

The Co4Cities CODE

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SECOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETING - GDANSK



The Co4Cities Code



- Legal recognition and legal nature of communities right to self-organize
- The change in administration
- Co-governance as an outcome
- People matter



Legal recognition and legal nature of communities right to self-organize

- Collective in nature (parabole) > sometimes cities help city inhabitants build the collective entity
- Legal negotiation / deals and legal structures / entities (foundations, coops, etc) with the community recognized as a partner
- Public nature of the community as a partner: not volunteers, but partners

The change in administration



- Methodological change:
 - co-design (collaborative not competitive, non exclusivity, iterative) > **brokerage**
 - the deal / pact is about finding and negotiating a common goal, sharing common resources, co-producing **public value** and measuring this co-produced value > community balance in BCN or the Gdansk neighborhoodness index as a social outcome/impact contract
- **Structural** change:
 - **cross-sectorial** admin coordination structure (LAWGs in BCN and Gent, much like the tech committee in Turin, city science office in Reggio Emilia)
 - neigh **houses** in Gdansk and Tutin or the civic spaces in BCN as antennas but also as **social infrastructures** that produce **public value** they are not always recognized for (sometimes paid) > community balance
 - commons **incubators** (Gent, Amsterdam), the Collaboratory in Reggio Emilia or civil hub in Gdansk, the urban lab in Amsterdam



Co-governance as an outcome

- typology of assets/resources (PARKS/BUILDINGS/INFRASTRUCTURE) AND INTENSITY/GRADIENT OF CO-GOVERNANCE (CO-USE, CO-MANAGEMENT, CO-OWNERSHIP)
- Responsibility comes with liability
- Risk, value, power sharing mechanisms > public – communities partnerships

People matter

- In the end it's about the fiber of people in the government/administration and people in the community > civic imaginers or legal/administrative hackers
- capacity building is needed within City Hall and in the neighborhoods >
- training activities and guidance materials are crucial > Dolna Brama Center
- informality and social glue/cement
- “**openness**” of the politicians: we know they should be serving city inhabitants, but we also know that most of the time they like to exercise power in a monopolistic way



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