

# Workshop

## Participatory Cities

### BACKGROUND

We don't need international targets to tell us that citizens have the right to participate in decisions about the cities they live and work in. Community organisers, activists and organisations have long been lobbying and acting for citizens to have a greater say over how cities are run, managed and for whose benefit.

More recently, this goal has been recognised within both the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. Goals 11 and 16 commit to

- Participatory planning and management: enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries (Goal 11)
- Participatory institutions: developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (Goal 16)
- Participatory decision-making: ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (Goal 16)

The Realising Just Cities programme recognises that good governance is both a condition and an outcome of Realising Just Cities. Our Strategic Plan identifies this as a core process: namely, improving relationships and processes amongst governance stakeholders in order to ensure decision-making and urban management practices that will help achieve just cities.

This workshop will start with short presentations from each of the local interaction platforms to showcase how our projects are contributing to the twin aims of Goal 11 and 16. It will then workshop with participants to

- identify good examples in our respective cities
- reflect on our own roles and the value of local interaction platforms in supporting more participatory cities.

We would like everyone to join in! Some light preparation will be needed and we will be in touch with more details nearer the time.

## SCHEDULE AND STRUCTURE

There are two sessions of 2 hours each.

### Session 1: Participatory planning, institutions and processes at the LIPs

#### 1.1 Introduction of the session (5 mins)

This first two hour session focusses on finding out more about what is happening at each LIP and identifying common themes and challenges.

#### 1.2 LIP presentations (60mins, divided between participants)

Each LIP will have 10 minutes each to respond to the following:

*How does the work at your platform contribute to one or more of the following: participatory planning and management; participatory institutions; participatory decision-making?*

Presentations should be short and will be timed carefully. The idea is to offer an overall narrative overview with one or two examples.

#### 1.3 Concepts, contexts and conditions (40 mins)

The workshop will divide into three smaller groups to discuss: what ideas about participation inform the different projects – what common / different concepts and themes emerge? How are ideas about what is desirable and possible for more participatory planning, institutions and decision-making processes shaped by different urban contexts? What does this tell us about the conditions needed for more participatory cities? Comments and ideas will be written on post-its.

#### 1.4 Feedback (15 mins)

Each group will have 5 minutes to feed back on the discussions. The post-its will be crowdsourced to develop cross-LIP brainstorms/maps of projects, concepts, challenges and conditions.

### Session 2: Participatory ecologies: our role and value

#### 2.1 Introduction (5 mins)

The aim of this second session is to look *out* to what else is going on in our cities and beyond and to look *inwards* to reflect on our own roles within the wider urban landscapes we are situated in.

#### 2.2 Participatory mapping: what else is going on? (45 mins)

Participants will be asked to bring 2-3 examples of exciting/novel/inspirational initiatives in their urban/city-regional settings which are seeking to deliver on Goals 11 and 16 *outside* the respective LIP. A proforma will be provided to participants in advance. The examples will be discussed in small groups. Each group will offer feedback/questions about what the role of the LIPs are in the wider context of efforts to develop more participatory cities.

#### 2.3 Our platforms, our role 60 mins

In the last hour there will be two parallel activities.

2.3.1 A small group of platform leaders (Directors/coordinators/designated project leads with authority to make decisions) will form one discussion group. First, they will focus on the **LIP model** and share reflections on how different platform designs incorporate the principles of participation: who is involved, how, how can we understand our own platforms in relation to participation in planning, institutions and decision-making. Second, they will focus on scoping the boundaries (time, money, capacity) for and content of **comparative work** moving forward.

2.3.2 A second group will comprise all those who are interested in the topic but are not active decision-makers or platform managers. They will be led in small discussion groups about how they see their role as **boundary spanners/agents** in the development of more participatory cities. This will focus more on what roles individuals (whether academics/policy-makers/NGOs etc) play, their practices and issues/benefits that emerge.

2.4 Feedback and Reflections 10 mins

Each group will feed back and reflect on the session as a whole.

**LIP Actions**

- Confirm who is attending and what their interests are
- Confirm who is presenting work on behalf of LIP (1.2)
- Confirm who is attending and in a position to discuss the platform model and mandated to decide on future work (2.3.1)

**Connected to SDG: 11, 16**

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