



ARE YOU RUNNING A SPACE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY?

SHARE YOUR STORY!

Thank you for sharing your experience with Funding the Cooperative City!

Please send to info@eutropian.org by 15th February 2016 the following material:

- The questionnaire
- 3-5 images in high resolution (300 dpi)
- Existing project documentation - flyers, reports (max 5 pages)

QUESTIONNAIRE

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Describe your space: what's the size, type and location of your space, what activities do you accommodate?
<p>The space was built in 1960 as Civic Centre, and later abandoned in 1984; it has a surface of 700sqm and it develops on two floors; a garden of 300sqm is on the back.</p> <p>Due to its original function the space offers rooms of several sizes, from small offices to a larger conference hall. While benefitting of functional independence, each space is also strongly connected to the others through a common central hall, on which all the rooms overlook.</p> <p>The building finds itself in the suburbs of Bologna, in a Social Housing Complex, where it was meant to be the core of the community life; after being abandoned however it turned into a physically and socially decayed place.</p> <p>The building has a strongly strategic position: on its southern side there is a riverside park's entrance and a large community vegetables-garden area, on the other side the building looks over a square, offering great potentialities. Therefore the building is likely to put together the two realities, becoming a bridge between the urban and peri-urban space. Young architects and citizens brought forward the idea of turning this space also into a social bridge: giving birth to a so-called <i>Community Creative Hub</i>, a place where new creative actors (designers, artists, makers) meet the local residents' community and a mutual benefits' exchange takes place. It is going to accommodate rooms for professional's uses (offices, conference room, co-working space) laboratory spaces (woodworkery, art's atelier and exhibition space) a small auditorium and a coffee shop, and a multifunctional gym. The garden is going to be used for outdoor performances (cinema, theatre) and for recreational purposes.</p>
Describe your community: who are your visitors, collaborators, workers and public?
<p>Over the summer 2014 it's been founded the "Villaggio Portazza Social Street", a Facebook group gathering together the residents of a neighbourhood. Thanks to such chance, neighbours, who had never met before, have had the opportunity to meet and during a couple of informal meetings arose the interest in the abandoned Civic Centre and the will to start a regeneration process. Since then, everyone has tried in his/her own way to help this starting, it has therefore been involved Architetti di Strada Association. With the collaboration of the city's Municipality and the Urban Center Bologna, it has been won the "C'Entro Anch'io" Prize, within the Call opened by Coop Adriatica. The won amount allowed to start a participatory process, involving all the interested actors, in order to design together a managerial and architectonic project. The process' first phase ended in December 2015: five meetings, a street-festival and a concert have been organized. During these events have been involved more than a hundred local residents and</p>

fifteen associations, interested in the space's future use.

Describe the urban impact of your space: how do you interact with the neighborhood? What kind of opportunities or services do you provide for the community?

Some of the residents, living around the former Civic Centre, have been the very first project promoters, since the beginning indeed, although without specific competences, they have got engaged to get the project started. The experiences and events, having taken place so far, brought these people (around ten) through an empowerment process: each one's effort has turned into a significant contribution for the achievement of a common result. In most cases, the involvement of further citizens has happened by word of mouth, therefore in a clearly informal way; such a communication enabled a great sense of belonging and helped avoiding internal contrasts.

On the one hand, the project will offer benefits deriving from the participation itself into the process: for instance the organized events have already given to the participants the chance to get to know each other and start new neighbourhood's relationships, otherwise inconceivable.

On the other hand, further benefits will arise from the new services offered by the *Community Creative Hub*, once operative: the associations, companies and craftsmen working in the space indeed, while benefitting of reduced rent expenses, will have to ensure a continuous relationship with the local community, according to its needs.

Describe your organizational model: are you a non-profit organization, for-profit company, informal group, etc?

The process is started at the end of 2014 thanks to the will of some inhabitants and nowadays it has not yet been formed any kind of formal association, but the project participants recognise them-self under the label-name of INstabile. At the process participate also several formal association distinguished in two categories: *Promoters' Associations* and *Active Associations*. The first ones since the very first begging placed sided by sided the citizens' activities to foster the project, these are: *Associazione Pro.Muovo* and *Architetti di Strada*. The second ones are around 15 associations that once the process was started have been involved in it. The aim of these associations is to occupy a place inside the building and some of these already organized some events during the participatory laboratory.

In the future will be probably need to found an association or a no-profit company coherently with the ethic background the project.

Describe your economic model: what kinds of financial and non-financial resources do you use, what kinds of revenues and expenses do you have, how do these contribute to your economic sustainability?

The use of the building is defined by a "*comodato d'uso modale*" (free lease to use which requires a certain amount of restoration works to be compensate). The revenues are private and public calls (we already won "*C'entro Anch'io*" by *Coop Adriatica* for financing the participatory laboratory), hosting events, self-financing, voluntary labour from the active citizens, works made by the building's owners and in the future the rent of the spaces. As the rent from the owner is not required the only expenses we have are: the design and managing costs, the materials of construction and water and electricity consumptions.

Describe your most important alliances: what people, institutions, organizations, administrations do you have or would you like to have involved in your space?

In addition to the active citizens and the *Promoters' Association*, since the begging institution actors have been involved into the process: *Acer* (regional institution for the social housing, owner of the building), *Comune di Bologna* (Active Citizenship department, Economy department), *Quartiere Savena* (decentred administration) and *Urban Center Bologna* (Office for urban development promotion). These did them best in terms of recourses' to enforce the project. During the participatory laboratory have been involved the *Active Association* and other actors similar to us from other Italian cities that came to share them stories with the citizens. The will is to involve more associations, informal groups, free-lances, professionals and companies that in the future want to occupy some space into the *hub*.

Describe your long-term perspective: where do you see your space in 3, 5, 10 years? What are the main barriers, limitations and potentials of your space?

In five years the entire building will be renovated, in the meanwhile it will be started to be use step by step in its useable parts. In it's final configuration INstabile will be a *Community Creative Hub*: where a space for co-working, in-door sport, events, exhibitions takes rooms. The proposal is not limited to the action on the building, the idea is also to make of INstabile a centre of research and discussion about the development of urban peripheral territories.