



CITIES AS ARENAS OF POLITICAL INNOVATION IN THE STRENGTHENING OF DELIBERATIVE AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

REPORT OF THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT OUTCOMES ON THE EURENAS PROJECT

APRIL 2024

EUARENAS investigates the ways in which social movements coupled with local government reform initiatives, manifesting themselves in local-level experiments, create momentum for political change that include more inclusive and participatory forms of governance.



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INTRODUCTION

The main objective of Work Package 8 (WP8) is to define an impact assessment methodology to monitor and evaluate the development of citizen-based urban initiatives fostering participatory and deliberative forms of democratic governance.

D8.2 proposed an **EUARENAS** Index (EURARI) based on a codebook consisting of a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators, which assess existing conditions of the urban areas involved as well as evaluate the impact produced by the experimentations. In D8.3, the evaluation framework for output measurement and impact assessment was developed, based on a benchmark analysis of previous experiences. The approach was inspired by frameworks such as the Transformative Social Innovation framework and the Theory of Change.

The idea of D8.4 is to first harmonize the work carried out by WP4 and WP8, and then proceed with an impact assessment of deliberative democracy initiatives of the three pilots (Gdansk, Reggio Emilia, and Vöru), based on the methodology introduced in the previous WP8 deliverables.

As highlighted in D8.2 **EUARENAS** Index (EURARI), a series of questions must be answered prior to proceeding with the impact assessment, such as what impact, when impact, and how impact.

In terms of “what”, this document focuses on assessing the urban impact, considered as a coherent framework for an overall evaluation of the **EUARENAS** project, which allows for comparison of the different cases implemented and monitored within the project. Urban impact is seen as the set of voluntary and involuntary goals and consequences that deliberative democracy initiatives can generate in the city, in neighborhoods, and in communities. The urban impact consists of three main dimensions: social, political, and urban environmental. The impact assessment of pilots has been made on these three macro dimensions, adhering, depending on data availability, to the indicators of the **EUARENAS** Index (Valeriani et al., 2021).

In terms of “when”, the Theory of Change is at the base of the phases of impact assessment. This document applies a methodological concept of time, rather than a substantial one. If substantial time refers to the idea that impact is a measure of change and its inherently dynamic and in a constant move. Methodological time refers to the specific moments in which the analysis needs to be conducted and allows for the implementation of an assessment agenda or process that operationalizes the different steps required to identify variations in the system object of the assessment. Using the nomenclature introduced by WP4, the following cycles and phases have been analyzed in this report:

- Preparation cycle (or pre-implementation phase, as it is called in D8.3)
- Implementation cycle: phase I, phase II and phase III

The preparation cycle, taken place between December 2021 and August 2022, involved a preliminary assessment of the pilot’s situation at time zero across various dimensions, evaluation of its challenges and issues and expected results until the end of piloting. A time zero assessment serves as the baseline for subsequent evaluations undertaken until the Project’s conclusion.

The phase I of implementation cycle involved the impact assessment of pilots from September 2022 until January 2023. It compared the pilots’ expected results until the end of phase I with their achieved results until the end of phase I of implementation cycle.

The phase II of implementation cycle refers to the impact assessment done within the period of February 2023 and July 2023. It compares the pilots’ expected results until the end of phase II of implementation cycle with the pilots’ achieved results until the end of phase II of implementation cycle.

The phase III of implementation cycle considers the timeline between August 2023 - January 2024. It compares the pilots’ expected results at time zero, that were outlined at the beginning of the piloting experiment, with the overall pilots’ results achieved until the end of piloting experiment.

Generally speaking, the evaluation phase retrospectively reviews the various effects monitored, it compares them with the objectives identified during the phases and it finally assesses the process employed.

In terms of “how” to evaluate the impact, this document applied a specific scoring methodology, developed by WP8, which considers a multidimensional nature of impact, made of social, political, and urban environmental factors. The three factors are assumed to include all the possible intended and unintended consequences of a specific initiative. Each factor –Social, Political, Urban Environmental – is assigned an impact score based upon the initiative's alignment to the evaluation criteria. Higher evaluation scores are representative of higher impact. For what concerns the time zero situation the scoring methodology evaluates the overall feasibility of cities' expectations by investigating the alignment between pilots' objectives and challenges. For the three phases of implementation cycle, expected impacts are compared to achieved impacts over each time phase. Further details are explained in chapter 3 “Methodological Framework”.

Impact has been assessed with the prevalent use of qualitative variables, complemented whenever possible with quantitative ones. The following instruments were used for the data gathering process: questionnaires, interviews, workshops as well as review of existing databases, local archives and reports.

In addition to the impact assessment of the pilot cities, this document reports direct and indirect outcomes of the EUARENAS project by analyzing the testimonies of the EUARENAS partners and city pilots. The data were collected through various simultaneous workshops during the EUARENAS consortium meeting in Wrocław (September 2023). Rather than reporting individual voices, the data were analyzed following the three coding phases, moving from the raw data to more abstract concepts (Bruscaglioni, 2016; Corbin & Strauss, 2014), so that the core categories of testimonies could be identified.

2. THEORY OF CHANGE

The EUARENAS impact assessment is inspired by the Transformative Social Innovation framework and Theory of Change as a blueprint of all the building blocks required to fulfill the longer-term aims of a specific intervention. Other references include the Co-Cities codebook (Foster & Iaione, 2022) to assess the quality and impact of urban policies for the co-governance of urban commons both at the neighborhood and city-wide level, and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as described in D8.2 and D8.3.

Theory of Change (ToC) is an analytical tool that provides a comprehensive description of how and why a series of early and intermediate events lay the foundation for long-term outcomes. It explains how a set of interventions is expected to lead to change and relies on a causal analysis based on available evidence (Keresztely et al., 2023). ToC is a strategic picture that starts by identifying the expected impact and visualizes the hypothesis of multiple interventions required to produce early and intermediate outcomes that are preconditions to the expected impact and long-term change (Figure 1). This enables organizations to think more deeply about their work and consider the consequences that may arise from any decisions (Ostrom & Basurto, 2010; Serrat, 2017). The approach also aids in making course changes if the chosen method fails or if expected hazards manifest. Changes should also be made in response to changing conditions, particularly in response to crises and shocks, and as part of routine monitoring and adjustment patterns. Thus, ToC is a flexible and dynamic framework that carries several feedback loops, requiring regular rounds of evaluation. It allows ongoing learning from practice on how expected change is happening in real life, making it a suitable approach for application in the EUARENAS piloting work package (Keresztely et al., 2023).

The ToC model can be applied at different levels of activity from the individual behavioral experiments to the system change level. In the EUARENAS project, ToC constitutes also the guiding framework for WP4, used for its overall pilot-project planning and assessment. WP8 activities have contributed to the leading work of WP4 related to the co-creation of the action plan, which includes the strategy and actions for implementing the Pilot. More specifically, in line with the ToC model, pilot cities were invited to think first about the impact they want to generate until the end of the project, and based on these expectations, they were invited to identify the expected outcomes, outputs, activities and the necessary inputs (Keresztely et al., 2023).

Figure 1: The ToC model

A specific lexicon was shared with the cities to minimize interpretive ambiguities that could lead to misconceptions and problems in communication and comparison of various cities' experiences. The glossary included the following definitions:

Glossary of the Action Plan elements

Impact: the main change that the pilot will generate and that will play an effect on the pilot's target group (for instance, young people, people with migrant background etc).

Short term: The change that you can observe/measure immediately after the pilot implementation.

Medium term: A change is expected 1 year after the ending of the pilot.

Long term: A change expected during the following 5 years.

Outcomes: Outcomes are the main results of the pilot that contribute to the impact and the main social change to be generated by the pilot. These outcomes can be of any kind for example:

- A new policy or policy making approach in the municipality;
- Target groups become informed or empowered by new skills, knowledge or information;
- Innovative participatory tools or methods are created;
- Decision makers obtain new experience with specific target groups.

Outputs: Outputs are the tangible results or products of the pilot activities that will lead to the outcomes presented above. They can be of any kind as follows:

- A participatory or community event with a specific aim;
- A training;
- A new rule/regulation documented;
- Summary of interviews;
- A publication;
- An online tool for supporting digital participation.

Indicators: The achievement of the expected impacts, outputs and outcomes can be assessed by quantitative and qualitative indicators.

Quantitative indicators are the measurable data that prove if the expected impact, outcomes or outputs are achieved. When identifying these indicators, one has to be careful to provide rational, accessible, and realisable data.

Qualitative indicators are useful for providing a more nuanced assessment of the impacts, outputs and outcomes. They can also provide information on the quality of the generated change when this change cannot be assessed yet with quantitative performance indicators. Qualitative indicators can be produced with the help of interviews, storytelling methods, photos, videos, reports, etc. When identifying these indicators, one needs to pay attention to avoid biased or superficial questions.

Activities: The concrete actions that will be undertaken for achieving the outputs, for instance:

- Organising of a meeting;
- Co-creating of a participatory tool;
- Interviewing;
- Creating a training curriculum.

Inputs: All types of resources that you need to use for implementing your activities. In this template we suggest you differentiate the following inputs or resources:

- Financial (especially resources other than EUARENAS);
- Institutions/stakeholders which support you;
- Material and technical;
- Knowledge and methods;
- Tools, especially from the EUARENAS toolbox.

3. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Before introducing the impact evaluation of the pilot cities, the methodological framework has to be clarified. In particular, three important questions have to be answered: (1) What impact to evaluate?, (2) When to evaluate?, (3) How to evaluate?

3.1. What impact to evaluate?

3.1.1. The EUARENAS Framework

For the purpose of the overall evaluation of the EUARENAS project and its cases, previous WP8 deliverables agreed on what had to be evaluated - the urban impact. The urban impact can be defined as the set of voluntary and involuntary goals and consequences that deliberative democracy initiatives can generate in the city, in neighborhoods and on communities (Valeriani et al., 2021). It is made up of three main dimensions, which include within themselves all the different aspects that can be influenced by an initiative - the quality of the urban environment, social quality, and political quality.

The social dimension evaluates the impact on the individual and the community levels, using single and aggregated indicators to evaluate which benefits the initiative has brought to the target group. The political dimension includes the impacts on the political, legal and governance levels; it entails monitoring the effect on policies, as well as on administration and innovative governance. The quality of the urban environment dimension encompasses the physical impact that the initiative has on the urban space. This dimension includes indicators linked to sustainability, energy transition, urban spaces and resources, and social models of their fruition.

D8.2 identified a series of objectives and indicators of the three dimensions to consider when proceeding with the impact evaluation of the pilot cities (table 2).

Table 2: Dimensions, Objectives and Indicators of the EUARENAS Index

Impact's Dimension	Objective	Indicators
Social	1-Inclusion and diversity	People involved/potential people Minorities represented/minorities present People included/people previously excluded Number of meetings organized Number of participants per stakeholder type
	2-Engagement	Number of initiatives with follow up Instances presented that have made it to the following step of the project Individual satisfaction of the process Presence of same individual across initiatives
	3-Economic Development	New economic activities created Increased wealth of the area Increased in partnerships New skills acquired by participants Sustainable finance
	4-Personal Development	Community development Interest in civic life Trust in local authorities

	5-Digital and Tech Development	Innovative tools and methods - adoption of programs, applications, platforms Increase of digital literacy Decrease of digital divide New tech infrastructures
	6- Cultural Development	Recovery and enhancement of cultural assets (mq/mq or number) Capacity-building and knowledge programs Cultural and entertainment services or facilities
Political	1-Governance	Number of innovative tools introduced in regulations Degree of legalizations of the innovative tools (mandatory/non mandatory)
	2-Participation	Number of additional participation initiative Number of new participation initiatives Number of local authorities involved
	3-Legal	Number of regulations implemented from the initiative Number of deliberative councils/assemblies
	4-Influence	Number of new political entities Change in political preferences
Urban environmental	1-Urban resources and social models of the fruition of urban resources	Accessible infrastructures (number and type) Public/public use buildings and areas Indicator public areas: surface area of public outdoor areas with social function / total area of the project area Public services - area of dedicated spaces / total project area Increase in the level of accessibility and fruition perceived to the initiative spaces (before and after) New landmarks Increase in perceived quality of urban space and city livability
	2-Environmental quality	Typology of urban morphology (reticular/organic, flat, or hilly/mountainous) Environmental policies and strategies compliant with European climate neutrality goals Energy Efficiency Indicator - number of increases in the energy classes of buildings Energy Sustainability Indicator - number of plant types from renewable sources (none, +1 solar/wind/hydro/geothermal/biomass) Environmental remediation: project area subject to environmental remediation/restoration/risks reduction/elimination of causes of pollution Urban reforestation/greening/nature-based solutions: area/project area

The above dimensions of the EUARENAS index with its objectives, and, whenever available, indicators, will be considered in the evaluation process of the pilot cities.

3.1.2. Harmonizing with WP4 impact assessment

D8.4 seeks to harmonize the impact assessment of WP8 with the work carried out by WP4. For this reason, it is important to clarify which impact is evaluated by WP4 and WP8, and the timeline. While WP4 (e.g., D4.2) focuses on the level of impact – team, organization/municipality, inhabitants, and stakeholders, and systemic/policy level; WP8 focuses on the dimensions of impact – social, political, and urban environmental. To reconcile the two assessments, this report follows the reasoning below:

- All information provided by the WP4 assessment questionnaires was carefully considered and examined by WP8.
- The impact on the team level, introduced in WP4, is included either in the social dimension (e.g., economic development, personal development) or political dimension (e.g., participation) of the urban impact of the pilot cities, as discussed in WP8.
- The impact on the organization/municipal level, introduced in WP4, is included in the political dimension (e.g., governance, participation, legal, influence) in WP8.
- The impact on the level of inhabitants and stakeholders, introduced in WP4, is encompassed in the social dimension of the urban impact of the pilot cities, as discussed in WP8.
- The systemic impact (WP4) is located in all three dimensions - social, political, urban-environmental – of the urban impact of the pilot cities (WP8), depending on the pilot's expected versus achieved results in a certain time period. See table 3.

Table 3: Harmonization between WP4 and WP8 impact assessments

WP4 impact assessment based on levels of impact	WP8 assessment based on dimensions of impact
Team level impact	Social dimension (i.e., economic development, personal development) or political dimension (i.e., participation)
Organizational/municipal level	Political dimensions (i.e., governance, participation, legal, influence).
Target group level	Social dimension
Systemic/policy level	Social, political, urban-environmental dimensions

3.2. When to evaluate?

Being directly tied to the ToC, impact assessment is undertaken before, during, and after the examined initiative. Various phases of the evaluation were mapped in the previous WP8 deliverables, according to the co-cycle process refined through EUARMP Methodological Protocol.

D8.2 and D8.3 identified the following phases:

1. Definition: objectives, variables and limits are identified and formalized
2. Status quo: measurement of the variables before the beginning of the initiative (T0)
3. Alternatives: identification of possible other concurring factors to the outcomes
4. Selection: (eventual) evaluation of alternatives and subsequent decision
5. Monitoring: data gathering during the implementation of the initiative (T1)
6. Evaluation: evaluation of the results at conclusion of the initiative (T2)

For the purpose of coherence, D8.4 makes an effort to harmonize the WP8 phases of assessment with the WP4 piloting cycles, including the harmonization of nomenclature (please consult D4.2 for more details). From now on, the WP4 nomenclature of cycles will be used.

Table 4: Harmonizing pilots' evaluation phases between WP4 and WP8

WP	Previous WP8 deliverables	WP4 deliverables and D8.4
Evaluation phases	Pre-implementation (Dec 2021- Aug 2022)	Preparation cycle (Dec 2021- Aug 2022) The preparation cycle was dedicated to observation and exploration and the planning of the concrete steps of the pilots. Each city went through a process, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment Summary of their initial situation with the help of Zero evaluation templates; Preparation of the Pilot Action Plans and the rough timeline of the pilot activities.
	Post-implementation (Sept 2022 – Jan 2024)	Implementation cycle , divided into 3 phases Phase 1 (Sep 2022 - Jan 2023) - was dedicated to the creation of the first prototypes of the innovative deliberative tools in the core of the pilots Phase 2 (Feb - July 2023) - was dedicated to the evaluation of the first results, to a reflection on the transferability of the pilot tool to another target group or area, or on the improvement of the performance of the tool and extension of its outreach; and reflect on the ways to link the piloting deliberative actions to the political decision making. Phase 3 (Aug 2023- Jan 2024) – was dedicated to the testing of the improved or adapted version of the deliberative tools. Evaluation cycle - dedicated to the co-creation of the evaluation of the pilots and the process of action learning.

D8.4 targets three phases of implementation cycle. Table 5 introduces an updated version of the timeline of WP8 deliverables.

Table 4: Harmonizing pilots' evaluation phases between WP4 and WP8

Time		T0	T1
Targeted evaluation cycle		Preparation cycle (Dec 2021- Aug 2022)	Implementation cycle Phase 1 (Sept 2022 - Jan 2023) Phase 2 (Feb - July 2023) Phase 3 (Aug 2023 - Jan 2024)
EUARENAS Month	M-15	M-24	M-39
Month/Year	December 2021	December 2022	March 2024
Deliverable	D8.2 EUARENAS Index (EURARI); Beginning of data gathering for D8.3	D8.3 Impact Monitoring Report (M-24)	D8.4 Dir/Ind Outcome Report (M-36)

It is important to specify that the deadline of D8.4 has been postponed from December 2023 to March 2024 to include the phase III of the pilots' evaluation cycle. Pilots were expected to provide the data related to the phase III of implementation cycle by the end of January 2024.

3.3. How to evaluate?

3.3.1. Data collection

An operational strategy is required to analyze the time zero scenario and the three phases of the pilots' implementation cycle.

The data collection of the time zero and time one assessments was done through the direct involvement of municipal leaders and their administrative structures, that provided both local reports and filled in assessment questionnaires created by WP4.

Nevertheless, the assessment was done by LUISS and supported by WP4 and other WP partners, based on all available documents, semi-structured interviews with the pilots and workshops conducted during consortium meetings. This decision was necessitated by the requirement for a third and impartial assessment, required for objective considerations. More specifically, the following partners have contributed to the WP8 impact assessment:

- The piloting partners, consisting of the municipalities of Reggio Emilia and Gdansk, and the Vöru Development Centre, by performing a self-evaluation in the form of assessment questionnaires and interviews.
- WP4 coordinators and partners by providing methodological, analytical and organizational support to the pilots, by creating assessment questionnaires and conducting weekly coordination meetings to monitor the pilots' progress and activities.
- The other EUARENAS partners, including work package leaders, by contributing with their reflections and insights, providing feedback and identifying synergies between the piloting efforts and the overall project.

3.3.2. Time zero assessment

D8.3 performed a time zero assessment of the pilot cities taking into account their status quo, and considering the three dimension of impact – social, political and urban-environmental – as indicated in D8.2. Based on these three dimensions, the following guiding questions were asked the city representatives:

- Social impact monitoring Evaluative measures:
 - What social problem(s) does the initiative seek to address?
 - Who does the initiative serve? (i.e., demographical description)
 - How many people does the initiative serve?
 - What is the socio-economic landscape of the initiative's impacted region/area?
 - How does the initiative plan to drive social change? What are the intended outcomes?

Zero Situation Evaluation MAPPING:

- Description of the pilot area and its socio-economic context
- Socio-economic characteristics of the region/area: population composition; economic profile; social and cultural characteristics

- Key social and economic challenges
- Local needs
- Pilot idea and expected impact(s)
- Political impact monitoring Evaluative measures:
 - What political problem(s) does the initiative seek to address?
 - What is the political landscape of the initiative's impacted region/area?
 - Is this initiative embedded into policies and/or require the involvement of local government institutions or officials?
 - How does the initiative plan to drive political change? What are the intended outcomes?

Zero Situation Evaluation MAPPING:

- Socio-economic characteristics of the region/area
- Key economic challenges
- Political decision making and administration
- The use of deliberative tools
- Local needs
- Pilot idea and expected impact(s)
- Urban Environmental impact monitoring Evaluative measures:
 - What environmental problem(s) does the initiative seek to address?
 - What is the environment landscape of the initiative's impacted region/area?
 - How does the initiative plan to drive territorial/urban environmental change? What are the intended outcomes?

Zero Situation Evaluation MAPPING:

- Environmental characteristics of the region/area
- Key environmental challenges
- Local needs
- Pilot idea and expected impact(s)

The questions helped transition from a Theory of Change descriptive approach to a scoring system, as explained below.

3.3.3. Scoring methodology

The scoring methodology, introduced by D8.3 (Kappler et al., 2022), is based on the EUARENAX Index and its three dimensions of impact. As D8.3 specified: "The development of a scoring methodology has followed the "Degree to Which" evaluative approach in which each factor –Social, Political, Urban Environmental - is assigned an impact score based upon the initiative's alignment to the evaluation criteria". Higher evaluation scores are representative of higher impact.

The time zero situation evaluates the situation of the pilot cities before the implementation of their deliberative democracy initiatives. It evaluates the overall feasibility of cities' expectations by enquiring into their alignment between objectives and challenges.

Rating definitions for preparation cycle – T0 - are specified in the following table.

Table 6: Rating definitions of the pre-implementation cycle

FACTORS	PRE	LEVEL OF IMPACT				
		0	1	2	3	4
	SOCIAL	The initiative's objective and action plan do not address the identified challenge / problem area(s)	The initiative's objective and action plan are unlikely to addresses the identified challenge / problem area(s)	The initiative's objective and action plan is somewhat likely to addresses the identified challenge / problem area(s)	The initiative's objective and action plan are likely to addresses the identified challenge / problem area(s)	The initiative's objective and action plan are extremely likely to addresses the identified challenge / problem area(s)
	POLITICAL					
	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL					

Instead, the table below gives information on the following phases of assessment, subject of D8.4.

Table 7: Rating definitions of the post-implementation cycle (or implementation cycle, using the vocabulary of WP4)

FACTORS	POST	LEVEL OF IMPACT				
		0	1	2	3	4
	SOCIAL	The initiative has not been implemented and has not achieved any of the objective(s) outlined in the action plan	The initiative has been implemented and has not achieved any of the objective(s) outlined in the action plan	The initiative has been implemented and met some of the objective(s) outlined in the action plan	The initiative has been implemented and has met most of the objective(s) outlined in its action plan	The initiative successfully met all the objectives outlined in the action plan
	POLITICAL					
	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL					

Rating definitions for preparation cycle – T0 - are specified in the following table.

Table 8: Example of the impact score

FACTORS	LEVEL OF IMPACT	
	Preparation	Implementation
	SOCIAL	3
	POLITICAL	2
	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL	4
	Impact Score	$3 + 2 + 4 = 9 / 3 = 3$

4. TIME ZERO SITUATION AND EVALUATION OF THE PILOT CITIES/ REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS

Understanding the initial state of art of the pilot cities/regional administrations is important for the subsequent evaluation phases of their success and impact (Keresztely et al., 2023). The first questionnaire, co-designed by the coordinators, city representatives and other partners, was the zero-evaluation template filled by the cities in June 2022, six months after the start of the piloting work package. The zero-evaluation template demanded the cities to draw a wider picture of their initial situation and to provide information on the social, economic and political background of the cities including the main challenges they were facing, the basic needs that they identified during the needs assessment process, as well as the main objectives. The results of the template were included into the action research prepared by each city.

4.1. Time zero Evaluation related to Gdansk

D8.3 designed a scoring methodology in which each factor - Social, Political, Urban Environmental – had been assigned an impact score based upon the initiative's alignment with the evaluation criteria. The scoring at T0 compared the overall feasibility of cities' objectives and action plans with the challenges. The situation of Gdansk at the time zero yielded the following preparation/pre-implementation evaluation (See table 9 below).

Table 9: Time zero evaluation of Gdansk

FACTORS	PREPARATION	LEVEL OF IMPACT				
		0	1	2	3	4
	SOCIAL			2		
	POLITICAL				3	
	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL					4
	Impact Score	$(2+3+4)/3=3$				

The following chapter, taken from D8.3, clarifies how the score has been assigned.

In terms of societal implications, the initiative aims at increasing collaboration among various resident groups. This scope is accompanied by the idea of achieving proper integration of new residents including refugees and existing residents. Approximately 23000 residents of Piecki-Migowo district would be directly affected. The Pilot would work on solving the issues related to the dominance of large developers, with a small number of social housing. Societal challenges are also raised from the significant number of Ukrainian immigrants or refugees in the region, which might represent a fresh difficulty in terms of their long-term financial independence and complete integration into society.

The economic situation call for creating a support center of services. As a consequence, creating connections networks throughout the district would boost communities' self-organizing potential.

The political impact may be assessed by examining the sort of change sought by the experiments, which is primarily greater access for residents to city institutions. The concept of co-creation of the masterplan clarifies what tangible output of the new deliberative paradigm that will be introduced. This capability also allows for the creation of a link between policies and urban environmental assets. Therefore, the urban environmental impact is at the core of Gdansk' Pilot. There is an open concept of environmental challenges to be solved: inhabitants will have to express their opinion. At the moment, the sticking point is the preservation of the bigger, compact green spaces that surround the Piecki-Migowo district, as well as the improvement of flood safety and the addition of extra retention tanks. This is accompanied by a desire to reinforce and expand the district's service activities, as well as improve its aesthetics.

The pilot's output is then entirely urban-environmental. It may be possible to have the residents assist the city in developing a micro strategy of development and a master plan for a specific district of the city. This might be a missing connection between local plans (which address just smaller areas of the district, sometimes linked to a particular development proposal) and a comprehensive City Development Study which focuses on the entire city of Gdansk.

This report (Table 10) addresses the reasoning behind the evaluation of the preparation cycle (or pre-implementation as it is called in D8.3) done by the previous work of WP8. In doing so, it consults all the relevant and available data related to the time zero situation of the piloting partners, and integrates the main objectives of the EUARENAS index (D8.2) in the three dimensions of the scoring table.

Table 10: Clarifying time zero evaluation of Gdansk

FACTORS	PREPARATION (expected impact until the end of the project)	CHALLENGES AT T0	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	<p>INCLUSION & DIVERSITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the level of involvement among the citizens, stakeholders, especially the excluded groups. • Integration of new inhabitants. <p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the level of satisfied citizens and stakeholders. <p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More direct impact of citizens on the city. • Easier regulations for the business owners. Focus on the economic growth that would include the needs of the citizens but at the same time would not compromise the overall environment. <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased cooperation of different groups of inhabitant and stakeholders. • Increased inhabitants' and stakeholders' involvement into the planning process. • Increased trust of citizens in the institutions. <p>DIGITAL AND TECH DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on sustainable solutions considering technology in general. • Constantly improved digital level of advancement of the institutions, that would allow for easier citizens involvement. • Increased use of digital tools in participatory planning. <p>CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More advanced cultural capabilities of the district that would take into account diverse needs of the citizens. 	<p>INCLUSION & DIVERSITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an overall need for greater participation and involvement in planning. • Due to the war in Ukraine, Gdansk is a place of migration of large amounts of refugees. Their integration is ongoing. <p>ECONOMIC CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating support centre of services in relation to the core, implementation of more diverse functions, adaptation of old industrial areas to the new functions as the old ones have lost their usefulness in some cases. • Small amount of social housing and the domination of large developers. 	2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased number of local events in the district and their better acknowledgement. IDENTIFIED INDICATORS BY PILOT CITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none">number of interactions between stakeholders in the frame of meetingsnumber of citizens involved in the processesmapped Stakeholdersnumber of people who opened the message of invitation to the meetingsnumber of positive signs, number of people selectednumber of citizens brought on board through the citizen's cardnumber and function of participants at the workshopsnumber of citizen proposals assessednumber of issues(topics) mentioned in the stakeholders' dialogue	2
Political	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop and test cross-sectoral cooperation tools in the area of urban policies in a functional (district) area in Gdańsk.More deliberate planning tools in the city. <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved decision-making and cooperation among different city institutional levels.Better access to the city institutions.Improved cooperation between stakeholders and their involvement into the planning process. <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">introducing the "Master Plan for Piecki-Migowo"Report/ micro strategy creation - a new document that would consider the district level, include stakeholders/citizens' current and future vision of the district as well as address their concerns or interests on different levels and include them in the process. IDENTIFIED INDICATORS BY PILOT CITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none">number of cases when external institutions were connected and involved successfullynumber (list) of stabilized cross sectoral cooperations as a result of the planning processlist of responsibilities attached to individual staff members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The lack of cooperation between different institutions, both the ones that are a part of local government and for instance the NGOs. This leads to the creation of several groups in opposition.Lack of certain services and connections between the areas.There is also a strong commercial developer pressure, on the area and a high influx of new inhabitants which creates a challenge for old vs newcomers relation.The creation of a deliberative planning method can carry a risk of not including broad-enough variety of opinions. 3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number and competencies of team members on board • number of citizens brought on board through the citizen's card • number of the actions engaged based on the deliberative planning process • number of downsides of the process • number and list of risks of the process • number of elected politicians taking an active role in the workshops • number of citizen proposals assessed by the departments 		
Urban-environmental	<p>URBAN RESOURCES AND SOCIAL MODELS OF THE FRUITION OF URBAN SOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens could connect on different levels with the area they live in • Gdansk becoming more inclusive and attractive • More accessible public areas • Green infrastructure • Elimination of spatial barriers. <p>ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</p> <p>The urban environmental impact is at the core of Gdansk' Pilot. There is an open concept of environmental challenges to be solved: inhabitants will have to express their opinion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the ongoing urbanization of the area, it is problematic to preserve large and compact green areas. • Due to the landform of Gdańsk (parts of the city is located much higher than the rest), it is crucial to improve flood safety, adding for instance retention tanks so that the rainwater coming down from the functional area would not endanger other districts. 	4
Impact Score			3

The following sources of information have contributed to the pre-implementation evaluation of Gdansk: WP4 time zero evaluation, Action Plan, Local report on the consultation process of Piecki Migowo, WP4 pilots impact assessment, D8.3 monitoring report of the activities, WP4 – State of art/zero situation evaluation.

4.2 Time zero Evaluation related to Reggio Emilia

The situation of Reggio Emilia at the time zero yielded the following preparation/pre-implementation evaluation (table 11), comparing the pilots' objectives until the end of the project with its challenges.

Table 11: Time zero evaluation of Reggio Emilia

	PREPARATION	LEVEL OF IMPACT				
		0	1	2	3	4
FACTORS	SOCIAL				3	
	POLITICAL					4
	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL				3	
	Impact Score Pre-Implementation	$(3+4+3)/3=3,33$				

The following chapter clarifies how the score has been assigned (D8.3).

Reggio Emilia states three expected critical results mainly related to political and institutional change: approval of the Consolidated Text of Regulations by September; a high level of voter participation and engagement of residents/candidates in councils; and the potential for creating councils in all nine city districts.

The pilot is the result of the current Mayor's political commitment, as affirmed by his mandate program for 2019-2024. Through EUARENAS the City Council has already adopted the first section of the Regulation on Democracy and Urban and Climate Justice in Reggio Emilia, after the decision to change the Statute to allow the formation of the Councils that will serve as the pilot's focal point. The "Consulte" elections were held at the end of November, and this can already be considered as a thrilling result of the EUARENAS Pilot. Elections for members of the non-elective component, who will join the elected members at the start of the year to form each area's council, are still open until December 31st 2022. Although the experiment has already recorded a substantial number of shares within the public administration and community, there may be some concern about long-term viability due to local elections, which may cause discontinuity.

The establishment of the City Science Office might aid in the project's grounding and evaluation of its many components by monitoring and ensuring continuity and updates. To date, not all of the pilot's ramifications have been examined; considerable evidence will emerge over time, and the organizational commitments required to deal with it will be quantified.

The city is addressing urban and environmental obstacles and connecting them to institutional and process governance objectives in accordance with the framework underpinning the new Regulation. There is already a good identification of the system of qualitative and quantitative indicators to be monitored, thanks to the ongoing support that the EUARENAS research team was able to activate for the city, which is then substantiated by the collaboration between Luiss and the municipality within the CSO.

Reggio Emilia has included the climate contract at different scales (neighborhood, area, city) as one of the instruments for co-planning and co-design. The expected impacts concern the transition to climate neutrality, the modernization of transport and mobility systems, the energy refurbishment of housing stock, and the regeneration of public space. The assessment of territorial and local urban effect will allow an evaluation of the urban context in which the intervention is inserted and how it connects to defining aspects such as surface, environment, regeneration, accessibility, and reachability.

The environmental effect assesses the interaction between the intervention and the surrounding environment, such as soil, energy consumption, material usage, and reclamation. However, it is suggested to provide a better link to the objectives of the regulation and the role of energy in the vision of energy as a common good (e.g., community energy).

Same as for the city of Gdansk, Table 12 addresses the reasoning behind the evaluation of the preparation cycle of Reggio Emilia by consulting all available data related to its time zero situation and by integrating the main objectives of the EUARENAS index in the three dimensions of the scoring framework.

Table 12: Clarifying the time zero evaluation of Reggio Emilia

FACTORS	PREPARATION/PRE-IMPLEMENTATION (expected impact until the end of piloting)	CHALLENGES AT TO	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	<p>INCLUSION & DIVERSITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens and associations can actively participate in the planning of city policies and express their opinion in a structured and democratic way. To succeed in enlarging the number of stakeholders and inhabitants interested and engaged in the co-programming and co-designing of public policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transformation of families, the aging of the population, the immigration, and people in situations of fragility. To design, implement initiatives, share joint methodologies (with various stakeholders) to promote innovation and development of the territory and thus improve the quality of life and services. 	3

Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen the link between the administration and the inhabitants by giving them power of direction over public policy implementation programmes. • Include new actors, in particular young people and people of foreign origins. <p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high level of voter participation and engagement of residents/candidates in councils; • To enforce the engagement of local actors (schools, enterprises, civil society organizations) in international and European projects, attract international partnerships, resources and competences to further contribute to innovation and internationalization. <p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the community; social justice. • Increase quality of communication between citizens and services; • Create services on the territory that are increasingly targeted and integrated. • Strengthening the distinctive skills of the local economic system can be useful in attracting talent and businesses. It is therefore necessary to invest in young people and the University. <p>CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising the cultural level on democracy issues, theories and practices. <p>DIGITAL AND TECH DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Municipality wants to plan innovative welfare projects involving the use of new technologies and social platforms in certain priority investment areas (the elderly, the working poor, the 11-13 years old, and fragile people). <p>IDENTIFIED INDICATORS BY PILOT CITIES</p> <p>Socio-economic and cultural impact: relate to social, employment, inclusive and service-related measures. They can be part of this macro-area, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment indicator • Descriptive indicator of social mixité • Indicator of social promotion and local community development • Indicator of the quality of the sports and cultural offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include new actors, in particular young people and people of foreign origins. • Keep the commitment of the candidates who decide to devote their time, free of charge, to the community. • The mistrust in the institutions. • The project is challenging and complex, and the administration itself must get involved and innovate services, speed up internal practices, and make public administration employees dialogue proactively with citizens. • To promote policies in support of work and business through tools and initiatives to disseminate technological information, implement infrastructural facilities (logistical, technical and technological) and to activate services (workshops, marketing actions, financial products, etc.).
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Social

- Indicator of innovative management models: adoption of forms of integration between spaces/services through forms of management (e.g. agreements, pacts, collaborations) or partnerships
- Employment indicator: number of new economic activities established with the activities envisaged by the project/total area of intervention, or number of new jobs created by the activities envisaged by the project/total number of workers employed in the area
- Indicator of accessibility for disabled persons and fragile social categories: accessibility interventions of the facility for disabled persons.
- Indicator of the social, economic and cultural impacts of the City Science Office and neighbourhood architects

Socio-health impact: assesses the contribution in the management and infrastructure for health and health services. They can be part of this macro-area, among others:

- Health risk management indicator: strategies plans and programmes for the management of health risks
- Indicator health and social care equipment by type of equipment (e.g. hospitals, outpatient clinics, public care centres)
- Biophysical indicator of environmentally critical areas: population exposed to environmentally critical areas
- Indicator of hospitalisation by type of cause: inhabitants hospitalised by type of cause
- Human behaviour indicator
- Indicator of mortality by environmental causes: general, by age and sex
- Indicator of ad hoc epidemiological surveys conducted in the area
- Indicator of health of minorities and vulnerable groups

DIGITAL AND TECH DEVELOPMENT

Among others, this macro-area may include:

- Connectivity indicator: increase in free public connectivity in the area
- Innovative tools and methods indicator. For example, the following could be considered: adoption of Building Information Modeling (BIM) programmes and applications; adoption of innovative tools for the management and monitoring of activities

Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator of innovative products and solutions. By way of example, the following could be considered: adoption and/or co-design of innovative products and solutions; opportunity to allocate space for the collaborative development of innovative products and solutions Technology and digital accessibility indicator. For example, the following could be considered: introduction of public and community Wi-Fi networks; accessibility to technology and digital services Indicator of reversibility of the intervention or technical elements: potential reversibility of the planned works Technology neutrality indicator: interventions do not impose or introduce discrimination in favour of the use of a particular type of technology. 		
Political	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate and affirm a level of governance on a territorial basis (Consulte) that is better able to represent neighbourhood government, to grasp problems at the neighbourhood level and to seek solutions in an innovative way The potential for creating and training deliberative participatory bodies (neighbourhood councils = Consulte) in all nine city districts. The Pilot wants to give representation to the territories by encouraging co-programming and co-designing. Integrating the councils with the collaborative protocol (case study) that has already been under development for 7 years: Neighbourhood Common Good Synergies among Consulte and between the new tool of Consulte and the existing ones. Reggio Emilia becomes a model of collaborative city governance; Better clarity and organisation of co-governance; Strengthening dialogue between territories and administration; In the evaluation and reporting phase, a transparent economic budget should also be drawn up in order to clearly assess the extent and type of income and expenditure resulting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders, who have had a history of political militancy, need the public administration to give a strong signal of a continuous, concrete and capillary commitment to trigger a direct and accessible involvement of all citizens. The danger that many perceive, even as active participants, is that the paths taken are not very generative. One often hears 'the same people always participate' as if the experiences made do not succeed in including everyone, particularly foreigners and young people. It is essential to keep a close eye on the spreading mistrust often due to the lack of representativeness and authoritative participation of intermediate bodies. To build democracy, it is necessary to invest time, resources and strongly legitimize the proposed processes with dedicated professionalism. 	4

Political	<p>from the activities carried out within the civic shop.</p> <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team members are all aware of the roles of Consulte and are able to embed it into their everyday work • create a functional and stable consultation and co-programming process with citizens; • the entire municipality understands the role of Consulte and can work with them; <p>LEGAL (e.g., no of deliberative councils; no of regulations implemented from the initiative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amalgamation of all participation regulations in the Consolidated Text of Regulations;. • Approval of the Consolidated Text of Regulations; • Approve in the Municipal Council the new "Regulation on Democracy and Urban and Climate Justice in Reggio Emilia". <p>INFLUENCE (e.g., no of new political entities; change in political preferences)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build greater and more widespread political awareness of the city and its transformations 		
Urban-environmental	<p>URBAN RESOURCES AND SOCIAL MODELS OF THE FRUITION OF URBAN SOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create greater awareness of environmental issues so that they become a horizontal and not a sectoral category of work. • Improve and redevelop the Station area and the "ex Reggiane" (North Area), where today are many problems related to urban and social degradation and manifestations of illegality. • Become an innovative and smart city. <p>ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the public green and reduce traffic in order to improve air quality • Become "the city of 15 minutes": making the main city sites reachable in a quarter of an hour without the use of a car, in order – for that, reduce the circulation of private vehicles and implement more public transport. • The Adaptation Strategy of Reggio Emilia should define objectives and suggesting measures and actions to achieve the territorial model. • Approve in the Municipal Council the new "Regulation on Democracy and Urban and Climate Justice in Reggio Emilia" 	<p>The main challenges in terms of environment relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat waves in the urban area: strong increase in minimum and maximum temperature in all seasons. • Summer droughts and water shortages • Extreme rainfall events and hydrogeological risk - floods and urban flooding: variation of precipitation patterns and rainfall intensity with consequent increase of hydraulic-hydrological risk in high vulnerability areas. • Air pollution, whose main sources are motor traffic, house heating and ammonia generated by livestock farming • Need of investments in agriculture • The Station area and the "ex Reggiane" (North Area) have many problems related to urban and social degradation and manifestations of illegality. 	3

Urban-environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the climate contract at different scales (neighbourhood, area, city) as one of the instruments for co-planning and co-design. The expected, moderate impacts concern the transition to climate neutrality, the modernisation of transport and mobility systems, the energy refurbishment of housing stock, and the regeneration of public space. <p>INDICATORS IDENTIFIED BY PILOT CITIES</p> <p>Territorial and local urban impact</p> <p>I. Indicator of reuse of disused or decayed spaces and structures</p> <p>II. Indicator of re-use of existing spaces and structures</p> <p>III. Accessibility and use indicator</p> <p>IV. Public mobility indicator</p> <p>Environmental impact:</p> <p>I. Energy and climate sustainability indicator</p> <p>II. Energy efficiency indicator</p> <p>III. Energy savings indicator</p> <p>IV. Sustainable lighting indicator</p> <p>V. Environmental remediation indicator</p> <p>VI. Water recirculation indicator</p>	
	Impact Score	3,33

The following sources of information have contributed to the pre-implementation evaluation of Reggio Emilia: WP4 time zero evaluation, Action Plan, Local evaluation report of Consulte, WP4 pilots impact assessment, D8.3 monitoring report of the activities, WP4 – State of art/zero situation evaluation.

4.3 Time zero Evaluation related to Voru

The situation of Voru at the time zero yielded the following preparation/pre-implementation evaluation (table 13), comparing the pilots' objectives until the end of the project with its challenges.

Table 13: Time zero evaluation of Voru

FACTORS	PREPARATION	LEVEL OF IMPACT				
		0	1	2	3	4
FACTORS	SOCIAL				3	
	POLITICAL				3	
	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL			2		
	Impact Score Pre-Implementation	$(3+3+2)/3=2,67$				

The following chapter clarifies how the score has been assigned (D8.3).

The Pilot's primary goal is to effect social and political change. The focus is on two Vunki Mano engagement hackathons that might become policy-making tools to assist local governments in designing policies, as well as removing obstacles to access and involvement in democratic discussion for the youth target population.

The link between political and social challenges is clear: the future development of the environment is entirely dependent on the population. A re-education of the community, particularly of the younger generations, in decision-making processes may lead to a reversal of the demographic trend. Since 1991, Estonia's population has fallen by 15%, and this trend is expected to continue. While major cities have risen, more than half of Estonia's counties have had population declines of more than 25%. Shrinkage leads to reduced density, which raises the cost per head. There is also a larger proportion of elderly people in all areas of Estonia. In comparison to the normal citizen, these elderly people demand more services and care. Voru County's population will fall by 8% by 2037 (comparing to 2020). In 2037, the 65+ age group will grow by 7%. In 2021, the county's population with disabilities will be 21%. The very high statistic indicates that there are more persons with health problems in Voru County. According to our findings, the Pilot should examine not just the youthful population, but also the elderly and individuals with impairments, who will need to be reached through the engagement pathways.

The pilot's anticipated benefits are mainly focused on political and social transformation toward transparent and inclusive government and less on territorial and environmental challenges. The team engaged in the trials has stated that they expect that following the effort, partners and corporations will be better happy with the region's growth and would know more about the actions and choices of local governments. However, this objective could require a more structure vision in terms of the development of the region which might be closely related to reflections on infrastructures, settlements and environment. Future steps supported by the EUARENAS research team could be favoring these integrations.

Same as for Gdansk and Reggio Emilia, Table 13 addresses the reasoning behind the preparation evaluation of Voru by consulting all available data related to its time zero situation and by integrating the main objectives of the EUARENAS index in the three dimensions of the scoring framework.

Table 13: Clarifying the time zero evaluation of Voru

FACTORS	PREPARATION (expected impact until the end of the project)	CHALLENGES AT TO	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	<p>INCLUSION & DIVERSITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased youth participation (7-26 years old) into policy making. Greater involvement of different age groups and target groups in decision-making and organizing local life. <p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased stakeholders' and citizens' engagement into policy making and contribution to the issues of local life. Increased satisfaction of citizens, companies and other stakeholders with the development of the region. Apply different methods of involvement including Community Reporting, hackathons, participatory budget, meetings and discussions. <p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of inclusion and participatory democracy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population in Estonia has shrunk by 15% since 1991, which has increased service and infrastructure provision costs per person. It has also resulted in housing vacancies and deteriorating built environments, problems that require additional municipal resources to maintain suitable living conditions in the face of declining tax revenues. Voru County population will decrease by 8% 2037 (as compared to 2020). Population is getting older in all regions of Estonia. The older residents require additional services and care, compared to the average citizen. Voru County population 65+ will increase by 7 % in 2037. In 2021 there are 21% of disabled people in Voru county. 	3

Social	<p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased citizens' and stakeholders' knowledge about the activities and decisions of local governments. Improved skills and knowledge of municipal officials on hackathons. <p>DIGITAL AND TECH DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce more innovative solutions and approaches. 	<p>ECONOMIC PROBLEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lack of necessary workforce. The business models and technologies of Võru county companies are often outdated and the added value created is low, which does not allow paying competitive wages or offering work that would be attractive and challenging for employees. Low investment and risk capacity. Companies do not have enough equity capital to make the necessary investments to increase the efficiency of work processes. At the same time, it is also difficult to involve loan money, because the loan terms require a guarantee of mostly multiple values for the investments made in Võru county. The bank estimates that the euro invested in Võru is significantly less valuable and carries a higher risk than the euro invested in Tallinn, Tartu or Pärnu. 	
Political	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rise the level of participatory democracy. Make the culture of governance and the culture of policy making more inclusive and deliberative (Municipality Councils and council committees increasingly consider community proposals and opinions, Youth councils are formed in the local municipalities). Make the decision-making process more transparent. Organize two Vunki Mano engagement hackathons. Acknowledge hackathons as policy-making tools that help local governments design their policies. Make hackathons the tool of "creating bridges" between all the age groups . <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish network of development specialists and communication specialists in five municipalities. Organize network-developing trainings for local governments officials, stakeholders, key persons and organizations. 		3

Political	LEGAL		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Two Youth policies INFLUENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapt a systematic approach on how to reach to local policy makers and society. 		
Urban-environmental	Urban environmental impact - as an indirect impact of the pilot.	The biggest challenge is adapting to climate change. Ensure to the citizens sustainable and environmentally friendly living environment.	2
Impact Score			2,67

The following sources of information have contributed to the pre-implementation evaluation of Voru: WP4 time zero evaluation, Action Plan, WP4 pilots impact assessment, D8.3 monitoring report of the activities, WP4 – State of art/zero situation evaluation.

5. TIME ONE SITUATION AND EVALUATION OF THE PILOT CITIES

If in the preparation cycle, the scoring at T0 compares the overall feasibility of cities' objectives and action plans with the challenges, in the implementation cycle, the scoring at phase 1 and phase 2 compares the expected impact with the achieved impact in the respective time periods; while the scoring at phase 3 compares the expected impact until the end of the piloting project, set up at the beginning of the piloting, with the achieved impact until the end of the piloting project.

For the evaluation of the phase I of the implementation cycle (Sept 2022-Jan 2023), the following documents were taken into account: Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 1 of Pilot Implementation Phase Sept 2022-Jan 2023, Voru consortium meeting (March, 2023), D4.2 evaluation and monitoring report on the pilot action, local reports, WP4 pilots impact assessment.

For the evaluation of the phase II (February-2023 - July 2023), the following documents were considered: Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 2 of Pilot Implementation Phase Feb-July 2023, WP8 Workshop on pilots' results, (Wroclaw consortium meeting, September 2023), WP8-time one evaluation questionnaire for the pilot cities, interviews with city representatives, WP4 pilots impact assessment.

For the evaluation of the phase III (August 2023 - January 2024), Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 3 of Pilot Implementation Phase Feb-July 2023 and weekly WP4 and biweekly WP8 coordination meetings with city representatives constitute the main data sources to access what results have been achieved until the end of the piloting project.

The indicators of the EUARENAS Index have been taken into account in each dimension of the scoring table.

5.1. Time one evaluation related to Gdansk

Phase I (Sept 2022-Jan 2023)

In the first phase of implementation cycle the most important expected impacts were related to social and political dimensions.

More specifically, the piloting experiment aimed at improving the inclusion and engagement of the target groups by providing them with the knowledge on how to build constructive dialogues despite the variety of opinions. It also aimed at improving the engagement of city departments so that they could provide a constructive feedback on the goals identified by the citizens. Despite having achieved the aforementioned goals, the city representatives expressed some dissatisfaction with the diversity, inclusion and engagement of certain stakeholders. They reported: "We originally thought that the group would be much more diverse and we would be able to have more youth, local businesses, migrant groups, and disabled people also participating. In the end, however, we found out that it is extremely difficult to target-mobilize certain groups if simply they don't see any interest in engaging in the activities". Nevertheless, a constructive dialogue among stakeholders has been initiated. Citizens and stakeholders have learned how to participate in a debate, respecting other stakeholders' opinions and interests. Thus, in terms of social dimension, the expected impact has been achieved but with a certain dissatisfaction regarding the diversity and inclusion indicators.

In terms of political dimension, the pilot aimed at intensifying the usage of deliberative tools, introducing new planning documents based on citizens' ideas and citizen card as a currency. Regarding the participation indicator, the pilot was expecting that the elected political leaders were more informed and actively participating in the process. The pilot aimed at improving the knowledge of external and semi external institutions about the method and enhance the formation of cross sectoral cooperation forms. In addition, the pilot aimed at training and informing team members. Most of the expected results have been achieved. Citizen Card Communications and Points has been introduced. The municipal team has been working together with the city architect on including the workshop conclusions into the city plan. However, the pilot

has showed some weaknesses of participation: the involvement of political leaders has been fragmented and the involvement of other parts of society has been missing. Nevertheless, the influence indicator of the piloting project has been spreading: a local leadership of the District Council has been pushing gathered ideas throughout political/ administrative institutions.

In terms of environmental dimension, although the pilot did not have big expectations for the phase I of implementation cycle, workshop participants have identified four thematic areas of the Piecki-Migowo functional area development: places and social activities in the district, sustainable mobility (efficient, safe, comfortable, diverse), space management in the district, nature and outdoor recreation in the district and ecology. The four themes show the pilots' potential in achieving some important environmental results.

Table 14: Implementation evaluation of Gdansk, phase I

FACTORS	Expected impact I - (Sept 2022-Jan 2023)	IMPLEMENTATION, PHASE I (achieved impact Sept 2022-Jan 2023)	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	<p>ENAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens would learn to build constructive dialogues and find solutions to overcome the variety of opinions. Feedbacks on the goals identified by the citizens would be provided by all city departments. <p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all cities team members would be trained and informed. 	<p>DIVERSITY & INCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A large number of stakeholders is not included in the processes yet. "We originally thought that the group would be much more diverse and we would be able to have more youth, local businesses, migrant groups, and disabled people also participating. In the end, however, we found out that it is extremely difficult to target-mobilize certain groups if simply they don't see any interest in engaging in the activities"(Local report). A constructive dialogue between stakeholders having different interests has started. No of meetings organized: 5. No of people involved per meeting: 40-60. <p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens and stakeholders have earned how to participate in a debate and deal with a variety of opinions. <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A constructive dialogue between stakeholders having different interests has started. 	3
Political	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use citizen card as a currency. Introduce new planning documents based on citizens' ideas. Use deliberative tools more frequently. <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected political leaders in the district and the city would be more informed about the process and actively 	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizen Card Communications and Points (platform of communication for the city of Gdansk) has been introduced. <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The municipal team is working together with the city architect on including the workshop conclusions into the city plan. <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different groups emerged from participatory workshops: Green city, Common city, Innovative city, Just city which will be part of the new Urban 	3

Political	<p>participate with the citizens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External and semi external institutions would be informed about the method. • Cross sectoral cooperation forms would be created. 	<p>Master plan. Under Common city, the results of EUARENAS will be implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The involvement of 2 departments and the local district and some local NGOs was achieved during phase I. • Involvement of policy leaders is fragmented; the weaknesses of participation i.e. the lack of involvement of a large part of the society became clear in spite of the original expectations. • Consultations with the City Depts were held. • Staff members have the capacity to work individually and keep deadlines. • Early piloting of broad cooperation is established. • All cities managed to gather a local team that has been trained and experienced in the use of the deliberative tool. <p>INFLUENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local leadership of the District Council is pushing gathered ideas throughout the political/ administrative institutions that they have access to. 	
		<p>Workshop participants identified four thematic areas in which direct the development the Piecki-Migowo functional area: 1. places and social activities in the district, 2 Sustainable mobility (efficient, safe, comfortable, diverse) 3. Space management in the district, 4. Nature and outdoor recreation in the district and ecology.</p>	4
Impact score			3.33

The following sources of information have contributed to the post-implementation evaluation, phase I, of Gdansk: Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 1 of Pilot Implementation Phase Sept 2022-Jan 2023, Voru consortium meeting (March 2023), D4.2 evaluation and monitoring report on the pilot action, Local report on the consultation process of Piecki Migowo, WP4 pilots impact assessment.

Phase II (February-July 2023)

In the II phase of implementation cycle, the piloting experiment aimed at achieving mainly social and political impacts. In terms of social impact, the pilot aimed at improving the engagement and personal development indicators. More specifically, it expected to establish evaluation meetings as a standard thing, implement the conclusions from the prior evaluation meetings in the future and keep usual stakeholders in the deliberative participation process. It also expected that the prior gathered groups would form a community. These results have been achieved, however, as in the phase I, city representative were disappointed by the diversity and inclusion indicators of the social dimension, reporting that the interests of the minorities were not included in the workshops. However, the critical self-evaluation by city representatives should be considered as a good motivator for the future implementation of results. Overall, the pilot has managed to achieve positive social results over the phase II of implementation. An association has been formed by local community to consult the local government; a number of participatory ideas have been successfully implemented.

In terms of political impact, the pilot was expecting to achieve some results related to participation, legal and influence indicators. In relation to participation, Gdansk was planning on creating a “democracy processes” department, where the knowledge would be concentrated and which would be of help for other departments desiring to organize their participatory processes and projects. In relation to legal indicator, Gdansk aimed at assessing the feasibility of the suggestions provided by the citizens during the 5 workshops and include them into the local urban development strategies. With regard to the influence, the pilot was expecting to replicate the participatory workshops in another district, achieve tiny seeds of change in general narrative of city as a company or city as an arena for public-value creation, and gather more notoriety among politicians that would see it as something valuable. The expected political results have been greatly achieved. New standards of participation – deliberation – have been introduced. There have been more discussions for reshaping the design/processes of the Municipality to be more able to implement participatory processes. In terms of legal indicator, the Master Plan has being developed and a number of participatory ideas have been successfully implemented. In relation to influence, the piloting processes have gather more notoriety among politicians and have pushed to introduce this process elsewhere in the city from November 2023. Although the piloting has gained Mayor’s recognition, the city of Gdansk fears that the new elections could undermine the deliberative and participatory processes.

As in the phase I, Gdansk did not set any environmental goals but it produced substantial environmental results. Citizens have voiced the importance of nature preservation and green spaces in urban planning during workshops. Public transportation has been increased. A green light has been introduced to decrease pollutions from cars stopping at red light to increase air quality.

Table 15: Implementation evaluation of Gdansk, phase II

FACTORS	Expected impact II	IMPLEMENTATION, PHASE II (achieved impact Feb-July 2023)	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	<p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation meetings would become a standard thing. The conclusions coming from the prior evaluations would be actively implemented in the future. Stakeholders involved in Phase 1 of the pilot would still follow further works. <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the project continues, the prior gathered groups would form a community. Motivation methods among the staff would be implemented. 	<p>DIVERSITY & INCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The interest of the minorities were not included in the workshops, the stakeholders/ citizens did overall represent the entirety of participants. <p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey results show the participants’ satisfaction. Evaluation meetings with stakeholders/ workshop participants have become a standard thing. No of meetings organized: 4. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation meeting with the municipality to discuss all the topics connected to the organization, venue, participants, scheduling, way of conducting the workshops. The substance of the meeting has been assessed positively, though the municipality employees have noted that some participants lack proper knowledge of the basic terms – a glossary of city planning could have been useful. Evaluation meeting with the workshops’ participants; the workshops already had a local impact beyond its original purpose: people started to be contacted, and they created a local coalition that might 	3

Social		<p>become an NGO in the future; They felt that being all in the same room made them more connected to each other, gave the feeling of real collaboration, and that they are part of a common vision.</p> <p>3. Summary evaluation at Social Innovation Department</p> <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were some bottom-up initiatives that aimed to work on the issues of the district. • Association have been formed by local community to consult with local government. • Motivation methods among the staff have been implemented. 	
Political	<p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gdansk is planning on creating a “democracy processes” department, where the knowledge would be concentrated and which would be of help for other departments desiring to organize their participatory processes and projects. <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the feasibility of the suggestions provided by the citizens during the 5 workshops and include them into the local urban development strategies. <p>INFLUENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replicate the participatory workshops in another district. • Achieve tiny seeds of change in general narrative of city as a company or city as an arena for public-value creation; • The piloting processes would gather more notoriety among politicians as they would see it as something valuable 	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EUARENAS initiative has provided a structure, financial & methodological push. • Participatory budgeting <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New standards of participation – deliberation – have been introduced. • There are discussions and ideas for reshaping the design/processes of the municipality to be able to implement participatory processes. <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan is being developed; it will be checked to ensure the inclusion of all ideas. • Number of participatory ideas have been successfully implemented. <p>INFLUENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The piloting processes gather more notoriety among politicians as they would see it as something valuable. • Political impulse to introduce this process elsewhere in the city from November 2023. • The planning workshops were discussed in the city hall and also gained recognition from the Mayor. • There are some tiny seeds of change in general narrative of city as a company or city as an arena for public-value creation. These seeds are unstable and they don't have fertile ground to grow. <p>THREAT OF NEW ELECTIONS</p> <p>INDICATORS IDENTIFIED BY THE PILOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no of people that know about the topic; 	4

Political		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no of ideas, coming from the project, that is lobbied. 	4
Urban-Environmental		URBAN RESOURCES AND SOCIAL MODELS OF THE FRUITION OF URBAN SOURCES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The borders of the districts were corrected according to the ones proposed in the workshops. Citizens voiced the importance of nature preservation and green spaces in urban planning. Public transport has increased. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green light to decrease pollutions from cars stopping at red light and increasing air quality. 	4
Impact score			3,67

The following sources of information have contributed to the post-implementation evaluation, phase II, of Gdansk: Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 2 of Pilot Implementation Phase II Feb-July 2023, WP4 pilots impact assessment, WP8 Workshop on pilots results, Wroclaw consortium meeting (September 2023), interview with the city representative.

Phase III (August 2023- January 2024)

Gdańsk stands as an urban leader among Polish cities in terms of citizen participation at the local level, being one of the pioneers in implementing participatory and deliberative innovations in the 2010s (Fritsch et al., 2024, p. 25).

In the III phase of implementation, the city of Gdansk has mainly produced social and political impact, leaving the urban-environmental aspect as an indirect factor.

Considering that the III phase of implementation is the last one to be evaluated, the pilot's initial considerations of the expected impact to be achieved until the end of the project have to be taken into account.

Regarding social impact, the pilot initiative aimed at increasing collaboration among various resident groups and integrating new residents, including refugees. The Pilot was expected to address issues related to the dominance of large developers, with a small number of social housing. In terms of the achieved impact, several workshops with local stakeholders, selected based on education, area of residence, housing situation, professional situation, and gender, took place. The participants had the chance to discuss pressing issues and form informal groups to work together on future goals. Thus, collaboration among various resident groups has been established, and new cooperation initiatives have been created, lobbying over time for implementation. However, the greatest interest in participation came from the rural community of subareas 1, 2, and 4 (please refer to figure 2 below), with little interest from the central and largely populated sub-area 3 and no participation from sub-area 5. The interest from the rural subareas is explained by the fact that there were almost no participatory initiatives directed at these groups in the past years. The piloting has also made advancements in terms of digital and tech development by sharing information via the Citizen's Card and standardizing segments of the deliberative process.

In terms of political change sought by the experiment, the Pilot's main expectations were to develop cross-sectoral cooperation tools in the area of urban policies in a functional (district) area in Gdańsk, provide greater access for residents to city institutions, and co-create the "Master Plan for Piecki-Migowo". As expected, cross-departmental consultations have been developed to avoid overlapping solutions and to better understand specific situations. Indeed, residents have been provided with better access to city

institutions as the Municipality maintains a constant relationship with citizens and other stakeholders, providing access to more participatory processes. City projects have become the subject of discussion with its citizens and other stakeholders. The Master Plan has been developed, implementing solutions provided through the deliberative process. Furthermore, the deliberative processes have garnered recognition and support from the most influential city councilors.

The urban environmental impact was at the core of Gdansk' Pilot. At the beginning of the project, the Pilot sought to deal with a series of environmental challenges, such as the preservation of green spaces that surround the Piecki-Migowo district, the improvement of flood safety and the addition of extra retention tanks, the reinforcement of the district's service activities and improvement of its aesthetics. In terms of achieved urban-environmental impact, residents have assisted the city in developing a Master Plan, pointing at the importance of nature preservation and green spaces.

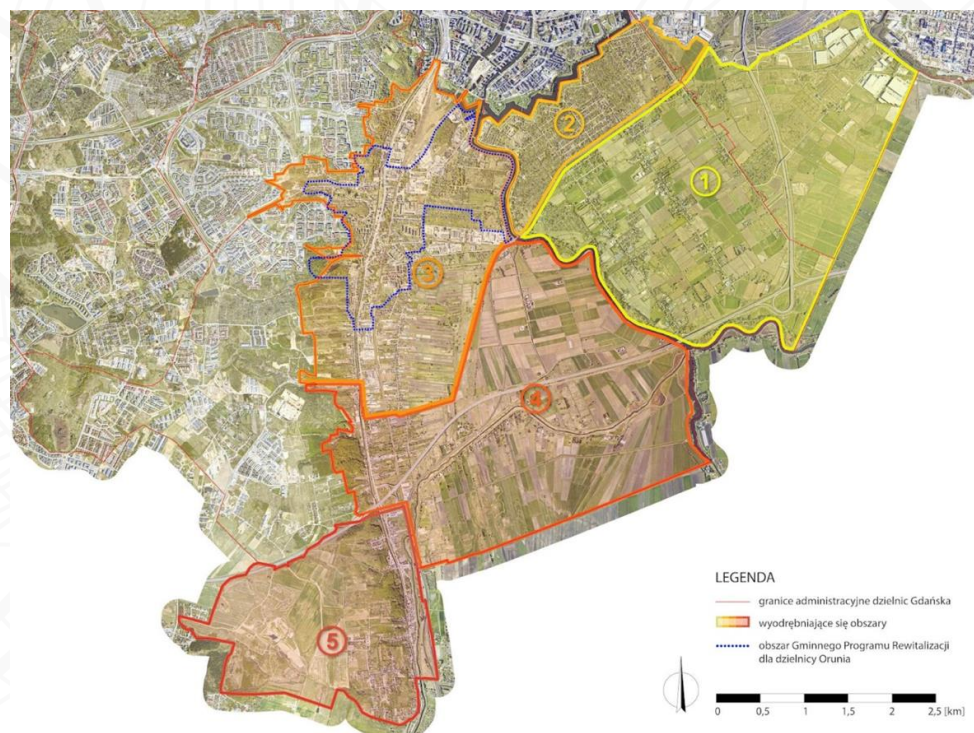


Figure 2: The District sub-areas, courtesy of the City of Gdansk

Table 16: Implementation evaluation of Gdansk, phase III

FACTORS	Expected impact until the end of the project	IMPLEMENTATION, PHASE III (achieved impact until the end of the project)	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	<p>INCLUSION & DIVERSITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In case of any participatory initiatives there would be a higher level of involvement among the citizens/ stakeholders, including the excluded groups. Integration of new inhabitants. <p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There would be a higher level of satisfied citizens/ stakeholders living in the areas in comparison to the past. 	<p>INCLUSION & DIVERSITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three workshops with local stakeholders, process facilitators, local activists took place. Some informal groups that could work for future goals were formed. There was a bigger interest in participation from the rural community of subareas 1, 2 and 4 than from the largest sub-area 3 (the most populated and central one). No representatives for the subarea 5 participated in the workshop. 	3

Social	<p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More direct impact of citizens on the city. • Easier regulations for the business owners. Focus on the economic growth that would include the needs of the citizens but at the same time does not compromise the overall environment. <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased cooperation of different groups of inhabitants, stakeholders and their involvement into the planning process. • The citizens would trust the institutions more and also feel that they have a proper influence on the decisions that are being made, they can also come up with their own proposals. <p>DIGITAL AND TECH DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on sustainable solutions considering technology in general. • Constantly improved digital level of advancement of the institutions, that would allow for even easier citizens involvement. • Increased use of digital tools in participatory planning. <p>CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More advanced cultural capabilities of the district that would take into account diverse needs of the citizens. • Increased number of local events in the district and their better acknowledgement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of 90 requests to take part in the workshops, circa 50 participants were selected based on education, area of living, housing situation, professional situation and gender. <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication among various groups of interest has become more constructive. • New cooperation initiatives have been created, lobbying over time for the implementation. <p>DIGITAL AND TECH DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information can be shared via the Citizen's Card. • Each segment of the deliberative process has been standardized. 	
Political	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and test cross-sectoral cooperation tools in the area of urban policies in a functional (district) area in Gdańsk. • More deliberate planning tools in the city. <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved decision-making and cooperation among different city institutional levels. • Better access to the city institutions. • Improved cooperation between stakeholders and their involvement into the planning process. 	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-departmental consultations and coordination to help avoid overlapping solutions and understand better the specific situations are developed. • New ideas are actively lobbied on the political level. Each idea has a formal representation for instance in the City Hall and the representatives are subject to give feedback on how the processes are going on. • Good practices are shared and implemented across other deliberative initiatives. 	4

Political	<p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introducing the “Master Plan for Piecki-Migowo” • Report/ microstrategy creation - a new document that would consider the district level, would include stakeholders/citizens' current and future vision of the district as well as address their concerns or interests on different levels and include them in the process. 	<p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects are more often discussed within the public/ citizens. • There is a clear division of staff responsibilities. • The processes are standardized and rely on already-tried methods. • Municipality is in ongoing contact with citizens/ stakeholders. • More participatory processes are being accessible for citizens. • More municipal departments are involved in the workshops and the depth of information is being increased • Key political actors on a local level took part in the workshops or got to know the results. <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan is being developed. • Solutions from the deliberative process are actively implemented in the city policies. • There is an ongoing support for the masterplanning proceses. <p>INFLUENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The processes gather recognition and support by the most influential city councilors. 	
Urban-Environmental	<p>URBAN RESOURCES AND SOCIAL MODELS OF THE FRUITION OF URBAN SOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gdansk becoming more inclusive and attractive. • Citizens could connect on different levels with the area they live in. • Gdansk becoming more inclusive and attractive. • More accessible public areas • Green infrastructure • Elimination of spatial barriers. <p>ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</p> <p>The urban environmental impact is at the core of Gdansk' Pilot. There is an open concept of environmental challenges to be solved: inhabitants will have to express their opinion.</p>	<p>See urban-environmental impact in Table 17: Implementation evaluation of Gdansk, phase II.</p>	4

Impact
score

3,67

The following sources of information have contributed to the post-implementation evaluation, phase III, of Gdansk: Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 3 of Pilot Implementation August 2023 – January 2024, WP4 online weekly coordination meetings, WP8 online bi-weekly coordination meetings.

5.2. Time one Evaluation related to Reggio Emilia

Phase I (September 2022-January 2023)

In the first phase of implementation cycle, taking place between September 2022 and January 2023, Reggio Emilia aimed to achieve some social and political results. With regard to social results, the piloting experiment sought to improve the diversity, inclusion and engagement of the target groups. It envisioned an active involvement of citizens and associations in the election of Consulte and their overall satisfaction with the project on Consulte. These results were greatly achieved. There was a large participation of inhabitants and associations in the elections of Consulte. Only 4 out of the 55 did not participate in the process. All the places of the Consulte were filled (i.e., 124 elected Councillors within 9 Consulte) and were ready to start their work. In terms of diversity, age, gender and social status components of the elected citizens were balanced. The non-elected entities got also involved in the process by providing them with a permanent information. Preliminary trainings and information meetings with pilot managers, coordinators, but also citizens, associations and intermediate bodies took place. In addition to the diversity and inclusion indicators, the pilot achieved some social results related to economic development, by providing the participants with the knowledge on new deliberative process, and to digital development, by launching the online digital platform (Hamlet) to foster interaction on a local, small scale.

With regard to political impact, Reggio Emilia aimed to achieve some results related to governance, legal and influence indicators. It was expecting to elect the members of all nine Consulte, form the municipal staff dedicated to work with Consulte, and adopt a regulatory document for the regulatory frames of the Consulte. It also sought to improve the recognition of Consulte among citizens and municipality. These expected results were well achieved. Nine Consulte were elected and established in January 2023. The municipal staff dedicated to the process got operative and the Regulatory text on democracy, urban and climate justice was adopted and implemented by the municipality. In addition, the collaborative framework to develop the "Patti d'Ambito" (Area agreements) was established by the Regulation. These agreements are supposed to be included in a yearly strategic plan of the municipality called "Unique programming document", renewed every year. In terms of the participation indicator, the neighborhoods learned how to collaborate with the municipality. Several activities took place to implement the pilot (e.g., Unified Territorial Conferences of Services). In relation to the influence indicator, the 9 elected Consulte started to be recognized by the local communities and the political interest in supporting the path was shared by the city council.

Although Reggio Emilia did not express any expectations towards the pilots' environmental impact for the phase I of the implementation cycle, the Regulatory text on democracy, urban and climate justice was implemented by the municipality that envisioned to produce environmental results in the future.

Table 17: Implementation evaluation of Reggio Emilia, phase I

FACTORS	Expected impact I (Sept 2022-Jan 2023)	IMPLEMENTATION, PHASE I (achieved impact Sept 2022-Jan 2023)	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	<p>DIVERSITY & INCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens and associations would be actively involved in the Consulte election. <p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens would be more satisfied with the project of Consulte. 	<p>DIVERSITY & INCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huge participation of inhabitants and associations: all the places of the Councils have been filled and they are ready to work. The social, age and gender components of the elected citizens were balanced. 124 members of 9 Consulte have been elected. Prevalence of adult/older white males. Fair presence of young people in equal numbers between males and females. Presence of young or very young women of foreign origin, but inhabitants of Reggio Emilia for over 10 years. Only 4 out of the 55 neighbourhoods haven't participated in the process. The entities not elected are also involved through permanent information. 2 training activities with pilot managers and coordinators took place. Preliminary training and information meetings involving different stakeholders - inhabitants of different neighborhoods, representatives of associations and intermediate bodies, institutions, companies – took place. <p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New knowledge about about the new deliberative proces has been acquired by citizens, stakeholders involved. <p>DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The online digital platform (Hamlet), to foster interaction on a local, small scale, is on the run in 3 pilot districts. <p>INDICATORS IDENTIFIED BY THE PILOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> average age of voters and biographical data no. voters no. territorial meetings preparatory to voting/candidacy no. associations candidacies (non elective component) no. citizens' candidacies (elective component) 	4
Political	<p>GOVERNANCE & LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Consulte would be elected. 	<p>GOVERNANCE & LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Consulte were elected and established in January 2023. 	4

Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The municipal staff dedicated to work with Consulte would be formed. Regulatory document would be adopted for the regulatory frames of the Consulte. <p>INFLUENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The system of Consulte is recognized by the citizens and municipality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The municipal staff dedicated to the process is operative. On 12 September 2022 the Regulatory text on democracy, urban and climate justice was implemented by the Municipality. It paved the way for the creation of the Consulte. The collaborative framework to develop the "Patti d'Ambito" (Area agreements) is established by the Regulation. There is a yearly strategic plan of the Municipality called "Unique programming document" which is renewed every year. The Consulte agreements therefore will also be renewed every year. <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The neighbourhoods know how to collaborate with the Municipality. Several activities took place to implement the pilot. E.g., Unified Territorial Conferences of Services, provided for by the new Municipal Regulation, are being held. <p>INFLUENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole community is starting to get closer to the process. The political interest in supporting the path has already been shared (city council). The 9 elected Consulte started to be recognized by the local communities. <p>INDICATORS IDENTIFIED BY THE PILOT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no. of processes of co-programmation that involved Consulte work's expectations with Consulte /relationship with the Institution 	
Urban-environmental		The Regulatory text on democracy, urban and climate justice was implemented by the municipality.	3
Impact score			3.67

The following sources of information have contributed to the post-implementation evaluation, phase I, of Reggio Emilia: Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 1 of Pilot Implementation Phase Sept 2022-Jan 2023, Voru consortium meeting (March 2023), D4.2 evaluation and monitoring report on the pilot action, WP4 pilots impact assessment.

Phase II (February 2023-July 2023)

For the second phase of implementation cycle, held between February 2023 and July 2023, Reggio Emilia set some important social, political and urban-environmental goals.

With regard to the social dimension, the pilot expected to improve the engagement of citizens and associations, provide additional trainings to the Consulte members and create two online platforms for two neighborhoods, envisioning the creation of online platforms for each neighborhood in the future. These

objectives have been achieved. The determination and participatory willingness shown by the beneficiaries exceeded original pilot's expectations. Citizens and associations have been indeed actively involved in the second phase of pilot's implementation and managed to express their opinion in a structured and democratic way. They have been also provided with collective trainings to get to know each other and acquire more knowledge on how Consulte operate. Several tools have been studied to encourage the co-planning with economic entities. However, the pilot is still trying to form connections with organizations. In terms of the digital development, a training meeting on the digital platform "Hamlet", created to support the work of the councils, took place.

In terms of political impact, the pilot expected to continue the work initiated during the phase I of implementation. More specifically, the following goals were reputed the most important to be achieved: (1) improved collaboration between the Consulte and the Municipality, (2) drafting of the Area Agreements by Consulte, (3) signing of the Area Agreements with the Municipality of Reggio Emilia that would integrate some of the Consulte decisions into the city plan and would be the basis of their collaboration for the forthcoming year, (4) election of 2 coordinators per each Consulta, (5) The 9 elected Consulte becoming an effective tool to build the co-city.

The aforementioned goals have been mainly achieved. The Consulte have learned how to work with the Municipality and they have started drafting the Area Agreements. The weekly focus groups have been taking place with the aim to introduce a Title V dedicated to collaborative democracy tools in the Regulation. This title would provide an opportunity for co-design of public policies through the Area Pacts, and their implementation through multi-actor partnerships (i.e., Partnerships for Sustainable Development and Innovation). The innovative forms of partnership would be introduced into the legal system through various regulatory provisions at European Union, national, regional and local levels. In terms of participation, each Consulta has elected two coordinators. A large number of meetings took place (i.e., 47 meetings related to the external listening work; 43 meetings related to internal work carried out by the Consulte). Same as in the city of Gdansk, Reggio Emilia questions if and how Mayoral elections could eventually affect the piloting process.

In the phase II of implementation, Reggio Emilia set an urban-environmental goal to initiate the establishment of the first Neighborhood Climate Contract. These goals have been achieved -the first Neighborhood Climate Contract will be included in the municipality's programmatic documents from autumn 2023. In general, the idea of the pilot is to include the climate contract at different scales (neighbourhood, area, city) as one of the instruments for co-planning and co-design. The expected impacts concern the transition to climate neutrality, the modernisation of transport and mobility systems, the energy refurbishment of housing stock, and the regeneration of public space. In the 1400 questionnaires administered in the neighborhoods and aimed at citizens, the environmental issue appears in 42% of the responses and the themes that most emerged were: improvement of street furniture in green areas - 59%, fight against climate change and raising awareness of individual behavior - 35%.

Overall, the environmental theme is very present in the debate of the Consultations and they consider their inclusion in the programmatic documents. In addition, the City Science Office was established: organizational unit made up of three young researchers from Luiss University who are developing a three-year research project on the topics of administrative and social innovation, digital innovation and development of collaborative solutions and on environmental sustainability and ecological transition to promote a real Pact for Climate Change.

Table 18: Implementation evaluation of Reggio Emilia, phase II

Factors	Expected impact II	IMPLEMENTATION, PHASE II (achieved impact Feb-July 2023)	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	<p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active involvement of citizens and associations in the second phase of pilot's implementation. <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize trainings for the Consulte members. <p>DIGITAL AND TECH DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an online platform for each neighborhood. 	<p>DIVERSITY& INCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The determination and participatory willingness shown by the beneficiaries exceeded original expectations. Local people have been elected to represent their community. The councils held about 47 meetings (March - July 2023) throughout the city in small or large groups to practice listening to gather needs and requirements from different neighborhoods. <p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens and associations have been actively involved in the second phase of pilot's implementation and have express their opinion in a structured and democratic way. It was proposed to the councils to integrate the associations that had not been drawn as "permanent invitees" to the work of the council with the power to intervene and contribute opinions and formulate proposals and questions. <p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider knowledge of the tool of Consulte among citizens and stakeholders. Tools are being studied to encourage co-planning with economic entities but not yet perfected: PSSI and area agreements. These documents will be designed to be able to involve economic entities with models of agreement. Connections with organizations are still to be formed. <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philanthropy Centre provides personal development training. Collective training provided an opportunity to gather and answer a number of questions and to begin to get to know each other. <p>DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and training meeting on the digital platform "Hamlet" created to support the work of the councils took place. <p>INDICATORS IDENTIFIED BY THE PILOT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no. of the non-elective members that continuously participate to the meetings and activities of each Consulta 	4

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listening activities by Consulte (no. of questionnaires distributed and returned) • no. of new (non-members of the Consulta) stakeholders involved for this time. 	
Political	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 9 Consulte are established. • The Consulte know how to work with the municipality. • The Consulte start to draft the Area Agreements. • The 9 elected Consulte would become an effective tool to build the co-city. <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipality of Reggio Emilia would integrate some of the Consulte decisions into the city plan. • The work to establish the first Neighborhood Climate Contract will start soon, involving some of the Councils. • The Consulte will sign Area Agreements with the municipality that will be the basis of their collaboration for the forthcoming year. <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal staff dedicated and involved in the second phase of work. • The Consulte will elect 2 coordinators each. 	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New governmental body introduced – 9 Consulte. • The Consulte know how to work with the municipality and they are starting to draft the Area Agreements. <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a Title V dedicated to collaborative democracy tools in the Regulation. This title would provide for co-programming of public policies through the Area- pact and their implementation through multi-actor partnerships (Partnerships for Sustainable Development and Innovation). • Workshop/Focus group" Neighborhood, common good: democracy and urban and climate justice in Reggio Emilia. • Legal instruments being tested and introduced to a mixture of organizations (NGOs, Gov, Public Sector). <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A municipal staff has been dedicated and involved in the second phase of work. • The Consulte elected 2 coordinators each. • Creation of a connection between municipal council and Consulte. • Drawing lots to engage third sector entities as a non-elective component of the councils. <p>Several meetings took place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team building meetings: 9 • Working meetings of the Consulte: 53 meetings • Focus Interviews to the Consulte coordinators: 16 interviews • Meeting between the Community Control Groups (CCGs) and the Coordinators of the Councils: 1 meeting • External Listening work: 47 meetings • Internal work carried out by the Consulte:43 meetings <p>INFLUENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayoral elections are due soon and can affect the current process. 	4
Urban-environmental	<p>The work to establish the first Neighborhood Climate Contract will start soon, involving some of the Councils.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Neighborhood Climate Contract should be included in the city budget from autumn 2023. 	4

Urban-environmental		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of the climate contract at different scales (neighbourhood, area, city) as one of the instruments for co-planning and co-design. • The environmental theme is very present in the debate of the Consultations and will certainly also be central in the programmatic documents that they will produce in the next phase. • The 1400 questionnaires administered in the neighborhoods and aimed at citizens, the environmental issue appears in 42% of the responses and the themes that most emerged were: improvement of street furniture in green areas 59%, fight against climate change and raising awareness of individual behavior 35%. • Mapping of all the activate projects regarding environmental topic: idea to create network to improve it. • City Science Office: organizational unit made up of three young researchers from Luiss University who are developing a three-year research project on the topics of administrative and social innovation, digital innovation and development of collaborative solutions and on environmental sustainability and ecological transition to promote a real Pact for Climate Change. • In the next months, some data will be analysed, such as number of reports/needs raising by Consultee; number of reports / projects on the subject of mobility carried out by the Consultee; number of project on the subject of public green discussed by the Consultee; number of project on the subject of recycle/reuse/waste management discussed by the Consultee. 	
Impact Score			4

The following sources of information have contributed to the post-implementation evaluation, phase II, of Reggio Emilia: Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 2 of Pilot Implementation Phase Feb-July 2023, WP8- time one evaluation questionnaire for the pilot cities, WP8 Workshop on pilots results, (Wroclaw consortium meeting, September 2023), a semi-structured interview with a city representative, WP4 pilots impact assessment.

Phase III (August 2023-January 2024)

In 2014, Reggio Emilia introduced the Quartiere Bene Comune (QUA) programme, which employs the innovative Co-City Protocol, founded on the concept of an urban neighborhood as a commons (Fritsch et al., 2024). In line with this programme, since the beginning of the EUARENAS project, Reggio Emilia set important social, political, and urban-environmental objectives. In terms of social impact, Reggio Emilia aimed to strengthen the link between the administration and the inhabitants and engage an increasing number of inhabitants and stakeholders, including youth and foreigners, in the co-programming and co-designing of public policies. The Pilot has indeed achieved these social objectives: citizens, associations, and other stakeholders actively participated in the Area Agreements that will impact the planning of the Institution's policies. The Pilot has also advanced in terms of digital and tech development thanks to the

introduction of the Hamlet digital platform, an important communication channel between Consulte and citizens.

In terms of political impact, Reggio Emilia stated the following expected critical results: approval of the Consolidated Text of Regulations and the potential for creating councils in all nine city districts. Nine Consulte were elected and established in January 2023. The Municipal staff has been actively involved with Consulte. The neighbourhood architects and other municipal employees belonging to the Participation Department have been trained and have become familiar with the role of Consulte. Every Consulta has developed its Area Agreement, which was approved by the Municipal Council, becoming part of the municipal policy plan and paving the way towards co-city. Moreover, the Area Agreements have become the foundation for Urban Sustainable and Innovation Partnerships.

On 12 September 2022 the Regulatory text on democracy, urban and climate justice was implemented by the Municipality. Over the third phase of pilot's implementation, the Second part of Regulation on democracy and urban and climate justice has been adjusted, introducing new Title V, dedicated to collaborative democracy tools. The title involves a phase of co-design of public policies through the Area Agreements to be implemented through multi-actor partnerships, named Partnerships for Sustainable Development and Innovation. This formula summarizes innovative forms of partnership introduced into the legal system through various regulatory provisions at European Union, national, regional and local levels.

With regard to the urban-environmental impact, the expected impacts concerned the transition to climate neutrality, the modernization of transport and mobility systems, the energy refurbishment of housing stock, and the regeneration of public space. Reggio Emilia has included the climate contract at different scales (neighborhood, area, city) as one of the instruments for co-planning and co-design. The first Neighborhood Climate Contract was included in the city budget in autumn 2023.

Table 19: Implementation evaluation of Reggio Emilia, phase III

FACTORS	Expected impact until the end of the project	IMPLEMENTATION, PHASE III (achieved impact until the end of the project)	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	INCLUSION & DIVERSITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens and associations can actively participate in the planning of city policies and express their opinion in a structured and democratic way Enlarge the number of stakeholders and inhabitants interested and engaged in the co-programming and co-designing of public policies. Strengthen the link between the administration and the inhabitants by giving them power of direction over public policy implementation programmes. Include new actors, in particular young people and people of foreign origins. ENGAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A high level of voter participation and engagement of residents/candidates in councils. 	ENGAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens and associations were and felt actively involved in the municipal policies. Citizens are proud of their participation to the Area Agreements that will impact the planning of the Institution's policies. DIGITAL AND TECH DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteered members of the Consulte were trained to increase the use of the Hamlet digital platform and increase its users. Citizens started to use the digital platform Hamlet 	4

Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce the engagement of local actors (schools, enterprises, civil society organizations) in international and European projects and relationships and attract international partnerships, resources and competences to further contribute to innovation and internationalization, aiming to become an innovative and smart city. <p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the community, social justice. Increase quality of communication between citizens and services; Create services on the territory that are increasingly targeted and integrated. Strengthen the distinctive skills of the local economic system to attract talent and businesses. <p>CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise the cultural level on democracy issues, theories and practices. <p>DIGITAL AND TECH DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan innovative welfare projects involving the use of new technologies and social platforms in certain priority investment areas (the elderly, the working poor, the 11-13 years old, and fragile people). 		
Political	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and train deliberative participatory bodies (neighbourhood councils = Consulte) in all nine city districts, that are able to represent neighbourhood government, to grasp problems at the neighbourhood level and to seek solutions in an innovative way. Encourage co-programming and co-designing so that Reggio Emilia becomes a model of collaborative city governance. Integrate the councils with the collaborative protocol that has already been under development for 7 years: Neighbourhood Common Good. Create synergies among Consulte and between the new tool of Consulte and the existing ones. Better clarity and organisation of co-governance. Create a functional and stable consultation and co-programming process with citizens. 	<p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement of all the Municipal staff with Consulte has been achieved. The neighbourhood architects and other municipal employees belonging to the Participation Department are now trained and familiar with working with the Consulte. The relationship has become stronger and more effective with E-35 and the City Science Office. Not all municipal staff have been involved, although most are beginning to be aware of the role of the Consulte. 9 Consulte are using Hamlet as a tool for participation. <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second part of Regulation on democracy and urban and climate justice has been adjusted; 	4

Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen dialogue between territories and administration. In the evaluation and reporting phase, a transparent economic budget should also be drawn up in order to clearly assess the extent and type of income and expenditure resulting from the activities carried out within the civic shop. <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team members are all aware of the roles of Consulte and are able to embed it into their everyday work. The entire municipality understands the role of Consulte and can work with them. <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amalgamate all participation regulations in the Consolidated Text of Regulations. Approve the new “Regulation on Democracy and Urban and Climate Justice in Reggio Emilia” in the Municipal Council. <p>INFLUENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build greater and more widespread political awareness of the city and its transformations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Title V, dedicated to collaborative democracy tools, has been introduced. The title would provide for a phase of co-design: public policies co-programmed through the Area Pacts would be implemented through multi-actor partnerships, named Partnerships for Sustainable Development and Innovation, a formula that would summarize innovative forms of partnership introduced into the legal system through various regulatory provisions at European Union, national, regional and local levels. The Area Agreements become the foundation for Urban Sustainable and Innovation Partnerships. 9 Area Pacts, developed by each Consulta, have been approved, paving the way towards the Co-city. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of the approval of the 9 Area Pacts produces a radical change in the planning of the authority, which is now also formally linked to the requests coming from neighborhoods. Moreover, it has demonstrated the good work done by the Councils, to the benefit of the public administration, but also to the citizens who have been elected and see the results. 	4
Urban-Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition to climate neutrality, the modernization of transport and mobility systems, the energy refurbishment of housing stock, and the regeneration of public space. Introduce the climate contract at different scales (neighborhood, area, city) as one of the instruments for co-planning and co-design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reggio Emilia has included the climate contract at different scales (neighborhood, area, city) as one of the instruments for co-planning and co-design. The first Neighborhood Climate Contract was included in the city budget in autumn 2023. 	4
Impact score			4

The following sources of information have contributed to the implementation evaluation, phase III, of Reggio Emilia: Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 3 of Pilot Implementation Phase August 2023- January 2024, WP4 coordination meetings, WP8 coordination meetings.

5.3 Time one Evaluation related to Voru

Phase I (Sept 2022-Jan 2023)

In the first phase of implementation, Voru was expecting to achieve some social and political impacts. In terms of social impact, the pilot aimed at engaging more citizens in the Hackathon and collect their ideas to improve the process of preparation of next Hackathons. It also aimed to create some trainings on inclusive governance and to train the team engaged in the EURENAS project. The aforementioned expected results in the social dimension were partly achieved. The team dedicated to work on the EUARENAS project and the Municipalities learned about the hackathon's functioning. However, the diversity, inclusion and engagement indicators showed some weaknesses. There was a low level of involvement of young and elderly parts of population. Only a small parts of participants was outside the county of Voru. NGOs and some of the most "active citizens" were engaged in the Hackathon.

In terms of the political impact, the pilot aimed to implement at least one of the ideas of the hackathon, which would concern the target group of young people. As expected, the Vunki Mano! Hackathon in Värskä was held in September 2022 with 81 participants, working on proposals in 8 working groups. The winning team "Competitive education for every student" has initiated the educational reform, and will be included into the local policy of one of the municipalities (Setomaa). Despite these results, county representatives mentioned that "the local municipalities have not implemented the Hackathon model as a tool for policy making yet". In terms of participation, the involvement of the municipalities has been mainly on the level of information.

The urban-environmental impact was among the pilot's expected impacts during the phase of implementation. The pilot's attention was rather focused on achieving some social and political results.

Table 20: Implementation evaluation of Voru, phase I

FACTORS	Expected impact I - (Sept 2022-Jan 2023)	IMPLEMENTATION, PHASE I (achieved impact Sept 2022-Jan 2023)	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	ENGAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens are involved into the Hackathon. New ideas having been collected from citizens on how to improve process of preparation of the next hackathon 	DIVERSITY & INCLUSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively low level of youth involved. "The main challenge was inclusion and involvement of different parties". Needs assessment has been done. 	3
	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire more knowledge on inclusive governance through trainings. Project team for EUARENAS would be further trained. 	ENGAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium level activity of NGOs and involvement of some most "active" citizens. "A small proportion of participants are from outside of county." The involvement of the municipalities is rather on the level of information: they learned about the use of hackathon, and one of them is involved in a new project. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team learned about the hackathon's functioning. Municipalities learned about the hackathon. 	

Political	<p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one of the ideas of the hackathon, which concerns the target group of young people, would be implemented. 	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vunki Mano! Hackathon in Värskä was held in September 2022 with 81 participants, working on proposals in 8 working groups. Hackathon is not recognized as a policy tool making. The Voru team updated their local plan by feeding it with the results and the various EUARENAS methodologies. <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The involvement of the municipalities is rather on the level of information. Municipalities obtained new projects through the selected ideas. <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The winning team of Vunki Mano! Hackathon "Competitive education for every student" started to create an open education system at local level. The education reform project will be part of the local policy of one of the municipalities (Setomaa) 	4
Urban-environmental			2
Impact score			3

The following sources of information have contributed to the post-implementation evaluation, phase I, of Voru: Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 1 of Pilot Implementation Phase Sept 2022-Jan 2023, Voru consortium meeting (March 2023), D4.2 evaluation and monitoring report on the pilot action, Review of Vunki Mano Hackathon local evaluation Phase I, WP4 pilots impact assessment.

Phase II (February-July 2023)

In the second phase of implementation, Voru aimed at producing some social and political impacts. In terms of social impact, the pilot was expecting to include more stakeholders and citizens in the deliberative process, increase the cooperation between the parties and provide the participants with more knowledge on open and inclusive governance. The aforementioned goals have been mainly achieved. Around 100 participants, belonging to different target groups, participated in the Vunki Mano Hackathon, although the participation of young and elderly parts of population was expected to be higher. The initiative helped participants acquire more analytical skills and knowledge on the functioning of Hackathon, and collaborate with other stakeholders. In terms of community development, the piloting experiment has created a certain awareness of community power and increased the trust level among stakeholders. Some participants viewed the Social Hackathon as an emotional tool, creating connections and social capital in the community.

Concerning the expected political impact, the pilot envisioned to start preparing the second Vunki Mano Hackathon (October 2023) in Võru Municipality and to organize a citizen-summit, involving military, regional policymakers and businesses. In addition it sought to continue the educational reform in Setomaa Municipality. These goals have been partly achieved. The preparatory meetings for Vunki Mano hackathon including Kasvulava and Development Centre of Võru County Team for Vunki Mano Hackathon took place in

May 2023. The connection between different Municipalities and cooperation between Municipalities and their staff have increased. In terms of the legal indicator, the educational reform and preparation of a new curriculum of the Setomaa Municipality have been ongoing. Although the hackathon has been linked to the Voru Development Strategy, it continues not holding any legal power.

In relation to the urban-environmental impact, Voru did not set any specific goals for the phase II of implementation. Nevertheless, some discussions have started circulating. For instance, some of the questions the citizens raised were: “How to find a balance between greeneries and military trainings? Should the forest lands be used for training? Other discussions relate to sustainable and organic food sourcing in schools and connecting kids with the nature.

Table 21: Implementation evaluation of Voru, phase II

FACTORS	Expected impact II	IMPLEMENTATION, PHASE II (achieved impact Feb-July 2023)	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	<p>INCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve more stakeholders and citizens in decision-making to prevent/ work through issues/ crises. <p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the cooperation between different parties. Spread more knowledge on open and inclusive governance. 	<p>DIVERSITY & INCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 100 participants took part in Hackathon workshops. Different target groups have been involved. <p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experimenting with how to engage young and elderly participants. <p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A project team learned to work together on the Vunki Mano Hackathon. <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of community power has increased; Increase in social capital among Hackathon participants; Trust level among stakeholders has increased; Social Hackathon seen as an emotional tool. 	3
Political	<p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prepare the second Vunki Mano Hackathon in October 2023 in Võru Municipality; it will be a “political hackathon”, with the aim to achieve political decision-making. To organize a citizen-summit, the first one in 30 years, which will involve military, regional policymakers and businesses. It will be on a larger scale than the past Hackathons. <p>NOTE: There is a military base in Voru, which raises a lot of questions</p>	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further development of Vunki Mano Hackathon process <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparatory meetings for Vunki Mano hackathon including Kasvulava and Development Centre of Võru County Team for Vunki Mano Hackathon (May 2023) took place. Level of co-operation of municipality and staff has increased. Different municipalities have become more connected. 8-10 team members per each municipality 	3

Political	<p>concerning the strategic location of Voru. The deliberation process concerning the development of the Voru military base shows how relevant and necessary the EUARENAS process, knowledge, tools, and learnings can be, in regard to this military base and be incorporated.</p> <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational reform in Setomaa continued 	<p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The educational reform and preparation of a new curriculum of the Setomaa Municipality have been initiated.. Community led process has been established but does not hold any legal powers. Some ideas from the Hackathon have been developed. Local governments gained the Hackathon experience and brought questions into the hackathon; hackathon is linked to the Voru Development Strategy 	
Urban-Environ mental		<p>URBAN RESOURCES AND SOCIAL MODELS OF THE FRUITION OF URBAN SOURCES</p> <p>Some discussions and ideas have been introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to find a balance between greeneries and military trainings? Should the forest lands be used for training? Outdoor kindergarten days (2021) Kids connecting with nature Land use discourse Sustainable & organic food sourcing in schools 	2
Impact score			2.33

The following sources of information have contributed to the post-implementation evaluation, phase II, of Voru: Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 2 of Pilot Implementation Phase Feb-July 2023, WP8 Workshop on pilots results, (Wroclaw consortium meeting, September 2023), a semi-structured interview with a city representative, WP4 pilots impact assessment.

Phase III (August 2023-January 2024)

The Pilot's primary goal was to produce social and political transformation, paving the way towards transparent and inclusive government, rather than solving territorial and environmental challenges.

Concerning political impact, the main objective was to organize two Vunki Mano social hackathons that could co-create the future of communities where value is generated through partnerships and networks (Fritsch et al., 2024: 28). The social hackathons were supposed to become policy-making tools to assist local governments in designing policies. The two Vunki Mano Hackathons were successfully organized, with the latest taking place in October 13-14, 2023. Although hackathons do not hold any legal power yet, the ideas raised during the hackathons have been connected to the Development Strategy of Võru County. In particular, many raised ideas were related to youth, such as improving the mental health of young people and increase the cultural heritage learning at schools. The winning idea of the II Hackaton, called "Let's make the walls talk!", will be related to the Development Strategy of Võru County. The initiators of the winning idea seek to solve the problem of insufficient psychoeducation by helping young people to get professional primary support for mental health issues.

In terms of expected social impact, the Pilot aimed at education, inclusion and engagement of certain target groups - the youth, the elderly and individuals with impairments - in democratic discussions, given the aging trend of Voru County's population.

The II hackathon saw an increasing participation and engagement from stakeholders, comprising representatives of local authorities of Võru County, representatives of the Development Centre, representatives of NGOs and communities, experts and people of Võru County. Kasvulava, with its practical experience and knowledge, was involved as a partner in the preparation and execution of the Vunki Mano Hackaton pre-events. Feedback and satisfaction questionnaires were conducted, showing an increased level of participants' satisfaction. On the note of personal development, participants have gained important skills, necessary to contribute to the development of the county through co-creation. The level of cooperation between administration and inhabitants has increased.

The urban-environmental impact remains an indirect impact of the Pilot.

Table 22: Implementation evaluation of Voru, phase III

FACTORS	Expected impact until the end of the project	IMPLEMENTATION, PHASE III (achieved impact until the end of the project)	Level of impact (0-4)
Social	<p>INCLUSION & DIVERSITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater involvement of different age groups (youth, elderly) and target groups in decision-making and organizing of local life. Increased citizen involvement. <p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population is more involved and contributes to the issues of local life, satisfaction has increased and citizens' democracy has developed. Partners are more satisfied with the development of the region and know more about the activities and decisions of local governments. <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve skills and knowledge on hackathons. <p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of inclusion and participatory democracy has increased. <p>DIGITAL AND TECH DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More new innovative solutions and approaches are used. 	<p>INCLUSION & DIVERSITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 participants, divided in 9 teams (including representatives of local authorities, representatives of the development centre, representatives of NGOs and communities, experts and people of Võru County) participated in the II Vunki Mano hackathon. During the II Vunki Mano hackathon, ideas related to youth were raised, such as the mental health of young people and heritage culture learning at schools (how to get more young people joining non-governmental organizations, Waldorf pedagogy and new trends in education.) Further cooperation of the teams will be organized in cooperation with the Development Centre. Development centre specialists are the leaders or members of teams. In this way, cooperation and coherence of teams and the best solutions will be ensured. <p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback and satisfaction questionnaires were conducted. New PR plan was developed to better engage different target groups. <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The skills to contribute to the development of the county through co-creation improved. 	3
Political	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hackathon acknowledged as a policy making tool, that helps local governments design their policies. 	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments have become more open and inclusive in their activities. 	4

Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments have become more open and inclusive in their activities. Municipality Councils and council committees are more inclusive; they consider community proposals and opinions more. Youth councils are formed in the local municipalities Participatory democracy has risen. <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established network of development specialists and communication specialists in five municipalities. Motivated municipalities, stakeholders and citizens engaged in policy making. Transparency of decision making. Local governments officials have been participated in trainings (all municipalities, stakeholders, key persons and organizations will participate, network-developing trainings and seminars). <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Youth policies to be implemented. <p>INFLUENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic approach within the team how to reach to local policy makers and society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> II Vunki Mano Hackathon took place in October 13-14, 2023 Ideas for II Vunki Mano Hackathon were related to the Development Strategy of Võru County. Level of co-operation has increased (Productive discussions, practical experiences, growth of knowledge) <p>PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kasvulava was involved as a partner in the preparation and execution of the Vunki Mano Hackathon pre-events. Kasvulava has practical experience and knowledge as a hackathon preparer and facilitator. <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The winning idea of the II Hachaton - "Let's make the walls talk!", whose initiators want to solve the problem of insufficient psychoeducation by helping young people to get professional primary support for mental health issues. 	
Urban-Environ mental	Urban-environmental as an indirect impact of the pilot.		2
Impact score			3

The following sources of information have contributed to the implementation evaluation, phase III, of Voru: Assessment questionnaire WP4: Part 3 of Pilot Implementation Phase August 2023-January 2024, WP4 coordination meetings, WP8 coordination meetings.

6. COMPARING IMPACT SCORING

6.1. Impact scoring of Gdansk

Table 23 reports the impact score of the city of Gdansk at the time of preparation and three phases of implementation cycles. The Pilot has progressively advanced its original pre-implementation situation, producing an increasing impact along social, political and urban-environmental dimensions. In the preparation cycle, the score was determined by examining the piloting expectations, expressed mainly in the Action Plan, with the various challenges the pilot was facing. In the implementation cycle, each score is a result of comparison of expected impact expressed by the pilot versus its achieved impact in each phase of evaluation. In the last, third, phase of evaluation, the expected impact until the end of the project gets compared with the overall achieved results until the end of the piloting project.

Table 23: Impact scoring of Gdansk

		Level of Impact			
		Preparation	Implementation, phase I	Implementation, phase II	Implementation, phase III
FACTORS	Social	2	3	3	3
	Political	3	3	4	4
	Urban Environmental	4	4	4	4
	Impact Score	3	3,33	3,67	3,67

6.2. Impact Scoring of Reggio Emilia

Table 24 reports the impact score of the city of Reggio Emilia at time of preparation cycle and at time I, II and III of implementation cycle. The same reasoning as for Gdansk applies here. Reggio Emilia has substantially improved its initial position, producing important social, political and urban-environmental impacts over three phases of pilot's implementation.

Table 23: Impact scoring of Gdansk

		Level of Impact			
		Preparation	Implementation, phase I	Implementation, phase II	Implementation, phase III
FACTORS	Social	3	3	3	3
	Political	3	4	3	4
	Urban Environmental	2	2	2	2
	Impact Score	2,67	3	2,67	3

6.3. Impact Scoring of Voru

Table 25 reports the impact score of the Voru County at the time of preparation and three phases of implementation cycles. The same reasoning as for Gdansk and Reggio Emilia applies here. Voru has gradually improved along social and political dimensions of urban impact, leaving the urban-environmental impact as an indirect effect of its citizen-driven initiatives.

Table 25: Impact scoring of Voru

		Level of Impact			
		Preparation	Implementation, phase I	Implementation, phase II	Implementation, phase III
FACTORS	Social	3	3	3	3
	Political	3	4	3	4
	Urban Environmental	2	2	2	2
	Impact Score	2,67	3	2,67	3

6.4. Critical eye on impact assessment

During several WP4 and WP8 coordination meetings held in November 2023, critical questions on the topic of impact assessment were discussed between EUARENAS coordinators, WP leaders and team members. In particular, the following three questions were raised:

1. *Why is it difficult to compare the pilot cases and, consequently, evaluate them?*
2. *What makes the cases different?*
3. *Which contextual factors influence the evaluation process?*

The questions were raised as a results of a long and persistent discussion on the topic of paradoxical relationship between importance and difficulty to provide pilots' impact assessment at the end of the EUARENAS project.

The following responses and opinions emerged:

- The difficulty to compare pilot cities is partly due to their diversity. However, when comparing, we tend to search for similarities, leading to the loss of diversity. Thus, there is a tension between the desire of preserving the diversity of cases and the necessity to compare them.
- Comparing pilot cities is like opening "a black box" where the pilot cities' priorities, world views are unknown. However, this is a challenge of any social science research.
- Pilots are run by people, which unavoidably leads to inconsistency in approaching certain tasks.
- Sometimes pilots see problems that external evaluators do not see, or they are focused on different issues comparing to those that outsiders want them to focus on.
- Initial pilots' positions matter and can change the course of the deliberative process. For instance, while in Reggio Emilia the deliberative tools were quite institutionalized, in Gdansk it was not the case.

The consensus reached was that piloting was not conceived in a comparable manner, but rather as a learning-from-practice experience. The selection of pilot cities did not adhere to specific, comparable criteria. The objective of the EUARENAS project was to facilitate the advancement of each pilot in terms of deliberative democracy based on its unique situation. However, if comparing the pilot cases was not the primary objective of the EUARENAS project, what can be compared? Some WP leaders asserted that processes could be compared. Despite the difficulty of comparing the cases, the evaluation criteria should remain objective. For example, WP3 has made significant efforts to compare the processes based on certain objective criteria, such as co-governance culture, goals (e.g., involving citizens in decision-making, enhancing interaction between stakeholders, co-managing urban resources), methods (e.g., open participation, mini-publics), approaches (deliberative versus non-deliberative), spatial scale of the project, and frequency mode (please refer to D3.3 Case-study Report for more details).

6.5. Pilots' internal impact assessment tools, recent developments and future applications

The interest to evaluate the impact of participatory and deliberative initiatives is not only coming from EUARENAS consortium members, but also from the Pilots, who, themselves, have been engaged in evaluating their own performance and impact over the timeline of the EUARENAS project. Grabkowska et al. (2024), in their recent EUARENAS deliverable 3.3, have found out that “the innovations that include evaluation as a key element of the process seem to work better than those that do not” (Grabkowska et al., 2024, p. 31).

In the case of Voru, the assessment has been relatively informal. Each social hackathon in Voru was closely observed by the organizers and researchers, who gathered verbal, written, and video feedback to document participants' experiences and pinpoint any weaknesses or areas for enhancement in the event's structure. The data gathered was then analyzed to refine the design of subsequent social hackathons. Following the initial event, improvements were made, including strengthening the mentoring program, enhancing the organizers' team building and coaching abilities, adjusting the timing and venue to better accommodate participants' needs, and fostering more communication and networking opportunities among participants (Grabkowska et al., 2024).

In Gdansk, each participatory workshop is followed by evaluation meetings with the Municipality, workshop participants, and various stakeholders. The evaluation meeting with the Municipality is held to discuss the design and organization of the workshops, while the evaluation meeting with workshop participants is aimed at assessing their satisfaction with the overall process, fostering community spirit, and facilitating networking. Additionally, since the beginning of the EUARENAS project, Gdansk has established a number of qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure the impact of its participatory and deliberative initiatives. For example, concerning political impact, the following indicators were identified by the pilot project: the number of instances where external institutions were successfully connected and involved, the number of stable cross-sectoral cooperations resulting from the planning process, a list of responsibilities assigned to individual staff members, the number and competencies of team members involved, the number of citizens engaged through the citizen's card, the number of actions initiated based on the deliberative planning process, the identification of any drawbacks of the process, the number of elected politicians actively participating in the workshops, and the number of citizen proposals assessed by the departments. The internal impact assessment of Gdansk is currently under development.

Reggio Emilia has produced significant results in terms of impact assessment. Recently, the Municipality of Reggio Emilia has updated its Regulation on Urban and Climate Democracy and Justice, originally approved in 2022, which summarizes its collaborative strategy. The new Regulation envisages a co-design process that involves all urban actors according to the quintuple helix paradigm. Its aim is to establish Urban Sustainable Development and Innovation Partnerships, the impact of which is assessed through the Community Balance. The Community Balance is an impact assessment tool that, based on the EUARENAS index, which encompasses nine impact dimensions. These dimensions also highlight the specific features of the Emilian city: impact on the territory and local and urban context, environmental impact, economic impact, socio-sanitary impact, educational, cultural and cognitive impact, impact on civil and social rights, technological and digital impact, institutional impact and generational impact. The desired impact dimensions, among these nine, and the detailed indicators for each of them are established through co-design within the Urban Sustainable Development and Innovation Partnership. At the core of the Community Balance lies the idea that public institutions can tackle significant challenges, such as combating climate change and preserving the environment, only through close collaboration with actors from civil society, the economic sector, and the city's scientific community, creating multilateral alliances at the local level through Urban Sustainable Development and Innovation Partnerships, and that the administration's programming process should not only exist ex ante. Among the aforementioned impact dimensions, the institutional dimension is of particular relevance as it seeks to identify the impacts of the

collaborative process as such, i.e. how the collaborative process triggers changes in the cultural perspectives of those involved in the partnership. The City Science Office, a research office within the public administration, operates as an ESG Hub and supports the public administration in developing and utilizing these tools. The purpose of impact assessment, with respect to partnerships, is also to stimulate forms of impact finance, which in the future should be facilitated by a dedicated digital platform.

The Community Balance assessment tool, with its nine dimensions, is expected to be applied within the European project ENGAGE.EU – R&I to quantify the impacts produced by the implementation of Open Urbania's projects. More specifically, Open Urbania is one of the three areas of the Co-Science platform (<https://commoning.science/>), which has various features designed to grant the interaction between different communities, co-design activities, gain knowledge, learning experiences and materials using emerging technologies. Open Urbania sets up a platform where Universities from across the Alliance can engage with organizations and external stakeholders within their local inno-preneurial ecosystems to cooperate on and/or showcase their mission- oriented innovation projects, finding clients and or partners.

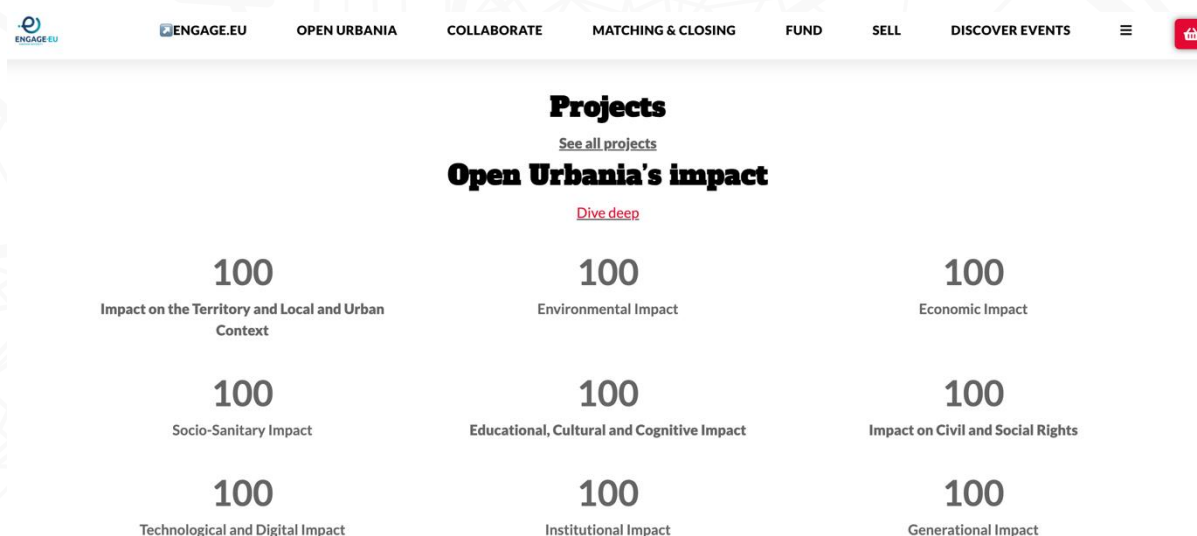


Figure 3: Placeholder of Impact measurement tool, Engage EU

Overall, the Reggio Emilia experience sets a benchmark for advancing the impact assessment of urban initiatives by introducing new dimensions and tools. The EURARI Index laid the groundwork for developing a robust tool to assess participatory democracy initiatives. The EUARENAS project and its pilot initiatives have further illustrated that the concept of impact assessment is continuously evolving. New implications arise from consolidating dimensions under the One Health approach, which encompasses a broader range of issues and stakeholders and fosters a more interconnected understanding of the social and urban environmental dimensions considered by the EURARI index. These innovations have stimulated discussions within the EUARENAS project and established a precedent for future projects in the field.

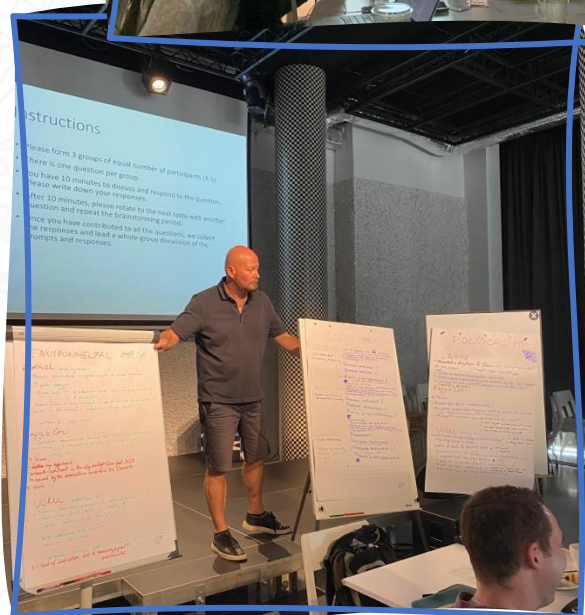
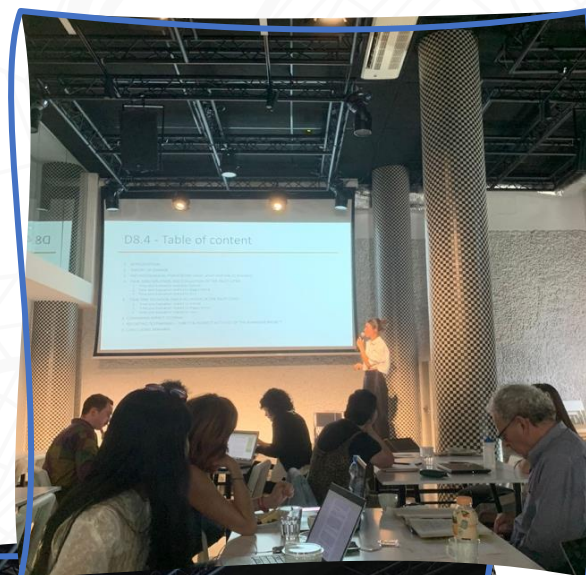
7. REPORTING TESTIMONIES – DIRECT & INDIRECT ACTIVITIES OF THE EUARENAS PROJECT

7.1. Data collection

During the EUARENAS consortium meeting in Wroclaw, which took place between September 19th and 22nd, 2023, WP8 leaders and team members, with the assistance of WP4, organized a workshop to collect testimonies on participants' experiences with the EUARENAS project.

The workshop aimed to stimulate participants' reflections on voluntary and involuntary consequences, successful and unsuccessful episodes of the EUARENAS project. An open question was posed: *"Could you please tell us about your experience with the EUARENAS project?"*. A few additional questions were provided to facilitate the start of a conversation; however, participants were free to share any episodes and testimonies related to EUARENAS. These additional questions were: *"Have any new projects emerged while working on EUARENAS? Have any new forms of collaboration arisen? Can you recall any success/unsuccess stories? Would you like to share any other testimonies about EUARENAS?"*.

In terms of the organization of the workshop, three groups were formed around three tables. The composition of each group included various stakeholders and partners of EUARENAS. Specifically, city representatives, WP coordinators, WP leaders, and team members were involved in the workshop, totaling 27 participants. The group discussions lasted between 25 and 51 minutes, amounting to a total of 110 minutes. All discussions were recorded.



7.2. Data analysis

To analyse the data collected during the workshop, the WP8 leader used NVivo 12 software, following the prescriptions for three-stage coding process (Bruscaglioni, 2016; Corbin & Strauss, 2014). Three types of codes were identified, moving from the raw data to more abstract, theoretical concepts: open, axial and selective. In the open coding phase, the data were kept open through the process of fragmenting the text, and the codes were derived possibly from words and phrases used by the informants (Bruscaglioni, 2016). In particular, coding workshop discussions, 100 open codes and subcodes were developed.

In axial coding, the categories, set up in the open coding, were aggregated in macro-categories, or connections were made between categories. 11 axial codes emerged in this phase, among which cluster-level impact, context, pilots' challenging experience, pilots' positive experience, policy recommendation,

predominant EUARENAS features, profession, WP practitioners' challenging experience, WP practitioners' positive experience, WP researchers' challenges, WP researchers' positive experience. Figure 4 shows the NVivo coding uncovering the subcodes of the most important axial codes for the purpose of this research (Bruscaglioni, 2016).

Name	^	...	Re...	Name	^	...	Re...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cluster level impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> citizens' science type of approach creation of collaborative networks creation of community of practice on partici... establishing contact with other cities multi-level governance as a way to tackle de... network knowledge exchange projects came out from EUARENAS see the big picture context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> changing EU politics impact of covid importance of contextual factors pilots' challenging experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> administrative problems challenging first Horizon project language difficulty not easy to explain the work pilots' positive experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a good way to share cities' experiences chance of rethinking what we are doing chance to see from other people's perspecti... chance to see what other countries are doing citizens' involvement in new projects emergence of new project ideas 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> emergence of new project ideas EUARENAS is a good arena Gdansk experience important project interesting to be in the field very good working with external partners is interesting policy recommendation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> switching point in politics unknown impact of national elections predominant EUARENAS features_common <ul style="list-style-type: none"> connection between theory and practice great methods interesting learning experience networking personal development time consumption transferability of EUARENAS knowledge to o... profession WP practitioners' challenging experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> difficulty with academic language Hungarian experience lots of conversations are hard to tune not easy to work WP researchers' positive experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> amazing experience connection to other projects EUARENAS as a background for new research happy to be part of the project involvement in the city learning from failure new ideas from EUARENAS project sharing of different views, opinions 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WP practitioners' positive experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> connection between WPs desire to carry on this experience emergence of new projects EUARENAS as a great way to engage with di... excited moment for participation fit of your work with other WPs fruitful inspiring WP researchers' challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> change in the team collaboration with many partners difficult to grasp some similarities between... difficult to work with a big range of activities difficulty to work with many people difficulty with the practitioners' language feeling confused lots of material many cases painful time limit 							

Figure 4: NVivo coding

In selective coding, we identified five core categories, linking categories to sub-categories at an abstract level of analysis (Bruscaglioni, 2016), namely: pilots' experience, WP practitioners' experience, WP researchers' experience, predominant EUARENAS features, lessons on systemic level.

Figure 5 shows a three-stage process of theoretically informed coding and how theoretical constructs are grounded in the data.

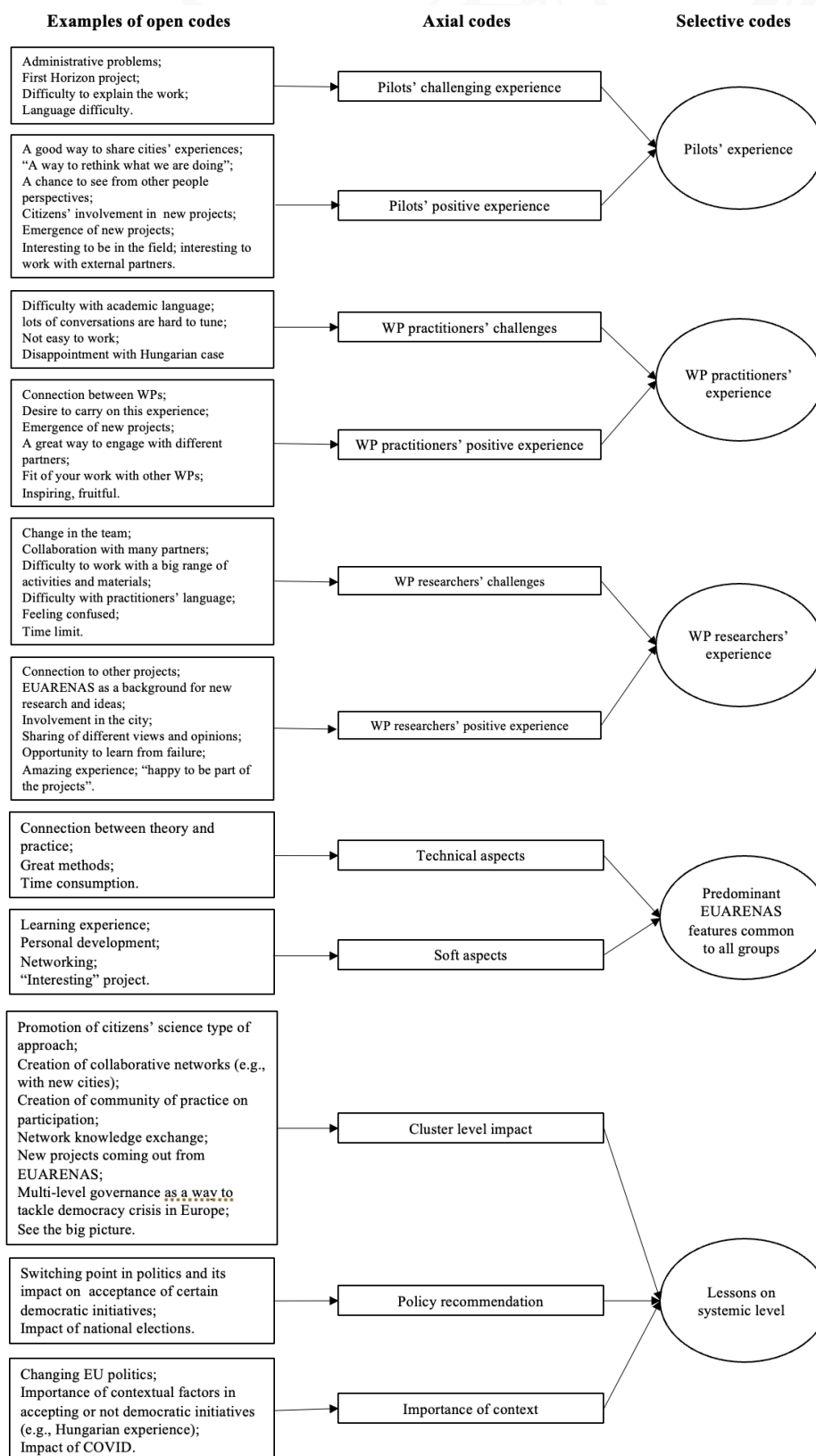


Figure 5: Coding structure

7.3. Results

A wealth of results emerged from the workshop on testimonies. During the data analysis process, decisions had to be made regarding how to categorize the collected information. Specifically, different categories emerged based on: 1) the level of impact (i.e., personal, professional, project, systemic); 2) the type of impact (i.e., positive versus negative); and 3) the participants (i.e., WP workers, leaders versus city

representatives; practitioners versus researchers). We opted to focus on testimonies specific to different participant categories (pilot representatives, WP practitioners, and WP researchers), including within each category the type of impact (positive versus negative); testimonies relevant to all categories related to EUARENAS; and reporting on testimonies regarding systemic factors and the impact of EUARENAS highlighted by the participants.

The results are articulated based on selective codes.

7.3.1. Pilots' experience

The city representatives predominantly mentioned the benefits rather than the challenges of working on EUARENAS. The few challenges that were mentioned related to the difficulty of explaining their work and administrative issues that arose at times. For some, it was their first Horizon project, making it a new and challenging experience. Moreover, it required professional knowledge of English. In terms of positive experiences, city representatives stated that EUARENAS provided an opportunity to work with diverse partners, share cities' experiences, see what other cities do, which helped improve their own pilot. It offered a chance to reflect on the work done and to look at the work from other people's perspectives. It promoted the creation of new ideas and projects involving citizens.

New project ideas...emerged. For example, we learned that in the city of X we are pretty good at developing ideas but we need to implement them. Now we are partners of network called Network of co-existence and we will focus on city officials approach and skills to implement citizens' driven ideas to implement results of participatory processes better. This is a learning point for us from the project. (City representative, pilot 1)

We are working on another tool about voluntarism and climate change...so we are thinking about the citizens and how to involve them in the climate change. (City representative, pilot 2)

The city representatives labeled the project as important and interesting.

7.3.2. WP practitioners' experience

Same as with the city representatives, WP practitioners reported more positive testimonies rather than negatives ones. The following positive aspects were highlighted: the connection between work packages and the fit of their work with the rest of the project, desire to carry on this experience, the emergence of new projects using some of EUARENAS methods, engagement with the cities. They described the project as fruitful and inspiring.

That's true, we applied for a project on foresights and we cited PDM's methods in the application. So it allowed u to carry on the methods learned here to apply to new projects within new partnerships as well. (WP practitioner)

It's quite demanding, we have every week the meetings and this takes time and cities are very different with different approaches but it's very inspiring.(WP practitioner)

A few challenges were reported among which: the difficulty with academic language, the necessity to invent new ways all the time, and the disappointment with the drop of one initial pilot case.

7.3.3. WP researchers' experience

WP researcher reported a balanced amount of both challenges and opportunities. Among the challenges, some WP researcher experienced the change in the team composition which slowed down the work flow of their work package. Then necessity of examining a big range of activities, materials and cases, which was

a challenge in itself, created some confusion and “painful” experience, as highlighted by one WP researcher.

I think it's quite difficult to work with such a big range of activities...(WP researcher)

While some WP practitioners motioned the difficulty to grasp the academic language, some WP researchers mentioned an opposite problem – dealing with practitioners' vocabulary.

When you said that the academic language is difficult...for me it's the opposite. When I look at the things that you did.. I'm like “ok, what's the methodology?” I'm always in theory. In the project you mix different approaches, not just have one approach. This is the main challenge we are facing. (WP researcher).

Several positive experiences were reported by WP researchers. They appreciated their involvement in the city, the opportunity to share different views and opinions, the opportunity to learn not only from success but also from failure and the chance of being part of the project.

Broadly speaking, we had an amazing experience, especially if you think about our involvement in the city of X. (WP researcher, pilot 1)

Many new ideas and projects have seen light thanks to the work in EUARENAS.

In terms of new projects, we have some new proposals based on foresight experiences and also we participate in some new horizon ideas and I tried to discuss with another partner about the impact. He is in University.(WP researcher)

The project inspired us to new research directions. It's providing us a broad panoramic background for new research and investigations. (WP researcher)

7.3.4. Predominant EUARENAS features

All the categories of participants reported some common testimonies, that we call here – the predominant EUARENAS features. Some aspects were more technical, other were related to personal experience. The following technical aspects were discussed: the connection between theory and practice and the usefulness of methods and the transferability of the knowledge acquired through EUARENAS to other projects.

From the researcher's perspective I like the fact that there are researchers and practitioners and decision makers and we are not closed in this academic bubble. (WP researcher)

for me, it was a very interesting experience because on one hand I'm an ..but I am also a director of a cultural center. I used to live in two worlds...before I could separate the two, now I just crossed the two...so definitely after my experience in the project, I started thinking differently about theory, university, academy. (WP researcher and practitioner)

I think for X organization this project brought a lot of methods...We developed the methodology based on the theory of change and I think it brings a lot in terms of knowledge for us...(WP practitioners).

In my case, participating in EUARENAS affects other projects. My university works on different European projects and teams are mixed, working on similar issues. The knowledge I'm gaining from this project I'm surely going to use for other projects. (WP researcher)

Other, more personal, aspects were reported by participants, in relation to the EUARENAS project. It offered an opportunity for learning and personal development.

What we as organization learned a lot: before that we were working a lot on bottom up, collaborative, co-governance initiatives but we didn't have a good idea of top down municipality initiatives; X and me, we've become more knowledgeable about this field. (WP practitioner)

This project has been quite a strength for as it transformed me as a person, as a researcher. (WP researcher).

Networking and interpersonal relationships were among common testimonies reported by participants.

I think that I have two impressions that I can share: first one related to the personal networking. I understand that Europe is really small and we are crossing each other on different projects, different occasions. The value is to getting to know each other, to know each other deeply and work with each other on different fields. (city representative, pilot 1)

Time consumption was mentioned too.

7.3.5. Lessons on systemic level

Cluster-level impact

Three subcategories should be discussed in relation to the EUARENAS lessons on systemic level, namely cluster-level impact, policy recommendations and the importance of context.

Regarding the cluster-level impact, participants highlighted the importance of EUARENAS in promoting citizen science approaches, involving the public in scientific research, and creating collaborative networks and community of practices on participation.

Opening the project to the wider audience resulted in new connections, groups of people working on certain tools of participation , like participatory budgeting...Euarenas is a multi-actor project what EUROPE actually is. (WP researcher)

Citizens science type of approach to dealing with social challenges. So this came out of the cluster of which EUARENAS is part of... It did emerge from this..(WP researcher)

EUARENAS has promoted a multi-level governance, considered as a way to tackle democracy issues in EU. It has helped establish contact with other cities and give life to new projects.

Some tangible projects came out from this. For example, two big consortium projects which have both a leg in X. One will have a participatory element and the other will have energy community with a living lab in X...So I think new projects are coming out of this. (WP practitioner)

Policy recommendation

One interesting policy recommendation emerged during the workshop on testimonies. City representatives highlighted the importance of a turning point in politics when the politicians become more receptive towards the changes. The recommendation is to consider the importance of context when assessing the effectiveness and transferability of certain practices and methods from one district/city/country to another. In addition, the discussion around the national elections, and how it can affect the life of the project, took place.

That's why it's interesting to see what the switching point is...like in the city of X where Mayor was reluctant at the beginning and now he wants to reproduce the same experience in other districts. (WP researcher)

He (the Mayor) realized that there was nothing to be afraid of. He was afraid of what citizens could bring and, when citizens' ideas were similar to his vision of how city should be changed...the ideas were reasonable, not radical. He convinced himself that citizens' participation was useful for his work...(city representative, pilot 2).

Importance of context

Another testimony related to the previous one refers to the importance of context. Several participants reported the importance of cultural, social, political, institutional contextual factors in making projects function effectively.

I think an unexpected outcome or learning from this project – how contextual factors are important. It's always about people, how you approach them, understand them. The system does not guarantee your stability. (WP researcher and practitioner)

A few participants have reflected upon the change in EU politics and reported a shift towards participation.

On EU level there is definitely a shift towards participation. If we could share this trend that we are part of this trend towards more participation, then...(WP practitioner)

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Acknowledging the complexities of monitoring, evaluating, and comparing citizen-based urban initiatives, D8.4 has focused on producing an impact assessment of deliberative democracy initiatives in three pilots (Gdansk, Reggio Emilia, Vöru) and providing an impact score by comparing expected and achieved results in the respective evaluation phases. To achieve this objective, D8.4 has relied on two previous deliverables – D8.2 EUARENAS Index (EURARI), which offers a series of dimensions and indicators to assess the overall impact of deliberative initiatives - and D8.3 Monitoring Report of the Activities, which operationalizes the EURARI index to provide a time-zero evaluation.

Before proceeding with the impact assessment, D8.4 outlined the methodology used, focusing on the questions of “what”, “when”, and “how” to evaluate, while keeping in mind the need for harmonization and synergy with WP4 on Piloting. Addressing the question of “what” to evaluate, the overarching concept of urban impact, encompassing three dimensions of social, political, and urban environmental impacts, was analyzed. Concerning “when”, D8.4 focused on three phases of the piloting implementation cycle, using the nomenclature of piloting cycles introduced by WP4. Regarding “how”, a specific scoring methodology was introduced based on the EUARENAS Index, allowing measurement of the development of pilots’ situations over several implementation phases.

Through the production of the impact assessment, D8.4 demonstrates that all three pilots have improved their initial positions across three dimensions of impact – social, political, and urban-environmental – and have successfully fostered deliberative and participatory democracy. To highlight a few results, in Gdansk, participatory workshops have facilitated residents’ access to city institutions, leading to the co-development of the “Master Plan for Piecki-Migowo”. The piloting experiment has positively influenced city councilors’ opinions regarding the impact of deliberative processes. In Reggio Emilia, a new governmental body of neighborhood councils (Consulte) was established, each developing its Area Agreement, approved by the Municipal Council, and integrated into the municipal policy plan. On a legal note, the Municipality has implemented regulatory text on Urban and Climate Democracy and Justice, originally approved in 2022, which includes a phase of co-designing public policies through the Area Agreements. Its aim is to establish Urban Sustainable Development and Innovation Partnerships, the impact of which will be assessed through the Community Balance. The Community Balance is a new impact assessment tool that upgrades the EUARENAS index. It encompasses the following nine impact dimensions: impact on the territory and local and urban context, environmental impact, economic impact, socio-sanitary impact, educational, cultural and cognitive impact, impact on civil and social rights, technological and digital impact, institutional impact and generational impact. In introducing the Community Balance, Reggio Emilia sets a benchmark for advancing the impact assessment of urban initiatives in the future. It shows that the concept of impact assessment is continuously evolving to include a broader range of issues and stakeholders, and to foster an interconnected understanding of the social and urban environmental dimensions. Vöru has initiated a series of social hackathons as a tool for collaborative policymaking, helping the Municipality co-create the County Development Strategy and implement ideas raised by inhabitants and other stakeholders.

Although the results confirm the development of deliberative and participatory initiatives in each pilot, it is important to remember that each pilot represents a unique “individual social experience and their diversity, as well as the social, cultural, and political contexts in which they are implemented, making generalizations difficult” (Grabkowska et al., 2024). In fact, one of the key elements to the successful implementation of participatory and deliberative initiatives is treating them as unique social experiences that resist complete standardization (Grabkowska et al., 2024). Reflections on the complexities of comparing pilot cities led to the conclusion that comparing them was not the initial objective of the EUARENAS project, and that evaluating processes of initiating, developing, and implementing democratic experimentation initiatives is more fruitful. Additionally, despite seeking to objectively evaluate the urban impact of participatory and deliberative initiatives in three pilot cities, this deliverable, holding the view that reality is socially constructed, unavoidably carries a certain amount of discretionality.

Overall, the results of this report highlight the importance of conducting deliberative democracy experiments to enhance pilots' social, political, and urban environmental impacts, even when the original expectations are subject to change over the project timeline. Primarily, the introduction and development of citizen-based urban initiatives in the pilot cities directly contribute to addressing important Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11); peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16), and indirectly, all the other goals identified as important by citizens (e.g., good health and well-being (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4)).

In addition to the pilots' impact assessment, D8.4 has included the experiences and reflections of different stakeholders and partners of EUARENAS regarding voluntary and involuntary consequences, successes and failures of the EUARENAS project, collected during the Wroclaw consortium meeting in September 2023. Besides revealing their personal and professional experiences of working on the EUARENAS project, the chapter has conveyed the participants' reflections on the main characteristics of the EUARENAS project and lessons learned at the systemic level. The chapter has emphasized the importance of context and how deliberation operates differently across various political contexts and on different social scales.

By performing the ultimate research task of pilot evaluation (RT 8.6), D8.4 constitutes the final WP8 deliverable. The work carried by WP8 will be finalized with the participation in validation seminar in conjunction with the final EUARENAS conference.

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