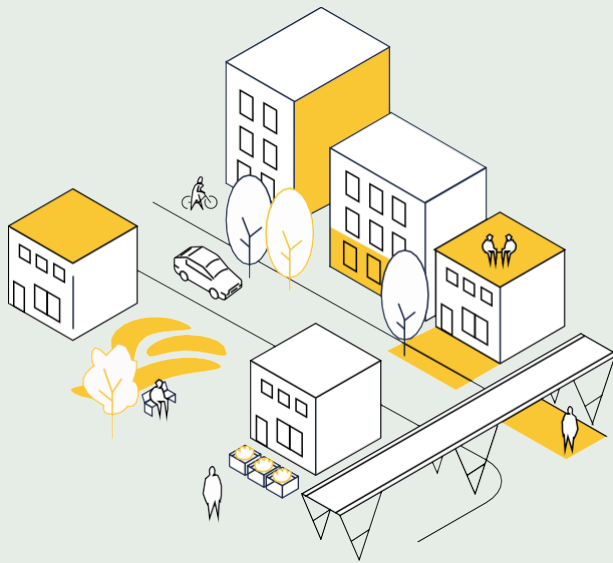


# d.3.1.ProShare-Lab Paris and London

Final report

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## 1. Introduction: ProShare labs

Part of the research project “ProSHARE: Enhancing Diversity, Inclusion and Social Cohesion through Practices of Sharing in Housing and Public Space” (<https://stadtteilen.org/proshare/>) was the establishment of so called ProSHARE Labs. The labs aim at sustaining existing sharing and urban commoning practices in the field of housing and public space, exploring how existing sharing practices can be extended towards new migrant communities and experimenting with different forms of sharing practices (Petrescu et al. 2022).

The different ProSHARE local teams were conducting four ProSHARE-labs as open physical and virtual spaces for interaction and exchange. These spaces function as a platform for collaborative experimentation and learning about (new) sharing practices, forms of self-organizational structures within processes of commoning. ProSHARE Labs took place in 4 different cities; Berlin, Paris, London and Vienna.

This report focuses on the labs in Paris and London which were carried out by the University of Sheffield research team. In both Paris and London, ProSHARE labs took place within existing established Urban living labs (Bulkeley *et al.*, 2019) as part of the R-Urban hub network (Petrescu and Petcou, 2020). Due to the established connections between the two case cities a shared lab methodology was developed and implemented in both research contexts for comparative purposes.

The R-Urban hubs have been initiated by architects to provide resources and infrastructure for collective ‘resilience practices’ in those neighbourhoods, setting up circular social, ecological and economic exchanges. These involve diverse forms of material and immaterial sharing. The ProSHARE labs are catalysts for facilitating visibility, reflexivity and development of practices chosen by the users



*Figure 1: Paris, Bagneux Agrocite – R-Urban Hub*



*Figure 2: London, Poplar – R-Urban Eco-Civic Hub*



## 2. Project Duration

The ProSHARE research project started on April 1st, 2021.

ProSHARE Labs in Paris and London ran between October 2021-September 2022.

Both labs began with mapping and exploratory interviews to understand needs before carrying out three co-design labs between February- April 2022.

Labs were followed up in each research context to initiate prototype development and subsequent evaluation.

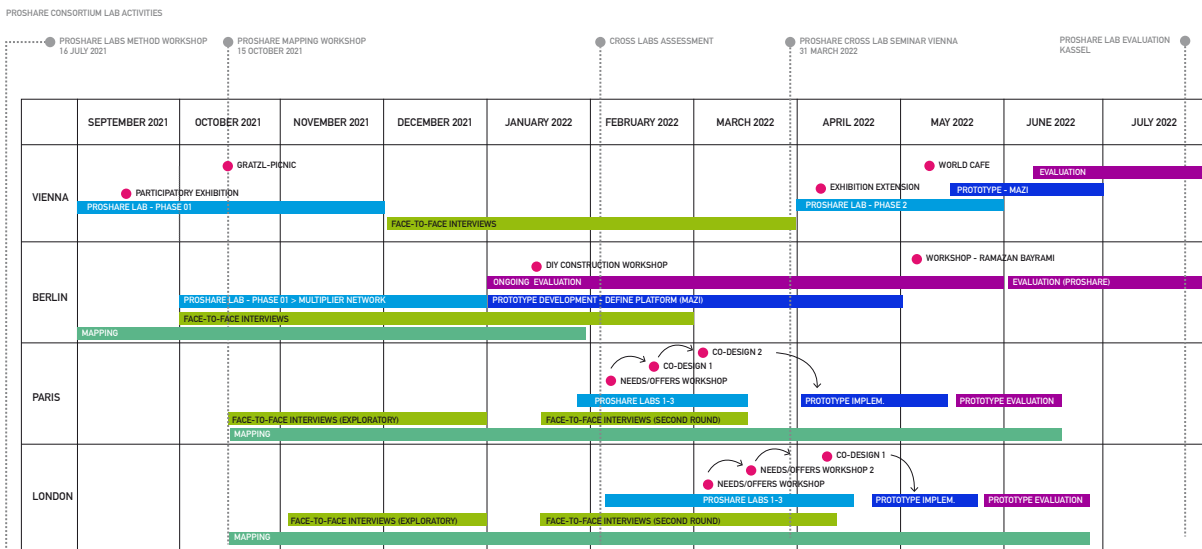


Figure 3: Shared ProSHARE Lab timeline

## 3. Research Context

### Paris (Bagneux)

The ProSHARE team conducts research also in the French city of Bagneux, a town of 40.000 inhabitants in the suburbs of Paris. Historically a wine production area, Bagneux has started to diversify its economic activity with the introduction of market gardening in the XVIIIth century, and the stone quarries in the XIXth century. In early 1900s, Bagneux became part of what is known as the Red Belt, a group of settlements historically inhabited by factory workers expelled from the city centre.

Since 1935, the city has been run by a left-wing coalition led by the Communist party, an administration that has actively and continuously supported community-oriented initiatives over the decades, and developed ambitious social housing projects such as a number of *Grands Ensembles* typical of the 60s and 70s. Even today, despite of the rapid gentrification process underway in most Parisian suburbs, its population remains largely popular and cosmopolitan, with employees and factory workers accounting for nearly 38% of the active population and 45% of residents coming from an immigrant background. Bagneux shows one of the highest social housing rates in the region (25/ha).

The lab in this case is nested within Agrocité, a community-built and self-governed eco-civic hub and urban agriculture site founded in 2016, where many sharing activities are organised weekly. Agrocité is part of R-Urban, a participative strategy and network of civic resilience initiated by the architectural practice Atelier d'Architecture Autogérée in 2008 (R-Urban, n.d.). Agrocité is situated close to Cité des Tertres and Cité des Cuverons, two large social housing estates (grands ensembles) typical of the 1960s and 1970s urbanism, recently renovated within the framework of Plan National d'Urbanisme. In spite of their vicinity, not many residents of the cités have joined Agrocité.

### Lab Objectives

One of the goals of the lab is to identify potential reasons for this lack of involvement of residents of the cités as well as to devise strategies to overcome the gap. More generally, the lab sought to evaluate what Agrocité has to offer as a sharing infrastructure, tackle spatial and social pitfalls that prevent the development of emerging sharing processes, and identify ways to expand its sharing potential beyond its current limits and transform into a catalyst of sharing practices in the neighbourhood.



Figure 4: Location of the Paris ProSHARE Lab, adjusted from (Petrescu et al. 2022)

### London (Poplar)

The London ProSHARE-Lab is located within the district of Poplar in the borough of Tower Hamlets, East London, within the Lansbury Ward, an administrative neighbourhood with about 15,000 inhabitants. Poplar sits to the north of Canary Wharf and has a long history dating back to the 18th century in providing housing for London Dock workers and the working class. More recently, Tower Hamlets and Poplar have become centres of the Bengali diaspora in Britain, housing the vast majority of first, second, and third generation families who emigrated since

the 1970s. In the Lansbury Ward, the Bengali community accounts for 39% of the ethnic mix, one of the highest in the country. Poplar has a high density of social housing with 57.5% of housing tenure being social rent (London Borough of Tower Hamlets, 2014), the majority of which is administered by the Poplar Housing and Regeneration Community Association (HARCA), a social landlord and charity, set up in the 1990s during the shift of housing provision from local government to housing associations.

The ULL is situated within one of the R-Urban ecocivic hubs on the Teviot Housing Estate, the R-Urban Poplar hub which occupies a temporary use site on a short-term lease. The hub was initiated by Public Works, an art and architecture collective, in partnership with Poplar HARCA. Over a period of four years, this project has transformed a vacant carpark and garages into a thriving community hub, with a focus on environmental education, urban agriculture, and building local resilience through participation in the built environment. Drawing on the shared mutual interest and normative knowledge of commons-based civic resilience, the hub has built a strong network of local stakeholders alongside a wider community of practice.

### Lab Objectives

In the context of the Teviot estate undergoing regeneration processes to increase the housing stock and provide new amenities and services, the objective of the lab is threefold:

- (a) to generate spatial knowledge of the existing socio-spatial dynamics in relation to the current and predicted state of housing and in particular to understand the existing situation of spaces of sharing, by focusing specifically on the role of community and non-governmental organisations;
- (b) to focus inwardly on the R-Urban Poplar Hub as an existing space of sharing and to engage local stakeholders in mapping the barriers to sharing for the hub; and
- (c) to take the learnings from the lab forward as a projection for the future estate, understanding the role of situated community knowledge(s) in the wider regeneration context and how to encourage diverse practices of sharing in its future planning.



Figure 5: Location of the London ProSHARE Lab, adjusted from (Petrescu et al. 2022)

## 4. Methodology

The Sheffield University ProSHARE team will be carrying out participatory labs in both London and Paris using the same methodology in each country. The primary goal of the developed methodology was to make visible the existing sharing practices in the neighbourhood, and then to facilitate an improvement and expanding the frequency of sharing activities between local stakeholders.

### Mapping

Through a process of mapping both projects documented and recorded the spaces of sharing which exist in the two neighbourhoods of study; Poplar, London and Bagneux in Paris. This open mapping process hosted via [gogocarto platform](#) formed the basis of initial desk-based research and became an open repository which was added to through the exploratory interview process in both countries. This open resource became the research basis for the ProShare Labs.

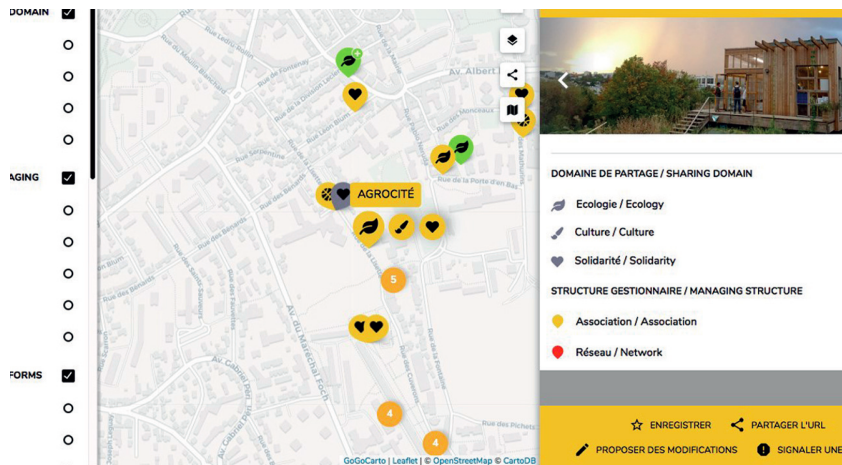


Figure 6: Mapping of sharing practices and participatory mapping



## Self-Assessment Exercise

Through a process of participatory workshops and co-design sessions the teams have worked with local organisations and groups who already practice space/resource sharing and commoning in each neighbourhood. This involved mapping relations between associations in the neighbourhood in relation to existing sharing practices and identifying sharing needs and offers between groups. Sharing practices were divided into sharing of material things, sharing of spaces and sharing of experiences.



Figure 7: ProSHARE LAB 1 – Paris: Self-Assessment exercise

## Co-designing

Following the self-assessment exercise groups were invited to co-design a shared vision for new sharing initiatives within the neighbourhood of study. This involved identifying potential thematic focuses for sharing, collaborators involved, for whom the sharing activity would be for.

Following the identification groups then developed strategies based around stages of project implementation. This involved working through multiple stages of the design process: initiation, preparation and realisation.





Figure 8: ProSHARE Lab 2 – London: Co-design exercise

### Prototyping and Implementing

Following the identification of a potential sharing initiative, final ProSHARE workshops were used to develop actions which could be taken as first steps towards these new shared visions for neighbourhood sharing and commoning. In each case these were reflective of available resources and local capacity to take the projects further.



Figure 9: ProSHARE Lab 4 – Paris: Prototyping

## 5. Activities

### Paris

Date	Activity	Description
05 Feb 2022	ProSHARE LAB 1 – Self-Assessment	15 participants from six local organisations in Bagneux + Municipal Council focusing on their relations of sharing in order to identify and rank needs and resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Spontaneity</li> <li>• Addressing key publics (youth and women from diverse backgrounds and low-income residents),</li> </ul>
20 Feb 2022	ProSHARE LAB 2 – Co-Design	15 participants from six local organisations in Bagneux, focusing on identifying common actions that would enhance sharing and collaborations
11 Mar 2022	ProSHARE LAB 3 – Co-Design	15 participants from 7 local organisations in Bagneux, focusing on designing into detail the 3 actions in terms of : initiation, preparation and realization
13 May 2022	ProSHARE LAB 4 – Prototyping	8 participants (from 5 local organisations + 2 City officers) focusing on prototyping one of the strategic action <u>'Bagneux- tereau europeen de l'ecologie citoyenne'</u>
16 Sep 2022	ProSHARE LAB 5 – Implementation	4 organisations ( PPCM, AAA/Agrocite, LP7, BE) and Municipal council collaborating to the organisation of the event 'Le Grande Voyage des proximites' Visit & workshops with children and youth in different locations involving the local organisations (and their networks) and schools Policy: Letter to Mayor and proclamation of "Bagneux: terreau europeene de l'ecologie citoyenne' as policy direction and label

## London

Date	Activity	Description
04 Mar 2022	ProSHARE LAB 1 – Self-Assessment	<p>7 participants (existing members of the R-Urban hub) from 4 organisations and 2 local residents. Focused on looking inwardly at R-Urban hub to identify resources which were shared and also which infrastructure was underutilised. Ranking sharing needs/resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identified underutilised spaces/resources which could be shared more widely than current use</li> <li>• mapped connections (sharing relations) from R-Urban with other associations, groups working locally</li> <li>• Developed a sharing needs and offers document to share with local associations</li> </ul>
08 Mar 2022	ProSHARE LAB 2 – Self-Assessment + Co-Design	<p>11 participants from 9 local organisations in Poplar, focusing on co-mapping existing sharing practices and identifying common actions that would enhance sharing and collaborations</p>
20 Apr 2022	ProSHARE LAB 3 – Co-Design	<p>8 participants from 4 local organisations in Poplar, focusing on designing into detail the 3 actions in terms of : initiation, preparation and realisation of sharing initiatives to prototype</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of one idea to prototype over next 6 months</li> </ul>
12 July 2022	ProSHARE LAB 4 – Prototyping	<p><u>'Poplar Sharing solidarity Network'</u>  A collaborative network of local associations who are committed to working together and sharing resources  Developing online database/tool to help share information across the network  On-going network meetings (8+ local organisations)</p>

## 6. Dissemination and Outreach

In line with the main objective of the research project ProSHARE, all the activities should be disseminated widely, especially transferring the main ideas, approaches and results of the project back to the neighborhood.

Therefore, the ProSHARE team organized and/or attend a variety of events taking place in the neighborhood beyond the co-design labs these included:

Paris:

- Sep 16 2022 – Presentation of ProSHARE research findings during the event Le Grand Voyage de Proximités – an outcome of the ProSHARE workshops – total attendees 40, including 3 policy makers
- Presentation of ProSHARE findings as part of the film LE GRAND VOYAGE 2022 – AFTERMOVIE - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyXPQUxkZNU>

London:

- April 12 2022 – Presentation of ProSHARE research findings to Poplar HARCA (housing association) Accents team (Social and economic value) – total attendees 6
- July 12 2022 – Presentation of ProSHARE research to JustFACT project partners – total attendees 14 from 11 local organisations
- June 23 2022 – Attendance of ‘Co-production and/by/through other ways of knowing’ seminar organised by WRDTP – presentation of ProSHARE co-design lab methodology



Figure 10: Outreach and dissemination - ‘Le Grand voyage des proximités’ Event



## 7. Projects Results and Recommendations

Reflecting on impact and outcomes from the shared London and Paris methodology there are some clear strengths and challenges to the methodology:

### Strengths

- The ProSHARE labs in both research contexts were valuable catalysts for local action. They renewed and established new connections between participating associations, groups and individuals which enabled further sharing practices within the neighbourhood. In the London cases these material sharing practices included the increased sharing of material goods and spaces between three participating associations. It also furthered the sharing of experiences between groups with extended collaborations between the participating groups
- The ProSHARE labs offered chances to engage diverse audiences, inclusion of key publics e.g. youth, women's groups etc
- The labs were a space for reflection and action – starting with the existing sharing relations between groups. Helping to identify through the self-assessment exercise the key nodes of the sharing networks and potential connections. This process also had the effect of strengthening relationships between groups by visualizing the unseen sharing practices which take place
- The Labs provided a framework and tools which local associations could take forwards into their own associations and groups. In both the Paris and London case participants have subsequently used the co-design worksheets for their own co-design processes beyond the scope of the ProSHARE research
- Through the co-design lab process – knowledge is co-produced together in relation to sharing in the neighborhood. Both raising awareness and gaining insight from research participants into the phenomena of sharing.

### Challenges

- Like all participatory processes they are also spaces of difference and disagreement, this is not always a bad outcome, but there can often be tensions between different civil society actors especially when working with institutional and municipal stakeholders. Facilitators of co-design labs should be aware of this in advance and seek to navigate the process productively
- Further resourcing of the processes would enable the groups to further the implementation of the sharing prototypes, without sufficient funding it is difficult to manage expectations and rely on voluntary capacity of stakeholders
- In the London case now policy/municipal actors were present – whilst this was helpful for strengthening existing grassroots ties it is perhaps a limitation if key decision makers are not involved.
- This methodology is reliant on researchers having strong local ties and connections to the neighbourhoods of study. In our case this was facilitated through researcher connections and trust with the R-Urban hubs. Without strong existing networks this form of practice would be very difficult to reproduce in other contexts.



## 8. Literature

Bulkeley, H. *et al.* (2019) 'Urban living laboratories: Conducting the experimental city?', *European Urban and Regional Studies*, pp. 317–335. doi: 10.1177/0969776418787222.

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