments in the municipality/metropole
- ❁ Birmingham – 8,5 – Sam as the „link“
- ❁ Bologna – 8 – need to make the network stronger
- ❁ Zagreb – 6,5 – more industrial, participatory model
- ❁ Braga – 5-6 – what resources they need?
- ❁ Baena – 5 – because of the delay, need tools to work directly with citizens; how to respond to citizen's needs? then changed their rate to 7-8 – Baena jumped in the project again, Carmen (30 years in municipality), Curo (22 years) – know each other because of URBACT; without it they would never collaborate; the end of the project will not be the end of the work in Baena and every other city.
- ❁ Lodz – we have an opportunity to go to other countries to see how people work, how they solve problems. We struggle with our structure, political decisions and managing the city, local authority policy, etc. Now we have a bigger view, because we see different solutions, various angels, new ideas.

Our project is „fantastic transformative journey“ as stated Eddy Adams.

Satisfaction with regard where we are in the transfer network:

- ❁ Baena : though late start made huge progress, interdepartmental cooperation established, not possible without URBACT, worried about engaging citizens whether the city will have anything to offer them
- ❁ Birmingham: exceeded expectations, Sam ULG coordinator employed thanks to URM, inspired by the mediators team in Lodz, leaving the desks and going to people
- ❁ Toulouse: both sceptical and positive feelings
- ❁ Braga: initially more optimistic, now more sceptical/realistic about what can be achieved within the project
- ❁ Zagreb: similiar to Bologna, ULG helps bringing people together, city opening up for residents and their participation

- ❖ Bologna: URBACT thanks to ULG helped to bring stakeholders in DAMSLab together around one table; ULG as the most beneficial tool, same for Lodz and Baena - improving communication in a deprived/regenerated area.
- ❖ Toulouse - TNMs are a useful tool (seeing Bolognas experience in cultural initiatives they think of improving their projects with a cultural component).
- ❖ Birmingham - ULG again as a support group to introduce changes in the regeneration area,
- ❖ Braga - key figure in mediation, who (an artist? a technician? What skill set is needed) and when should he appear,
- ❖ Zagreb - ULG, helped to open up to people more, doing research, questionnaire





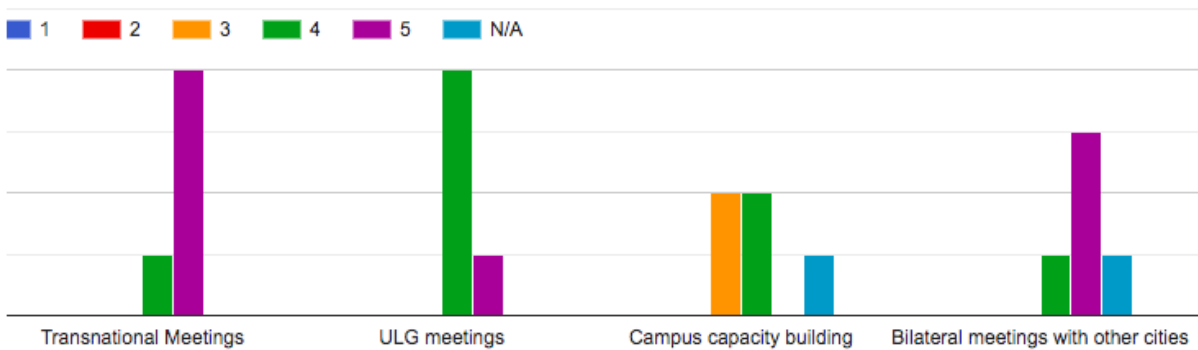
Most useful tools:



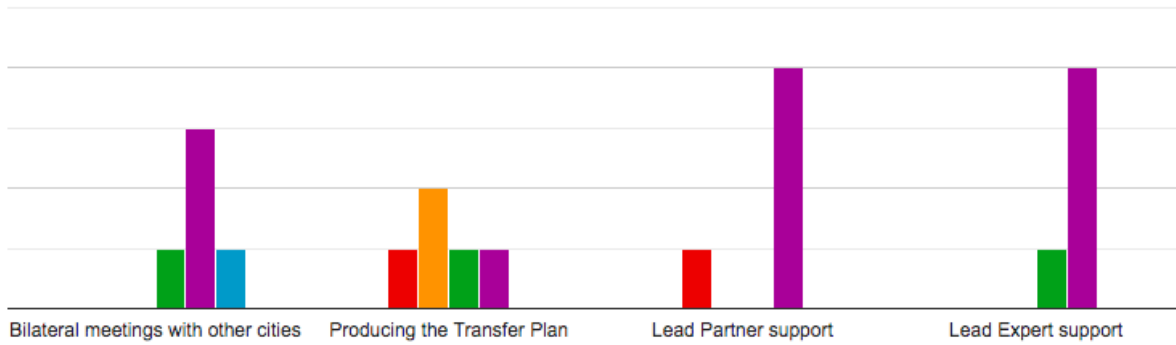
❁ **ULG meetings**

- ❁ TNMs
- ❁ Lead Partner support
- ❁ Lead Expert support
- ❁ Mediators

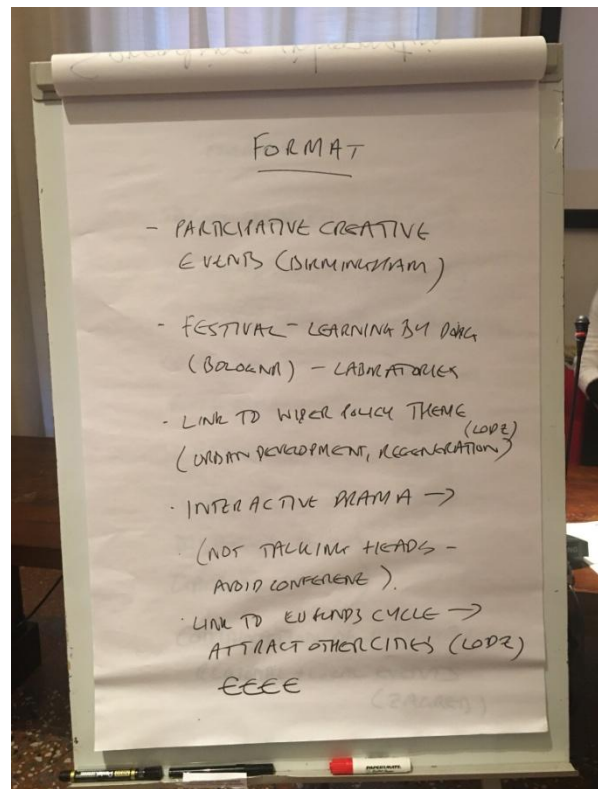
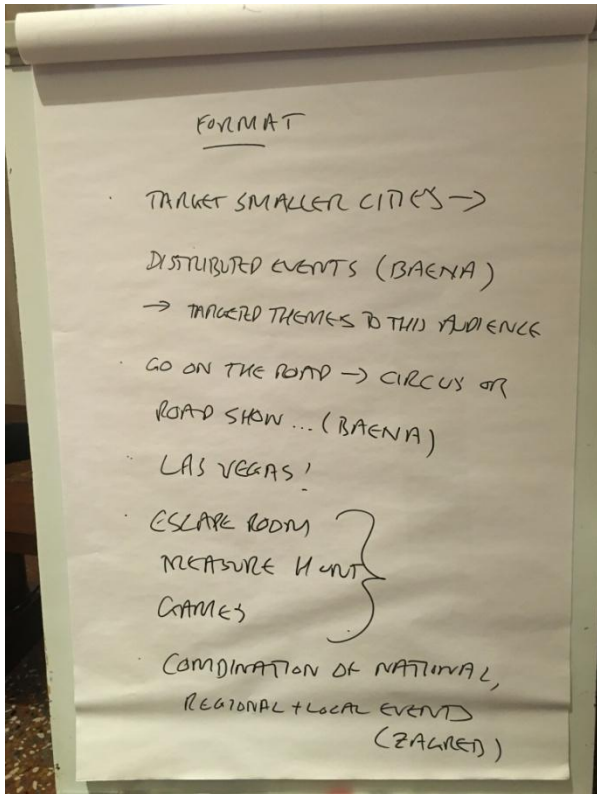
4. How useful have the following elements of the Network experience been so far? (Rank 1-5 where 5 is high) (Mark N/A where not applicable)



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Sharing period (ideas)



Laboratory of participative theatre – a creative approach to inclusion (regeneration) policies



In the late afternoon, the participants of our meeting took part in an extraordinary workshop organized by Cantieri Meticci theatre company (Art association), which is currently running the project The Laboratory of participative theatre "Atlas of fears", which operates in the DamsLab and is part of the Porto Culture idea tested within the URM network. As part of the

URM project, the Metropolitan City of Bologna supports the activities of Cantieri Meticci and with them tests and tests how such laboratories dealing with cultural and creative professions and cultural citizenship can function. In these activities, the aim of the transfer is the methodology of promotion and support of cultural activities that may have a significant impact on local communities, which is a reference to the Good Practice of the City of Łódź, which is based on intensive relations with the inhabitants of various social circles, including people threatened by social exclusion. The members of our network turned into actors for this afternoon, and they could see for themselves how an interactive form of theater can influence on people.



In the evening, at the invitation of the Cantieri Meticci participants of the meeting, took part in a spectacle prepared in the framework of The Laboratory of participative theatre "Atlas of fears" - *The Nigger of the Narcissus*

It was an incredible experience in which the audience did not sit in the audience but were part of the play and spent most of their time with the actors on stage.

Summig up

On the third and final day of 5th Transnational Network Meeting in Bologna we wrap-up the role of the culture in the regeneration process and the opportunities it offers in terms of building and consolidating the local community. We also we also summarized our work during Mid-Term Reflection Meeting. We all agreed

that this was a much needed moment, during which we looked at our transfer from outside and saw exactly where we are in the process.

There was also the coordinators' meeting during which we discussed about :

- ❁ Job Shadowing
- ❁ Transfer stories and Final Transfer Log – dates and obligations of the partner cities
- ❁ TNM's in Braga and Birmingham

