



EducAction – WP2

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Community Labs Framework

This is a conceptual and methodological framework of the Community Labs. It includes the general objectives, instruction on it functioning, the main outputs it will produce. This framework will be use in each city and from each partner to run the Community Labs.

General Objective and content

Students and community members come together to address and share the main challenges of the territory and to take collective action and generate solutions to issues of public interest (including for example the development and/or improvement of private and public services, the implementation of common initiatives etc.). Co-design community labs leads community members to collaboratively generate knowledge and take action to promote changes, initiatives and solutions of public interest. It involves three phases linked to the methodologies and the expected outputs: one of data collection (community labs), one of needs analysis and processing of proposals (territorial mapping and photo video reportage), one in which the proposals are transformed into a project and are implemented. A cornerstone of the process is the establishment of an action research group that guides the path. (community solution prototype).

Expected Outcomes

Students are empowered with the skills, knowledge and tools to take part in community-planning processes.

Expected Outputs

- **About 8-10 Community Labs** with students and relevant stakeholders from the Community (local institutions, youth centres, local media, parents, teachers...) to be interviewed by the students about the most relevant problem/needs of the community concerning services and issues of young people.
- **Territorial Mapping and Photo Video Reportage:** from the interviews, draft an analysis of the context, services, needs and problems of the community related to youth with a photo/video journalism method. The territorial mapping is a way for students to use open data/transparency methodology and will focus both on an analysis of data of the community (geographical, economic, environmental, demographic) and on services (school, sport, social services and local transport)
- **Community solution prototype:** Prototyping a community solution (voted by the community and advised by the local institutions) to one of the problems analysed in the territorial mapping report and related to young needs



Targets

- Students - age 16/17
- Local institution representatives
- Local stakeholders (teachers, parents, youth centers, ngos, local organization, civic society, local media)

Duration

From February 2021 to June/July 2021 with local event on September 2021

Methodologies for Community Labs

A participatory process through community laboratories has different stages of advancement: a first phase of territorial analysis aimed at knowing the context through the recognition, processing and systematization of quantitative data, a second phase linked to the listening in order to complete the analysis of the qualitative aspects and a third phase of involvement of the interested actors. In parallel, the process must be accompanied by a constant monitoring of the actions undertaken and a final evaluation.

Here we present the main methodologies we will be used during the community labs:

Bottom-up policy lab: gather with students and stakeholders from civil society, private sector, institutions and citizens to identify the most relevant challenges in the community and improve the responsiveness and accessibility of private and public services for young people and to promote a participatory approach to policy development. The bottom-up approach implies a key role for students to engage stakeholders, and develop a complex understanding of their community. The facilitation of Labs is finalized at the production of possible solutions to identified needs, gaps, problems and development plans and actions to be shared with local stakeholders and tested in the community.

Scenario development of policy adoption: this methodology will be used to substantiate pre-policy analysis. Selected recommendations will be studied in depth, analysing hypotheses for their adoption, making an ex-ante qualitative impact assessment identifying which categories of actors would be affected and how by their adoption, in countries and at an EU level, which difficulties of implementation would different countries encounter and which incentives could be thought to promote them.

Operational plan for Community Labs

Here we show the operative steps in order to run the Community Labs and achieve the project's goals:

- a) Mapping and Analysis of needs: engagement of local actors, such as associations, universities, citizens, institutions, media, parents and of course students.
 - Analysis and Training Phase: preparatory meetings with educators, students, community actors, mapping of problems and services through the use of digital interviews and questionnaires;



- Listening: meetings with local actors in socio field;
- Engagement: assess the needs, analysis of data and community engagement related to the analysis of the priorities;

b) Planning-Action phase: development and drafting of the proposals based on the evidence that emerged, taking into account the priorities and limits, discussed in a participatory way during the community labs;

c) Sharing and Dissemination: presentation of structured proposals to local institutions and to the school/ community;

d) Monitoring and Evaluation: The monitoring and evaluation activity is a continuous process aimed at verifying the consistency of the expected results with the context. It must therefore foresee upstream a series of moments of critical reflection during the process.

Description and key phases

<i>Phases</i>	<i>Activities</i>
<i>Context and intervention areas are identified</i>	<p>Make a needs assessment and a context analysis to identify the issues that may be addressed through the community labs, the interviews with the local stakeholders and the participatory planning process.</p> <p> <i>Tools: Desk research, Individual interviews</i></p>
<i>Identify the relevant stakeholders to be involved</i>	<p>List all relevant stakeholders. If stakeholders are associations/institutions, it is useful to identify specific individual stakeholders within each organization as reference contacts. If there are too many stakeholders consider grouping them by interest.</p> <p>Map stakeholders' interest and influence on a matrix to identify which stakeholders are likely to support the project and help identify the community challenges</p> <p>Select the stakeholders that may constitute the main group that will follow the whole process.</p> <p> <i>Tools: Brainstorming; Stakeholder Analysis Map Template</i></p>



Improve the participants' understanding of basic principles of participatory planning

Conduct a theoretical session on accountability, responsibility, transparency, participation and active citizenship.

Aims: Let participants understand values, principles and spaces of active participation of citizens. Give practical hints about the specific relation with public authorities (eg. municipality) that may be involved and how to develop a project.

 *Tools: Expert and educators Presentations/work groups simulating a participatory process*

Planning-Action-research by the leading (or main) group

Conduct interviews, focus groups, video-inquiries, urban walks sessions about participatory action-research (means to involve the community in the collection and production of data, information which will be the basis for action – solution prototype-).

Co-design an action-research to then design the solution prototype.

Prepare data to be presented to the rest of the community (photo-video reportage and finding presentation).

Identify needs, priorities and elaborate bottom-up proposals

Organize stakeholder roundtable involving citizens, institutional representatives, local associations and share with them the work to be assessed and voted.

This work will bring to elaborate a territorial mapping document, to define the community solution prototype and to make a photo video reportage which will show the challenges and the venues of the community.

 *Tools: video making, World Cafè, community participatory planning matrix*

Ensure correct implementation of project proposals

Students are supported in advocating for finding resources and/or asking involved authorities to create the conditions for the implementation of the proposal and to implement the solution.



Lesson learned and recommendations.

- Participants feel that activities address their real needs and can influence the decision making process in their community.
- Some topics might seem too technical and difficult to understand by the participants so more time might be needed to provide further explanation or understanding.