COMPARATIVE NATIONAL REPORT OF "PLACEMAKING FOR INCLUSION" FRAMEWORK





Project

Place Making 4 Inclusion - Reviving Active Citizenship for Reshaping the Societies (PM4I) ERASMUS-YOUTH-2021-PCOOP-ENGO

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Youngsters, youth workers, youth organizations and local authorities from Germany, Belgium, Italy, Norway, Spain and Greece

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This is an extract of the Comparative National Report of "Placemaking for Inclusion" Framework. You can read the full report here:

http://placemaking.4learning.eu/outputs/

















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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the vibrant world of Placemaking 4 Inclusion (PM4I), where the threads of empowerment, inclusion, and active citizenship come together to reshape societies for the better. In this Conversation Guide we invite you to embark on a journey that explores the transformative power of placemaking and its profound impact on youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

You can find the full report in the website:



Empowering Youth through Placemaking

PM4I is more than just a project; it's a dynamic force aimed at empowering youth work providers and organizations. Our mission is to utilize the placemaking methodology to foster the social inclusion of young people who face barriers in shaping their local communities. By engaging in creative and collaborative initiatives, we aim to improve the well-being of communities while supporting youth work and nonformal education.

Unveiling the Potential of Critical Pedagogies

Within these pages, you'll uncover the influence of critical pedagogies on young people from historically marginalized groups. Placemaking serves as a vehicle for their transformation, offering fresh perspectives and experiences that redefine the boundaries of possibility.

The Missing Pieces of the Placemaking Puzzle

While placemaking has gained recognition across various fields, only a handful of projects have put theory into practice. This book bridges that gap by sharing the untold stories of young people and adults involved in place-based youth work. Discover how youth actively shape the structures, values, and dialogues within their communities, physically exploring neighborhoods to drive change.



Co-Creating Inclusive Urban Environments

Our consortium's mission is clear: to harness the power of placemaking, fostering youth participation in shaping inclusive urban environments. These transformations are driven by co-creation, uniting stakeholders from diverse backgrounds in a symphony of collaboration.

A Tapestry of Perspectives

The Comparative National Report of the "Placemaking for Inclusion" Framework is a collective tapestry woven from the local contexts of Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Norway. It sets the stage for the Placemaking Competence Framework, which will empower young people and youth workers with essential skills, competences, and attitudes. Together, they will promote competences integral to placemaking, fueling European-level cooperation.

Exploring Our Journey

As you navigate this book, you will encounter the following key chapters: Introduction, Methodology, Placemaking, Youth Social Inclusion, Youth community empowerment and Competences. Each section serves as a window into our world of exploration and discovery. Dive into the methodology behind our research, delve into the rich insights shared through local reports, and grasp the significance of our comparative findings.

Join Our Quest

The pages ahead are a treasure trove of insights, and knowledge, all aimed at igniting the spark of change. We invite you to embark on this journey with us, engage in dialogue, and embrace the principles of placemaking.

"Welcome
to PM4I,
where social
transformation
begins with you!"



Methodology

Our journey of discovery within Placemaking 4 Inclusion (PM4I) was underpinned by a meticulous and thoughtful methodology. We aimed to engage critical informants, exchange experiences, and lay the groundwork for a progressive mapping system. This comprehensive approach allowed us to assess the development of placemaking initiatives and their interplay with youth organizations across European countries participating in PM4I.

Progressive Mapping and Knowledge Dialogue

Central to our methodology was the creation of progressive maps, strategically designed to capture the essence of our research. These maps, including preliminary conversations, focus groups, surveys, and insights from our partner organizations, were meticulously constructed during Work Package 2 (WP2). They serve a dual purpose: to offer a holistic view of the state of placemaking and to provide valuable data for our online project platform. Our pursuit of knowledge drew from diverse sources to ensure a comprehensive diagnosis of youth social inclusion through placemaking. These sources encompassed:

Self-Knowledge

Each partner initiated the mapping process by drawing from their own expertise. At least five key informants were identified, representing various profiles, including youth organizations, local authorities, placemakers, and community-oriented youngsters.

Preliminary Conversations (#Dialogue)

Partners engaged in thought-provoking dialogues with these key informants, introducing them to the PM41 project's context. These brainstorming sessions, lasting approximately 30 minutes each, sought to expand the progressive mapping and involve new stakeholders in our journey.

Focus Groups (#Cooperation)

A critical step involved selecting a minimum of twenty stakeholders from our "progressive stakeholders map." Through one-on-one engagements, these stakeholders were invited to participate in workshops lasting 120-150 minutes collectively. This exercise aimed to broaden the scope of our mapping and engage youth workers effectively.

Local Survey (#Contribution)

We embraced the voice of youth and youth workers directly through localized surveys. These surveys were designed to validate our assumptions, gather fresh insights, and confront the hypothesis surrounding the state of placemaking within each country. Disseminated through SurveyMonkey, the surveys were made available in eight languages, facilitating broad participation.

Insights and Results

Our commitment to this research bore fruit in the form of three vital maps: the Stakeholders Map, Good Practices Map, and Resources Map. Each map played a unique role in enhancing our understanding of placemaking's evolution within our partner countries.

Stakeholders Map

This map provided insights into youth organizations, key informants, and relevant stakeholders. Information included details such as sector, scale of influence, and contact information.

Good Practices Map

Here, we cataloged past and ongoing placemaking initiatives, shedding light on practices related to youth engagement in community betterment.

Resources Map

A compilation of relevant documents and tools that could benefit our team during the project.

Conclusions and Next Steps

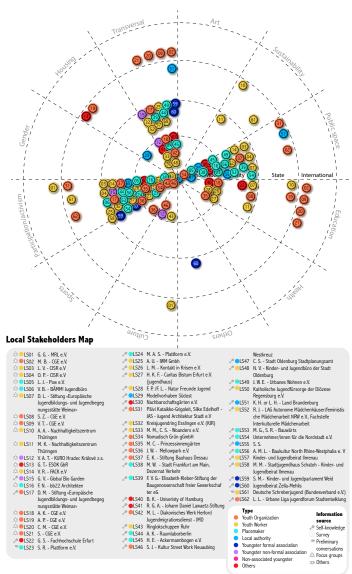
The insights gathered from these multifaceted sources informed the development of our "Placemaking for Inclusion" Framework. These conclusions not only enrich our understanding of youth social inclusion, youth community empowerment, and placemaking but also serve as a launchpad for future phases of the PM41 project.

Our methodology has laid the groundwork for a comprehensive understanding of placemaking, youth empowerment, and inclusion. With these foundations in place, we look forward to the next chapters of our journey in reshaping communities for the better.

Visit the interactive map here:

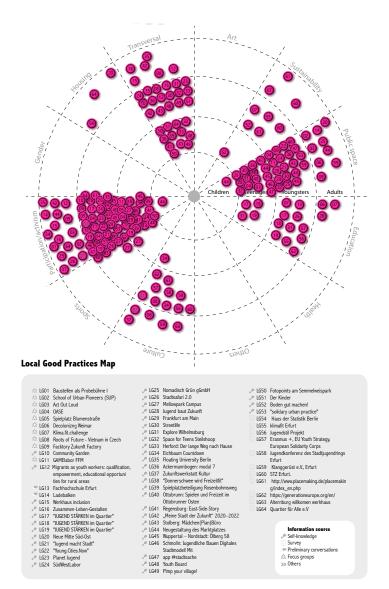


Germany



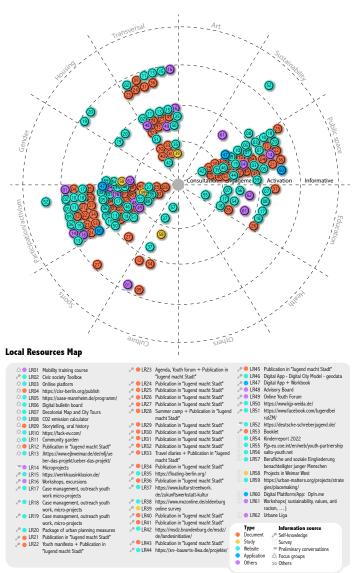
Stakeholders

Germany has a robust network of stakeholders in the field. However, there's room for engagement with unassociated youth and stakeholders in art, gender, and health.





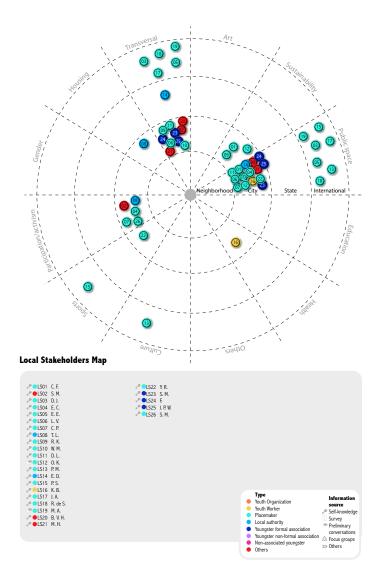
Germany excels in good practices within participation/ activism, public space, and transversal topics. There's a need for more practices in art, gender, and health.



Resources

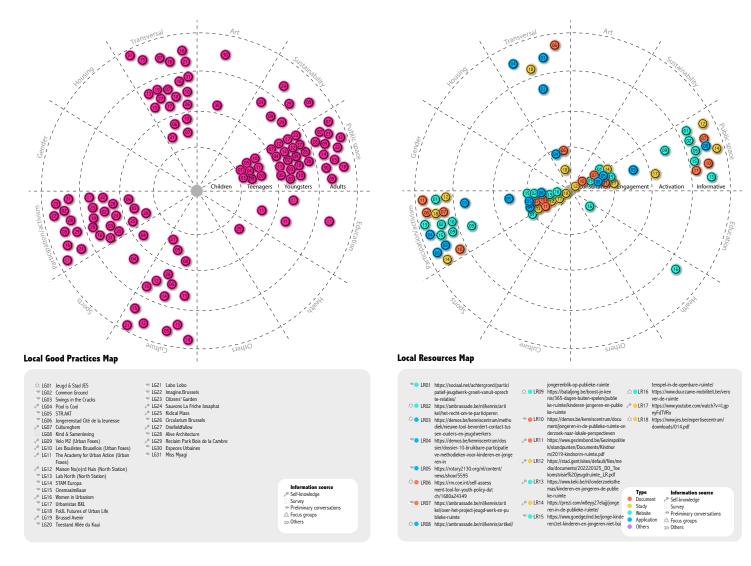
Germany leads in resources related to youth inclusion through placemaking. Enhancing visibility in art, gender, and health, community awareness, and expanding resources in participation/activism, public space, and transversal topics are opportunities.

Belgium



Stakeholders

They've identified 26 key stakeholders related to public space, with strengths like an extensive network of placemakers and international stakeholders. Weaknesses include a relatively smaller stakeholder map and the need for more youth-focused agents.



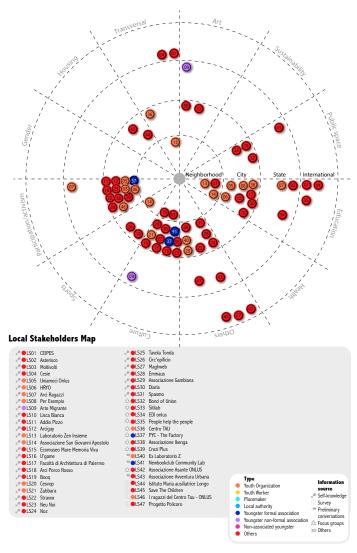
Good Practices

Belgium has found 31 good practices, but lacks them in the areas of gender and housing. The opportunity is to enrich the project with these missing practices.

Resources

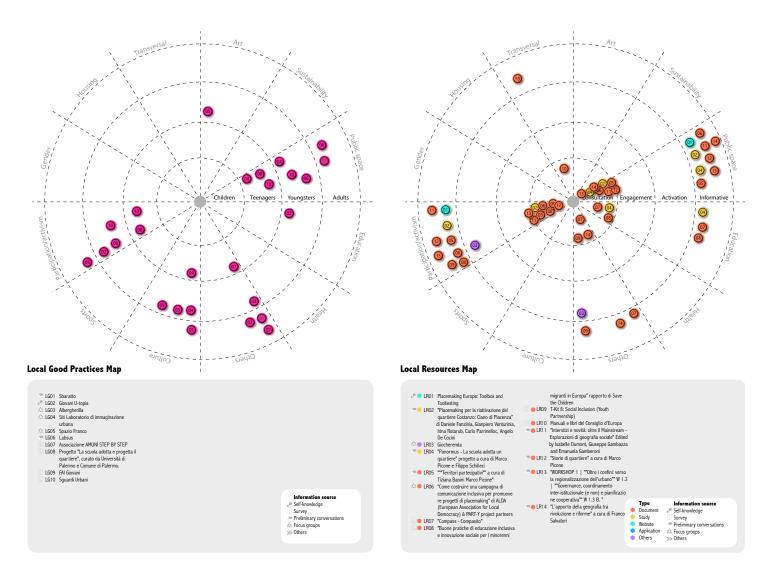
There are 18 resources focused on participation/activism, but there's a need for more resources in various domains.

Italy



Stakeholders

Italy identified 47 key agents, mostly unrelated to predefined profiles and focused on city-scale education. However, it lacks youth workers, placemakers, and local authorities. Stakeholders addressing gender, health, and sustainability topics are also missing.



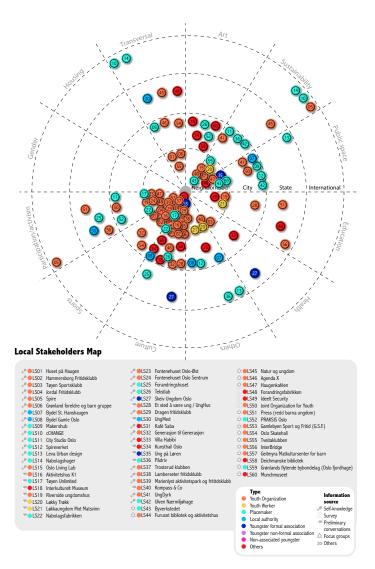
Good Practices

Italy uncovered 10 practices, primarily directed at youngsters and linked to public spaces. Italy lacks good practices in youth inclusion through placemaking in sports, gender, health, housing, sustainability, and transversal topics.

Resources

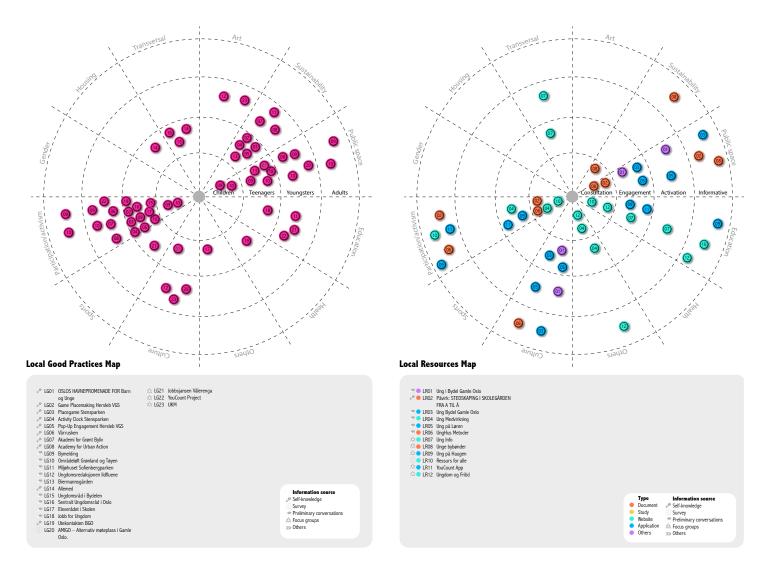
14 resources were identified, mainly documents related to participation and activism. Although Italy has extensive knowledge of good practices, there's a scarcity of resources for youth inclusion through placemaking, especially in culture, sports, art, gender, health, housing, and sustainability.





Stakeholders

The Stakeholders Map reveals a strong network of stakeholders focusing on culture, sports, and sustainability, yet it lacks representation from non-formal youth associations and gender or housing-related stakeholders.



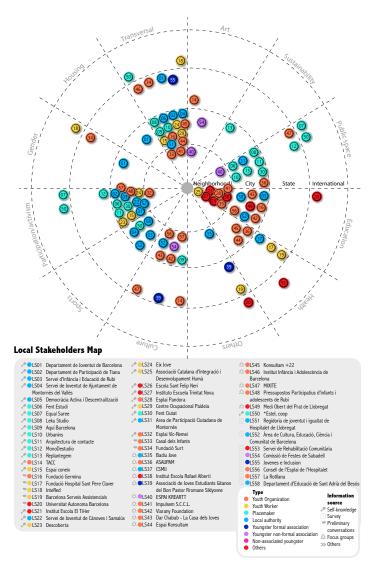
Good Practices

There is an abundance of Good Practices, primarily in sustainability and art, but a deficiency in gender-focused placemaking practices.

Resources

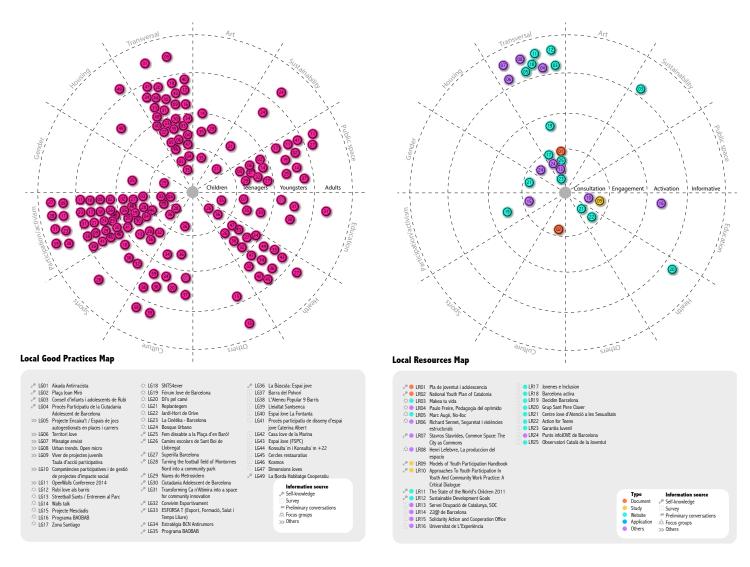
The strength lies in various applications, although Norway lacks resources in terms of studies and materials pertaining to youth inclusion through placemaking in sports, art, gender, health, and housing.

Spain



Stakeholders

Spain's youth inclusion efforts involve a network of 58 key stakeholders, with strengths in city and state-scale projects. Challenges include engaging non-associated youth and those in sports and housing. Opportunities lie in enhancing visibility for stakeholders and youth.



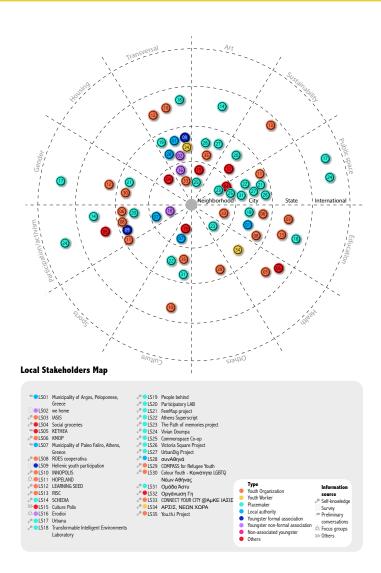
Good Practices

Spain has identified 49 good practices, with strengths in practices involving youngsters and topics like culture, gender, health, and housing. Weaknesses include limited awareness among key agents, offering an opportunity for enriching projects with diverse experiences.

Resources

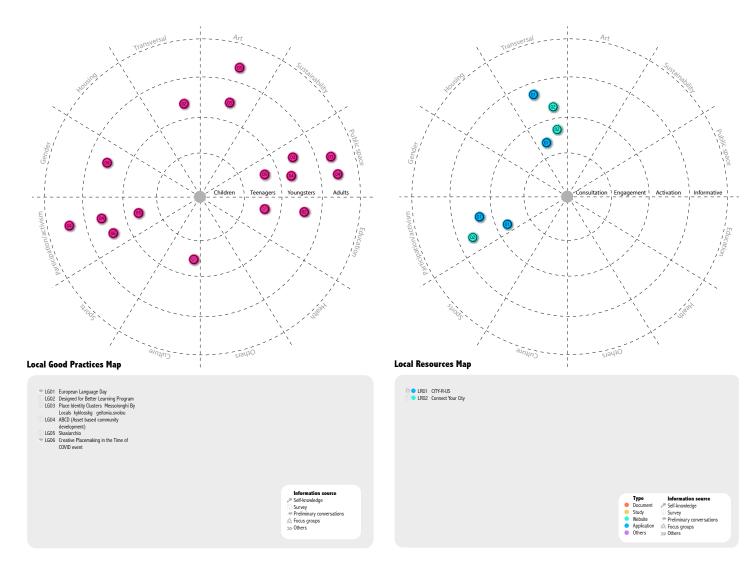
Spain has identified 25, including websites. Strengths include resource diversity and those related to gender and health, known to the local community. Weaknesses encompass a lack of resources for youth inclusion in areas like sports, art, and public space.





Stakeholders

Greece's strengths include a strong network of stakeholders in gender topics. However, like other countries, they face issues engaging non-associated youth and a lack of sportsrelated placemaking stakeholders.



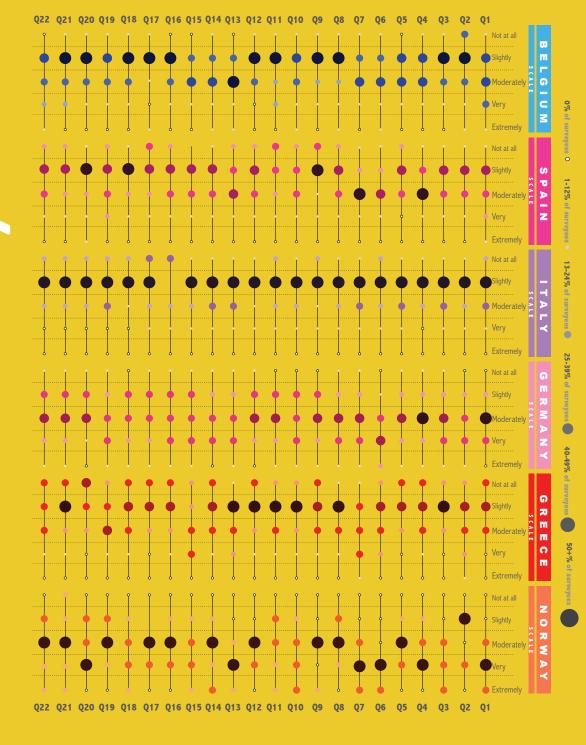
Good Practices

Greece excels in gender-related practices but faces challenges in communication and the absence of youth inclusion practices in sports, health, housing, and sustainability.

Resources

Greece has 2 identified resources, mainly websites and applications for community engagement. There's a need for better communication of limited available resources.

The survey





- Q1: In your personal experience, does your country guarantee equity in the teaching and learning processes for young people?
- Q2: Does it promote non-formal education?
- Q3: Does it promote the knowledge of citizenship rights among the adolescent population and young people?
- Q4: Does it prevent or combat discrimination on the grounds of gender, cultural origin, functional diversity, etc ... promoting knowledge of human rights?
- Q5: Does it promote the visualization of young people from different cultural backgrounds as benchmarks in youth projects and spaces, fostering interculturalism?
- Q6: Does it recognize gender and sexual diversity?
- Q7: Does it visualize and promote projects that involve the participation of women as agents of social change?
- Q8: Does it promote the active participation of adolescents and young people (generating spaces for advocacy and self-management)?
- Q9: Does it promote youth participation, especially for those who have more difficulty exercising it?
- Q10: Does it recognize, support, and make youth associations visible?
- Q11: Does it provide spaces for creation and exchange for young people as creators and organizers of cultural innovation and placemaking?
- Q12: Does it promote mental health in adolescence and youth?
- Q13: Does it promotes the practice of sports among adolescents and young people and guarantee universal access?
- Q14: Does it promote physical activity and sports in a diverse way, through the consideration of the various interests of young people?
- Q15: Does it promote leisure activities arising from the community?
- Q16: Does it facilitate and legitimize the use of public space by young people?

- Q17: Does it encourage the co-design and co-management of public spaces and public facilities with the participation of young people?
- Q18: Does it provide other spaces for the development of activities for adolescents and young people?
- Q19: Does it promote sustainable mobility among adolescents and young people?
- Q20: Does it provide relevant, reliable, and up-to-date information on the situation of the city's adolescent and young population to youth professionals?
- Q21: Does it visualize, promote and support youth professionals?
- Q22: Does it help to develop a networking culture among youth professionals and young people?
- Q23: Are you aware of good practices or ongoing initiatives related to youth inclusion and placemaking? If yes, can you list some examples?
- Q24:Do you know any youth workers or youth representatives from any youth organizations, local community centres, or local authorities, who work the inclusion of youth who have less access to public decision-making?
- Q25: Are you aware of any useful resources regarding the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities? (ie: documents, studies, websites, applications, etc) If yes, can you list some examples?

"Placemaking is a transgenerational group process of creation, co-design and activation of practices aimed at: giving power to the community for the re-appropriation, re-signification, construction and care of community spaces. Placemaking offers the opportunity to develop skills, create shared meanings and spaces, which increase the sense and value of community by allowing new forms of expression and sharing to be experimented with, consequently offering the possibility of modifying/ changing one's point of view. It is also emphasised that placemaking is a process of co-design, aiming not so much at the construction but at the deconstruction of the real, in order to enable a 'regeneration' of the place and the community that lives there. Placemaking is a way to actively involve young people and their concerns in urban planning, promote social inclusion, and have active citizens, civil societies and local actors' activation."

Placemaking is a relatively unfamiliar term in the consortium countries, leading to the underdevelopment of related projects. Language barriers and a lack of awareness hinder its adoption, causing many to realize they've been practicing Placemaking without knowing it.

Current Situation

Currently, Placemaking offers opportunities for intercultural exchange, learning, and youth engagement in urban and rural areas. Youth participation in decision-making processes and urban initiatives is limited, leaving them disempowered. A lack of urban pedagogy in schools, competence deficits, and the need to start with smaller-scale projects hinder progress. Placemaking fosters a new governance model, emphasizing community power and equal partnership for youth.

Proposed Improvements

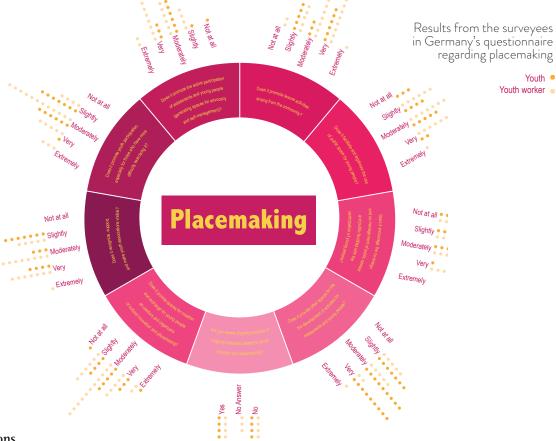
To advance Placemaking, support and highlight existing projects, identify enabling elements, and facilitate youth initiatives. Promote dialogue and encourage participation through educational programs and awareness campaigns. Develop tools, regulations, and feedback mechanisms to ensure the sustainability and success of Placemaking initiatives.

* The conclusions presented in the following pages constitute an executive summary of the full report and are derived from preliminary conversations, focus groups, surveys, and insights gathered from partner organizations.





Germany



Survey Conclusions

The survey emphasized the need for greater awareness of creative public spaces, and the importance of youth clearly communicating their specific interests.

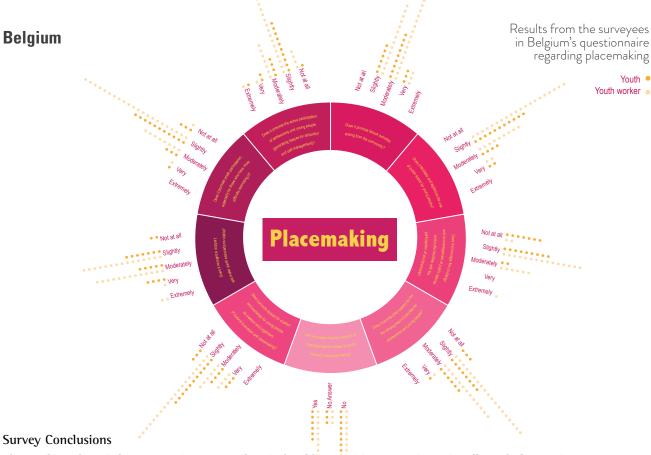
Definition and Local Context

Youth participation in urban development involves various modes, from top-down involvement to bottom-up DIY approaches. Key aspects of youth involvement include generating interest, fostering communication, building competencies, engaging in planning, enabling space use, and assigning responsibilities. To effectively engage youth, it's essential to connect their diverse interests with relatable, everyday experiences.

Proposed Improvements

Inspired by the Ladebalken project, a successful approach to youth engagement was identified, emphasizing creating communal spaces and involving young team members to inspire and educate youth. Visual tools like an outdoor living room effectively attracted public attention and encouraged youth participation, leading to vibrant urban projects. These experiences demonstrate the potential for youth engagement to revitalize urban spaces and empower young people to contribute creatively.





Placemaking doesn't happen on its own, and typical public activities can unintentionally exclude certain groups. Inclusion of diverse youth is essential for meaningful engagement.

Definition and Local Context

The concept of placemaking remains relatively obscure to many, particularly in the realm of youth work. While Brussels and Belgium showcase remarkable youth-driven initiatives, the predominant focus lies on activities such as play, creative workshops, and scouting, with insufficient attention given to the co-creational aspects of youth's involvement in city development and sustainability. There is a misconception that schools adequately cover these topics, leaving a significant knowledge gap.

Proposed Improvements

Effective placemaking involves key factors: partnerships with community stakeholders, fostering ongoing dialogue, valuing self-development and co-creation, and embracing values like inclusivity and collaboration, echoing the principles of Jane Jacobs. This approach encourages community engagement and investment in city-making processes.



Results from the surveyees in Italy's questionnaire regarding placemaking

Youth
Youth worker

Survey Conclusions

The survey revealed awareness of placemaking but a scarcity of initiatives, highlighting its potential for enhancing social inclusion and youth empowerment. However, challenges in implementing placemaking programs were also expressed.

Placemaking

Definition and Local Context

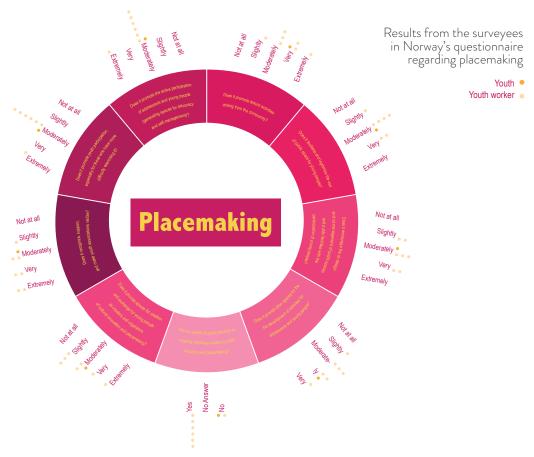
Placemaking is about revitalizing community spaces, fostering inclusivity and shared meanings. It's a co-design process that involves rejuvenation, deconstruction, and regeneration of places and communities, encouraging a shift in perspectives.

Proposed Improvements

To boost placemaking, key recommendations include promoting youth participation culture through active citizenship, establishing formal participation mechanisms, involving knowledgeable adults for quality dialogue, and encouraging innovation and experimentation in the process.



Norway



Survey Conclusions

Responses indicate that while such placemaking programs are moderately prevalent, significant room for growth remains. However, the strong endorsement of spaces for activities and support for youth activities signals their effectiveness.

Definition and Local Context

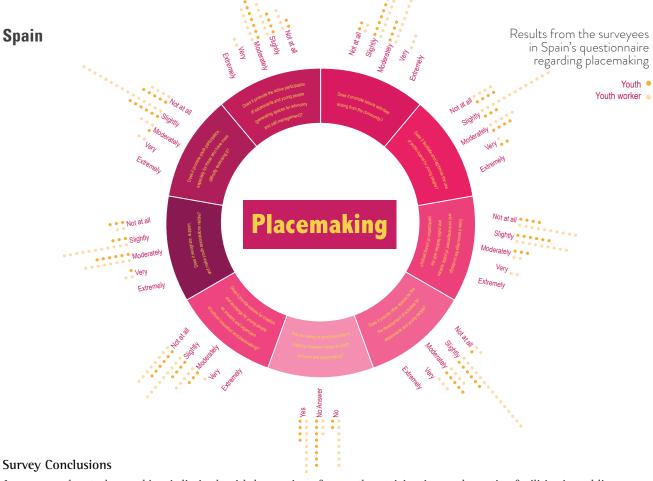
Placemaking, while not widely recognized, is intrinsically integrated into the ethos of community development and active citizenship. The challenge lies in defining and translating the concept into Norwegian. This integration empowers youth to co-create spaces, fostering their creativity and skill development primarily within organized projects and activities managed by the city and organizations.

Proposed Improvements

To boost placemaking, increasing awareness and providing general information is vital due to limited knowledge about it. Disseminating knowledge through documents, workshops, or seminars is suggested. Collaborating with organizations on joint placemaking projects can expand the network, providing collective experiences. These steps can enhance youth participation, foster a sense of ownership, and create better neighborhood spaces in Oslo.







Awareness about placemaking is limited, with low ratings for youth participation and creative facilities in public spaces. While the concept is recognized, more attention and new initiatives are needed to promote its implementation.

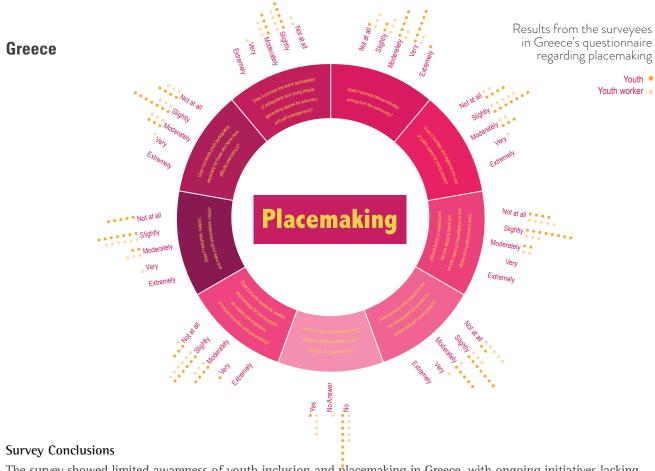
Definition and Local Context

Placemaking in Spain aligns with youth-oriented values and community needs, despite being underrecognized and sometimes co-opted for commercial purposes. It empowers communities, promotes visibility, and transforms public spaces into inclusive, community-driven environments, fostering belonging and a shared identity.

Proposed Improvements

Rethinking the traditional approach to designing spaces for young people, we should focus on empowering them to shape their own environments. This empowers youth to make decisions and take control, recognizing the value of their unique experiences and diversity, rather than viewing youth as a mere transition to adulthood.





The survey showed limited awareness of youth inclusion and placemaking in Greece, with ongoing initiatives lacking public recognition. Youth were unaware of government support for their activities in public spaces, yet they saw the potential of placemaking for leisure and public awareness.

Definition and Local Context

Placemaking in Greece, remains an unfamiliar term, despite the existence of placemaking initiatives.

Participants lacked a clear understanding of placemaking and its integration into their regular activities. Through shared practices and discussions, the concept started to take shape, emphasizing active citizenship, civil society, and local engagement as common principles.

Proposed Improvements

Encouraging open dialogues between community ambassadors and public authorities, providing financial support to youth organizations, and promoting awareness among youth workers and stakeholders can enhance youth participation in placemaking. Embracing trial-and-error practices can unlock placemaking's potential overcoming cultural and bureaucratic obstacles.



"Youth social inclusion, as interpreted by the participants in the six counties, is a set of physical characteristics of space and social values that allows the involvement, experiment, and participation of everyone in community life, paying attention to people's basic needs.

Youth social inclusion is a matter that has to be worked upon profoundly in the six countries because even though young people are the main users of public space, at the same time, they are a group that has little space for exercise, cultural encounters, or just a place to meet."

YOUTH SOCIAL INCLUSION

Youth social inclusion, as understood in a study across six countries, involves creating spaces and values that enable all young people to engage in community life while addressing their basic needs. However, various challenges have been identified in these nations:

Current Situation

The relationship between young people, youth workers/educators, and public administration lacks trust and transparency. Public spaces need to be more accessible for youth participation, and the approach to youth engagement must be improved. Local governments should involve young people more comprehensively in decision-making, and tools for youth inclusion are lacking. Collaboration between organizations and the use of technology also require attention. Furthermore, there's a need for greater youth ownership and inclusivity in social initiatives.

Proposed Improvements

To enhance youth social inclusion, it is suggested to improve communication between stakeholders, increase the frequency of interaction, and create spaces for dialogue. Valuing youth efforts through resources, education, and employment opportunities is vital. Diversities should be recognized and respected, with a focus on empowering youth workers. Engagement in decision-making should be encouraged using effective communication and early pedagogical approaches. Collaboration across sectors and creating positive impacts on communities and youth are emphasized. Finally, recognizing young people as equal partners from the project's outset is crucial for successful placemaking projects.

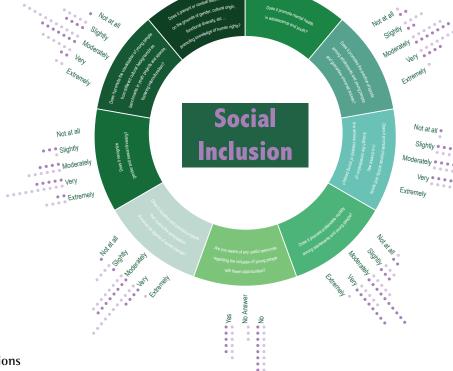
* The conclusions presented in the following pages constitute an executive summary of the full report and are derived from preliminary conversations, focus groups, surveys, and insights gathered from partner organizations.



Germany

Results from the surveyees in Germany's questionnaire regarding social inclusion

Youth • Youth worker



Survey Conclusions

It emphasizes the potential for collaboration with youth organizations to enhance awareness in areas such as diversity, gender, and sexuality. Mental health was a prominent concern, suggesting a need for dedicated workshops and meetings.

Definition and Local Context

Public spaces are essential for young people, fostering physical activities, social interactions, and community life. Young individuals actively contribute to community transformation, showcasing creativity and responsibility. In our local context, the "adaptive reuse" model, notably in Altenburg, repurposes old buildings through non-rent contracts, breathing new life into the community with creative projects.

Proposed Improvements

Engaging youth effectively involves starting early in the project, achieving tangible outcomes, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, embracing diversity and inclusivity, flexible human-centered communication, and prioritizing youth-centered approaches, including simple measures like offering food at meetings to enhance participation.





Survey Conclusions

Belgium demonstrates potential for social inclusion in gender and cultural diversity. There's a need for indoor public spaces, fostering creativity, non-formal education, and mental health discussions.

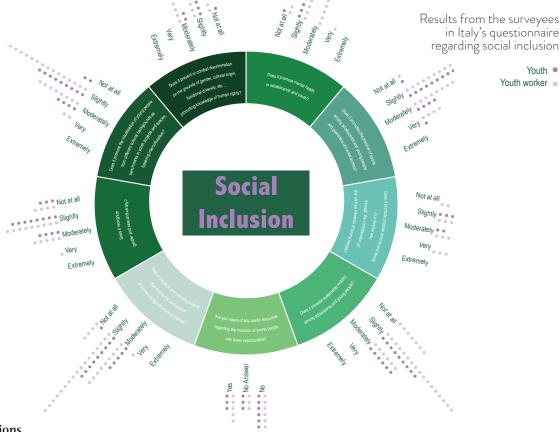
Definition and Local Context

In Belgium and Brussels, public spaces are predominantly used by young people, yet few are designed or adapted for them. Youngsters often feel unwelcome and disconnected from these spaces. Decision-making processes, particularly for youth with fewer opportunities, have excluded their voices, leading to distrust and skepticism.

Proposed Improvements

Promote a shift in policymakers' mentality to view youth as equal partners and involve them in legislative processes. Develop and share non-formal tools for youth participation. Support youth-initiated projects through open calls and participatory funding.

Italy



Survey Conclusions

Our survey highlighted the need for inclusive interventions involving youth from all backgrounds to address social inclusion, equality, and sexual diversity. Public spaces are key for promoting youth inclusivity.

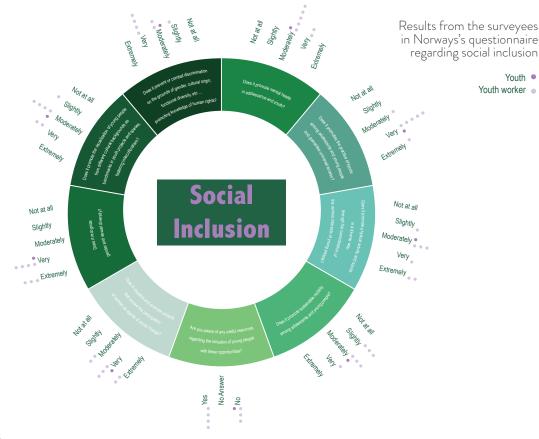
Definition and Local Context

In Italy, inclusion means fostering an environment for self-expression and upholding human rights, though the term itself faces ambiguity, leading to a preference for expressions emphasizing collaboration. In the local context, efforts to engage at-risk youth through participative initiatives have been sporadic, benefiting only a few, and lacking sustainability. The absence of a placemaking culture limits effective practice.

Proposed Improvements

To boost inclusion, youth and youth workers must form a horizontal partnership, involving young people in decision-making processes and fostering educational pathways. Constructive conflict and inclusivity are vital drivers, while consistency in inclusive initiatives leads to increased youth participation as active citizens.





Survey Conclusions

The survey revealed a predominantly positive perspective on social inclusion in Norway. While aspects like gender inclusion were perceived as prevalent, there is a need to broaden the focus to embrace multiculturalism and diversity.

Definition and Local Context

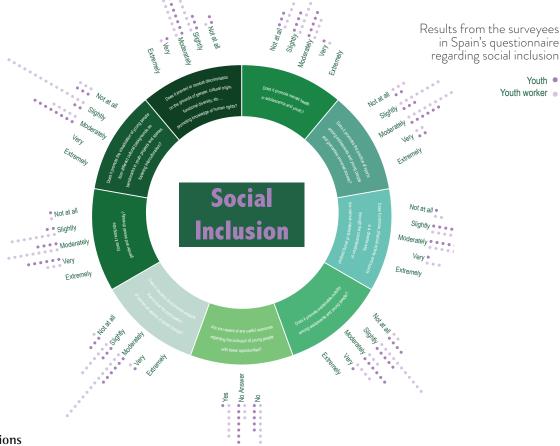
In Oslo, youth social inclusion transcends norms, promoting creativity, experimentation, and safety. It prioritizes community building among young people and neighborhoods. Safety is crucial, leading to increased adult training for youth work. Oslo's social inclusion embraces multiculturalism, anti-racism, diversity, and democracy, all vital aspects for future youth projects.

Proposed Improvements

Addressing funding challenges and compensating young participants is crucial for enhancing social inclusion. Allocating funds for youth salaries and integrating placemaking into the educational curriculum empowers youth. Involving youth in decision-making processes and showcasing the impact of their input on policy development are vital for increasing youth engagement and fostering inclusivity.



Spain



Survey Conclusions

It highlights inequalities and negative perceptions related to cultural backgrounds, mental health, sports, and mobility among disadvantaged youth. Achieving social inclusion involves addressing these disparities, promoting diversity, ending discrimination, and encouraging open discussions on the topic.

Definition and Local Context

Our mission focuses on social inclusion, offering equal opportunities, and creating diverse, inclusive communities for youth, migrants, and caregivers. Public spaces are vital for young people to express themselves, emphasizing the value of spontaneous and self-managed use. This goes beyond compartmentalization, aiming to integrate youth into the community fabric.

Proposed Improvements

Youth policies should prioritize diversity, and meaningful lives for all, breaking the cycle of exclusion by nurturing personal capabilities and strengthening community bonds. Collaboration with other organizations and artistic expressions, like youth-led graffiti workshops, can be transformative forces. It's crucial to address safety concerns, access disparities, and encourage community engagement to create more inclusive societies.



Survey Conclusions

In Greece, there's limited awareness of resources for youth inclusion, with challenges in funding diversity programs. This highlights the need for empowerment, particularly in youth professionalism and diversity.

Definition and Local Context

Greece aims for inclusive opportunities, tackling gender, age, and cultural disparities. Youth groups engage in cultural activities, but post-COVID-19 challenges demand specific youth-focused recovery. Youth unemployment remains a pressing concern.

Proposed Improvements

Enhancing youth inclusion involves local, regional, and national actions, including leveraging public authorities, exploring training opportunities, and adapting youth organizations to address gender equality, migrant inclusion, and NEETs' integration. Promoting local cultural events fosters socialization, community ties, and cultural awareness.

"Youth community empowerment is a matter that has to be worked upon profoundly in the six countries, especially now that improving the quality of life in public spaces is slowly starting to get on the agenda of local and regional policymakers.

Youth community empowerment is strictly linked to the opportunity for youngsters to participate in the city's political life, play an active part in decision-making processes, and upskill young people and youth workers.

What is missing at the moment are strategies and instruments for explicitly **considering the needs** of young people and their unique demands on the city."

YOUTH EMPOWEREMENT

Local and regional policymakers are increasingly recognizing the need to enhance public spaces. However, a critical gap exists in addressing the unique requirements of young people and their urban demands. Youth community empowerment involves engaging young people in political life and enhancing their skills.

Current Situation

In many countries, youth face discrimination in urban decision-making. Local authorities often exhibit disinterest in youth empowerment. Youth workers lack the essential skills and tools to effectively involve young people, hindering their inclusion and empowerment. Approaches to youth empowerment vary, affecting both youth involvement and the effectiveness of initiatives. A lack of funding discourages youth participation, and fragmented resources hinder progress. Youth opinions often go unrecognized in placemaking projects, which demotivates participation. Poor communication between authorities and youth results in a misunderstanding of youth needs.

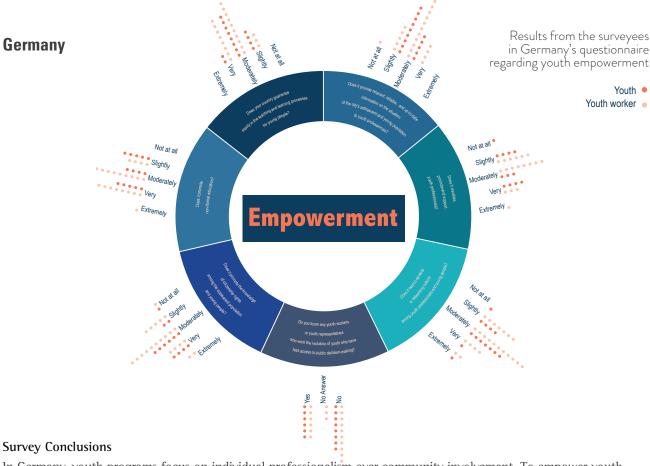
Proposed Improvements

Efforts should focus on fostering long-term collaboration among project planners, politicians, and youth while recognizing their diversity. Building healthy relationships between youth workers and youth, as well as creating spaces for youth to express their opinions, is crucial. The institutional culture needs to shift to consider youth proposals, develop pedagogical tools, and adapt to the rhythms of youth's lives. Research should be conducted to create accessible tools for youth empowerment. Local campaigns and effective communication should increase visibility. Funding models for sustainable youth empowerment should be promoted. The focus should be on creating tangible impacts to strengthen youth's sense of ownership and empowerment.

* The conclusions presented in the following pages constitute an executive summary of the full report and are derived from preliminary conversations, focus groups, surveys, and insights gathered from partner organizations.



Germany



In Germany, youth programs focus on individual professionalism over community involvement. To empower youth, encouraging their active participation in local decision-making, possibly through non-formal education, is recommended.

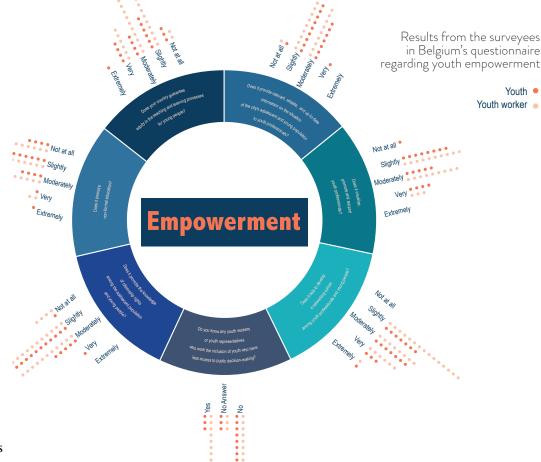
Definition and Local Context

Improving public spaces, especially for children and young people, is a vital urban development goal with significant government investment. However, youth inclusion in traditional planning remains challenging. The primary concern is developing strategies and tools that address the specific needs of young citizens in urban planning.

Proposed Improvements

Challenges in youth-centered placemaking include funding and sustainability. Solutions entail prioritizing collaborative, long-term partnerships, engaging decisionmakers linked to youth, and maintaining consistent communication. Building political support, bridging institutions, raising local awareness, and using social media amplify placemaking initiatives. The goal is to demonstrate tangible empowerment through concrete results.

Belgium



Survey Conclusions

Empowering youth involves giving them space to collaborate based on their interests, leading to successful programs. Sharing empowerment skills across partners offers valuable cross-country strategies.

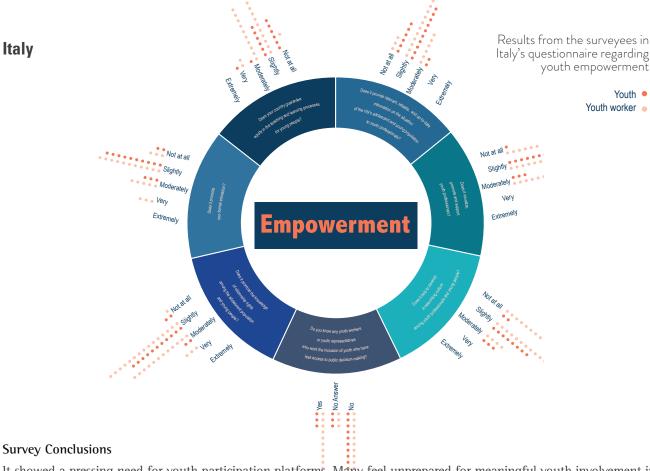
Definition and Local Context

In Brussels, recent efforts to enhance public spaces have faced challenges such as limited funding for participation, insufficient youth engagement, and a lack of tools and expertise for involving young people. Despite initiatives like the Youth Parliament and school student councils, youth involvement in decision-making regarding public spaces remains incomplete.

Proposed Improvements

Enhancing youth participation in projects initiated by authorities is crucial. To achieve this, better frameworks, early involvement, pedagogical tools, and skill-building are needed. It's essential to value the efforts of young individuals, offering incentives such as school credits or local currency compensation. Moreover, fostering competences for respectful and equal engagement with young stakeholders is vital, treating them as equal decision-making partners.





It showed a pressing need for youth participation platforms. Many feel unprepared for meaningful youth involvement in decision-making, but there's optimism about learning from other partners' experiences to improve the situation.

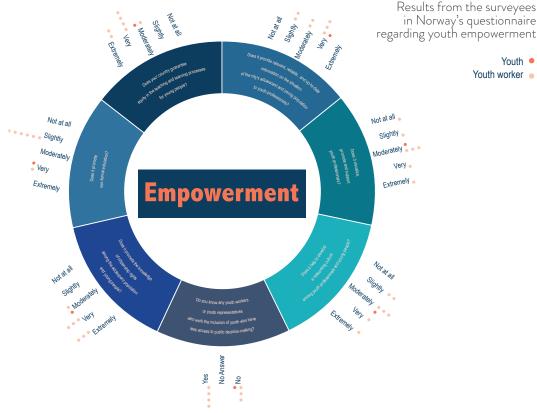
Definition and Local Context

In Italy, youth community empowerment relies on young people's involvement in local politics and decisionmaking. However, despite efforts to promote this engagement, local institutions often lack genuine interest, limiting youth participation to formal partnerships. Consequently, young people's requests in such initiatives frequently go unanswered, severely limiting their societal influence..

Proposed Improvements

The participants call for a cultural shift in institutions to achieve real youth community empowerment. This means creating more opportunities for youth in decision-making, providing accessible meeting spaces in their daily lives, rethinking school education, and offering resources for youth-led initiatives. The Youth Centers in Brussels serve as an excellent model, fostering a sense of community and autonomy among young individuals.

Norway



Survey Conclusions

Norway offers strong youth empowerment programs with well-informed young citizens who have a solid network and professionalism, laying the groundwork for further improvement.

Definition and Local Context

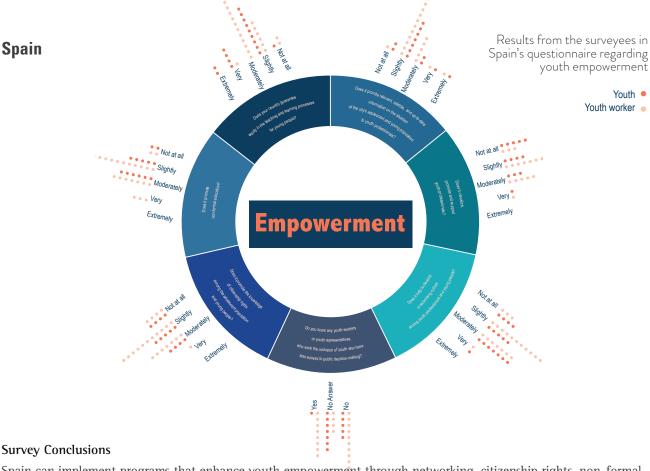
In Oslo, youth inclusion initiatives are widespread but often operate in silos, resulting in inefficient resource utilization. The lack of collaboration among organizations and schools hampers the full potential of youth empowerment efforts. Nabolagshager's successful collaboration with schools highlights the untapped potential for cross-sector partnership, ultimately leading to a more cohesive network for the benefit of youth.

Proposed Improvements

To strengthen youth inclusion, more research is needed, along with streamlined methods and accessible resources for youth workers. Awareness of available funding opportunities should be increased. Creating tools for networking and resource-sharing among youth organizations, with in-person meetings, will foster mutual growth within the network. These steps enhance youth empowerment in Oslo.



Spain



Spain can implement programs that enhance youth empowerment through networking, citizenship rights, non-formal education and mental health support utilizing its well-regarded educational infrastructure to promote youth empowerment.

Definition and Local Context

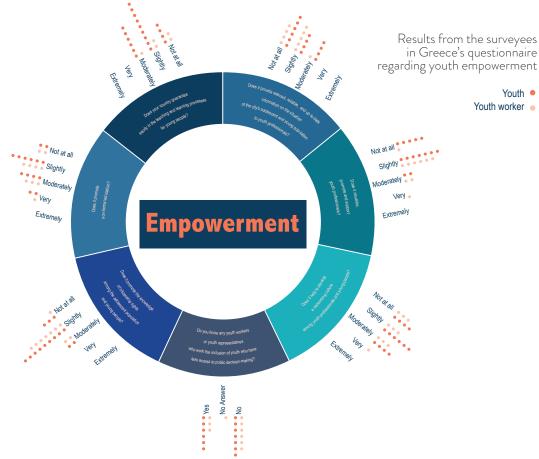
Healthcare is evolving with greater community engagement and breaking down institutional barriers. Services collaborate with local resources for inclusive care. Participatory budgeting, though not always perfect, empowers youth and encourages intergenerational alliances, especially for pressing issues like the climate emergency.

Proposed Improvements

Empowering youth requires recognizing diversity and promoting inclusive communication between adults and young people. Institutional support should align with youth interests and promote active involvement. Placemaking initiatives should empower young people to shape their communities, celebrating diversity and accommodating individual pacing for success.



Greece



Survey Conclusions

It emphasizes the importance of professional programs for Greek youth, focusing on skill development. Outreach to youth inclusion representatives needs improvement, and empowerment through training and creative learning is essential.

Definition and Local Context

Youth community empowerment focuses on equipping young people with vital skills and training to take charge of their lives and drive positive change. Yet, it's essential to address socioeconomic challenges that can deter them. Additionally, overcoming the fear of the unknown is crucial to encourage youth involvement in public initiatives.

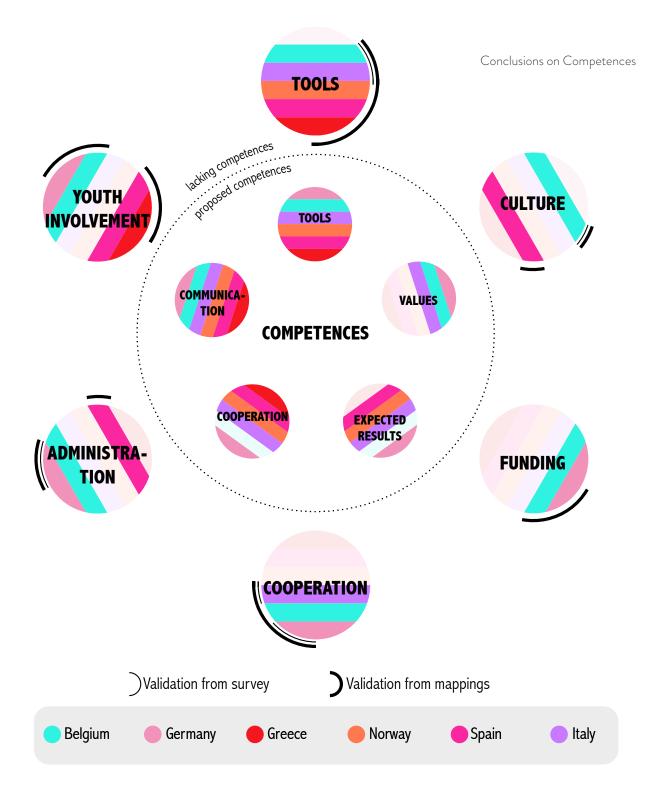
Proposed Improvements

Empowering youth in their communities requires comprehensive training, emphasizing skills for community organization and peer engagement. Youth workers are vital as advocates for young voices. Strategies should include upskilling youth workers, expanding training, and promoting community-building activities. This approach nurtures youth leadership within the community.



COMPETENCES

"In all six countries, placemaking for inclusion is recognised as an opportunity to empower youth in decision-making. To achieve youth inclusion in placemaking, participants recognized the lacking competences and proposed competencies they could work on during this project. These competences include tools to engage people, improve communication skills to facilitate the dialogue, and empower cross-departmental cooperation. They also defined the actors, goals, scale, and expectation of participation from the start with the local community and appreciate and acknowledge the effort of youth."



Germany

Lacking competences

- Norm of Inclusion: To involve youth effectively, there
 must be a shift in norms, where youth participation
 becomes a standard practice in administration.
 This requires political commitment and creating a
 framework that supports this shift.
- Building Competencies: Developing competencies
 is crucial. This includes building networks within
 administration and nurturing cross-departmental
 understanding. Training youth in project
 management empowers them to take the initiative.
 Creative solutions are needed for funding youth-led
 urban development projects.
- Tapping into Resources: Collaboration and crossdepartmental cooperation between various city departments can unlock diverse funding sources.
 This includes exploring third-party fundraising and efficient fund utilization.
- Diverse Stakeholders: Successful youth participation involves engaging a wide range of partners, including city politics, youth work organizations, planning institutions, and experts in youth participation.
 The diversity of stakeholders enriches projects with expertise and resources.

Proposed competences

- Clear Responsibilities: Roles, responsibilities, and tasks need clear definition, especially between urban planning and the youth domain.
- Varied Roles: Recognizing the multiple roles involved in youth projects is essential for success. Roles can shift based on the project's design.
- Effective Communication: Communication, both internally and externally, is paramount for project success.
- Transparency and Information: Transparent communication and information support enhance the perception of youth participation in urban development. YP must be allowed to showcase their capabilities and contributions.
- Defining Goals and Expectations: Clear goals, scale, and expectations must be established at the project's outset. This requires alignment between politics and administration at higher levels.
- Scale of Participation: Tailoring participation tools to the specific context is vital, addressing young target groups personally for effectiveness.

Belgium

Lacking competences

- Insufficient Youth Involvement: Concerns were raised about the limited participation of young people in urban planning. Efforts should prioritize projects that directly affect the lives of youth.
- Lack of Funding for Empowerment: Key stakeholders emphasized the need for increased funding to support and empower young individuals in initiating their projects.
- Engaging and Fun Methods: Traditional approaches, often seen as boring or formal, should be replaced by more engaging and enjoyable methods, enhancing youth participation.
- Institutionalization Concerns: Institutionalizing participation projects can lead to a lack of sustainability and youth ownership, requiring a reevaluation of participatory culture.
- Effective Communication: Successful youth involvement in urban processes necessitates robust partnerships and effective communication. Youth expertise should be valued without losing sight of individual needs.

Proposed competences

- Values & Attitudes: Encourage a humble attitude among professionals and policymakers, recognizing young people's expertise. Challenge the prevailing adult-centric mindset and adjust policies to reflect youth perspectives.
- Methods: Develop innovative methods, projects, and spaces that engage youth in a playful and enjoyable manner, incorporating gamification, movement, and non-formal techniques. Invest in dedicated spaces that promote co-creation and belonging.
- Skills: Provide training to professionals capable
 of facilitating enjoyable participatory processes
 with youth. Emphasize the importance of making
 outcomes tangible and showcasing their impact
 effectively.

Italy

Lacking competences

- Key Role of Adult Guides: Adult guides are pivotal in youth community empowerment and placemaking.
- Specific Skills and Competences: These guides must possess specific skills and competences.
- Urbanists Facilitating Dialogue: Urbanists can bridge communication between citizens and administration.



 Youth Workers as Guides: Youth workers can play this role with appropriate skills.

Proposed competences

- Comprehensive Training and Tools: Youth workers need well-rounded training and tools.
- Youth Trust and Reliability: Reliability in the eyes of young people is essential.
- Trustworthy Voice Transmission: Trustworthy individuals can help transmit young voices.
- Active Experimentation: Training should focus on active experimentation and critical pedagogy.
- Self-Learning and Personal Reflection: The emphasis is on self-learning and reflection on personal experiences.

Norway

Lacking competences

- Formal training: They lack formal training, especially when dealing with a diverse range of young people.
- Limited knowledge and resources: Knowledge and resources in areas like youth work, project management, and networking are limited.

Proposed competences

• Resources: Allocate resources for training and education of youth workers.

- Meeting spaces: Create physical meeting spaces for idea exchange and collaboration.
- Centralization of knowledge: Establish a digital platform to centralize knowledge and opportunities.
- Evaluation: Implement ongoing evaluation of youth projects, including youth perspectives, to improve project quality and impact.

Spain

Lacking competences

- sTools and Policies Gap: Inadequate tools, spaces, and policies impede youth empowerment, often leading to unsustainable projects.
- Institutionalization Hurdle: Institutionalization prevents young people from taking ownership, as it lacks prior investment in participatory culture and community involvement.
- Gender Disparities: Unsafe public spaces contribute to the invisibility of young women and girls in decisionmaking processes.
- Communication Disconnect: Traditional channels often reinforce difference and exclusion, undermining youth involvement.

Proposed competences

 Youth Empowerment: Equip young individuals with self-management skills, promoting community

networking and breaking exclusion cycles.

- Collaboration and Resources: Foster alliances with other organizations to enhance networks and provide essential resources.
- Community Engagement: Encourage activities in public spaces, promoting inclusivity and dispelling prejudices through diverse experiences.
- Art and Culture: Harness art and culture for social transformation, encouraging self-expression in public spaces.
- Placemaking: Identify spaces conducive to youth initiatives and promote self-managed projects, aligning urbanism with youth.
- Accessible Communication: Communicate in a clear, visual, and accessible manner to enhance inclusivity and understanding.

Greece

Lacking competences

- Digital competences: Identified a critical shortage of digital competences among youth workers.
- Lack of skills: Technology underutilized due to a prevailing lack of skills.
- Bureaucratic difficulties on public space use:
 Emphasis placed on outdoor and collaborative

activities, live communication, and physical presence for creativity. Highlighted bureaucratic hurdles in utilizing public spaces in Greece, particularly Athens.

Proposed competences

- Administrative support: Urgent need for greater support from public administrations in youth initiatives, even related to public space usage.
- Awareness campaigns: Advocated for awareness campaigns to promote the importance of placemaking for youth inclusion, targeting youth workers. These campaigns aim to familiarize youth workers with pertinent practices and foster a more inclusive future.

"Remember, as the final chapter closes, you're not just equipped with knowledge; you're empowered with the skills and passion to shape the future. The journey doesn't end here; it begins anew, and every step you take brings us closer to a brighter, more inclusive world. Go forth, create change, and let your actions inspire the change-makers of tomorrow. The world awaits your transformational touch."





Place Making 4 Inclusion Reviving Active Citizenship for Reshaping the Societies (PM4I) ERASMUS-YOUTH-2021-PC00P-ENGO

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