

ERASMUS + Programme
Round 1 KEY ACTION 2 Cooperation for innovation
and the exchange of good practices
KA203 – Strategic Partnerships for higher education

PROJECT

STUD.IO: Sociability Through Urban Design Innovation

FIRST INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT

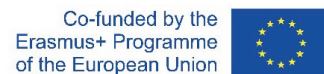
Promoting sociability in the urban environments

The STUD.IO Partnership:

- Unione degli Assessorati alle Politiche Socio-sanitarie, dell'Istruzione e del Lavoro (Palermo, Italy) – Coordinator
- Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore” (Enna, Italy)
- Universitatea din București (București, Romania)
- Sorangeli Trans Srl București, Romania)
- Association of Agrarian and Environmental Lawyers (Nitre, Slovakia)
- Slovenska Polnohospodarska Univerzita V Nitre (Nitre, Slovakia)
- Consorzio Tartaruga (Palermo, Italy)
- Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Barcelona, Spain)

Contract code	2020 – 1 IT02 – KA203 – 079833
Intellectual Output Title	Promoting sociability in the urban environments
Intellectual Output Number	1
Intellectual Output Coordinator	Kore University of Enna (Enna, Italy)
Scientific Coordinator	Sergio Severino
Edited by	Giada Cascino, Salvatore Alagna, Marco Marchese, Sergio Severino
Authors	Alagna Salvatore, Consorzio Tartaruga (Italy) Barracco Alessandro, Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore” (Italy) Bihuňová Mária, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (Slovakia) Cascino Giada, Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore” (Italy) Clua Alvaro, Barcelona Laboratory of Urbanism, ETSAB-UPC (Spain) Craparo Giuseppe, Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore” (Italy) Gómez-Escoda Eulàlia, Barcelona Laboratory of Urbanism, ETSAB-UPC (Spain) Malizia Nicola, Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore” (Italy) Marchese Marco, Unione degli Assessorati (Italy) Mulè Giacomo, Unione degli Assessorati (Italy) Oddo Maurizio, Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore” (Italy) Palšová Lucia, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (Slovakia) Rotărescu Violeta-Ştefania, University of Bucharest (România) Severino Sergio, Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore” (Italy) Siino Marianna, Unione degli Assessorati (Italy)
Dissemination Level	International audience
Version	English version

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Approved by the Rector of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra as a scientific book on 20. 10. 2022.

ISBN 978-80-552-2569-2

INDEX

Introduction. The STUD.IO project	7
FIRST PART	12
Introduction to the empirical part	13
1.1. Goals	13
1.2. Methodological approach	13
1.3. Target for the survey	13
1.4. Survey and method of analysis	14
1. NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN BEST PRACTICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF <i>SOCIABILITY</i> IN THE URBAN CONTEXT: STATE OF THE ART AND INNOVATION PROPOSALS	15
1.1. Italy	16
1.1.1. Project 1	16
1.1.2. Project 2	19
1.1.3. Project 3	22
1.1.4. Project 4	24
1.1.5. Project 5	27
1.1.6. Project 6	30
1.2. Romania	32
1.2.1 Project 1	32
1.2.2. Project 2	34
1.2.3. Project 3	36
1.2.4. Project 4	38
1.2.5. Project 5	40
1.3. Slovakia	42
1.3.1 Project 1	42
1.3.2. Project 2	44
1.3.3. Project 3	46
1.3.4. Project 4	48
1.3.5. Project 5	50
2. ANALYSIS OF THE TERRITORY'S NEEDS: MOST RELEVANT FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY AND FOCUS GROUPS	52
2.1. The results of the survey addressed to teachers, experts, administrators and policy-makers	52
2.1.1. Socio-demographic characteristics of the sample	53

2.1.2. Citizens' needs and well-being	55
2.1.3. Sense of belonging and active participation	58
2.1.4. Sociability and well-being of the territory	63
2.2. The results of the focus groups: a qualitative insight	68
SECOND PART	76
The Intellectual Output 1 of the STUD.IO project: the Methodological Framework of the Systematic Reviews	77
3. THE NEXUS BETWEEN SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW	81
3.1. Introduction	81
3.2. Methods	84
3.3. Results	85
3.3.1. What types of social interactions are conceptualized with reference to the urban context?	89
3.3.2. How is the nexus between social interactions and the urban environment conceptualized?	90
3.3.3. How is the issue of social interactions in the urban context addressed in view of the different ages of the population?	91
3.4. Discussion	91
3.5. Conclusions	93
4. PSYCHOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW	94
4.1. Introduction	94
4.2. Methods	95
4.3. Results	95
4.3.1. What is the environmental psychology?	107
4.3.2. What is the nature of relationship between environment and mental health?	107
4.3.3. What is the relationship between personal cognition and its relationship with the built environment?	109
4.3.4. What is the relationship between place identity and place attachment?	110
4.3.5. What is the relationship between migration and environment?	113
4.4. Discussion	114
4.5. Conclusions	115
5. HOW CAN URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOP SOCIABILITY IN CITIES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW	117
5.1. Introduction: Urban design and sociability	117
5.1.1. A preliminary approach to the urban fact	118
5.2. Methods	119
5.3. Results	119
5.3.1. What topics do the texts conceptualise in relation to urban design and sociability?	125

5.3.1.1. On design and composition	125
5.3.1.2. The natural support: ecology and resilience	125
5.3.1.3. On urban phenomenology and activities	126
5.3.1.4. On spatial and social networks	127
5.3.1.5. Mapping urban data	128
5.3.1.6. Dreaming on a better city	128
5.4. Discussion	129
5.5. Conclusions	130
6. URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND EU ENVIRONMENTAL LAW	132
6.1. Introduction	132
6.2. Methods	133
6.3. Results	133
6.3.1. Urban environment	137
6.3.2. Environmental policy in the EU	140
6.3.3. EU Environmental law	140
6.4. Discussion	144
6.5. Conclusions	145
7. SUBURBS, GREEN URBANISM, SUSTAINABILITY AND HUMAN FACTOR. A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW FOR A NEW PARADIGM IN URBAN DESIGN	147
7.1. Introduction	147
7.2. Methods	148
7.3. Results	149
7.3.1. Smart cities	153
7.3.2. Borders and Urban planning	153
7.3.3. Human factor	154
7.3.4. Green urbanism	155
7.3.5. Urban and sustainability design	156
7.4. Discussion	157
7.5. Conclusions	158
THIRD PART – A thematic contribution	160
8. ORDER AND LEGALITY IN URBAN SPACE: PREVENTION PROFILES AGAINST DEVIANCE	161
8.1. Urban violence and the perception of insecurity	161
8.2. Urban violence and victimisation processes in international contexts	162
8.3. Marginality and juvenile deviance in urban centres	163

8.4. The origin of urban fear and the need for security	166
8.5. The effects of urban security measures in everyday life	167
8.6. Policies aimed at preventing urban violence	168
8.7. Conclusions	169
Conclusions: an interdisciplinary approach for the expert in the promotion of sociability in urban environments	171
Appendix A	177
Appendix B	185

Introduction. The STUD.IO project

Giada Cascino¹, Salvatore Alagna², Marco Marchese², Marianna Siino², Sergio Severino¹, Giacomo Mulé²

* Kore University of Enna

** Unione degli Assessorati alle Politiche socio-sanitarie, dell'Istruzione e del Lavoro

1. The STUD.IO (Sociability Through Urban Design Innovation) project: brief presentation

The STUD.IO project is a Strategic Partnership in the field of Higher Education realized in collaboration between eight among universities and organizations, from Italy, Slovakia, Romania and Spain; specifically, the project includes 4 Universities and four private organizations (profit and non-profit) actively involved in the improvement of social welfare and the development of innovative social policies (tab. 1). The project stems from the need detected during studies carried out in the field by the leading organization, in collaboration with the partner universities, about the needs that today's city-centres, whether they be small-medium-large, have in relation to new social challenges related to them. We need to consider that more than 70% of the population currently lives in European cities (Eurostat 2019¹), a share projected to grow to 80% by 2050; the city in fact concentrates the greatest opportunities for growth and employment, including more than 75% of jobs at EU level. On the other hand, at the same time, it is always in cities that the most serious social problems occur, such as difficulty in accessing services, housing problems, physical degradation and social and environmental disintegration: in this regard, recent reports and surveys conducted in Europe on happiness in European city life (Eurobarometer 419, 2016² and Eurostat 2018³) show that in Italy, Romania and Slovakia (on a par), there is an "unhappy" propensity compared to the European average, with differences at a regional and local level depending on the size of population centres. The most vulnerable groups, such as children and the elderly, are necessarily more affected at the social level, and in modern societies, they are beginning to lose key relational references, which are the basis of what we indicate as happiness. One of the elements that affect the city life of the individual and his sociability is necessarily the urban organization and social policies related to it; for this motivation, knowing how to fully understand the needs, social needs, the main problems and strengths of the city context, as well as knowing how to plan and design appropriate interventions must be knowledge and skills of those who work in urban and territorial planning, taking into account the sociological and psychological aspects absolutely relevant.

Table 1 – STUD.IO partnership.

Partner	Nation
Unione degli Assessorati alle Politiche Socio-Sanitarie, dell'Istruzione e del Lavoro	Italy (Palermo)
Consorzio Tartaruga	Italy (Palermo)
Kore University of Enna	Italy (Enna)
Universitea Din Bucuresti	Romania (Bucharest)
Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya	Spain (Barcelona)
Slovenska Polnohospodarska Univerzita V Nitre	Slovakia (Nitra)
Association of Agrarian and Environmental Lawyers	Slovakia (Nitra)
Sorangeli Trans. Srl	Romania (Bucharest)

¹ Eurostat, Statistical books (2019). *Eurostat regional yearbook 2019 edition*. European Union. (DOI): 10.2785/1522

² European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, 'Flash Eurobarometer 419: Quality of Life in European Cities', version v1.00, 2016, http://data.europa.eu/88u/dataset/S2070_419_ENG

³ Eurostat, Statistical books (2018). *Eurostat regional yearbook 2018 edition*. European Union. DOI: 10.2785/231975

The STUD.IO project, therefore, taking into account the need found both at local level and in university training courses, aims to relate complementary sciences of psychology, sociology and urban planning in order to create a specialized university path accompanied by innovative tools and methodologies, especially using cutting-edge technologies, to improve and perfect the career of university students and non-university students working and studying in the field of urban development and society. The main objective of the project is to provide universities with study pathways, divided into specific modules covering different thematic areas (urban, social, anthropological, environmental, political) to meet the needs of urban development to meet the psychological, relational, sociological and physiological needs of individuals living in cities. To achieve this objective, STUD.IO planned the implementation of four Intellectual Outputs (Fig. 1):

1. a Literature Review on the main models and research currently available in the field of integration between Sociology, Psychology and Urbanism, in order to understand currents of academic thought and specific learning needs of students, which will be enriched by experiments and focus groups;
2. the creation of the STUD.IO Platform, an OnLine platform to support the project, an interactive tool composed of several training sections and spaces for collaboration between teachers and students from different faculties, institutes and countries, in order to achieve a wider exchange of knowledge, skills and methodological approaches on the topic;
3. the creation of the Joint Curriculum for the training of an expert in *consulting, planning and management of territorial resources for the promotion of sociability in urban contexts*, addressed in a pilot phase to forty students who will take part in an Intensive Study Programme lasting 15 days.
4. experimentation phase and the publication of guidelines for students and experts in the field to give students the opportunity to put into practice and directly experience the knowledge they have learned in order to implement the STUD.IO model in specific contexts.

2. From the aims of the project to the definition of the expert profile to be trained

The STUD.IO project starts from the assumption that the **promotion of the sociability** of a territory is fundamental to produce **well-being**.

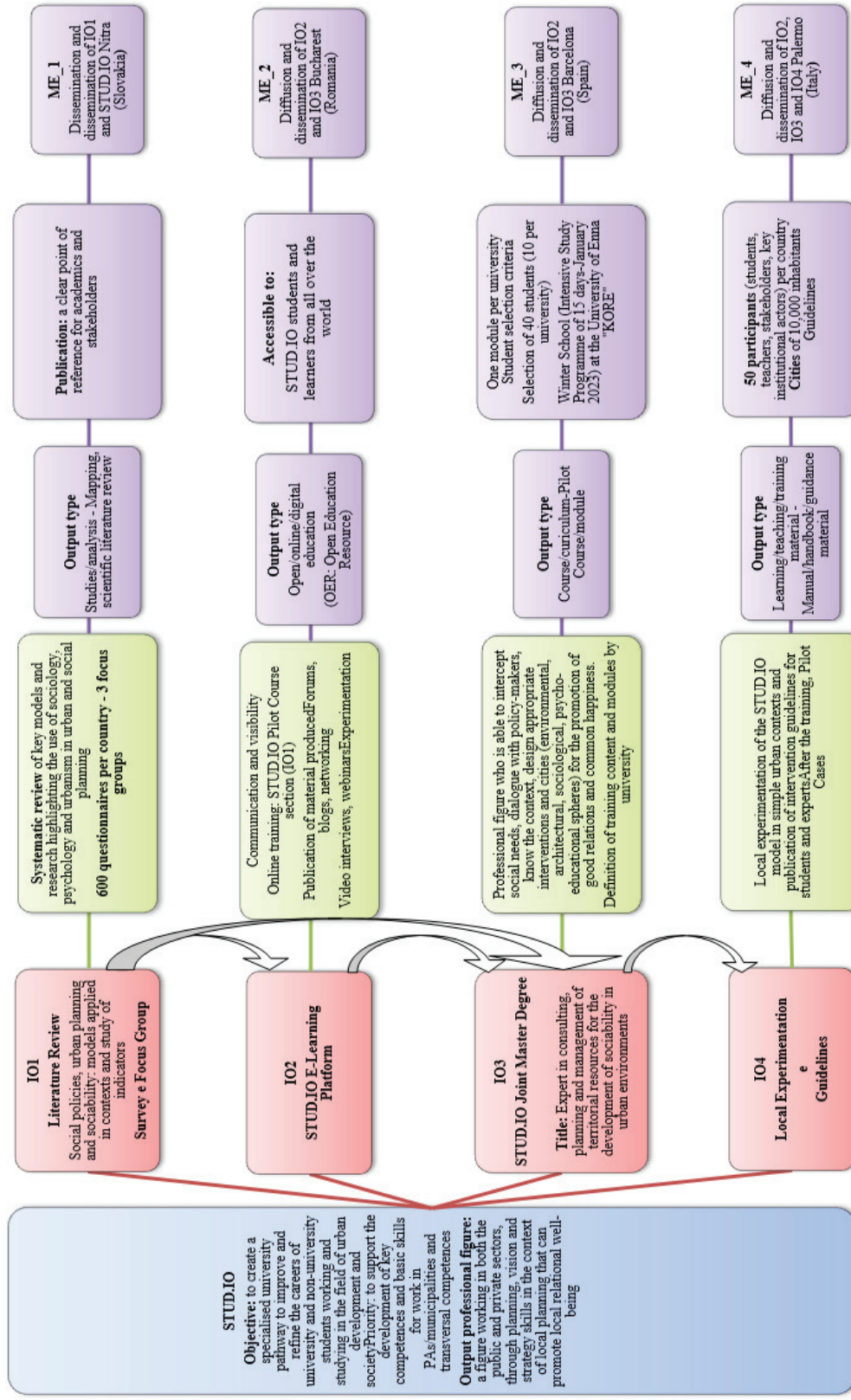
The expert to be trained will therefore have to be a “**promoter of sociability**”, whose profile will have to be defined by the triangulation of several actions that will converge in the identification of fundamental competences in order to carry out this task. These actions are:

1. the **mapping of best practices** in which practices in the field will be selected that exemplify interventions that directly involve individuals in the co-design and regeneration of urban spaces and that create contexts capable of developing individual sociability and that of the territory as a whole.
2. the **analysis of training needs**, aimed at giving voice to the potential recipients of training and to the territorial institutions that will use these figures once trained.
3. the **literature review**, aimed at identifying the key concepts around which the training will be oriented and which will constitute both the basis for the creation of the training contents and a toolbox available to those who are preparing to imagine and plan interventions in the territory.

These actions will have to answer some cognitive questions:

- what has generated virtuous circles of promotion of sociability and consequent development of the sociability of a territory?
- what are the determining factors that facilitate or hinder the generation and maintenance of such processes?
- what are the actions that promote sociability?
- what competencies must a “promoter of sociability” have?

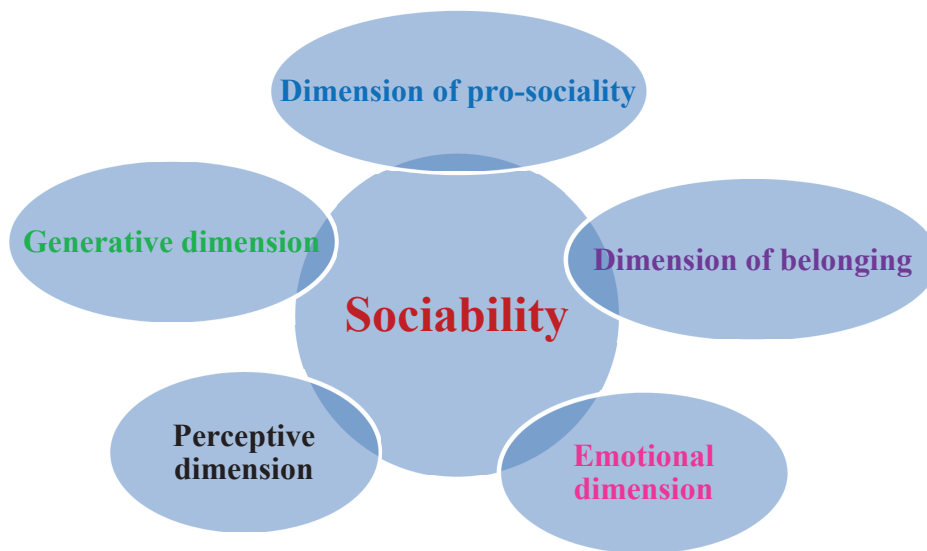
Figure 1 – The four Intellectual Outputs of STUD.IO Project.



In interpreting the concept of sociability, we can identify dimensions which, when properly specified, will help us to identify more concretely the actions to be promoted in the area. Some of these dimensions could be (Fig. 2):

1. the **dimension of pro-sociality**, which includes those behaviours that steer action from individualism vs. collectivism;
2. the **dimension of belonging**, relating to the difference between living in a territory and feeling part of it;
3. the **emotional dimension**, relating to the ability to recognise one's own emotions and needs and the ability to convert them into “expression of a request” and “proposal of solutions”;
4. the **perceptive dimension**, relating to the boundary between public and private, to the recognition of the common good and the way of enhancing and sharing it;
5. **generative dimension**, relating to the capacity to generate and regenerate links.

Figure 2 – Sociability: some dimensions.



The basic idea of the project is that creating **aggregation, participation and civic engagement** settings in which to put into practice actions that develop these dimensions can increase the **sociability** of individuals and produce **well-being** in the territory.

Therefore, the expert that STUD.IO wants to train must be a figure who is able to **supervise** the design and management of these new contexts of sociability and the relational and participatory dynamics that are triggered, **directing the generative processes**. In this sense, the regeneration of urban space becomes the applicative context in which to experiment such processes.

The figure to be trained should therefore be able to:

1. analyse the expressed needs of the territory and bring out the unexpressed ones;
2. analyse the resources and weaknesses of the territory;
3. manage communication and mediate interactions between actors;
4. recognising and enhancing pro-social behaviour within the local community;
5. know the basic elements of urban planning;
6. know the participatory methods that can be implemented to co-design interventions in the urban space and to develop the sense of belonging to the territory and of respect and sharing of the common good.

3. How the book is structured

The book *Promoting sociability in the urban environments* consists of three parts.

The first part presents the analysis of national and European best practices, highlighting the state of the art and innovation proposals (first chapter) and the results of the survey and of the focus groups, with the aim of highlighting the formal needs that emerged by interviewing operators from public administrations and municipalities (second chapter).

The second part presents five systematic reviews, with the aim of proposing the learning fields useful for other STUD.IO Intellectual Outputs and discussing what the expert needs to know to develop sociability in urban space. The systematic reviews refer to the subject areas of each academic partner (i.e. sociological aspects; psychological aspects; urban planning aspects; environmental aspects; the normative aspects), each of which also highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the papers included in the review. Cascino and Severino, starting from a sociological approach and opening up to the interdisciplinary dialogue between sociology and other disciplines (urban planning and psychology), explore the types of social interactions conceptualised with reference to the urban context, how the nexus between social interactions and the urban context is conceptualised and, finally, whether and how this nexus is explained in view of the different ages of the population. Rotărescu and Craparo provide some of the most relevant studies on the relationship between psychology and the environment, developing reflection around various themes, like environmental psychology, environment, and mental health, personal cognition and its relationship with the built environment, place attachment, and migration. Gómez-Escoda and Clua review some of the fundamental contributions in the fields of Urban Planning and Design with the aim of establishing a basic bibliography that links Sociability and City, emphasising the importance of understanding the urban fact based on two complementary aspects: the culture of the cities (history, form, nature), the understanding of urban dynamics (activities, mobility) and the ways of representing the questions related to both groups. Pašová and Bihúňová summarise the knowledge in the field of urban environment and EU environmental law, pointing out the basic definitions and principles of the environment and the basic rules of conduct in the field of urban environment. Finally, Oddo and Barracco summarise the knowledge in the field of Architecture and Urban Planning, pointing out the basic definitions and principles of Smart cities, Human factor, Green urbanism, Urban and sustainability design, Borders and Urban planning.

With the interest of broadening the knowledge approach of the issues related to the STUD.IO project, the third part presents a thematic contribution (Malizia) that approaches the themes addressed in the first and second part of the book, proposing a reflection on order and legality in urban space, describing prevention profiles against deviance.

The conclusions propose some preliminary guidelines that have a dual role: the first is to suggest the learning fields that will be deepened in the Joint Curriculum; the second is drawing preliminary lines of action for the experimentation design of the STUD.IO model in local contexts.

An effort of generalisation, albeit a provisional one, is certainly desirable, starting from the multidisciplinary nature of the contributions in this volume which, as we have frequently reiterated, is based on collaboration and the continuous exchange of information between the members of the various research groups involved. Starting from the competences of each one and from the systematic reviews in the various fields carried out with methodological rigour, one can then imagine an acquisition tending towards the formation of profiles increasingly oriented towards polyvalent visions within increasingly sustainable cities capable of guaranteeing their city users a sociality worthy of being lived with joy.

The book closes the collection of some materials (Appendix A and Appendix B) with the aim of providing the reader with all the necessary tools for a good reading of the text.

First part

Introduction to the empirical part

Marco Marchese¹, Marianna Siino², Salvatore Alagna³

¹ Unione degli Assessorati, m.marchese@unioneassessorati.it

² Unione degli Assessorati, marianna.siino@unipa.it

³ Unione degli Assessorati, s.alagna@unioneassessorati.it

1.1. Goals

The purposes of the research were:

- mapping all the good practices existing in an area about urban regeneration, specifically those involving the area with participatory methods;
- pointing out all the needs of the territory, of its main stakeholders and of the citizens regarding the opportunity to train a professional who could promote sociability and manage the participatory dynamics of the area regeneration.

The attention was focused on some concepts strictly related to the welfare of an area, which are crucial for the training of the expert, i.e. relationship, participation, belonging and sociability.

The cognitive questions on which the research is designed are:

- In the past, what did create virtuous circles of promotion of sociability and consequent development of sociability in an area?
- What are the factors that facilitate or hinder the creation and maintenance of such process?
- What are the actions that develop sociability?
- What are the skills of a “sociability promoter”?

The ultimate goal of the research was to identify guidelines in order to outline a professional figure capable of observing, understanding, mediating and managing the co-designing and planning of actions in the area and at the same time act as a catalyst and a promoter of sociability in the area, which is assumed to be fundamental for both the individual and the area’s welfare.

1.2. Methodological approach

The research has a descriptive and exploratory aim, for this reason a mixed qualitative and quantitative approach has been used, involving three surveys on the field:

- A mapping of good practices
- A small online survey (a total of 409 case in the three countries involved in this WP)
- 3 focus groups (one per country)

The two techniques, the survey and the FG, have been used complementarity in order to investigate the same aspects. The difference between the two approaches lies in the fact that the focus group took advantage of the possibility of relaunching and deepening the introduced topics and comparing different points of view to bring out hidden aspects undetectable by the survey.

1.3. Target for the survey

Different subjects have been involved in the survey in various capacities, both belonging to educational contexts and actively working in daily practice in the area. The involved categories were specifically:

- Students
- Teachers
- Professionals working in the area (city planners, sociologists, psychologists, etc.)
- Policy makers
- Representatives of third sector
- Employees of public administrations

The choice of different profiles of respondents allowed to bring out different points of view on the same topics: teachers and students focused their attention on which should be, under an educational point of view, the skills to teach or learn and, at the same time, provided their point of view as citizens, meanwhile the other figures answered focusing their attention on the concrete needs of the area, on the effectiveness of past actions and the feasibility of the future ones.

Also focus groups involved representatives of the above categories, creating groups as heterogeneous as possible, also for age and gender.

1.4. Survey and method of analysis

The good practices analysed in the mapping phase have been filed using a specific format, that allowed us to obtain the same information for the different realities observed, also including the links for any reader's in-depth analysis.

The data obtained from the survey have been summarised in a data matrix and processed and analysed using the SPSS software.

Focus groups have been entirely recorded, subject to a release from all the involved subjects, and entirely analysed by Unione degli Assessorati. In order to facilitate this procedure it was asked the partners to translate in English the texts of the open questions in the survey and select and translate the most important points of the focus group.

The texts obtained from the survey's open questions and from the focus groups have been analysed mainly using the interpretative method (reporting the most significant excerpts) and using the basic tools of the textual analysis software T-Lab.

1. National and European best practices for the development of *sociability* in the urban context: state of the art and innovation proposals

Marianna Siino

Università di Palermo/Unione degli Assessorati, marianna.siino@unipa.it

Abstract

This chapter analyses relevant national and European good practices in the field of sociability development. In particular, the Union of Departments worked jointly with the project partnership, selecting channels to search for initiatives and projects which, according to predetermined and shared criteria in line with the output objectives, were identified as good practices. For each good practice, areas of intervention and references for further study are identified.

Mapping of “best participatory practices” in urban design and regeneration

Partners were provided with a template to ensure uniformity in the description of the selected practices. It should be noted that not all the fields have been filled in, as initiatives could be more or less structured on the territory.

The initiatives were selected on the basis of certain characteristics they must have:

1. Have directly involved citizens, institutions, organisations, etc. in the design and regeneration phase of urban spaces;
2. Have had an impact on the well-being of the territory, especially concerning the relational dimension, i.e. have produced integration and cooperation and have developed at micro level the pro-social skills of the participants and at macro level the general level of sociability of the territory;
3. Can be considered good practices, as they can be exported to contexts other than the original one.

The choice of best practices was carried out taking into account the following 5 criteria:

1. **Inclusivity**: enabling every citizen, especially the most disadvantaged, to fully participate;
2. **Replicability and adaptability**: having the potential for replication and being adaptable to similar objectives in varying situations;
3. **Effectiveness and success**: achieving results and having a positive impact;
4. **environmentally, economically and socially sustainability**: Meeting current needs, without compromising the ability to address future needs;
5. **Technically feasibility**: being easy to learn and to implement.

The “practices” were selected by ensuring heterogeneity in particular of:

1. The characteristics of the reference context (“at risk” and “non-risk” areas, peripheral/metropolitan areas, high/low population density, etc.);
2. The participatory methodology used
3. The target group involved.

A minimum of five practices per country were selected, distributed equally across the country. Below are the information forms of each selected good practice, ordered by country.

1.1. ITALY

1.1.1. PROJECT 1

<i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i>	Mobility Scouts: Engaging older people in creating an age-friendly environment https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplu-project-details/#project/2016-1-AT01-KA204-016686 http://www.mobility-scouts.eu/
<i>Submitting organization/s:</i>	Lithuania: ASOCIACIJA SENJORU INICIATYVU CENTRAS Germany: ISIS Sozialforschung · Sozialberatung · Politikberatung GMBH Netherlands: Stichting Oudere Vrouwen Netwerk-Nederland (OVN-NL) Italy: LUNARIA ASSOCIAZIONE DI PROMOZIONE SOCIALE E IMPRESA SOCIALE
<i>Objectives:</i>	The overall objective of the project Mobility Scouts is to involve older men and women in decision making processes and enable and empower them to contribute to the creation of age-friendly environments and services as co-producers.
<i>Context:</i>	<p>In 2060, almost one third of the European population will be 65 years or older. Ageing is thus not only an individual but also a societal challenge. And it is a challenge we have to prepare for on time and in many ways. One very important factor is that of participation: The chance to participate in our society at various levels is crucial for an active, meaningful and healthy life in older age.</p> <p>Age-friendliness, that means accessible and available services and environments, is obviously a major prerequisite for participation. Public authorities and service providers are responsible for and profit from making their services and public spaces more accessible to all – including older citizens and customers. Older people as experts of their own life know best how services and public spaces should be designed and organised to meet their needs. They want their voices be heard, their experiences be acknowledged and their skills be actively used and valued.</p>
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older men and women, who are interested in becoming active as Mobility Scouts and in initiating a co-production process involving older citizens, local authorities and services. • Older men and women, who are interested in making their voices heard and contributing to make their living environment more age-friendly. • Local stakeholders (e.g. local authorities, policy makers, companies, service providers, social actors), who are

	interested in involving older men and women in improving their services and public spaces.
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities, :</i>	<p>The project Mobility Scouts was implemented through the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European research on the status-quo of active citizenship of older people in creating an age-friendly environment in partner countries and other EU countries. • Elaborating and implementing a training: Based on a joint curriculum in each partner country, older men and women will be trained as Mobility Scouts and initiate co-production processes in their living environment. • Publications: Organisations and local authorities obtain low-threshold information on co-producing age-friendly environments with older people in the Sensitization Handbook for Stakeholders. The Toolkit for Practitioners will be an excellent basis for organisations and persons working with older people and interested in supporting them in initiating and implementing a co-production process. • An online training course enables people interested in participating as Mobility Scouts in regions, where no Mobility Scouts Training is offered. The Online Training Course offers learning units, guidelines for practical implementation and descriptions of co-production projects.
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	Start: 01-10-2016 - End: 30-09-2018
<i>Methodology:</i>	As “agents of change” Mobility Scouts brought together older citizens and local authorities and service providers to cooperate in the development of age-friendly environments and services. They implemented mobility projects based on the local specificities, their own and their cooperation partners’ interests. Mobility Scouts e.g. acted as intermediaries, collected feedback of older citizens on their living environment, possible problem areas, public buildings and senior-non-friendly offers and forwarded them to the relevant institutions (e.g. planners, companies, local authorities, municipal departments). Informal and more direct as well as anonymous possibilities for all citizens have been developed and implemented: e.g. round tables, guided walks, living room meetings, surveys. Furthermore, Mobility Scouts also organized activities to support others to stay and become active and participate in social life. Some target groups (e.g. older people with dementia) were given a special infrastructure and support to leave their homes and get involved.
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	Men and women who want to get active as Mobility Scouts, experts, stakeholders and citizens who want to contribute to age-friendly communities.

<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	The Mobility scout is a facilitator in participatory processes. Skills needed by Mobility Scouts are: Motivation and ability to motivate; ability to be empathic and communicate; creativity; self-esteem and not being afraid of dealing / negotiating with representatives of local authorities and companies responsible for local services.
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	In total 67 men and women between 49 and 94 years attended the trainings and initiated more than 20 mobility projects. Mobility Scouts involved approx. 450 older men and women in surveys, round tables, living room meetings, trainings and activities. Furthermore, a high number of relevant stakeholders were involved as interview partners, guest speakers at the training or cooperation partners of Mobility Scouts. 213 stakeholders took the chance to attend the National Networking Events organized by project partners in close cooperation with Mobility Scouts. On EU level, due to the cooperation with AGE Platform Europe, governmental organizations, policy makers and interest groups have been regularly informed on the project and outcomes.
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	----

1.1.2. PROJECT 2

<p><i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i></p>	<p>La città intorno https://lacittaintorno.fondazionecariplo.it/programma-obiettivi/ https://participedia.net/case/6801</p>
<p><i>Submitting organization/s:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fondazione Cariplo is the funder ● Municipality of Milan is a strategic partner and with them a collaboration agreement has been signed to promote the development of some city areas, experimenting actions marked by social inclusion and sustainability. ● DAStU is the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of Milan Polytechnic. It provides support for the program with an interactive territorial research path, producing cognitive and strategic frameworks relating to the context of intervention. ● Around a dozen other active partners have provided an organizational contribution or mobilized resources for the realization of events or actions related to the overall project
<p><i>Objectives:</i></p>	<p>La città intorno aims to promote the well-being and the quality of life; it advances local communities through cultural, artistic and debate activities, as well as social cohesion and economic development. It aims to make the neighborhoods a theater for different audiences, including other urban areas. This project aims to widen the social and economic borders of the area, and stimulate creativity to imagine new city geographies.</p>
<p><i>Context:</i></p>	<p>The reference area is that of Milan, the area in which the Cariplo Foundation operates. Precisely the areas involved in the project are 4 suburban districts of the municipality, located north-east (Adriano and Via Padova) and south-east (Corvetto and Chiaravalle) in the center.</p>
<p><i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i></p>	<p>Citizens, third sector, institutions, companies, cultural nomads, students. The union of these multiple actors is aimed at increasing and improving the services and functions in the neighborhoods, laying the foundations for social and economic growth of the neighborhood itself.</p>
<p><i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities, :</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase services and functions in neighborhoods, improving spaces to stimulate the protagonism of communities; ● Opening of PuntoCom, community point, as an open and plural, multifunctional center of gravity; ● Strengthen trade, shared gardens and vegetable gardens of neighborhoods, and pastry shops, in order to open new spaces and commercial activities. Facilitate workshops for children, to open horizons by working right on the neighborhood;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote the protagonism of communities in regeneration processes; ● Provide a rich and varied 'cultural diet' by getting the public back to different, varied tastes: public readings, neighborhood cinema, condominium library, music festivals, streets and buildings such as open-air museums, places where you can find unexpected flavors and foods; ● Promote the development of new city geographies; ● The "quartieri intorno" ("neighbourhoods around") will host cultural, artistic and debate activities aimed at different audiences and not only aimed at local residents. The goal is to transform their territories into new centers of attraction and stimulus for all other neighborhoods. ● Involve the identified targets
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	2017 – 2021
<i>Methodology:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Qualitative interviews: The informal conversation includes 24 questions divided into four specific narrative dimensions: The history of the subject within the territory; The relationship developed by the subject towards the territory; The description of the territory from within; The representation of the territory to the city; ● Workshops / co-design laboratories. Led by facilitator and designers (architects/town planners), the participants acted with the help of maps, drawing material, and images, in order to discuss and elaborate plans, objectives, and project actions; ● Community maps: can be considered the formal result of a participatory process, through which a group or network of groups discover that they share certain solid values (fixed and solidarity points, not liquid ones) and a perspective, a sense, a direction (what to do with those values in the future) to the point of calling themselves communities (valueholder network); ● Walkshop: These were group walks in which qualified witnesses meet who propose a narration of the context with which the group can converse.
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	Subjects selected according to criteria of relevance for the project and among different types of actors; active subjects in the territory for each neighborhood; members of associations, local committees, bodies contributed.
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	6 members of the DATSU research team.

<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	Most of the target actions of the course are carried out or in progress. Overall, 140 events/micro-actions have been activated by the project to date. In Corvetto, the PuntoCom is already active.
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	Most of the target actions of the course are carried out or in progress.

1.1.3. PROJECT 3

<p><i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i></p>	<p>Switch. Reuse of abandoned spaces. New ideas to change perspective https://www.progettoswitch.it/metodologia-riuso-spazi-e-partecipazione/ https://participedia.net/case/5192</p>
<p><i>Submitting organization/s:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Order of Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects and Conservators of the Province of Imperia, is officially the creator and promoter of the path; ● The Municipality of Imperia is the main collaborator of the project, in particular in identifying the real estate on which to activate the experimentation. <p>Many sponsorship events received, including the Liguria Region, the Province of Imperia, the Liguria Chamber of Commerce, trade organizations, professional associations, Anci Liguria. There are also numerous and important sponsors : Confindustria Imperia, banks and local businesses.</p>
<p><i>Objectives:</i></p>	<p>Switch aims to regenerate the abandoned heritage of Liguria through the temporary reuse of assets and the active participation of local territories.</p>
<p><i>Context:</i></p>	<p>Imperia is a Ligurian city born in 1923 from the administrative merger of the municipalities of Oneglia and Porto Maurizio. The latter was an important port in the past, thanks to the flourishing oil and pasta production. These activities have undergone a technological transformation, for which the former customs warehouse SALSO. The Order of Architects of Imperia, creator of the temporary reuse project, has initiated a dialogue and shared with the municipal administration the intent to make the ex-SALSO building a first place of experimentation of participatory urban regeneration.</p>
<p><i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i></p>	<p>Territorial actors, Citizens, third sector, institutions, companies, local community in general.</p>
<p><i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities, :</i></p>	<p>First act – professional refresher course which saw the participation of 22 architects. As part of the course, the group then involved some representatives of the Municipality, the port authorities and the Customs Office. This is how the Switch project group was formed</p> <p>Second act – temporary reopening of the former Salso depot – event open to the public. Many, among the many visitors, showed interest in joining the laboratory of ideas and various people, associations, schools and businesses contacted the SWITCH group to collaborate.</p> <p>Act three and act fourth – Workshops of ideas. It was an initiative open to all interested parties where, in addition to the possibility of visiting the spaces, it was possible to attend round tables (mayor,</p>

	public administrators, promoters, experts) on the theme of participation and urban regeneration
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	2016 – 2017
<i>Methodology:</i>	<p>During the events, structured with the Open Space Technology (OST) method, the participants were invited to propose ideas and projects for the reuse of the asset (permanent and temporary) on the themes of culture, work and training. For the construction of the proposals, the participants were supported by the architects and facilitators of the SWITCH group and by experts from the world of architecture, culture and economics. At the conclusion of the OST, the Instant Report with the report of the work carried out was produced and delivered to the participants and the institutions.</p> <p>Open Space Technology (OST) is a collaboration method that takes place in meetings and can involve as few people as a few thousand. It is based on the self-organizing abilities of the groups, aggregated on the basis of interests and stimuli, launched by the participants themselves. The first phase is plenary, introduced by the general question (prepared by the conductors) and by the solicitation to the participants to present topics for discussion, synthetically and with a short exposition. The proposals are collected on the notice board of the OST to which all participants can then subscribe. Then we move on to work in groups. Participants are encouraged to behave as free from patterns and labels as possible. A rule is the maximum freedom of movement, from one group to another, moreover there is the possibility of isolating oneself (without being considered eccentric) or going to the buffet when you want and maybe meeting there with others. A self-produced synthetic report is requested for each group. In the case of Imperia, the architects-facilitators of the Switch group and expert guests joined the tables created spontaneously.</p>
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	More than ninety citizens, professionals, organizations and associations engaged in the fields of culture, training, work, education, production and local excellences have signed up for the laboratory bringing ideas, proposals and skills.
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	Architects of the SWITCH group
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	From the press review monitored on the Switch project website it emerges that the initiatives have actually started and have largely been carried out. This involved the dismantling of silos and other plants not suitable for safe public use, as well as the renewal of plants and spaces and general set-up.
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	not available

1.1.4. PROJECT 4

<p><i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i></p>	<p>Neighborhood Contract I – Livorno</p> <p>This practice is reported as an example of a line of intervention for urban regeneration promoted by public institutions. The Neighborhood Contracts represent the most significant line of activity initiated by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility in the field of urban renewal, in support of those urban areas considered inadequate for lack of infrastructure and reduced urban quality.</p> <p>They were launched in various Italian municipalities starting in 1998 with a first program and then confirmed with a second program in 2002.</p> <p>https://www.mit.gov.it/progetti/contratti-quartiere</p>
<p><i>Submitting organization/s:</i></p>	<p>Municipality of Livorno, on ministerial funding for experimental subsidized housing interventions.</p> <p>In addition to state financing, the program included a confluence of public and private financial resources of different origins, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● regional funds ● own funds of the Municipal Administration ● private financing for the realization of interventions within the area of the Neighborhood Contract.
<p><i>Objectives:</i></p>	<p>Priority objective of the program is to trigger, with particular reference to the settlements of public housing, processes of transformation of those areas neglected by the operations of urban restructuring for the lack of interest of real estate operators, overlapping measures oriented to the increase of employment and the reduction of social discomfort.</p> <p>The Program is articulated in a series of interventions of an urban - building, economic and social nature. As a matter of fact, it can be considered constituted by three Projects that integrate each other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Urban Project, which defines the characteristics of the interventions and aims to improve the overall environmental conditions with new services and physical rehabilitation of buildings and open spaces; special attention is paid to quality and innovation according to criteria of sustainability and usability by the disabled; ● the Scientific Project, which defines the areas of innovation and experimentation, a characteristic element of the Neighborhood Contract, and aims to ensure the morphological quality, where experimentation is carried out through a "neighborhood laboratory" and a program of involvement of the inhabitants in the animation of outdoor spaces; the ecosystemic quality, with the aim of identifying types of buildings with high energy efficiency and thermo-acoustic; the fruitive quality aimed at realizing types of home automation housing;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Social Project aimed at improving the living conditions of the neighborhood.
<i>Context:</i>	<p>Corea neighborhood, located in an area to the north of the city characterized in the 1990s by high building density and a lack of services and infrastructure.</p> <p>The program is part of a wider urban regeneration strategy that includes an area of intervention that extends from the Old Fortress, in the heart of the historic center, to the popular neighborhoods of Shangay and Corea in the northern quadrant of the city. This area represents a vast area in which the situation of physical and social degradation imposed the need to intervene through the integration of public and private resources.</p>
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	Citizens of the northern districts of Livorno.
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities, :</i>	<p>The interventions in which the Urban Project is articulated are the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interventions of Public Housing Experimental Subsidised (100 housing + 2 home automation) through the demolition reconstruction of the block "E", assisted by Ministerial funding; subsidised residential building interventions through the recovery of existing buildings (44 lodgings) and the urban restructuring of an entire block (31 lodgings); construction of a civic center; realisation of a commercial center; pedestrian square, parking lots and green areas; urbanisation works extended to the entire neighbourhood.
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	On October 3, 2000 , the Convention was signed with the Ministry then of Public Works for the implementation of the Neighborhood Contract I. The interventions lasted for more than ten years .
<i>Methodology:</i>	<p>The Program included the use of participatory methods of citizen involvement, in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the Experimental Neighborhood Laboratory, with the aim of carrying out a series of activities directed at documenting the changes taking place in the Corea Neighborhood, following the redevelopment, and creating a "historical memory" of the neighbourhood itself (creation of the website "Corea Cambia" and publication of the Neighborhood Bulletin); the laboratory, in addition to being used as a tool for information, management and monitoring of transformations, had the objective of involving citizens in the various phases of planning, implementation and management of interventions, not only urbanistic. the "Open Yard", with the aim of involving the inhabitants of the neighbourhood in a series of cultural activities that generate

	social interaction, such as: theatre workshops, workshops of expression for children, workshops on video projections, music workshops, cultural meetings and performances in urban spaces.
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	Citizens of the northern districts of Livorno.
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	NO
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	The project aimed to fill a major gap that the neighbourhood had, namely the lack of open spaces and places of social aggregation. The opening of the experimental neighbourhood laboratory, also intended as an information desk and front office, within a neighbourhood subject to a major urban redevelopment, was a strong and very specific signal that the City Council wanted to send to residents, for a better and direct response to individual and collective problems, for the detection of housing and environmental needs.
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	The individual intervention programs mentioned are part of a more general strategy of redevelopment of the urban context included in the Local Master Plan. Neighbourhood Contract I followed a defined program and was followed by Neighborhood Contract II. It seems that in the latter a participatory methodology was not used, but the requalification of other areas of urban space that insist on the same territory has created additional social spaces in which to activate processes of re-appropriation of the territory.

1.1.5. PROJECT 5

<p><i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i></p>	<p>ZengradoZero – Palermo https://associazionehandala.org/progetti/zengradozero/ https://www.facebook.com/zengradozero/ This practice was selected as an example of a local project promoted by private associations with a strong local presence.</p>
<p><i>Submitting organization/s:</i></p>	<p>Proponent: Associazione Handala Partner: Associazione SudTitles</p>
<p><i>Objectives:</i></p>	<p>The priority objective of the project is to recognize the spontaneous interventions of residents as the basis for future transformations and promote their emergence. In this way it is possible to nourish the public dimension, creating a space other than the closed and private one of the house and encouraging the birth of possible places and not only physical, in which to meet, recognize themselves and where, through the introduction of furniture elements, citizens can share alternative moments to everyday life. ZENgradoZERO is a pilot project that aims to create a shared platform between community, associations and local authorities. The goal is to free the neighborhood from harmful stereotypes and propose actions that restore dignity to living.</p>
<p><i>Context:</i></p>	<p>The ZengradoZero project is located in a specific context, the San Filippo Neri neighbourhood, known as ZEN2, built in the extreme northern outskirts of Palermo. The neighbourhood is separated from the rest of the urban area by the road belt that surrounds it and clearly delimits its boundaries and is divided in half, also from a demographic point of view, between ZEN 1 and ZEN 2. In particular, the ZEN 2, designed in 1969 by a group of architects coordinated by Vittorio Gregotti, was born in the early eighties and looks like a homogeneous set of buildings, called insulae. The history of ZEN is also the history of its “stigmatization”. Since its origins, it has become one of the symbolic neighbourhoods of the condition of the suburbs in Italy.</p>
<p><i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i></p>	<p>Local community</p>
<p><i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities, :</i></p>	<p>The ZENgradoZERO project is an urban regeneration project of peripheral places, winner of the Creative Living Lab II edition (2019) call promoted by the General Directorate for Contemporary Creativity and Urban Regeneration of MIBACT. The ZengradoZero project took place among the courtyards of the insulae (interstitial spaces designed as common spaces) with the intent to analyze how they are experienced and investigate how the limit between private and common space is perceived by the residents themselves.</p>

	<p>In this way we want to bring out a new form of use that enhances the collective property and gives value to spontaneous actions that manifest a constructive impulse and planning.</p> <p>One of the first actions of the project was to identify and survey, through a photographic mapping, the “elements” of urban and domestic furniture. These “elements” have been ordered in abacuses, a modality that allows a visual cataloguing of form and content, in which constructive elements, domestic elements, street furniture, common spaces are included. The abacuses have been divided into three types: the “zero space”, that is the unused areas, the courtyards of the insulae (that is the residential blocks that make up the complex) with interventions of vital re-appropriation, sometimes excessive, by the inhabitants, and the house.</p> <p>The theme of collective space, represented by the courtyard of the insula, allows to experiment new forms of social aggregation through its temporary occupation, through two actions: the self-building of the chairs (elements of identity furniture of the neighborhood), to temporarily occupy the spaces of the insulae, and the realization of the cinema arena.</p>
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	The project began in September 2019 and ended in July 2020.
<i>Methodology:</i>	The local community was actively involved as the protagonist of spontaneous actions in the area. As a concrete and participatory action, an experimental workshop of self-construction of the folding chair was held, symbol of conscious occupation of public space
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	Promoter associations, local community, multidisciplinary team of experts (social workers, architects, photographers, videomakers and cultural operators).
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	NO
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	ZENgradoZERO, starting from the observation of the practices spontaneously implemented by the residents of the Zen district, from their interventions of transformation of the spaces to the search for solutions to their needs, has created an instrument of analysis of the territory that speaks of spaces and houses, but also of emergencies, desires, comparisons and aggregation .
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	ZENgradoZERO continues to hold together languages, practices and processes, continues to tell the story of the Zen neighborhood with new words. The instances that emerged from the tables have determined a new scenario in which to act in order to activate a concrete transformation of the neighborhood, starting from the profound

revision of the building regulations, more in keeping with the mapped reality; this can only happen with the involvement of the institutions.

This can only happen with the involvement of the institutions. So a dialogue with the Social Housing Agency of the Municipality of Palermo and the IACP, owner of the housing, has been initiated, just to see what solutions are feasible.

Zen Grado Zero has the ambition to go further, experimenting a transformation of the neighborhood towards energy sustainability, activating a major urban regeneration plan through actions that, starting from below and with the support of institutions, can finally transform Zen into an innovative model of neighborhood.

1.1.6. PROJECT 6

<i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i>	Workshop Tactical Urbanism with Mike Lydon - SASSARI Topic: Scalable, short-term and low-cost policies and interventions for the shared construction of a city project https://tamalaca.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Report_TU_WS_SS.pdf
<i>Submitting organization/s:</i>	TaMaLaCà Spin Off and research laboratory for the city of rights Department of Architecture, Design and Urbanism University of Sassari
<i>Objectives:</i>	To show the application methods and potentialities of Tactical Urbanism , an approach for the involvement of inhabitants in urban regeneration processes at neighbourhood scale that uses short-term, low-cost and scalable spatial interventions and policies.
<i>Context:</i>	Potentially any context in which there is a need for redevelopment of urban spaces that responds to the expressed needs of those who live in them.
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	The workshop involved a group of about 50 people with different skills and roles : architects and urban planners, local administrators, urban policy experts, cultural and social workers, teachers.
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities:</i>	This is the first workshop on the Tactical Urbanism approach organized in Italy. TaMaLaCà defined the methodological approach used and the content in close collaboration with Mike Lydon, urban planner, head of the Street Plans Collaborative (http://www.street-plans.com/) and co-creator of the Tactical Urbanism approach. The workshop included two activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the first part of the workshop, assumptions, goals, and tools of the approach were introduced, including through the description of several internationally developed case studies; • in the second part, citizens were directly involved in a process of construction of tactical actions, oriented on 5 predefined themes/places, considered particularly interesting as case studies.
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	October 2016
<i>Methodology:</i>	The participatory methodology included the division into working groups and the use of two techniques: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Whys: method that allows to explore the cause-effect relations of a determined problem. The objective is to

	<p>identify the "root cause", the deep cause of the problem, asking the question "Why?" five times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 48x48x48: each group was asked to build, starting from the "root cause" of the problem, identified in the previous phase, 3 possible tactical actions, consistent with each other, to be carried out respectively in 48 hours (very short term), 48 weeks (medium term) and 48 months (long term) and to identify, for each, the actors to be involved and how to carry out the intervention.
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	Workshop participants and expert
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	---
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	<p>The use of this approach has potential impact on multiple fronts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● it can provide public administrators with a way to follow to implement good practices quickly; ● it can create the conditions for citizens to re-appropriate and promote change in public spaces of proximity; ● it can provide those who promote urban transformation interventions with a means of testing the effectiveness of the solutions they intend to adopt; ● it can show to design collectives a fast way to promote the quality of urban contexts and experiment the regeneration of spaces with the direct involvement of local communities.
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	not available

1.2. ROMANIA

1.2.1. PROJECT 1

<i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i>	aerLIVE https://aerlive.ro/
<i>Submitting organization/s:</i>	Centrul pentru Politici Durabile Ecopolis și Fundația ETA2U, in partnership with OPTAR, 2Celsius, and Observatorul Român de Sănătate
<i>Objectives:</i>	<p>The platform aims to collect and publish data about the air quality in Bucharest. The aerlive.ro network started with 10 fixed stations and 2 mobile ones, located in relevant locations in Bucharest. The data obtained from the 10 sensors will be transformed in an Air Quality Indicator.</p> <p>The participatory character of the project consists in the citizens' involvement in the air quality measurement process through the "Adopt a Sensor" campaign. Through the online platform, the project team distributed, starting with February 2020, 30 individual sensors to the citizens that wish to adopt a sensor and to maintain it for a period of at least 18 months. The data collected will be added in real time to the aerlive.ro platform.</p>
<i>Context:</i>	Bucharest doesn't have a functional air quality measurement network managed by the Environment Protection Agency. The 8 stations located in Bucharest and Ilfov are not reliable and measure selectively the air quality. This is why the organizations decided to manage the air quality measurement sensors' platform, to provide the information to the citizens, and to involve the citizens in the process.
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	30 citizens that will adopt a sensor. The population of Bucharest as they will benefit from the data collected.
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities:</i>	The implementation of 10 sensors by the associations involved. The adoption and maintenance of 30 sensors by citizens. Collection and publication of the data of the sensors on the platform aerlive.ro.
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	2020 – present.
<i>Methodology:</i>	The technical methodology used is described in detail here: https://aerlive.ro/senzori-de-masurarea-calitatii-aerului-uradmonitor-industrial/ .

	The project also relies on participatory methods for citizen involvement, that aim to involve the citizens in adopting and maintaining air quality measurement sensors.
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	Inhabitants of Bucharest, NGOS and public authorities (Centrul pentru Politici Durabile Ecopolis și Fundația ETA2U, OPTAR, 2Celsius, and Observatorul Român de Sănătate).
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	N/A.
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	Impact on both individual (added responsibility to the people who will adopt and maintain a sensor) and collective well being of the overall population of Bucharest.
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	The network of sensors will have a long term sustainability, especially through the implication of citizens and the intended involvement of local authorities.

1.2.2. PROJECT 2

<i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i>	CATALOG BUCUREȘTI https://catalogbucuresti.info/
<i>Submitting organization/s:</i>	ARCEN
<i>Objectives:</i>	<p>The project aims to be the biggest data base about the conservation of the buildings in the historical neighbourhoods of Bucharest that illustrate the city's problems, the buildings' vulnerabilities, but also represent the basis for new regulations for the good of the citizens and the authorities.</p> <p>Catalog București is the first complete inventory of all buildings (new, old, under constructions, or empty lots) found on the streets of all the 98 areas that are protected in Bucharest. The data collected will be used as support to identify the problems and vulnerabilities of the city and to propose real solutions for the future of Bucharest. This project aims to start a debate and a rigorous analysis of the legislation regarding the protection and development of 98 historical areas in Bucharest.</p>
<i>Context:</i>	Catalog București is a project that was developed by ARCEN as a response to the lack of initiative of the public institutions regarding the urban heritage of Bucharest, but also due to the fast paced speed at which the cultural landscape of the protected areas is being altered.
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	Inhabitants of Bucharest and local authorities.
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities:</i>	<p>Development of an inventory of 49 protected areas that sum up data collected and analysed by experts, for over 6000 buildings.</p> <p>Development of 13 best practices handbooks for 13 protected areas, that were delivered to the inhabitants and the communities in those areas.</p> <p>Development of a single online interactive platform (catalogbucuresti.info), that is available to the public and it is updated daily.</p> <p>Media campaign to promote the project (TV, radio, online and print)</p> <p>Facilitating the dialogue between public institutions and the organization of 3 public events regarding urban heritage, urban development and community participation.</p> <p>Delivery of statistics regarding Calea Moșilor, one of the most important historical venues of Bucharest.</p>

<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	2017 – present.
<i>Methodology:</i>	Participatory methods for experts and citizen involvement. Statistical data generation. Mass-media communication.
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	Urban experts, architects, NGOs (ARCEN), professional associations (OAR), public institutions (National Heritage Institute), inhabitants.
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	N/A
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	High impact for both the inhabitants of the targeted areas of Bucharest, but also for communities, and public institutions.
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	not available

1.2.3. PROJECT 3

<i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i>	Parcul Natural Văcărești https://parcnaturalvacaresti.ro/en/
<i>Submitting organization/s:</i>	Asociația Parcul Natural Văcărești
<i>Objectives:</i>	<p>The Văcărești Natural Park Association (VNPA) developed the project with the aim of establishing the Văcărești Natural Park. The project aimed to place under the protection of the law and administer, according to ecological principles, an oasis spontaneously formed over 25 years in the center of Bucharest. The campaign involved a group of environment protection experts and activists made out of the inhabitants of Bucharest.</p> <p>The project wishes to promote and to preserve the largest green area of Bucharest, to promote environment education, while at the same time offering opportunities of recreation in a wild area in the center of the capital city. Alongside other partners they intend to produce scientific research of the area and the consolidation of the exchanges of experience in the protected area management may continue.</p>
<i>Context:</i>	<p>During three decades a large area of 1.840.000 square meters developed on the basin of the former lake Văcărești. During this time a large variety of wildlife started appeared and developed in the area. However, this was endangered by real estate interests. Even before 2012, a citizen initiative that later took legal shape in Asociația Parcul Natural Văcărești, in 2014, aimed to pressure the authorities to declare the area a protected one, and eventually a natural park.</p>
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	Residents of Bucharest.
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities:</i>	<p>In 2013, on the basis of the substantiation Study, the Romanian Academy, through the Natural Monuments Committee, approved the set up of the protected natural area.</p> <p>The members of the initiative group conducted continuous and transparent lobbying, through the means specific to the participatory civic intervention: photography exhibitions, conferences on environment protection and urbanism themes, volunteer field actions, the distribution of brochures and other informative materials, public communication on the social networks. The public communication actions were joined by numerous work meetings with public officials or high dignitaries from the Ministry of the Environment, the General Mayor's Office and the district mayor's offices.</p>

	<p>The Văcărești Natural Park Association (VNPA) was established in 2014 by a group of specialists in nature protection and the management of protected areas, who developed the project with the aim of establishing the Văcărești Natural Park.</p> <p>Another participatory sub-project developed was “The birds of the city”, a program for monitoring the birds in the Văcărești Nature Park. The program includes activities of assessment of the bird species, the identification of each individual species' status , the monitoring of the populations' dynamics and the use of the habitats, the organizing of bird-watching tours and visitation of the main types of habitats for various bird species. The project also includes citizen participation in the activities. Thus, the project team mobilized a group of 10 volunteers who go to the park on a regular basis, in order to conduct observation and monitoring activities.</p>
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	<p>In 2013, on the basis of the substantiation Study, the Romanian Academy, through the Natural Monuments Committee, approved the set up of the protected natural area.</p> <p>In 2016, the Văcărești Nature Park, the first urban nature park in Romania, was established by Government Decision no. 349/2016.</p> <p>The project is ongoing and continuously aims to promote and to preserve the area, to promote environment education, to offer opportunities of recreation in a wild area in the center of the capital city.</p>
<i>Methodology:</i>	<p>Participatory civic intervention. Lobbying.</p>
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	<p>Citizens, NGO (APNV), Bucharest Municipality's Mayor's Office, other institutions with experience in nature preservation, research, environment protection, ecological reconstruction.</p>
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	<p>N/A.</p>
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory:</i>	<p>High impact for the residents of Bucharest, as well as environment protection of the biodiversity in the park.</p>
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	<p>Long-term sustainability planned.</p>

1.2.4. PROJECT 4

Name of project/action/intervention/practice:	La Terenuri-Spațiu Comun în Mănăștur (Cluj-Napoca) https://colectiva.ro/proiecte/la-terenuri/
Submitting organization/s:	Asociația Colectiv A.
Objectives:	<p>The initiative La Terenuri-Spațiu Comun în Mănăștur was developed in 2012 as an artistic intervention in Mănăștur neighbourhood, the area La Terenuri, by Asociația Colectiv A. After the actual intervention in the green area the next objective was to develop a civic community initiative that aimed to be an Urban Laboratory for learning about the community, similar practices, urban constant tests, urban gardening, debates, cultural events, workshops for children and youth, and other activities that were aimed to raise the social and cultural responsibility for the neighbourhood, but also of the authorities regarding the green areas and the communal spaces for the citizens.</p> <p>Besides the aforementioned objectives, the project aimed to consolidate an initiative group for the neighbourhood, the only one in the city of Cluj-Napoca. The aim of all these activities is to bring into debate the sustainable future of contemporary cities. The methodology used was participative action research that helped the co-creation of urban change in the activities that involved the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, as well as in the transfer of knowledge and practices to the active citizens. After seven years of work the activities were handed over to the initiative group in order to organize other events and activities for the communities.</p>
Context:	<p>The area La Terenuri is the largest green area of the largest block of flats neighbourhood in Cluj-Napoca, Mănăștur. During the socialist regime there was a project that aimed to transform it in a park, however for two decades after the fall of the socialist regime the area was left abandoned by the authorities, with several lawsuits that claimed rights to the property. With the support of a growing number of residents of the neighbourhood, numerous events started taking place there to show the vital role of the area for the community. The Cluj Municipality started listening to the complaints and requests of the citizens, following several petitions, debates, public consultations that pressed for the transformation of the area in a park.</p>
Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):	Inhabitants of the Mănăștur neighbourhood, and to the larger population of city of Cluj-Napoca.
Short description of priorities, topic and activities:	<p>Seven editions of the Days of the Mănăștur (Zilele Mănășturului) were organized, as well as other cultural events.</p> <p>Dozens of gardening, urban furniture construction workshops</p>

	<p>An urban stage that was build solely for the neighbourhood and the local talents</p> <p>Over 200 local and international artists were involved in the activities</p> <p>Over 70 local and international architects, urban landscapers, sociologists etc were involved</p> <p>A book release: „cARTier. Intervenții periferice”, April 2017, IDEA Publishing house</p> <p>Four editions of the Mănăștur newspaper (Buletin de Mănăștur) were printed and distributed.</p>
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	The initiative La Terenuri-Spațiu Comun în Mănăștur was developed in 2012. In 2019, the activities were taken over by the neighbourhood local initiative group.
<i>Methodology:</i>	Participative action research.
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	Asociația Colectiv A, alongside citizens (community facilitators, architects, volunteers) and a local initiative group.
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	Yes
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	High local impact in the neighbourhood.
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	Long-term sustainability as the project was handed over to the Mănăștur local initiative group.

1.2.5. PROJECT 5

<i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i>	CIIC – Centrul de Inovare și Imaginație Civică (Center for Civic Innovation and Imagination) in Cluj-Napoca https://primariaclujnapoca.ro/cetateni/centrul-de-inovare-si-imaginatie-civica/
<i>Submitting organization/s:</i>	Cluj-Napoca Municipality
<i>Objectives:</i>	<p>Under the slogan „Imaginăm viitorul orașului!” (We imagine the future of our city!), Centrul de Inovare și Imaginație Civică aimed to be established as a permanent laboratory in which various forms of collaboration between the urban actors could flourish. Every inhabitant of the city could bring his/hers idea or initiative for debate regarding the modernisation and development of the city on various components like: from urban mobility to Smart city, or cultural and artistic projects to aspects pertaining to social development.</p> <p>CIIC aims to bring together the citizens’ initiatives in an organized setting in which they can be analysed and debated alongside experts. The goal of CIIC is to encourage the participation and involvement of the citizens in the development of the city of Cluj, as well as to better use the creative resources of the community.</p> <p>By adopting this model of organizing debates, the authorities try to consolidate the community cohesion and to empower the citizens as important actors that are actively involved in the urban changes of their city.</p>
<i>Context:</i>	In 2017, Cluj-Napoca Municipality established the a inaugurat Centrul de Inovare și Imaginație Civică (Center for Civic Innovation and Imagination). The first debate had as a topic the future of a park cu (Parcul Feroviarilor) and aimed to find solutions for its rehabilitation.
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	Inhabitants of the city of Cluj-Napoca, local authorities.
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities:</i>	The center organized debates, round tables, contests for best ideas for urban improvement, in which citizens and experts found solutions for the rehabilitation of the public spaces. The topics the citizens are invited to bring their ideas are: architecture, urban mobility, urban cultural life. The debates bring together between 100 and 350 citizens who share their ideas with specialists. Furthermore, a virtual community of over 5000 people was created around the center. The center also organizes international contest for finding urban solutions.

<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	2017 – present.
<i>Methodology:</i>	Participatory methods for citizen involvement in urban development.
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	Cluj-Napoca Municipality, inhabitants, specialists in urban regeneration and urban planning, artists, IT&C experts etc.
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	N/A.
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	High local level impact for the population of Cluj-Napoca and its various communities.
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	As developed by the Cluj-Napoca Municipality, with the constant involvement of the citizens, the initiative has long-term sustainability.

1.3. SLOVAKIA

1.3.1. PROJECT 1

<i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i>	Modernization of bus stops in Brezno
<i>Submitting organization/s:</i>	The city of Brezno
<i>Objectives:</i>	Increasing the attractiveness and competitiveness of public passenger transport services.
<i>Context:</i>	<p>The city implemented the modernization of bus stops, including bus stop shelters, as well as modifications to the platforms and installation of barrier-free elements in accordance with Technical Regulations 10/2011 – debarrierization measures for persons with limited mobility and orientation on roads.</p> <p>As part of the improved safety measures and within the project, a pedestrian crossing was designed for the area near the bus stop „M. Benka“ at the intersection of the driveway and the existing sidewalk, which was illuminated by the proposed public lighting.</p> <p>As part of the project, the bus stop lanes have been modified and widened in order to increase road safety.</p> <p>The implementation of the project increased the parameters of the existing infrastructure in terms of quality and safety, improved the access of residents with limited abilities as well as the aesthetic level of perception of this location. The bus transport lines intersect the place of implementation and connect the residential area with the main integrated centre of the bus, rail and non-motor transport.</p> <p>The project is in accordance with the strategic documents of the city, Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region, SR and the EU, especially with GC IROP – reinforcement of competitiveness of the region through development of knowledge-based economy and developing the region attractive for life, TC – 7, IP – Strengthening regional mobility.</p>
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	Residents of the city, all users of public bus transport on selected lines
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities:</i>	<p>The aim of the project was to increase the attractiveness and competitiveness of public passenger transport in the city of Brezno.</p> <p>The main activity was the modernization of public passenger transport stops, which was fulfilled by the modernization of two stops at the place of implementation:</p>

	1) Májového povstania českého ľudu (street), 2) Martina Benka (street), which are located in the Mazorníkovo residential area- the largest residential area in the town of Brezno.
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	March 2020 – May 2020
<i>Methodology:</i>	The application for a non-repayable financial contribution was duly prepared and submitted by the project managers of the Brezno Municipal Office.
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	N/A
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	N/A
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	Well-being of the inhabitants of a particular territory
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	Long-term sustainability strategy

1.3.2. PROJECT 2

<i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i>	Revitalization of the city forest – Borina in Nitra
<i>Submitting organization/s:</i>	The city of Nitra
<i>Objectives:</i>	Improving the environmental aspects of cities and urban areas by building elements of green infrastructure and adapting the urban environment to climate change, as well as introducing systemic elements to reduce air and noise pollution.
<i>Context:</i>	The subject of public procurement is the implementation of the work in accordance with the project documentation. The project was implemented in the city of Nitra in the area of so-called Borina with a predominant black pine vegetation in the southeastern part facing the Čermán district. The owner of the plots on which the project was implemented is the city of Nitra and the plots are classified as forest land. There are also bike path areas, paved areas and buildings. In terms of the structure of urban greenery, the area is the main stabilizing component of the framework of ecological stability of the city. In terms of use for residents it has a great potential to be used for spending free time in the natural environment in the immediate contact with the residential complex Klokočina and Čermán. The main objective of the proposal was to increase the environmental quality of the area and existing tree vegetation and the attractiveness of the forest environment for general public for the purpose of relaxation, sports and short-term recreation. At the same time the area represents a unique section of the city's history related to the Turkish War of the 15th to 17th centuries.
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	general public – the inhabitants of the city, visitors to the forest
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities:</i>	New trees and intervention in vegetation achieved natural species composition and formation of vegetation within the principles of natural forest regeneration. It has also contributed to ecological stability of residential greenery and improvement of biodiversity and microclimate in the built-up area of the city.
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	October 2019 – September 2020
<i>Methodology:</i>	The application for a non-repayable financial contribution was duly prepared and submitted by the project managers of the city of Nitra.

<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	N/A
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	N/A
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	Well-being of the inhabitants of a particular territory
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	Long-term sustainability strategy

1.3.3. PROJECT 3

<i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i>	Building elements of green infrastructure – City Park in Nitra, part of the New Park
<i>Submitting organization/s:</i>	The city of Nitra
<i>Objectives:</i>	Improving the environmental aspects of cities and urban areas by building elements of green infrastructure and adapting the urban environment to climate change, as well as introducing systemic elements to reduce air and noise pollution. The main goals of the project were to increase the environmental quality and attractiveness of the City Park in Nitra for general public.
<i>Context:</i>	The area of focus was a part of the city park in Nitra – New Park located between the building of the former PKO and the area of the summer swimming pool Sihot'. The main objectives were to increase the environmental quality and attractiveness of the park for general public; at the same time to present the individual components of nature in an original and engaging form to spread awareness and help develop a positive attitude of visitors towards nature; utilize new plantings, especially herbs in the form of nature-friendly meadow forms with limited mowing to increase the water retention function of the area and improve the quality of existing woody plants to contribute to the ecological stability of greenery and improve the microclimate in the built-up area. An important task of the project was to increase the quality of existing woody plants by proposed interventions and new plantings. Benches and public lighting were also added and replaced and surfaces of part of the communication network were repaired.
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	The general public – residents of the city and its visitors
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities:</i>	The main activities of the project were: restoration of existing woody plants, planting of herbaceous stands, construction of the communication network, replacement and adjustments to public lighting, small architecture and artistic elements, benches, adjustments to the playground.
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	18 months
<i>Methodology:</i>	The application for a non-repayable financial contribution was duly prepared and submitted by the project managers of the city of Nitra.

<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	N/A
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	No
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	Welfare of the inhabitants of a particular territory, collective welfare
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	Long-term sustainability

1.3.4. PROJECT 4

<i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i>	Revitalization of the campus of the University of Prešov to improve the quality of the urban environment
<i>Submitting organization/s:</i>	University of Prešov
<i>Objectives:</i>	Improvement of the environmental aspects of cities and urban areas by building elements of green infrastructure and adapting the urban environment to climate change, as well as introducing systemic elements to reduce air and noise pollution.
<i>Context:</i>	<p>The aim of the submitted project was to implement a set of activities to improve environmental aspects in the urban environment, to revitalize the university campus with an emphasis on building the elements of green infrastructure and to implement measures to reduce air and noise pollution.</p> <p>The total paved area was reduced, the drainage of rainwater from public space was removed, the water element of the fountain was added and new plants were added.</p>
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	General public – university students, city residents
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities:</i>	<p>The project implemented measures to reduce noise and dust in the urban environment and measures to reduce air pollution. It expanded and strengthened ecosystem services (ecostabilization, production, cultural, hygienic and others) through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● implementation of measures to reduce noise in the urban environment by the implementation of terrain waves and planting of greenery, ● natural landscape features such as flower meadows, ● urban elements of small architecture (benches, litter-bins, bicycle stands), ● greening of exposed places (planting of perennials), ● introduction of special rainwater management by changing part of the existing asphalt areas to areas covered by vegetation and connection of paved areas with the surrounding greenery.
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	March 2018 – December 2018

<i>Methodology:</i>	The application for a non-repayable financial contribution was duly prepared and submitted by the project managers of the University of Prešov.
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	N/A
<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	N/A
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	Well-being of the inhabitants of a particular territory
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	Long-term sustainability

1.3.5. PROJECT 5

<i>Name of project/action/intervention/practice:</i>	Reconstructin of the courtyard at the Dionýz Štúr residential area in Sered'
<i>Submitting organization/s:</i>	The city of Sered'
<i>Objectives:</i>	Improving environmental aspects in cities and urban areas through the construction of elements of green infrastructure and the adaptation of the urban environment to climate change as well as the introduction of systemic elements to reduce air and noise pollution.
<i>Context:</i>	The aim of the project was to reduce dust and noise and to improve the functionality of adjacent green areas and roads so that they aesthetically, operationally and functionally meet the requirements for a modern exterior with a dominant function of short-term recreation and at the same time respect the environmental aspects. The stated goal of the project contributed to the fulfillment of Priority Axis No. 4, Investment Priority No. 4.3 and Specific Objective 4.3.1. The area is located in Sered', on D. Štúra street near busy roads. The area borders with apartment buildings on Pažitná Street, parking lot, polyfunctional complex and a road. Civic amenities site is also included.
<i>Target (direct or indirect beneficiaries):</i>	Residents of a specific territory, city
<i>Short description of priorities, topic and activities:</i>	The set goal was achieved through the implementation of the main activity, which was the revitalization of spaces between residential areas using elements of green infrastructure, which falls under the eligible activity under specific objective 4.3.1 of the IROP, namely Regeneration of inner blocks of settlements with the application of ecological principles of creation and protection of greenery.
<i>Timing of implementation:</i>	May 2018 – October 2018
<i>Methodology:</i>	The application for a non-repayable financial contribution was duly prepared and submitted by the project managers of the city of Sered'.
<i>Figures involved in participatory processes:</i>	-

<i>Presence of a facilitator:</i>	N/A
<i>Impact at the local level (both on individual and collective well-being and on sociability of the territory):</i>	Well-being of the inhabitants of a particular territory
<i>Short/long-term sustainability:</i>	Long-term sustainability

2. Analysis of the territory's needs: most relevant findings of the survey and focus groups

Marianna Siino

Università di Palermo/Unione degli Assessorati, marianna.siino@unipa.it

Abstract

This chapter presents the results obtained through field research activities, in particular a survey conducted in the partner countries and focus groups carried out with experts and stakeholders identified from the experiences analysed on the ground.

The chapter provides a contextualisation of the main conceptions and definitions of sociability in the contexts of work and interest. Starting from basic information on the collection tools used, the chapter delves into the key elements for the definition of a figure who has the key skills to read the contexts from the sociological, psychological, urban planning and environmental points of view.

Keywords: Sociability; Experimentation; Focus Group.

2.1. The results of the survey addressed to teachers, experts, administrators and policy-makers

The survey was submitted through a Google Forms questionnaire. The information obtained from the questionnaire was summarised in a data matrix and processed and analysed with the support of the statistical data processing programme SPSS.

The questionnaire used was semi-structured, i.e. with multiple-choice and open-ended questions. The presence of open-ended questions also allowed to detect points of view that had not been considered during the instrument construction phase, especially in view of the fact that the definition of situations, horizons of meaning and semantic universes could have been different from country to country.

The questionnaire was divided into four areas:

1) **Basic information** (gender, age, educational qualification, residence): this area was aimed at defining the respondent according to his/her basic socio-demographic characteristics.

2) **Citizens' needs and well-being:** this area was aimed at investigating what is the citizen's perception of well-being, the factors considered relevant to achieve it, and their most relevant needs. And on this background to understand how important the relational aspect (which is what sociability is about) was considered.

3) **Citizen participation:** this area was aimed at understanding how participation and belonging to a territory were considered fundamental, on the assumption that sociability also develops from a sense of belonging to a territory. The more a citizen is involved, the more he or she feels as part of a community. In particular, we tried to bring out experiences in this sense, especially related to the field of participatory planning of actions on the territory, the same field of application of the project in general, and of the mapping of good practices specifically.

4) **Development of sociability:** This area aims to provide a bottom-up definition of sociability and what actions should be promoted to develop it. With the purpose of identifying the skills that the expert to be trained should have.

2.1.1. Socio-demographic characteristics of the sample

Questionnaires were submitted from 01/07/2021 to 31/10/2021 in three of the STUD.IO partner countries: Italy (160), Romania (40) and Slovakia (209).

A total of 409 questionnaires were collected. It should be noted that it is not a statistically representative sample as, given the heterogeneity of the subjects involved, it would have been difficult to reconstruct the entire reference universe. The results obtained are not generalisable and do not have explanatory purposes, but they do provide, together with the qualitative in-depth study and the mapping of existing practices, a sufficient empirical basis to explore the widespread perception with respect to the project topics.

A snowball sampling was therefore used, starting from the network of organisations involved and including only certain categories of respondents.

At the end of the submission, the respondents were broken down as follows (see chart 2.1): the most represented categories were policy makers (24.69%) and representatives of the private social sector (22.25%), slightly less present were teachers (19.32%) and professional figures working on the territory, i.e. sociologists, town planners, psychologists, etc. (19.32%). In addition to these significant 'slices' there are less relevant percentages of students (8.80%) and public employees (5.13%).

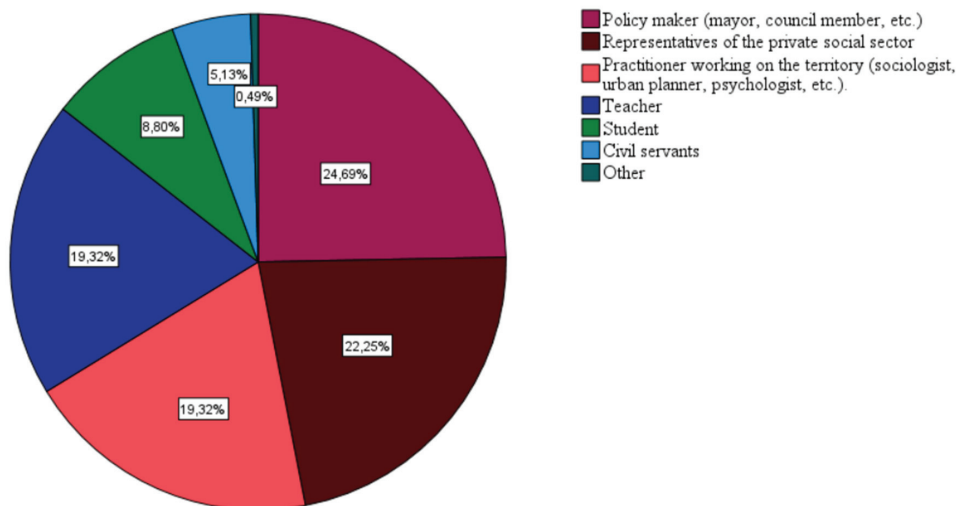


Chart 2.1 – Category of respondents

If we look at the details by country (see table 2.1), we can see that policy makers are absent in Romania and more present in Italy, professionals are almost absent in Slovakia and more present in

the other two countries, students and teachers are absent in Italy and more present in the other two countries compared to the presence in the total number of respondents. The same applies to the small percentage of public employees.

Tab. 2.1 – Category of respondents by countries

	Italy	Romania	Slovakia	Total
Policy maker (mayor, council member, etc.)	37.5	0	19.6	22.2
Representatives of the private social sector	25.0	22.5	20.2	19.3
Practitioner working on the territory (sociologist, urban planner, psychologist, etc.)	37.5	30.0	3.3	19.3
Teacher	0	20.0	34.0	8.8
Student	0	20.0	13.4	5.1
Civil servants	0	2.5	9.6	0.5
Other	0	5.0	0	22.2
Total	160	40	209	409

The majority of respondents (59.4%) are female (see table 2.2), a percentage which rises to 75.0% for Romania and a few points for Italy (62.5%), and falls for Slovakia (54.1%). The average age (see table 2.2) is around 41/42 years, slightly higher in Italy (c. 44) and lower in Romania (c. 34).

Tab. 2.2 – Sex and mean age of respondents by country

	Italy	<i>Mean age</i>	Romania	<i>Mean age</i>	Slovakia	<i>Mean age</i>	Total	<i>Mean age</i>
Female	62.5	47.60	75.0	32.53	54.1	39.42	59.4	41.94
Male	37.5	39.00	25.0	38.70	45.9	43.16	40.6	41.39
Total	160	44.38	40	34.07	209	41.14	409	41.71

The majority of Italian and Slovakian respondents have a university degree (62.5% and 48.3% respectively) and a significant percentage has a post-degree qualification (25.0% and 33.6% respectively), which is possessed by the majority of the Romanians (60.0%). The remaining percentage (ranging from 12.5% in Italy to 17.5% in Romania) holds a high school diploma (see table 2.3).

Tab. 2.3 – Qualification of respondents by country

	Italy	Romania	Slovakia	Total
High school diploma	12.5	17.5	16.7	15.2
Degree	62.5	22.5	48.3	51.3
Post-degree	25.0	60.0	33.6	32.8
Other	0	0	1.4	0.7
Total	160	40	209	409

The majority of Italian (75.0%) and Romanian (82.5%) respondents live in una città with more than 50.001 inhabitants (see table 2.4), while the majority of Slovakian respondents (74.1%) live in a city with less than 50.000 inhabitants.

Tab. 2.4 – Demographic size of the respondents' city by country

	Italy	Romania	Slovakia	Total
Lower than 10.000 inhabitants	0	10.0	35.8	19.4
Between 10.001 and 50.000 inhabitants	25.0	7.5	38.3	30.1
Over 50.001 inhabitants	75.0	82.5	25.9	50.5
Total	160	40	209	409

2.1.2. Citizens' needs and well-being

The second area of the questionnaire was dedicated to the definition of well-being. Interviewees were asked to select three words that in some way were associated with the word well-being for them. 85.5% of the respondents answered. Table 2.5 shows the words that occur at least ten times.

Tab. 2.5 – Occorences of words associated to the word “well-being”

Lemmas	Occorences
<i>Health</i>	71
<i>Service</i>	67
<i>Safety</i>	59
<i>Comfort</i>	22
<i>Environment</i>	21
<i>Life</i>	21

<i>Infrastructure</i>	19
<i>Quality</i>	13
<i>Access</i>	13
<i>Care</i>	10

The most frequently recurring word is 'health' (71), which refers to the physical/psychological dimension of well-being, the one connected to the state of health. This dimension can also be found in the use of the word 'care' (10). The second most frequently recurring word, "service" (67), and the words "infrastructure" (19), "environment" (21), but also the possibility to have "access" (13), refer to a more material dimension, connected to what the environment provides the individual to guarantee his or her well-being. The word 'safety' (59) calls into question one of the basic needs in Maslow's pyramid, the need for security. "Comfort" (22) and "quality" (13) suggest a well-being that goes beyond the bare necessity. The word "life" (21), which connects well-being to the broader concept of quality of life, could not be missing. Below (chart 2.2) the word cloud in which the words indicated by the respondents are represented: the more a word was used, the larger the font in the chart.



Chart 2.2 – Words associated to the word “well-being”

Further confirmation that physical well-being is considered essential is also evident from the answers to another question in this first area of the questionnaire. Specifically, respondents were asked to rank in order of importance 8 aspects relevant to the well-being of an area.

The rankings in the three countries show some differences (see table 2.6):

- In Italy we find in first place *'Adequate social and health care for frail persons'*, while in the other two countries this aspect is ranked seventh;

- “Safe and usable public spaces for play and recreation” is placed second and third respectively for Italian and Slovakian respondents, but is eighth for Romanians;
- Romania and Slovakia rank respectively in first and second place the need for “Specialised figures acting as intermediaries between the needs of the citizens and the interventions on the territory”, placed sixth by Italian respondents;
- “Cooperation between institutions in the area” and “Citizen participation in decision-making processes” are placed in intermediate positions (third/fourth/fifth) for all three countries;
- “Economic support for ‘vulnerable’ groups” is placed third for Italian respondents, but in last place for Slovaks and sixth for Romanians.
- Slovak and Romanian respondents attribute a relevant position (first and second place respectively) to “Initiatives/events that develop sociality”, while Italy attributes it the last place;
- Finally, the communication dimension (“Clear and transparent communication between institutions and citizens”) is considered among the least important in all three countries (seventh place for the Italians, fifth for the Romanians and sixth for the Slovaks).

Tab. 2.6 – Ranking of the aspects considered most relevant to your area by country

	Total	Italy	Romania	Slovakia
Adequate social and health care for frail persons	1	1	7	7
Safe and usable public spaces for play and recreation	2	2	8	3
Specialised figures acting as intermediaries between the needs of the citizens and the interventions on the territory	3	6	1	2
Cooperation between institutions in the area	4	4	3/4	5
Citizen participation in decision-making processes	5	5	3/4	4
Economic support for “vulnerable” groups (children, foreigners, elderly, disabled, people in poverty, etc.)	6	3	6	8
Initiatives/events that develop sociality	7	8	2	1
Clear and transparent communication between institutions and citizens	8	7	5	6

We can observe two different perceptions of the conditions that would improve the well-being of one’s local area: on the one hand Italy is more focused on material aspects, such as healthcare, economic support, safe and usable spaces, on the other hand Romania and Slovakia seem to give priority to sociality, the actions aimed to develop it and the figures that promote it.

<i>Possibility</i>	12
<i>Community</i>	12
<i>Actively</i>	12
<i>Institution</i>	11
<i>Service</i>	10

Another important association highlighted in the answers is in fact that of "involvement" (13) and active ("actively" – 12, but also "activity" – 20) "participation" (13) in the "development" of the territory, as highlighted above, and in the process of "decision making" (28). At the basis of the sense of belonging there is the recognition of the existence of a 'community' (12) which should be protected by the 'institution' (11).

Here are some sample answers:

“Participating in the life of the territory” (Italy – Policy maker – Male – 41 years)

“Actually and actively participate” (Italy – Representative of the private social sector – Female – 59 years)

“To be able to participate actively in the life of the community and to be constantly informed by the institutions about what is happening in the territory” (Romania – Practitioner working on the territory – Female – 38 years)

“To be integrated in the community, to have the possibility to express their opinion in the decisions that affect their territory” (Romania – Teacher – Female – 37 years)

“To be present at essential and important decisions take within the territory development” (Slovakia – Teacher – Male – 55 years)

So, citizens feel they belong to a territory if they feel protected by the institutions, informed and can to participate in the community’s decisions-making process and its development, and this contributes to their well-being:

“To be part of the territory is an essential condition for being content and to keep living in the territory” (Slovakia – Student – female – 20 years)

To the question *“How should citizens be involved in the management of their territory?”*, 59.7% of respondents (see chart 2.4) answered *“They must actively participate in all stages of the decision-making processes affecting their territory”*, this percentage rises to 67.9% for Slovaks and falls to 55.0% for Romania and to 50.0% for Italy (see table 2.8).

How should citizens be involved in the management of their territory?
Only in a specific phase or in all of them?

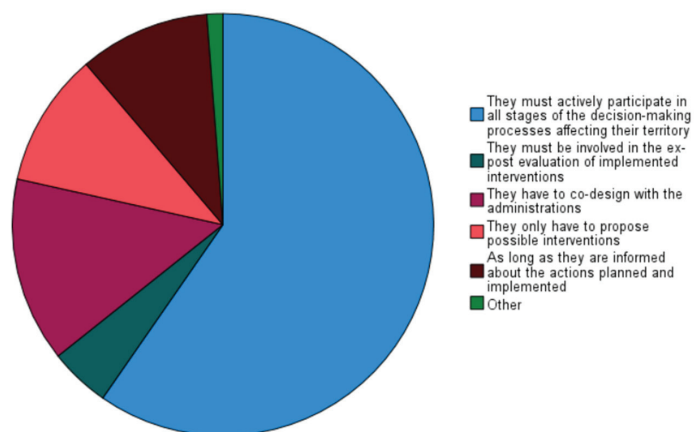


Chart 2.4 – Citizen involvement

A significant share of Italian respondents, in fact, converges on the answer "They have to co-design with the administrations" (percentage higher by more than ten points compared to the percentage on the total of respondents, i.e. 14.3%). A significant percentage of Romanians (20.0% against 10.3% of the total respondents) support another partial involvement mode ("They only have to propose possible interventions").

Tab. 2.8 – Citizen involvement by country

	Italy	Romania	Slovakia	Total
As long as they are informed about the actions planned and implemented	12.5	7.5	8.6	10.0
They only have to propose possible interventions	12.5	20.0	6.7	10.3
They have to co-design with the administrations	25.0	7.5	7.2	14.2
They must be involved in the ex-post evaluation of implemented interventions	0.0	2.5	8.6	4.6
They must actively participate in all stages of the decision-making processes affecting their territory	50.0	55.0	67.9	59.7
Other	0	7.5	1.0	1.2
Total	160	40	209	409

In the same thematic area, respondents were asked to define participation. Below (chart 2.5) a word cloud showing the words used in the answers to this question.



Graphic 2.5 – Words Cloud about participation

In the list of lemmas used to define the term 'participation', among those with the highest number of occurrences (see table 2.9) there are some of the words also used to define 'feeling part', such as 'territory', 'development', 'participation', 'decision-making'. We also find new words, such as "process" or "propose".

Tab. 2.9 – Most frequent words in the definition of “participation”

Lemmas	Occurrences
<i>Territory</i>	24
<i>Development</i>	19
<i>Decision-making</i>	24
<i>Partecipation</i>	12
<i>Process</i>	12
<i>Activity</i>	11
<i>Propose</i>	10
<i>Citizen</i>	10
<i>Project</i>	10
<i>Plan</i>	10

The dimension of proposing and promoting is repeatedly called into question in the answers to this question.

“To be a promoter of initiatives and collaborate in their implementation” (Italy – Policy maker – female – 53 years)

“To identify problems, propose solutions and disseminate them” (Italy – Practitioner working on the territory – Female – 49 years)

“To be able to propose initiatives that improve community life and to have visibility on how to implement them” (Romania – Practitioner working on the territory – Female – 37 years)

Generally speaking, the definition of 'feeling part' almost overlaps with that of 'participation', emphasising again the importance of being active and being able to cooperate in deciding the strategies to implement for the development of the territory.

“To belong to a territory, to be active and have possibility to cooperate on decisions” (Romania – Practitioner working on the territory – Female – 31 years)

A more frequently used word in this case is 'citizen', emphasising the centrality of the citizen, with his wishes and his needs, with respect to the development of the territory.

“The citizen will be perceived as an active element of territory planning and development” (Slovakia – Teacher – Male – 56 years)

“To be able to express the needs, wishes, requirements the citizen wants to transfer to territory development” (Slovakia – Representatives of the private social sector – Female – 31 years)

62.5% of Italian respondents declare to know of examples of participatory planning, but this percentage drops to 40.0% for Romania and 13.9% for Slovakia (see table 2.10).

Tab. 2.10 – Direct or indirect experiences in participatory planning

	Italy	Romania	Slovakia	Total
No	37.5	60.0	86.1	64.5
Yes	62.5	40.0	13.9	35.5
Total	160	40	209	409

In the same thematic area there were two more questions in which respondents were asked to report some experiences in their territory in which citizens had been actively involved and to give an assessment. 59.9% of respondents reported concrete local examples of activities of design, planning or management of the territory that in some way involved citizens, but that we are not going to report because they were only briefly mentioned and not sufficiently described. But this question was aimed to focus the respondent's attention on the next one, i.e. the strengths or weaknesses of such experiences.

Only 54 answers were recorded to this second question, which generally confirm the importance of communication between the administration and citizens, the need to inform citizens and to make the actions in the area sustainable. Below some of the answers:

“It was successful that the people involved live and work in that area. The openness of the administration to listen to citizens could be improved” (Italy – Practitioner working on the territory – Female – 49 years)

“The dialogue between citizens and public administration was successful. Too much bureaucracy failed” (Italy – Policy maker – male – 41 years)

“Common interests brought people together, but they should work on maintaining them after these events, to be integrated in our daily lives” (Romania – Student – female – 19 years)

“Positive impact was definitely the possibility for citizens to be involved in work groups of commissions, and public discussion” (Slovakia – Policy maker – male – 48 years)

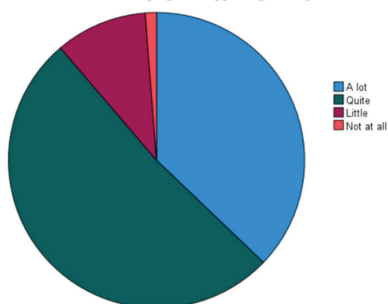
“Marketing should be improved, not all citizens know about above mentioned initiatives” (Slovakia – Student – female – 24 years)

2.1.4. Sociability and well-being of the territory

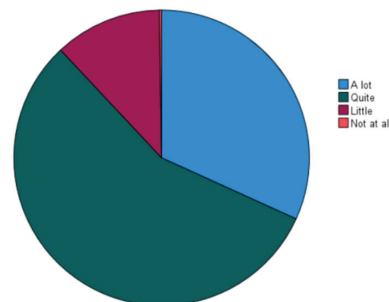
The last thematic area was dedicated to potential actions aimed at improving the well-being of citizens and the development of the area. Respondents were first proposed a sequence of actions on which they were asked to express their opinion: *“How much can the following actions increase the well-being on an area?”*.

The action that scored the highest percentage (52.3%) on the 'a lot' mode (see chart 2.6 and table 2.11) was *“Encouraging citizens' participation in the design and urban regeneration of their territory”*, which once again highlights the importance of citizens' participation.

How much can the following actions increase the well-being of an area?
[Developing pro-social behaviours, i.e. all those behaviours oriented towards helping and supporting others]



How much can the following actions increase the well-being of an area?
[Nurturing citizens' sense of belonging to their local area]



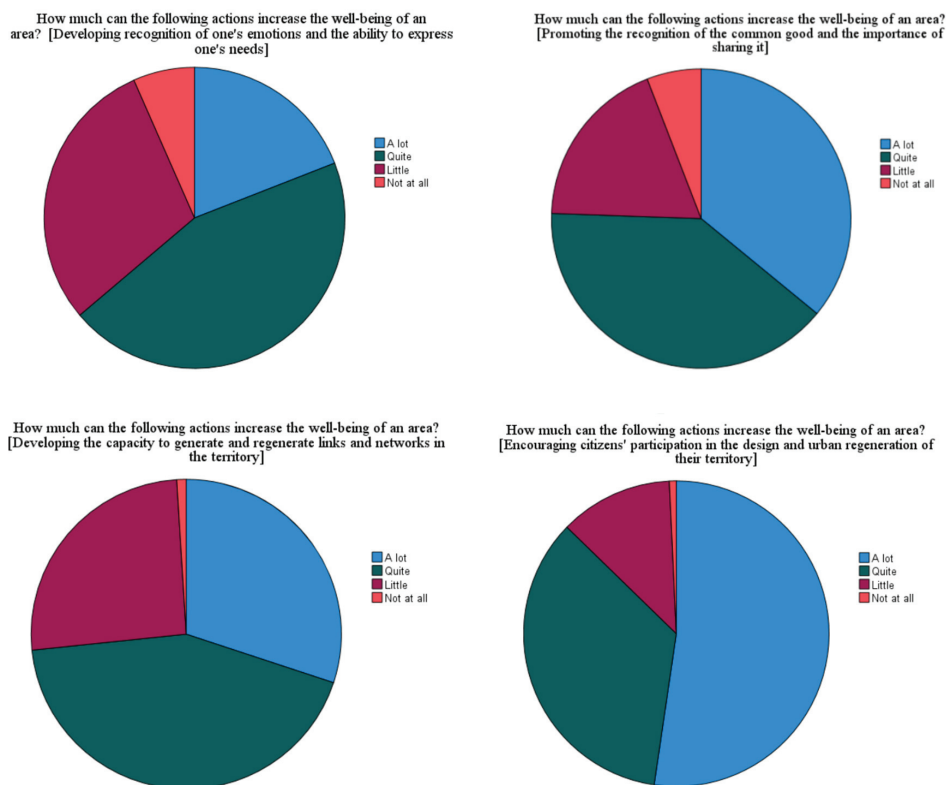


Chart 2.6 – Actions to increase the well-being of an area

The one that scored the highest percentage on the 'not at all' mode (19.1%) was the item on the emotional dimension (“*Developing recognition of one’s emotions and the ability to express one’s needs*”). If we consider the two modalities “quite” and “a lot” together, the participative dimension is still one of the most important with 87.3% of preferences, preceded by the pro-social dimension (“*Developing pro-social behaviours, i.e. all those behaviours oriented towards helping and supporting others*” – 88.8%) and by the dimension connected to the sense of belonging to the territory (“*Nurturing citizens’ sense of belonging to their local area*” – 88.0%).

Tab. 2.11 – Actions to increase the well-being of an area by countries

		Italy	Romania	Slovakia	Total
Developing pro-social behaviours, i.e. all those behaviours oriented towards helping and supporting others	<i>Not at all</i>	0.0	5.0	1.4	1.2
	<i>Little</i>	12.5	5.0	9.1	10.0
	<i>Quite</i>	37.5	35.0	65.6	51.6
	<i>A lot</i>	50.0	55.0	23.9	37.2

Nurturing citizens' sense of belonging to their local area	<i>Not at all</i>	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.2
	<i>Little</i>	12.5	12.5	11.0	11.7
	<i>Quite</i>	62.5	62.5	50.2	56.2
	<i>A lot</i>	25.0	22.5	38.8	31.8
Developing recognition of one's emotions and the ability to express one's needs	<i>Not at all</i>	12.5	10.0	1.4	6.6
	<i>Little</i>	37.5	15.0	26.3	29.6
	<i>Quite</i>	37.5	47.5	49.8	44.7
	<i>A lot</i>	12.5	27.5	22.5	19.1
Promoting the recognition of the common good and the importance of sharing it	<i>Not at all</i>	12.5	2.5	1.4	5.9
	<i>Little</i>	12.5	0.0	26.8	18.6
	<i>Quite</i>	25.0	45.0	49.8	39.6
	<i>A lot</i>	50.0	52.5	22.0	35.9
Developing the capacity to generate and regenerate links and networks in the territory	<i>Not at all</i>	0.0	7.5	0.5	1.0
	<i>Little</i>	25.0	10.0	29.2	25.7
	<i>Quite</i>	37.5	40.0	48.3	43.3
	<i>A lot</i>	37.5	42.5	22.0	30.1
Encouraging citizens' participation in the design and urban regeneration of their territory	<i>Not at all</i>	0.0	7.5	0.0	0.7
	<i>Little</i>	12.5	17.5	10.5	12.0
	<i>Quite</i>	25.0	40.0	41.6	35.0
	<i>A lot</i>	62.5	35.0	47.8	52.3
Total		160	40	209	409

These are followed the dimension connected to sharing and the common good ("*Promoting the recognition of the common good and the importance of sharing it*" – 75.5%), the relational dimension ("*Developing the capacity to generate and regenerate links and networks in the territory*" – 73.4%)

and the dimension connected to the expression of needs and emotions ("*Developing recognition of one's emotions and the ability to express one's needs*" – 63.8%). There are few differences between the countries involved in the survey (see table 2.11):

- Italian respondents give less importance than the average to the expressive-emotional dimension (only half are on the 'quite' and 'a lot' modes against the 63.8% of the total of respondents) and more importance to the relational dimension (82.5% against 73.4% of the total of respondents);
- Romanian respondents seem to give less importance to the dimension of pro-sociality (81.0% on the 'quite' and 'a lot' modes against the 88.8% on the total of the respondents), to that of participation (75.0% against 87.3%) and to the relational dimension (61.3% against 73.4%), whereas give more importance to the dimension of sharing and valorization of the common good (97.5% against 75.5% on the total of the respondents) and to the dimension related to emotions and expression of needs (75.0% against 63.8%);
- Slovakia seems to be rather in line with the average distribution on the total of the respondents, except for the higher importance given to the emotional dimension (72.3% against 63.4%).

Generally speaking, it can be stated that the majority of respondents (percentages in all three countries above 70.0%, except for the emotion-related dimension, slightly lower but still above 50%) confirmed the importance and necessity of encouraging all the proposed actions. This data was further confirmed by another question in the same thematic area, concerning the skills considered useful for a potential expert in local regeneration related to the previous actions. Respondents were asked to give a score ranging from 0 (no relevance) to 5 (highest relevance) to the 5 proposed profiles corresponding to the same number of skills. It emerged that (see table 2.12) the figure considered most useful was "*A spatial analysis expert who studies the context in detail*", ranked first for Italy and Romania and second for Slovakia, which instead ranked first "*A communication expert who can manage relational dynamics*".

The latter figure was placed second for Romania but fourth for Italy, which instead placed in second place "*An expert in mediation and conflict resolution*". This last figure is in third place for Romania and Slovakia. Italy places in third place "*An expert in urban design*", which we find in fourth place for the other two countries. All three countries agree on the last place given to "A psychologist who can bring out the needs of the citizen".

Tab. 2.12 – Which figure could facilitate the encounter between citizens' needs and planned interventions?

	Total	Italy	Romania	Slovakia
A spatial analysis expert who studies the context in detail	1 (3.72)	1 (3.88)	1 (3.73)	2 (3.61)
An expert in mediation and conflict resolution	2 (3.49)	2 (3.50)	3 (3.53)	3 (3.47)

A communication expert who can manage relational dynamics	3 (3.44)	4 (2.75)	2 (3.55)	1 (3.95)
An expert in urban design	4 (3.27)	3 (3.13)	4 (3.37)	4 (3.35)
A psychologist who can bring out the needs of the citizen	5 (3.00)	5 (2.62)	5 (2.87)	5 (3.32)

Again, the 5 proposed professional profiles were given a medium-high score by respondents, such that it can be stated that all of the above figures could facilitate the improvement and regeneration of the area.

The questionnaire concluded with an open question in which respondents were asked to define the term "sociability", central to the STUD.IO project. Below the word cloud with the main words used for the definition.



Chart 2.7 – Words cloud about “sociability”

Only half of the respondents provided a definition and only 29.3% reported examples of activities that generate sociality.

"Ability" is the most frequently used word (see table 2.13) that recalls the root of the word itself. This word is then defined through the use of other lemmas that recall a purely social dimension: sociability is an ability that can be acquired and that is closely related to the existence in an area of a community of people capable of relating to one another. So there are three dimensions that come into play, namely people who create a community, actions that create relationships and a context that holds them.

Tab. 2.13 – Most frequently used words in the definition of “sociability”

Lemmi	Occurence
<i>Ability</i>	22
<i>Community</i>	18
<i>Relationship</i>	14
<i>Social</i>	14
<i>Territory</i>	14
<i>People</i>	10

Below some sample answers from which the above can be confirmed:

“The ability to establish pro-active, proactive and positive relationships with other citizens” (Italy - Representatives of the private social sector – female – 59 years)

“Sociability is the way citizens in a given area interact with each other, feel part of a community, and take common action for the common good” (Romania – Practitioner working on the territory – female – 37 years)

“The ability to function harmoniously in a community” (Romania – Practitioner working on the territory – female – 29 years)

“The skill, tendency or property of being sociable or social, of interacting well with others” (Slovakia – Teacher – female – 52 years)

“Ability to be able to share, understand, and be emphatic” (Slovakia – Policy maker – male – 55 years)

2.2. The results of the focus groups: a qualitative insight

The focus group was aimed at the qualitative analysis of the context under the point of view of those who are primarily involved in the management/promotion/planning of actions in the territory (see categories of participants to the FG listed in the introduction).

Three FG have been conducted, one for each of the countries involved in the empirical survey.

Tab. 2.14 – Participants to FG per country

ITALY	ROMANIA	SLOVAKIA
Social worker and educator (F)	Community organizer (F)	University teacher and researcher – (F)
Author of games and recreational tools. Game Designer (M)	Architect (M)	University teacher and researcher – (F)
Psychologist and Coach (F)	Sociologist and PhD student (F)	University teacher and researcher – (F)
Sociologist (F)	Student (F)	University teacher and researcher – (F)
Urban architect (M)	Public Servant (M)	University teacher and researcher – (F)
Representative of the third sector (M)	Architect (F)	University teacher and researcher – (F)
Representative of the third sector (F)		University teacher and researcher – (M)
Psychologist (F)		University teacher and researcher – (M)
Student (F)		University teacher and researcher – (M)
Representative of the third sector (F)		Student (F)
		Project Manager (F)
		Representative of a municipality (M)

An interview outline was used in order to conduct the FGs. FGs have been introduced by a brief presentation by the presenter, by the project’s aims, by the field survey and, in particular, by the focus. This was followed by a brief round of introduction of the participants.

The FG delved into 3 topics:

- 1) **improvement and regeneration of the area and well-being of the citizens:** area aimed at detecting the respondents’ perspective about the connection between actions on the territory and improvement of citizens’ well-being, and defining possible proposals for actions to improve and regenerate the area.

- 2) **development of sociability:** area aimed at understanding what are the factors that contribute positively or negatively to the effectiveness of actions aimed at developing sociability in an area.
- 3) **profile of the expert to be trained:** area aimed at identifying the possible skills necessary to facilitate the processes of improvement and regeneration of the territory, and consequently profiling an expert able to manage such processes and promote sociability on a territory.

Regarding the first area, several nuances emerged in the definition of well-being and what can help generate it, all of which considered complementary and relevant.

In all of the three countries have been primarily mentioned structural elements belonging to the contexts of life and action, such as the accessibility and the equity in the use and provision of services, the sharing of public space, the presence of the Institutions, social cohesion.

“The territory must be accessible to everyone, including diable and elderly people.” (Italy – Representative of the third sector – M)

“The territory is healthy when Institutions are present, when there is work, when there are services available meeting the needs and wishes of the users... diversified and covering all the area. A territory is healthy when there is a strong social cohesion, when everybody feels part of a territory and not of a neighbourhood, suburban or central area. The well-being of a territory is strictly connected to the care and respect of the space... a shared public space, a space for public life. A territory is healthy when opportunities are equally distributed among all the neighbourhoods, when there is planning for all the territory.” (Italy – Sociologist – F).

Contextual conditions are thus considered primary compared to other factors that contribute to the well-being for themselves.

In Romania the FG’s participants emphasised that there are first material/external basic needs that need to be fulfilled before we can talk about well-being. Fulfilling a series of material conditions, external to the individual, is a precondition for people to be able to fulfil their potential, achieve their goals.

And should it be possible to create conditions of well-being, how could an area be made capable of creating and recreating its own well-being?

“Autonomous productive community, a community built on the practical pursuit of an economy based on progressive self-reliance detached from politics. If a steady growth of the territory could be brought forward beyond political changes, this could create prosperity in the territory.” (Rossella)

Well-being seems to be strictly connected to the pro-social dimension that calls into question sharing, mutual trust, and solidarity.

“Taking care of common properties together with all the generations present in a context” (Italy – Social worker and educator – F)

“Trust is important, it is essential that all the actors operating in a social context can trust one another, in order to be inclined to participation.” (Italy – Student – F)

“I would add one that offsets the others and keeps them all in, which is solidarity. A territory is really in a condition of well-being, when something that someone lacks is offered by someone else, without any control or restriction. This is, in my opinion, important because it would demonstrate a maturity in the territory which is truly rare.” (Docente/Architetto Urbanista – M)

Another important aspect that was brought up for defining well-being was for people to be able to see different social categories together, for example old people and children to interact with one another. In other words: to not have excluded categories. So there emerges a particular attention on the existence and the need for inclusive processes to improve the well-being of an area.

An original contribution emerged in the Italian FG and met with the agreement of all participants: the concept of beauty-being, used to highlight the need to look for and create beauty on the territory to generate well-being.

“When I hear speaking of well-being I think of beauty-being, the care of beauty, the aesthetics of our spaces, sometimes with very simple things that remind us of tradition... make our spaces beautiful, make them livable. In addition to taking care of the spaces, the other concept that comes to my mind is that of social animation. What is missing in our area is often an agent capable of animating the territory, proposing actions, creating a network, getting people out of their homes. We have now developed a “fort-like” way of living, meaning I live at home, at home I have all I need. Instead, it would be very important to create networks and bring people out on the streets again.” (Italy – Representative of the third sector – M)

This concept is directly connected to the capacity of watching and observing one’s own territory in a different way. It’s starting from the gaze that change can be triggered.

*“The well-being related to the education of the gaze...
Il benessere legato all’educazione allo sguardo...all that has been said comes through the ability we have to observe and read the territory. The capacity to around and say... how can I transform some pieces of my territory... maybe it’s something to be explored in order to create well-being... to build it” (Carzan)*

“When you ask young people (everyone wants to go away!) why do you want to go away, they say “because there is nothing here!”. If you show them something beautiful of their territory (the Sicilian site or the sulfur mines), they start appreciating that value and start feeling part of that territory, no longer estranged. The knowledge of the territory is the basis to develop the sense of belonging. They feel like strangers in this context.” Carmen

There is, however, the awareness that change is a long process that can yield visible results only if the time of impact are distinguished and proportioned to the type of action.

“There are two approaches that simultaneously, or even individually, have both a short-term and a long-term efficacy. Starting a process could not give immediate results but can produce them in the long-term. There are actions that require more patience and a less visible job, but in the long run we can hope to see a cultural change, and others that have instead immediate effects, for example playing. That is certainly a socialising experience: you put people together and you make them play, that’s already a way to build relationships. The risk is that if you don’t continue to follow this process and is reduced to spot events, you risk losing what you have done. The experience of volunteering allows, when protracted over time, the building of more or less meaningful relationships among the people who find themselves sharing that experience, there will be a hope that this thing can really influence a cultural change. If we think about volunteering in the urban requalification, this thing has also a visual impact, leads to that beauty-being and to become aware of a territory and feel it one’s own. Probably in this case the social impact of that action, is able to take root more deeply. I would put together both short-term actions, useful to create immediate and visible relationships,

and community development projects, more patient and slower but that maybe then succeed in producing long-term cultural change. (Italy – Representative of the third sector – M)

As much as there are activities that are more attractive for an area, new and original paths should be attempted albeit gradually if we want really to trigger a change.

(Carzan) “The risk is that we are the ones chasing the territory and not building on the territory. Musical and sport activities are more appealing and also easier to follow, they are more immediate. When we talk about books, or theatre or of a certain kind of music everything becomes more complex. It turns out that a path of education from below is necessary to generate experiences on the territory that may be different. Being aware that maybe if you organize a football tournament I will involve 100 kids and if I organize a book club I will involve 4 kids. The training and preparation on the various levels, on the various topics, becomes a fundamental key of reading, on which then shape the territory.”

And in the "cauldron of ingredients" for the well-being of an area, how much space can be granted to sociability, that is, the ability to generate and regenerate connection? This topic was the focus of the second thematic area.

The concept of sociability for Italians recalls the concepts of network, connections, mutuality, social and individual capital, all fundamental elements to the well-being of the territory.

“Fiduciary capital is fundamental...reciprocity...building reactions based on trust that sometimes are also relationships of gratuitousness with respect to the different conditions of the people in the community in which we live” (Italy – La Rocca – M)

And so it is also for Slovakia:

“being part of the territory and to cooperate with others”

“to be able to coexistence with various members of community on the basis of mutual understanding and support”

“to create common territorial identity”

“the quality of liking to meet and spend time with other people”

Also in Romania the concept of sociability is defined in the same way:

“The capacity to have positive, constructive relationships with the others around you, irrespective of the context, situation, personal identity. Sociability doesn't mean that you get along only with your group, your peers, family etc. To be comfortable with someone you don't know and don't necessarily have a common interest”

It is interesting that it is related mostly to the “common”:

“People always need to relate on a collective level. They need to feel as part of something greater than their group, family”

Developing sociability in an area would require bringing people together, getting them to know each other and creating spaces where they can hang out.

In Romania they point out that their territory is not suitable both culturally and structurally for the creation of networks and connections that go beyond the narrow dimension of the membership group, neighbourhoods are already wide contexts where direct interaction between people is lost.

“Community is something we need to work on as a society, to create not an artificial community, but one based on common interests.” (Romania – Sociologist – M)

Networks exist in Italy, but the problem is how can this be sustainable over time. How long can those networks born thanks to the activities included in a specific project last?

“Sociability is very important because the capacity of creating alliances is very important... the problem is, how can we create connections that will be sustainable over time, effective and efficient” (Italy – Sociologist – F)

From the Italian FG comes the proposal that one possible solution would be guarantee spaces for expression and autonomy to young people.

“Start from considering young people and their way of seeing what we are experiencing as resources...they are present citizens that will live on the territory. Focusing on their active participation creates connections. Listening, creating opportunities to meet, receive and collect their points of view creates at a micro level, also in small contexts, a level of sociality. It is then goes back into the territory through the various generational exchanges...a kind of peer education that always evolves...extends” (Italy – Social worker and educator – F)

According to the Romanian FG, sociability should be made attractive for different people. Sometimes it is not developed because consumerism and instant gratification are more appealing, and people cannot find the motivation to meet other people different from them. The actions aimed at involving people and making them want to be part of communities have to take into consideration that this is not natural for them. We should think about different categories of people and about what can motivate them, and then try to offer them the things that motivate them.

In Slovakia it is claimed that sociability could be developed strengthening the sense of belonging to the community.

“Creating the common territorial identity could help to obtain a feeling of being part of the territory and community. It is very important to create the occasions for the interactions between the people and possible community life.” (Slovakia – Teacher – F)

And the greatest obstacle for Slovakia would be the lack of interest of citizens to change something or to put own energy and time.

Finally, the last part of the focus was dedicated to an attempt to outline the figure of the expert to be trained. What competences are required to manage the complex processes of development of an area?

Some Italians think that:

“It can't be a single figure, it must have different educational backgrounds” (Italy – professionalist – F)

“We don't need new figures! We have already everything. These experiments have already been made with other figures, we had community educators, social animators, community animators...we have already trained so many figures, so many protagonists. There is no need to introduce new figures, but new ways... which means working in groups. Even what I am saying is old, the problem is that we always said it but we don't know how to do it! If we work with people who have different experties than we do, we realise the difficulties that arise in working in groups. I would spend the money to make experiments of participation among different figures” (Italy – Professionalist – F)

The difficulty lies in how to interact with the citizen:

“The difficulty is talking to the citizens, talk different languages, not just among professionals. Different languages are in the territories. When I propose workshops for the families in areas at risk, I notice that mothers stop coming because they feel uncomfortable because of my level of education. Sometimes we speak a language which is very far from that of the areas” (Italy – Professionalist – F)

Or in the lack of a sense of “common good”:

“Hoping that people started doing things for a collective good and not for their own personal interest, or at least for the purpose of being well, looks quite difficult. In our context the idea of common good is not clear yet. [...] That’s what we should aim at, but if we want to give it as a prerequisite in order to do something, we risk getting nothing” (Italy – Professionalist – M)

In all three FGs are listed the different profiles of the professional figures who can create connection between the citizens’ needs and the actions on which there is a widespread agreement: professionals that create connections with and among people (psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, ecc.); economists; technicians (architects, city planners, logistics experts, ecc.); legal experts, communication experts, mediation experts.

And there is also mentioned a list of cross cutting competencies that go beyond those possessed by the professional.

“I would put together with the observation also the listening, that is the ability to interact with the territory, with the urban reality, with the neighbourhoods. Observing can take on sometimes a passive dimension, listening probably involves greater reception of what is being witnessed. Another important dimension is that of interpretation, an operator on the territory must also interpret the phenomena, and must be able to read them in the light of a context that may have complexity. Another key component is the ability to intervene, if listening, observation and interpretation remain phases of analysis, and study, they clearly do not express the full potential they have inside. The capacity to intervene is one of the most important skills because involves the capacity of interacting in a productive manner for the purpose of change.” (Italy – Professionalist – M)

To the above mentioned figures the Italian group adds those of social animator and communicator.

“Among the various skills, that of social animation, understood as the skill to create dynamics among groups in the territory, to be able to read and at the same time to create provocation, and being able to manage the dynamics.” (Romania – Sociologist – M)

A more detailed discussion opens on communicative competence, problematizing its necessity and/or dangerousness:

“The risk is that when we talk about communication and we connect it to leadership it means that perhaps we have to train a person that goes beyond the necessities. Probably the primary need is for this person to have skills on communication tools, which is another thing. Otherwise the risk is to create white elephants instead of processes on the territory. [...] Often a territory doesn’t know what happens in another territory. What are missing are precisely the basic communication tools. [...] It can be helpful to have someone with a good knowledge of communication tools so that can use them and create participation on the territory, even through these tools.” (Italy – Professionalist – M)

Certainly what is missing, and on which all Italian FG participants agree, is the ability to narrate the territory:

“The capacity to narrate the territory, being able to catch its beauty, find it and narrate it. And through the storytelling convey emotions.” (Italy – Psychologist – F)

“I think the ability to narrate is crucial to strengthen a process. [...] A good communicator is good not only because he talks but also because he knows what he is talking about” (Italy – Professionalist – M)

Citizens involvement in decision-making processes is considered important by all FG participants in the three countries.

Civic involvement and the relationship with the public space and with politics, was mentioned as a key area of improvement or focus. People are often not aware they can do something, besides voting. Being involved in civic actions can better reflect their needs.

The beneficiaries of the actions on the territory should be involved in the planning, at every stage of the process. They should be part of the panel of experts because they bring their own perspective and because they are the ones who concretely experience the territory. Their experience is as valuable as a professional experience and this is why they should be part of the team, a team that should not have a hierarchical but a symmetrical structure.

And it is crucial that all the citizens are involved, including young people and vulnerable individuals.

“Participatory actions should also take into account vulnerable groups, also making them part of the decision-making process at all the stages of the activity”. (Romania – Sociologist – M)

“In my opinion skills on participatory planning are also important...plan together with the territory, but with everyone... there must be also young people. They are the ones who will then work on their territory!” (Italy – Professionalist – F)

Participatory planning is considered a useful tool for engaging citizens, but in Italy there seems to be some difficulties at using it effectively.

“One of the advantages is the sharing of a vision, but in order to share this vision, it means that everyone must be aware of what we want to achieve. How can we achieve it? Through participatory planning! But, what do we need in order to make it real? We need budget and we need the sealing of an agreement among the actors that uses participatory planning despite the efforts. It is often not chosen because it is a long path. Slowly we need to reverse this trend.” (Italy – Professionalist – F)

Perhaps it should start with teaching what it means to plan and design together:

“Maybe the problem is that people do not know what it means to design? Perhaps this is why participatory design has some limitations.” (Italy – Professionalist – F)

But sometimes even participatory processes lack process authenticity.

“What I can say is that participatory planning has become a fashion. The most annoying thing is the current overflowing prevalence of the rhetoric of participation. By now everyone is doing participation, without having the expertise and activating it over pre-established interests, conditioned by the actors who manage it. I think that the most important contribution could be a new professional figure who could play, within such practices, the role of a sort of guarantor of participation, a figure who is able to identify the authenticity of participatory processes with respect to both goals and, above all, results. A figure who is able, knowing the full spectrum of participation, from concentrated power in the hands of decision makers, to the extreme freedom of citizens, to determine whether such processes are genuine or conditioned.” (Italy – Professionalist – M)

Second part

The Intellectual Output 1 of the STUD.IO project: the Methodological Framework of the Systematic Reviews

Giada Cascino¹, Sergio Severino²

¹ Kore University of Enna (Italy), giada.cascino@unikore.it

² Kore University of Enna (Italy), sergio.severino@unikore.it

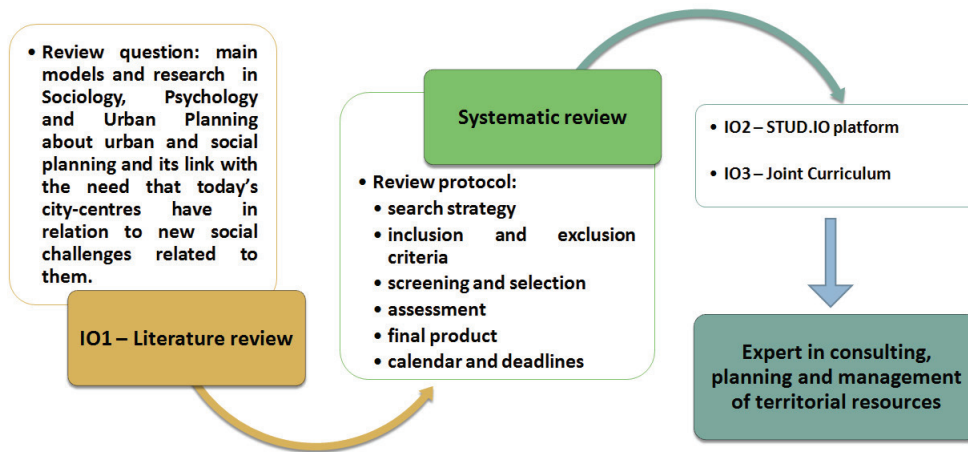
The Intellectual Output 1 (from here onwards IO1) of the STUD.IO project is divided into different tasks: the academic partners, coordinated by the Kore University of Enna, worked mainly on the literature review; the other organisations supported the literature review work through the mapping of best practices and the analysis of training needs, aimed at giving a voice to the potential recipients of training and the territorial institutions that will use these figures once trained. In this part of the chapter we describe the methodological framework of the literature review that the academic partners carried out and which – as will be seen – is described in the contributions in the second part of this book.

The IO1 – i.e. the literature review on the main models and research currently available in the field of integration between Sociology, Psychology and Urbanism – has a close link with the other Intellectual Outputs of the STUD.IO project, in fact serves to obtain a solid structure on which to base the training needs of the Joint Curriculum (which is the objective of the IO3) and training contents of the STUD.IO platform (which is the objective of IO2) (Fig. 1).

Among the different types of literature review (narrative review, rapid review, scoping review, etc.), we chose to do a *systematic review*, i.e. “a literature review that is designed **to locate, assess and synthesize** the best available evidence relating to **a specific research question** in order to provide informative and evidence-based answers.” (Dickson *et al.*, 2017, p.2⁴). We chose the systematic review because it is defined as the best way (the 'gold standard') to synthesize the findings of several studies investigation the same questions, whether the evidence comes from health care, education or another discipline. Unlike other types of literature review, its focus is restricted to a few topics but it looks at data in great depth.

⁴ Dickson, R., Cherry, M.G., & Boland, A. (2017). Carrying out a systematic review as a Master’s thesis. In A. Boland, M.G. Cherry & R. Dickson (Eds.), *Doing a systematic review. A Student’s Guide* (2nd ed.) (pp. 1-19). Sage.

Figure 1 – The STUD.IO project: the link between Intellectual Outputs.



The systematic review requires greater methodological rigor than the other types: in fact, it follows ten **well-defined and transparent steps** and always require the following (Dickson *et al.*, 2017⁵):

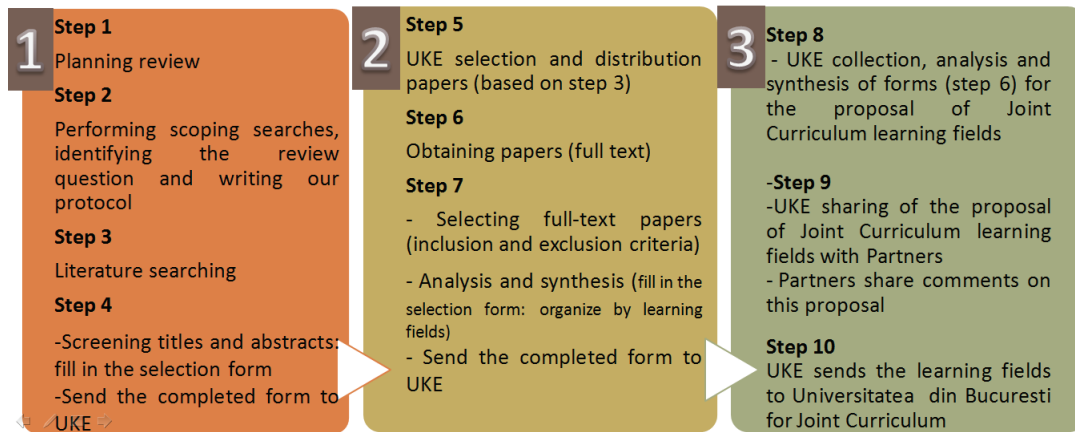
1. definition of the question or problem;
2. identification and critical appraisal of the available evidence;
3. synthesis of the findings and the drawing of relevant conclusions.

We have taken the ten steps suggested by the authors and we adapt them in our review protocol, that includes ten steps grouped into three stages (Fig. 2).

First stage – The STUD.IO review question is defined by the project: in order a) to understand the needs, social needs, weaknesses and strengths of the city context, as well as to know how to plan adequate interventions; b) to create a university curriculum to enhance the career of students studying urban and social development, we set ourselves the goal of conducting a systematic review of the *main models and researches currently available in the field of urban organization and related social policies, and of the problems connected to them, as well as of the effects on individuals and sociality, focusing on integration between Sociology, Psychology and Urban Planning and its use in urban and social planning at European level.*

⁵ *Op.cit.*

Figure 2 – STUD.IO Systematic Review Protocol: three stages and ten steps.



For the systematic review process – proceeding through the stages of identification, screening, eligibility and inclusion of papers in the review – we constructed the following three modules *ad hoc* (see Appendix B):

- *Module A_ Keywords and databases lists*
- *Module B_ Abstracts selection*
- *Module C_ Full texts selection.*

For the conduct of the “literature searching”, each partner – in line with their subject area – proposed a set of keywords and databases/sources using *Module A*.

All partners used the following inclusion and exclusion criteria:

- inclusion criteria:
 - Partner mother tongue
 - English language
 - relevant for Joint Curriculum
 - literature review on our focus
 - best practices, guidelines
 - relevant UN documents
 - relevant EU Documents
 - relevant NGO documents
 - grey literature (unpublished papers)
 - implications for professionals
- exclusion criteria:
 - the ones that aren’t at all relevant.

For the “*screening of titles and abstracts*” step, the selected abstracts were collected in *Module B*, grouping them into sections created with reference to the keywords or expressions through which the papers were found and reporting the following information for each: Reference List Entry (author(s), year, title, publisher), Databases/other source, Material Type (book, article, etc.), Mother language (please, specify). Abstracts written in the native language of the Partners were translated into English.

Second stage – In order to proceed to the steps *obtaining papers (full text)* and *selecting full-text papers*, duplicate abstracts were removed and their eligibility for review was assessed. The analysis of the full-text papers was done using *Module C_ Full texts selection* which aims to *describe* and *evaluate* each paper according to certain information and criteria, respectively.

The first part of the *Module C* aims to describe the paper through a series of information, some of it related to the STUD.IO project: Country, Analysis of theory, Analysis of methods, Focus on size-city (small and medium), Participants target (children and elderly), Analysis of findings, Dissemination

target (students, professionals, researchers), Future research direction, Mono- or Inter-disciplinarity (specify which disciplines), Topics (skills and attitude, contextual factors (geographical location, socio-economic conditions, political context, size of cities), services, good/best practices), Can the results be applied to the other local context?.

The second part of the *Module C* aims to evaluate the selected paper, according to some criteria: relevance, reliability, extrinsic factors, intrinsic factors, suitability to learning fields. Each criterion is assessed on a 5-point scale (minimum 1 – maximum 5) and, based on this assessment, an overall judgment on the paper can be made.

Finally, the *Module C* provides a box in which “Describe how the paper can contribute to the identification of the learning field, in terms of acceptability and suitability to learning fields”.

In the *Module C*, each partner grouped the evaluated papers into sections proposing a learning field for Joint Curriculum.

Third stage – To summarise the results of the systematic review conducted by each partner we have moved along a spectrum from integrative (concepts and themes are defined) to interpretative (generate concepts) synthesis approach, using thematic synthesis method (Snilstveit *et al.* 2012⁶; Harden & Thomas, 2005⁷; Thomas & Harden, 2008⁸), adapting it to our objectives and following three steps:

- tracing key concepts in reports (through the most important phrases, available definitions, or any other useful part of the report);
- grouping key concepts into descriptive themes (topic areas);
- generating analytical themes (i.e. new interpretative constructs, or new explanations, or new hypotheses), which also suggest implications for policy and practice.

The reporting of the systematic reviews conducted for the different subject areas was guided by the PRISMA 2020 statement (Page *et al.*, 2021⁹).

⁶ Snilstveit, B., Oliver, S., & Vojtkova, M. (2012) Narrative approaches to systematic review and synthesis of evidence for international development policy and practice, *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 4:3, 409-429. DOI: [10.1080/19439342.2012.710641](https://doi.org/10.1080/19439342.2012.710641)

⁷ Harden, A., Thomas, J. (2005). Methodological Issues in Combining Diverse Study Types in Systematic Reviews, *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 8:3, 257-271. DOI: 10.1080/13645570500155078

⁸ Thomas, J., Harden, A. (2008). Methods for the thematic synthesis of qualitative research in systematic reviews. *BMC Med Res Methodol* 8, 45. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2288-8-45>

⁹ Page, M.J., McKenzie, J.E., Bossuyt, P.M., Boutron, I., Hoffmann, T.C., Mulrow, C.D. et al. (2021). The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ*, 372: n71 doi:10.1136/bmj.n71

3. The nexus between social interactions and the urban environments: a systematic review

Giada Cascino¹, Sergio Severino²

¹ Kore University of Enna (Italy), giada.cascino@unikore.it

² Kore University of Enna (Italy), sergio.severino@unikore.it

Abstract

This systematic review, moving from a sociological approach and opening up to interdisciplinary dialogue between sociology and other disciplines (urban planning and psychology), set out to explore the types of social interactions conceptualised with reference to the urban context, how the nexus between social interactions and the urban context is conceptualised, and, finally, whether and how this nexus is explained in view of the different ages of the population.

The nexus between social interaction and urban environment was conceptualised as the living conditions of young and old people in the urban context, sociability/ and city, social policies in urban planning, social interaction and proximity networks in urban planning, local society and urban planning, local community and urban planning, smart-city.

We considered eligible published and gray literature since 2000, possessing the following characteristics: written in Italian and English; any type of report (in electronic format) in accordance with the definition of PRISMA 2020; availability of an abstract (in Italian or English) or introduction; theoretical and/or empirical nature; European geographic focus.

Bibliographic search or consultation of each source was conducted in the databases Rivisteweb-La Piattaforma italiana per le scienze umane e sociali, JSTOR, SocINDEX with Full Text (EBSCOhost interface) and WOS (Web of Science).

The results of the review are presented following the PRISMA 2020 recommendations and were synthesised by resorting to a narrative approach of synthesising qualitative (text-based) data and applying the thematic synthesis method according to three steps (tracing key concepts, grouping them into thematic areas, and generating analytical themes), with the intention of interpreting the synthesis and generating new meanings.

The initial search identified 84 records; the screening and evaluation process led to the inclusion of 10 reports in the review: most have a geographic focus on the European context and look at different dimensions of the urban environment (neighbourhoods, cities/large cities); some reports move exclusively from a sociological approach and some from an inter-disciplinary approach, bringing sociology into dialogue with other disciplines (Urban ethnography, Urban geography, Geography, Architecture and Urban Design, Psychology); some reports present a theoretical reflection, others present an empirical study, conducted through a qualitative research approach and a mixed methods approach.

The thematic synthesis led to the generation of several analytical themes – *participation in community life as the pleasure of encounter, as involvement and commitment/socialization to the common good, as the generator of an integrated social structure; appropriation and definition of a public social space; urban planning and urban environment pro-social interactions, grounded in the logics of embedding social relations and the socially pro-active approach of planning both land use and infrastructure; “affectively determined” social relations as a resource for the development of community values and for individual and social well-being; the paradox of invisible resources* – suggesting some trans-disciplinary principles on the basis of which to guide policies and practices in the area of promoting sociability through innovation in urban design, as well as the process of operationally defining dimensions and indicators that can be empirically detected in future research aimed at detecting both the amount and the quality of social interactions mediated by land use and infrastructure.

Key words: social interactions, urban context/environment, sociology, systematic review, thematic synthesis.

3.1. Introduction

The STUD.IO-Sociability Through Urban Design Innovation project (ERASMUS+ Programme, Strategic Partnerships for higher education) – under which this systematic review is carried out – assumes the importance of promoting social interactions in the urban context for the production of the well-being of individuals and communities, linking to this issue the need to train expert professional figures. The project, in fact, recognizes that “knowing how to fully understand the needs, social needs, main problems and strengths of the urban context, as well as knowing how to plan and design appropriate interventions must be the knowledge and skills of those working in urban and

territorial planning, taking into account the absolutely relevant sociological and psychological aspects.”

Our systematic review, moving from a sociological approach, aims to emphasize the needs that today’s urban centers have in relation to new social challenges, tracing them back to the erosion of fundamental relational references and the impact that urban organization has on social life in cities.

Social needs and challenges that are already the subject of attention in Agenda 2030, whose “ambitious and transformational vision” envisions a world capable of ensuring social well-being, as well as “A just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met”, including children, youth and the elderly.

The 2030 Agenda, in fact, places among the goals for achieving the three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – of sustainable development the pursuit and promotion of cohesion among communities through the renewal and planning of urban settlements by identifying sustainable urban development and management as crucial to citizens’ quality of life. Among the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda, Goal 11 *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable* identifies cities as centers for social development, which nevertheless still pose challenges. In this direction, some targets to be achieved by 2030 are: *enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries* (11.3); and *provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities* (11.7).

As evident, these goals invest the importance of the interconnection between the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Our attention, in particular, falls on the concepts of social well-being and quality of life.

In this paper, we link the concept of social well-being and quality of life to one of the nine quality-of-life indicators proposed by Eurostat: “leisure and social interactions”¹⁰. Eurostat defines social interactions as interpersonal activities and relationships that, while related but conceptually different, constitute the social capital of both individuals and society, influencing people’s quality of life. As Eurostat specifies, the aspects that conceptualize social interactions are: *activities with people* (that is, being in contact or doing things with family, relatives or friends and the satisfaction that one derives from these personal relationships), *activities for people* (that is, one’s involvement in formal and informal voluntary activities) and *supportive relationships* (shown by one’s ability to get help and personal support in case of need).

Eurostat’s detailed analysis of the quantitative and qualitative aspects of social interactions (frequency of social contacts, access to material and non-material help, subjective assessment of the satisfaction with personal relationships) – placed in relation to the variables age (16-24 years; 25-64 years; 65-74 years; 75 years and over) – shows that:

- regarding ‘being in contact with family, relatives and friends’:
 - in 2015, a small majority (51.3%) of people in the EU reported getting together **with family and relatives** at least once a week;
 - in 2015, just over half (53.0%) of the EU adult population got together **with friends** at least once a week;
 - as for getting together with family and relatives, it was generally the case that people living in **the southern Member States** had the highest propensity to meet their friends at least once a week when compared with people living in the rest of the EU, in particular, compared with those living in the north-west of the EU;

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Quality_of_life_indicators_-_social_interactions. Data extracted in March 2021. This page was last edited on 31 October 2022, at 11:23.

- looking at the proportion of the adult population meeting **with family members and relatives by age**, in 2015 the majority of each age group reported meeting with family members and relatives at least once a week: the lowest shares across the EU were recorded for **people aged 16 to 24 and 25 to 64**, while the **elderly** – particularly **people aged 75 and over** – were more likely to meet with family members and relatives;
 - **Italy** and **Spain** showed a similar trend to the EU average, with the **elderly** more likely to socialise with family members and relatives than **younger adults (16-24 years) or those of working age (25-64 years)**;
 - in **Slovakia** and **Romania**, on the other hand, **young adults (aged 16-24)** were more likely (than the other age groups) to socialise with family members and relatives at least once a week;
 - it is also interesting to note that in **Romania**, **people aged 75 and over** were less likely (compared to the other age groups) to socialise with family members and relatives at least once a week;
 - when looking at the percentage of the adult population meeting with friends by age, a much clearer pattern is observed, as **young adults (aged 16-24)** are generally much more likely to meet with friends at least once a week than other age groups, with the percentage of the population meeting with friends decreasing with age.
- regarding ‘having no one to ask for help’:
 - with reference to **people aged 16 and over**:
 - 23.6% in **Italy** and 25.2% in **Romania** do not have someone to ask for **material help**, exceeding the European average (19.4%);
 - 16.3% in **Italy** and 19.5% in **Romania** do not have someone to ask for **non-material help**, exceeding the European average (9.2%).
 - regarding ‘satisfaction with personal relationships’:
 - in 2018, in a majority of EU Member States the youngest age bracket (**16 to 24 years**) had higher levels of satisfaction than the average over all age groups;
 - overall, it appears that satisfaction levels are decreasing with age.

Thus, the quality of social interactions observed in different geographical areas of Europe and in the four countries under review, albeit in different ways in relation to different age groups, seems to show a real erosion, and for this reason it poses a challenge for the promotion of social cohesion: as Eurostat points out, in fact, social interactions do not only perform the basic function of satisfying the need to socialize, since their quality “may promote the existence of supportive relationships, interpersonal trust and social cohesion.”

Promoting community cohesion through the renewal and planning of urban settlements is one of the principles and commitments of the New Urban Agenda (United Nations, 2017), which aims to “promote safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces, including streets, sidewalks and cycling lanes, squares, waterfront areas, gardens and parks, that are multifunctional areas for social interaction and inclusion, human health and well-being, economic exchange and cultural expression and dialogue among a wide diversity of people and cultures, and that are designed and managed to ensure human development and build peaceful, inclusive and participatory societies, as well as to promote living together, connectivity and social inclusion” (*Transformative commitments for sustainable urban development* 35., p. 13).

Aiming at the formation of a “promoter of sociability”, the research question of the STUD.IO project, in its being innovative, is to “explore sociological, psychological and urban planning studies through a key to understanding the intersectionality and correlation between the main models currently available in the field of integration between Sociology, Psychology and Urbanism, and their

use in urban and social planning at the European level.” We decline this general research question of STUD.IO in our systematic review by addressing the following questions:

1. What types of social interactions are conceptualized with reference to the urban context?
2. How is the nexus between social interactions and the urban context conceptualized?
3. How is the issue of social interactions in the urban context addressed in view of the different ages of the population?

3.2. Methods

The systematic review was conducted following the guide *Doing a systematic review. A student's guide* (Boland, Cherry & Dickson, 2017).

For the inclusion of reports in our systematic review, we considered published and gray literature since 2000 (the year since which the Millennium Development Goals aim to improve lives and, specifically, the 7th MDG *Ensure environmental sustainability* highlights the impact of rapid urban population growth on living conditions in urban areas) as eligible.

Eligibility criteria for reports characteristics were: writing in Italian and English; any type of report (in electronic format) in accordance with the PRISMA 2020 definition; availability of an abstract (in Italian or English) or an introduction to the report; reports of a theoretical and/or empirical nature; reports with a European geographic focus.

The bibliographic search or consultation of each source was conducted during the period between June and September 2021 in the following databases: Rivisteweb-La Piattaforma italiana per le scienze umane e sociali, JSTOR, SocINDEX with Full Text (EBSCOhost interface) and WOS (Web of Science). The research strategy used the following key words/expressions formulated in both Italian and English: the living conditions of young and old in the urban context, sociability/ and city, social policies in urban planning, social interaction and proximity networks in urban planning, local society and urban planning, local community and urban planning, smart-city.

The identified records were collected in the *Module B Abstracts selection* (see Appendix B), retrieving the following data: reference list entry (author(s), year, title, publisher), databases/other source, material type (book, article, etc.), abstract (Italian-language abstracts were translated into English).

The screening process considered other eligibility criteria, such as the availability of full-texts (downloadable for free or through access to the subscription resources of our University's Library System) and the relevance of the topic addressed to the training of a promoter of sociability, the formative aim of the STUD.IO project.

In order to select the reports for inclusion in the review, we assessed the eligibility of the reports through the *Module C Full texts selection* (see Appendix B), aimed at describing and evaluating full texts according to some information (Country, Analysis of theory, Analysis of methods, Focus on the size of city (small and medium), Target participants (children and the elderly), Analysis of results, Target dissemination (students, professionals, researchers), Future research direction, Mono- or interdisciplinary (specify which disciplines), Themes (skills and attitudes), Contextual factors (geographical location, socio-economic conditions, political context, city size), Services (good/optimal practices), Can the results be applied to other local contexts?) and according to certain criteria (Relevance, Reliability, Extrinsic factors, Intrinsic factors, Suitability to learning fields) measured on a 5-point scale.

Throughout the review process – from the identification of records to the inclusion of reports in the systematic review – we translated titles, abstracts, and (sometimes) full text from English to Italian through *DeepL Translate* to ensure correct understanding.

To answer our specific research questions, we used a narrative approach of qualitative (text-based) data synthesis, adapting the *thematic synthesis* method (Snilstveit *et al.*, 2012; Harden & Thomas, 2005; Thomas & Harden, 2008) to our objectives; for the thematic synthesis of the reports included in the review reports, we proceeded through three steps: first, we traced key concepts in the

reports (through the most important phrases, available definitions, or any other useful part of the report); next, we grouped the key concepts into descriptive themes (topic areas); finally, we generated analytical themes (i.e., new interpretive constructs, or new explanations, or new hypotheses), which would also suggest implications for policy and practice.

3.3. Results

Details of the review process are given in the PRISMA 2020 flow diagram (see Fig. 1).

The initial search identified 84 records: these were reduced to 63 after eliminating 19 records whose full text could not be obtained for free and 2 duplicate records. The screening process on titles and abstracts identified 31 reports eligible for full text evaluation. The evaluation process resulted in the exclusion of 21 reports for the following reasons:

- non-inherence to STUD.IO themes (n = 9);
- not sociology area (n = 5);
- non-eligible historical period (n = 2);
- methodological limitations (n = 2);
- overly concise treatment (n = 1);
- excessive generality of theme (n = 1);
- themes refer to papers that cannot be found (n = 1).

There are 10 reports included in the final review, whose key characteristics - some chosen in relation to the aims of the STUD.IO project – are geographical focus, city size, intersectionality of theoretical and research models, Issue/Research question and Research approach (Tab. 1).

Two reports have the focus on the Netherlands, two on England, one on Ireland, one on the United Kingdom, one on Italy, and one on Spain (concurrently with South Korea); two reports do not have a specific geographic focus.

Some reports (4/10) place emphasis on neighborhoods, others (4/10) on large cities, one on the city without specifying its size, and one, finally, does not specify any information on urban size.

Half of the reports move from a sociological approach – three of which recall specific areas of sociology – and half from an *inter*-disciplinary approach, bringing sociology into dialogue with other disciplines, such as Urban ethnography, Urban geography, Geography, Architecture and Urban Design, and Psychology.

Some reports in our review present a theoretical reflection (2/10), others present an empirical study (8/10), conducted through a qualitative research approach (6/10) and a mixed methods approach (2/10).

Some reports (7/10) have a study focus similar to our research questions, thus allowing us to answer them directly; other reports (3/10) present a different focus from our research questions, but, nevertheless, the issues addressed allow us to answer our research questions indirectly.

Below is the thematic synthesis of the 10 reports in relation to our research questions.

Figure 1 – The systematic review of STUD.IO for the sociological area: PRISMA 2020 flow diagram.

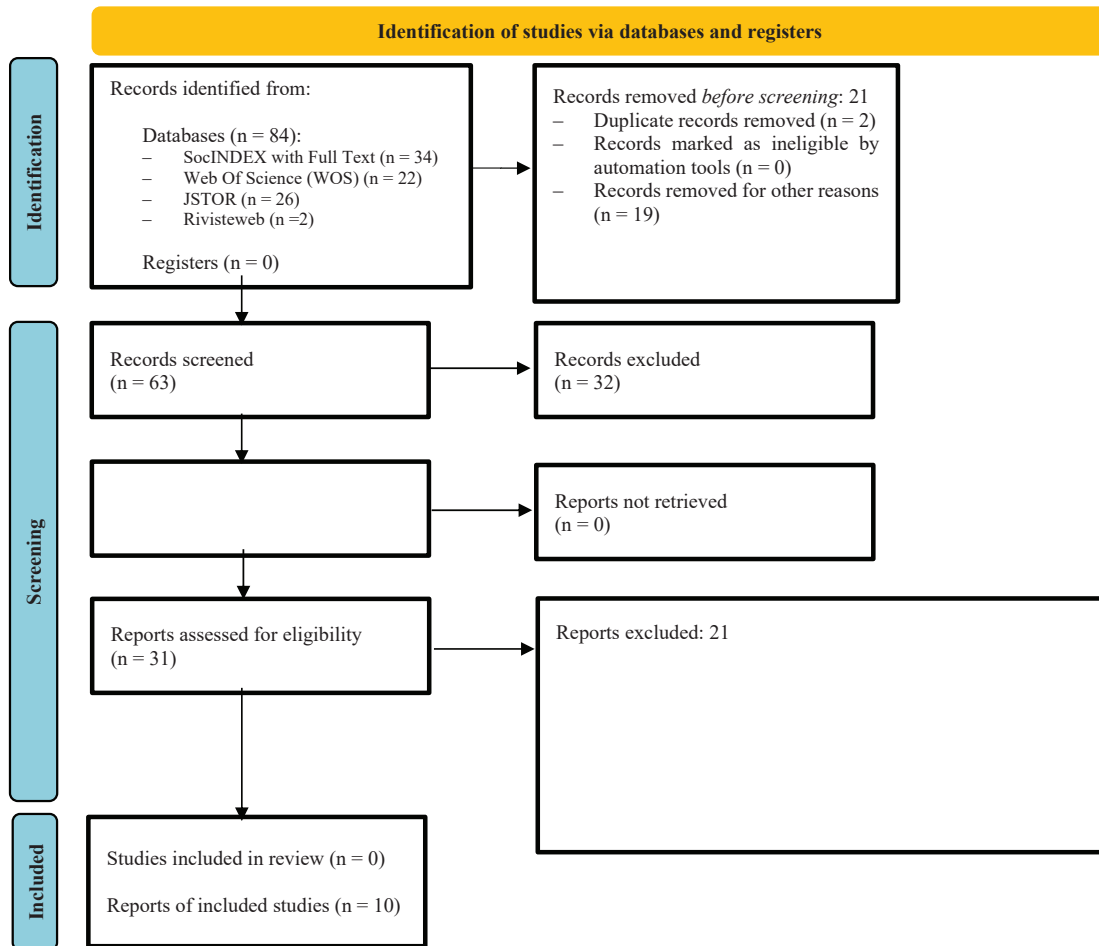


Table 2 – Key characteristics of each report included in the systematic review for the sociological area.

#	Reference	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Intersectoriality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
1.	Turnaturi, G. (2011).	Italy and USA	-	Sociology and geographies of contemporary social, political and economic change and their effects on situated life, autonomy and identity	Trace in some examples casual and “weak” forms of togetherness, but which can also become moments of learning to be together, through Georg Simmel’s (1997) notion of sociability with Ash Amin’s (2008) notion of togetherness.	Participant observation
2.	Duyvendak, J. W., & Wekker, F. (2016).	Netherlands	Neighbourhood	Sociology and Urban ethnography	Theoretical reflection on the elements that ground the sense of home in an urban setting.	
3.	Karsten, L. (2016).	-	City	Urban geography, but considers sociological issues	The theoretical reflection addresses the relationship between children and citizenship, considering it as a social practice and emphasizing urban public spaces as a space of representation and practice. Specifically, it questions the following issues: How are children present in these spaces? What kind of children are they? And how much leeway do they have for their behavior?	
4.	Ronzi, S., Orton, L., Buckner, S., Bruce, N., & Pope, D. (2020).	England	Neighbourhoods in a big city	Sociology	To explore how the city promotes respect and social inclusion (a core World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Age-Friendly Cities (AFC) Guide domain). The paper provides novel insights into how: (i) respect and social inclusion are shaped by aspects of both physical and social environment, and (ii) the accessibility, affordability and sociability of physical spaces and wider social processes (e.g., neighbourhood fragmentation) contributed to or hindered participants’ health, well-being, intergenerational relationships and feelings of inclusion and connection.	Qualitative research approach: Photovoice within a Community-Based Participatory Research approach.
5.	Karsten, L., & Van Vliet, W. (2006).	Netherlands	Big cities	Urban geography and Sociology	Against the background of a re-emerging interest among families and city governments to create child-friendly urban environments, this paper examines social and physical characteristics of such environments, based on research conducted in Amsterdam and Rotterdam, the Netherlands. It considers urban parents’ views on playing outdoors, discusses their thoughts on spatial and social aspects of cities that better accommodate daily family life, in particular children’s outdoor play.	Case studies on urban housing and family life in several neighborhoods in Amsterdam and Rotterdam, the two biggest cities of the Netherlands
6.	Fanizza, F. (2015).	Italy	Part of a big city	General Sociology and Sociology of Communication	This dissertation concerns the usage of urban planning in Italy. Thanks to an ethnographic approach, this dissertation uses a kind of metaphor, comparing urban planning and aesthetic surgery. In some way, very often Italian planners consider the aesthetic state as the most important aspect, or rather as the main variable that can lead to the development and improvement of the urban condition.	Ethnographic approach

#	Reference	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Intersectoriality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
7.	Layton, J., & Latham, A. (2021).	England	Big city	Geography with references to social theory	Our central contention is that it is essential to think carefully about the different registers that make up the social in social infrastructure – and by association the social in public space – to properly understand why access to a well-provisioned and maintained park matters; and thus what is at stake in disputes such as that at Finsbury Park. Through the case study of Finsbury Park, we aim, then, to demonstrate how thinking about public space as social infrastructure enhances understandings of the public life of cities. If we want to make cities better places to live, understanding how to provide social infrastructure is a key terrain of inquiry.	Case study: structured observations drawing on the System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities (SOPARC) method, interviews with key stakeholders (volunteers, sports and fitness participants, management staff and members of the public), a systematic review of the debate as it was happening in public
8.	Corcoran, M., Gray, J., & Peillon, M. (2009).	Ireland	Neighborhoods	Sociology of childhood	This article aims to demonstrate the significant role children play in new suburban communities, and in particular, the extent to which their circuits of sociability contribute to social cohesion in the suburbs. Children are active agents who help to create and sustain social bonds within their neighborhoods.	Focus group discussion and short essay “The place where I live”
9.	Križnik, B. (2018).	Spain and South Korea	Big city	Urban sociology	The transformation of deprived urban areas is important for strengthening social sustainability in particular localities, and it is also instrumental in attracting new investments to cities. Speculative urban development, however, often ignores the social importance of localities and considers them mere economic assets that can be stripped of historical, social, and symbolic meaning and turned into easily marketed commodities. This article examines the somewhat contradictory role of the transformation of deprived urban areas in cities. The consequences of urban regeneration and urban redevelopment on social sustainability	In-depth case studies: site visits, semi-structured interviews, surveys, in-depth interviews and extensive analysis of secondary sources (local government documents and reports, research papers, historical records)
10.	Raman, S. (2010).	United Kingdom	Neighbourhoods	Architecture and Urban Design, Sociology and Psychology	This paper reports findings from recent research examining the relationship between urban design and layout and aspects of social and communal life in urban neighbourhoods.	Data on social interactions, social activities and social networks along with perceptions of the built and social environment of the neighbourhoods were collected through observations, questionnaire surveys and secondary data sources. Neighbourhood design and layout were analysed using spatial network and visibility graph analysis methods.

3.3.1. What types of social interactions are conceptualized with reference to the urban context?

The key concepts traced in the reports can be grouped into three thematic areas, which we describe below.

1. ***Social connections embodied in public space*** – The social connections described in this area are centered on their manifestation in public space and are conceptualized in terms of:
 - *sociability* (according to Simmel’s view¹¹), that form of inter-individuality and super-individuality, based on respect, recognition, discretion, pleasantness, lightness and playfulness, which finds elements of contact with the *togetherness* described by Amin¹², given by all forms (aesthetic, expressive and convivial) of being together in public, which mix the desire-need for expressiveness, voice and joining others even temporarily (Turnaturi, 2011);
 - *amicability*, understood as friendly interaction (without the depth and emotional weight of true friendship), based on doing together (activities in common with each other, "the common denominator can be that you both have a child or a dog, that you both love to swim, that you visit the same church or always put the trash out on a Wednesday or take the same bus to the city center") not common identity (ethnic, religious, cultural) (Duyvendak & Wekker, 2016);
 - *social life and typology of sociality*, promoted by different social infrastructures, in terms of co-presence, sociability and friendship, care and kinship, kinesthetic practices, carnivalesque and collective experience, civic engagement (Layton & Latham, 2021);
 - *peer (children) interactions*, based on the possibility of daily encounters with the other beyond the private sphere, capable of generating individual well-being – in terms of overcoming a sense of loneliness; strengthening social capital (Karsten & Van Vliet, 2006) – and community well-being, in terms of civic integration of adults (Corcoran *et al.*, 2009).
2. ***Egalitarian social interactions between “different”*** – Some conceptualizations place the exclusion of differences – by location and social roles (Turnaturi, 2011), by lifestyle, cultural background or socioeconomic position (Duyvendak & Wekker, 2016) – as the foundation of social interactions, highlighting the importance of encounters with different others who do not belong to one's own group and the enhancement of bridging social capital (Karsten, 2016).
3. ***Belonging to community life (sense of connection with the communities, interaction with public institutions, attention to public affairs & common goods, involvement & engagement in the community, quality of urban interactions between people and towards public institutions)*** – Membership in community life can be delineated through the concepts of respect and social inclusion (Ronzi *et al.*, 2020), social sustainability (Križnik, 2018) and social cohesion (Raman, 2010), concepts that similarly describe, on the one hand, the sense of connectedness with the community through feeling valued and respected, the possibility of cultivating social relationships, both with people and institutions, grounded in affectivity (attention and interaction in urban relationships) (Fanizza, 2015), trust and solidarity among the various parts of a society; on the other hand, the participation, active involvement and engagement in the community in decision making processes, denoting a robust partnership, well-established communication and cooperation between the state and civil society.

¹¹ The reference is to: Simmel, G. (1997). *La socievolezza*. Armando.

¹² The reference is to: Amin, A. (2002). Ethnicity and the multicultural city. *Environment and Planning A*: 34(6), 959-980; Amin, A. (2007). Re-thinking the urban social. *11*(1), 100-114; Amin, A. (2008). Collective culture and urban public space. *12*(1), 5-24.

3.3.2. How is the nexus between social interactions and the urban environment conceptualized?

The conceptualization of the nexus between social interactions and the urban environment, addressed directly or indirectly in the theoretical and/or empirical reflections presented in the reports, can be traced to the following two themes.

1. **Social purposes of urban planning.** The first theme invokes the social purposes that urban planning should pursue through attention to the materiality, corporeality, and physicality of places and things (Turnaturi, 2011). Said purposes are conceptualized in terms of *child-friendly spatial planning/city* (Karsten, 2016), *child-friendly urban environments* (Karsten & Van Vliet, 2006), *Age-Friendly City* (Ronzi *et al.*, 2020); *authenticity* (vs homologation and just aesthetic state) of urban spaces, with attention to their social utility and purpose, as well as their ability to generate affectivity (Fanizza, 2015); *urban regeneration* (vs urban redevelopment, vs speculative urban development (market-driven urban development) (Križnik, 2018).
2. **Social externalities of the urban environment.** The second theme concerns the ability of spatial aspects of cities, design and structural equipment of the urban environment to foster social interactions.

Speaking of urban design, some reports emphasize the relevance of the accessibility of public urban spaces (Karsten, 2016), suburban settings (vs. cities undermining children's safety through crime, overpopulation, heavy traffic, noise, and pollution; Corcoran *et al.*, 2009) and of the street as an important area for urban livability for children (Karsten & Van Vliet, 2006), emphasizing the social relevance of outdoor play, the ability to move from place to place, for the generation and maintenance of peer relationships, and for children's freedom of movement and autonomy. In addition, Raman's analysis highlights the negative social impact of high-density areas, as they "are associated with few but stronger social relationships" (vs. low-density neighborhoods where residents have wider networks characterized more by informal acquaintances than strong relationships), suggesting on which elements to place attention in building "compact cities": the location of public spaces, visibility from and to these spaces, visual links between neighborhoods, typology and physical form of development rather than density alone.

Among the structural equipment of the urban environment capable of fostering social interactions, the reports recall the following elements:

- *social infrastructure* – representing "the networks of spaces, facilities, institutions, and groups that create affordances for social connection" (Latham & Layton, 2021) – such as public urban parks, the use of which depends on the facilities they offer, the neighborhood in which they are located, and the people who use them (*ibid.*), local amateur sports associations, recreational facilities, schools, parks, and churches as meeting points, availability, management, and maintenance of green areas, safe pedestrian and bicycle crossings/paths, accessibility of public spaces, suburban shopping centers (Corcoran *et al.*, 2009), the creation of inclusive places in deprived urban areas to encourage the meeting of social groups with different backgrounds (Križnik, 2018);
- *spaces and services reserved for transit and pedestrian parking*, with reference to a wide sidewalk as a meeting place for neighborhood children and the creation of safe traffic routes (Karsten, 2016), paved, level and accessible paths, and sidewalks that allow the elderly to be mobile and participate in the community (Ronzi *et al.*, 2020);
- *accessibility, affordability of physical spaces* such as parks and iconic places that foster multigenerational interactions, *access to the Internet* that can improve access and a sense of connection with the communities and wider social networks, *affordable transportation, and accessible stations* that enable older people to use and access places in the city and remain independent (Ronzi *et al.*, 2020).

3.3.3. How is the issue of social interactions in the urban context addressed in view of the different ages of the population?

Some reports (6/10) show a general focus on residents in an urban setting and four place emphasis on certain age groups in the population; in particular, three reports place the focus on children (of which one considers children under 16 years of age, one considers preadolescents aged 11-12 years) and one on older adults (60+ years).

Theoretical or empirical reflection of reports that have a general focus on residents of an urban context allows for tracing the *potential generative function* that social interactions in the urban context can have with respect *to the development of a society* – which is based on absolute respect for the ethical imperative (Turnaturi, 2011), attention to public space, public affairs, and the commons (Fanizza, 2015), social cohesion, and social sustainability (Raman, 2010; Križnik, 2018) -and *to the promotion of quality of life*, which rests on experiencing a livable life in the city (Layton & Latham, 2021) and feeling at home in public space (Duyvendak & Wekker, 2016).

Regarding *children*, reports highlight three conditions/categories:

- *indoor children* – children who have little experience with urban public space and play mostly at home, alone or with a brother or sister or friend (Karsten & Van Vilet, 2006; Karsten, 2016);
- *children of the “backseat generation”* – children who have reduced freedom outdoors, frequent many places in the city under the watchful eye of adults (Karsten, 2016) and exhibit mobility patterns similar to that of “ordinary modern adults” (Karsten & Van Vilet, 2006);
- *children as active and creative social agents* – children who, through their movements in urban space, active participation in institutional places and the social circuits they generate, represent the social glue of communities inhabiting suburban settings, which are considered safer for them than the city (Corcoran *et al.*, 2009).

Regarding *older adults* (people over 60 years old in accordance with the WHO definition) one report (Ronzi *et al.*, 2020) focuses on *the aging population* in relation to urbanization, elements that pose a public health challenge with reference to the need to ensure their respect and social inclusion, defined as strengthening “the opportunities to (i) cultivate social relationships, (ii) have access to resources and support, (iii) feel valued and respected and (iv) feel part of their community.”

The issues raised by the reports specifically on the social interactions of children and older adults in the urban context can be traced to two themes: on the one hand, *the actual condition of invisibility of children and older adults in the public sphere*, and on the other hand, *the potential community bond-generating function* that children play.

3.4. Discussion

This systematic review, moving from a sociological approach and opening up to interdisciplinary dialogue between sociology and other disciplines (urban planning and psychology), set out to trace in the literature the types of social interactions conceptualized with reference to the urban context, how the nexus between social interactions and the urban context is conceptualized, and, finally, whether and how this nexus is explained in view of the different ages of the population.

The thematic areas outlined based on the conceptualization of the types of social interactions in the urban context – *social connections embodied in the public space* (sociability, amicability; social life and typology of sociality, peer (children) interactions), *egalitarian social interactions between “different”, belonging to community life* (sense of connection with the communities, interaction with public institutions, attention to public affairs & common goods, involvement & engagement in the community, quality of urban interactions between people and towards public institutions) – lead to generating *three declinations of participation in community life*: (1) as the pleasure of encounter,

(2) as involvement and commitment/socialization to the common good, (3) as the generator of an integrated social structure.

Our review found that the different forms of participation in community life have as their common denominator *the appropriation and definition of a public social space*: a space that in agreement with Amin does not necessarily coincide with common places and spaces deputed to accommodate activities of the public sphere (institutional and commercial purposes), but that can generate sociability and togetherness through the creative informal use that people make of it (Turnaturi, 2011); an inclusive space capable of outclassing differences in favor of equal exchange (Turnaturi, 2011) and generating relational bridges between neighbors and between different people; a space capable of making people feel at home (Duyvendak & Wekker, 2016), a space generated by the participation of children (Karsten, 2016), respect and inclusion of older adults (Ronzi *et al.*, 2020), by the interaction between people and institutions, a space capable of socializing individuals and the community to generate, care, and respect for the common good (Fanizza, 2015).

The thematic areas highlighted on the nexus between social interactions and the urban environment – social purposes of urban planning and social externalities of the urban environment – lead to the generation of two analytical themes: ***urban planning pro-social interaction*** and ***urban environment pro-social interactions***. These two themes are intended to direct attention to two logics of promoting social interactions in the urban environment: the first logic is that of the *reembedding* (vs. the *disembedding* described by Giddens (1990/1994) of social relations, which highlights the importance of their anchoring to the (re)definition and (re)appropriation of local conditions of space; the second logic assumes *the socially pro-active dimension of planning* both land use and infrastructure, indicating the need to adopt a methodological approach that allows for a critical reading of the problems related to the social connections of a territory and a foreshadowing of future trends and changes, elements with respect to which to program, design and plan appropriate actions. These logics reveal a complementary character, insofar as social relations and the configuration of space (re)define each other.

The themes traced with reference to the issue of social interactions in the urban context in view of the different ages of the population – the making of society through urban social interactions, the strengthening of community bonding through children’s social interactions, the importance of social interactions for the quality of life – show how ***“affectively determined” social relations*** (which have meaning for themselves; by this expression we translate Weber’s concept of “affectively determined actions” to the concept of social relations), even transitory and superficial ones, represent ***a resource*** for the development of community values and for individual and social well-being. In the opposite direction, however, the invisible status of children and the elderly – which poses a challenge for their enhancement in the urban context – embody what we have termed ***the paradox of invisible resources***.

Looking at the purpose of forming a “promoter of sociability” in the urban context - the overall purpose of the STUD.IO project – the analytical themes generated suggest some *trans-disciplinary* principles that can guide policy and practice in the area of promoting sociability through urban design innovation and which we propose in the following terms:

- *ensuring or restoring the regime* of visibility to people of all age groups in the urban context through all forms of participation in community life;
- enhancing the *stages of people’s life course* as a *community resource*;
- fostering or recovering *the spatial dimension of social relations* through a *“pro-social interaction” approach of land use and infrastructure planning*;
- ensure, recover and (re)signify *the social value of public space*;
- promoting and enhancing *all forms of participation in community life*, especially of children, placing it as the foundation of the *structuring of society*.

Finally, we think these principles can be used in future research aimed at detecting both the amount and quality of social interactions mediated by the use and infrastructure of a territory, supporting the process of operationally defining empirically detectable dimensions and indicators.

3.5. Conclusions

In this systematic review, while maintaining the specificity of our observational approach (the sociological one), we have broadened the gaze of inquiry through an interdisciplinary perspective that has seen sociology dialoguing with mostly urban disciplines, in different ways: some reports are signed by authors pertaining to the highlighted disciplinary areas, others show the use of sociological concepts by authors belonging to other disciplines. This look – at the same time specific and interdisciplinary – has made it possible to highlight the different forms of association between physical and social aspects of an urban context, between *hard* and *soft* components of a social reality, allowing us to arrive at the formulation of some *trans*-disciplinary principles that can guide policies and practices on the subject of promoting sociability through urban design innovation. In conclusion, we extend the relevance of these principles for defining the aims and learning areas of training courses aimed at the training of professional figures who are experts (or the professional updating of figures already engaged in the field) in the socio-environmental planning of a territory.

References

- Boland, A., Cherry, M.G., & Dickson, R. (Eds.). (2017). *Doing a systematic review. A student's guide* (2nd ed.). SAGE.
- Corcoran, M., Gray, J., & Peillon, M. (2009). Making Space for Sociability: How Children Animate the Public Realm in Suburbia. *Nature and Culture*, 4(1), 35-56.
- Duyvendak, J. W., & Wekker, F. (2016). At home in the city?: The difference between friendship and amicability. In V. Mamadouh & A. Van Wageningen (Eds.), *Urban Europe* (pp. 23-30). Amsterdam University Press.
- Fanizza, F. (2015). The Affectivity of the Cities in Transition. *Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale*, 106, 70–79.
- Giddens, A. (1994). *Le conseguenze della modernità*. il Mulino. (Originally published in 1990).
- Harden, A., & Thomas, J. (2005). Methodological Issues in Combining Diverse Study Types in Systematic Reviews, *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 8:3, 257-271. DOI: 10.1080/13645570500155078
- Karsten, L. (2016). City kids and citizenship. In V. Mamadouh & A. Van Wageningen (Eds.), *Urban Europe* (pp. 75-82). Amsterdam University Press.
- Karsten, L., & Van Vliet, W. (2006). Children in the City: Reclaiming the Street. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 16(1), 151-167.
- Križnik, B. (2018). Transformation of deprived urban areas and social sustainability: A comparative study of urban regeneration and urban redevelopment in Barcelona and Seoul. *Urbani Izziv*, 29(1), 83-95.
- Layton, J., & Latham, A. (2021). Social infrastructure and public life – notes on Finsbury Park, London. *Urban Geography*, 43(2), 1-22.
- Page, M.J., McKenzie, J.E., Bossuyt, P.M., Boutron, I., Hoffmann, T.C., Mulrow, C.D. et al. (2021). The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ*, 372: n71 doi:10.1136/bmj.n71
- Raman, S. (2010). Designing a Liveable Compact City: Physical Forms of City and Social Life in Urban Neighbourhoods. *Built Environment* (1978-), 36(1), 63-80.
- Ronzi, S., Orton, L., Buckner, S., Bruce, N., & Pope, D. (2020). How is Respect and Social Inclusion Conceptualised by Older Adults in an Aspiring Age-Friendly City? A Photovoice Study in the North-West of England. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(24), 9246.
- Snilstveit, B., Oliver, S., & Vojtkova, M. (2012) Narrative approaches to systematic review and synthesis of evidence for international development policy and practice, *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 4:3, 409-429. DOI: [10.1080/19439342.2012.710641](https://doi.org/10.1080/19439342.2012.710641)
- Thomas, J., Harden, A. (2008). Methods for the thematic synthesis of qualitative research in systematic reviews. *BMC Med Res Methodol* 8, 45. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2288-8-45>
- Turnaturi, G. (2011). Socialità casuali. *Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia, Rivista trimestrale fondata da Camillo Pellizzi* 1, 15-36.
- United Nations - Habitat III Secretariat (2017). *New Urban Agenda*. Retrieved from: <https://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>

4. Psychology and Environment: a systematic review

Violeta-Ștefania Rotărescu¹, Giuseppe Craparo²

¹ University of Bucharest (România), violeta.rotarescu@fpse.unibuc.ro

² Kore University of Enna (Italy), giuseppe.craparo@unikore.it

Abstract

Aim of this systematic review is to provide some of the most relevant studies on the relationship between psychology and the environment. It is organized around several themes, like environmental psychology, environment, and mental health, personal cognition and its relationship with the built environment, place attachment, and migration.

We have developed this review accordance with the PRISMA 2020 guidelines. Studies cited in this chapter was conducted in the following databases list: Psychology Abstract, PsycLit, Research Alert, DOAJ, CrossRef, Google Scholar, Web of Science, PMCID, Zetoc, Scopus.

Studies cited in this our work show that the link between the organization of the environment and well-being is important, in the light of two constraints: urban sprawl and climate change. Both act as modeling factors and constrain finding new solutions. One of the promising solutions is the use of information related to the organization of the mind, self-construction, and personality, in the development of the architecture of buildings of public interest and meeting and socializing spaces. This direction is still little studied, although the research presented in this review shows promising advances in this area. Another direction is the use of more environmentally friendly building materials, whose superior properties positively affect the inhabitants as well. Finally, another way is given by elaborating urban plans that integrate the various parts of the cities, and the communities in general, determining less segregation and better management of waste and pollution.

Keywords: Environment; Attachment; Migration; Psychology.

4.1. Introduction

In this big world, we are more and more people living in larger and more crowded places. This fact brings together benefits and problems. Climate change has further complicated the situation of urban dwellers, with climate problems – much more serious than some time ago -, water supply problems (Van der Bruggem, Borghgraef & Vinckier, 2010), and climate problems added to existing problems, the need for sustainable transport (Zhao et al., 2020), etc. Under these circumstances, it becomes essential to streamline and modernize those aspects that allow for easier living in cities, on the one hand, and to create opportunities to preserve and improve the aspects of daily life through which people socialize and keep their mental health intact.

This chapter examines some of the most relevant papers related to the study of the relationship between psychology and the environment. It is organized around several themes, like environmental psychology, environment, and mental health, personal cognition and its relationship with the built environment, place attachment, and migration. We conclude by discussing some of the integrative theories in this interdisciplinary field.

We decline the general research question of STUD.IO in our systematic review by addressing the following questions:

4. What is the environmental psychology?
5. What is the nature of relationship between environment and mental health?
6. What is the relationship between personal cognition and its relationship with the built environment
7. What is the relationship between place identity and place attachment?
8. What is the relationship between migration and environment?

4.2. Methods

For this systematic review, we have followed the guidelines of PRISMA 2020. The consultation of each source was conducted between June and September 2021 in the following databases: Scopus, DOAJ, Researchgate, Google Scholar, PsycInfo, APA PsycNet, SpringerLink (see Fig. 1). We have attended to the following topics: Environmental Psychology, Environment and Mental Health, Place Attachment, Personal Cognition and its relationship with environment, Migration.

The identified records were collected in the *Module B_Abstracts selection*. In the *Module C_Full texts selection* are described and evaluated full texts according to some information (Country, Analysis of theory, Analysis of methods, Focus on size-city (small and medium), Target participants (children and the elderly), Analysis of results, Target dissemination (students, professionals, researchers), Future research direction, Mono- or inter-disciplinarity (specify which disciplines), Themes (skills and attitudes, Contextual factors (geographical location, socio-economic conditions, political context, city size), Services, good/optimal practices), Can the results be applied to other local contexts?) and according to certain criteria (Relevance, Reliability, Extrinsic factors, Intrinsic factors, Appropriateness to learning fields) measured on a 5-point scale.

In this our chapter we used a narrative approach of qualitative data synthesis on the topics listed above.

4.3. Results

Details of the review process are given in the PRISMA 2020 flow diagram (see Fig. 1).

The initial search identified 46 records. The screening process on titles and abstracts identified 31 reports eligible for full text evaluation. The evaluation process resulted in the exclusion of 15 reports for the following reasons:

- not psychological area (n = 5);
- non-eligible historical period (n = 3);
- methodological limitations (n = 5);
- overly concise treatment (n = 1);
- excessive generality of theme (n = 1).

16 studies were included in the final review in accordance with guidelines of the STUD.IO project. Geographic focus of these studies is predominantly Western and European (Table 1). Participants are adults aged ≥ 18 living in small, medium or large cities.

Only two reports move from a psychological and sociological approach and fourteen reports an *inter-disciplinary* approach: Psychology, Geography of Climate Change, Architecture, Medicine, Social work, Governance, Disaster management.

Some reports in our review present a literature review, literature analysis, qualitative research, a theoretical model.

Figure 1 – The systematic review of STUD.IO for the psychological area: PRISMA 2020 flow diagram

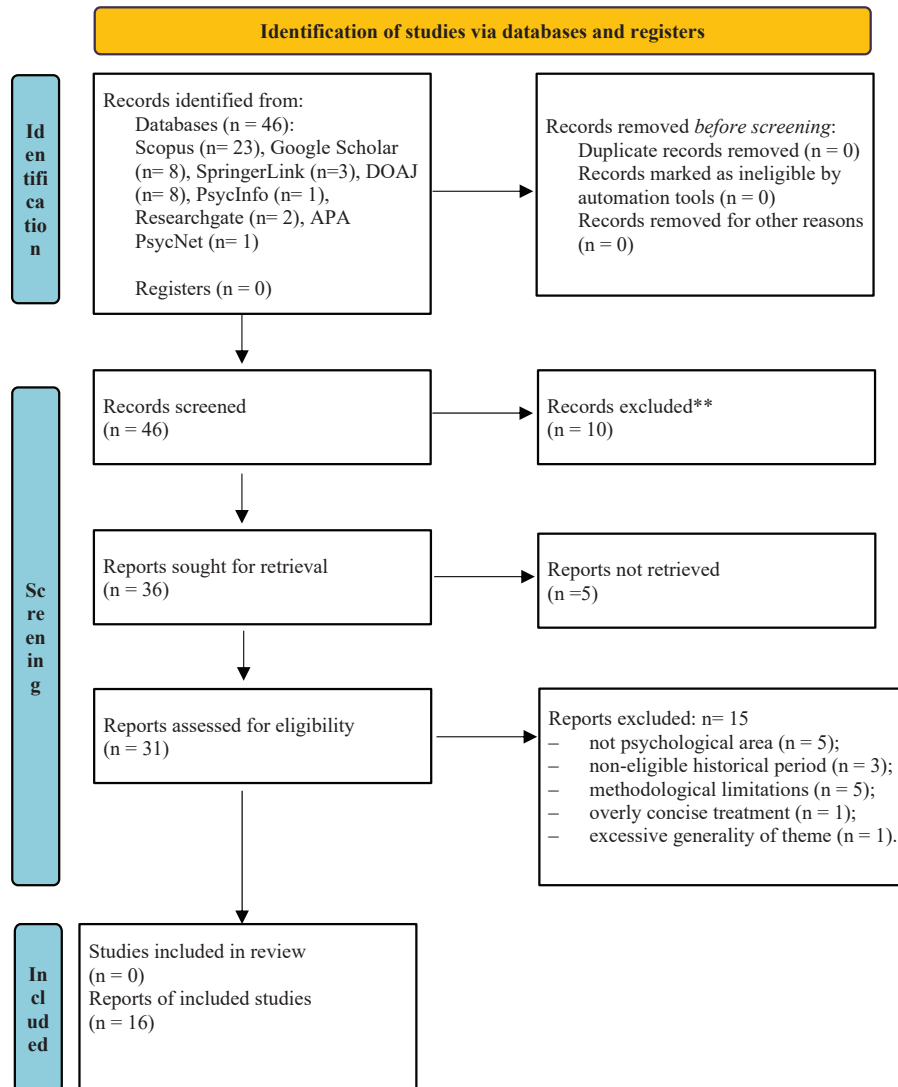


Table 1 – Key characteristics of each study included in the systematic review

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectorality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
1	Barth, M., Masson, T., Fritsche, I., Fielding, K., Smith, J. R. (2021). Collective responses to global challenges: The social psychology of pro-environmental action, <i>Journal of Environmental Psychology</i> , 74, 101562. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2021.101562	N/A	N/A	Adults	Psychology / Geography of Climate Change	The theory is based on social identity approach, a psychological theory used to explain the motivation of large groups of individuals. The authors consider this theory as a promising one, when the discussion comes to the climate change topic.	Literature review
2	Devine-Wright, P. (2012). Think global, act local? The relevance of place attachments and place identities in a climate-changed the world. <i>Global Environmental Change</i> , 23 (1), 61-69. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2012.08.003	UK	N/A	Adults	Environmental psychology / Human geography	This paper focuses on Feitelson argument regarding the importance of place attachments, at local and global scales, for understanding human responses to climate change (Feitelson, 1991).	Literature analysis

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
3	Daryanto A., Song Z., Soopramanien D. (2020). A Meta-Analysis of the Relationship between Place Attachment and Pro-Environmental Intention: An Abstract. In: Pantoja F., Wu S., Krey N. (eds) Enlightened Marketing in Challenging Times. AMSWMC 2019. Developments in Marketing Science: Proceedings of the Academy of Marketing Science. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-42545-6_209	UK	N/A	Adults	Psychology	The theory covers the main lines of research regarding place attachment and pro-environmental intention.	Meta-analysis
4	Clarke, D., Murphy, C., & Lorenzoni, I. (2018). Place attachment, disruption, and transformative adaptation. <i>Journal of Environmental Psychology</i> , 55, 81-89. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2017.12.006	Ireland	Small city	Adults	Psychology / Disaster Governance / Disaster management	The theoretical part of this paper focuses on the concept of place attachment. This concept has two parts: place dependence and place identity. Using flood risk management in Ireland as an example of climate change adaptation, this paper examines disruptive place change in response to proposed transformative adaptation by: 1. understanding place-related symbolic meanings and the relationship between place-protective interpretative responses and place attachment. 2. exploring whether	Quantitative analysis

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
5	Qazimi, S. (2014). Sense of Place and Place Identity. <i>European Journal of Social Science Education and Research</i> , 1(1), 306–310. https://doi.org/10.26417/ejser.v1i1.p306-310	UE	N/A	Adults	Psychology of Identity, Geography.	support for flood defences is constrained by the desire to prevent disruptive place change occurring. 3. investigating the relationship between oppositional attitudes towards proposed adaptation and perceptions of governance processes. 4. examining differences in place attachment and support for proposed flood defences (and flood defences in general) based on both flood experience and flood risks. The theoretical approach focuses on two concepts: place and identity. The author is interested in 1. the impact of place on identity, and 2. The role place plays, among other factors, like cultural, genetic, social, in shaping identity. The author makes a review on the main theories on concepts like place-identity (Proshansky,	Literature review

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
6	Gee, G. C., & Payne-Sturges, D. C. (2004). Environmental Health Disparities: A Framework Integrating Psychosocial and Environmental Concepts. <i>Environmental Health Perspective</i> , 112 (17), 1645-1653. https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp.7074	USA	Small and medium cities	Children and elderly	Social Psychology / Environmental Health	The authors propose a frame model integrating psychosocial factors, like neighborhood, community, and structural factors (constraints that shape how any new condition regarding health is seen as salutogen, or pathogen), and environmental factors (environmental hazards and pollutants). Both types of concepts are approached at community	Theoretical model
7	Roberts, H., & Helbich, M. (2021). Multiple environmental exposures along daily mobility paths and depressive symptoms: A smartphone-based tracking study. <i>Environment International</i> , 156, 106635. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2021.106635	Netherlands	N/A	Adults	Environmental Sciences / Psychology	The paper analyses the main theoretical aspects of depression, as the major disease of our century, of main polluters found around cities – noise and air pollution –, green space, blue space, and their contribution to mental	Cross-sectional GPS tracking study, combined with questionnaire administration.

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
8	Proulx, M. J., Todorov, O. S., Taylor Aiken, A., de Sousa, A. A. (2016). Where am I? Who am I? The Relation Between Spatial Cognition, Social Cognition and Individual Differences in the Built Environment. <i>Frontiers in Psychology</i> . https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00064	UK, Netherlands	N/A	Adults	Psychology, Neuroscience, Architecture	The authors emphasize the role of space in the definition of self. Many theories take the space into account, when it comes the discussion to thoughts, feelings, self and actions (embodied cognition). Evolutionary theory also emphasizes the connection between selfhood and spatial perception and skills.	Theoretical model
9	Creem-Regehr, S.H., Barhorst-Cates, E.M., Tarampi, M.R. <i>et al.</i> How can basic research on spatial cognition enhance the visual accessibility of architecture for people with low vision?. <i>Cogn. Research</i> 6, 3 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1186/s41235-020-00265-y	USA	N/A	N/A	Psychology / Architecture	The paper presents an overview of the main findings regarding the visual accessibility of built spaces and environment for people with low vision impairment and proposes future directions. The analysis itself proves to be thorough and explicit, though very technical,	Literature analysis

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
10	Gendel-Guterman, H., Billig, M. Increasing citizen satisfaction with municipal services: the function of intangible factors. <i>International Review of Public Nonprofit Mark</i> , 18, 171–186. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12208-020-00267-y	Israel	Small city	All inhabitants	Psychology / Sociology	but I think the conclusions are practical and applicable in any area / place. The paper focuses on the two elements important for services satisfaction: the perceived satisfaction from the mutual relationship between the supplier and the receiver (municipality and citizen), and the perceived image of the place's quality of life. A well perceived image can result in the development of feelings of wholeness and happiness by the citizens.	Quantitative analysis

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
11	Nenko, A., Petrova, M. (2019). Comparing PPGIS and LBSN Data to Measure Emotional Perception of the City. In: Alexandrov, D., Boukhanovsky, A., Chugunov, A., Kabanov, Y., Koltsova, O., Musabirov, I. (eds) Digital Transformation and Global Society. DTGS 2019. Communications in Computer and Information Science, vol 1038. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-37858-5_18	Russia	Large city	All inhabitants	Psychology / Geography	The present study focuses on the connection between large cities' geography, geometry, and general environment, and human emotions. Big urbanism schools agreed that cities are defined by mobility, and mobility is tightly connected to emotions. A modern source for collecting present emotions of the inhabitants, in a big city, is Social Media. The use of such source for the study of emotions has a number of advantages: coverage and volume, details, expressivity, richness and availability of information regarding social media users.	Quantitative analysis
12	Willie, T. C., Powell, A., & Kershaw, T. (2016). Stress in the city: Influence of urban social stress and violence on pregnancy and postpartum quality of life among adolescent and young mothers. <i>Journal of urban health</i> , 93(1), 19-35. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-015-0021-x	USA	Large city	Adolescents and young mothers	Psychology / Medicine/ Environment	The authors use a social ecological model to explore the effects of urban social environment on the health of adolescent and young mothers in urban areas. They introduce a new latent concept –	Longitudinal study

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
						urban social stress – which consists of stressors that appear in high prevalence for adolescents and young mothers, taking into account the urban social environment.	
13	Stokes, N., & Clare, J. (2019). Preventing near-repeat residential burglary through cocooning: Post hoc evaluation of a targeted police-led pilot intervention. <i>Security Journal</i> , 32(1), 45-62.	USA	N/A	Adults	Psychology / Sociology	The theoretical part of the paper focuses on the concepts of social integration (one's connection to a broader community, seen here as a subjective measure of perceived cohesion / connection), discrimination (in neighborhood, workplace, etc), well-being, depression, neighborhood quality, all these within the frame of person-environment fit.	Quantitative study
14	Montesino, N. (2010). Social Integration and New Realities in the Swedish Welfare Society. <i>Social Work & Society</i> , 8 (1), 94-103. http://mbn-resolving.de/urn:mbn:de:0009-11-27063	Sweden	Large city	Adults	Psychology / Social work	The theoretical part of the article focuses on social integration and consumption concepts. Both concepts were discussed: 1. in opposition to traditional Swedish society and Neo-modern Swedish	Theoretical model

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
15	Bressan, M., & Krause, E.L. (2017). La cultura del controllo. Lecture subalterne di un conflitto urbano. <i>Antropologia</i> , 4 (3), 137-157. https://doi.org/10.14672/ada20171348%25p	Italy	Medium and large cities	Adults and children	Sociology	The paper focuses on a deep analysis of the cultural specificity of the Chinese migrant families living in Tuscany - between Florence and Prato. The cultural mis-fusion between Chinese and the rest of population, and other economic factors, determined a rise of cultural-based conflicts.	
16	Kessenheimer, J. S., & Greitemeyer, T. (2021). Going Green (and Not Being Just More Pro-Social): Do Attitude and Personality Specifically Influence Pro-Environmental Behavior? <i>Sustainability</i> , 13(6), 3560. https://doi.org/10.3390/su13063560	Austria	All cities	All inhabitants	Environmental Sciences / Psychology	The theory focuses on the theory behind HEXACO personality model, and pro-environmental attitude. HEXACO model evolved from BIG FIVE model and includes the following factors: honesty-humility, emotionality,	Quantitative analysis

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
						<p>extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to experiences. Pro-environmental attitude is also labeled pro-environmental concern, and is described as an orientation pattern that is stable across situations by being concerned about the natural environment.</p>	

From the analysis of the above-mentioned articles, we have tried to answer the questions listed in the introduction to this chapter

4.3.1. What is the environmental psychology?

Environmental psychology, as a research area, is facing numerous challenges, due to the global and local climate changes, and the new social cognition regarding the living environment.

From an interdisciplinary perspective, environmental Psychology is connected to many other areas. An important interdisciplinary connection regards the way the environment reflects racial and social discrimination. Gee and Payne-Sturges (2004) analyze this subject, presenting an exposure-disease paradigm. It is often accepted that social and environmental factors interact to produce racial and ethnic environmental health disparities, but it is still unclear how this happens. Despite the continued controversy, the environmental justice movement has provided some insight by suggesting that disadvantaged communities face a greater likelihood of exposure to ambient hazards. The exposure-disease paradigm has long suggested that differential “vulnerability” may modify the effects of toxic substances (for example exposure to chemical substances, smoke, dust, etc.) on biological systems. Relatively little work has been done to specify whether racial and ethnic minorities may have greater vulnerability than do majority populations and, further, what these vulnerabilities may be. The authors suggest that psychosocial stress may be the vulnerability factor that links social conditions with environmental hazards. Psychosocial stress is an important factor that could be the determinant of many changes in the function of the immune system, also conducting to illnesses. In their paper, they present a multidisciplinary framework integrating these ideas. They also argue that residential segregation leads to different experiences of community stress, like exposure to pollutants, and also access to community resources. When not counterbalanced by relevant resources, stressors may lead to heightened vulnerability to environmental hazards. Future studies of the connection between community stress, individual stress, and health are necessary. Public health should consider the role residential segregation plays in the production of health disparities. In the authors’ opinion, this integrative framework should encourage the environmental justice movement to expand the notion of “environmental hazards”, to take into account community stressors. Also, research should study the way structural conditions of communities may confer additional vulnerability to exposure to environmental hazards.

Beyond specific conditions of vulnerable communities, climate change affects us all so, and a common response to face it is necessary. Barth and his colleagues (2021) propose a discussion concerning possible ways of motivating large groups to engage in concerted action for environmental protection. The social identity approach is a promising and not very used theoretical basis for that purpose. In theory, the social identity approach includes two distinct parts – social identity theory and self-categorization theory. The first one regards that part of an individual’s self-concept derived from perceived membership in a relevant social group. The self-categorization theory addresses the limitations of the first part, meaning the way social identity theory deals with the cognitive processes that underpin behaviors.

In their paper, the authors discuss multiple paths of approaching the study of environment and psychology, investigating the effects of using collective-level variables on pro-environmental action that builds on the social identity approach.

4.3.2. What is the nature of relationship between environment and mental health?

Roberts and Helbich (2021) examine possible associations between multiple environmental exposures – green space, blue space, noise, and air pollution, both at home and along the daily mobility path – and depressive symptoms. They also explore the differences between the residential-

based and mobility-based environmental exposures, analyzing if these associations have any variation by sex.

The authors measured a statistically significant negative relationship between greater exposure to green space and depressive symptoms in the minimally adjusted residential-based and mobility-based models, using both 50 m and 100 m buffers. In the final fully adjusted model, the significant association between green space and depressive symptoms returned in both models for the 50 m buffer size only. The authors found that, on average, exposure to blue space, noise, and air pollution was higher when using the mobility-based measure than the residential-based measure. No significant interaction between the environmental exposures and sex was found. Further research is required to determine the differences between residential- and mobility-based approaches to environmental exposure assessment and the implications for mental health.

This study is interesting not only through results but also because it proposes a very modern way of collecting data - by controlled monitoring of the GPS of mobile phones. Results also contribute to the general knowledge regarding the relationship between the urban environment and mental health.

An important factor in the management of life quality and satisfaction toward environmental care is the public authority. In another research, Gendel-Guterman and Billig (2020) focus on the two elements important for service satisfaction: the perceived satisfaction from the mutual relationship between the municipality and citizens, and the perceived image of the place's quality of life. A good perceived image can result in the development of feelings of wholeness and happiness by the citizens. One of the important results of this research is that a comprehensive view of life, or happiness, mediates the relation between perceived quality of life and citizen satisfaction. Happiness, as an "intangible" factor, explains only part of the variance in satisfaction with municipal services and a part of the variance in the general perception of urban quality of life (both being tangible factors). Further research that includes both tangible and intangible concrete factors may clarify and explain more extensively the phenomenon of satisfaction with municipal services. A good continuation of this research would be to conduct a similar study in larger cities, for example, since this one was performed in a small town.

Psychological concepts become increasingly important for the explanation of environmental impact on human existence. New mixed concepts become the core of inter-disciplinary explicative models. A good example, in this line, is the study of Willie, Powell, and Kershaw (2016). The authors use a social-ecological model to explore the effects of the urban social environment on the health of adolescents and young mothers in urban areas. Urban social stress, a new latent concept under the umbrella of urban social environments, consists of stressors that appear in high prevalence for adolescents and young mothers. Urban social stress significantly predicted mental quality of life, specifically, higher urban social stress during pregnancy was related to the poor mental quality of life in the postpartum period.

Intimate partner violence, another important variable of the study, is highly connected to urban social stress, and significantly predicted physical quality of life. Compare to that, nonpartner violence did not significantly predict the postpartum quality of life.

A multigroup model assessed whether the associations on postpartum quality of life differed by intimate partner violence (exposed and unexposed mothers). The effects of urban social stress and intimate partner violence have an impact on mental quality of life. Mothers unexposed to partner violence but having higher urban social stress during pregnancy reported poorer mental quality of life during the postpartum period. Compared to that, expecting mothers exposed both to partner violence and high urban social stress exhibit no change in the quality of life in the postpartum period.

In a conclusion, urban social stress, associated with other variables, plays an important role in the perceived quality of life, of adolescents and young mothers.

Personality seems to be a central variable not only for psychology but for many environmental theories. One such theory starts from a well-known personality model – HEXACO – and proposes an extra factor, called pro-environmental attitude (Kesenheimer & Greitemeyer, 2021). Pro-

environmental attitude is also labeled pro-environmental concern, and is defined as “an orientation pattern that is stable across situations by being concerned about the natural environment”.

The research made by the two above-mentioned authors suggests that a pro-environmental attitude serves as the proximal determinant of pro-environmental behavior. Future research should develop this idea by collecting data in a longitudinal design.

This paper improves the theoretical and practical approach to pro-environmental behavior, in the sense that it takes into account the role pro-environmental attitude plays over the behavior. Some suggestions regarding the improvement of methodological design – for example, longitudinal studies – are welcome. Also, as a practical consequence, enhancing the pro-environmental attitude (care for the environment) is one of the main gates toward the improvement of pro-environmental behavior.

4.3.3. What is the relationship between personal cognition and its relationship with the built environment?

We have discussed the relationship between environment and mental health. For the next section, we shall focus on studies regarding the way the built environment is reflected in the inner construction of the mind.

A group of influential theories takes space into account when it comes to the discussion of thoughts, feelings, self, and actions (embodied cognition). Evolutionary theories also emphasize the connection between selfhood and spatial perception and skills. In their paper, Proulx, Todorov, Taylor Aiken & De Sousa (2016) emphasize the role of space in the definition of self. Numerous Authors consider self as a product of personality and environment (see, for example, Baumeister, 1987). Between people, there are individual differences regarding spatial reference frames and, also, personalities (see, also, Barsalou & al., 2003; Barsalou, 2008).

We may consider there is an overlap in social and spatial behavior, and this aspect has neuro-physiological bases, as studies on spatial navigation, self-movement perception, and personality show. The above-mentioned paper has a consistent section on social and spatial neuroscience. Among subjects approached here are: the neurophysiology of self-mapping and navigation, the interaction between neural representations of space and self, and neural correlates of personality and the social self.

A second theoretical approach is an evolutionary perspective. This perspective includes a discussion on evolutionary ecology models for the built environment and a discussion regarding spatial and social cognition in human evolution.

The last chapter – The built environment – discuss subjects like environmental influences on spatial reference frames, types and levels of confinement in the built environment and its influence on social and spatial cognition, and, finally, a discussion regarding spatial behavior – from architecture to neuroscience and vice versa. Based on previous sections, the authors conclude that the space around us is mapped, together with our body, in our mind, as self – “As discussed above, egocentric and allocentric reference frames are often studied as two opposing spatial strategies in navigation and other aspects of spatial cognition, however, these may be linked across social and spatial cognition. Individual differences in cognitive and sensory abilities impact navigation as well”.

This topic requires further research directions. Regarding the planning of social spaces around public places, or housing, an important aspect Could be the dynamic between spatial and social cognition and individual differences. Equal access to such places should be provided to everyone, disregarding bodily constraints. Planning the accessibility would assure equal chances for “experience” for both able and disabled people, and provide equal chances for personal and future development. Another direction of study would be the interaction between the planning of building of public relevance, like Town Hall, or Parliament (meaning, the places where important public decisions are made), and individual differences, so that the spatial and social perception to conduct more effective policymaking.

Regarding the accessibility of public spaces for people, especially low-vision people, an interesting study belongs to Creem-Regehr et al. (2020). Worldwide there are about half a billion low-vision people (about 8% of them are blind) and a future forecast shows a sharp increase in the future. One functional consequence of low vision is, among others, a spatial orientation difficulty, especially when specific architecture details (pillars, corners, stairs) or furniture could become obstacles for impaired people. Solutions for such problems could be the raise of contrast between surfaces, or rethinking the space. Many experimental simulations of low vision, with normal people, were done during the last years. Their purpose was to understand the difficulties low-vision people encounter when exposed to unfamiliar spaces. The amount of information collected is considered to be of great value. Such research contributed to the design of easier-to-avoiding visual hazards during locomotion, ground-plane irregularities, etc. Results have implications for visually and physically accessible architectural design.

Another goal would be to test a wide range of low-vision individuals on the types of paradigms that have been developed. This would serve to generalize beyond simulated low vision by varying the extent of visual impairment in ways that naturally occur with age or disease as well as the understanding of possible strategies developed by low-vision people. An implication regards new assistive technologies that could enhance the visually accessible design and facilitate the space perception and spatial cognition needed for safe and efficient navigation. The development of these technologies requires a human-centered design approach and more fitted usability for visually impaired users – an approach that is not always typical for designers. In this case, the effective design of assistive technologies needs to be based on an understanding of the perceptual and cognitive processes that underlie spatial representation and navigation. Additional work is needed to understand the multisensory spatial information that is used in complex navigation tasks so that it can be conveyed and used effectively.

4.3.4. What is the relationship between place identity and place attachment?

From previously analyzed papers we understand the importance of the connection between psychology and surrounding living space. In the Devine-Wright, 2012 paper – Place identity and place attachment – the authors make recommendations regarding the relationship between place identity and place attachment. The author intends to extend a theory launched by another author (see Feitelson, 1991), regarding the importance of place attachments, at global and local scales, as responses to climate change.

The main contributions of this paper are numerous. First of all, the author connects place attachments and place identity, pointing to the lack of interdisciplinary literature – geography, environmental psychology, and social psychology. Also, he addresses a consistent critique to the concept of “psychological distance”. Within contemporary research, psychological distance is conceived as a multi-dimensional concept: social, spatial, temporal, and certainty of outcome. Still, it doesn’t explain the Psychological dimension of the fight against global change. A better concept would be place attachment, which involves an emotional attachment and personal involvement of individuals in actions against climate change. Future research should take into account the approach of place attachment and place identity at global and local scales, the combination of qualitative and quantitative measures in research methodologies, and investigation of the link between attachment, identities, and collective actions, to investigate with greater attention the connection between the communication failure linked to spatial frame, and to investigate the connection between all these concepts and climate change engagement.

The relationship between place attachment and its behavioral consequences were studied by other researchers as well (Darianto, Song, and Soopramanien, 2020). Since psychology emphasized this affective bond that people have with the place (leading to behaviors that generally benefit that place), the interest among researchers in the topic grew. In particular, place attachment and its dimensions have often been documented as good predictors to explain people’s intention for pro-environmental

behaviors. Other studies show that the effect size regarding the impact of place attachment on pro-environmental intention varies. Thus, further studies are needed to clarify the nature of the relationship between place attachment and pro-environmental intention. This type of research should raise some relevant questions – Does place attachment always have a positive impact on pro-environmental intention? What are the contextual factors that might influence the relationship between place attachment and pro-environmental intention? Etc.

This meta-analysis synthesizes the empirical findings to better understand the magnitude of the effect of place attachment on pro-environmental intention and to evaluate the extent to which various operationalizations of place attachment and contextual factors, such as type of sample and culture, contribute to the variations in the reported effects of place attachment on pro-environmental intention. The authors' results support prior expectations of the presence of a positive effect of place attachment on pro-environmental intention, and the effect size is small to large. Furthermore, the variations in the effect sizes can be explained by the study of context and culture. More specifically, the effect of place attachment on pro-environmental intention is stronger for tourists compared to residents—both groups have different forms of relationships with different types of places. The results also show that the effect of place attachment on pro-environmental intention tends to be stronger in collectivistic countries (e.g., China) than in individualistic countries (e.g., the US). Another study focusing on place attachment was the one performed by Clarke, Murphy, and Lorenzoni (2018). The theoretical part of this paper focused on place attachment, as a two-part concept: place dependence and place identity. Using flood risk management in Ireland as an example of climate change adaptation, this study examined disruptive place change in response to proposed transformative adaptation by 1. understanding place-related symbolic meanings and the relationship between place-protective interpretative responses and place attachment. 2. exploring whether support for flood defenses is constrained by the desire to prevent disruptive place change from occurring. 3. investigating the relationship between oppositional attitudes towards proposed adaptation and perceptions of governance processes. 4. examining differences in place attachment and support for proposed flood defenses (and flood defenses in general) based on both flood experience and flood risks. Contrary to previous ones, this study showed that place attachment is stronger in individuals who perceive governance processes as inadequate, and finds that neither flood experience nor flood risk affects the strength of place attachment and support for flood defenses. The study suggests that where transformative adaptation disrupts place and threatens place attachment, considering the views of both those affected and unaffected by hazardous events is necessary.

Since now we assume place attachment is an important variable in understanding people's attitude toward the environment and living place organization, we shall furtherly review another study on the same topic (Qazimi, 2014). The theoretical part of it focuses on two concepts: place and identity. The author is interested in 1. the impact of place on identity, and 2. the role place plays, among other factors, like cultural, genetic, and social, in shaping identity. Qazimi makes a review of the main theories on concepts like place-identity (eg. Proshansky, 1978; Proshansky, Fabian, and Kaminoff, 1983), social identity (Hogg, Hardie & Reynolds, 1995; Tajfel, 1982), and identity process (Breakwell, 2010). The conclusions point to the multiple links between the social and place identities, the identity process being a mediator, or connector, between them.

Nenko and Petrova (2018) focused also on the connection between different types of concepts - large cities' geography, geometry, the general environment, and human emotions. Big urbanism schools agreed that mobility defines cities, and mobility is tightly connected to emotions.

A modern source for collecting the present emotions of the inhabitants, in a big city, is Social Media. The use of such sources for the study of emotions has several advantages: coverage and volume, details, expressivity, richness, and availability of information regarding social media users.

The "geography" of emotions regards a new approach of the university and municipality. An interactive map of the city – Imprecity – was created, where users could place emotional emoji representing 5 basic human emotions – joy, sadness, anger, disgust, and fear.

Methodologically speaking, the analysis of emotions from big urban data has been developed along several lines: analysis of semantic data (texts and hashtags) and analysis of visual data (facial expressions and emoji). Such research has some drawbacks regarding the analyses: loss of depth due to online anonymity, loss of truth due to conspicuous behavior, loss of representation due to a lower scope, and loss of interpretative power due to the fuzziness of subjective indicators.

The emotional analysis is a way to improve the quality of urban life and the urban environment. Results coming from the emotional analysis can be employed by urban planners, designers, as well as researchers to diagnose the 'subjective' problems of the city. However, retrieval of subjective perceptions and emotional evaluations based on data coming from social media and other spontaneous data is still yet underexplored, and there are quite many flaws caused by the nature of data itself, as well as many methodological gaps, in particular, in the analysis of particular emotions in connection to the city space, such as joy, anger, fear, etc. Analysis of social media data should be conducted together with data received deliberately from users with the help of services and apps, such as Imprecity. Imprecity, as an application, enables collecting a unique set of data to illustrate the direct emotional attitude of people towards the urban environment. In this way, Imprecity allows analyzing perceptions and impressions of particular urban places and supports decision making with targeted interventions to improve the latter for the sake of human well-being. The data can be processed in several ways – emotional maps, emotional ratings of places, and word clouds with verbalized features of places triggering particular emotions.

Imprecity is a work in progress and there are some risks it can face. The first risk is a deficit of usability if the motivational system is not created correctly. Many of the applications alike do not become popular. The authors are planning to overcome this barrier by creating a system of engaging infographics and analytics on the city level, which will be publicized by mass media partners, and on the personal level, by developing tools for personal emotional diagnostics for Imprecity users. The second risk of this approach is that users won't actively engage in creating content – sharing emotions and ideas. Instead, they will rather consume information. Such a problem should be overcome by creating a system of tokens or bonuses, such as discounts for cultural facilities and other venues, to praise active users. The third risk is the failure of the coherent and sound relationship between active citizens and city officials when it realizes project ideas created by initiative groups. The authors are planning to eliminate this risk by introducing experts, who consult and share a wide specter of information on how citizens can participate in urban planning processes.

The idea of an application for desktop and mobile, to measure geographical emotions in a city, is both modern and efficient. It allows for measuring the points of interest in the city, for its inhabitants, the emotional state of mind, and the dynamic of these emotions. A change in the range of positive emotions on the platform, to allow more types of positive emotions to be measured, could conduct a more accurate idea of the real emotional state of the users. Another discussion is about the usability of the information collected via the application. It is not only that inhabitants love or not their place, but also about the dynamics and sense of identity people develop during their life in a place.

The promotion of positive social ties and the reduction of negative social interactions, and their consequences, both depend upon the quality of place, specifically adults' neighborhoods (Stokes and Clare, 2019). This makes access to safe, high-quality neighborhood settings a key component for any effective "aging in place" initiative. Stability within neighborhoods appeared as an important element

as well. Most older adults who wish to age in place have strong attachments to their physical neighborhoods, and the results of Stokes's study suggest strong social attachments as well. Social integration did not only improve with age, it also improved with each additional year of residential stability within a neighborhood. If fostering social integration in later life is a priority for successful aging, then not only access to high-quality neighborhoods, but the ability to remain within such neighborhoods appears crucial. The effect of residential stability was independent of the influence of perceived neighborhood quality, as well, indicating that stability in one's neighborhood was beneficial for social integration irrespective of that neighborhood's perceived quality.

Future research should also attend closely to ways in which changes to neighborhood features and demographics may affect the association between residential stability and social integration over time, as such changes may reduce the "consistency and familiarity" mentioned earlier.

This study offers new and interesting information concerning the importance of physical places for adults' social well-being. Specifically, this study revealed that perceptions of neighborhood quality influence social integration throughout adulthood and that this effect diminishes with age. Moreover, depression undermines adults' social integration consistently across the age range. Perceived neighborhood quality serves as a protective social resource that buffers against the negative influence of depression on social integration. Taken together, these results underscore the importance of neighborhood setting for social well-being across the life course and offer useful information for theory, future research, and the promotion of successful "aging in place" initiatives.

Also, the study is a good example of a longitudinal study used to collect data from a large territory, such as the USA. In this way, representativeness is assured.

4.3.5. What is the relationship between migration and environment?

Disruption from native places and living in different ones – migration – is a growing phenomenon Europe had to manage for decades. Many social and economic studies focused on the challenges migration poses for the native and adoption countries. A topic of equal interest regards the manner migrant people manage to fuse with the new culture, and how those cultures mix to create a Culture of a new kind. In this line, Bressan and Krause (2017) focused on a deep analysis of the cultural specificity of the Chinese migrant families living in Tuscany – between Florence and Prato. The cultural mix-fusion between the Chinese and the rest of the population, and other economic factors, determined a rise in cultural-based challenges. One aspect that was highlighted in this study is precisely the reaction and protest capacity of Chinese migrants in the face of the crisis of authority of local institutions. The reaction to this condition of marginality finds space in a new form of the dignity of citizenship, an attempt to overcome the crisis of presence in social life which proceeds by feeding local circuits of solidarity and sharing.

The anthropology of the crisis highlights how subordination is a plural concept, especially within a globalized space – such as the one in which the production of the clothing industry is organized.

A space where groups of subordinate workers coexist e precarious, as well as groups of small entrepreneurs, both Italian and Chinese, compressed in the dynamics of international markets. A form of subordination that also assumes relevance in the temporal perspective. The expression "We were the Chinese of Europe" refers to one form of subordination in the global market circuits that emerge in places, different times, and social groups. The former artisans or workers of the different districts of Italian industrialists with this expression intend to affirm that once upon a time they were subordinates as Chinese migrants are today. In many cases, the paths of economic development have been characterized by this type of competition between territorial production systems: on the one hand, those that, also thanks to widespread practices of self-exploitation of work, conquer market spaces; on the other, territories that suffer the displacement of their productions and progressively exit those markets.

In some cases, these processes occur at the same time and place, between different groups of firms and workers competing with each other. Diversity in the forms of subordination is largely a cultural phenomenon.

There is a close relationship between the variety of cultural forms and social stratification. Cultural differences, “In addition to the geographical distance and the historical separation, they are produced also about class differences” (Signorelli, Coello, and Momartin, 2015).

This paper presents a complicated cultural situation, created by the collision of two cultures – Chinese and Italian. This situation had economic consequences due to financial evasion, creating multiple layers of social subordination and, in general, confusion.

This paper could be considered an overview for the analysis of such situations that can be used for further analyses of similar areas in Europe.

Montesino (2010) proposes a thorough analysis of the vulnerable economic situation of migrant people in Sweden. Economic vulnerability is defined using the same normative criteria as used to describe poverty at the beginning of the 20th century. According to this view, poor people have to adapt to scarcity and consume carefully. Migrants in need of welfare allowances are also perceived as culturally different, and they must adapt to “Swedish” consumption patterns. Poverty and cultural differences justify interventions that contribute to the construction of otherness. Migrants are seen as immigrants and victims of structural changes who have to learn Swedish and adapt to “Swedish” norms. The paradox is that these professionals have access to migrants’ daily lives. This contact should provide them with new knowledge about the social reality of these families. However, this knowledge is difficult to absorb, since the work of both school teachers and social workers is based on the premises of the national welfare institutions.

Migrants dynamically organize their daily lives. They acquire knowledge about the local opportunities and they use their transnational networks to build their welfare. Seen from this perspective, migrants can be in a more advantageous position than their Swedish neighbors. They have knowledge that gives them possibilities outside the institutionalized Swedish welfare solutions. Their welfare strategies start activities that are changing the social and economic landscape. Understanding these changes implies that the assumptions are taken for granted about migration, poverty, and welfare are questioned. This paper is interesting because the author makes new and surprising assumptions about migrants’ contribution to the development of modern Swedish society. Instead of taking for granted the postulated overlapping between the idea of being a migrant and the one of being poor, the author emphasizes the beneficial role of a different cultural heritage and the adjusting capacity of these people to connect the old and the new culture. Further research is needed for more data on this topic.

4.4. Discussion

As previously mentioned, the key concepts of this chapter refer to psychological, environmental, and urbanistic approaches. They explain together facets of the relationship between people and their living place, and also give ideas on potential paths for the development of future areas of research. The present analysis highlights also potential areas for skills training. For example, one of the fields in which skills training may be needed is to measure the impact that the living environment has on the physical and mental health of its inhabitants. Stress, physical, and emotional pains are significant parameters of the quality of life, and their relationship with the living environment can provide important clues for future urban approaches (they could be ways to improve the quality of life through urban location and living space, etc.).

Another interesting direction of study is the analysis of the relationship between brain function, spatial orientation, and self. In its beginnings, the area of interdisciplinarity, which now includes the study of brain reactivity, can lead to the development of new ways of approaching architecture and urbanism (spatial neuroscience, spatial cognition) and the creation of new bridges between psychology, neuroscience, and architecture.

Another possible direction of interdisciplinarity is the study of the emotional relationship with the living space. We refer here not only to the emotional attachment to home but also to the relationship with the neighborhood, the city, the region, etc. In recent years, several applications have emerged that can monitor the emotional relationship (see the discussion related to Imprecity). This idea paves the way for more complex approaches to studying the emotional relationship between the living area and its inhabitants. The implications are both psychological (space as an object of emotional reporting) and practical, by identifying the sources of emotional states produced by the interaction with the living space, monitoring and solving the problems that generate these states.

The future implications are multiple. The analysis of the literature highlights the need to “thicken” the areas of interdisciplinarity. Studies of this type prove to be very necessary if we take into account the hypothesis that at least part of the well-being and quality of life are conditioned by living space, facilities, green areas, public transportation, areas of leisure, pollution control, air, and water quality, connectivity between neighborhoods/localities and the authorities' reactions to people's issues. On the one hand, awareness of these links is an important premise in the efforts of residents and authorities to improve living conditions in smaller or larger communities. On the other hand, the research data accumulated so far clearly shows that the fields of interest, such as psychology, urban planning, environmental protection, and medicine, must take into account more than ever an interdisciplinary component.

4.5. Conclusions

Numerous signals from researchers, architects, environmentalists, and human behavior specialists show that the link between the organization of the environment and well-being is increasingly important, in the light of two constraints: urban sprawl and climate change. Both act as modeling factors and constrain finding new solutions. One of the promising solutions is the use of information related to the organization of the mind, self-construction, and personality, in the development of the architecture of buildings of public interest and meeting and socializing spaces. This direction is still little studied, although the research presented in this review shows promising advances in this area. Another direction is the use of more environmentally friendly building materials, whose superior properties positively affect the inhabitants as well. Finally, another way is given by elaborating urban plans that integrate the various parts of the cities, and the communities in general, determining less segregation and better management of waste and pollution.

References

- Barsalou, L. W. (2008). Grounded cognition. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 59, 617-645. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.psych.59.103006.093639>
- Barsalou, L. W., Niedenthal, P. M., Barbey, A. K., & Ruppert, J. A. (2003). Social embodiment. In B. H. Ross (Ed.), *The psychology of learning and motivation: Advances in research and theory*, Vol. 43, pp. 43–92. Elsevier Science.
- Barth, M., Masson, T., Fritsche, I., Fielding, K., Smith, J. R. (2021). Collective responses to global challenges: The social psychology of pro-environmental action, *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 74, 101562. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2021.101562>
- Baumeister, R. F. (1987). How the self became a problem: A psychological review of historical research. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 52(1), 163–176. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.52.1.163>
- Breakwell, G. M. (2010). Resisting representations and identity processes. *Papers on Social Representations Peer Reviewed International Journal*. Special Issue: Social representations and social identities: Inspirations from Gerard Duveen. 19 (1), 6.1-6.11. ISSN 1021-5573.
- Bressan, M., & Krause, E.L. (2017). La cultura del controllo. Letture subalterne di un conflitto urbano. *Antropologia*, 4 (3), 137-157. <https://doi.org/10.14672/ada20171348%25p>
- Clarke, D., Murphy, C., & Lorenzoni, I. (2018). Place attachment, disruption, and transformative adaptation. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 55, 81-89. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2017.12.006>

- Creem-Regehr, S.H., Barhorst-Cates, E.M., Tarampi, M.R. *et al.* How can basic research on spatial cognition enhance the visual accessibility of architecture for people with low vision?. *Cogn. Research* **6**, 3 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41235-020-00265-y>
- Daryanto A., Song Z., Soopramanien D. (2020). A Meta-Analysis of the Relationship between Place Attachment and Pro-Environmental Intention: An Abstract. In: Pantoja F., Wu S., Krey N. (eds) *Enlightened Marketing in Challenging Times*. AMSWMC 2019. *Developments in Marketing Science: Proceedings of the Academy of Marketing Science*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-42545-6_209
- Devine-Wright, P. (2012). Think global, act local? The relevance of place attachments and place identities in a climate-changed the world. *Global Environmental Change*, **23** (1), 61-69. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2012.08.003>
- Feitelson, E. (1991). Sharing the Globe: the role of attachment to place. *Global Environmental Change*. **1** (5), 396-406. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0959-3780\(91\)90005-E](https://doi.org/10.1016/0959-3780(91)90005-E)
- Gee, G. C., & Payne-Sturges, D. C. (2004). Environmental Health Disparities: A Framework Integrating Psychosocial and Environmental Concepts. *Environmental Health Perspective*, **112** (17). 1645-1653. <https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp.7074>
- Gendel-Guterman, H., Billig, M. Increasing citizen satisfaction with municipal services: the function of intangible factors. *International Review of Public Nonprofit Mark*, **18**, 171–186. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12208-020-00267-y>
- Hogg, M. A., Hardie, E. A., & Reynolds, K. J. (1995). Prototypical similarity, self-categorization, and depersonalized attraction: A perspective on group cohesiveness. *European Journal of Social Psychology*. **25** (2), 159-177. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2420250204>
- Kesenheimer, J. S., & Greitemeyer, T. (2021). Going Green (and Not Being Just More Pro-Social): Do Attitude and Personality Specifically Influence Pro-Environmental Behavior? *Sustainability*, **13**(6), 3560. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13063560>
- Montesino, N. (2010). Social Integration and New Realities in the Swedish Welfare Society. *Social Work & Society*, **8** (1), 94-103. <http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:0009-11-27063>
- Nenko, A., Petrova, M. (2019). Comparing PPGIS and LBSN Data to Measure Emotional Perception of the City. In: Alexandrov, D., Boukhanovsky, A., Chugunov, A., Kabanov, Y., Koltsova, O., Musabirov, I. (eds) *Digital Transformation and Global Society*. DTGS 2019. *Communications in Computer and Information Science*, vol 1038. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-37858-5_18
- Proshansky, H. M., Fabian, A. K., & Kaminoff, R. (1983). Place-identity: Physical world socialization of the self. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, **3**(1), 57–83. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0272-4944\(83\)80021-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0272-4944(83)80021-8)
- Proshansky, H.M. (1978). The city and self-identity. *Environment and Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916578102002>
- Proulx, M. J., Todorov, O. S., Taylor Aiken, A., de Sousa, A. A. (2016). Where am I? Who am I? The Relation Between Spatial Cognition, Social Cognition and Individual Differences in the Built Environment. *Frontiers in Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00064>
- Qazimi, S. (2014). Sense of Place and Place Identity. *European Journal of Social Science Education and Research*, **1**(1), 306–310. <https://doi.org/10.26417/ejser.v1i1.p306-310>
- Roberts, H., & Helbich, M. (2021). Multiple environmental exposures along daily mobility paths and depressive symptoms: A smartphone-based tracking study. *Environment International*, **156**, 106635. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2021.106635>
- Signorelli, R., Coello, M., & Momartin, S. (2015). Change and Recovery: Culturally Appropriate Early Childhood Programmes with Refugee Families and Communities. *Children Australia*, **40**(3), 195-204. doi:10.1017/cha.2015.29
- Stokes, N., & Clare, J. (2019). Preventing near-repeat residential burglary through cocooning: Post hoc evaluation of a targeted police-led pilot intervention. *Security Journal*, **32**(1), 45-62.
- Tajfel, H. (1982). Social Psychology of Intergroup Relations. *Annual Review of Psychology*. **33**, 1-39. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.ps.33.020182.000245>
- Van der Bruggen, B., Borghraef, K. & Vinckier, C. (2010). Causes of Water Supply Problems in Urbanised Regions in Developing Countries. *Water Resource Management*, **24**, 1885–1902. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11269-009-9529-8>
- Willie, T. C., Powell, A., & Kershaw, T. (2016). Stress in the city: Influence of urban social stress and violence on pregnancy and postpartum quality of life among adolescent and young mothers. *Journal of urban health*, **93**(1), 19-35. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-015-0021-x>
- Zhao, X., Ke, Y., Zuo, J., Xiong, W., & Wu, P. (2020). Evaluation of sustainable transport research in 2000–2019. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, **256**, 120404. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.120404>

5. How can urban planning and design contribute to develop sociability in cities: a systematic review

Eulàlia Gómez-Escoda¹, Alvaro Clua²

¹ Barcelona Laboratory of Urbanism, ETSAB-UPC, eulalia.gomez@upc.edu.

² Barcelona Laboratory of Urbanism, ETSAB-UPC, alvaro.clua@upc.edu.

Abstract

This article reviews some of the fundamental contributions in the fields of Urban Planning and Design with the aim of establishing a basic bibliography that links Sociability and City. To do this, a first step is to understand the urban fact based on two complementary aspects: the culture of the cities (history, form, nature), the understanding of urban dynamics (activities, mobility) and the ways of representing the questions related to both groups.

To achieve this goal, published and grey literature published since 1960s has been considered, which had the following characteristics: written in English, French or Spanish; submit an abstract or introduction to open access databases; present a theoretical and/or empirical character; have a European geographical focus.

This article presents the results of the review following the PRISMA 2020 recommendations, which are synthesised by resorting to a narrative approach of synthesizing qualitative (text-based) data and applying the thematic synthesis method according to three steps (tracing key concepts, grouping them into thematic areas, and generating analytical themes). The final intention is to interpret the synthesis and generating new meanings.

The bibliographic search or consultation of each source was carried out in the JSTOR and WOS (Web of Science) databases. The initial search identified 103 records; the screening and evaluation process led to the inclusion of 30 texts in the review. Most of them are focused on the European context and look at different scales of the urban fact (neighbourhoods, towns, cities, metropolises). Although most of the texts present an urbanistic approach, some others offer an inter-disciplinary view, bringing urban design and planning into dialogue with other disciplines (Architecture, Geography, Landscape, Cartography and Representation). The selected texts balance theoretical reflections and empirical studies with quantitative research.

The thematic synthesis led as a result in the one hand to analytical topics – urban design and composition; ecology and resilience; human behaviour (urban phenomenology) and activities; spatial and social networks; approaches based on urban open data; and utopias – suggesting principles to promote sociability through innovation in urban design; and on the other hand, tools to define indicators that can be empirically implemented in future research to map and quantify social interactions in urban environments.

Keywords: Urbanity, Activities, Intensity, Sociability, Public space

5.1. Introduction: Urban design and sociability

This article aims to give an account of the literature review carried out to inform the relationship between the urban discipline and sociability. This constitutes part of a broader research project aimed at providing the necessary state of the art for an academic module related to urbanism (urban planning and design) that seeks to establish the needs that urban development must meet in order to satisfy the psychological, relational, sociological and physiological needs of people living in cities.

At the same time that the theoretical body selected for the academic program is explained, the article is structured in such a way that it points out some basic notions about urbanism for students and academics from other fields. Thus, while the second section of this chapter (Methods) explains the process of systematic selection of literature on the subject, the third section (Results) organises the selected bibliography into fundamental thematic areas, preceded by an explanation of each of them. To frame this literature review, an introductory section (A preliminary approach to the urban fact:

fundamental books that were not included in the selection) presents references not included in the literature review but that complement and put in context the selection.

Two types of contributions have been considered in the review process of literature: those that explore theoretical aspects and elaborate arguments around the city and the sociability in it, and those that base their novelty on the construction of an innovative representation language.

The general research question of STUD.IO in the systematic review related to Urban Design and Planning is addressed through the following questions:

- i. How urban design and composition take into account the social component of cities?
- ii. How does the natural support in which cities lie determines social interaction?
- iii. How the distribution of activities other than housing affects urban sociability?
- iv. How are spatial and social networks related?
- v. How can urban data be mapped in order to capture urban sociability?
- vi. How sociability has been tackled in the narrative of future urban utopias?

5.1.1. A preliminary approach to the urban fact: fundamental books that were not included in the selection

Despite the specific objective of this article, it is considered necessary to gather a series of fundamental texts that can help non-specialist professionals to understand the urban fact. These are texts related to the urban history, form, or representation, that although were not part of the selection presented in the following paragraphs, they can help the curious reader delve into the question.

Only by knowing the material support and the social reasons that gave rise to cities, its role as a setting in which sociability among citizens develop can be understood. Regarding urban history, Morris (1971) explains and develops both 'unplanned' cities that grow organically and 'planned' cities that were shaped in response to urban form determinants.

Regarding urban form and morphology, the city can be observed in fragments, looking for combinations of streets, squares and blocks that give rise to coherent fragments. In them, the concatenation of three elements in time – *plot division*, division of the land that organizes a primitive geometry; *urbanization*, whose deployment guarantees access and infrastructure services; and *buildings*, the architectural types that shelter the activities – gives rise to diverse urban fabrics (de Solà-Morales 1993).

To deepen the knowledge of urban representation, Desimini and Waldheim (2016) propose a thematic compendium in which the grouping of classic cartographies with other contemporary ones allows synthesizing the reason for representing the city.

Cities are the stage of interaction between citizens, between different (Sennet 2001), the place of conversations (Mumford 1961), of exchange of ideas and information with others (Mehta 2013), of difference and friction, of forced or fortuitous agreement, of tension and latent conflict (de Solà-Morales 2008). It is on the sidewalks where casual contacts grow the wealth of public life in the city (Jacobs 1961). Cities are thus not only the buildings and the space between them drawn in city maps, but also the life developed on it (Ryckwert 1978).

Regarding urban phenomenology, together with the selected text by Gehl (1971), three classic texts published between the decades of the 1960-80s are considered basic contributions in this regard. In them, the observation of how the urban scenario conditions the behaviour of citizens constitutes the root of the exposed thesis. In addition, they display what were once new graphic techniques to represent the interaction between individuals and the city. Lynch (1960) conducted long-term research in which he documented the way observers take information of the city and translate it into mental maps, establishing five categories of elements that determine urban scenarios: paths, edges, districts, nodes and landmarks. Cullen (1961), in his turn, explored the visual perception of urban areas from a human-scale point of view. What started as a contribution for *The Architectural Review*, became later “The concise townscape”, a compilation of key aesthetic principles of urban perception and a display of drawings and graphic analysis to address visual coherence and richness in urban

scenarios. And finally, in the same vein, it is worth mentioning Whyte's (1980) researches on the intensity of use of public space, an analysis of when and why some squares in New York are empty and others tend to have a lot of activity, arriving to a conclusion that what attracts people to a place are, as a general rule: the presence of other people, the presence of adequate places to sit and the presence of food – street vendors, kiosks, bars and restaurants and their terraces – that is: sociability. The research on the interplay between social behaviour and urban form has been also approached by *network analysis* methods and theories. Among them, it is worth mentioning the research tradition introduced by Bill Hillier, Julienne Hanson and their colleagues at UCLondon since the 1970s. In their first seminal book *The Social Logic of Space* (Hillier and Hanson 1984), the authors explained that different types of societies adopt fundamentally different spatial forms and, conversely, the build environment might influence social behaviour. According to space syntax theories, the network itself is the 'main generator' of the movement patterns on which uses and activities are allocated. To analyse the spatial networks of buildings and cities, accessibility maps measuring the topological, metric and angular relationship between the elements are produced.

And finally, regarding Utopias and dream cities of the future, Mumford (1959) re-read the most well-known and influential utopias and social myths that have played a leading role in the West and contrasts them with still recent partial social utopias, assessing the impact that all of these ideas could have on any new path to Utopia.

5.2. Methods

The systematic review was conducted with the objective to inform the degree to which sociability is considered within urban planning and design disciplines, including two main groups of contributions: (1) core contributions that establish basic theoretical and practical principles in the field of urbanism (since 1960s); and (2) contributions that review recent concerns related to the transformation and degrowth of cities (since 2000).

The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) recommendations (Page *et al.* 2021) was followed to do so, based on a search based on 21 keywords, of which: five are related to *generic fields of knowledge* (City, Urbanism and urban planning, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Geography and Agricultural Landscape); two are related to *theoretical approaches* (Utopia and Heterotopia; Urban Border and Non-Lieu); five are related to *contemporary urban phenomena* (Urban Sprawl; Green Space; Cultural landscape; Urban Marginality; Illegal Territory); eight are related to *contemporary urban questions in vogue* (Mobility and Green Infrastructure; Urban Metabolism; Recycle and Ecological Urbanism; Mixticity and Mixed-use; Smart City; Innovative Approaches; Weakcity); and two are related to *design processes* (Hybridization Design Strategies; Public Park Design).

A rapid literature review was conducted to identify knowledge gaps, develop definition of urbanism sociability in urban spaces for the systematic review. Books, book chapters and articles published in English, Spanish and French were selected in a first round. Specific inclusion criteria were evidence of: (1) theories to describe urban environment and (2) urban transformation processes, with special focus on (3) activities and (4) human behaviour.

The search strategy was guided by database index terms in scientific sources such as Web of Science, Scopus, Elsevier or Google Scholar; in peer review journals (Cities; Urban Studies; International Journal of Urban and Regional Research; Sustainability; Land; Urban Geography; Nature + culture; Water; Computers, Environment and Urban System).

5.3. Results

The initial searches identified 103 records, of which 64 articles eligible for full-text review. Studies were excluded on the basis of large-scale metropolitan context, no attention to sociability and no

theory. Thirty full-text articles were assessed for eligibility, from which finally, 21 researches were included for data extraction and analysis, as seen in Figure 1. Data retrieved from each study included publication details (author, year, study type, location); component of size (small- and medium-city); participants target (children and elderly); best/good practices; and dissemination target (students, professionals, researchers), as seen in Table 1. Once the systematic bibliographic review was finished, some fundamental contributions on urban culture in the specific search around sociability that were not included in the search were added to the body of the basic literature for the STUD.IO project.

Figure 1 – The systematic review of STUD.IO for the urban design and planning area: PRISMA 2020 flow diagram

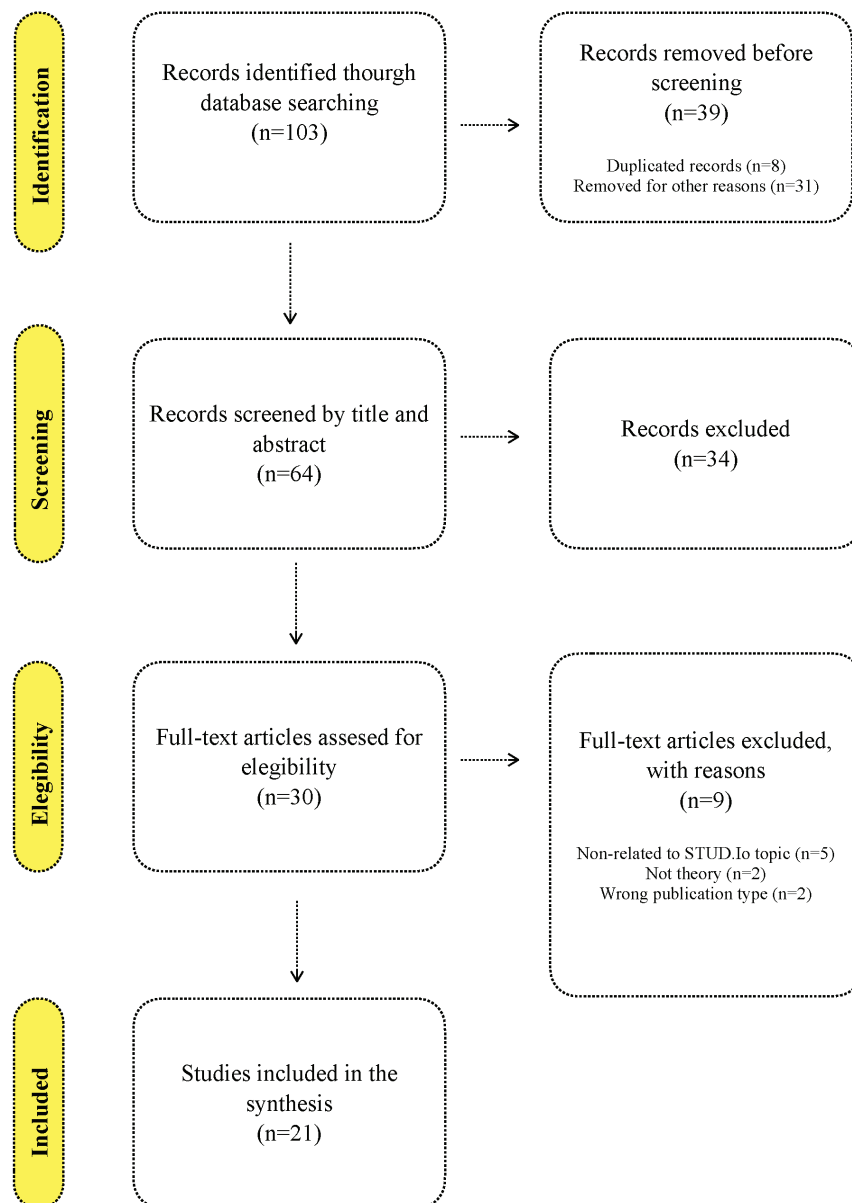


Table 1 – Key characteristics of each report included in the systematic review for the urban design and planning area

	Reference	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Intersectorality	Issue/Research question of record	Research approach
1	Evans, Graeme (2009). Creative Cities, Creative Spaces and Urban Policy. <i>Urban Studies</i> , 46(5-6) pp. 1003-1040. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098009103853	Journal: US/ authors: UK	Small, Medium and Big cities. Urban and Regional contexts in Europe, North America, Africa and south-east Asia.	Interdisciplinary with Urban Planning and Economics	The article presents policy analysis in this international comparative context, framed by fragile macro and micro-economic data and assumptions and political (social, cultural) imperatives, conditional on both the national for intervention in the new economy, as well as the quality of the evidence itself and underlying theory and process.	Methodologically, it is based on a literature search- including a call for policy documents, strategies, publications and reports via city government, economic, cultural departments, agencies and other networks undertaken during 2005-07 and updated in 2007-08.
2	De Solà-Morales, Manuel (2008). <i>A Matter of Things</i> . Rotterdam: NAI Publishers.	Publisher: Netherlands/ author: Spain	All scales	Interdisciplinary: Urban Design /Architecture/ Urban Theory	This monograph brings together work of the Spanish architect and urban planner Manuel de Solà-Morales, concentrating on his most important projects and realizations of recent years, showing all the projects documented extensively in word and image. MSM was the inventor of the "Urban Project" discipline taught at the Barcelona School of Architecture, in parallel to the "Architectural Design" workshops. For those unfamiliar with his figure, it should be noted that both his projects and his writings, both easy to understand and of great theoretical significance, are related to "urban architecture", at the interface of architecture and urban planning and urban design.	Illustrated presentation of executed projects and compilation of theoretical texts.
3	Okulicz-Kozayn	Journal: US / authors: US	All sizes	Interdisciplinary with sociology	The research is based on Wirth's theory of urban life (1938), focused on how urbanism led to various negative consequences, including (1) cognitively, in terms of alienation, (2) behaviourally, in terms of deviance and (3) structurally, in terms of anomie (normlessness), all of which would lead to unhappiness (which he referred to with terms like "malaise"); opposite to other theories, like Glaeser's (2011) based on the statement that progress in standard of living and urbanisation are closely related, so that humans are happier in cities than we are elsewhere.	The article tries to demonstrate the main hypothesis (people in cities are less happy than are those in other areas) based on three characteristics that the authors associate with cities population size, density, urban unhappiness will persist after controlling for problems people typically associate with cities.
4	Oueslati, Walid, Alvanides, Seraphim, and Garrod, Guy (2015). Determinants of urban sprawl in European cities. <i>Urban Studies</i> , 52(9) pp. 1594-1614. http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0042098015577773	JOURNAL: US / AUTHORS: UK- FRANCE	Medium and big (LUZ/Large Urban Zones); 282 European cities	Monodisciplinary (Urban Geography)	The main objective of the paper is to explore the relationship between urban sprawl and a set of variables that urban economic theory and the empirical literature suggest maybe correlated with the phenomenon. Analysis is based on the well-known monocentric city model, which identifies population income, commuting costs and the value of land as essential drivers of sprawl. In addition to these economic variables, the impacts of the geographical, socio-cultural and climatic factors, suggested by the literature, are also considered. Two complementary indices of sprawl are used, the first reflecting a change in spatial scale and the second the degree of fragmentation that is observed when large urban areas grow.	Despite the extrapolation of the a priori analysis, the methodology is explained in a very cryptic way and the parameters with which happiness is evaluated are highly focused on the urban and micro-metropolitan reality of the US. Using GIS software the research measures on the one side the increase in the spatial scale of urban areas, and on the other side, as a process of fragmentation. Estimation of the determinants of Arif/Area index (according to Hausman-Taylor methodology) and of the determinants of urban sprawl indices are displayed, as Decomposition analysis of sources of urban sprawl indices.
5	Luque-Ayala, Andres, and Marvin, Simon (2015). Developing a critical understanding of smart urbanism? <i>Urban Studies</i> , 52 (12) pp. 2105-2116. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098015577319 .	JOURNAL: US / AUTHORS: UK	All scales	Monodisciplinary (Urban Design/ Urban Planning)	The authors sustain that Smart Urbanism theories are still developing so there is a lack both in theoretical insight and empirical evidence required to assess the implications of what they consider a potentially transformative phenomenon.	The article is written as a synthesis of the presentations and discussions of the international workshop "Smart Urbanism: Utopian vision or false dawn?" led by authors in 2013 involving the participation of over 20 scholars from universities in

						Europe, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil, Australia and the United States.
6	Mostafawi, Mohsen, and Doherty, Gareth (2016). <i>Ecological Urbanism (revised edition)</i> . Baden: Lars Muller Publishers.	Switzerland / US	All scales	Interdisciplinarity Landscape / Urbanism / Ecology	The book presents a compilation of articles and projects from around the world considered examples of good practice. Both texts and projects are by authors whose prestige is recognized worldwide. The book is organized into twelve sections that correspond to actions / ways of intervening in the urban landscape: (1) Anticipates; (2) Collaborate; (3) Sense; (4) Curate; (5) Produce; (6) Collaborate; (7) Interact; (8) Mobilize; (9) Measure; (10) Collaborate; (11) Adapt; and (12) Incubate. Being "Collaborate" an action that appears repeated three times in the book, the interdisciplinarity that the text advocates between Urbanism, Landscape and Ecology is one of the greatest value.	The paper is structured in four sections. First, an overview of the recent research literature identifies the need for a more critical assessment of the phenomena. Second is a review of the key challenge involved in developing a critical research agenda and what is required to address these. Third, three research themes that could constitute a critical agenda are identified. And finally, the conclusion focuses on three new future research priorities. Each section between 5 and 16 varied contributions that, grouped together, consist of a novel theoretical corpus. Some of the contributors have a theoretical- historical character; others present more novel and explorative theories; Finally, others present examples of projects or university academic exercises that explore issues related to the title of the section of the book in which they are enrolled.
7	Orff, Kate (2016). <i>Toward an Urban Ecology</i> . New York: The Monacelli Press.	US	All scales	Interdisciplinarity Landscape / Urban Design	The book is part monograph, part manifesto that documents the work of SCAPE, the landscape architecture and urban design practice that Kate Orff founded in 2005, through a vision that stresses the social and cultural potential of urban ecology, based on an idea of landscape that is "design driven, participatory, and science based." The book has a hybrid form of monograph, manual and manifesto: "each chapter follows a consistent structure that contains some of each: a short introductory text, a single project presented through extensive plans, perspectives and photographs; a manual of one-page "strategies," that outline specific themes such as "water harvesting," "bay nourishment," or "consensus building," each illustrated by a single project; two interviews with varied project participants, including scientists and politicians; and a critical essay by contributing academic authors" (Elissa Rosenberg, LAM, April 2017).	SCAPE's practice is fundamentally research driven, but also animated by a strong design ethos. Ecological issues are seen as a driver for community involvement: a wide array of techniques is used to generate citizen engagement, including mapping, storytelling, and community organizing.
8	Waldheim, Charles (2016). <i>Landscape as Urbanism: A General Theory</i> . Princeton, Oxford: Princeton University Press.	US	All scales	Interdisciplinarity: Landscape / Architecture / Urban Design	Landscape urbanism constitutes a theory of urban planning, born in the late 1980s- early 1990s in the academic environment of the US. According to the author of the book, the rise of ecological thought and global environmental concerns over the past decades has transformed our understanding of the city and its relationship to landscape, so landscape can be considered a model for the city and urbanism must be understood and conceptualized through the lens of landscape. The texts and examples compiled in the book explore this question.	The book is divided in nine chapters that review theories and examples of good practices from around the world: (1) Claiming Landscape as Urbanism; (2) Autonomy, Indeterminacy, Self-organization; (3) Planning, Ecology, and the Emergence of Landscape; (4) Post-Fordist Economics and Logistics Landscape; (5) Urban Crisis and the Origins of Landscape; (6) Urban Order and Structural Change; (7) Agrarian Urbanism and the Aerial Subject; (8) Aerial Representation and Airport Landscape; and (9) Claiming Landscape and Architecture.
9	Barker, Anna, Crawford, Adam, Booth, Nathan, and Churchill, David (2019). <i>Park futures: Excavating images of tomorrow's</i>	JOURNAL: US /	All scales	Multidisciplinarity: Urban	The article describes Victorian parks in the UK, a model according to which parks are and have been conceived, administered, used and imagined in the country since the	The paper draws on historic and contemporary examples from the UK and beyond to illustrate and inform images (ideal types) of park futures.

	urban spaces. <i>Urban Studies</i> , 57 (12) pp. 2456-2472. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098012440463	AUTHORS: UK	Design/Landscape/ Architecture	19th century. By the 1840s, a major movement was underway to provide "people's parks"; the ideal park was to be an improved space serving as an agent in sharpening the city's social future through physical and moral improvement. It was defined in contrast to the surrounding city. According to the authors, first the park was to be governed as a municipal green space, subject to minimal construction, that would serve as "lungs" or "ventilators" of the city, second, the park was mainly municipally funded, largely free from industry, agriculture or commerce; third, the park was to be purposefully designed and managed largely as an inclusive space of recreation, where visitors from different classes were permitted to relax, play and mix together in normatively ordered ways- requiring copious rules, regulations and codes of conduct. The author draws on recent bibliographic sources to review the historical role that parks have had in cities, up to the present time in which "parks have become increasingly privatised and as many ex-industrial spaces have come to be redeveloped as green spaces, parks have started to encounter the questions of capital accumulation, urban growth strategies, and social exclusion that researchers often reserved for other sites."	
10	Loughran, Kevin (2018). Urban parks and urban problems. An historical perspective on green space development as a cultural fix. <i>Urban Studies</i> , 57 (11) pp. 2321-2338. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098018763555 .	JOURNAL: US/ AUTHOR: US	Interdisciplinary: Urban Design / Architecture / Landscape Design / Urban History	All (despite the case-study is a big city, the methodology can be applied for any other size of urban growth).	The article takes as case study Chicago's South Park (designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in 1871, a space to be, according to the landscape architects, a "great roaming ground, to which people go out by railway, generally spending a day in excursion") to review the urban history of the city since the 19th century and to explain the process of creation of this new green space. A new open space for Chicago that, according to the author, had as main roles fixing nature; fixing park uses and users; and fixing crime. Medium: (Calgary (Alberta), Markham (Ontario) and Surrey (British Columbia))
11	Grant, Jill, and Perrot, Katherine (2010). Where is the café? The challenge of making retail uses viable in mixed-use suburban developments. <i>Urban Studies</i> , 48 (1) pp. 177-195. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098009360232 .	JOURNAL: US / AUTHORS: Canada	Interdisciplinary: Urban Planning / Urban Design	The article contextualizes the monofunctionality of the North America suburb (taking three examples in Canada as case studies), reviewing the specific literature on the issue.	Medium: (Calgary (Alberta), Markham (Ontario) and Surrey (British Columbia))
12	Forsyth, Ann, Salomon, Emily, and Smead, Laura (2019). <i>Creating Healthy Neighbourhoods</i> . New York: Routledge.	US	Interdisciplinary: Urban Planning, Public Health	The guidebook presents eight principles as thematic chapters: (1) Importance, assesses the meaningfulness of health for a new or retrofit planning project; (2) Balance, argues for the consideration of environmental changes across scales and populations, (3) Vulnerability, (4) Layout; (5) Access; (6) Connection; (7) Protection; and (8) Implementation.	Each of principles is linked to a set of propositions which are described, along with evidence about health, ending with actions proposed and connections to other principles and propositions. In total, 20 propositions and 83 actions collectively support the eight principles.
13	Degen, Monica	JOURNAL: US / authors: UK	Sociology	The paper is based on high-quality secondary sources, selecting in a very appropriate way fragments of articles of great impact in the specific background of the research.	The investigation analyses under this perspective two towns in the UK, Bedford and Milton Keynes, using design as a catalyst for changing the ambience of their city centres, yet they are also radically different in that Bedford is an old historical town while Milton Keynes is a modernist "new town". As stated by the authors, the main objective of the research is to demonstrate empirically a "social aesthetic perspective" and analytically to expand it by examining the relationships between sensory experience and the shifting mobilities and temporalities of everyday urban experience. The research was carried out developing a survey of 397 people in Bedford and 384 in Milton Keynes over the course of a week, asking five questions (1) Why are you here today?; (2) Do you

							come here often?; (3) Do you like this part of Milton Keynes town centre/Bedford town centre?; (4) Is there anything you really like or really hate about the Milton Keynes shopping centre/Bedford town centre?; (5) If you had to describe this place which three words would you use?
14	Forsyth, Ann, Hearst, Mary, Oakes, J. Michael, Schmitz, and Kathryn H. (2008). Design and Destinations. Factors Influencing Walking and Total Physical Activity. <i>Urban Studies</i> , 45 (9) pp. 1973-1996. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098008093386	US	Medium cities: Minneapolis (US, 420,324 inhabitants in 2019) and Saint-Paul (US, 304,547 inhabitants in 2019)	Mono-disciplinarity	Taking as starting point that physical activity has implications for many health conditions from blood pressure to mental health and considering "walking" as a significant part of total physical activity, the research states that increasing walking could have important public health benefits. The paper focuses on how both walking and total physical activity are affected by these factors in residential areas, focusing on three sets of factors: street pattern, "pedestrian-oriented" infrastructure and amenities, and mixed use- in shorthand, design and destination.	The study examined associations between physical activity (measured by survey, seven-day travel diary and accelerometer) and the built environment (measured using computer mapping and survey) for 715 participants in 36 environmentally diverse areas in the Twin Cities in Minnesota. It also examined the relative importance of these constructs compared with other social and psychological variables. The research focuses on commercial destinations, but schools, faith-based facilities and parks are also considered destinations, based on the hypothesis that if activities are close enough together to make walking easier, in areas of mixed land use, then more people will walk. Study or "focus" areas were selected from inhabited 805 metre grid cells in the area stratified for variation along: street pattern (median block size); and residential density (gross population density). The research also measures social life through eight questions to participants about how many days in past month people had walked, said hello, stopped and talked to a neighbour, gone to a neighbour's house, had a neighbour over to socialise, gone somewhere with a neighbour, asked them for help or sought advice.	
15	Orum, A.M., and Saguin, Kristian. (2019). Urban Metabolism. In <i>The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies</i> , A. M. Orum (ed.). Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118568446	US	None	Interdisciplinarity: urban planning / Urban Design	The article reviews different definitions of the concept "Urban Metabolism"; that despite being diverging and contested, make the discipline remain a rich concept for discussing socioecological processes in urbanization.	The article does not present an analysis methodology or findings, but rather describes the concept of urban metabolism.	
16	Casam Broto, Varesa, Allen, Adriana, and Rappoport, Elizabeth (2012). Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Urban Metabolism. <i>Journal of Industrial Ecology</i> . 16. 851-861. Retrieved from: https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1530-9290.2012.00556.x	US	All scales	Interdisciplinarity: Urban Design / Urban Planning	The article puts the literature on urban metabolism within industrial ecology into dialogue with other disciplines, including urban ecology, ecological economics, political economy, and political ecology. A cross-disciplinary literature review is examined contrasting theoretical interpretations of urban metabolism on the hand and foreseen practical applications on the other.	The analysis reveals main themes emerging within interdisciplinary boundaries in relation to (1) the city as an ecosystem, (2) material and energy flows within the city, (3) economic-material relations within the city, (4) economic drivers of rural-urban relationships, (5) the reproduction of urban inequality, and (6) attempts at resignifying the city through new visions of socioecological relationships. Different sections in the article provide a literature review on these six issues.	

5.3.1. What topics do the texts conceptualise in relation to urban design and sociability?

The key concepts traced in the reports can be grouped into six thematic areas that respond to the six questions that triggered the search and that are presented in the introduction.

5.3.1.1. On design and composition

In this comprehension of the city made by fragments, *A Matter of Things* (de Solà-Morales 2008) constitutes a crucial contribution: a monograph that brings together the work of the Spanish architect and urban planner concentrating on his most important projects and realizations of recent years, showing all the projects documented extensively in word and image. The author exemplifies in these works and texts the so-called *Urban Project*, a discipline taught at the Barcelona School of Architecture, in parallel to the "Architectural Design" workshops. For those unfamiliar with his figure, it should be noted that both his projects and his writings, both easy to understand and of great theoretical significance, are related to "urban architecture", at the interface of architecture and urban planning and urban design.

In an approach to a larger scale but also in accordance with this conception of the urban fact as something constituted by parts with their own entity but co-dependent, it is worth mentioning the dichotomy between Urban project vs. Urbanistic project (Busquets and Correa 2007) focused on the development of a pedagogic taxonomy to frame the methods and tools with which designers currently shape cities and open territories, presenting the shifts designers have made in their projection of the city over the past three decades, when new techniques in working the built environment have been deployed in multiple settings, interacting with a wide array of cultures, scales and intensities; and when the notion that urban grounds can be successfully refurbished is gaining clout rapidly, while the innovative nature of these interventions is creating spaces of an unprecedented urban quality.

An approach at the neighbourhood scale has also been included in a format of guidebook (Forsyth, Salomon and Smead 2019) that set propositions which are evidence about urban health, regarding among others (1) the meaningfulness of health for a new or retrofit planning project; (2) the consideration of environmental changes across scales and populations; (3) vulnerability; (4) layout; (5) access; (6) connection; (7) protection; and (8) implementation.

In this same vein, Oueslati, Alvanides and Garrod (2015) explore the relationship between urban sprawl and a set of variables that urban economic theory and the empirical literature suggest may be correlated with the phenomenon. An analysis is based on the well-known monocentric city model, which identifies population, income, commuting costs and the value of land as essential drivers of sprawl. Using GIS software the research measures on the one side the increase in the spatial scale of urban areas, and on the other side, as a process of fragmentation.

5.3.1.2. The natural support: ecology and resilience

It has been considered necessary to include in the core literature texts that claim the link between urban planning and ecology. Among them, three books published in the last decade stand out. Waldheim (2016) sustains that the rise of ecological thought and global environmental concerns over the past decades has transformed the understanding of the city and its relationship to landscape, so the last is to be considered a model for the city and urbanism must be understood and conceptualized through the lens of landscape.

For their part, Mostafavi and Doherty (2016) present a compilation of articles and projects from around the world considered examples of good practice by authors whose prestige is recognised worldwide. The book is organized into twelve sections that correspond to actions / ways of

intervening in the urban landscape advocating for an interdisciplinarity between Urbanism, Landscape and Ecology.

And finally, Orff (2016) presents the work of SCAPE, the landscape architecture and urban design practice in an issue part monograph, part manual, part manifesto, through a vision that stresses the social and cultural potential of urban ecology, based on an idea of landscape that is design driven, participatory, and science based.

Two short articles accompany the three books mentioned in this section. On the one hand, Castan, Allen and Rapoport (2012), put the literature on urban metabolism within industrial ecology into dialogue with other disciplines, including urban ecology, ecological economics, political economy, and political ecology. A cross-disciplinary literature review that reveals six main themes emerging within interdisciplinary boundaries in relation to (1) the city as an ecosystem, (2) material and energy flows within the city, (3) economic–material relations within the city, (4) economic drivers of rural–urban relationships, 5) the reproduction of urban inequality, and (6) attempts at re-signifying the city through new visions of socioecological relationships. On the other hand, Orum and Saguin (2019), review on different definitions of the concept Urban Metabolism, that despite being diverging and contested, make the discipline remain a rich concept for discussing socioecological processes in urbanization.

And finally, two other articles looking at the urbanism and landscape architecture of park projects have been found useful in broadening the perspective in this field. On the one hand, Barker, Crawford, Booth and Churchill (2019) describe Victorian parks in the UK, a model according to which parks are and have been conceived, administered, used and imagined in the country since the 19th century. By the 1840s, a major movement was underway to provide ‘people’s parks’: the ideal park was to be an improved space serving as an agent in shaping the city’s social future through physical and moral improvement. It was defined in contrast to the surrounding city. On the other hand, Loughran (2018) presents parks as urban spatial opportunities to reconfigure in an effort to mitigate global warming. Infrastructures associated to parks such as new wetlands, floodgates, and other adaptive designs allow water to coexist with urban space, claiming the resilient behaviour that parks have assumed since their origins in urban contexts, as early park developers sought to reconcile the perceived disappearance of nature, the acculturation or exclusion of ethnoracial others, and the buttressing of land values.

5.3.1.3. On urban phenomenology and activities

Gehl (1971) offers a very practical approach to the value of what happens in public space – life between buildings, in the words of the author – and how to revitalize it. Although it is not theoretical research and do not present a rich review of the existing literature of the topic, the book urged an understanding of the subtle, almost indefinable – but definite – qualities, which have always related to the interaction of people in public spaces. Although 40 years later many architectural trends and ideologies have passed by, these intervening years have also shown that the liveliness and liveability of cities and residential areas continues to be an important issue. The intensity in which fine public spaces are used at this point in time, as well as the greatly increased general interest in the quality of cities and their public spaces emphasises this point.

In a mid-point between these four works and the next set of contributions related to mixed-use activity, it is worth mentioning the work by Forsyth, Hearst, Oakes, Schmitz and Kathryn (2008) that focuses on how both walking and total physical activity are affected in residential areas, according to three sets of factors: street pattern, ‘pedestrian-oriented’ infrastructure and amenities, and mixed use. The research focuses on commercial destinations, but schools, faith-based facilities and parks are also considered destinations, based on the hypothesis that if activities are close enough together to make walking easier, in areas of mixed land uses, then more people will walk.

As for the sociability triggered by vitality in cities, different readings have approached the issue from the point of view of the mix of uses. Jacobs (1961) elaborates a critical opinion about the mono-functionality of the modern city, putting in crisis the results of the functionalism principles in both Europe and America. Almost 70 years later the urban recipes that Jacobs claimed in relation to the good way of distributing activities in the city – in her own words, the ways of arrange the ‘fine-rain mixing of diverse uses [that] creates vibrant and successful neighbourhoods’ – can still be considered valid, and the search on urban mixed-use balances have multiplied. In this aspect, regarding how to recycle mono-use industrial areas, Baum and Christiaanse’s (2012) contribution constitutes a multifaceted approach to the topic of reuse of industrial complex, using the word ‘loft’ – coming from the 1960s industrial renovations into living and working environments – in a broader sense, referring to buildings or open spaces that have the simultaneous quality of stability and openness. The monograph combines a number of theoretical approaches aimed at providing a general framework to the precedents, social values, economic, architectural and urban aspects of reuse as a tool applied to post-industrial landscapes, combined with a classification of case-studies.

A more focussed contribution is represented by Evans (2009), based on an international comparative study conducted over a three-year period and focused on creative spaces in so-called creative cities. The article deepens in the continuity and change evident in public policy applied to the creative and knowledge economies are also embedded in past practice, industrial economic models and traditional interventions. And finally, Grant and Perrot (2010) contextualize the monofunctionality of the North American suburb (taking three examples in Canada as case studies), reviewing the specific literature on the issue. The research draws on knowledge of the place (through field work) to compile some examples of small-scale mixticity within monofunctional suburban residential fabrics.

5.3.1.4. On spatial and social networks

The graph-based approach known as “space syntax” has become a verified, widely used platform to explore interactions between the built environment and other fields of knowledge. For instance, the causes of urban social segregation and ghettos and the crystallisation of pockets of poverty or crime in cities have been analysed in terms of spatial configuration (Vaughan 2007; Marcus 2007). Similarly, space syntax has found important connections between urban form, tourism and ephemeral activities (Li, Xiao, Ye, Xu, and Law 2016), and provided science-based assessment for design processes (Karimi 2012). Finally, it is also worth highlighting recent work by researchers from the Spatial Morphology Group at Chalmers University Göteborg where, through the development of tools such as the *Place Syntax Tool*, they have enriched the space syntax vision with attraction and urban density parameters (Pont 2010).

In a broader perspective, network analysis is becoming a promising field of research regarding the development of urban models and simulation. The relationship between spatial networks and urban mobility, for instance, has been addressed by MIT City Form Lab, through the development of the Urban Networks Analysis Toolbox (Sevtsuk and Mekonnen 2012) or pedestrian prediction works based on the study of attraction variables (Sevtsuk and Kalvo 2020). Other works such as *Desirable streets* developed from the Senseable City Lab MIT (Salazar Miranda et al. 2021) have tested the incorporation of image recognition and GPS data tracking to find out the factors that induce minimum pedestrian routes according to walking attractiveness. These are only a few of the most relevant examples where network analysis is considered a key tool for the analysis of movement patterns and social behaviour. And this approach is even more relevant due to the high-speed development of geographic information systems (GIS), the improvement of powerful geospatial libraries and, above all, a new concern for urban (web)mapping and data.

5.3.1.5. Mapping urban data

Each city can be represented in infinite ways: through geological maps that explain the composition of the soil; through morphological expressive maps that draw urban fragments; through diagrams that measure the balances of activities; through mapping that captures the human activity within the urban form. Maps are tools for political and military control of the territory, and for centuries they have been used to represent sieges and battles, liberations and occupations or reaffirmation of strength and power; but also, tools for objective representation to understand the urban fact and, from there, act on it.

If drawing means interpreting, mapping quantifies data and locates it on the territory. The extensive use of geographic information systems (GIS) and the management of big data have contributed to rethink cartographic production related to urban analysis and management. It is worth mentioning at this point one of the pioneers in this field, who, without the use of automatic cartographies, anticipated mapping as an act of urban analysis: at the end of the 19th century, John Snow's mappings were used to detect the place where a source of cholera had originated in London by representing the plots where the victims lived and the situation of the drinking water supply points. That close relationship between data and urban form might be seen as the basis of modern urban science, which encouraged the understanding of cities through statistical surveys, evidence-based analysis of parameters, and the construction of detailed cartographies.

Today, the progressive facility to access urban data is opening a wide new field for urban description and also its better management. The growing number of datasets (open or private) on mobility, demography, activities, security, social networks, planning or environmental parameters, among others, are produced at high speed, revolutionizing how cities are tracked and conceptualized. This data is offering new possibilities for a thorough evidence-based understanding of social behaviour in cities, thus giving a complementary view to the long tradition of urban form studies. Data-based urban knowledge is becoming also a fundamental support for urban decision-making processes, to control their effects, to simulate the changes that urban projects imply on a given place, or even to manage the activities in cities.

The possibilities of mapping and social data are promoting rich research on urban sociology and human patterns. For instance, Roberts, Sadler and Chapman (2018) analyse the correlation between green spaces and the emotions. Using Twitter API, the data coverage for a period of 12 months is downloaded, cleaned and analysed in order to classify users' comments in two groups: negative and positive. The method provides information along time, male/female information and geolocation, thus allowing multiple chart comparisons on the effect of greenery in human feelings. Wang and Vermeulen (2020), in turn, explore the possibilities of deep learning analysis of Google Street View images to get automatic data of built environment features and mixed-use land information. This data is correlated with some parameters of a given number of neighbourhood-based organizations in Amsterdam in order to understand possible connections between the urban environment and the degree of survival of these communities.

This new analytical framework for urban description is not only offering available data but is also progressively impacting the creative processes of designers, urban planners and architects. New evidence-based toolkits, parametric design, artificial intelligence or machine learning methods are getting major attention in the urban evaluation and decision-making processes. Real-time data, dynamic and collective decisions, data sovereignty regulations, or complex non-linear processes are impacting the way cities are managed and designed.

5.3.1.6. Dreaming on a better city

As a preamble to the readings, two texts in relation to what a city could become were selected, since in them the to-be cities are places characterized by collaboration between citizens based on

sociability: on the one hand, Amin (2006) looks at Urban Utopias through the lens of the contemporary contradictions and possibilities as the material of a politics of well-being and emancipation that is neither totalising nor teleological, outlining through his arguments the elements of the good city imagined as an ever-widening habit of solidarity built around different dimensions of the urban common weal. On the other hand, links between the concepts Utopia and Smart Urbanism are also considered to understand the different logics and rationales behind smart urbanism discourses and proposals, and the ways by which imaginaries of urban futures are currently being constructed, along with their socio-technical and political implications for future research priorities (Luque-Ayala and Marvin 2015).

5.4. Discussion

This systematic review set out to explore the role of sociability within urban planning and design disciplines. This review has pioneered a deeper understanding of sociability from an urbanistic point of view and, besides the main academic aim the task, should help practitioners and decision-makers to ensure more vital urban scenarios.

As explained in the previous section, the literature review was guided by six research questions to distil different facets of the relationship between sociability and urbanism: form, elements and fragments in urban design and composition (Busquets and Correa 2007; de Solà-Morales 2008; Oueslati, Alvanides and Garrod 2015; Forsyth, Salomon and Smead 2019); ecology and resilience of the natural support (Castan, Allen and Rapoport 2012; Mostafavi and Doherty 2016; Orff 2016; Waldheim 2016; Loughran 2018; Barker, Crawford, Booth and Churchill 2019; Orum and Saguin 2019); urban phenomenology and activities (Jacobs 1961; Gehl 1971; Forsyth, Hearst, Oakes, Schmitz and Kathryn 2008; Evans 2009; Grant and Perrot 2010; Baum and Christiaanse 2012); spatial and social networks (Marcus, 2007; Vaughan, 2007; Pont 2010; Sevtsuk and Mekonnen 2012; Li, Xiao, Ye, Xu and Law 2016; Salazar Miranda et al. 2021; Sevtsuk and Kalvo 2020); urban data representation (Roberts, Sadler and Chapman 2018; Wang and Vermeulen 2020); and urban utopias (Amin 2006; Luque-Ayala and Marvin 2015). The resulting complementary and interdisciplinary body of knowledge highlights clear examples of links between urban science and sociability.

The texts based on urban *design and composition* tackle the topic from different scales: that of the urban project itself (Busquets and Correa 2007; de Solà-Morales 2008); the one of the coherent urban fragment (Oueslati, Alvanides and Garrod 2015); and that of the neighbourhood (Forsyth, Salomon and Smead 2019). While the first two contributions lead to the analysis of some contemporary urban transformation projects; the last two read non-central urban fabrics to derive from said analysis a diagnosis that leads to regeneration.

The texts based on *the natural support* are balanced between the explanation of the ecological condition of the urban setting (Mostafavi and Doherty 2016; Waldheim 2016); the link between landscape and participatory processes (Orff 2016); the socioecological relationships in urbana metabolism (Castan, Allen and Rapoport 2012; Orum and Saguin 2019); and the development of the concept of 'people's parks' (Loughran 2018; Barker, Crawford, Booth and Churchill 2019).

The texts explaining *urban phenomenology and activities* put three interesting topics on the table: on the one hand, social life in public space (Gehl 1971); on the other, the sociability triggered by the distribution of activities (Jacobs 1961; Forsyth, Hearst, Oakes, Schmitz and Kathryn 2008; Grant and Perrot 2010; Baum and Christiaanse 2012); and finally, a very specific issue such as sociability related to creative activities (Evans 2009).

The analysis of the texts aimed to describe *spatial and social* networks brought out concepts related to sociability such as social segregation (Marcus, 2007; Vaughan, 2007), tourism (Li, Xiao, Ye, Xu and Law 2016); population density (Pont 2010) or people mobility (Sevtsuk and Mekonnen 2012; Salazar Miranda et al. 2021; Sevtsuk and Kalvo 2020).

From the analysis of the selected texts that present ways of *mapping urban data* two interesting concepts emerge: on the one hand, the link between the emotions of users and the form of public space (Roberts, Sadler and Chapman 2018); and on the other, the link between health and urban form (Wang and Vermeulen 2020)

And finally, the texts approaching *utopias* put on the game board concepts related to sociability such as well-being and emancipation (Amin 2006); and the socio-technical limits of smart cities (Luque-Ayala and Marvin 2015).

5.5. Conclusions

This systematic review was conducted from the field of knowledge of architecture and urban design, although other disciplines appeared, especially those related to sociology and psychology. This systematic review has shed light to different forms of association between physical and social aspects of an urban context or an urban project, from which guidelines can be deduced to guide policies and practices on the subject of promoting sociability through urban design innovation.

The review was limited by a biased search in relation to the thematic area; despite the breadth of the topics covered in the initial questions, probably the limitation of the databases consulted left out of the selection fundamental texts that are considered necessary to put the texts finally selected for in-depth analysis into context. Nevertheless, the relevance of these contributions and the derived principles make them valuable for the training of professionals committed to the design, renovation and reconversion of cities and territories, especially those located in Europe.

References

- Amin, Ash (2006). The Good City. *Urban Studies*, 43(5-6) pp. 1009-1023. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/00420980600676717>.
- Barker, Anna, Crawford, Adam, Booth, Nathan, and Churchill, David (2019). Park futures: Excavating images of tomorrow's urban green spaces. *Urban Studies*, 57(12) pp. 2456-2472. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098012440463>.
- Baum, Martina, and Kees Christiaanse (ed.) (2012). *City as loft: adaptative reuse as a resource for sustainable urban development*. Zürich: GTA Verlag.
- Busquets, Joan, and Correa, Felipe (2007). *Cities X Lines*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Graduate School of Design; Rovereto: Nicolodi.
- Castan Broto, Vanesa, Allen, Adriana, and Rapoport, Elizabeth (2012). Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Urban Metabolism. *Journal of Industrial Ecology*. 16. 851-861. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1530-9290.2012.00556.x>.
- Cullen, G. (1961). *The concise townscape*. Butterworth Architecture.
- de Solà-Morales, Manuel (1993). *Las formas de crecimiento urbano*. Barcelona: Edicions UPC.
- de Solà-Morales, Manuel (2008). *A Matter of Things*. Rotterdam: NAI Publishers.
- Desmini, Jill and Waldheim, Charles (2016). *Cartographic Grounds: Projecting the Landscape Imaginary*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.
- Evans, Graeme (2009). Creative Cities, Creative Spaces and Urban Policy. *Urban Studies*, 46(5-6) pp. 1003-1040. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098009103853>.
- Forsyth, Ann, Hearst, Mary, Oakes, J. Michael, Schmitz, and Kathryn H. (2008). Design and Destinations: Factors Influencing Walking and Total Physical Activity. *Urban Studies*, 45(9) pp. 1973-1996. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098008093386>.
- Forsyth, Ann, Salomon, Emily, and Smead, Laura (2019). *Creating Healthy Neighborhoods*. New York: Routledge.
- Gehl, Jan (1971). *Life Between Buildings*. Copenhagen: Arkitektens Forlag The Danish Architectural Press.
- Grant, Jill, and Perrot, Katherine (2010). Where Is the Café? The Challenge of Making Retail Uses Viable in Mixed-use Suburban Developments. *Urban Studies*, 48(1) pp. 177-195. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098009360232>.
- Harvey, P.D.A. (1980). *The History of Topographic Maps: Symbols, Pictures and Surveys*. New York: Thames and Hudson
- Hillier, B., & Hanson, J. (1984). *The social logic of space*. Cambridge University Press.

- Jacobs, Jane (1961). *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York: Random House.
- Karimi, K. (2012). A configurational approach to analytical urban design: 'space syntax' methodology. *Urban Design International*, 17(4), 297–318. <https://doi.org/10.1057/udi.2012.19>
- Li, Y., Xiao, L., Ye, Y., Xu, W., & Law, A. (2016). Understanding tourist space at a historic site through space syntax analysis: the case of Gulangyu, China. *Tourism Management*, 52, 30–43. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tourman.2015.06.008>
- Loughran, Kevin (2018). Urban parks and urban problems: An historical perspective on green space development as a cultural fix. *Urban Studies*, 57(11) pp. 2321–2338. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098018763555>.
- Luque-Ayala, Andrés, and Marvin, Simon (2015). Developing a critical understanding of smart urbanism?. *Urban Studies*, 52(12) pp. 2105–2116. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098015577319>.
- Lynch, Kevin (1960). *The image of the city*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Marcus, L. (2007). Social housing and segregation in Sweden: from residential segregation to social integration in public Space. *Progress in Planning*, 67(3), 251–263.
- Mehta, Vikas (2013). *The street: A Quintessential Social Public Space*. New York: Routledge.
- Morris, A.E.J (1971). *History of Urban Form: Prehistory to the Renaissance*. London: George Godwin Ltd.
- Mostafavi, Mohsen, and Doherty, Gareth (2016). *Ecological Urbanism (revised edition)*. Baden: Lars Müller Publishers.
- Mumford, Lewis (1959). *The Story of Utopias*. New York: Peter Smith.
- Mumford, Lewis (1961). *The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World.
- Orff, Kate. (2016). *Toward an Urban Ecology*. New York: The Monacelli Press.
- Orum, A.M. and Saguin, Kristian. (2019). Urban Metabolism. In *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies*, A.M. Orum (ed.). Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118568446.eurs0378>.
- Oueslati, Walid, Alvanides, Seraphim, and Garrod, Guy (2015). Determinants of urban sprawl in European cities. *Urban Studies*, 52(9) pp. 1594–1614. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098015577773>.
- Pont, M. B. (2010). *Spacematrix: space, density and urban form*. NAI Publishers.
- Roberts, Helen, Sadler, Jon, and Chapman, Lee (2018). The value of Twitter data for determining the emotional responses of people to urban green spaces: A case study and critical evaluation. *Urban Studies*, 56(4) pp. 818–835. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098017748544>.
- Ryckwert, Joseph (1978). *The Street: The Use of its History*. In Anderson, Stanford (ed.) *On Streets*, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Salazar Miranda, A., Fan, Z., Duarte, F., & Ratti, C. (2021). Desirable streets: Using deviations in pedestrian trajectories to measure the value of the built environment. *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*, 86, 1–16.
- Sennet, Richard (2001). Capitalism and the city. In Echenique, Marcial and Saint, Andrew (ed.) *Cities for the New Millennium*, New York: Spon Press.
- Sevtsuk, A., & Mekonnen, M. (2012). Urban network analysis. A new toolbox for ArcGis. *Revue Internationale de Géomatique*, 22(2), 287–305.
- Sevtsuk, A., & Kalvo, R. (2020). Predicting pedestrian flow along city streets: A comparison of route choice estimation approaches in downtown San Francisco. *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation*.
- Vaughan, L. (2007). The spatial syntax of urban segregation. *Progress in Planning*, 67(3), 205–294. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.progress.2007.03.001>
- Waldheim, Charles (2016). *Landscape as Urbanism: A General Theory*. Princeton; Oxford: Princeton University Press.
- Wang, Mingshu, and Vermeulen, Floris (2020). Life between buildings from a street view image: What do big data analytics reveal about neighbourhood organisational vitality?. *Urban Studies*, online first. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098020957198>.
- Whyte, W. H. (1980). *The social life of small urban spaces*. New York: Project for Public Spaces.

6. Urban environment and EU Environmental Law

Lucia Palšová¹, Mária Bihúňová²

¹ Slovak university of Agriculture in Nitra, lucia.palsova@uniag.sk

² Slovak university of Agriculture in Nitra, maria.bihunova@uniag.sk

Abstract

The city is one of the basic and patterns of human society. Urban environment is becoming a key concept for city life. This concept covers a wide range of scientific aspects that need to be taken into account when ensuring the quality of life in a city. Therefore, the aim of the presented part of the book is therefore to summarize the knowledge in the field of urban environment and EU environmental law. The chapter points out the basic definitions and principles of the environment and the basic rules of conduct in the field of urban environment, supplemented by a review of the literature.

Keywords: European Union, environment, legislation, sociability, urban environment

6.1. Introduction

The more than 80% of the European population lives in cities, and for this reason it is necessary to deal with the quality of life and its diverse features in the urban areas. There are different tools to there are different tools on how people can be influenced in different environments. One of the most important tools is law as a normative system that regulates people's behavior and is enforceable by state authorities. Legislation in this area does not have a codified form, and therefore the urban environment is regulated by the legislation of various branches of law, one of which is environmental law. The environmental law of the national legislation of the EU Member States is significantly influenced by the aims and objectives of the EU. For this reason, it is necessary to apply the principles and legal acts adopted by the EU institutions and the creation and implementation of urban issues at the national level (Paudišová, 2012, Geneletti etl al., 2017).

The STUD.IO-Sociability Through Urban Design Innovation project – under which this systematic review is carried out – assumes the importance of promoting social interactions in the urban context for the production of the well-being of individuals and communities.

This chapter will present the review of:

- *urban environment* especially focused on public open spaces, housing estates and urban planning and adaptation to climate change,
- environmental policy in the EU,
- environmental law and it's specifications.

Interdisciplinarity and intersectionality are key elements in the complex urban, environmental and social planning. Following the research goal of the STUD.IO project, the sociological, psychological and urban point of views are combined with the aim to identify and support the sociability of the urban living environment.

The aim of the presented part of the book is therefore to summarize the knowledge in the field of urban environment and EU environmental law. The presented part points out the basic definitions and principles of the environment and the basic rules of conduct in the field of urban environment. The short-term purpose is to strengthen the knowledge of students or diverse professional target groups in different fields of science in different countries of the European Union. From long term period there is an overall goal to provide experts in urban sociability by improving research and education activities.

6.2. Methods

The chapter book was prepared on the basis of an extensive literature review realized following the Module C of the STUD.IO project.

In the current part of the chapter book, we focused mainly on topics with keywords such as urban environment, public open spaces, housing estates, urban plan and adaptation to climate change, environmental policy, and environmental law in the EU. We analyzed the relevant scientific publications based on the above keywords through a systematic analysis of databases such as Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar, and the like. From a total sample of 77 sources, we used a systematic method (see flow diagram) to exclude 50 of them, thus obtaining a final sample of 27 sources.

From a methodological point of view, the chapter book was developed through qualitative research, while methods were used as an in-depth analytical approach in the field of theoretical issues. To evaluate the results, we used methods of analysis, synthesis, and comparison to evaluate relevant literature. The results of these sources were then presented by verbal interpretation. The data on the basis of which we extracted our interpretations were further processed and presented in graphical form. The result of the chapter book is a comprehensive overview of the urban environment and legislation review in this area, which aims to provide students and professional target group with a comprehensive and coherent overview and orientation in this area.

6.3. Results

Details of the review process are given in the PRISMA 2020 flow diagram (see Fig. 1).

The initial search identified 77 records: these were reduced to 64 after eliminating 4 records whose full text could not be obtained for free and 9 for other reasons. The screening process on titles and abstracts identified 39 reports eligible for full text evaluation. The evaluation process resulted in the exclusion of 10 reports for the following reasons:

- non-inherence to STUD.IO themes (n = 8);
- not sociology area (n = 5);
- methodological limitations (n = 7);

There are 5 reports included in the final review, whose key characteristics - some chosen in relation to the aims of the STUD.IO project – are geographical focus, urbanism and urban planning, green infrastructure planning, landscape engineering (Tab. 1).

These reports do not have a specific geographic focus, therefore they could be applicable within locations in general.

Some reports in our review present a theoretical reflection, others present an empirical study and a mixed methods approach.

All reports have a study focus similar to our research area, thus allowing us to examine them directly.

Table 1 represents the thematic synthesis of the 5 reports in relation to our research questions.

Figure 1 – Identification of studies via databases and registers

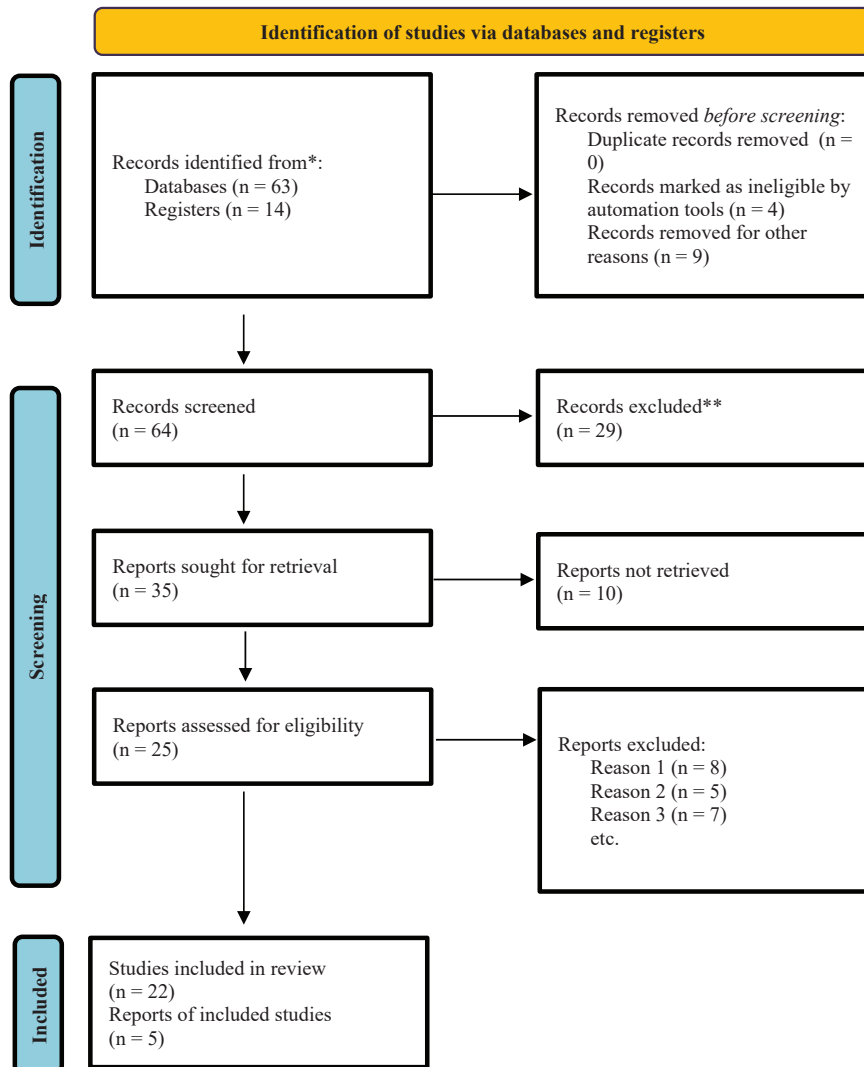


Table 1 – Key characteristics of each study included in the systematic review

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality
1.	Geneletti, D., La Rosa, D., Spyra, M., & Cortinovis, C. (2017). A review of approaches and challenges for sustainable planning in urban peripheries. <i>Landscape and Urban Planning</i> , 165, 231-243. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2017.01.013	36 states (from all continents)	-	All	Landscape, Urban planning
2.	Hrabovská, Z. Organizácia destinančného manažmentu ako kľúčový determinant regionálneho rozvoja. Online. Available at: http://www.pulib.sk/web/kniznica/elpub/dokument/kotulic12/subor/9.pdf	Košice city (Slovak Republic)	Medium	Researchers, students, public sector	Place management
3.	Kusendová, D. (2003). Geografické informačné systémy a humánna geografia – vybrané teoreticko-metodologické a aplikačné aspekty. <i>Acta Facultatis Rerum Naturalium Universitatis Comenianae</i> , 89-140. Online. Available at: http://www.humannageografia.sk/clanky/kusendova_Acta44_GISvHG_2003.pdf	All	All	GIS users	Geographical informational systems
4.	Monteiro, R., Ferreira, J. C., & Antunes, P. (2020). Green infrastructure planning principles: An integrated literature review. <i>Land</i> , 9(12), 525. DOI: https://doi.org/10.3390/land9120525	All	All	Researchers, students, public sector, architects	Green infrastructure

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality
5.	Paudítšová, E. (2012). Špecifická krajinných opatrení a zariadení v pozemkových úpravách (metodický prístup). <i>Acta Envir. Univ. Comenianae</i> , 130-144. ISSN 1335-0285	Slovak republic	All	Students, researchers, legal institutions, government	Land consolidation

The above-mentioned publications served mainly as supporting points in the elaboration of the chapter. However, the authors used their professional expertise as well to design the text of the chapter so that it fulfills the set goal. Selected publications can serve as a recommended literature for the target group in deepening their knowledge of the subject issues.

6.3.1. Urban environment

Now days, more than 80% of the European population lives in cities. Prediction is that the number will increase in the future. The city is one of the basic and patterns of human society. Cities, with their architectural and urban design and internal organization, form the image that human society has created about itself at certain time period. The cities are not only a materialized experience of the time, which includes a history of the place, but they present the relationships, attitudes, values and cultural development of society (Supuka, 2018).

The quality of the urban environment depends on several factors, which require different levels of planning, intervention, time or financial demands. Ancient civilizations already knew that quality public spaces are essential for a full life. However, the situation in recent years has drawn us even more intensively to the need for quality spaces available for everyday short-term recreation with the possibility of meeting, socializing, areas for passive relaxation, play, interaction and sports (Turzová, 2015; Scatena, 2018, Salizzoni, 2021).

Thwaites et al. (2007, p. 15) listed the characteristics of the suitable city as:

1. Mixed used city – city is a living organism, it is a complex. Complex character of the city is not a problem, it is its higher gift. The reason people meet in cities is exactly to take advantage of unplanned and the diverse. The mix of users and uses should be enhanced as much as possible.
2. Graded density – in the content of mix land use, density policy relates not only to housing, public transport accessibility and to other urban activities.
3. Compact communities.
4. Representation and participation.
5. Local identity.
6. The flourishing of the city life.
7. Buildings should form closed block.
8. Buildings that line the streets.

The relationship between people and their environment take place as causes, effects and external conditions. Coeterier (2011) speaks about existential (provision of feelings of security, stability and safety), functional (related to environment and flexibility to free choice of people's daily activities) and visual conditions (capacity of the environment to offer visual variety and stimulate the users' curiosity without overwhelming them).

He also identified sets of environmental factors which can influence satisfaction and environmental perception: Diversity of people, Variability of functions, Creativity in urban details and Social and physical accessibility. There were included also management, regulation and maintenance of the space.

Public open spaces

Public open spaces are recognised as a crucial aspect of sustainability and play relevant role for quality of urban life. Creation of healthy, attractive and sustainable urban environment not only depends on the presence, distribution, interconnection and accessibility to open spaces, but also their usability in terms of attractiveness, responsiveness and inclusiveness (Costa, Erjavec, 2019). Public spaces are those spaces in the existing urban structure which are open and accessible to all citizens, regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, age or socio-economic level. (Miková, Paulíková, Paulíniová, 2010). Lynch (2004) pointed that urban environment has many functions, it should be well remembered and caused happiness and satisfaction only via perceiving it.

Environmental experience is the process of perceiving and getting known with surroundings and establishing an emotional and evaluative relationship with space (Cha-Hee, 2020). The sense of the place derives from „collaboration“ of three dimensions: the place, the experience of the place and the meanings attributed to it. People perceive the world according to the personal constructs that they apply to it. Each of us has his/her own way of seeing the world, which influences past, present and future actions (Coeterier, 2011)

Active public spaces enrich public life in cities. They are spaces, where people may relax, meet each other and freely communicate also with strangers, where people can purchase food or goods, engage in events or simply enjoy being at the place and everyday life. These factors create sociability of the space (Samalavicius, 2013).

Karen and Stevens (2006) spoke about loose spaces, which give cities life and vitality. They are created by people's actions – activities could be improvised or planned, they may be unfamiliar, strange, spontaneous, or support the enjoyment of diversity and discovery of the unexpected. The activities, that generate looseness are matter of leisure, entertainment, self-expression reflection and social interaction, they are outside of daily routine and fixed functions.

Public spaces can be regarded as a soul of the city. The social interactions are important for defining a sense of place, for contributing to people's physical, cultural and spiritual well-being, for personal development and social learning and for development of tolerance (Costa, Erjavec, 2019).

Castells (2020) consider sociability of public spaces the way how people are, or are not, able to express themselves and to communicate with each other outside their homes and off their electronic devices.

Physical qualities of urban public spaces can frame opportunities for expression and for social engagement. Socializing included casual chatting as well as intense involvement with other person or people, which could lead to the longer interactions. In some cultures, urban streets are active places, providing a stage for variety of commercial, political, social and cultural activities, that enhance the experience of public life Karen and Stevens (2006).

Castells (2020) describes three key elements of socio-spatial change, which cities will undertake during its transformation in the information age. They are: function, meaning and form.

Cities as communication systems are supposed to link up the its local network (day to day work, private life, cultural identity, political participation) with global network (economy, technology, media, institutionalized authority). In terms of meaning the society is characterised by the opposing development of individuation and communalism. From the form point of view, there is a growing tension and articulation between space of flows and space of places. Cities are transformed by the interface between electronic communication and physical interaction, the combination of networks and places (Chiu, 2020).

Technology cannot replace the “traditional” aspects that are important for people in the use of public spaces as social cohesion, mental and physical activities and contact with nature. On the other hand the use of technology as a supporting tool for increasing attractiveness, variety, inclusiveness and responsiveness of open spaces may be a great added value for their quality and important step further to the sustainable and people friendly cities in future (Costa, Erjavec, 2019).

How to create "successful" public open spaces? There are not universal guidelines, but the experts from Project for Public Spaces have listed the most important values, which could characterised great landscape architectural design of the place. The place must provide four basic qualities: access, activities, comfort and sociability (Miková, Paulíková, Pauliniová, 2010).

Access and linkages: the space is easily accessible and visible, people can easily move around and use its various parts. It is accessible by foot, by public transports, by bicycles or cars.

Activities and uses: activities are the key elements of the place. They are the reason why people come there for the first time and why they return to the same place. The activities make the place special and unique. If there is nothing to do, the place will be empty and unused.

Comfort and image: the idea of safety and cleanliness is paramount when deciding on the use of space. Equally important is furniture, but especially benches and comfortable seating areas.

Sociability: this is a quality that the place does not easily gain. However, it is extremely important for its value.

Housing estates

The housing estates are considered as a compact zone, which is characterized by residential buildings with presence of the basic social infrastructure. The high quality of landscape architectural design can be achieved by taking into consideration broader relations of urban structure, connection with other urban districts with traffic and green ways, sufficient amount of green open spaces with suitable equipment and various recreational activities. Greenery as their organic part should be formed as part of interconnection within intravilan of the city and suburb zones and landscape (Rózová, Halajová 2002).

Public spaces form the perception of the city by residents and visitors. If the allocation of the public spaces is well designed, it becomes a key component of a healthy urban environment. They are places where people can meet, make new contacts, where children can play (Ferenčuhová, 2010).

The environment that surrounds us is related to our physical or mental health or to the suppression of harmonious growth and the slowing down of life renewal. The main function of the natural environment of the residential complexes is, that they offer place for everyday recreational activities. In order to improve the recreational value of housing estates, it is necessary to hierarchize recreational areas, create spaces for various activities and for particular age groups, build sports facilities, create continuous zones of the natural environment (Brath, 1985, Badiu et al., 2019).

As a park is considered a continuous area of greenery with a minimum area of 5000 m² and a width of at least 25 m, which is publicly accessible and is used for recreation of the inhabitants. Continuous areas with trees have a cooling effect with coverage at least 60% of the area. Urban greenery can reduce high temperatures at the place by more than 10 °C.

Urban plan and adaptation to climate change

The main tool for a systemic approach to adaptation to climate changes is an adaptation strategy, which should identify all local risks, the level of danger and propose measures to suppress the potential risks. The adaptation strategy for climate changes should be elaborated before the actualisation of the urban plan of the city (Supuka, 2018, Salizzoni, 2021).

An appropriate tool for implementation of the results of the adaptation strategy could be eco-index, which takes into account different types of greenery and gives them the appropriate value. Accessibility of the green open space is an indicator, which complements the eco-index with a social dimension and replaces the traditional indicator of greenery per inhabitant, which does not have sufficient information about the quality of the environment on the city.

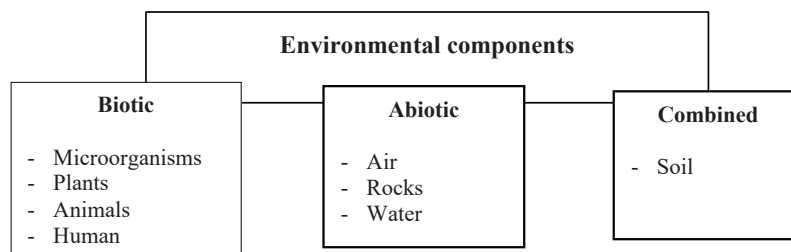
The urban plan can logically support the development of new activities shaping the new lifestyle of the city's inhabitants (reduction of energy consumption, transition to energy from renewable sources). Sophisticated organization of the territory eliminates unnecessary transfers between housing, work and recreation. The headquarters is becoming friendly for pedestrians and cyclists, the structure of services is changing, new jobs and opportunities are being created (Scatena, 2018, Salizzoni, 2021).

The quality of construction and reduced demands on energy consumption, the use of renewable energy sources and other criteria defined in the zoning plan can radically reduce the city's ecological footprint.

6.3.2. Environmental policy in the EU

Environmental policy is a synergic system of tools and factors that refers to the everyday human activities. Environmental policy comprises two major terms: environment and policy. Environment can be defined in accordance with the legal definition as all that create the natural conditions of existence organisms, including humans, and is a prerequisite for their further development; in particular: air, water, soil, rocks, organisms (§2 Act No. 17/1992 Coll. on environment as amended; Figure 2. Nowadays, it is necessary to interpret the environment by extensive way of the human being, because as Bührs – Bartlett (1991) and Košičiarová (2006) stated, the environment refers not only to the physical ecosystems, but can also take into consideration the social dimension (quality of life, health, hygiene) and an economic dimension (resource management, biodiversity). Policy can be defined as a "course of action or principle adopted or proposed by a government, party, business or individual" (Oxford Dictionary, 1995).

Figure 2 – Components of the Environment



Source: Own proceeding, 2022

Discussion concerning the environmental problems began to resonate around the world since the mid-20th century, but because many environmental problems are transnational by nature, they cannot be addressed effectively by individual countries acting alone. Recognition of this reality responses to a major environmental problem (McCormick in Bührs – Bartlett, 1991).

The current goal of environmental policy, fulfilled through legislation, is to ensure a high level of environmental protection while ensuring the quality of life of the population and satisfying their needs also in the direction of the use of natural resources. Although the goal of environmental protection is generally recognized in international law, the practical implementation of the goal is problematic. The reason is precisely the conflict between the conflicting interests of entities, where on the one hand the private sector is interested in making a profit and on the other hand it is in the public interest of society and environmental sustainability. The partial goals of environmental policy are therefore often marked by unsuccessful implementation or the reluctance of states to accede to them.

6.3.3. EU Environmental law

Environmental law is a summary of legal rules, which regulate behaviour of legal entities and individuals in relation to the the environment. Depending on the definition of the environment, it can define a set of legal relationships relating to environmental law (Damohorský, 2010). Legal definition of the environment is stipulated only in some legal orders in the EU (e.g. Slovak republic); the European Unions does not specify the term "environment".

The object of the legal regulation is the behaviour of people in relation to the environment; it means regulation of their impacts on environmental conditions. The aim of the legal regulation is achieving of the favourable status of environment (Košičiarová, 2009).

Legal relations to the environment are regulated in European and at national level. At the European level, environmental issue is regulated:

Primary law

The European Union has its own legal order, which is separate from international law and forms an integral part of the legal systems of the Member States. The legal order of the Union is based on its own sources of law. Primary legislation is at the top of the hierarchy and is represented by the Treaties and general legal principles. This is followed by international agreements concluded by the Union and secondary legislation, which is based on the Treaties (European parliament, 2016).

Sources of Union law:

1. primary law:
 - Treaty on European Union (hereinafter as TEU);
 - Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (hereinafter as TFEU);
 - Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (hereinafter as Euratom);
2. Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
 - international agreements;
 - general principles of Union law;
 - secondary legislation – constitutes acts of the institutions and bodies of the EU and should always be in conformity with primary law. Secondary acts can be, in terms of legislation, divided into typical (regulations, directives, decisions, recommendations and opinions) and atypical acts (resolutions, programs, etc.).

In the past 30 years, the EU has adopted a substantial and diverse range of environmental measures aimed at improving the quality of the environment for European citizens and providing them with a high quality of life. Our environment can only be well protected if Member States properly implement the legislation they have signed up to. Whatever the means used, the overall objective of the Commission is to ensure that EU environmental legislation is implemented in full, correctly and on time. This is important because legislation which is not or incorrectly implemented will not achieve the desired effect on the environment (European Commission, 2015).

The quality of the environment is highlighted in several provisions of primary and secondary Union law. In connection with the environment is sometimes used the term “environmental union law”. It is important to understand that the term "environmental union law" indicates much more than just legal provisions. Countries accepting the Union law must also understand and identify with the spirit of a deeper cultural context of this legislation.

Environmental protection is declared in the preamble of the TEU “Determined to promote economic and social progress for their peoples, taking into account the principle of sustainable development and within the context of the accomplishment of the internal market and of reinforced cohesion and environmental protection, and to implement policies ensuring that advances in economic integration are accompanied by parallel progress in other fields” and is also defines as one of the main objectives of the EU (Article 3 TEU): “The Union shall establish an internal market. It shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. It shall promote scientific and technological advance“.

The environment is considered as one of the priority that crosses all other policies. As the Article 11 TFEU emphasis “Environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union's policies and activities, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development“. In this regard, the TFEU includes the environment to all aspects of the European policies. More concentrated provisions related to the environment is possible to find in the following titles of the TFEU:

- Title III Agriculture and Fisheries.

- Title XVIII Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion.
- Title XIX Research and Technical Development and Space.
- Title XX Environment (Articles 191 – 193).

The Title XX Environment, Article 191 and Section 1 the TFEU v the Title XX stipulates: European Union policy on the environment shall contribute to pursuit of the following objectives:

- Preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment.
- Protecting human health.
- Prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources.
- Promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems, and in particular combating climate change.

In preparing its policy on the environment, the Union shall take account of:

- available scientific and technical data;
- environmental conditions in the various regions of the European Union;
- the potential benefits and costs of action or lack of action;
- the economic and social development of the European Union as a whole and the balanced development of its regions.

Articles 191 – 193 TFEU confirm the core principles of EU environmental law. The main European principles of EU environment policy are:

- The Prevention Principle – is the fundamental political principle of EU policy on the environment. This principle is inherent to the prevention of environmental damage, which should exclude the emergence of non-renewable changes in the environment.
- The Precautionary Principle – it is an extension of the prevention principle. The basis of this principle is the obligation of decision-making bodies, in cases when it is not in the decision-making process, a sufficient amount of precise and unambiguous information about the possible consequences of decisions on the environment, to always decide in favour of the environment.
- The "Polluter Pays" Principle – it lies in the fact that environmental damage should be covered by the one who cause them. This principle includes economic instruments (fees, taxes, fines, etc.) to the environmental protection.
- The High Level of Environmental Protection Principle – it means that environmental protection must always be secured with regard to the latest scientific and technical knowledge and solutions that are available to Member States.
- The Proximity Principle – also called the principle of compensation at source is based on requirement that the pollution is necessary to remove immediately at the source of the pollution.
- The Integration Principle – it means that the principles and requirements of environmental protection must be included in all other EU policies and EU Member States.
- The Subsidiarity Principle – it is included in all sectoral policies of the EU and also in environmental policy. Based on the principle of subsidiarity, the competences in the field of environment should be placed at the lowest possible level of management, i.e. level bodies have to address the issue closest and therefore have the opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the specific case. It is believed that the following cases are addressed efficiently.
- The Sustainability Principle – is the fundamental principle contained in the sectoral policies of the EU. EU adopts the definition of sustainable development formulated at a conference of the UN Commission on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; “sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs“(document “Our Common Future”).

Principles of the EU have significantly interpretative character. Articles 191-193 TFEU are not directly applicable. Unlike other provisions that are directly applicable, there is no fixed direct ban of pollution or to have polluters pay for pollution. It is therefore essential to precise provisions of Article 191-193 TFEU and give them specific content for secondary legislation to be applied by state authorities, courts, individuals and legal entities (Damohorský, 2010).

The TFEU specifies the environment as a shared competence between the Union and the Member States. Within their respective spheres of competence, the Union and the Member States shall cooperate with third countries and with the competent international organisations.

The European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Without prejudice to certain measures adopted by the Union, the Member States shall finance and implement the environment policy.

Secondary law

Secondary law represents a set of normative acts adopted by the European institutions for the application of the provisions of primary law. Secondary law must always be in accordance with primary law.

The acts of secondary law are divided into:

1. **Typical legal acts** – in accordance with the Article 288 TFEU to exercise the Union's competences, the institutions shall adopt:
 - i. regulations,
 - ii. directives,
 - iii. decisions,
 - iv. recommendations and opinions.

i. Regulation

Regulations are adopted in cases where it is necessary to establish uniform rules for environment for all EU Member States. The regulation is addressed to abstract categories of persons, not to identified persons. It shall be binding in its entirety and directly effect in all Member States; it has the same legal power as national legislation, without any intervention by national authorities. This means that it:

- applies immediately as the norm in all EU member states, without needing to be transposed into national law;
- creates rights and obligations for individuals and they can therefore invoke it directly before national courts;
- can be used as a reference by individuals in their relationship with other individuals, EU member states or EU authorities.

Its legal effects are simultaneously, automatically and uniformly binding in all the national legislations.

ii. Directive

Directives are the most common form of the EU environmental law. A directive shall be binding, as to the result to be achieved, upon each Member State to which it is addressed, but shall leave to the national authorities the choice of form and methods. Directive is used most often in situations where it is necessary to harmonize a concrete field of legal regulation or to introduce a comprehensive change in the rules across Member States, which is especially the case of the environment. Directives in the field of the environment have in a comparison with other fields more general character without a concrete specification of the methods or limits.

Directives are addressed to the Member states. This means that individuals and legal entities are not directly bound by the Directive. Member States must adopt national legislative acts, which come to the force on the concrete date intended in the transposition act. Transposition is the process by which the Directive becomes the part of the Member state's legal order. However, in certain cases the Court of Justice recognises the direct effect of directives in order to protect the rights of individuals. Therefore, the Court laid down in its case-law that a directive has direct effect when its provisions are unconditional and sufficiently clear and precise and when the EU country has not transposed the directive by the deadline (Judgement of 4 December 1974, Van Duyn). However, it

can only have direct vertical effect (consequence in relations between individuals/legal entities and the state); EU countries are obliged to implement directives but directives may not be cited by an EU country against an individual (Judgement of 5 April 1979, Ratti).

iii. Decision

A decision shall be binding in its entirety. A decision which specifies those to whom it is addressed shall be binding only on them. By a decision of the institution may require the Member State or a citizen of the EU to act or refrain from acting, to grant him/her rights or impose obligations. Decisions may have direct effect when they refer to an EU country as the addressee. The Court of Justice therefore recognises only a direct vertical effect (Judgement 10 November 1992, Hansa Fleisch)

iv. Recommendations and opinions

Recommendations and opinions are only indicative and are not binding on Member States. Objective of recommendations and opinions is to approach and describe certain situations or practices addressees to whom these instruments are intended. Non-binding nature of these acts does not mean they were unimportant legally. They provided the basis for the realization of further proceedings or other procedures. In connection with the action recommendations and opinions it speaks of so-called protection of confidence. This means that such acts contain some assessment of the situation by an institution of the EU and in the case that the person relies on this assessment, this shall not ensue disadvantage for the person.

The ordinary legislative procedure shall consist in the joint adoption by the European Parliament and the Council of a regulation, directive or decision on a proposal from the Commission. This procedure is defined in Article 294 TFEU. Legal acts adopted by legislative procedure shall constitute legislative acts. Legislative acts shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union. They shall enter into force on the date specified in them or, in the absence thereof, on the twentieth day following that of their publication (available online at eur-lex.europa.eu).

2. **Atypical legal acts** – other acts, for example: measures, mainstreaming, white Papers, green Papers, and so on. This category includes all legal acts of secondary legislation referred to in Article 288 of the TFEU, which does not contain an exhaustive and complete computation of the legal acts. It is therefore possible, by means of primary law were subsequently modified also other types of legal acts. Characteristic features of atypical legal acts are:
 - legal acts targeting inwards the EU against authorities of the EU or third countries;
 - legal acts are not targeting the Member States and their citizens (individuals or legal entities of the Member States);
 - legal acts especially acts organizational, work character respectively, programmes and acts with fiscal purpose.

Green papers and white papers adopted by the European Commission are the most important form of atypical legal acts. A green paper released by the European Commission is a discussion document intended to stimulate debate and launch a process of consultation, at European level, on a particular topic. A green paper usually presents a range of ideas and is meant to invite interested individuals or organizations to contribute views and information. It may be followed by a white paper, an official set of proposals that is used as a vehicle for their development into law.

6.4. Discussion

The chapter book reflects on the scientific literature dealing with topics such as urban environment, public open spaces, housing estates, urban plan and adaptation to climate change, environmental policy, and environmental law in the EU. As it is primarily intended for the education

and training of university students or/and other professional target group, it deals with the definition of basic terms and literary overview in these scientific areas.

Currently, the issue of urban environment is one of the dominant in the field of urban development. Sociability is one of the leading trends in this area. To understand it correctly, it is essential that students acquire basic knowledge of the areas that form the baseline for the urban environment. The chapter therefore clearly names the terminology and inherent features of the urban environment and its characteristics. There are various instruments, such as legislation, economic instruments or voluntary instruments, for the people of cities to improve their quality of life. In this respect, the most effective tool is the legislation that regulates the framework of the behavior of the population. The authors therefore decided to introduce students to the basics of EU environmental law, as it is now a leader in nature and setting trends for national legislation.

In the field of urban environment, the introduction of comprehensive legislation covering various factors of urban development is expected.

6.5. Conclusions

From the results of the analyzes of various studies, which were carried out within the project, it can be stated that several authors from various scientific fields deal with the issue of urban environment. For this reason, it can be identified as a strength that there is currently a quality literary and scientific overview of proven sources and the reliability of applied research methods. On the other hand, these sources are published in a variety of scientific disciplines, and therefore the limitations of some of them include the inability to generalize research results and the complexity of their study. Therefore, many authors perceive the urban environment through their specific professional perspective. This is also the reason why the results of some studies can be generalized, the results of some studies are only applicable within certain defined territorial areas that have been the subject of research. This also resulted from the literature review carried out within module C of the STUD.IO project. At present, there is a wide range of scientific publications dealing with the issue sought, some of which address a global overview, others focus on a specific territorial area, thus complementing each other.

In the chapter, the authors focused on the basic principles of two areas, namely by introducing the concept of urban environment with its specifics and introducing the issue of EU environmental law. European law is the supranational legal system that determines the direction of national environmental policies, and it is therefore essential that students understand the essence of the functioning of the EU legal order. The selected literature review will be suitably supplemented by the basic study material listed in this chapter, which will enable students or professional target group to understand the lectured topics and prepare them for their future profession.

References

- Badiu, D., Nita, A., Iojă, C., Niță, M. (2019). Disentangling the connections: A network analysis of approaches to urban green infrastructure, *Urban Forestry and Urban Greening*, 41/2019, 211-220. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2019.04.013>.
- Brath, J. (1985). *Urbanizmus rekreačných priestorov v obytných súboroch*. Alfa.
- Bührs, T., Bartlett, R. V. (1991). *Environmental policy in New Zealand. The Politics of Clean and Green*. Oxford University Press.
- Castells, M. (2020). Space of flows, space of places: Materials for a theory of urbanism in the information age. In Castells (Eds.) *The city reader* (pp. 240-251). Routledge.
- Cha-Hee L. (2020). Understanding rural landscape for better resident-led management: Residents' perceptions on rural landscape as everyday landscapes. *Land Use Policy*, 94/2020, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2020.104565>.

- Chiu, C. (2020). Theorizing public participation and local governance in urban resilience: Reflections on the “Provincializing urban political ecology” Thesis. *Sustainability*, 12(24), DOI:10.3390/su122410307
- Coetier, J. (2011). *Livelines in town centres. The urban experience. A people environment perspective*. Routledge.
- Costa, C., S., Erjavec, Š. (2019). The rationale of CyberParks and the potential of mediated public open spaces. In C. Smaniotto Costa, et al. (Eds.), *CyberParks – The Interface Between People, Places and Technology*. LNCS 11380, pp. 3-13. SpringerOpen.
- Damohorský, M. (2007). *Právo životného prostredia*. 2. Edition. C.H. Beck.
- Drgonec, J. (1993). *Štát a právo v službách životného prostredia*. Vydavateľstvo Lesoochranárskeho zoskupenia Vlk - ABIES.
- Ferenčuhová, S. (2010). *Spolu a spokojene. Obrazy integrovanej spoločnosti v mestskom plánovaní*. Sociálni študia/Social studies. 3(2). https://journals.muni.cz/socialni_studia/article/view/5540/4638
- Geneletti, D., La Rosa, D., Spyra, M., & Cortinovis, C. (2017). A review of approaches and challenges for sustainable planning in urban peripheries. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 165, (231-243). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2017.01.013>
- Hex, Ch. (2005). *EU Environmental policies: A short history of the policy strategies in EU Environmental Policy Handbook. A Critical Analysis of EU Environmental Legislation*. European Environmental Bureau.
- Hrabovská, Z. (2013). *Organizácia destinačného manažmentu ako kľúčový determinant regionálneho rozvoja*. <http://www.pulib.sk/web/kniznica/elpub/dokument/kotulic12/subor/9.pdf>
- Jurík, L., Medovičová, M., Paľšová, L. (2009). *Krajinné inžinierstvo a právo: legislatíva ochrany životného prostredia*. 2. Revised. Slovenská poľnohospodárska univerzita.
- Karen, F., Stevens, Q. (2006). *Loose Space. Possibility and diversity in urban life*. Routledge.
- Košičiarová, S. (2006). *Právo životného prostredia*. 1. Vydanie. Poradca podnikateľa.
- Kusendová, D. (2003). *Geografické informačné systémy a humánna geografia–vybrané teoreticko–metodologické a aplikačné aspekty*. Acta Facultatis Rerum Naturalium Universitatis Comenianae, (pp. 89-140) http://www.humannageografia.sk/clanky/kusendova_Acta44_GISvHG_2003.pdf
- Kurian, R. V. B. P. A., Malik, M., & Nagel, S. S. (1995). *International organizations and environmental policy*, 355/1995. Greenwood Publishing Group.
- Lynch, K. (2004). *The Image of the City*. M.I.T. Press
- McCormick, John (2001). *Environmental Policy in the European Union. The European Series*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Miková, K., Paulíková, M., Pauliniová, Z. (2010). *Verené priestory. Ako tvoriť priestory s príbehom, pre ľudí a s ľuďmi*, Ekopolis.
- Monteiro, R., Ferreira, J. C., & Antunes, P. (2020). Green infrastructure planning principles: An integrated literature review. *Land*, 9(12). <https://doi.org/10.3390/land9120525>
- Paudišová, E. (2012). Špecifika krajinných opatrení a zariadení v pozemkových úpravách (metodický prístup). *Acta Envir. Univ. Comeniana*, (pp. 130-144)
- Rózová, Z., Halajová, D. (2002). *Parková tvorba*. Slovenská poľnohospodárska univerzita v Nitre.
- Salizzoni, E. (2021). Challenges for landscape architecture: Designed urban ecosystems and social acceptance. *Sustainability*, 13(7), 3914. DOI:10.3390/su13073914
- Samalavicius, A. (2013). Revisiting and rethinking contemporary urban design. *Journal of Architecture and Urbanism*, 37(3), (pp. 161-164). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3846/20297955.2013.820876>
- Scatena, D. (2018). Perceiving the void and the living being to build new environment friendly urban spaces. *Journal of Architecture and Urbanism*, 42(1), (pp. 40-45). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3846/jau.2018.2024>
- Smaniotto Costa, C., & Šuklje Erjavec, I. (2019). The rationale of CyberParks and the potential of mediated public open spaces. In *CyberParks – The interface between people, places and technology* (pp. 3-13). Springer, Cham.
- Supuka, J. (2018). Aktuálne problémy mestských sídiel a potenciál ich riešenia prostredníctvom zelenej infraštruktúry. In: *Životné prostredie*, 52/1, (pp. 11 – 18). http://publikacie.uke.sav.sk/sites/default/files/2018_1_011_018_Supuka.pdf
- Thwaites, K. et al. (2007). *Urban sustainability through environmental design*. Routledge.
- Turzová, M. (2015). *Kultivácia mestskej krajiny na systém otvorených priestorov s identitou*. STU v Bratislave.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu>

www.slov-lex.sk

7. Suburbs, Green Urbanism, Sustainability and Human factor. A systematic review for a new paradigm in Urban design

*Maurizio Oddo*¹, *Alessandro Barracco*²

¹ Kore University of Enna (Italy), maurizio.oddo@unikore.it

² Kore University of Enna (Italy), alessandro.barracco@unikore.it

Abstract

One of the problems of contemporary urbanism is that it lacks dialogue that leads to fragmented and depressing spaces, like blank walls with nothing across them or buildings closed off to their surroundings. The aim of this systematic review is to summarize the knowledge in the field of Architecture and Urban Planning. The presented part points out the basic definitions and principles of Smart cities, Human factor, Green urbanism, Urban and sustainability design, Borders and Urban planning. This area of study “building architectures” questions how structures are designed and what forms of habitation (simultaneously with citizens) they evoke. Technology helps optimize architectural design processes so the physical prototype does not miss anything. Building appropriately alluring architecture should alleviate.

The systematic review was conducted following *The PRISMA 2020 statement*. For the inclusion of reports in our systematic review, we considered published and gray literature since 2006 as articles prior to 2000 were discarded. Eligibility criteria for reports characteristics were: writings in Italian, English and French; any type of report (in electronic format) in accordance with the PRISMA 2020 definition; availability of an abstract (in Italian, English or French) or an introduction to the report; reports of a theoretical and/or empirical nature; reports with an extra-European geographic focus.

The bibliographic search or consultation of each source was conducted during the period between August and November 2021 in the following databases: *Elsevier*, *ScienceDirect*, *Academia*, *Google Scholar*, *Frontiersin*, *HAL theses*. The initial search identified 58 records: these were reduced to 30 after eliminating 28 records whose full text could not be obtained for free. The evaluation process resulted in the exclusion of 19 reports. Regarding the 19 reports, included in the final review, it is important to underline some of the main characteristics, chosen in relation to the objectives of the STUD.IO. In particular, the geographical focus, almost always of a European character with the exception of the few non-European cases, such as the American examples or those without a specific geographical focus; the size of the city, small or medium; the intersectionality of theoretical and research models, always verified within the selected cases; the research question / question and research approach. Most of the studies examined, starting from a purely design approach, linked to the city to territorial planning, extend to embrace the more specifically sociological field. Most of the reports show a study focus similar to the research questions of the STUD.IO project. In this way, it was possible to directly compare the results, unlike what happened from the comparison with other researches which, although presenting a different focus from our research questions, made it possible to approach the studies analogically, indirectly answering our research questions.

Keywords: Smart cities, Human factor, Green urbanism, Urban and sustainability design, Borders and Urban planning

7.1. Introduction

Nowadays new technological developments have given a modern look to cities. We experience an evolution of spaces as well as time, not just as citizens but also within our cultural framework.

We need to use applied engineering and design to scale these innovative technologies so they can be adopted by the world. There is an increasing need for solutions that dually offer visual and environmental sustenance to communities living in cities. Urban and sustainability design not only adopts visionary innovation and technology, it also aims at making them safe for human beings. With political engagement and conservation practices, as well as a better city representation that incorporates culture and local vernacular, we can recreate a safer, cleaner urban sphere for inhabitants in the near future.

This area of study “building architectures” questions how structures are designed and what forms of habitation (simultaneously with citizens) they evoke. Technology helps optimize

architectural design processes so the physical prototype does not miss anything. Building appropriately alluring architecture should alleviate

Recent innovation in urban design has turned cities into smart cities. Urban planners need to consider human behavior in designing city plans as well as the wider impact on the environment. Role of social design in engaging with citizens and making their lives better is essential for a city to be livable and sustainable.

Yes, we are innovating in various ways to bring safe living spaces to the people of today in different environments.

A conventional civic space is inclusive by its nature. Wide sidewalks invite the passerby to stop, sit, and be a part of life. Concrete in many places are warmed with vividly colored tiles or mosaics demonstrating social interests and natural substrates that might grow near their homes. Street trees give shade, cover and metaphorically speak for a philosophy of shared responsibility with the environment. Human factors are here in seldom noticeable ways--things like quality lighting queues, comfort interfacing seating opportunities on narrow benches, multilingual signage, accessible paths of travel--to unleash individuality within society. This city is a vernacular paradise where built environment reflects individual desires and unites us as citizens bound by design equity outside and in--issues like immigration barriers notwithstanding.

One of the problems of contemporary urbanism is that it lacks dialogue. This lack of dialogue leads to fragmented and depressing spaces, like blank walls with nothing across them or buildings closed off to their surroundings. Among various strategies in human-scale urban design, sociability not only improves social connections, but may also help make our societies more progressive and sustainable.

The use of the word "sociability" in architecture seeks to respond to three issues: city poverty by fostering accessibility; ecological problems through access to green areas; and demographic regrouping through spatial diversity shaped by multiple social categories.

Sociability as a solution has a hundred possible uses: as a way of knitting together buildings or reflecting specific activities on given sites, or using design as methodology for community interaction, for example.

The aim of this chapter is to summarize the knowledge in the field of Architecture and Urban Planning. The presented part points out the basic definitions and principles of Smart cities, Human factor, Green urbanism, Urban and sustainability design, Borders and Urban planning.

Having in mind that some students feel out of place at university as they lack a clear path or direction, and with a view to the multidisciplinary that has guided the STUD.IO project from the very beginning, in order to ease this pain point and encourage sociability, architectural thinking can be applied to the design of sustainable urban infrastructures in order to make schools a microcosm of the city where lifelong learning is encouraged and community collaboration is the standard.

There has been unprecedented growth in entrepreneurship education among universities around the world, with many institutions provides courses on business start-up-, funding-, or incubation-related topics, knowing that collaboration with community partners, for business innovation and economic development, is essential for economic growth in areas like creative industries. Thus STUD.IO project introduce participatory model (if necessary) to bring diversity into urban conceptualisation curricula (Sociality + Architecture and Urban Planning).

7.2. Methods

The systematic review was conducted following the paper *The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews* (Page et al., 2021).

For the inclusion of reports in our systematic review, we considered published and gray literature since 2006 as articles prior to 2000 were discarded.

Eligibility criteria for reports characteristics were: writings in Italian, English and French; any type of report (in electronic format) in accordance with the PRISMA 2020 definition; availability of an abstract (in Italian, English or French) or an introduction to the report; reports of a theoretical and/or empirical nature; reports with a extra-European geographic focus.

The bibliographic search or consultation of each source was conducted during the period between August and November 2021 in the following databases: *Elsevier*, *ScienceDirect*, *Academia*, *Google Scholar*, *Frontiersin*, *HAL theses*. The search strategy used the following key words/expressions formulated in both Italian, English and French: Smart cities; Intelligent cities; Smart city planning; Evolutionary planning; Participatory governance; Open data; Resilience; Sensor city; City 4.0; Sustainable urban development; Smart urbanism; Smart governance; Disruptive urban transition; Internet-of-Things (IoT); Border Cities; Border Regions; Borderland; Migration; Cities; Migration and Urban Flows; Mobilities; Urban; Migration; Place; Non-place; City; Disneyfication; Hypermodernity; Hinterland; Urban Growth; Urban Sprawl; Urban green spaces; Social inclusion; Ecosystem services; Global change; Green area typologies in cities; Green urban planning and management; Positive (negative) plant-human interactions; Urban trees; GI principles; Greenspaces; Nature-based solutions; Infrastructure; Urban regeneration; Fragile territories; Governance; Upcycling; Sustainable development; Urban heat island; Earth observation.

The identified records were collected in the *Module B_ Abstracts selection* (see Appendix B), retrieving the following data: reference list entry (author(s), year, title, publisher), databases/other source, material type (book, article, etc.), abstract (Italian-language abstracts were translated into English).

The screening process considered other eligibility criteria, such as the availability of full-texts (downloadable for free or through access to the subscription resources of our University's Library System) and the relevance of the topic addressed to the training of a promoter of architectural and urbanism sociability, the formative aim of the STUD.IO project.

In order to select the reports for inclusion in the review, we assessed the eligibility of the reports through the *Module C_Full texts selection* (see Appendix B), aimed at describing and evaluating full texts according to some information (Country, Analysis of theory, Analysis of methods, Focus on size-city (small and medium), Target participants (children and the elderly), Analysis of results, Target dissemination (students, professionals, researchers), Future research direction, Mono- or interdisciplinary (specify which disciplines), Themes (skills and attitudes, Contextual factors (geographical location, socioeconomic conditions, political context, city size), Services, good/optimal practices), Can the results be applied to other local contexts?) and according to certain criteria (Relevance, Reliability, Extrinsic factors, Intrinsic factors, Appropriateness to learning fields) measured on a 5-point scale.

Throughout the review process – from the identification of records to the inclusion of reports in the systematic review – we translated titles, abstracts, and (sometimes) full text from English and French to Italian through *Google Translate* to ensure correct understanding.

To answer our specific research questions, we used a narrative approach of qualitative (text-based) data synthesis, adapting the Methods for the thematic synthesis of qualitative research in systematic reviews (Thomas & Harden, 2008) to our objectives; for the thematic synthesis of the reports included in the review reports, we proceeded through three steps: first, we traced key concepts in the reports (through the most important phrases, available definitions, or any other useful part of the report); next, we grouped the key concepts into descriptive themes (topic areas); finally, we generated analytical themes (i.e., new interpretive constructs, or new explanations, or new hypotheses), which would also suggest implications for policy and practice.

7.3. Results

Details of the review process are given in the PRISMA 2020 flow diagram (see Fig. 1).

The initial search identified 58 records: these were reduced to 30 after eliminating 28 records whose full text could not be obtained for free. The evaluation process resulted in the exclusion of 19 reports for the following reasons:

- non-inherence to STUD.IO themes (n = 3);
- methodological limitations (n = 2);
- excessive generality of theme (n = 2);
- excessive specialization of theme (n = 4).

Regarding the 19 reports, included in the final review, it is important to underline, like the starting keywords, which can be summarized in five macro areas, some of the main characteristics, chosen in relation to the objectives of the STUD.IO. In particular, the geographical focus, almost always of a European character with the exception of the few non-European cases, such as the American examples or those without a specific geographical focus; the size of the city, small or medium; the intersectionality of theoretical and research models, always verified within the selected cases; the research question / question and research approach (Tab. 1).

In accordance with the general choices at the basis of the research, the reports examined concerned the small and medium-sized cities of the city, up to the point of highlighting the size of the neighborhood but almost always discarding the large size except for the few cases studied in order to systematize the theoretical approach. Most of the studies examined, starting from a purely design approach, linked to the city to territorial planning, extend to embrace the more specifically sociological field. In any case, within the following review, some researches show a theoretical reflection, to integrate those composed starting from more empirical studies, conducted through a qualitative research approach or mixed methods. Most of the reports show a study focus similar to the research questions of the STUD.IO project. In this way, it was possible to directly compare the results, unlike what happened from the comparison with other researches which, although presenting a different focus from our research questions, made it possible to approach the studies analogically, indirectly answering our research questions.

In any case, however, the interdisciplinary component is never abandoned. The latter destined, immediately, to represent one of the fundamental characters and red thread of the research at the basis of the STUD.IO. In this way, in fact, it was possible to make the architectural sphere and that of territorial planning dialogue with sociology, in the first instance, and with many other disciplines of an anthropological nature, such as urban sociology, agriculture, geography, urban ethnography, urban geography and psychology.

According to the paper review we can divide this paragraph into the following consistent sub-paragraphs:

- Smart cities.
- Borders and Urban planning.
- Human factor.
- Green urbanism.
- Urban and sustainability design.

Table 1 – Key characteristics of each study included in the systematic review

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality
1.	Vagena, A. (2021)	Greece	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
2.	PAOLA JIRON (2019)	Chile	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
3.	MARC AUJE(2020)	France	Small & Medium	Elderly	
4.	N. Kominos, C. Kakderi, A. Panori & P. Tsarhopoulos (2018)	Greece	Medium	Children & Elderly	Yes
5.	G. D'Amico, P. L'Abbate, W. Liao, T. Yigitcanlar, G. (2020)	Italy, China, Australia	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
6.	Z. Karakayaci (2016)	Turkey	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
7.	K. Mouratidis (2019)	Norway	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
8.	H. Fors, F. A. Hagemann, A. Ode Sang, T. B. Randrup (2021)	Sweden	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
9.	S. Fineschi, F. Loreto (2020)	Italy	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
10.	P. Carli, P. Serugi (2021)	Italy	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
11.	A. MacLachlan, E. Biggs, G. Roberts, B. Boruff (2021)	United Kingdom, Australia	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
12.	A. Blunt, C. Laing Ebbensgaard, O. Sheringham (2020)	United Kingdom	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
13.	H. Barbosa-Filho, M. Barthelemy, G. Ghoshal, C. R. James, M. Lenormand, T. Louail, R. Menezes, J. Ramasco, F. Simini, M. Tomasini (2018)	USA, France, United Kingdom, Spain	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes

#	Paper (Citation)	Geographic focus	City size (small, medium, large)	Target	Intersectoriality
14.	S. Cajot, N. Schuler, M. Peter, A-Koch, F. Marechal (2017)	Switzerland, Germany	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
15.	Simeon Vano, Anton Stahl Olafsson, Peter Mederly (2021)	Slovanka, Denmark, Czech Republic	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
16.	Amal Wasfi (2014)	Canada	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
17.	F. Berkes, I. J. Davidson-Hunt (2006)	Canada	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
18.	R. Sturm, D.A. Cohen (2014)	USA	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes
19.	N. Schüller, S. Cajot, M. Peter, J. Page, F. Marechal (2018)	Switzerland, Germany	Small & Medium	Children and elderly	Yes

7.3.1. Smart cities

The concept of Virtual Workforce is on the rise, but there are certain problems which individuals face while they are doing this. One of the prime issues said to be faced by them is establishing a personal connection and forming new social circles.

But, today, digital nomads need not feel sad anymore because due attention has been given to this issue in recent times. New innovations in urban planning and design have been introduced that fulfil their need for social instatement with ease. These innovations include smart and intelligent cities which have flexible infrastructure, Cyber Centers-Drop In Spaces, Platform Based Virtual Communities and among others.

As citizens and consumers, we want our cities to be safe, economically vibrant, creative and beautiful. We want our world to be sustainable. Cities can only provide these things if they are upgrading their infrastructure every day with insights found in open data.

Urban design innovation is critical for cities that rely on innovative infrastructures and digital platforms not to disintegrate into segregation along class, cultural and generational lines.

Sociability is a mainstay of making communities livable. Cities need to foster qualities that connect people – in the online and offline worlds, for many generations, irrespective of age-sex-race-religion or socio-economic inequality. The quality of public spaces needs to connect cities with nature, rivers, streams and waterfronts. This introduction chapter starts with a discussion on the twelve “musts” of a society with good mobility infrastructure.

7.3.2. Borders and Urban planning

The research explores the personal city-related stories of women migrants. It discusses their networks, social relationships and lifestyle as they connect two spaces that differ in descent, educational system, culture, language, political regime and living standards. The papers deal with topics such as crossing borders and urban pressure; struggles for physical safety; desire for inclusion and contestations to norms of gendered behaviour.

Social relations are contingent on many aspects of urban design – the choice whether to turn east or west when home or at work; or even where to work outside your home country. This paper focuses on one area where immigration produces its greatest divides: border cities in the shared lives of people living across the international division is increasing rapidly due to complex migratory interactions that not only offer opportunities for mobility.

The most confronting part of third-level towns, villages and communities that border any nation are frequently the zones where unprecedented movement takes place. This edgy dynamic is apparent in territories that experience migration to satisfy the demographic needs of a standout metro, as people can do fulfilment jobs in a neighbouring country. They are establishments which may also recognise singular and financially healthy industrial organisation activities or productivity. Yet, in spite of an age-old adaptive ethos on both margins, these regions and their inhabitants can depend on difficulties related with political exclusion, precarious spots for those living ‘in the shadows’ or through to segregation be associated with marginalisation and utter decline (UN Planning Division 2008).

In survey research, the outcomes of millions of respondents can measure what is being shared in real time. It’s possible to capture identity and networks, which are only accessible through social data.

The book discusses what towns and cities may look like 10 years from now in a day-to-day scenario guided by statistics and other examples that were collected to support its theory. We see deeper integration into the community or people becoming even more disconnected depending on how tightly woven into the "urbanism we live." Urban life comes back to what urban designers are

trying to make happen today - socially vibrant neighborhoods, public spaces that invite community interaction and architecture that supports a changing population structure as it evolves over time. Urban centers across the country are forgetting their original place as a center of these "hinter."

After two World Wars, the world has been witness to a great migration of populations from rural to urban areas around the globe. Cities have grown exponentially in size and population, expanding at a rate that is faster than what is ecologically sustainable. Yet why do we live so close? Cities grow with greater income inequality rates: it becomes void of sociality and diversity; poverty becomes proportionate to wealth. Technology better connects us through modern integration, but in turn induces the feeling of "non-place" – wherefor example airport terminals or shopping malls don't provide people with a sense of belonging or a sense of community. The pressure on cities worsens because people are pulled to increasingly more "modern" places where hypermodernity continue to differ from hinterland – i.e., New York.

7.3.3. Human factor

Aim is to reconcile the gap between quantitative and qualitative evidence as it relates to cities, city systems, urban design.

The built environment is a huge contributor to citizens' perceived well-being and happiness. But other factors also impact on their happiness such as income or education.

Cities have a detrimental effect on human flourishing or citizen well-being if externalities and problems proliferate about them (OECD, 2006).

Solutions for economic disparity can take an outside-in focus by identifying how urban design manifests from the built environment is having an effect on folks' quality of life. It's fair to say that "Our social behaviours are being sculpted by our physical".

UN's take on urban design innovation takes into consideration quality of life in terms of sociability and well-being. However, many factors contribute to the success and propagation of such developments, comprising sustainable infrastructure and a heightened sense of place. Globalization has led to urban sprawl (googlr.com), which is the increase in suburban living, placing people further outside city centers; resulting in the lose of contact with their neighbours.

This section introduces some highly important terms, but also discusses its relation to our HEAV project – a project that addressed physical activity at university campuses.

Recent research points the Australian way of suburban development as a root of social ills such as urban sprawl and its consequences on subjective well-being. Australians are now being encouraged to uproot for "socialising" into micro-apartments in urban living.

This shift from home ownership and larger houses to more liveable, more dense communities is one of the many ways that urban design, alongside low-carbon planning, can have impacts on subjective well-being, housing affordability and quality, livability and ultimately – happiness.

Even cities with little spatial nature have the opportunity to create such temporal moments through strategic urban design.

A study on Cape Town, South Africa found that 15% of residents were physically active in their neighborhoods thanks to multimodal networks. The research also highlighted that people did not need cars to get around and drove less in cases like this. More cyclists come along for the ride as well- with 18% of people using it as their mode of transport instead of cars or public transportation.

With "activation" especially, urban designers can consider how different land uses operate and how their dynamics influence the structure of the city. What would happen if one place forces freedom against another? For example, where are these designs "activated" in Singapore? How do they play out there?

Sociability is seen as a social norm from older urban designs void of too much technology. Urban design innovation has begun to make a comeback to support human engagement, minimalization of human effort hardship and breakaway from isolation feeling.

Many think that Americans have started to believe in their own isolation. Architecture has sought out ways to bridge the disconnect between people and the built environment through urban design innovation.

With the rapid developments and changes that have taken place in the history of urban space, it is clear to see how mobility and relationships with spaces are shifting. The most significant of these is the rise of telecommuting, referred to as work from anywhere. Spatial programs facing increasing demand for accessibility and sustainability have amplified our need for diversity in city planning and design. Immersive environments such as Oculus Rift or Google Streetview provide us an opportunity for us to experience a simulation of another person's perspective- allowing us a greater chance at connecting with that person's present state.

7.3.4. Green urbanism

Cities form a specific part of our daily lives. Different sizes and lifestyles condition the dynamics of that space, which make up a city. Whether the people choose to live in a metropole or village, awareness among designers about how to foster sociability is pivotal for both human flourishing and sustainability.

Different problems come with designing marginalized groups spaces in cities – as well as opportunities. In this written exploration, I am going to pick out some best practices showcased by urban green space redesign when it comes to public involvement, long-term considerations and social inclusion stakeholders around sustainable urban design.

Still a relatively new, yet fast-growing, branch of urban studies, green urban design and management is based on the idea that when ecology is applied to cities it improves the quality of life for humans.

Rethink strategies for community living in our increasingly urban society. Significantly reduce your carbon footprint and live a healthier life with green living arrangements. Contribute to reducing global climate change by rethinking your communities and how you communicate with them. Add eco-inspired public spaces and continuing passive conservation to your cities.

We often associate trees near our living spaces with calming, peaceful and quiet experiences.

Along with their aesthetic beauty, they also bring downward solar energy, mitigate urban hazards like flooding or heat-island effects and have been proven to have a positive (negative) impact on people's health by improving mental well-being.

It is stated that trees lower residents' stress levels in the daylight hours thereby promoting greater individual's sociability. The study says that during the day people feel calmer in these urban spaces.

The modern city is largely designed and constructed with humans moving, managing space, and communicating without interacting with the natural world. To weaken this design trend, or reverse, designers are exploring options to make plant-human interactions more positive, including making created benefits for human social life (human-eating plants), such as Moringa or Prosopis; introducing nature through a connection to natural amenities, such as benches and trees on sidewalks; and using vegetation strategically to promote complete streets policies.

There are many experiments that showcase how trees in various public spaces incline humans to socialize in new ways. These experiments also explore how vegetation can be used to improve quality of life in a community by altering air quality and promoting collective use of open spaces.

Effective urban planning encompasses a diverse set of tools and approaches, such as social innovation and inclusive design.

Participation of stakeholders is an intricate issue for planners to deal with during the whole process. The crux is not in who participates, but whether participation is sought from all parts of society that have substantive interests in the decision being made. Participation should not be limited to opposition or interest groups; it should also involve systems stakeholders.

One common thread among post-industrial societies is the increasing industrialization of our cities, which has removed natural green spaces, increased traffic congestion and led ultimately to an educational crisis.

Urban planning allows sustainable cities to be driven by interests and innovation. This is where smart planners see an effortless opportunity to research innovative solutions that cleverly use resources and lead to a greener, more inclusive space today and future generations. Given the highly accessible environment to information and communications technologies (ICTs), urban planners are innovating at a much more accelerated rate than before. Programs like “Hack Your City” showcase these inventions in a way that initially attracts potential users for beta testing with designers just being required for design iterations or public relations activities.

Public consultations through innovations in social media have also made it possible.

7.3.5. Urban and sustainability design

It is crucial to create more friendly and vibrant environments in urban areas in order to stimulate healthy social interactions made possible by sustainable designs.

Governments will increasingly not be able to address many of the changes brought about by the digital revolution. That is why it is a priority for them to reconnect with citizens through better city planning, which embraces smart design and incorporates new technologies.

Renewing the social life of fragile sites requires taking into account everything that infrastructures offer and developing an efficient governance model.

Regarding infrastructure, sustainable development, spatial quality and social participation; we have focused on the design principles that would serve well in fragile territories.

Urban Regeneration is an instrument for investment, employment generation, social inclusion and poverty reduction. Social entrepreneurship efforts are doubtless welcome for upcycling sensitive territories. But there are growing anxieties about not being able to afford such efforts if we refer solely to specific design lines of action gradually leading us outside the framework of a democracy-inclusive paradigm.

"Sociabilities are the social ties that come with improved public space. Sociability is a process through which our identities are generated, reproduced and transformed, through public spaces." Those spaces have a by-product of societal relationships: shared knowledge and experiences.

Infrastructure and Urban Design in fragile territories are usually not just to do with traditional foundations like road networks or water supply: infrastructure can also fundamentally change people's access to the city, play a role in urban regeneration, help produce socially inclusive cities governed responsibly by all members of the community – including women and children.

Upcycling can be both inclusive in the sense that it provides everyone with the capacity to contribute to their world and outside of waste management. It brings an eco-justice dimension which means that upcycling is.

A case about how urban design innovation may be the solution to fight solitude amongst professionals who work at home and disconnect from their inner city.

Urban design innovations should pay special attention to social groups that might otherwise feel disconnected in the vertical living concept. Especially professionals who work from home and live in their own towers apart from other people.

The future of people lives are shaped by a series of decisions made by urban experts, architects and planners. A thorough understanding of human desires and needs are crucial elements in creating a community that provides inhabitants with connections between themselves, between neighborhoods or applying the predictions for tomorrow's world.

Urban planning is an important part of the human-environment interface that take place in an increasingly urbanised world, especially since it helps alleviate major urban problems such as inequality, heterogeneity, lifestyle clashes and low internal cohesion by shaping the built environment in a co-productive process.

Urban Science studies how a city should be organised and functions according to scientific principles. They the problems cities face through different disciplines such as urban sociology, economics, computer science, architecture and law. Along with this archaeologists have now begun to get involved in various areas of Investigation contributing environmental archaeology and exploring how developments has changed or adapted to different needs at various times and places. For example they could look at landfill sites and with new developments they could help us understand how populations behave when there are changes in cycles like garbage disposal etc-.

Urban innovation, which also includes sociability, has only become one of the major focuses for humanity since about two decades ago.

Increasingly since the financial crisis of 2007-2008 and Great Recession, many governments (especially in Western and developed countries) have started to really understand how much importance subjective and emotional well-being complements GDP growth (Duggan). Affordable and accessible travel across the U.S., Europe, Asia, Latin America and Turkey has helped open new desires among urban dwellers.

7.4. Discussion

Within the systematic review, this section offers an explanation of the results pursued; similar situations were considered in other contexts, in addition to the initial bibliographic research – conducted in the period between August and November 2021 – recently published in-depth research such as the Creative City or the atlases relating to the city and landscape. These papers collect significant examples of good design practices for the change of the contemporary territory: metropolitan areas, such as Amsterdam, Barcelona, Bilbao, Genoa, Lisbon, Marseille, Newcastle, Palermo and Rotterdam, record new sustainable urban culture that can undoubtedly be taken as a model of development.

All the research examined – concerning smart cities, green urbanism, sustainable project, urban sociology, climate change, city and suburbs – including scientific dissertations, confirm the issues raised, in view of the training stage for professional figure able to tackle the problems of the city but framed in a distinctly social key.

In particular the irreplaceable importance of the multiple network of multidisciplinary correlations or the intertwining of design knowledge that affects the city and the territory with all the other apparently distant disciplines are considered. A complex research which, although it cannot be contained within a single work, is characterized by the themes considered essential and highlighted by the keywords, chosen in the first phase, intended as theoretical concepts capable of connecting the actions of the project to knowledge in general.

Contemporary knowledge nevertheless, with particular reference to the architectural one, has gradually fragmented into a series of particular positions, sometimes expressed in the form of a scientific article, sometimes as a collection of writings but rarely as an all-round theoretical work. Despite this, however, there are avant-garde cities, especially in the countries of Northern Europe, which invest in research, innovation and urban regeneration. They testify how culture, art, architecture and urban design are able to act on the social and urban fabric, as well as on the construction of a new and evolved concept of city culture, without neglecting the space of the periphery.

On the other hand, issues related to the periphery today represent one of the main issues in the field of urban development. To answer correctly, it is essential that students and professionals acquire a good basic knowledge that, by trespassing the themes of the architectural project, can go beyond and intercept the areas of sociology, sustainability and the human factor as basic disciplines for intervention on the urban environment. Only in this way will it be possible to enhance what happens within more advanced realities to be taken as a model and inserted into maps, data, information and useful comparisons to understand what prospects open up in the coming years.

The use of these conceptual nodes, inserted in conceptual maps - referable to the taxonomies of encyclopedic knowledge of the past - has proved to be fundamental, right from the start, for the STUD.IO Research Project, characterized by this hypertextual conception of knowledge inaugurated in the last century by the Einaudi Encyclopedia (Einaudi, G., (1977) Enciclopedia Einaudi, Einaudi), and, today, pursued by the complex interdisciplinary system of Concept Clouds. It is from this framework that it was chosen to use an appropriate terminology capable of highlighting intrinsic socialities in the sustainable and innovative development of the urban project and its various forms. Considering that the research is mainly intended for the training of university students, it was decided to introduce the key concepts, of which it was written at the beginning, and the tools deemed useful for the implementation of the results. There are various tools, many of a normative nature, but among the most effective tools in order to create spaces for living, spaces for man, the cultural, economic and social variations that accompany man are confirmed as essential.

7.5. Conclusions

In the overall logic of multidisciplinary, which has generated the STUD.IO Research Project from the very beginning, this systematic review, even within the specific characteristics, inherent to architecture and urban development, opens a first round of horizon towards other fields of research. A significant extension of the research capable of transforming the limits of some research already published into real strengths from which to start again, in view of the formation of a professional figure able to move within the problems of the city but framed in key purely social. The result testifies to an active dialogue, in different ways, between disciplines inherent to space and the city with purely sociological disciplines.

The contributions examined, on the other hand, testify to different approaches: from the reports of the individual authors relating to the macro disciplinary areas, highlighted by the opening keywords, to the use of architectural concepts and planners used by authors belonging to other disciplines, always with regard to the social ones. This detailed approach, which from the specific nature of the individual themes comes to include the broader area of interdisciplinarity, has made it possible to highlight the different forms of association between the physical aspects of architecture and the city. Sometimes in marginal contexts up to the identification of some transdisciplinary aspects capable of directing, behind a first theoretical approach, political practices in terms of urban sociality. The latter promoted through innovative projects designed to mark a significant evolution compared to previous results of research developed in the same areas.

In conclusion, in order to be able to generalize them, the results obtained from this research, integrated within the more specific learning area of the training course, can be extended, as anticipated at the beginning, in relation to the training of expert professionals. , or possibly their professional updating, in the project of urban planning of the territory but in a purely social key.

References

- Augè, M. (2020). *Lieux et non-lieux de la Ville*. Comparative Studies in Modernism n. 17, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10630732.2018.1485368>
- Barbosa-Filho, H., Barthelemy, M., Ghoshal, G., James, C. R., Lenormand, M., Louail, T., Menezes, R., Ramasco, J., Simini, F., Tomasini, M. (2018). *Human Mobility: Models and Applications*, Physics Reports, Vol. 734, pp. 1-74. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physrep.2018.01.001>
- Berkes, F., Davidson-Hunt, I. J. (2006). *Biodiversite, systemes de gestion traditionnels et paysages culturels. Exemples fournis par la foret boreale canadienne*, Revue internationale des sciences sociales, n. 187, pp. 39-52. <https://doi.org/10.3917/riss.187.0039>
- Blunt, A., Laing Ebbensgaard, C., Sheringham, O. (2020). *The "living of time": Entangled temporalities of home and the city*, Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Vol. 46, pp 149-162. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12405>

- Cajot, S., Schuler, N., Peter, M., Koch, A., Marechal, F. (2017). *Interactive optimization for the planning of urban systems*, Energy Procedia 122 (2017) 445-450. ISSN: 1876-6102
- Carli, P., Scrugli, P. (2021). *UNPARK The second life of an infrastructure in a high-density urban environment*, AGATHON – International Journal of Architecture, Art and Design, n. 09, pp- 72-81. <https://doi.org/10.19229/2464-9309/972021>
- D'Amico, G., L'Abbate, P. Liao, W., Yigitcanlar, T. (2020). *Understanding Sensor Cities: Insights from Technology Giant Company Driven Smart Urbanism Practices*, Sensors 2020, 20, 4391. <https://doi.org/10.3390/s20164391>
- Fineschi, S., Loreto, F. (2020). *A Survey of Multiple Interactions Between Plants and the Urban Environment*, Frontiers in Forests and Global Change, Vol. 3, Art. 30. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2020.00030>
- Fors, H., Hagemann, F., Ode Sang, A., Randrup, T. B. (2021). *Striving for Inclusion - A Systematic Review of Long-Term Participation in Strategic Management of Urban Green Spaces*, Frontiers in Sustainable Cities, Vol. 3, Art. 572423. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frsc.2021.572423>
- Jiron, P. (2019). *Urban Border*. The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118568446.eurs0354>
- Karakayaci, Z. (2016). *The concept of urban sprawl and its causes*, The Journal of International Social Research, Volume: 9 Issue: 45, Issn: 1307-9581
- Komninos, M., Kakderi, C., Panori, A. & Tsarchopoulos, P. (2018). *Smart City Planning from an Evolutionary Perspective*, Journal of Urban Technology. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10630732.2018.1485368>
- MacLachlan, A., Biggs, E., Roberts, G., Boruff, B. (2021). *Sustainable City Planning: A Data-Driven Approach for Mitigating Urban Heat*, Frontiers in Built Environment, Vol. 6, Art. 519599. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fbuil.2020.519599>
- Mouratidis, K. (2019). *Compact city, urban sprawl, and subjective well-being*, Cities 92, pp. 261–272. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2019.04.013>
- Schüler, N., Cajot, S., Peter, M., Page, J., Marechal, F. (2018). *The Optimum Is Not the Goal: Capturing the Decision Space for the Planning of New Neighborhoods*, Frontiers in Built Environment, vol. 3, art. 76. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fbuil.2017.00076>
- Simeon, V., Olafsson, A. S., Mederly, P. (2021). *Advancing urban green infrastructure through participatory integrated planning: A case from Slovakia*, Urban Forestry & Urban Greening 58 (2021) 126957. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2020.126957>
- Sturm, R., Cohen, D. A. (2014). *Suburban sprawl and physical and mental health*, The Royal Institute of Public Health. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2004.02.007>
- Vagena, A. (2021). *Digital Nomads and Tourism Industry*. Academia Letters, Article 765. <https://doi.org/10.20935/AL765>
- Wasfi, A. (2014). *Architecture as a Second Nature*, Journal Of Sustainable Architecture And Civil Engineering, N. 2(7). <http://dx.doi.org/10.5755/j01.sace.7.2.5981>

Third part – A thematic contribution

8. Order and legality in urban space: prevention profiles against deviance

Nicola Malizia

Kore University of Enna (Italy), nicola.malizia@unikore.it

Abstract

Public order, legality and security are dominant themes in the daily lives of a large number of citizens and are the subject of much media attention. The space and interest devoted to episodes that destabilise law and order in urban centres and that occur on the streets, in parks, on public transport, in places of aggregation with their consequences, unfortunately contributes to reinforcing the climate and the subjective perception of insecurity that affects more the people who have fewer means of combating it, such as children, the differently abled, the elderly and, transversally, women. It is clear that the climate of uncertainty and insecurity that affects our cities, as well as the growing fear of crime, are only partly determined by the objective situation of an increase in criminal acts or deviant conduct, especially by minors and young people, who are also more visible and perceptible on our streets. The crisis of the social security and protection systems, the spread of structural unemployment and an increasingly less guaranteed labour market, the fall in value models, the re-emergence and multiplication of poverty, old and new, and the risk that each of us, due to redundancy, illness, or simply advancing old age, will enter the so-called 'grey zone' have a decisive influence on the feeling of security of large sections of the population. The growing gap between poverty or near-poverty and wealth and the effects of globalisation, which with the great migrations have brought immigrants and those 'different' in terms of culture, habits and status to our cities, contribute, according to some, to destabilising the social framework, creating deep anxieties and fears that often express themselves in a demand for security from the external 'enemy' and the hostile city. According to others, instead, immigrants represent a potential multicultural richness to be valorised and integrated into urban communities. The demand for security is strongly posed to institutions, starting with the closest ones, i.e. municipalities and mayors, even when decisions and responsibilities for policies and actions are placed at other institutional levels. However, citizens expect their personal security to be guaranteed by their city and the administrators they know most closely. Strengthening the sense of security therefore becomes a primary task of institutions, starting with local administrations. For such a complex and articulated problem, there can be no simple and unidirectional answers. Today, although we are witnessing a new process, with positive and proactive interventions to combat lawlessness and urban regeneration with the aim of creating a climate of security and boosting confidence, a large proportion of citizens are still clamouring for the removal of the 'different' (immigrants, Roma, drug addicts, prostitutes).

Keywords: Public order, legality, security, city, deviance.

8.1. Urban violence and the perception of insecurity

Urban violence and insecurity are central themes for today's societies as they are significantly part of the concerns of the population and democratic life. To highlight this worldwide phenomenon, it is certainly necessary to proceed to a precise analysis of globalisation and the urban dynamics that characterise late modernity in its multiple social, cultural and political dimensions, which require the much more accurate and thorough definition of new public policies. In recent decades, and especially since the first half of the 1970s, both in Europe and in the rest of the industrialised world, there has been a sharp increase in crime, such that urban violence has become a constant in cities and especially in metropolises and megacities. According to studies and surveys, violence and crime have started a particularly rapid and unstoppable upward movement (De Vita, 2022). The increase in crime, accompanied by a general emergence of the feeling of insecurity, corresponds over time to economic growth, the explosion of consumerism, uncontrolled urbanism, which has led to the disintegration of the urban social fabric, the alteration of ways of life and, even more serious, the crisis of values and changes, to which is associated a set of indicators of a possible and much-recalled crisis of western societies, such as the weakening and disorganisation of family structures, poverty, social exclusion and drug addiction. The growth in crime, accentuated in a period of marked economic prosperity and job creation, makes it necessary to relativise the idea of crime and crisis, which over time have formed

an inseparable pair, in that they complexly bring together a broad system of variables ranging from social exclusion to the absence of expectations, to the breakdown of informal mechanisms of social control and urbanisation, where, obviously, all these factors converge and interpenetrate. Thus, if modernity in these terms of human geography is translated into urbanisation, the longitudinal analysis of crime highlights the emergence of an urban crime of an essentially patrimonial nature. In fact, the various forms of incivility, juvenile delinquency and the more or less serious manifestations of disturbance of the social order and clashes with the authority of the state, are manifestly urban acts strongly associated with the emergence of the feeling of insecurity. Cities become spaces of strong social and cultural differentiation, markedly multi-ethnic and multi-cultural, in which wealth and social exclusion clash and require new forms of 'governance' exclusively in terms of security. The definitions proposed for urban violence are almost always reductive of the object to be defined. There are, however, strong points of convergence in the definitions commonly used to describe these types of actions: their actors are young and the actions committed are poorly organised; moreover, physical or symbolic public spaces are frequently defined as the object of aggression; the gratuitous nature of the acts, which can take different forms, range from vandalism to riots of various kinds. The distinction between urban violence and riots is paradigmatic of the difficulty of defining the contemporary contours of insecurity (Newman & Karen, 1980). Riots are collective in nature, pursuing political objectives and challenging the established order. The actions, which fit to designate riots, refer mainly to demonstrations against authority and are accompanied by acts of vandalism against public and private property and connoted by violence against persons. These actions are now a frequent phenomenon worldwide, occurring in both developed and developing countries. It is also necessary to take into account the spontaneous nature of many of these actions in which new information technologies play an enhancing role in the emergence and consolidation of social networks and have become the tools of service in this context.

8.2. Urban violence and victimisation processes in international contexts

The notion of urban violence encompasses acts of a differentiated criminal level that jeopardise the safety and quality of life of citizens, fuelling the feeling of insecurity such as: burglary, aggressive begging or unruly graffiti, theft of cars for night-time raids, as well as all those illicit forms of juvenile delinquency. In certain international contexts, violence and crime have reached very high levels, posing a serious threat to both public safety and economic development. This is the case in many cities in Latin America, Asia and Africa where urban violence and the rise of armed violence are incomparable to what happens in societies such as those in Europe. Urban violence is one of the top five causes of death in countries such as Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador and Guatemala, where organised crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, kidnapping, guerrilla warfare and the elimination of political opponents, as well as violent clashes with the police, sum up the long road-map of urban violence in Latin America. In summary, it can be said that the concept of urban violence embraces a varied and broad set of behaviours and actions that are undoubtedly considered deviant, and to such actions corresponds the increase in the feeling of insecurity in urban and contemporary societies. The protagonists of urban insecurity are in most cases gangs, considered to be a reality of universal dimension. Gangs are a concentration of groups of young people of low social origin, from slum and suburban neighbourhoods, whose identity may be based on racial or religious ethnicity and a sense of discrimination. The social geography of modern cities, in fact, creates spaces of accentuated social, cultural and economic differentiation, in the folds of which these associations often operate by moving from street groups to institutionalised groups. Replacing an absent state and a society with reduced alternatives, they define their behavioural patterns within the framework of a self-legitimised sub-culture, whereby they transfer models of fraternity, as the gateway to a desired material well-being, even if illicit or criminal, where drug trafficking prevails. According to Roché (1994), the current social and political significance of the issue of insecurity is the result of the combination of

the increase in crime with a process of selection and social construction of crime as risk. The feeling of insecurity is, therefore, defined as the expression of a social representation of the medium, in which cultural and identity logics and situational logics are present, i.e. linked to the actor's experience of lived reality. For the community, crime, like some other forms of violence, presents itself as a challenge, as an element of disturbance to the established order capable of jeopardising widespread and institutional mechanisms of public control. In this context of anxiety and insecurity, it is significant to refer to the loss of confidence in the state's ability to ensure a climate of security and social order. It should also be pointed out that in many countries, a large number of individuals do not trust the effectiveness of the police, which is reflected in the failure to report a large number of crimes (dark number). Victimization surveys show how this behaviour is attributed to the fact that the police are not interested in solving the crimes they are involved in, or because they cannot do anything. This mistrust in the effectiveness of the police is frequently associated with a penalising presentation of the courts, particularly in terms of the excessive delay of justice in resolving trials. As a manifestation of disquiet or fear, the feeling of insecurity is expressed through a complex system of representations and social practices. Concern is expressed in a plural sense: 'we are experiencing a worrying situation' or 'they are afraid'. While fear of crime in itself refers to fear in the home, fear in the street and cautious behaviour, this concern is translated by the citizen into an appeal to the state to act more firmly in fighting crime. In fact, fear of crime also refers to the cautionary practices of individuals, aimed at avoiding possible victimisation, such as: fear of going out at night or taking precautions to avoid the risk of encountering dangerous situations either in the neighbourhood or in the city where one lives. Individuals who live in risky places, or are associated with potentially risky groups, thus tend to develop self-protective behaviour, thus helping to reduce the correlation between victimisation and fear of crime. This is, for example, the case for women and elderly persons, where the fear of crime is higher despite the fact that the victimisation parameters are equal or even lower than the overall parameters (Di Raimondo, 2009). In this regard, most victimisation surveys show that the likelihood of being affected by any of the crimes in the questionnaires is identical in both men and women, and both categories desire a social order that would pulverise both crime and violence from the cities (Misiti, 2007). The feeling of insecurity, however, is an urban prerogative; in fact, it is precisely in the city that social problems find fertile ground, such as unemployment, drug addiction, social exclusion, the breakdown of family and social networks, and petty crime, which generate a propitious environment. If fear is, in itself, the generator of a climate of anxiety and social tension, concern for social order translates in European societies and in most industrialised countries into social and political behaviour and actions of increasing significance. Because of its high symbolic value, insecurity is becoming the privileged stage for the actions of political mediators, who, to the ease of access to the means of social communication, combine the capacity of the feeling of insecurity to act as an element of sensitisation and aggregation of latent groups (Poyner, 1984). Many European countries have witnessed the initiation of collective actions aimed at replacing or compensating for a supposed lack of intervention by the state in maintaining social order and security. The visible and socially worrying consequence of this association between political discussions and the resurgence of the feeling of insecurity is the accentuation of a reductive and classifying vision of society in multi-ethnic and highly socially diverse contexts, which characterise contemporary societies and in particular cities; the feeling of insecurity has also favoured the emergence of a socially differentiating and discriminatory perspective that associates the origin of crime and insecurity with social groups perceived as marginal or ethnically differentiated.

8.3. Marginality and juvenile deviance in urban centres

In Italy, the groups of young people who spent their free time in public spaces were not perceived as dangerous and were hardly referred to as 'gangs' (Matza & Gresham, 2010). Today, the image of these groups is different, partly due to the transition from "an idea of the young person and adolescent as

an immature subject, in need of protection, who primarily put himself at risk, to an idea of the adolescent and youth phase as a dangerous phase and as a risk to others" (Olivier, 2018). Today, the term 'baby gang' (wrongly referred to) has been replaced by 'deviant youth aggregations or urban gangs'. This construction of the phenomenon 'youth gangs' is part of the securitarian rhetoric and criminalisation processes of certain social categories (immigrants and young people) that have spread in Italy since the second half of the 1990s. If we look at the dynamics of 'gang' formation, we do not find motivations that differ from those that determine the birth of any peer group: belonging to the group allows young people to obtain what they do not find in areas such as the family, school and other community agencies. A search for identity and status, difficulties in contacts with adults, family, economic and social disadvantages, together with poor school performance and perceived barriers in accessing opportunities, including work, are the main factors that lead a young person to seek support within a group. The phenomenon of street youth aggregations has been the subject of much research through interviews with privileged witnesses (street educators, school directors, actors of the penal system, representatives of local administrations, representatives of foreigners), whose views were collected in order to explore the adolescents' forms of sociability; reconstruct the life trajectories and future expectations of the young people who are part of the groups, taking into account migration paths and the problems associated with integration into the target community; understand the dynamics of interaction between the adolescents who choose public spaces as a place to meet and meet and the other people who frequent the same urban areas; analyse the illicit and deviant behaviour of the groups and the response of the criminal justice system (Miscioscia, 2021). First, however, it is considered useful to mention street-gangs starting from the socio-criminological studies conducted in America and Europe, also in order to make a comparison with the reality of the Italian context in general. Since the earliest studies, juvenile gangs have been linked to the demographic, social and spatial characteristics of the urban fabric. In the words of Thrasher (1960), the first sociologist to have analysed gangs in Chicago, gangs represent 'an interstitial element in the structure of society'. The young people who belong to them are mostly children of immigrants who live in the city's disorganised neighbourhoods and who, excluded from the institutional spheres, find in public areas the only space and in the gang the only place to satisfy their socialisation needs. For Thrasher, the constitution of gangs occurs informally, by virtue of the fact that young people meet in public spaces and develop shared traditions and memories, characterising and identifying themselves as a group distinct from other youth aggregations, taking root in a territory that is perceived and defended as 'theirs'. The emergence of deviant behaviour and recourse to violence (typical of fights between rival gangs) are interpreted as a consequence of a lack of adult control. Cohen (1972), too, reduces the origin of the gang to the social structure. The internalisation of dominant social values is not matched, for working class youths, by the availability of tools to concretely adhere to successful models. Gang deviance cannot be explained by recourse to the (lack of) social control paradigm. Influenced by the learning theory, Cohen identifies in the delinquent subculture a 'collective solution to problems of adaptation' in particular, to problems of placement on the social ladder. Deviant behaviour is 'learned' in groups in which delinquent conduct has established itself as the 'thing to do'. Gang members, destined to be given the stigma of losers if assessed according to dominant social values, operate a reversal of these values 'to the point of making non-conformity (i.e. what outsiders would expect) a positive criterion of social consideration within the group. Such an alternative is represented by the delinquent subculture, which is articulated in a "structure of beliefs and values that (supports) young people and (produces) justifications for their deviant conduct". Once established, the deviant subculture is transmitted within the group according to the dynamics described by Sutherland (1947). Unlike Cohen, who defines the delinquent subculture as 'gratuitous, malignant and destructive', Cloward and Ohlin (1968) see gang members as 'rational actors' who choose the deviant alternative because it is deemed suitable for the achievement of social goals otherwise inaccessible to them. Within the socio-criminological paradigm that privileges the sub-cultural aspect, youth gangs are today interpreted from the concepts of 'resistance' and social 'production'. In the first case, the gang is understood as a form of rebellion against a subaltern condition; in the second case, instead, as

a mutual aid group within which the conditions that place some young people among marginal subjects are reproduced and perpetuated. In other words, 'the urban street gang (can be considered) a sphere of socialisation. While the condition of the urban underclass remains the privileged terrain for the interpretation of street-gangs in both America and Europe, cultural factors and gangster models, increasingly conveyed by the mass media and social networks, gain in importance. The styles that travel through music, video, media and fashion create a virtual tradition that refers to a new 'space': the street in this case is the net, blogs, cyber cafés, chats, etc., understood as the persuasive force of adolescent media. Gangs and their music serve to give voice to people placed on the margins of society. The failure of the educational models of community institutions, the lack of socialisation structures, the lack of confidence in the possibility of improving one's social condition and the uncertainties of an unstable modernity lead adolescents to develop 'resistance identities' that are formed in opposition to the dominant culture (Becker, 2003). At the end of the 1990s, a group of researchers, called Eurogang, was set up in Belgium with the objective of comparing street-gangs at a European level, and between the European and American realities, in order to overcome what has been defined as a 'paradox': the denial, that is, of the existence in Europe of forms of aggregation similar to American gangs, simply because European groups do not correspond to the often stereotypical descriptions of American street groups. Numerous investigations have been carried out by Eurogang (Esbensen & Maxson, 2012), the aspect that we intend to explore here concerns the elements that define the youth street gang. In order to be able to speak of youth street gangs, it is necessary that the group: a) has a certain duration in time; b) meets in spaces (outside the family, school and work environments); c) is composed of young people aged between 12 and 25; d) has a collective identity with which each member identifies and that this identity includes involvement in illegal activities. In addition to the elements analysed so far, 'descriptive' characteristics that can be found within youth gangs were identified by Eurogang. These include the male gender and the foreign nationality or belonging to an ethnic minority of gang members. With regard to nationality, the need to belong, identity and the support that underlies gangs, today these factors are strongly intertwined with the dynamics of marginality, discrimination and exclusion that, in many European cities, no longer have as their protagonists the minors provided by immigration, but also affect a substantial band of indigenous adolescents; these are the young people of the urban peripheries. The interpretation of such forms of urban violence has moved along two socio-criminological paradigms. On the one hand, youth groups, protagonists of English riots, have been described as the product of a pathological 'gang culture' originating in the black community. It is a violent and hostile culture towards the authorities and the dominant social system. On the other hand, urban riots have been linked to the disadvantaged conditions of the youth population living in peripheral and disorganised areas of cities, characterised by high levels of youth unemployment, housing deprivation and high rates of school failure.

Today's 'gangs' are mostly composed of 'young people from immigration', i.e. those who, despite being born in France and despite having French citizenship, live in a condition of double exclusion: they do not share the culture of their family of origin. They are the 'internally excluded', the object of a 'negative discrimination' produced by 'concealment mechanisms of denial' of rights: from school to the world of work to the criminal justice system. It is within this framework that the rebellious and violent behaviour of youth gangs is placed, which must be understood as an expression of a pathology of the social system (Gammone, 2015). In Italy, research on adolescent deviant behaviour has mostly focused on aspects such as alcohol and drug use and bullying. More recently, youth deviance has been analysed in more general terms through self-confession surveys. In the Italian context, the world of youth aggregations and the insecurity that these groups bring about within the city still seem to be closely linked to migratory phenomena, particularly migration from Latin America (Riccardini, & Thomas, 2020). The concentration of Latinos in certain city districts and the presence of young people who spend much of their day in public spaces frequented almost exclusively by the elderly (a category perceived to be at high risk of victimisation) have become an urban security problem (Cardinali & Luzi, 2017). For young Latinos, the search for forms of group socialisation and alternative places of

entertainment compared to the recreational and social activities of Italians become 'practices of distinction', strategies of adaptation and resistance to discrimination and exclusion. In such contexts, violence is interpreted as 'an expressive means in the absence of speech; where one is unable to express one's emotionality, anger, need, need for recognition, one uses physical confrontation and violence as an expressive means of immediate communication' (Borsani, 2005). The Latin American gangs that meet in the streets and alleys of many Italian cities therefore seem to take on the characteristics of 'street organisations': groups that provide young people with an opportunity to be recognised individually and collectively, a refuge from the tensions and pressures of life in the neighbourhood/ghetto. Street gangs are composed of young people between the ages of 12 and 25, even though the interventions show a lower age. The adolescents who are part of the groups are mostly boys, the girls play roles of obvious subordination: (the ghetto boys say 'you're my girl' not 'the girl of', they use even derogatory terms and the girls do not take it badly to be called vulgar and offensive).

8.4. The origin of urban fear and the need for security

The theme of the feeling of insecurity that pervades cities and to which no satisfactory answers can be given is one of the most controversial. It is present in opinion polls on citizens' needs, in the electoral programmes of the various political camps, tending towards the race to the top played mainly on the crime-immigration binomial. However, without satisfactory results in terms of public perception. On the contrary, it seems that it is politics that transmits its own lacerations to society, widening and emphasising divisions and conflicts, even of personal origin. Thus, politics, instead of helping to dissolve fears, invents them, forgetting to contribute to building consensus and cohesion and, on the contrary, fuelling dissent, disapproval and fragmentation. Deepening the feeling of insecurity raises two questions: what relationship exists between the trend in crime and the growth or decrease in fear that is particularly widespread in the social body? This question stems from the oft-reported observation that the perception of insecurity is relatively independent of the rise or fall in certain crimes typical of citizens' daily lives (Fasolino, Coppola & Grimaldi, 2018). The second open question concerns security policies, not only with regard to their practical effectiveness, but above all to assess whether certain measures adopted with the intention of increasing the perception of security may not instead themselves increase fear. For example, the so-called SOS rape alarm columns located in parks and other typical places in some cities: it is easy to understand how such generic measures have an intrinsic communicative power that tends to dilate and greatly multiply the perception of threat, rather than reassure. For thousands of years, the daily lives of human beings have been riddled with very real and terrifying threats: hunger, epidemics, looting, infant mortality, cold, violence and abuse against women and children were all part of living and were all occasions for fear and insecurity. Today, many of these conditions have been reduced, some have even disappeared, at least in Europe. Not only that, but over the past fifty years a system of 'social security' has developed that has made it possible to keep in check two of the main sources of insecurity of previous generations, misery and disease (Bianchini & Sicurella, 2012). Yet we seem to be more afraid than our ancestors. To what is this paradox due? For a few decades now, that is, precisely since the fear-security theme began to emerge, the mass media have been transferring the world into the home, with all its more or less distant tragedies and sufferings, representing, moreover, conditions of existence very different from our everyday experience, portraying them as if they could threaten our quiet routine. There is in all this the media fascination with bad news. Undoubtedly, all this contributes to producing a sense of vague malaise, to projecting our fears onto things. Where does fear come from? The root must be sought in a deeper and at the same time more indefinite emotional experience, which we consider typical of the contemporary condition and to which we usually refer using the term anguish. It is a state of primary restlessness, of fluctuating uncertainty, of vague alarm that goes on for some time, without immediately recognising a danger or a concrete situation as its cause. Based on this: is it

possible to some extent to investigate the genesis of contemporary social fear? In this regard, the thesis of the sociologist Bauman (2007) is considered particularly suggestive. Anxiety originates, in its social dimension, from the experience of uncertainty. Of course, uncertainty is a constitutive experience of being in the world, and is above all nourished by the horizon of transience of individual existence. In this context, therefore, we are not so much referring to the more philosophical and universal meaning of the feeling of uncertainty, but to the specific form it takes in the society of our time. According to Bauman (2007), today's uncertainty expresses a very concrete condition, the result of various factors such as the rapidity of social change in a context of increasing globalisation, the increase in individual freedom and therefore responsibility in the face of the complexity of choices, and finally the crisis of the community of relationships.

8.5. The effects of urban security measures in everyday life

Fear and security are two elements that now, more than at any other time in history, have to be put into the terms of everyday life. The recognisability of actions, the familiarity of places and people, the routine of everyday life give the environment around us that predictability that makes it safe. Fear has been an element that, according to some historians, has characterised civilised society since its origins. With the birth of the modern state in the 1500s, the subjects' demand for protection shifted from the fragmentary nature of feudal power to the centrality of absolute power. In the so-called Hobbesian pact, the sovereign ensures protection from both external and internal dangers and in return assumes a monopoly on taxation and the use of arms (Cornelli, 2008). In the past, it could happen that fear and the related sense of insecurity were attributable to events such as the plague and thus affected all strata of the population. This was a fear that returned when the threat of a new epidemic gave the first signs and people sought protection in faith and if there was an economic possibility they would flee the city. The cyclical waves of plague that pervaded the West from the Middle Ages to the 18th century were a clear example of how fear was linked to exceptional phenomena that, when they occurred, spread collective panic. Today, plague waves no longer exist, although there is the threat of other diseases. The fear of these new epidemics pervades everyday life due to the effect of media messages that bring places that are actually far away and dangers that are not so imminent closer. The causes that provoke the sense of insecurity, even when verbalised as fear of crime, cannot be traced back to a single element, but above all are not easily recognisable. What is most destabilising in the security landscape is the perception of insecurity in the dimension of everyday life where routine is reshaped through adaptation mechanisms that re-establish normality (Padovano, 2011). Institutions focus on crime rates that are not always proportional to perceived insecurity: the direct consequence of security measures may paradoxically be an increase in this perception in everyday life. The complexity of the phenomenon is given by the kaleidoscope of possibilities that the individual experiences and that catalyse existential insecurity. The insecurity that is most destabilising in daily life is that linked to one's physical safety. The disquiet it creates is linked to the unpredictability of criminal events that may occur in everyday life, where the perpetrator may be a person one could trust, a neighbour, or even a person met on the street (Pavarini, 2006). It is the non-predictability of the criminal event that is even more destabilising. The fact that the aggressor may perpetrate the crime on a person chosen at random or by mistake, as well as finding oneself in the wrong place at the wrong time, breaks the normality of everyday micro-actions and the social order is threatened. Among the hypothetical aggressors are not only strangers, but people who are part of the shared social environment who become outsiders: see the crimes that have been meticulously recounted in recent times in the media in which a person known as a 'good person' becomes the perpetrator of heinous violence. It is precisely the unpredictability factor that causes a distortion of the sense of insecurity due to the fact that the randomness of crimes creates, on the part of those who learn of such events, an easy identification with the victim. All security measures start from the premise of improving the quality of life, especially everyday life. It is therefore

inevitable that there are repercussions in common sense, in everyday routine (Selmini, 2004). The protection of public order, the control of urban disorder (of incivility, vandalism) and of foreigners are the three main nuclei concerning the measures put in place to provide reassurance regarding the liveability of urban space. The protection of public order is closely linked to the phenomena of petty crime that profoundly affect daily life. Assaults, muggings and damage can happen in broad daylight or while going out in the evening. An important fact that emerges from recent research into security is the tendency of city dwellers to change their lifestyle habits as a result of the perception of increased insecurity: leaving home in the evening, exercising outdoors, using public transport and other behaviours have undergone a substantial downsizing. Another trend is that of people moving away from places where there are obvious signs of incivility. The damage to street furniture, the clear signs of micro-disorder in some areas in the urban space make those who pass through them perceive a sort of abandonment, of decay of the urban space even by institutions (Selmini, 2015). This triggers the removal of citizens from these areas perceived as risky; not only that, but the care, the respect of these places by the people living nearby is also diminished. One of the consequences of this phenomenon is the weakening of the sense of belonging to places and thus the triggering of a spiral mechanism that leads to an increased sense of insecurity.

8.6. Policies aimed at preventing urban violence

The term 'security', which, according to constitutionalist doctrine, if accompanied by the qualification 'public' contributes to founding the so-called 'Material' Public Order, recurs very often in our Constitutional Charter in various and different contexts. Apart from the reference to the "Public Security Authority" contained in Art. 13, paragraph 2, on which is based the power-duty of the officers and agents of the Judicial Police to proceed to the obligatory or optional arrest, in flagrante delicto (Art. 380-381 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) and to the arrest of suspected criminals, the term is used in the Constitutional Charter in the function of limiting the exercise of fundamental rights of freedom of citizens (Art. 16 (1) where, for security reasons, a citizen's right to move and reside freely in any part of the national territory may be restricted, giving the Authority the power to prevent meetings in public places for proven security reasons. Today, what is of greatest concern to citizens is the increase in so-called 'widespread or street crime', the undisputed indicators of which are the ever-increasing rates of robberies and burglaries, especially in homes and those who invade spaces deemed safe, closely affecting the weakest in terms of census, gender and age. Consequently, in this dimension, security can be understood as an objective condition free from dangers or guaranteed from possible dangers, which allows the peaceful conduct of one's activities; included in the concept of security is the trust that, when dangers arise, the authorities will provide, (if not prevent them as would be desirable), at least counteract and repress them; the lack of this trust generates insecurity. The network of 'insecurities' that characterises daily life today precedes the effect of making each mesh of that network spill over onto the others, amplifying the potential that each of them encloses, so, for example, insecurity at work, (those who work are afraid of losing it and those who are spasmodically seeking a job are afraid of not finding it) is accompanied by other forms of insecurity: environmental, educational, immigration and finally organised crime and international terrorism, so this experience of insecurity has repercussions on urban insecurity. The shift from concerns about public order to alarm around city security has now been analysed by many scholars and largely traced back to the economic and social transformations and concomitant ideology that go by the name of neo-liberalism (Semini, 2020). Summarising the various arguments, the securitarian obsession is conceived as the other face of neo-liberal policies, so as to discipline poverty and social marginality, push the unruly into accepting underpaid unprotected precarious values, and respond vicariously and instrumentally to the widespread sense of social insecurity, focus discontents and discomforts on 'criminality', construct suitable enemies (migrants, junkies, prostitutes, young people from urban suburbs) on whom to unload tensions and conflicts generated by changes in the labour market,

structural unemployment, the growing deficit of social guarantees (Nobili, Giupponi, & Ricifari, 2019). The securitarian obsession would have two functions: control and discipline through the creation of new dangerous classes and, complementarily, the adaptation of the workforce to the new market rules, as well as the legitimisation of public powers, now deprived of other sources of legitimacy. On a more properly cultural level, the emphasis is placed on that condition of widespread and indistinct fear and suffering that drives us to seek out nearby and local sources of concern, such that we can have the feeling of doing something, of controlling the situation. Powerlessness against what really threatens our security drives us to constantly worry about something we think we can directly control, hence something close and local: ourselves, our home, our neighbourhood, our city (Borelli, 2009). The collective actions from below to which they give rise, citizens' committees, patrols, demonstrations against prostitutes and migrants, etc., are not only temporary and punctual, but private and private, directed at building, at best, 'communities of accomplices' held together only by the identification of an enemy.

8.7. Conclusions

Urban violence is a strongly destabilising factor on both an individual and collective level. Bearing in mind that the variables considered reveal a generalised fear among the population regarding the risk of being subjected to crime, it seems sensible to ask whether the perceived criminality is due to a real crime situation or may be the result of social conditioning. In order to answer this question, an attempt was made to analyse several factors, all related to the general perception of citizens, which emphasise the presence of physical and social disorder, the lack of adequate prevention tools, trust in the police force and consideration of the real crime rate. The perception of risk is also correlated with variables of a social nature, which do not fall within the category of incivility, but are linked in particular to the whole sphere of social heterogeneity. In fact, situations known to be 'risky' are assessed as 'critical' (presence of drug addiction, prostitution), but it emerges that the perception of risk is also correlated with a variety of social categories that therefore appear to be the result of social stigmatisation and prejudice (nomads, non-EU citizens in particular). Significant relationships also emerge between the level of risk in the city and the perceived increase in crime, as well as between the perception that crime is on the rise and the fear of being a victim of crime. Social analyses and studies reveal a variation in the perception of risk with respect to those factors most perceived by citizens in their own homes. In particular, there is evidence of the attribution of different causes to crime between the city, the suburbs and the rural area (the larger the city, the greater the crime). This demarcation is also evident in view of the multiplicity of indicators investigated on the typical fears characterising contemporary society: unemployment, illegal immigration, international terrorism, loneliness, petty crime, etc.

There is therefore a need for public prevention tools that are to some extent leading to a slight decrease in criminal phenomena, but which are not yet considered effective by the population: in particular, urban security projects, extended video surveillance, adopted by many municipalities. Despite this, the sense of insecurity persists. If, on the one hand, an excessive police presence could induce a reverse effect of 'militarisation' of cities, the data confirm that, in any case, greater presence and visibility constitute an irreplaceable measure for a decrease in the fear of crime: perceiving the presence and capillary intervention serves to reduce anxiety and insecurity, providing the necessary serenity in civil coexistence. Underlying the fear of crime are physical 'disorder', social disorganisation and predatory crime, as sources of risk that appear to be linked by self-propagation phenomena. To these causes, one must add the influence of socio-anagraphic, cultural and environmental variables, in which the individual is embedded, which significantly influence the perception of risk. We must further emphasise the phenomenological complexity of the fear of crime, which involves subjective factors (sensitivity, emotionality, culture, education, etc.) and objective factors (victimisation, actual crime) and which requires a broad analysis aimed at assessing the

determining concauses, since it is the result of a multiplicity of phenomena that change over time and space, and which may contribute to determining it. The problem of predatory crime could be tackled by implementing those figures (such as the carabinieri, the policeman, the municipal police officer) whose vocation it is to safeguard security, directing their efforts towards adequate policies (e.g. inter-force coordination rather than towards the prevention of crime). inter-force coordination rather than a strengthening or diversification of tasks), which does not entail a militarisation of the territory but rather a point of reference for the citizen (as is the recent figure of the neighbourhood policeman/carabiniere), to the detriment of the use of experimental, unqualified figures that do not seem to bring about a decrease in perceived fear. In conclusion, what then is the strategy to be followed to restore the feeling of Security and Public Order? Some scholars have pointed out that it is essential to create forms of prevention, education and information for civilised coexistence.

References

- Bauman, Z. (2007). *Liquid Times: Living in an Age of Uncertainty*. Polity Press.
- Becker H.S. (2003). *Outsiders. Saggi di sociologia della devianza*. Edizioni Gruppo Abele.
- Bianchini, E., & Sicurella, S. (2012). "Progettazione dello spazio urbano e comportamenti criminali", *Rivista di Criminologia, Vittimologia e Sicurezza*, VI (1).
- Borelli, G. (2009). *La città: bisogni, desideri, diritti. La governance urbana*. Franco Angeli.
- Borsani, A. (2005). *Istituzioni e devianza minorile*. Franco Angeli.
- Cardinali, C., & Luzi, M. (2017). *Devianza minorile: Interpretare l'adolescenza nella società contemporanea*. Edizioni Nuova Cultura.
- Cloward, R., & Ohlin, L. (1968). *La teoria delle bande delinquenti in America*. Laterza.
- Cohen, P. (1972). "Sub-cultural Conflict and Working-Class Community", *Working Papers in Cultural Studies*. No.2. University of Birmingham.
- Cornelli R. (2008). *Paura e ordine nella modernità*. Giuffrè Editore.
- De Vita, A. (2022). *Fragilità contemporanee. Fenomenologie della violenza e della vulnerabilità*. Mimesis.
- Di Raimondo, M. (2009). *Ordine pubblico e sicurezza pubblica. Profili ricostruttivi e applicativi*. Giappichelli.
- Esbensen, F.A., Maxson, C.L. (2012). "The Eurogang Program of Research and multimethod comparative gang research: Introduction", *Youth Gangs in International Perspective*. Springer.
- Fasolino I., Coppola F., & Grimaldi M. (2018). *La sicurezza urbana degli insediamenti. Azioni e tecniche per il piano urbanistico*. Franco Angeli.
- Gammone, M. (2015). *La devianza degli immigrati*. Ludes Press.
- Matza, D., & Gresham, S. (2010). *La delinquenza giovanile. Teorie ed analisi*. Armando Editore.
- Miscioscia, D. (2021). *I valori degli adolescenti. Nuove declinazioni degli ideali e ruolo educativo degli adulti*. Franco Angeli.
- Misiti, M. (2007). "Donne e uomini: la percezione della violenza nelle città", in: atti del Convegno "Il Silenzio e le Parole – Rete anti violenza tra le città Urban Italia", Roma, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri – Dipartimento per i Diritti e le Pari Opportunità.
- Newman, O., & Karen, F. (1980). *Factors influencing Crime and Instability in Urban Housing Developments*. US Government Printing Office.
- Nobili, G.G., Giupponi, T.F., & Ricifari, E. (2019). *La sicurezza delle città. La sicurezza urbana e integrata*. Franco Angeli.
- Olivier, D. (2018). *Devianza e adolescenza*. Rubettino.
- Padovano S. (2011). *La Questione Sicurezza. Genesi e sviluppo di un concetto equivoco*. Rubettino.
- Pavarini, M. (2006). *L'amministrazione locale della paura*. Carocci.
- Poyner, B. (1984). *Design against crime: beyond defensible space*. Butterworth.
- Riccardini, F., & Thomas, R. (2020). *Criminologia minorile*. Giuffrè.
- Roché, S. (1994). *Insecurité et libertés*. Seuil.
- Selmini R. (2004). *La sicurezza urbana*. Il Mulino.
- Selmini R. (2015). *La criminalità in Italia. Tendenze, evoluzione e caratteristiche di alcuni fenomeni criminali*. Arti Grafiche Editoriali.
- Semini, R. (2020). *Dalla sicurezza urbana al controllo del dissenso politico. Una storia del diritto amministrativo punitivo*. Carocci.
- Sutherland, E.H. (1947). *Principles of Criminology*. Lippincott.
- Thrasher, F.M. (1960). *The gang: a study of 1313 gangs in Chicago*. University of Chicago Press.

Conclusions: an interdisciplinary approach for the expert in the promotion of sociability in urban environments

Giada Cascino, Maurizio Oddo, Eulàlia Gómez-Escoda, Lucia Palšová, Marco Marchese, Sergio Severino, Alessandro Barracco, Salvatore Alagna, Alvaro Clua, Mária Bihuňová

Both the name of the *STUD.IO-Sociability Through Urban Design Innovation* project and the description of the new professional figure to be outlined and trained – Expert in *Consulting, planning and management of territorial resources for the promotion of sociability in urban environments* – exude the inter-disciplinary perspective that oriented the realisation of Intellectual Output 1 of the project, posing a challenge to the professional schemes always pursued by all project Partners. That is why our conclusions are intended to highlight the importance of inter-disciplinarity for the training of this expert and – building on the results of the first e second part of this book – to propose some learning fields that a university training path aimed at training this new professional figure should include and some preliminary lines of action that this professional figure should pursue in local contexts, since the pilot testing of the STUD.IO model in local contexts.

1. Importance of interdisciplinarity for the training of experts.

In line with Klein (2004)¹³, the inter-disciplinary declination of the STUD.IO project – which in the same way as Lélé and Norgaard (2005)¹⁴ we understand as any kind of intersection between disciplines – posed the challenge of thinking collectively about complex problems by requiring the crossing of boundaries both horizontally – by stimulating a dialogue between the academic disciplines involved in STUD.IO – and vertically, by involving experts and professionals from the public and private sectors.

The crossing of mainly horizontal boundaries between social and environmental disciplines has posed over and over again the need both to arrive at a shared definition of the project theme (what is the problem and what answers do we seek?), and to adapt to a working methodology that is different from that of each disciplinary field.

In this direction, we think that the elaborative effort of this book, with the intention of building the foundations of a university path inherent to a form of collective thinking, has addressed the four barriers to interdisciplinarity described by Lélé and Norgaard (2005).

To begin with, as regards the problem of values being embedded of a discipline in all types of inquiry and at all stages, everyone was able to make the values of his or her own disciplinary field apparent by approaching the STUD.IO topic through the choice of research question, theoretical positions, variables and research style most appropriate to his or her disciplinary field.

Moreover, although all were engaged in the same phenomenon, each one was able to choose which theories, hypotheses and explanatory models to adopt or highlight, albeit oriented by a critical evaluation of knowledge, rather than unconditional loyalty to one's own school of thought or professional approach.

¹³ Klein, J.T. (2004). Prospects for transdisciplinarity. *Futures*, 36, 512-526.

¹⁴ Lélé, S. & Norgaard, R.B. (2005). Practicing Interdisciplinarity. *BioScience*, Volume 55 (11), 967-975, [https://doi.org/10.1641/0006-3568\(2005\)055\[0967:PII2.0.CO:2](https://doi.org/10.1641/0006-3568(2005)055[0967:PII2.0.CO:2)

To continue, the development of a working methodology that could be transversal to all project collaborators overcame the barrier of epistemology and specific methods, albeit with many adaptive difficulties, but with a proactive spirit.

Finally, this book prepares one to face the fourth barrier to interdisciplinarity, represented by the interaction between society and academia, in which the former influences the latter by decreeing the importance or validity of a disciplinary or interdisciplinary approach: this book, in fact, entrusts the proof of the importance or validity of the knowledge base constructed – which urban planning has value for the development of which sociability? – to the training of expert figures who will design and experiment projects to promote sociability through urban interventions in small and medium-sized municipalities.

As Lélé and Norgaard (2005) state, “Reflecting on how to think across academic disciplines is only a first step towards bridging the various divides involved in collectively addressing complex environmental [and social; authors’ note] problems”, as well as the retroactions between social and environmental systems. In this sense, this book sought to help debunk the superiority or inferiority of some disciplines over others, attempting to sow and germinate the practice of interdisciplinarity.

More and more often, scientific research is needed to find answers to complex questions, supporting the challenges offered by contemporary society. *Interdisciplinarity* is increasingly used to address complex scientific questions and address pressing challenges in all fields of action of society. On the other hand, there is now a lot of research that suggests combining different academic disciplines with implementation techniques in order to give each research project a strong capacity to materialize truly innovative results. Without forgetting that today the cutting-edge research itself stimulates learning methods and tools capable of encouraging and fostering such interdisciplinary research.

Ultimately, in the next years, interdisciplinarity – with all the complexity that accompanies it – is destined to become the norm, while the individual disciplines, in relation to it, will have to be able to explain the reason for their existence. For this to happen – the development of truly interdisciplinary sciences – is needed several structural changes in the research and education system. The STUD.IO project in question was conceived and composed in this sense in view of the formation of a career of excellence, formed and trained to think and work in this sense.

There are numerous texts on Urban Design that focus on the materiality of cities and relate it to human behaviour. However, the figure of a professional who masters the fields of sociology and psychology, managing reference sources and authors who relate the city to the perception of citizens, or the consequences of the shape of said city on the behaviour of citizens, it is very pertinent. Interdisciplinary approach is necessary while designing the public open spaces and improving their qualities in urban areas. The great landscape design is based on well prepared analyses of the site (urban, traffic, functional, demographical and social analyses, but also environmental analyses and analyses of the greenery). Different approaches and different background of the professionals leads to the good designed places from the functional, urban and architectural point of view but also it could lead to the strengthen of the community and social interaction.

The public open spaces are mainly used by the different age groups and people with different social and cultural background (in some European cities it is more visible, in some less). Each age group has various demand on the public open spaces and equipment if green areas. The great landscape architectural proposal creates safe, inspiring and welcoming places, with variable possibilities for active and passive recreational activities, physical and mental regeneration and possibility for passive or active interaction among the visitors.

2. What needs to be learnt in order to promote sociability in the urban environments: proposal of learning fields

Never before as now, issues related to sociality in the urban environment been addressed, starting from the concreteness that the environment poses and requires. In a way that they have become concepts that are increasingly rooted and shared by the whole of society, from the academic world to politics to that of business, from advertising to the world of fashion.

In many cases, however, the promotion of sociability in the urban environment, especially on the scale of mass culture, does not coincide with a real culture and practice. Therefore, the role of the University and the promotion of research projects such as STUD.IO – without neglecting the fundamental role of municipal administrations – are decisive, so that such complex concepts can be promoted, avoiding that they can be reduced to sterile labels. Investing in sociability in the urban environments, on the other hand, means directing change towards a sustainable society lived by active and aware citizens.

With the aim of contributing to this change, the objective of writing this book was to contribute to the creation of the Joint Curriculum for the training of an expert in *consulting, planning and management of territorial resources for the promotion of sociability in urban environments* – third Intellectual Output of the STUD.IO project – by pursuing three actions:

1. the mapping of best practices that exemplify interventions that directly involve individuals in the co-design and regeneration of urban spaces and that create contexts capable of developing individual sociability and that of the territory as a whole;
2. the analysis of training needs of the potential recipients of training and to the territorial institutions that will use these figures once trained;
3. the literature review, aimed at identifying the key concepts around which the training will be oriented and at the creation of the training contents and a toolbox to imagine and plan interventions in the territory.

For this reason, in these conclusions, our contribution takes the form of the proposal of learning fields useful for the purpose and deriving – according to a bottom-up logic - from European best practices and observed in the national contexts of the partners involved, as well as from the training needs expressed by the territory (main stakeholders and citizens); also, according to a top-down logic, from the results of systematic reviews.

With regard to the good practices analysed on a local, national and European level from the project partner countries, it emerges how often the presence of a specialised figure in the role of facilitator between the project partners fosters dialogue between different sectors and experiences, proving to be fundamental. Through the good practices it was possible to confirm the orientation towards interdisciplinarity also in the practical work, in the field; at the same time, not all projects and initiatives included this professional figure in the proposed activities, resorting in compensation to hiring more figures belonging to different sectors.

It therefore emerges that there is a need, on territories and in practice, for figures with different skills in response to the different peculiarities that citizen participation projects, urban and local regeneration projects, development of sociability projects and the detection of expressed and unexpressed needs are key in the process of territorial renewal.

Among the main results from the in-depth study of good practices, in terms of analysed competences necessary for the training of a professional able to operate in specific projects and initiatives for the promotion and development of sociability, the potential of places and relationships, the following areas were identified:

- developing the ability to create social ties, fostering participation, attachment to places and perceptions towards them;
- developing the ability to analyse contexts, converting needs into opportunities and having the opportunity to grasp both expressed and unexpressed needs;

- developing the element of pro-sociality, to foster community behaviour;
- to be aware of opportunities and funding for the territory, to have skills in managing and coordinating multi-stakeholder and multi-dimensional initiatives;
- have basic urban and environmental planning skills, enabling interlocution with sectoral stakeholders.

The results of the systematic reviews described in the second part of the book emphasise several thematic areas, which we summarise below:

- forms of participation linked to the appropriation and definition of a public social space;
- the pro-active characterisation of urban planning and the urban environment, linked both to the promotion of social relations anchored to the local conditions of the space, and to the need for the adoption of a methodological approach capable of proposing changes based on the critical analysis of the social connections of a territory;
- the “affectively determined” social relations as a resource for the development of community values and for individual and social well-being;
- respect and social inclusion of children and the elderly, life stages that can be a resource for the development of community values and for individual and social well-being;
- to measure the impact that the living environment has on the physical and mental health of its inhabitants;
- the analysis of the relationship between brain function, spatial orientation, and self;
- the study of the emotional relationship with the living space (house, neighbourhood, city, region, etc.);
- the use of information related to the organization of the mind, self-construction, and personality, in the development of the architecture of buildings of public interest and meeting and socializing spaces;
- the use of more environmentally friendly building materials, whose superior properties positively affect the inhabitants as well;
- elaborating urban plans that integrate the various parts of the cities, and the communities in general, determining less segregation and better management of waste and pollution;
- urban design and composition;
- the description of the natural support in which cities lie (ecology and resilience);
- the attention to urban phenomenology and activities;
- a special focus on spatial and social networks;
- a knowledge on mapping urban data;
- an approach to utopias and dreams on a better city;
- urban history, form, or representation;
- definition of basic terms and literary dealing with topics such as urban environment, public open spaces, housing estates, urban plan and adaptation to climate change;
- definition of basic terms and literary dealing with topics such as environmental policy, and environmental law in the EU;
- smart cities;
- border and urban planning;
- human factor;
- green urbanism;
- urban and sustainability design.

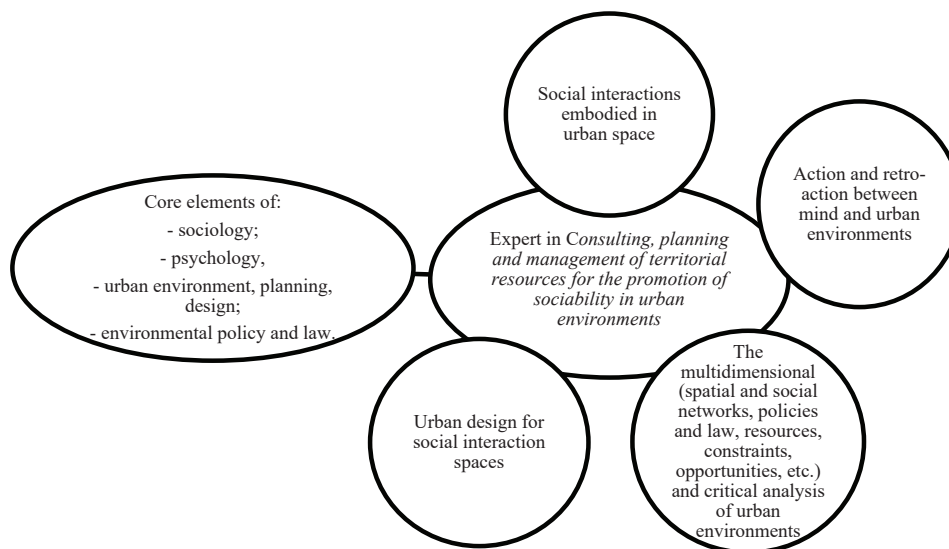
The thematic areas that emerged from the results of the systematic reviews undoubtedly reflect the disciplinary affiliation of the authors and for this reason we express the awareness that this frame of meaning could be expanded through the contribution of other disciplines. However, here we would like to emphasise that they express an inter-disciplinary openness that highlights the concrete possibility of building bridges between the different disciplines, standing in clear contrast to “self-

centred” disciplinary attitudes and “hierarchising” logics and revealing the possibility of mutual enrichment.

Therefore, on the basis of what has just been highlighted and in the awareness that this is a pilot reflection, we think that a specialised and innovative university pathway for the training of the expert figure mentioned above could be based on the following learning fields (Fig. 1), which can guide the declination of courses and modules of a concrete training offer:

- core elements of sociology; psychology, urban environment, planning, design; environmental policy and law;
- social interactions embodied in urban space;
- action and retro-action between mind and urban environments;
- the multidimensional (spatial and social networks, policies and law, resources, constraints, opportunities, etc.) and critical analysis of urban environments;
- urban design for social interaction spaces.

Figure 1 – Proposed learning fields for the training of the expert in *Consulting, planning and management of territorial resources for the promotion of sociability in urban environments*.



In addition to this proposal, we think that in order for today’s – but especially tomorrow’s – professionals to be aware of the importance of sociality in urban environments, it is important to also study and analyse the economy, consumption – including land consumption - and the broader society, in terms of rights, work, peace, health and cultural diversity, by directing an interdisciplinary training approach through the logic of the complex society.

Consequently, the proposed learning fields and the logic of the complex society may also guide the lines of action that the new professional figure will have to pursue:

- a new professional figure who, in the first instance, will have to interface with the local municipal administration, favouring and promoting actions aimed at an increasingly active and responsible citizenship in the territory;
- a new professional figure who will play the important role of information and communication towards citizens to promote a better quality of life in the city;

- a new professional figure capable of collecting and disseminating information on local and global environmental issues;
- a new professional figure capable of offering his or her contribution to design and develop new environmental education paths, aimed at improving the quality of the city;
- a new professional figure capable of proposing and organising awareness-raising, stimulation and training activities.

In conclusion, the new professional figure that will emerge from this programme will be able to involve citizens and stakeholders beyond the processes of participation, transforming them into ‘matter’ of the project to be shaped and regenerated: in this way, the stone of cities (the buildings, the streets) will be able to be connected to their flesh (the activities, the people) in an intrinsic way and with scientific rigour.

Appendix A

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PROFILING AN EXPERT FOR THE PARTICIPATORY PLANNING OF ACTIONS IN THE TERRITORY

Introduction

The purpose of this questionnaire is to identify the needs of the territory, policy-makers and citizens with regard to the opportunity to train a figure who promotes the sociability of the territory and manages the participatory dynamics of planning interventions for improving the territory.

This survey is carried out within the framework of the STUDIO: Sociability Through Urban Design Innovation (ERASMUS+ 2020-1-IT02-KA203-079833), funded through the programme Erasmus + Strategic Partnerships for higher education – Innovation.

The questionnaire is totally anonymous; we also assure you that the data collected through the following questionnaire will be used exclusively for scientific purposes and processed with instruments that guarantee full respect for privacy. Finally, should you wish to leave your email contact details, any particular data you provide will be treated in full compliance with current legislation, according to the provisions of the EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) and for purposes related to the STUDIO project only.

Basic information

1) Category of respondent: Student Teacher A professional working on the territory (sociologist, urban planner, psychologist, etc.) Policy maker (mayor, council member, etc.) Civil servants Representatives of the private social sector Other (specify): _____
2) Age _____
3) Sex Female Male Other (specify): _____
4) Educational qualification: High school diploma Degree Post-degree Other (specify): _____
5) Municipality of residence by number of inhabitants lower than 1.000 inhabitants

between 1.001 and 3.000 inhabitants
between 3.001 and 5.000 inhabitants
between 5.001 and 10.000 inhabitants
between 10.001 and 50.000 inhabitants
higher than 50.0001 inhabitants

5.1) If you want, please share your Municipality of residence (not mandatory)

Citizens' needs and well-being

6) What are the first 3 words that come to your mind when thinking about the "well-being" of the citizen?

7) Put the following 8 aspects in order, from the most NECESSARY (1) to the most IM-PORTANT (8) for the area where you live? For each row you have to assign the indicated aspects to the place in an imaginary ranking; please read each row before expressing your preference, so that the assignment is easier

- Safe and usable public spaces for play and recreation
- Adequate social and health care for frail persons
- Economic support for 'vulnerable' groups (children, foreigners, elderly, disabled, people in poverty, etc.)
- Cooperation between institutions in the area
- Clear and transparent communication between institutions and citizens
- Specialised figures acting as intermediaries between the needs of the citizens and the interventions on the territory
- Initiatives/events that develop sociality
- Citizen participation in decision-making processes
- Safe and usable public spaces for play and recreation
- Adequate social and health care for frail persons
- Economic support for 'vulnerable' groups (children, foreigners, elderly, disabled, people in poverty, etc.)
- Cooperation between institutions in the area
- Clear and transparent communication between institutions and citizens
- Specialised figures acting as intermediaries between the needs of the citizens and the interventions on the territory

- Initiatives/events that develop sociality
- Citizen participation in decision-making processes

8) Which of the following needs do you think are most RELEVANT to the well-being of citizens?

Please indicate up to 3 answers...

- Belonging to one's own territory
- Opportunities to realise one's aspirations
- Safety
- Protection by institutions
- Training (e.g. promotion of pathways that facilitate job placement, etc.).
- Information on services offered, events, etc.
- Accessibility to services
- Opportunities to create relationships and strengthen existing ones
- Other (Specify)

Citizen participation

9) How should citizens be involved in the management of their territory? Only in a specific phase or in all of them?

- As long as they are informed about the actions planned and implemented
- They only have to propose possible interventions
- They have to co-design with the administrations
- They must be involved in the ex-post evaluation of implemented interventions
- They must actively participate in all stages of the decision-making processes affecting their territory
- Other (Specify)

10) What do you think it means for a citizen to 'participate' in territory management?

11) Do you know of any participatory planning initiatives involving citizens in your area?

Yes

No

Examples of participatory planning

12) What design examples do you know? Give me some examples, and if you can, post the relevant link...

13) Thinking about the examples you gave, what do you think had a positive impact and what could be improved?

Sociability development

14) How much can the following actions increase the well-being of an area?*

Not at all – Little – Quite – A lot

- Developing pro-social behaviours, i.e. all those behaviours oriented towards helping and supporting others
- Nurturing citizens' sense of belonging to their local area
- Developing recognition of one's emotions and the ability to express one's needs
- Promoting the recognition of the common good and the importance of sharing it
- Developing the capacity to generate and regenerate links and networks in the territory
- Encouraging citizens' participation in the design and urban regeneration of their territory
- Developing pro-social behaviours, i.e. all those behaviours oriented towards helping and supporting others
- Nurturing citizens' sense of belonging to their local area
- Developing recognition of one's emotions and the ability to express one's needs
- Promoting the recognition of the common good and the importance of sharing it
- Developing the capacity to generate and regenerate links and networks in the territory
- Encouraging citizens' participation in the design and urban regeneration of their territory

15) In your opinion, in planning actions aimed at improving and regenerating your territory, which figure could facilitate the encounter between citizens' needs and planned interventions? Please indicate on a scale from 0 to 5 how useful the following figures could be..

1-2-3-4-5

- An expert in urban design
- A psychologist who can bring out the needs of the citizen
- A communication expert who can manage relational dynamics
- A spatial analysis expert who studies the context in detail
- An expert in mediation and conflict resolution

16) Can you think of any figures other than those mentioned above?
17) What do you think sociability is?
18) Can you give me some examples of activities on the ground that promote sociability?

Thank you for answering our questionnaire!

If you would like to be kept up-to-date on the STUDIO project's upcoming activities and initiatives as well as being included in the special project newsletter, you can leave your contact email in the box below. We also assure you that the data collected through the following questionnaire will be used exclusively for scientific purposes and processed with tools that guarantee full respect for privacy. Should you wish to leave your email contact details, any particular data you provide will be treated in full compliance with current legislation, according to the provisions of the EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) and for purposes related to the STUDIO project only.

E-mail:

OUTLINE FOR FOCUS GROUPS

Focus Groups

Outline for the *focus group*, aimed at analysing the context from the point of view of those who are primarily involved in the management/promotion/programming of interventions in the territory (see categories of focus group participants indicated above).

The focus will open with a brief presentation of the conductor of the Focus Group and the aims of the project and the field survey. This will be followed by a short round of presentation of the participants. The FG will explore 3 topics:

- 1) **Improvement and regeneration of the territory and citizens' well-being**, an area aimed at identifying respondents' perspective on the link between interventions on the territory and increase in citizens' well-being and to define possible proposals for interventions to improve and regenerate the territory.
- 2) **Development of sociability**, area aimed at understanding which factors positively or negatively influence the effectiveness of interventions aimed at developing the sociability of a territory.
- 3) **Profile of the expert to be trained**, an area aimed at identifying the possible skills useful to facilitate the processes of improvement and regeneration of the territory and consequently to profile an expert who is able to manage these processes and promote sociability in the territory.

From the information obtained, the researchers will also extrapolate elements to carry out a SWOT analysis to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of a project/intervention imagined in a given context to promote and develop the sense of sociality and sociability, with its specific aims.

Objectives of the SWOT analysis	<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<i>Opportunities</i>	Identify strengths that help us to exploit opportunities	Identifying how opportunities can help us resolve/address weaknesses
<i>Threats</i>	Identifying which strengths could help us deal with threats	Identifying which weaknesses can become threats

Survey and analysis methods

The questionnaires will be administered using Google Forms. The information from the questionnaire will mostly be automatically summarised in a data matrix which will contain the codes already entered in the questionnaire. The processing and analysis of the quantitative data will be carried out with the support of the SPSS statistical data processing programme.

The focus groups will be entirely recorded, subject to the release of the subjects involved.

The texts obtained from the open questions and focus groups will be post-coded and analysed afterwards, if necessary, also using textual data analysis software (T-Lab). In order to facilitate this procedure, the partners

are asked to translate into English the texts of the open questions in the questionnaire and to select and translate also the main points of the focus groups.

- Brief presentation of the facilitator/conductor; presentation of STUD.IO project and the purpose of the Focus Group.

- Brief presentation of the participants

Topic 1: Territory improvement and regeneration – citizens' well-being

1) How do you define the well-being of a territory? Try to describe it in a short sentence...

2) In the territory where one lives, what is supposed to work well? And more generally, what is important to improve in a territory if it does not work well?

3) Which actions can increase the well-being of an territory?

(Possible examples of actions to be used to relaunch the question: develop pro-social behaviour, i.e. all behaviour oriented towards helping and supporting others; fostering citizens' sense of belonging to their territory; developing recognition of their emotions and the ability to express their needs; promoting recognition of the public good and the importance of sharing it; developing the ability to generate and regenerate links and networks in the territory; encouraging citizens' participation in the planning and urban regeneration of their territory)

Topic 2: Development of Sociability

1) How could sociability be developed?

2) What are the resources that a territory can have at its disposal, and which are the most important ones, to develop sociability for example?

3) Tell us about some interventions in the territory, of which you were promoters or observers, that promoted change and developed sociability. What were its strengths? And its weaknesses?

4) What are the most problematic aspects with regard to the spread of sociability on the territory?

5) What current trends in our society could be used to develop sociability? And what obstacles do we face?

6) Which changes in the context in which improvement actions are to be promoted, could threaten the effectiveness of interventions promoting sociability?

7) What are the weaknesses of an area that can most threaten the development of sociability?

Topic 3: Profile of the expert to be trained

1) In your opinion, in planning actions aimed at improving and regenerating the territory in order to increase citizens' well-being, which professional figure could facilitate the connection between citizens' needs and planned interventions?

Possible examples to relaunch the question:

- Among the following professionals, which one could be necessary and why: a technical expert in urban design; a psychologist who is able to bring out the needs of the citizen; a communication expert who is able to manage relational dynamics; an expert in territorial analysis who studies the context in detail; an expert in mediation and conflict resolution

1) What do you think sociability is? Can you give me some examples of activities on the territory that promote sociability? (if you do not know of any) What could be examples of sociability?

2) One frequently overhears talk of "participatory planning" of interventions on a territory. This refers to a precise methodological perspective that foresees the involvement of various actors in a community (citizens or social groups involved in an initiative, administrators, and technicians, etc.) in the conception and/or joint implementation of a project. Do you know of any participatory planning initiatives involving citizens in your area? Give me some examples...

3) Thinking about the examples you have given, in your opinion what worked? What could be improved?

4) Was there a figure who managed/moderated/mediated/analysed the processes to ensure their effectiveness? And if not, which figure could have facilitated those processes?

STUD.IO
Sociability Through Urban Design Innovation
2020-1-IT02-KA203-079833

**Erasmus+ Programme – Key Action 2 Strategic Partnership for Higher
Education**

The start of the STUD.IO Systematic review requires the delineation of a framework of meaning shared by all the Partners of the project. Therefore, this documents aims to collect a list of keywords (max.20) proposed by each Partner and a list of databases (max.20) to be consulted to search for literature of interest to IO1.

Each Partner can indicate a list of keywords in English and communicate it to the *Kore University of Enna* by the / / .

Kore University of Enna will collect and group all the proposals of the Partners into a single list, which will then share with them in order to start the research and selection of literature.

Each Partner will provide for the translation of the complete list into their native language, in order to refine the search for literature in the national context of reference.

Subsequently, for the collection and selection of the papers, each Partner will use the *Module B_Abstracts selection*.

STUD.IO – Intellectual Output 1 – Systematic review

Module A
Keywords and
databases lists

STUD.IO
Sociability Through Urban Design Innovation
2020-1-IT02-KA203-079833

Erasmus+ Programme – Key Action 2 Strategic Partnership for Higher Education

PARTNER (denomination)	
Scientific referent	Name:
	e-mail:
Researcher	Name:
	e-mail:

Keywords list	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
	6.
	7.
	8.
	9.
	10.
	11.
	12.
	13.
	14.
	15.
	16.
	17.
	18.
	19.
	20.

Databases list	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
	6.
	7.
	8.
	9.
	10.
	11.
	12.
	13.
	14.
	15.
	16.
	17.
	18.
	19.
	20.

STUD.IO – Intellectual Output 1 – Systematic review

Module B
Abstracts
selection

STUD.IO
Sociability Through Urban Design Innovation
2020-1-IT02-KA203-079833

Erasmus+ Programme – Key Action 2 Strategic Partnership for Higher Education

PARTNER (denomination)	
Scientific referent	Name:
	e-mail:
Researcher	Name:
	e-mail:

N.B. Fill in this form following the APA (American Psychological Association) citation style. Here <https://libguides.murdoch.edu.au/APA/home> you can find a guide to 7th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2020)*.

For *Reference List Entry* see <https://libguides.murdoch.edu.au/APA/entries> or <https://libguides.murdoch.edu.au/APA/all>

References by keyword (duplicate the section for each keyword):

Reference List Entry (author(s), year, title, publisher)	
Databases/other source	
Material Type (book, article, etc.)	
Mother language (please, specify)	
Abstract in mother language	
Abstract translated in English language	

Reference List Entry (author(s), year, title, publisher)	
Databases/other source	
Material Type (book, article, etc.)	
Abstract in English language	

STUD.IO – Intellectual Output 1 – Systematic review

Module C
Full texts
selection

STUD.IO

Sociability Through Urban Design Innovation
2020-1-IT02-KA203-079833

Erasmus+ Programme – Key Action 2 Strategic Partnership for Higher Education

PARTNER (denomination)	
Scientific referent	Name:
	e-mail:
Researcher	Name:
	e-mail:

References by learning field	
(N.B. Indicate the formative theme, not the scientific area of reference)	_____
(Duplicate for each learning field)	_____

Paper Description (Fill in a template for each paper)	
Source	
Typology	
Author(s)	
Date of publication	
Country	
Title	
ISSN, ISBN	
DOI	
Abstract	
Analysis of theory	
Analysis of methods	
Focus on size-city (small and medium)	
Participants target (children and elderly)	
Analysis of findings	
Dissemination target (students, professionals, researchers)	
Future research direction	
Mono- or Inter-disciplinarity (specify which disciplines)	
Topics (skills and attitude, contextual factors (geographical location, socio-economic conditions, political context, size of cities), services, good/best practices)	
Can the results be applied to the other local context?	

Paper Assessment (Fill in a template for each paper)						
Criteria		Give an overall assessment for each criterion: min. 1 – max. 5				
Relevance	Meaningful answer to learning field identification	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
	Optional criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prestige of the institution for the disciplinary area • Citations • Outcomes 	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Reliable (have rigour)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory • Methods • Findings/conclusions • Future research direction • Reference 	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Extrinsic factors	Optional criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prestige of the author/s • Funded research/publication • Referee process • Journal classification • Prestige of the publisher 	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Intrinsic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size-city (small and medium) • Participants target (children and elderly) • Best/good practices • Dissemination target (students, professionals, researchers) 	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Overall assessment		<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

Describe how the paper can contribute to the identification of the learning field (appropriateness for learning fields) (max 300 words)

Title: Promoting sociability in the urban environments
Project: STUD.IO: Sociability through Urban Design Innovation
Authors: Alagna Salvatore
Barracco Alessandro
Bihuňová Mária
Cascino Giada
Clua Alvaro
Craparo Giuseppe
Gómez-Escoda Eulàlia
Malizia Nicola
Marchese Marco
Mulè Giacomo
Oddo Maurizio
Pašová Lucia
Rotărescu Violeta-Ştefania
Severino Sergio
Siino Marianna
Publisher: Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra
Year of pub.: 2022
Issue: First
of pages: 192
AQ – PQ: 13.88 – 14.19

Not reviewed at the Publishing House of the Slovak University in Nitra.

This publication was printed on ecological paper.



ISBN 978-80-552-2569-2