

Torino (IT) - Third ULG Meeting - 14/01/2022, 15.00 - 17.00
Online meeting

On January 14th the third Urban Local Group meeting took place. The conference was made online due to the complication of the ongoing health emergency. CO4CITIES Lead experts *Levente Polyack* and *Christian Iaione* participated in it.

The meeting was structured in two parts: the first part has hosted two Speakers: *Sandra Aloia*, from the cultural department of the Compagnia San Paolo Foundation, and *Antonio Damasco*, from the social promotion association "Rete Italiana Cultura Popolare". The two talks were useful to provide ideas about the topics of CO4CITIES. During the second part of the meeting, the local group started thinking about the drafts of the Springboard plan contents.



Talks

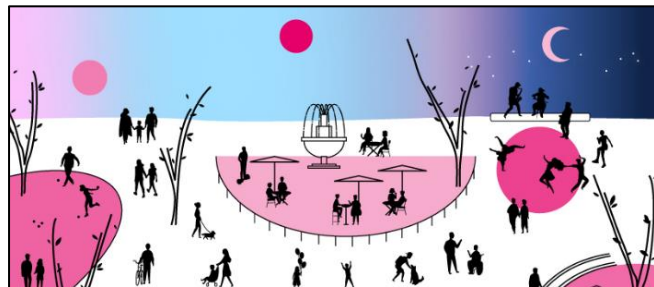
Sandra Aloia illustrated how the policy of a bank foundation can influence urban regeneration policies, starting with the intervention on cultural, civic and social spaces in the city. The Bid "Space", promoted by the foundation Compagnia di San Paolo, which has selected one hundred cultural spaces in the nord-west of Italy, has made various tools available for the development of these spaces, to build a common awareness of the cultural sector. The main tools provided by the foundation are skills and support for the creation of a community of practices, economic contributions, support and organizational development, research and evaluations. The goal of the foundation is to help cultural institutions in the creation of social

enterprises, supporting them economically and accompanying them towards adapting to the new rules of the third sector reform.

Cultural spaces can be understood as small worlds that activate micro-economies with a high participation of citizens. Aloia's speech provided reflections on the most specific themes of the CO4CITIES project: the expansion of the Turin Neighborhood Houses Network model and the feasibility study on Commons Foundation. In this sense, a dialogue has opened on the typical interventions of the banking foundation on cultural spaces. The group discussed how networks and communities, created from these spaces, can be a useful tool to strengthen the economic model of entities.



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Antonio Damasco focused on the activities of The Italian Network of Popular Culture, a social promotion association. He deepened the experience of the Community Concierge project (Portinerie di Comunità): the first concierge was present at Porta Palazzo, in a city newsstand thanks to a collaboration agreement.





The idea of a community concierge was born from a study of the territory and its mapping: the aim is to intercept local companies, associations and inhabitants to investigate the possibilities of that territory.

Taking care of a community means understanding its resources, skills, needs and frailties. For years, the Network has dealt with the territories by collecting biographies and people's stories. In 2015 a website was born, "Il Portale dei Saperi". A tool to organize the collected materials and to facilitate meetings between people according to their skills. The purpose of the portal is to intercept the knowledge of the inhabitants of a community and to encourage more effective relationships between public and private entities, associations and citizens. Without the portal, the Concierge experience would not have been possible. Today the Concierge is a meeting place that provides a series of services missing in the neighborhood and born thanks to a co-planning activity with the inhabitants. Services such as a public bike sharing, an ethical purchasing group, babysitting, homeschooling and psychological support are provided to inhabitants. The work carried out by this concierge was used as a model for designing a network of concierge services capable of reactivating the sense of community, sharing good practices and experiencing community welfare.

Discussion

In the second part of the meeting, the ULG began to discuss the possible contents of the Springboard Plan: a document that should collect all the significant contributions shared during the project. The first part of the document could collect the contributions provided in previous meetings and focus on the legal instruments and form of partnership relevant to the cultural and urban infrastructure, looking at Italian and European cases.

The role is to build a thematic context that collects contributions regarding: the experiences of Co-City and pacts of collaboration, the role of the philanthropy in the construction of cultural spaces of active citizenship, the role of the relational dimension that determines social inclusion and exclusion, the importance of territorial structures such as "The Community Concierge" (La Portineria di Comunità), the role of the Neighborhood Houses, a map of Turin's cultural and social infrastructure. For the second and third part the lines of action and objectives of CO4CITIES must be defined in detail: a new neighborhood house, a Commons Foundation, funding opportunities and planning scenarios.