

Documentation – Break-out session – Impact on societal change

Introduction to the topic by Peter (Co-Chair)

- Experts exist all over the place
- Role of the cities is to put all the expertise together
- What would a regional and city living lab look like? Who would be inside?
- Relationship between the Governing Board of a city and citizens – if we want to achieve change, we have to reflect on this
- Hypotheses:
 1. It's all about building relations and not about having projects and spending money.
 2. It is about how to bring people together – and talk to them on the same level (“auf Augenhöhe”).
 3. People need access to information – then they will stop being destructive and aggressive. Problem of information is a problem of participation.
- How can research reach the action taking mode?
- Question of time – different time scales between institutions and inhabitants
- Socially responsible university - how can theoretical knowledge lead to actions?
- Suggestion: We have a new role of regional authority – supporter, developer etc. – in many local authorities at the moment are concerns about taking this new role, to accept change and to feel comfortable with it

Presentation by Yvonne Franz

- Which political measures best support the integrative power of urban neighborhoods?
- How does participation impact neighborhoods?
- Project team consisting of researchers and urban stakeholders
- Case studies in Amsterdam and Stockholm – in nine neighborhoods
- Local integration policies have been the research subject
- A problem is that bottom-up initiatives after 1 or 2 years don't survive and just vanish
- Tool: Urban living labs – help for systemization the research approach
- Innovation development here means policy evaluation by local residents
- Living Labs are really time-consuming – this is something you usually don't have in research projects
- Get to know – involve – activate – co-create → four steps towards impact on societal change (?!)
- Co-creation is very critical – it is definitely not something you can count on, and not easy to achieve
- Bottom-up and hybrid initiatives have more impact on neighborhood attachment compared to top-down initiatives
- We shouldn't be too romantic and optimistic about peaceful living side-by-side because this needs to be maintained e.g. by resources
- Academic vs. societal impact – research, education, cooperation and co-creation, social relevance

Presentation by Christian Scholl

- Urban living labs offer co-creation of solutions and implementation.

- Attempt to transdisciplinary and integrated approaches – this often is contradictory to sectoral thinking of public authorities.
- Way of working in the project: transdisciplinary, co-creation, action research (social learning), city exchange meeting
- Output: guidelines for urban living labs, toolkit for lab practitioners
- 8 Guidelines:
 1. Mission
 2. Participation and ownership
 3. Positioning
 4. Organizational structures
 5. Experimenting
 6. Learning
 7. Public value creation
 8. Continuation and embedment
- Challenges for public value creation (related to impact on societal change):
 - Which kinds of public value?
 - How to co-create public value?
 - How to monitor and assess public value creation?
 - How to (re-)distribute public values?
- Societal impact of urban living labs – outcomes are more procedural than substantive – few attempts at explicit assessment – social value are often the weakest link; link to clear to other values

Conclusions

1. Harvest existing knowledge, engage with active stakeholders, and build upon what is already there.
2. Allow for long-term and continuous dialogue and exchange incl. building long-term and continuous relationships which needs time and resources.
3. The “emotional” factor is highly relevant for encouraging citizen participation and engagement, and for driving societal change.
4. Behavioural sciences need to be considered when driving and assessing societal change incl. dealing with theories and practices of measuring change.
5. Urban development changes very quickly and JPI UE needs to be flexible in setting up the thematic priorities order to respond to the real current urban needs.
6. We have to deal with uncertainties and find ways to communicate them to urban stakeholders.
7. Selection of a more comprehensive geographical coverage of cities incl. Eastern and Southern Europe plus different types of cities.
8. Action research, societal learning instead of paper creation.